

REFLECTIONS

Our daughter Dayna introduced me to a series of books a few years ago that have captured my imagination and tickled my funny bone. The books are literate but not stuffy, Christian but slightly irreverent. They are written from the perspective of a motherless little girl, harassed by her older sisters, fascinated with chemistry (poisons are her specialty), who regularly chooses to wedge her way into murder mysteries. *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* is the first in a series of ten novels following eleven-year-old sleuth *Flavia de Luce* in post-war England.

The Canadian author Alan Bradley began writing this, his first novel, in 2007 when he was 69. In 1994 Alan Bradley took an early retirement as director of television engineering for a university to begin his writing career. He wrote short stories and articles for magazines and published a couple of non-fiction books. His success came after a little girl he later named *Flavia* “took over” a story he was trying to write one spring day in 2007. Born in 1938, Mr. Bradley published the tenth book in his series in 2019. According to *Variety Magazine*, the movie version of *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* starring British actors Martin Freeman (*Sherlock*) and young Isle Gie (*The Sandman*) went into production last spring.

“There are choices in life which you are aware, even as you make them, cannot be undone; choices after which, once made, things will never be the same. There is that moment when you can still walk away, but if you do, you will never know what might have been.”—Alan Bradley, *The Chimney Sweepers Come to Dust*, 2015.

Advertisers want us to choose their products. Our families, friends and co-workers want us to go along with their choices. Politicians want us to choose them. We are faced with choices about everything, in every area of our lives, every day. Some choices are bigger than others. How do you choose? Day by day we decide, or we let someone else decide for us, how we will live today. Proverbs 3:6 declares: *In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.* Invite God into your decisions.

Keep healthy. Pray mightily. Enjoy your life today. Choose wisely. 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.

Dr. Darryl DeBorde, Minister
Bill Ess, Music Minister

Telephone (918) 834-3378

Fax (918) 834-3440

office@BradenPark.org

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The Evangel

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Braden Park Baptist Church
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“For
I KNOW
the plans
I have for you,”
declares the LORD,
“... plans to give you
HOPE and a
FUTURE.”

Jeremiah 29:11, NIV



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Our Church Family

AT HOME

Kevin Avery	Paula McPherson
Alice Barrett	Judy Martin
Elizabeth Burke	Georgia Metcalf
Joe Crotser	Bonnie Nutting
Marion Corbett	Annette Ford Parker
Lydia Ford	Margaret VanHorn

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

February

4	Connie Connely
8	Harold Gruetzmacher
16	Rodney Epp
21	Russell Ford

CHURCH CONTRIBUTION RECORDS

The Individual Contribution Statements for 2023 are being prepared for mailing this week. Hopefully they will be delivered by January 31.



Looking Ahead

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
10:00 a.m. The State of the Church 2024
A Future and A Hope
—Jeremiah 29:11-13

This Sunday's message takes a reflective look back on the life of the church in 2023, and a visionary look forward to what God is doing in our midst, in our community and in our world. Invite your family and friends to church this

11:15 a.m. Church Business Meeting
 11:55 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

10:00 a.m. Vows and Promises Before God

Behind the Scenes

CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday morning, **January 28**, there will be a church business meeting following the morning worship service. Items to be discussed include adopting the 2024 Proposed Budget, as well as revising the titles on the church properties to include our sister congregation, Monte Los Olivos.

NEW CHURCH BUDGET PROPOSED

The **Proposed 2024 Budget** reflects a minimal increase. The Staff Compensation budget remains the same as 2023, with the exception that the Youth Minister is now on a volunteer basis at David Anderson's request. Income Offsets include the contributions from Monte Los Olivos and the housing allowance for our Missionary in Residence, *Kevin Avery*.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Missions	\$ 7,050	\$ 8,050
Program Support	\$ 7,550	\$ 7,700
Building & Utilities	\$ 45,100	\$ 45,650
Staff Compensation	\$ 104,893	\$ 104,893
Income offsets	<u>\$ (58,000)</u>	<u>\$ (58,500)</u>
Total	\$ 106,593	\$ 107,793

FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need	\$ 2,050.00
General Receipts January 21	\$ 3,365.00
Special Offerings.....	\$ 0.00

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