

# REFLECTIONS

Life does not always give us the chance to learn “the rest of the story.” People come and go through our daily encounters, friendships fade, people move on, we move on. Sometimes I catch myself wondering, whatever happened to some of them. Right now I am reflecting on a life that briefly intersected with mine. I learned this weekend of the passing of one of my family’s pastors at age 97. He was by all measures, a man of grace. He was the minister of the Philadelphia Baptist Church while I was in college in Birmingham, Alabama. He is most famously remembered because of his name, Charles Merry Christmas, Sr. His kind ways encouraged me as a young minister while in college. I attended as often as I could. I preached once as part of a Youth Sunday service. While my parents and sisters attended regularly, across my college years I served on the staff of two churches, supply preached in rural churches, and frequently traveled with a full-time evangelist leading the music in revivals. One of my last occasions at the Philadelphia Baptist Church was the honor of officiating at my sister Denise’s wedding.

When we first met the Christmas family, their daughter, Joy Carol Christmas, and son, Charles Merry Christmas, Jr., were in high school. Charles Christmas, Sr. and his wife Louise were married 65 years when she passed away.

Dr. Christmas was called to preach during World War II at age 18. He graduated from Howard College (now Samford University) and earned his doctorate at New Orleans Theological Seminary. He was widely respected as a Bible teacher who practiced what he preached. I learned that he pastored several churches through the years and “retired” in 1997 after seven years as a Baptist Associational Director. He served as an interim pastor and guest preacher through his mid-nineties. He wrote a weekly column for the local newspaper called *Simple Truth*. Always eager to share a good word with others, he had the idea of giving away baseball caps as a witness. He had caps printed with sayings such as *Jesus Christ is Lord*, and my favorite, *God’s Grace is Sufficient*.

Keep healthy. Pray mightily. Enjoy your life today. Live gracefully. 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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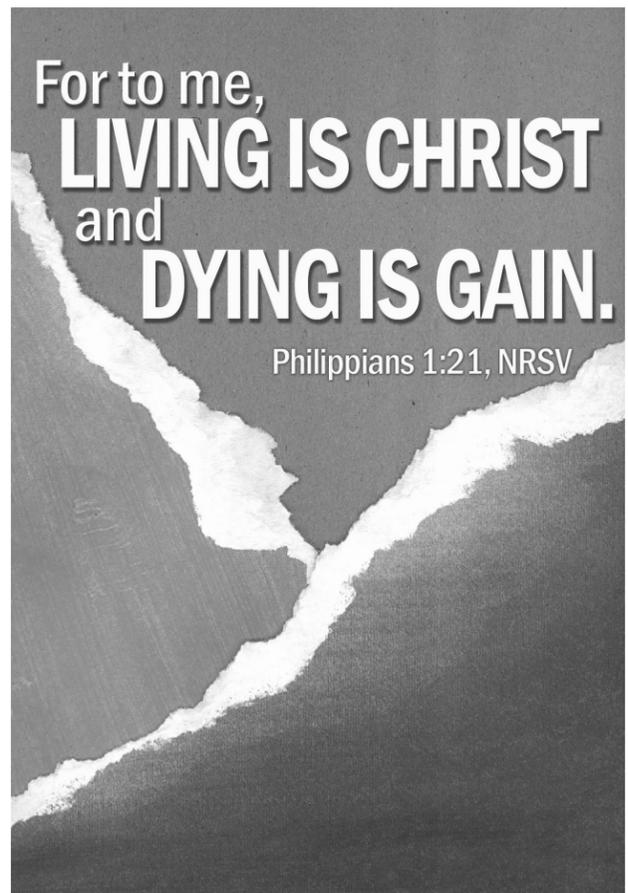


Proclaiming the Good News!  
Braden Park Baptist Church  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

VOL LIV

April 19, 2024

No. 16



# 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	Margaret Van Horn
Lydia Ford	

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### April

27	Dorris Doyle
30	Elizabeth Burke

## TIMOTHY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OBU

The Timothy McKinley Scholarship Fund is available for full-time students attending **Oklahoma Baptist University** in Shawnee for the **2024-2025 school year**. Applications are due **by May 5**. Contact the church at [office@bradenpark.org](mailto:office@bradenpark.org).



## COMBINED WORSHIP

MONTE LOS OLIVOS  
and  
BRADEN PARK  
MAY 5

# Looking Ahead

## SUNDAY, APRIL 21

9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast  
**10:00 a.m. Indestructible Joy**  
 —Philippians 1:12-21

Our sermon series **Pure Joy** continues 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 22

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

## TUESDAY, APRIL 23

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

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

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

## SUNDAY, APRIL 28

**10:00 a.m. Indestructible Joy, part 2**

# Behind the Scenes

## SPRING TULSA TOGETHER SERVICE 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.** This is a city-wide effort to promote racial conversations at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, followed by a time of Christian worship and inspiration. Many churches will participate, and there will be additional special music by the *OBU Worship Choir* from *Oklahoma Baptist University*. We will need volunteers to help with parking and greeters inside to welcome our guests. A reception in our Fellowship Hall will follow the service.

## THE PEOPLE'S PANTRY MINISTRY REPORT

**The People's Pantry** provided 100 families, 247 individuals, with enough groceries for 2,964 meals during the past three months, January through March. The pantry has also provided emergency groceries and personal products for several homeless neighbors and others on foot or bicycle. Thank you for your on-going prayers, food and clothing contributions, and financial support.

## FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need .....	\$ 2,073.00
General Receipts April 14.....	\$ 2,013.00
Special Offerings.....	\$ 0.00

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