

REFLECTIONS

What we know as the Baptist church has been at worship and ministry for over 400 years. This past week I began a brief series on the fundamental teachings and in our afterward discussions it was felt appropriate that I present a brief overview of our founding as a distinct religious movement in 1609. With funds provided by a wealthy believer named *Thomas Helwys* (1550-1616?), pastor *John Smyth* (1554-1612) and other believers traveled to the Netherlands to seek out spiritual counsel. Out of their discussions a statement of beliefs was formulated, and the small band participated in a Believer's Baptism ceremony. They quickly moved back to England and established a Baptist church. The earliest Baptist leaders, along with Roman Catholics, Separatists and Puritans, were severely persecuted as heretics and imprisoned by King James 1, of King James Bible fame. Thomas Helwys was sent to Newgate Prison in 1616, where he wrote a short book on religious persecution. He was never released from prison and may have been executed.

The founding Baptists declared five core values: **Biblical Authority**—the Bible is the infallible word of God. **Priesthood of all Believers** (also known as Soul Competency)—people are free to act and live according to their own conscience before God. Each believer has full access to God without any human mediator. **Believer's Baptism**—opposing infant baptism; baptism is to follow a person's confession of sins and faith in Jesus Christ as the risen Lord. **Church Autonomy**—each congregation is to follow its own understanding of Scripture and God's direction without coercion from other religious leaders or groups. **Religious Liberty**—the king (governmental authorities) should not direct the affairs of any religion, favor any particular religion, or tax people to support or punish any religious person or group. It is the right of every individual to worship God, or not, as his or her conscience allows. The theme of soul freedom permeates all that Baptists cherish.

My concern centers on the fading knowledge of Baptist history in our churches. When the core values of our traditions are forgotten, the name Baptist is hollowed out and creedalism and secularism fill the void. Pastoral authority replaces Biblical authority and soul competency. Conforming to the latest doctrinal mandates and marketing strategies edges out church autonomy. And believer's baptism becomes an option for some or necessary to salvation for others.

Keep healthy. Pray mightily. Enjoy your life today. Examine your faith. 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 Worship Bible Study & Conversation	9:20 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening The People's Pantry The Clothes Closet Ministry Prayer Service	11:15 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.

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Bill Ess, Music Minister

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The Evangel



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For
freedom
Christ
has
set us
free.



Galatians 5:1

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

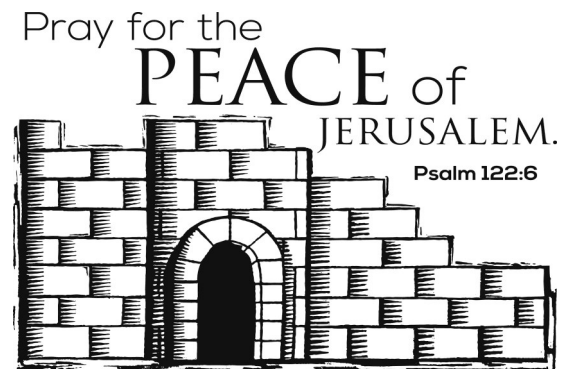
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

OCTOBER

30 Barbara Casey
 31 Gena Wheeler Thompson

NOVEMBER

11 John Snellgrove



Looking Ahead

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
10:00 a.m. The Baptist Way of Being the Church, part 2
 —Galatians 5

The story of the way Baptists seek to be the church is rooted in the theological understanding of freedom in Christ. Our 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 30

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

10:00 a.m. The Baptist Way of Being the Church, part 3

Behind the Scenes



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

November 19 — Church Thanksgiving Dinner
November 26 — Thanksgiving Lord's Supper Service



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 22	\$ 1,555.00
Special Offerings October 22.....	\$ 250.00

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