REFLECTIONS

My first dog was named *Nickel* because his mother was named *Penny*. It seemed logical at the time. I called him *Nicky*. Nicky was a mixed terrier. He loved chasing mice down holes and digging up anything he could find. We had him for a few years before he was hit by a car and gravely injured. The vet "put him down." I was heartsick as most who lose a favorite pet. Children occasionally ask us, "Do dogs go to heaven?" Grief is a tricky emotion. I was reminded of this when I came upon a story about a woman's grief. After her dog died, she confessed that she missed her dog more than her father.

Dogs have a way of demonstrating unconditional devotion to their owners. The woman's father, it seems, was distant and judgmental. She could talk to her dog but not to her father. Her father died. Her dog died. She felt guilty, sad, and angry about the whole thing. Do dogs go to heaven? Her dog was affectionate and would curl up next to her whenever she sat down or went to bed. She and her father could not even hug each other. Her father was not a bad man or abusive. He just retreated into himself and never did live up to her expectations of being an affirming, loving Dad. Grief and guilt walk hand-in-hand.

Our girls grew up with a dog named *Dusty*. He died of old age at 16. When the girls were pre-teens one of the young adults from the church took them home for us one Sunday evening. Dusty lived in our backyard. The girls could not get in the house, so they all went around to the backyard to wait for us. Dusty, seeing a strange man in the yard, immediately sprang into action. He started barking and positioned himself between the girls and "the stranger" until we got home. Dusty was their protector. They never forgot his spontaneous devotion. Of course there are dogs in heaven—and cats, horses, lions, lambs, and other incredible creatures of God's making we know nothing about yet. In our grief and in our guilt, it is good to spend time in quiet reflection. Include Psalms 145 and 148 today.

Keep healthy. Pray mightily. Enjoy your life today. Spend time with your family and your pets. And let's experience the love and power of God together.

Bro. Darryl

THE EVANGEL (USPS 180-140) is published weekly except 1st week of July and 4th week of December by the BRADEN PARK BAPTIST CHURCH • 4739 East 5th • Tulsa, OK 74112-2716
Periodicals postage paid at Tulsa, OK.
POSTMASTER: send address changes to • THE EVANGEL • 4739 East 5th • Tulsa, OK 74112-2716

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE
PAID
Tulsa, OK
USPS #180-140

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.
Bible Study & Conversation 11:15 a.m.

Wednesday Evening
The People's Pantry 5:00 p.m.
The Clothes Closet Ministry
Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Darryl DeBorde, Minister
Bill Ess, Music Minister

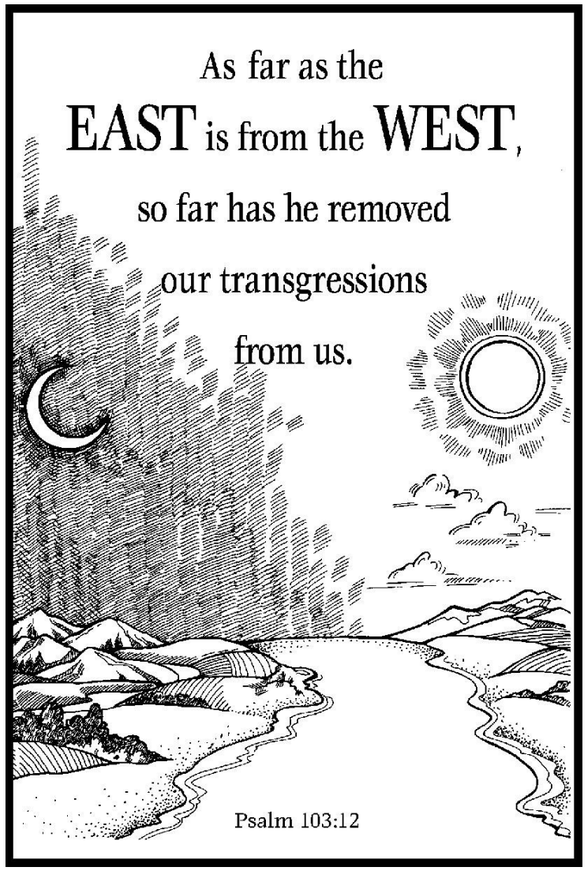
Telephone (918) 834-3378
Fax (918) 834-3440
office@BradenPark.org

Printing provided by
Imperial Printing

The Evangel

Proclaiming the Good News!
Braden Park Baptist Church
Tulsa, Oklahoma

VOL LII **February 25, 2022** **No. 8**



Our Church Family

LIVING CENTERS

Zarrow Pointe Kaiser Health Center #214 . . . . . Dorothy Lee

AT HOME

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March

5 Ben Shepard
7 Judy Spraker
10 Dorothy DeBorde
13 Kevin Avery

Looking Ahead

In-Person Worship Each Week

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

10:00 a.m. Oh My Soul: Broken Yet Praising the Lord
—Psalm 103

This Sunday *Kevin Avery* shares a message and testimony focusing on finding faithful worship in the midst of our trials and suffering. Join with us in person this Sunday. Invite a friend and be blessed.

— ♦ —

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

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

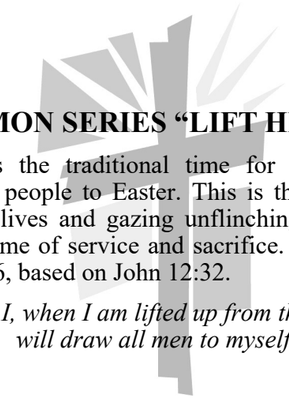
6:30 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study
—Acts 22

— ♦ —

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

10:00 a.m. If I Be Lifted Up
—John 12:20-35

Behind the Scenes



NEW SERMON SERIES "LIFT HIM UP"

Lent is the traditional time for spiritual reflection leading God's people to Easter. This is the time for looking deeply at our lives and gazing unflinchingly at the cross of Jesus. It is a time of service and sacrifice. This sermon series begins March 6, based on John 12:32.

But I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all men to myself.

CONNECTING WITH THE CHURCH

You can connect with us through the church Facebook page, **Braden Park Church Tulsa**, for updates and announcements. You can also find **The EVANGEL**, sermons, and other information at our church website: **www.bradenpark.org**

FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need	$ 1,904.00
General Receipts February 20	$ 1,515.00
Special Offerings February 20	$ 00.00

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