

REFLECTIONS

I've been thinking about graduation gifts. Graduation is one of life's rites of passage, literally and figuratively. A person passes the tests and completes the required course work. There is a commencement. A commencement is both an ending and a beginning. The graduate will soon discover they have advanced into the "what's next?" of life. All of that hard work deserves recognition, commemoration and validation. A graduation gift is always in order. When I graduated from high school, my grandmother gave me an Avon toiletry set for men. I still have remnants of that set to this day. The giver wants the receiver to be pleased.

I've also been reflecting on the gifts of graduation that shape my life to this day. Reading, writing and arithmetic head up my gift list, although there are some questions about my subsequent math skills. Music and imagination, science and discovery, history and literature, all were gifts I received at my graduation. The power of preparation, the patience of persistence, the satisfaction of success were all given to me at graduation by my teachers and mentors. I was a solid C high school student. As I neared graduation, a Sunday School teacher handed me a little devotional book called *Meeting the Test: A Book of Devotions for Young People*. That book challenged me to find other books where I learned how to study and deeply learn about any subject. It pointed the way to life-long learning and my grades improved substantially in college. What a great gift!

As I explored my call to ministry, I found my way back, time and again, to the insights of *Meeting the Test*. One lesson was about getting the most important "degree" of all—the A.U.G. Degree. Last Sunday's message was based in part on this early life lesson. This degree is found in the King James Version of 2 Timothy 2:15. *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* Approved Unto God. I'm still working on that degree. It's the graduation gift worth living for. One day there will be an eternal commencement for us all. It's not too late to cram for the Final, yet. What might your diploma say?

Keep healthy. Pray mightily. Enjoy your life today. Meet the test. 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.
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

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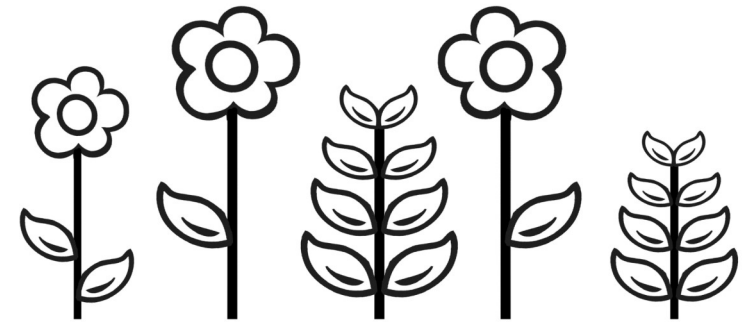
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Braden Park Baptist Church
Tulsa, Oklahoma

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May 12, 2023

No. 19

happy
Mother's
day



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Our Church Family

AT HOME

Alice and Bill Barrett
 Elizabeth Burke
 Berta Caldwell
 Marion Corbett
 Joe Crotser
 Lydia Ford

Paula McPherson
 Georgia Metcalf
 Bonnie Nutting
 P J Shepard
 Margaret VanHorn
 Leslie White

IN REHABILITATION CENTER

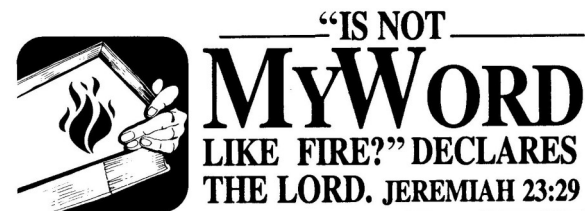
P. J. Shepard The Villages at Southern Hills

IN THE HOSPITAL

Bill Barrett Ascension St. John, Utica

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May 16 Diep Vo
 22 Jamie Percy-Steel



Looking Ahead

SUNDAY, MAY 14 Mother’s Day

9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
 10:00 a.m. **Train Up a Child**
 —Proverbs 22:6

This Mother’s Day we explore the power to shape the life and character of children through God’s Word. Enrich your own Bible study skills with practical helps and applications. Invite your family and friends to church, and be blessed.

11:15 a.m. Conversation and Bible Study
 No Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

MONDAY, MAY 15

8:45 a.m. Monday Morning Prayers
 Call (712) 832-8330, then access code: 887-7647

TUESDAY, MAY 16

8:00 p.m. Prayer for the Nations
 Kevin Avery’s Facebook Zoom link

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

5:00 p.m. People’s Pantry Ministry
 Clothes Closet Ministry
 6:30 p.m. **Bible Study and Prayer**

SUNDAY, MAY 21

10:00 a.m. **In Awe of Your Law**—Psalm 119:113-120

Behind the Scenes



SUNDAY MAY 21

Everyone is encouraged to bring a friend or neighbor to our *All-Church Potluck Fellowship Dinner* on Sunday, **May 21**. If you would like, bring a dish or dessert to share. The church will be providing Chicken Tenders with Biscuits and Gravy.

OUR LOVE AND SYMPATHY is extended to the family and friends of *Dorothy Lee* in her passing. Dorothy and her late husband Jim were faithful members since 1955. Dorothy taught weekly Sunday School classes for nearly 60 years. Services are set for Friday, May 12, at 10:00 a.m. at the Chapel in Memorial Park Cemetery. Dorothy was 102 years old.

FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Budget Need | \$ 2,050.00 |
| General Receipts May 5 | \$ 2,092.57 |
| Special Offerings May 5 | \$ 0.00 |

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