

REFLECTIONS

I am thinking about Christmas Present today. Our family attended a dress rehearsal presentation of *A Christmas Carol* by Tulsa's American Theatre Company last week. This was made possible for us by *Circle of Care Ministries*. Circle of Care provides foster care and benevolent ministries through churches across Oklahoma. This is the ATC's 44th season to present this classic story. The actors and scenery at Tulsa's Performing Arts Center were delightful. I am always struck by the theme woven by Charles Dickens showing how money and materialism can destroy true joy and the best that life has to offer. The ghost of Christmas Present stole the show.

This is the time of year when we dwell on traditions and memories for our Christmases past, those both white and blue. The white Christmas memories involve smiles and wonder. Blue Christmases reflect loss and melancholy. We can have both kinds mixed together. It is the power of Christmas Present that we often overlook until it is too late. Are we open to the Present in the present moment, or are we too stressed and preoccupied? Is Christmas Present about the presents or something more important? Dickens' point about Christmas Present is—it will change our Christmas Future. Our futures are always shaped by our actions of today. The treadmill of the holiday season can be wearisome. Friends, relatives, and strangers can be treated unkindly or taken for granted. Blessings of today can be overlooked in the rush to an illusive Christmas mirage. Take time for Christmas Present. Relax, breathe, and take in all in. Listen to the ones you are with. Share with those who have less. Spend time with the Christ of Christmas.

In this year's production, Christmas Present would sprinkle pinches of colorful glitter on the dower and grumpy and suddenly they would bubble over with joy and delight. Even old Scrooge acted silly when the glitter came his way. He saw he could experience a joyful Christmas. But, of course, it was the dreadful Christmas Future that he had created for himself and everyone around him that brought Scrooge to his knees in repentance of a life wrongly lived. He wanted a second chance to do things right. He begged for a chance to change his future and the future of everyone around him. That's what a genuine Christmas Present can do for us.

Keep healthy. Pray mightily. Enjoy your life today. Open the Present. And let's experience the love and power of God together.

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

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

Dr. Darryl DeBorde, Minister
Bill Ess, Music Minister

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Braden Park Baptist Church
Tulsa, Oklahoma

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CHRISTMAS EVE

CANDLELIGHT LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE

6:30 p.m.

Our Church Family

LIVING CENTERS

Southern Hills Rehabilitation Center #30 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

27 Margaret VanHorn
29 David Dryer
31 Waneta Reynolds (100 Years)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

December

24 John and Rita Snellgrove 34 Years

CLOTHES CLOSET MINISTRY NEEDS

We are in need of winter items to distribute to our neighbors. We are looking for all sizes of coats and jackets, including children's sizes. Other items needed include heavy socks, sweatshirts and sweatpants, blankets, gloves and stocking hats. Bring the gently used and clean items to the church foyer.

Looking Ahead

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. The Blessing of Love
—John 21:15-17

This week we continue with the Advent Season of preparation for the coming of the Lord. *Kevin Avery* will lead us as we reflect on the rich blessing and goodness of *Love* promised 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 22

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

6:30 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

10:00 a.m. The Blessing of Christmas

Behind the Scenes

OUR CONGRATULATIONS to *Waneta Reynolds* on the occasion of her 100th birthday, December 31. Everyone is invited to celebrate with her at the reception in Fellowship Hall on her birthday Friday afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Due to on-going concerns about the pandemic, masks are required and everyone's temperature will be taken.

CONSIDER YOUR PART IN OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR WORLD MISSIONS.

Our Christmas Card Post Office Box is located in the south foyer to share your Christmas cards with the church family. Take the money you would have spent on postage and apply it to our Lottie Moon Global Missions Offering.

END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

The following information is from IRS publication 526, Charitable Contributions: "You can deduct your contributions only in the year you actually make them in cash or other property. A check that you mail to a charity is considered delivered on the date you mail it." Therefore contributions should be received by the church postmarked by December 31, 2021, which is on a Friday.

FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need	\$ 1,936.00
General Receipts December 12	\$ 1,388.25
Special Offerings December 12	\$ 00.00
Lottie Moon Global Missions to date	\$ 415.00

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