

REFLECTIONS

There is an endless, unseen battle taking place in our church parking lot. I see the evidence of it at random times during the week. Cars quietly make their way over to our air-conditioning cooling tower, park for a little while, then drive away. An unseen artificial intelligence program has designed that area as a Pokèmon Go Gym. Pokèmon Go is a worldwide game played on hand-held devices such as phones and computer tablets. With your device in the right spot a player can see the other pokèmons—picture a cartooned short-eared rabbit crossed with say a cat, horse or dragon. At a gym, players can battle for control over other pokèmon players, winning power enhancements and points. The longer the winning pokèmon can stay in the gym before being defeated by someone else, the more points and rewards can be achieved. This is not just a children's game. Adults are driving all over town to win more battles over opposing forces. Pokèmon Go takes a great deal of time and energy.

When I asked our resident family experts to explain Pokèmon Go to me, they suggested this might not be a very interesting topic for everyone. However, I was also thinking about other unseen forces battling it out in the church parking lot, in neighborhoods and in homes across the land. Forces that cannot be seen with hand-held devices, but only with eyes of discernment and hearts of compassion. Evidence of evil activity is relatively easy to discover. Spiritual battles with victories won may be harder to see. One day an angry king's army surrounded a town by night, intent on killing the Lord's prophet. Rising early, a servant saw the strong army preparing for the attack. After praying for God to open his eyes, the prophet told his servant to look again, this time the man could see the angelic army, equipped and ready for action against the foes. (2 Kings 6:8-23)

Pokèmon Go is a fun game with an endless array of characters and teams. It challenges people to enter the quest and win personal rewards. The game stimulates our need to see and feel everyday victories over the forces lined up against us. For more details on Pokèmon Go, feel free to consult with the gaming experts you may know. For spiritual victories, look again through the lens of God's Word into the world around you.

Keep healthy. Pray mightily. Enjoy your life today, with open eyes. 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

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The Evangel



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Braden Park Baptist Church
Tulsa, Oklahoma

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April 5, 2024

No. 14

*"I thank my God every time
I remember you ..."*

Philippians 1:3, NRSV



Our Church Family

AT HOME

Kevin Avery	Paula McPherson
Alice Barrett	Georgia Metcalf
Elizabeth Burke	Bonnie Nutting
Joe Crotser	Annette and Dennis Parker
Marion Corbett	Rita Snellgrove
Lydia Ford	Margaret VanHorn

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April
13 Alice Barrett

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

April 13 Sandra and Roy Smith 50 Years



Looking Ahead

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Pure Joy
 —**Philippians 1:1-6**

Our new series **Pure Joy** begins this week with the amazing story of the beginnings of the church at Philippi, the very first church formed in Europe. It is all about Joy. Invite your family and friends to church this Sunday and be blessed.

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

MONDAY, APRIL 8

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

10:00 a.m. Pure Joy—Philippians 1

Behind the Scenes

PAVILION CONSTRUCTION NEAR COMPLETE

Workmen have built our new cedar multi-use Pavilion. If things continue as planned, it will be finished with the final touches and metal roof by Sunday, April 14. This shelter will become the primary delivery site for **The Peoples Pantry**. It will also be used for community meals, parties, and other church activities.

NEW SERMON SERIES BEGINS THIS WEEK

The new sermon series titled **Pure Joy** will be a verse-by-verse study of Paul's letter to the Philippians. This pastoral letter contrasts the frustrating pursuit of happiness above all versus experiencing the joy of the Lord, even in the daily struggles of life.

April 7	Pure Joy	1:1-6
April 14	Praying Joy	1:3-8
April 21	Abounding Joy	1:3-11
April 28	Indestructible Joy	1:12-19

TULSA TOGETHER APRIL 21

Our church will be hosting the Spring Tulsa Together Community Service sponsored by the Christian Ministers Alliance on Sunday evening April 21 at 6:00 p.m.

FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need	\$ 2,073.00
General Receipts March 31	\$ 2,104.00
Special Offerings.....	\$ 0.00

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