

# Our Church Family

## At Home

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

## Health Care Centers

Marion Corbett	University Village Health Center #333
Bonnie Nutting	Pleasant Valley Health Care Center #F63

## Happy Birthday!

February 8 Harold Gruetzmacher  
14 Rodney Epp

## The People's Pantry Ministry Report

For the three months of October—December, 2024, our **People's Pantry** provided 120 families, 298 individuals, a total of 3,576 meals worth of groceries. During the same period, our Community Dinners served 729 freshly prepared hot meals, including the special lunches on Thanksgiving and Christmas days. Thank you to the weekly volunteers who make these ministries happen each Wednesday evening.

**The annual Contribution Statements** have been mailed this week. Notify the church office if there are any questions. Also, contact the office if you fail to receive your statement by February 8.

### FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need .....	\$ 2,071.00
General Receipts January 19 & 26.....	\$ 2,373.00
Special Offerings .....	\$ 0.00

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

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# Reflections

During a recent Wednesday evening Bible study I mentioned we used to have an aquarium with catfish in our church nursery. When our daughters were young, a new staff member arrived on the scene with a love for fish. Jeff set up an expensive saltwater aquarium in his office, filled with live coral and exotic ocean fish. Also, he set up a 40-gallon freshwater tank in the nursery area. He filled it with the typical beautiful little fish and underwater displays that fascinate children and adults alike. One winter we had a harsh few days of snow and ice, making it impossible to get to church. When the weather cleared enough to travel, it was discovered that the power had gone out at church, disabling the aquarium pumps and causing all the fish to die. It was a sad time. Jeff removed his saltwater aquarium but reset up the freshwater one in the nursery.

Months later an enterprising mother added three fish to the nursery tank. Her father had recently stocked his farm pond with catfish, so she captured three fingerling catfish and carefully transported them to the church. They were as cute as three-inch catfish could be. The fish were somewhat stunned by their whole ordeal, and just huddled together at the bottom, hiding in the plants. The next day when we looked in on them, all the other fish in the aquarium were missing. The catfish were feeling better. The keepers of the aquarium eventually figured out which other fish were safe from the three little catfish. The catfish proved to be a helpful distraction for first-time toddlers and others, welcoming them to our church family. Over the years the catfish grew fatter, but not much longer. They only grew to about 8 inches long. Their diet and the size of the fish tank stunted their growth. Despite their limited beauty and size, they became a unique symbol that everyone was welcome in this place. *Do not forget to entertain (show hospitality to) strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it.* Hebrews 13:2

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

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

**10:00 a.m.**    **The State of the Church**  
—Romans 15:13

11:10 a.m.    Video and discussion, *Part 4: Destination Wedding*

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



# The Evangel

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*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and  
peace in believing, so that you may abound  
in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*Romans 15:13*

# 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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