

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

P.O. Box 28, Brighton, Tennessee 38011

Website: www.brightonarp.org

E-mail: baarp@att.net

Volume LI

March 2019

Number 3

“Be Who You Are”

When the first episode of the series *Star Trek: The Next Generation* appeared in 1987, the crew of the new *Enterprise* was assigned the task of traveling to a space station called Farpoint, where some mysterious things had been happening. As they did so, a powerful alien being announced he would be watching them, and he would be judging the entire human race based upon the actions of the crew. When one of the crew members of the *Enterprise* asked what they should do and how they should act in the situation, the captain responded with wise words to the effect: “If we're going to be judged, let's be judged for what we really are.”

Pastor Christopher Neiswonger came and spoke at our church recently on the topic of revitalization, and one of the points of his emphasis is that we (the Brighton Presbyterian Church) needs to be who we really are. We are not a Baptist church, or a Methodist church, or even a Presbyterian church in the PCA or PC(USA). We are an Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. That is our theological heritage, and we don't need to apologize for that, or be ashamed of that, or try to be something that we are not.

The “Associate” in our name refers to the time of Ralph and Ebenezer Erskine and the “Marrow Men” in the Church of Scotland. They believed in the free offer of the gospel – that the message of salvation in Jesus Christ must be proclaimed to every person. This proclamation of the gospel should be in our veins, as it was in the Apostle Paul's. He writes to the Corinthian church, “I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2). We should have the same desire for making the gospel known.

The “Reformed” in our name refers to the Scottish Covenanters, who were firmly committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Everything that we do, within the church and outside of the church, must be done in submission to the Lord Jesus Christ. “Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him” (Psalm 2:12). If Jesus is indeed the King of Kings, that is going to affect the way we live in this world.

And we are Presbyterian. We have a form of government that is biblical, we have a view of theology that is Reformed, Calvinistic and Covenantal. That means we hold to doctrines like election and predestination and infant baptism (because they are taught in Scripture). We are also Confessional, which means we have a written Confession of Faith (the Westminster Confession of Faith, along with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms) that we believe is the most faithful summary of what the Bible teaches and clearly explains what we profess to believe. Again, this is who we are, and we do not try to be something we are not.

I once read an illustration in a book about bears that were trained as circus animals. You can train a bear to do things like ride a bicycle, and it will do them. But is that what a bear really wants to do? The bear would be much happier running through the woods. As a church, we don't need to be something we are not, but instead be what we are. We have a rich, deep theological heritage that is centuries old and is thoroughly biblical. We need to celebrate that, wear it on our sleeves, and never try to hide it. *Pastor Tim*

Upcoming Events

THE DEACON OF THE MONTH is Kenneth Boswell. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Scottie at 901-837-2261.

PRAYER/VISITATION: If anyone is sick, in need of prayer or a visit, please contact Milton Murphy at 901-476-2808.

OUTREACH TEAM: If you would like to participate in outreach or know of someone who needs a visit, please contact Milton Murphy.

WEDNESDAY SUPPER AT SIX MENU:

- **March 6:** Beans, Cornbread, Mac & Cheese
- **March 13:** Breakfast Night
- **March 20:** Rotel Chicken Spaghetti, English Peas, Rolls
- **March 27:** No meeting (Spring Break)

THE LORD'S SUPPER: We will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper on April 7 during the morning worship service.

PRESBYTERY: The Spring 2019 meeting of Mississippi Valley Presbytery will be held on Monday and Tuesday, March 4-5, at the French Camp Presbyterian Church in French Camp, MS. Pastor Tim Phillips and Elder Richard Moore will be representing the Brighton church at the meeting. Please be in prayer for the work of our presbytery and our sister churches.

CAMP JOY: Another fundraising dinner for a Memphis area Camp Joy will be held at the Richland ARP Church on Friday, March 8, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The suggestion is for churches to host tables, so if you would like to attend, please let the pastor know as soon as possible.

FISH!!!: The Brighton Men's Ministry will be hosting a fish fry on Saturday, March 16, beginning at 5 p.m. Singers from Richland-Rosemark Academy will also be performing, beginning at 6 p.m. There is no cost for the meal, but donations are always appreciated, and proceeds go to help fund ministry within the community. Please make plans to attend!

SOUP!!!: The Brighton's Women's Ministry will be hosting a soup luncheon after the morning worship service on Sunday, April 7. This fundraiser will support local outreach programs and other ARP works.

THE PASTOR RECOMMENDS: *Knowing Christ* by Mark Jones. This book consists of brief chapters which look at various aspects of who Jesus is (His divinity, His incarnation, His humiliation, His sinlessness, etc.) As the author states in the introduction, "Christians are commanded to know Jesus." This book is highly recommended to you for that purpose.

JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE: There will be a joint worship service for the area ARP congregations on Sunday, March 24, at 6 p.m. at Graceview ARP.

Website and Email address for the church.

Website: <http://www.brightonarp.org>

Email: baarp@att.net

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