

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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Springtime Again

March is now here, and it's almost that time again. I'm not talking about the first day of spring. No, something that is even more exciting than that – it's time for presbytery to meet again!

Yes, I will admit I do like attending presbytery meetings. I think I like them even better now that I don't have to drive six hours or more from Louisville to attend a meeting. The spring meeting this year will be at Salem, and the fall meeting will be at Brighton, so these meetings will be much closer.

What is the big deal about a presbytery meeting? For some folks, that might be the most mysterious part of what it means to be a Presbyterian. Many people I've talked to in the past don't even understand what a Presbyterian is or what a Presbyterian believes (and some people even confuse "Presbyterian" with "Pentecostal" – I guess because they both begin with "P"). Remember, "Presbyterian" is just a form of church government (it essentially means "rule by elders"). It is distinguished from the Congregationalist form of church government (the congregation makes most or all of the decisions) and the Episcopal form of church government (where a hierarchy of bishops are in charge of the decision-making). Presbyterian churches generally have a session of elders (including the pastor) helping to make most decisions (and assisted by the deacons, of course). A presbytery meeting is simply a meeting of pastors and elders who represent the churches in a particular geographical region (our presbytery includes churches in west Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, and Kentucky). Each church is entitled to send one pastor and one elder to these meetings.

While much of the business of the local church occurs at the local church level, there are times in which it is good for churches to join together for common goals. In Scripture, we see an example of this in Acts 15 (a doctrinal error was disturbing the churches, and the apostles and elders of the churches came together in Jerusalem to look into the matter). The decision of this meeting was binding for each of the local churches (see Acts 16:4). A presbytery might also meet to ordain a pastor (1 Timothy 4:14). For example, I was able to be part of the ordination and installation service for a new pastor in Springfield, Missouri, just a couple of weeks ago. Part of the work of our presbytery was to examine him to see if he was qualified for the ministry and sound in his doctrine, as well as approving his congregation's call to him as their pastor. Overseeing pastors and their relationship to churches is a very important part of the work done by a presbytery.

These are not the only things a presbytery does. We have committees in our presbytery that oversee Christian education, including coordinating retreats and summer camp for our young people. Our presbytery works to plant new churches in our presbytery, a task that might be difficult for one church to do alone, but is made much easier with churches joining together. We currently have new works in Little Rock, Arkansas, and Murray, Kentucky. The presbytery also seeks to work with established congregations to help grow or revitalize them

There are many other things a presbytery does, but these give you a sample of what goes on during these meetings. If you want to see this happen firsthand, then make plans to attend the fall meeting at Brighton on October 1 and 2 (or the meeting at Salem this Monday and Tuesday). And please pray for the work of Mississippi Valley Presbytery. What we do affects all the churches of our presbytery, and what we seek to do is for the growth of the Kingdom of God.

Pastor Tim

Prayer List:

Bennett, Mary F – Shut in
 Billings, Richard – (Denise’s Dad) Cancer
 Boswell, Charles - Cancer
 Boswell, Mike – Health issues
 Bryant, Ty –Heart
 Rochell, Bobby – Cancer
 Goulder, Martha Jean – Shut In
 Hopper, Claude – Shut in
 McCain, Pat – Health Issues

McCain, Ken – Health Issues
 McCain, Kenny – Health Issues
 Bridges, Lucille – Health Issues
 Pugh, Kaleb – (Laura Kiphart’s grandson)
 Williams, Sandy – (Huffman family)Cancer
 Wilson, Glenda – Bone Cancer
 Winford, Sherry – Health issues
 Yarbro, Ina – Health issues
 Landrum, Zoan – Covington Care

Rivercity Reformed Presbyterain Church – Church plant in Little Rock Arkansas

Military

Donahoo, Tim	Starnes, Austin	Hill, Debra	Billings, Tyler
Dooley, Rod	Heathman, Matthew	Young III, Robert “Trip”	

Missionaries

Coad, Jim & Gala	Rebekah Carson	Brunson, Andrew
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MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Helen Woods	11 Cathy Morgan
3 William Clayton Pannell	Floyd Columbus Margarette Huffman
Elizabeth Phillips	14 Wanda Starnes
Ruth Joy Phillips	17 Whitney Smith
5 William Pannell	20 Keith Trotter
6 Clay Yarbro	21 McCallie Ruffin
Leyna Cannon	23 Jimmy Trotter
9 William Carter	25 Peggy Huffman
10 Andrea Trotter	27 Pam Yarbro
Joni Glass	Zac Scott

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

March 15 Mr. and Mrs. Brad Templeton
March 28 Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Yarbro

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

March 4	Helen Woods
March 11	Leslie Alsbrook
March 18	Denise Moore
March 25	Molly Huffman

March Menu

Mar 7 Sloppy Joe
Mar 14 Grilled Cheese / Soup
Mar 21 Chili Dogs
Mar 28 No Supper

Cost: \$3.00 person
\$10.00 Family

Upcoming Events

PLEASE NOTE: If you have any ideas or suggestions for the church website, please contact Chris Gravley, webmaster, at 901-674-3851 or e-mail at chris_gravley@bellsouth.net.

THE DEACON OF THE MONTH is Scotty Gladney. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Scotty at 901-828-5342.

PLEASE NOTE If anyone is sick, in need of prayer or a visit, please contact Milton Murphy 901-476-2808.

PLEASE NOTE Maundy Thursday services will be on March 29th at 7:00 p.m. with Communion to follow.

PLEASE REMEMBER: The Sunday Night Bible Study at 6 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE Men's Ministry Casserole Buffet and Movie Night on March 10 @ 5p. "War Room" will be shown. Come out and support the Men's Ministry in the work that they do.

PLEASE NOTE The annual **Easter Egg Hunt** will be on Saturday March 31st at 2:00 p.m. The ages are Toddler to 4th grade and bring 3 plastic candy filled eggs.

INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED CANDY NEEDED for the Easter Egg Hunt. You may drop it off in the Fellowship Hall.