

## Invitation

Welcome everyone. We pray you will be strengthened by your visit with the Brighton Church of Christ. You are not just our guest, but you are welcome and wanted right here. Join our family of imperfect people perfected in by the blood of Jesus. Restrooms are located across the foyer near the front of the auditorium on the upper floor. If you need assistance in any way, ask any member for help.

## Mission

The Brighton Church of Christ is a spiritual family with a focus on going to heaven. We are determined to honor God, to strictly follow the teachings of the New Testament, and effectively make that teaching available to the city of Brighton and the surrounding areas.

## Leadership

### Elders

Ron Jenson	303-655-8498
Reid Jones	719-469-1609
Ivan Stewart	720-270-1057

### Deacons

Kevin Dunham	303-807-5974
Anthony Sandoval	303-815-4045
Mark Thacker	303-242-6447

### Minister

Sam Dilbeck	903-229-8415
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### Contact

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Website: [brightonchurchofchrist.org](http://brightonchurchofchrist.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/brightoncoc](https://facebook.com/brightoncoc)

## Sunday Schedule

Welcome .....	Ron Jensen
Song Leader .....	Ron Jensen
Opening Prayer .....	
Lord's Supper Leader.....	Reid Jones
Lesson .....	Sam Dilbeck
Closing Prayer & Dismissal.....	Kevin Dunham

## Wednesday Evening Schedule

Class .....	Sam Dilbeck
Closing Prayer.....	Coby Mendoza

## Service Times

Sundays: Worship 10:30 am

Wednesdays: Ladies Class 10:00 am, Bible Study 6:30 pm

“Zoom” Virtual Classes:

4th-6th Grade Fridays @3:00 p.m.

7th-12th Grade Fridays @ 6:00 p.m.



**December 13, 2020**

## **Gregory of Nazianzus (c. 330-c. 389)** **Sam Dilbeck**

Gregory of Nazianzus was born into a wealthy Christian family in Cappadocia. His father was bishop of Nazianzus and gave Gregory an intense religious education. As a young man, Gregory studied in Caesarea, Caesarea Philippi, Alexandria, and Athens. While in Athens he was in lectures and quarters with his friend and fellow Cappadocian, Basil of Caesarea. They were such kindred spirits it was if the two bodies shared a single mind.

After more than a decade at school in Athens, Gregory returned home around 356 with a detour through Constantinople. He taught rhetoric for a short time but moved on to a life of devotion to God. Most historians believe he was baptized around this time. Gregory dedicated himself to asceticism and looking after his aging parents. After a lot of pestering, Basil convinced Gregory to join him in Pontus and Basil's monastery. Gregory excelled in the monastic life of study, spiritual service, self-denial, and manual labor.

When division threatened the church in Nazianzus over the nature and identity of Jesus, Gregory returned to Nazianzus to help heal the conflict and the duties to his ailing parents kept him there. Playful letters between Gregory and Basil continued as Basil attempted to get Gregory to return to Pontus. Basil convinced Gregory to seek ordination, which he did in 361 and became a priest in Nazianzus. Basil became bishop in Caesarea Cappadocia in 370 and Gregory was defended Basil against those who were jealous of Basil's appointment.

For the next few years, Gregory was caught up in church political wrangling. After the death of his father, who was still bishop of Nazianzus, then shortly thereafter his mother, and a few years prior the death of his brother, Caesarius, and sister, Gorgonia, Gregory was the sole surviving family member. Not wanting to become bishop of Nazianzus, he took solace at a monastery in Seleucia. But his finest hour was yet to come.

Since the Council of Nicaea in 325, conflicts over Christ's identity continued. Followers of Sabellius taught that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were all the same person just playing different roles (a doctrine called modalism). Apollinarus and his followers believed Jesus was a human with a divine soul and spirit, making him only partially human. Those who believed Jesus was fully human and fully divine, as specified in the Nicene Creed were losing ground between 325 and 381 and called on Gregory for help. At first reluctant, Gregory finally acquiesced, left retirement, and went to Constantinople.

His understanding of the Trinity is preserved in his theological orations. Gregory defended the oneness of essence and threeness of persons of the Godhead against any heresies including subordinationism, tritheism, and modalism. He equated eternity with divinity and said a created being cannot be divine. Thus, created beings are creatures of the same rank as humanity and cannot bring salvation to humanity.

These concepts laid the groundwork for the Council of Constantinople in 381. Bishops from across the empire came to Constantinople to discuss the issue. In the end, the consensus was that Jesus was fully human (contrary to Apollinarus), and fully God. It was also stated that Jesus and the Holy Spirit were fully divine (contrary to Sabellianism). Gregory of Nazianzus contended, "What was not assumed was not healed," meaning whatever aspect of humanity (body, soul, spirit) that Son did not assume at the incarnation could not have been redeemed by the death on the cross. Jesus needed to be fully human to save humanity.

The ancient church Councils were not inspired and really had no bearing on the Truth. For those who follow the New Testament pattern, the decisions of councils and bishops in the fourth and fifth centuries have no authority. However, they do offer clarification and refinement of understanding on the theology of the New Testament. Today, we don't think twice about saying Jesus was fully God and fully man, but there was a time such a statement was challenged. Thankfully men like Gregory of Nazianzus helped explain and refine important biblical concepts. We benefit from his wisdom and understanding.

## Announcements

### Prayer List

**Brittany Kite** has COVID-19. The family is quarantining.

The **Hazlet Family** as they mourn for the lost of both Jim and Monte.

### Continued Prayers

Raymond Long— tumor

Penny Anderson, Tim Parker's daughter- seizures

Eleanor Jatko— recovery from a stroke and recent loss

Bill Woloridge, the Austin's friend—cancer

Jane Hanavan-heart issues

Dawn Lell-health problems

KD's supervisor's wife, LaRae Siefert-chemo nerve damage

Sherry Derbigny's Aunt Jackie— breast cancer

Sam Sims— health problems

Joe Martinez-prayers for recovery

Jerry Kite— knee surgery recovery

## News and Notes

### Ladies Bible Class

Class will resume Wednesday, December 30th at 10:00 a.m. Enjoy your holidays ladies!

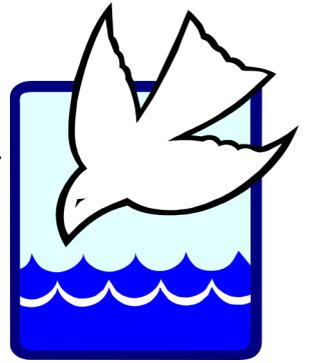
### Congratulations!

Hannah Warner graduated from UNC yesterday. She earned a B.A. in Communication Studies with a minor in Sociology.



### India Report

Dr. Paul reports 5 baptisms in Ammoor (a village about 60 miles from Chennai). The impact of the schools of preaching is tremendous and we are a part of it! God be praised!



This is the first of many years to not have our annual Holiday Party. Even though we can not get together in one room and exchange gifts we can still make sure to send cheer and our love to each other. We have a lot to be cheerful about!

### **Galatians 4:4-5**

***But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption***



December 15

Jon Picon

Birthday

December 18

Tim & Stella Parker

Anniversary