

# Our Church Family

## At Home

Kevin Avery	Alice Barrett	Nancy Holdt
Paula McPherson	Georgia Metcalf	Bonnie Nutting
Billy Shafer	Margaret VanHorn	Sunni Wager

## Nursing Centers

Marion Corbett	University Village Health Center #333
Hugh Enos	Broken Arrow Nursing Home
Bonnie Nutting	Pleasant Valley Health Care Center #F63

## Happy Birthday!

January	20	Nancy Holdt
	21	Pam Utley

## Happy Anniversary!

January	19	Judy and Ray Martin	65 Years
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## Prayer Updates

**Billy Shafer** is scheduled for extensive back surgery January 13 at Hillcrest Medical Center.

**Sunni Wager** is choosing to enter comfort care at home following her recent hospitalization.

**What Happens Next: A Traveler's Guide Through the End of the Age**, a six-part video series by *Max Lucado*, will be discussed during the Bible Study following the morning worship hour. Everyone is welcome.

### FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need .....	\$ 2,071.00
General Receipts January 3 .....	\$ 2,014.00
Ola and J. Ray Smith Trust Distribution.....	\$ 9,647.57

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

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# Reflections

My New Year's tradition has become finding a word of the year that expresses my hope and shapes my thinking for the months ahead. This year I have settled on the phrase, *Choose Joy*. I believe that I may be running a low-grade depression, like most everyone I encounter these days, because of the dreariness of a constant stream of bad news everywhere. I need a refocus for 2025. It is always appropriate to grieve, cry, and face sadness, just like any of the other emotions we experience every day. I just want to remind myself to choose joy as often as possible.

Joy is a choice of rebellion against the doom-scrollers. Joy is radical when the crowds around you wallow in the muck of tedious complaints. Joy is not necessarily optimism, but optimists look for the joy. Winston Churchill is often quoted as saying, "*A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity. An optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.*" I clipped an article once on *The Seven Qualities of an Optimist*: 1) They express gratitude. 2) They donate their time and energy. 3) They are interested in others. 4) They surround themselves with up-beat people. 5) They do not listen to naysayers. 6) They forgive others. 7) They smile.

*Optimist* is not a Biblical word, but *joy* is. To me the seven qualities listed here reflect a Biblical lifestyle of joy and faith. Those who live by faith, joy, and hope express gratitude to God and others every single day. They donate their time, energy and money in service and ministry. They are genuinely interested in their neighbors. They surround themselves with likeminded believers and mentors. They pray about the critics and the discouragers. They forgive and forgive. And they take joy in walking everyday with their Lord. This is more than positive thinking; it is confident living. It is more than seeing the opportunity; it is embracing the very call of God. *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* (Romans 15:13)

Keep healthy. Pray mightily. Enjoy your life today. Choose joy. And let's experience the love and power of God together.

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## SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

**10:00 a.m.**     **The Man of Lawlessness, the Antichrist**  
—2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

11:10 a.m.     Video and discussion, *Part 1: Made to Reign*

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

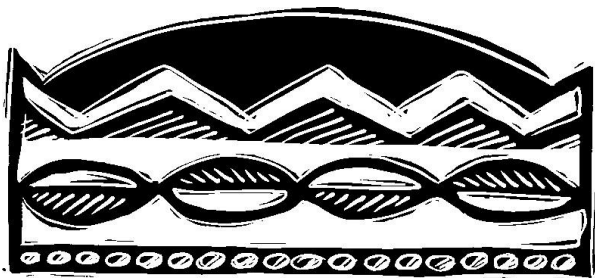


# The Evangel

No. 2

January 10, 2025

VOL LV



Be faithful  
unto death,  
and I will  
give you  
the crown  
of Life.

Revelation 2:10

# The Evangel

Braden Park Baptist Church  
4739 East Fifth Street (5th & Yale)  
Tulsa, OK 74112-2716

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

<b>Sunday Morning</b>	
Continental Breakfast	9:20 a.m.
Worship	10:00 a.m.
Bible Study & Conversation	11:15 a.m.
<b>Wednesday Evening</b>	
The People's Pantry	5:00 p.m.
The Clothes Closet Ministry	
Community Dinner	
Prayer Service	6:30 p.m.

Dr. Darryl DeBorde, Minister  
Bill Ess, Music Minister  
office@BradenPark.org

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