

## REFLECTIONS

*This is from a study I wrote this week for the Center for Congregational Ethics based on the Revised Common Lectionary, from Luke 1:68-79, Malachi 3:13-18, and Philippians 1:18b-26.*

What makes your heart sing? That is a personal question with a multitude of answers. It has been another dreary year for many. Too much anger. Too much grief and loss. Thanksgiving Day already seems long ago. Let's rephrase the question: What does your heart sing when you are feeling blessed, burdened down, or conflicted? Let's start with the easy one.

Luke is the most music-filled of the Gospels, reporting the heart songs of Mary, Zachariah, the angelic host, and Simeon. Zachariah and Elizabeth echo Abraham and Sarah's story. Zachariah sings of scriptures being fulfilled in his presence and a blessing to John, his first and only son. "And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him..." A son of promise has been given. What heart songs do we sing when God gives grace so lavishly?

Malachi, the last of the prophets until John the Baptist, calls out the wayward pharisees of his day. In the name of the Lord, he accuses them of failing to meet the basic teachings of a life of faith by corrupting the essence of a godly life. These weary religious leaders proclaim futility instead of hope and ritualism instead of joy. In their eyes, the Lord's accusation continues, the arrogant become the blessed, and evildoers become the winners because God lets everyone escape judgment. Then suddenly the expected pattern of the people rejecting the prophet's words takes a remarkable turn. Authentic conversations begin among the formerly faithful. Pride is set aside. Hearts and minds publicly change to repentance. A new way forward is noted by all. What heart songs do we sing when God smiles upon us?

Paul seeks to lend pastoral care to the church at Philippi from the remoteness of a jail. Majoring on the minor things always is a temptation for believers. This passage reveals his conflicted attitude about his circumstances and his ambivalence about pressing on. In his anxiousness for the future of this church, he remembers his call: Preach Christ. As he works through his situation, he seizes on the major theme—For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. His heart song becomes the prelude to the song of the Glorified Christ in the next chapter. What heart songs do we sing when God brings clarity to the moment? What is your heart song today?

—Bro. Darryl

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## The Evangel

Braden Park Baptist Church  
4739 East Fifth Street (5th & Yale)  
Tulsa, OK 74112-2716

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

<b>Sunday Morning</b>	
Continental Breakfast	9:20 a.m.
Worship	10:00 a.m.
Sunday School	11:15 a.m.
<b>Sunday Evening</b>	
Sanctuary Choir	5:30 p.m.
Worship	6:30 p.m.
<b>Wednesday Evening</b>	
Prayer Service	6:30 p.m.

Dr. Darryl DeBorde, Minister  
Bill Ess, Music Minister

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## The Evangel



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Let  
the  
Peace  
of Christ  
Rule  
in Your  
Hearts...  
Colossians 3:15

# Our Church Family

## LIVING CENTERS

Southern Hills Rehabilitation Center #302 . . . . . Gina Reynolds  
Zarrow Pointe Kaiser Health Center #214 . . . . . Dorothy Lee

## AT HOME

Alice and Bill Barrett	Bonnie Nutting
Elizabeth Burke	Waneta Reynolds
Berta Caldwell	Ben and PJ Shepard
Marion Corbett	Margaret VanHorn
Russell Ford	Leslie White
Paula McPherson	

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### December

9 Paula McPherson  
11 Katy Cook  
16 Lydia Ford



# Looking Ahead

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 The Second Sunday of Advent

**10:00 a.m. The Blessing of Peace**  
—John 14:25-27

This week we continue with the Advent Season of preparation for the coming of the Lord. We reflect on the rich blessing and goodness of Peace throughout the Bible. Join with us this Sunday, invite a guest, and be blessed.

**11:15 a.m. Bible Study, The Case for Christmas  
Ladies Bible Study Class**

11:55 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

5:00 p.m. People's Pantry Ministry  
Clothes Closet Ministry

**6:30 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study**



## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

**10:00 a.m. The Third Sunday of Advent**  
—The Blessing of Joy

# Behind the Scenes

## NEW UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY

Copies of the newly updated abridged Church Directory are available at the church. If you are unable to pick up a copy, contact the church at [office@bradenpark.org](mailto:office@bradenpark.org) This new directory includes the changes and additions from this past year.

## THE CASE FOR CHRISTMAS VIDEO SERIES

After last week's technical difficulties, join with us this Sunday during the 11:15 a.m. Bible Study hour as we hopefully begin a four-week video series of *The Case for Christmas* by noted Christian journalist and apologist Lee Strobel. This Sunday we discuss the lesson, "Setting the Record Straight."

## CONSIDER YOUR PART IN OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR WORLD MISSIONS.

## PROPERTY REZONING UPDATE

The city council vote on whether to rezone the long neglected property next to the church has been rescheduled for December 15. More information on this issue will be on our church Facebook page.

## FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need .....	\$ 1,936.00
General Receipts November 28 .....	\$ 2,356.00
Special Offerings November 28.....	\$ 25.00

**Thank You** to all who are providing sustaining tithes and offerings.