

# The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

P.O. Box 28

Brighton, Tennessee 38011

Website address - [www.brightonarp.org](http://www.brightonarp.org)

E-mail address – [baarp@att.net](mailto:baarp@att.net)

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## “Spiritual Reformation”

October is almost here, and it’s going to be a busy month. At the beginning of the month (October 1-2), our church will be hosting the fall meeting of Mississippi Valley Presbytery. Two weeks later (October 14-17), Rev. B.J. Maxwell will be leading our special services. And on Sunday evening, October 21, the area ARP churches will be meeting at 5 p.m. at the Providence Reformed Church for a joint service. That’s a lot going on in only a few weeks!

When B.J. agreed to do our special services, I suggested to him that he preach on the topic of spiritual reformation. Last year at this time, we were remembering the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, which began with Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses to a church door on October 31, 1517. The world has changed a lot in 500 (now 501) years.

What about us? It’s one thing to talk about “reformation” as an historical movement in a broad, abstract sense. But what about our own spiritual reformation? What does our devotion to God look like? Do we know the gospel of Jesus Christ, and does it affect our lives in any way? Is the Holy Spirit at work in us changing us so that we would be a holy people who love and serve a holy God?

Spiritual reformation must begin with God, of course, but there must also be a response in the lives of His people. If we have been raised from spiritual death to spiritual life by Him, then that will change all that we do. A love for God and His word, a devotion to Jesus Christ above the things of this world, and a striving for holiness by the power and strength of the Holy Spirit will evident in us.

How can we begin? Come to the opening worship service of presbytery and hear the word and celebrate the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Come to special services and hear the word of God faithfully preached. And most especially, gather for worship every Lord’s Day with the people of God. Come to hear God’s word, and respond in prayer and praise to His promises and instructions. These are simple, ordinary, basic things of the Christian life. No one expects a car to run well if the oil is never changed or the tank is not filled with gasoline. We cannot expect to have spiritual reformation where we are continually being renewed in Christ if we do not spend sufficient time with Him, hearing His word, and praising His name.

A college football coach was recently asked after a game (a game which his team won, but played sloppily) what he was going to do to fix the problems. He responded, “There’s no magic. You just gotta go to work.” There is no magic pill when it comes to spiritual reformation. God has given us His word. He has given to us the sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s Supper. He has given us prayer. These are the “fundamentals” of how we are to live and grow as Christians. Salvation is not by works; it is not anything that we do ourselves. It is through faith alone in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. But that is not the end of the Christian life, and the Christian life is not a passive experience either. Ephesians 2:8-10 reads, *“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of*

*yourself, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” If God has indeed saved us, He is also at work in us. May He be continually doing the work of spiritual reformation in us for our good and to His glory.*

*Pastor Tim*

## Prayer List

<b>Shut-ins:</b>	Mary Frances Bennett,	Martha Jean Goulder	
<b>Ill/Recovering:</b>	Richard Billings – Cancer	Lucille Bridges – Health issues	
	Ty Bryan – Heart Issues	Ginger Carter – Cancer; Improving	
	Rose Eubank – Stroke	Norma Columbus – Health Issues	
	Zoan Landrum –Nursing Home in Ripley	Kenneth McCain – Health Issues	
	Jack McDivitt -- Cancer	Jerry Molder – Health Issues	
	Bobby Rochell – Cancer	Sandy Williams (Huffman) – Cancer	
	Glenda Wilson – Bone Cancer	Jimmy Wylie – Hip Surgery	
	Ina Yarbro – Health Issues		
<b>Military:</b>	Tim Donahoo	Rod Dooley	Matthew Heathman
	Debra Hill	Austin Starnes	Robert “Trip” Young III
<b>Missionaries:</b>	Jim & Gala Coad	Rebekah Carson	Andrew Brunson
<b>Presbytery:</b>	Church plants in Little Rock, Arkansas and Murray, Kentucky		
Please pray for the Fall 2018 meeting of Mississippi Valley Presbytery, October 1-2.			

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1	John Scott	23	Jimmy Richardson
2	Emily Kirk	24	Kris Pugh
4	Ryan Griffin	25	Modesty Trotter
6	Daniel Brubaker	26	Michael Trotter
7	Scottie Gladney	27	Anita Bridges
	Zona Gray	28	Anna Catherine Carter
10	Rhonda Goulder		Ricki Smith
12	Blain Curtis		Vicki Smith
21	Pam Cannon	30	Molly Anne Heath
22	Bobby Young	31	Blake Bridges

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

October 6 Mr. and Mrs. Verlie Wells, III

### NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Oct 7	Helen Woods
Oct 14	Leslie Alsbrook
Oct 21	Ashley Goulder
Oct 28	Molly Huffman

# Upcoming Events

**THE DEACON OF THE MONTH** is Verlie Wells IV. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Verlie at 901-326-7545.

**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.

**FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER:** Wednesday, October 24, at 6 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY SUPPER AT SIX MENU:**

- **October 3:** Mexican Night
- **October 10:** No Meeting (Fall Break)
- **October 17:**
- **October 24:** Family Night
- **October 31:**

**PRAYER AND FASTING:** The Session has called for a day of prayer and fasting on Saturday, October 13, for the overall spiritual welfare and growth of our congregation. The church will be open at 8 a.m. that morning for anyone who would like to come by and pray.

**JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE:** The area ARP Churches will have a joint worship service on Sunday, October 21, at 5 p.m. at the Providence Reformed Church in Bartlett. Please make plans to attend.

**PRESBYTERY:** Brighton Presbyterian Church will host the Fall 2018 meeting of Mississippi Valley Presbytery on Monday and Tuesday, October 1-2. Presbytery begins with a pre-Presbytery Psalm Sing at 6:45 on Monday night, followed by a worship service (including the Lord's Supper) at 7 p.m. Tuesday morning will begin with a morning devotion at 8 a.m. You are invited to attend the services and business meetings. Also, please be in prayer for the meetings.

**SPECIAL SERVICES:** B.J. Maxwell will be with us from October 14-17 to preach for our special services. He will be delivering a series of messages on spiritual reformation from 1 Peter 1 and 2. He will deliver the sermon on Sunday morning at 11 a.m. and Sunday evening at 6 p.m. There will also be a covered dish meal on Sunday after the morning service. He will preach on Monday and Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. On Wednesday, we have our usual Supper at 6, and B.J. will then preach his concluding sermon at 6:30. Please make plans to join us for a time of spiritual renewal through the means of grace of the preaching of God's holy word.

New Website and Email address for the church.

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

**Email:** [baarp@att.net](mailto: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](mailto:chris_gravley@bellsouth.net).