

REFLECTIONS

I have a blessing to pray over you for this New Year. It is a prayer that Paul prays for the church at Ephesus. It is a blessing for today to meet the challenges of tomorrow. It is a prayer for discernment. **Discernment** is my focus word for 2024.

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance of the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe. (Ephesians 2:17-19a)

Throughout the next few weeks, I am committing to pray this passage repeatedly with your specific name in mind, and as far as I know their names, your family members also. Instead of “you” I will substitute your name. I will be using the church directory and Evangel mailing list. There is nothing magic in this prayer. It is simply the majesty of God at work through the prayers of His people.

So many are walking in darkness. So many are facing daily temptations to succumb to lies and fantasies. So many feel the weight of bad news, overextended schedules, and depression. So many believers also find themselves overwhelmed by health, money, and family issues, they may wonder if there is any Light at all left for them. This passage has a word for each of us—that *the eyes of your heart be enlightened*—discernment.

If you are so inclined, would you join me for a concert of prayer over your extended circle of friends, neighbors, and family members? What if, during the month of January, we were to blanket a great host of people across our country, even our world, with a prayer of enlightenment amid their daily living?

Keep healthy. Pray mightily. Enjoy your life today. Pray for discernment. 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.

11:15 a.m.

Wednesday Evening

The People's Pantry

The Clothes Closet Ministry

Prayer Service

5:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

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The Evangel



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Braden Park Baptist Church
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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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December

27	Margaret VanHorn
29	David Dryer

January

1	Sandra Gaona
3	Mickey Holdt
6	Casey Gilmore

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

January

1	Donelle and Bryan Enos	24 Years
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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, 2023, which is on a Sunday.

Looking Ahead

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve

10:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Brunch in Fellowship Hall
Abiding in Love—1 Corinthians 13

6:00 p.m. Candlelight Lord's Supper Service
Reception to follow

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

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

6:30 p.m. Prayer Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

10:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
—Ring in the New—Isaiah 65

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

10:00 a.m. The Lord Always Keeps His Promises
—Psalm 145:13 (New Series begins)

Behind the Scenes



Everyone is invited to begin the morning with a **Christmas Brunch at 10:00 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall. The menu includes a Breakfast Casserole including eggs, cheese, potatoes and ham, as well as a fruit salad, coffee, and biscuits and gravy. The time of worship around the tables will include favorite carols, special music from the choir and a brief message titled *Abiding in Love*.

The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Lord's Supper Service** will begin at **6:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception.

New Year's Eve Sunday morning will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a **Pancake and Waffles Breakfast** followed by our worship service, also in Fellowship Hall.

CONSIDER YOUR PART IN OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR WORLD MISSIONS.

The **EVANGEL** will not be published next week between Christmas and New Years.

FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need	\$ 2,050.00
General Receipts December 17	\$ 1,575.00
Lottie Moon Global Missions Offerings To Date	\$ 570.00

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