

Our Church Family

At Home

Kevin Avery	Alice Barrett	Nancy Holdt
Paula McPherson	Billy Shafer	Margaret VanHorn

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Convalescence Care

Katy Cook	P O Box 432, Antlers, OK 74523
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Happy Birthday!

November 7	Gladys Foster
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For those interested in hearing more from pianist *John Saxon*, who played the offertory on October 12, his YouTube channel is **Piano Readings by John Saxon**.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

10:00 a.m. A Word to the Wealthy

James 5:1-6

Time Change Sunday is November 2 —Fall Back

FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need	\$ 2,071.00
General Receipts October 19	\$ 1,731.00
Special Offering	\$ 0.00

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

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Reflections

Reflections from Kevin Avery:

On February 18, 2015, Dayna and I had lunch with the Tadas. I am grateful for Dayna's assertive initiative to make it happen. During a lunch hosted by *Joni and Friends* for ministry partners, we saw Joni Eareckson and Ken sitting alone at a table for six. Dayna immediately went and sat down in front of Joni. I sat down next to my wife, sitting across from Ken. I was wondering if this was okay for us to do. When I finally nodded in gratitude, realizing how amazing this day was unfolding, I saw Ken graciously smile. He began speaking with me, and for the rest of the lunch, Joni conversing with Dayna and Ken conversing with me. In 2015 I had yet to need a wheelchair myself. That began in 2020 when I needed a wheelchair occasionally. By October 2022, I began needing a wheelchair all the time. Something else that drastically changed between 2015 and 2022 involves my understanding of how indispensable the weakest members of the Body of Christ are.

Prior to my own declining health, I hadn't ever truly thought about the truth expressed in 1 Corinthians 12:21-22, *The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!' On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable.* On several occasions Joni Eareckson Tada mentions that this is why we can, even should, boast in our weaknesses from disabilities. However, I could not fathom how those who are so weak could ever be so indispensable. (I never considered Joni to be weak.) In the hospital, I kept apologizing to the nurses, and I would apologize to Dayna and to the kids. With nerve damage from multiple sclerosis, I saw myself as a burden. How could a burden serve as an indispensable member of the Kingdom of God? I kept crying out to God, *How could this be? How could I possibly be indispensable? I need help now with everything.* By the end of October 2022, and certainly by June 2023, when I came home from my next hospital visit, I realized I was completely dependent on the Lord. I could do nothing well in my own strength, which was a blessing in disguise. Trying to do things in our own strength will always be living by the flesh instead of by the Spirit. Joni has indicated that the biggest handicap goes to those who believe they're strong enough to live for Jesus in their own strength.

As Joni has also said in the October 15, 2025, edition of *Christianity Today*, "God doesn't like spinal cord injury. He takes no pleasure in multiple sclerosis or children born with spina bifida (or other forms of suffering.) He sees the mosaic. He sees how it all fits together into this incredible pattern for not only our good but the good of all those around us, and for his glory."

Kevin Avery is our Missionary in Residence ministering daily on-line in Asia and African teaching and praying with persecuted pastors and special needs ministries.



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

The Evangel

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“Store up for yourselves treasures
in heaven, where moth & rust do
not destroy, & where thieves do not
break in and steal.”

Matthew 6:20

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

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning	
Continental Breakfast	9:20 a.m.
Worship	10:00 a.m.
Bible Study & Conversation	11:15 a.m.
Wednesday Evening	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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