

REFLECTIONS

I stood with a few other Tulsa pastors in the parking lot of a monastery built in the 1200's on Mt. Carmel at the traditional site where Elijah sought shelter after facing down the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18-19.) The view from the mountain top was spectacular. Looking east we could see just below the horizon the silver ribbon of the Jordan River that separates Israel from the nation of Jordan. Below us were the rich valley farmlands—the valley of Jezreel and the region of Megiddo. Countless battles from biblical days onward have been fought in this region; the last was in September 1918 as part of World War 1. We walked uphill a few yards, crossed the road, and looked westward. There we could see between the mountain ridges the glimmering blues of the Mediterranean Sea. Israel is a very small nation. With the Hamas War in Israel growing more tense each day, some are asking, Is the long foretold final Battle of Armageddon about to take place?

I have a few responses to that question. The Book of the Revelation of John chapters 19 and 20 reveals that battle and its aftermath. Armageddon is over before it begins. All the personifications of evil, literal and figurative, are defeated and cast into a fiery imprisonment *for a thousand years* followed by the *Great White Throne Judgement*. With this understanding, the battle of Armageddon is not ours to worry about. In my perspective of last days, a destruction of the modern nation/state of Israel would be a marker that we have entered a great tribulation period where all the redeemed people would experience severe persecution or physical death for our faith, until the final shout, "Come!" All of the redeemed of all the ages will be present at the Lord's Second Coming.

Last Sunday morning I asked the congregation to read Jesus' teachings on the signs of His coming found in Matthew chapters 24 and 25. His continued teaching is—be ready for the day of His return. Bring hope and comfort to those you love who are anxious about tomorrow and what the future may hold. Tell them of the good news of God's salvation through Jesus' death on the cross. Tell them that even death itself is not the end of life's story, with Jesus as their Lord. And do not wait *for a better time*.

Keep healthy. Pray mightily. Enjoy your life today. Be ready for the Lord. 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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The Evangel

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Braden Park Baptist Church
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...by grace
you
have
been
saved...
Ephesians 2:5, NRSV

Our Church Family

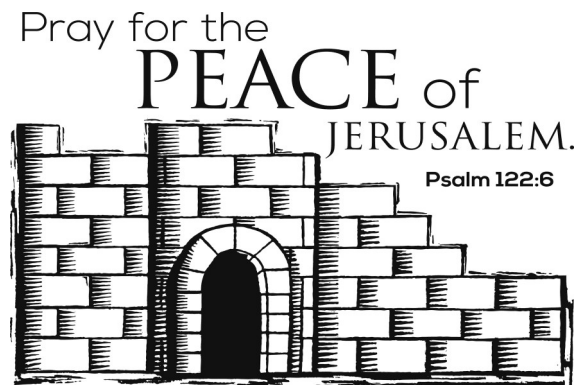
AT HOME

Kevin Avery	Paula McPherson
Alice Barrett	Georgia Metcalf
Elizabeth Burke	Bonnie Nutting
Marion Corbett	Annette Ford Parker
Lydia Ford	Margaret VanHorn
	Leslie White

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

OCTOBER

30	Barbara Casey
31	Gena Wheeler Thompson



Looking Ahead

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
10:00 a.m. The Baptist Way of Being the Church
 —Ephesians 2:1-10

The story of the way Baptists seek to be the church is rooted in the theological understanding of salvation. The Baptist story is profound in its positive global impact for the Kingdom of God. Invite your family and friends to church, and be blessed.

11:15 a.m. Conversations with the Pastor
 Ladies Bible Study
 11:55 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

10:00 a.m. The Baptist Way of Being the Church, part 2

Behind the Scenes

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE RECOGNITIONS

The annual **Celebrating Excellence Banquet** will be held Sunday evening, October 29, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History on the campus of the University of Oklahoma in Norman. This year's honorees include Oklahoma Baptist leaders *Wil Brown, Lisa Raiber, Larry Stevens and Cheryl Tarter*. Our own pastor, *Darryl DeBorde* was selected to receive the 2023 CBF Oklahoma Baptist Legacy Award. If you are interested in attending this event as guests of the DeBordes, contact Bro. Darryl at (918) 230-0781.

OUR LOVE AND SYMPATHY is extended to the family of *Alice Barrett* in the loss of her husband *Bill*, on October 12. Plans for a fitting celebration of Bill Barrett's life will be announced at a later time.

SPRING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Glenn and Joan McKinley Scholarship Fund is available for students attending schools, colleges and universities other than Oklahoma Baptist University. Applications are available through the church office (office@bradenpark.org) and need to be submitted by *November 20*.

FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need	\$ 2,050.00
General Receipts October 15	\$ 1,205.00
Special Offerings October 15.....	\$ 0.00

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