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The BRIDGE

Building Responsible Individuals Demonstrating Godliness to Everyone



BRADDOCK Baptist Church

Seeking God • Serving Others

December 2015

Every Week:

Sundays

9:30a.m.	Fellowship
9:45a.m.	Sunday School
10:45a.m.	Prayer
11:00a.m.	Worship Service

Mondays

4 p.m.	Exercise
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Tuesdays

6 p.m.	Seminary Classes
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Wednesdays

10 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
4 p.m.	Exercise
6-7:30 p.m.	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
6:30-7:30 p.m.	Kidz Rock
6:30-8 p.m.	Choir & Praise Team Rehearsal

Thursdays

6 p.m.	Seminary Classes
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Fridays (First of the Month)

6 p.m.	First Friday Fellowship
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Saturdays

9 a.m.	Exercise
10 a.m.	ESL Classes
12p.m.	GED Class

Mother's Day Out

Tuesday-Friday 9:30-1:30

Deacon Ministry

Dear Braddockians,

These are exciting times at BBC for the deacons. Our new deacons have been announced, teams have been formed and these teams are introducing themselves to their assigned families and assisting them when the need arises. Deacons serve to build up the household of faith.

I also want to express my thanks to my Pastor for his example of faith and service, my church family as they endeavor to walk with the Lord and show self-sacrificial love that Christ showed and shows His people. Lastly I want to thank my family for putting up with their husband and father on a daily basis and loving me. We have so much to be thankful for that lets not limit and express thankfulness to a long weekend late in November. Let us be thankful every day for the life that God gives us to live for Him.

Finally, what a send-off BBC showed our beloved Linda Waters to her heavenly home. Thank you to all of the deacons and our hospitality committee for honoring our sister and the Waters family that she loved.

May the Lord bless you as you are constantly reminded of His goodness to us.

Your deacon teams are here to serve!

Mitch B

Pastor's Corder Note

Microsoft Outlook: this is where I see my calendar; I can see a whole year at a glance. When I narrow in on a month, I can see many appointments I will need to plan to attend. Even more contracted to the weekly view I begin to realize some of the preparations I may need to make to be ready for the appointed meeting; such as maybe the driving directions to attend and the drive time that will need to be considered to be on time.

As I look at my calendar; again I see how we have just breezed through "Thanksgiving". We had so many things going on that it was almost a blur. But let's note we did have a truly great worship time Thanksgiving Eve. The service was extended by a quarter of an hour for many to share why they were thankful. Even afterward, some followed me to my car to say they "would have shared", but the time was out. Next time guys!

Looking at the calendar, I see the four weeks of advent leading to the celebration for the first coming of our Lord as a baby in a manger. The four weeks depict 1). Hope: the great hope we have in the grace of God. 2). Peace: the peace of God that defines us as believers. 3). Joy: on this particular Sunday we will celebrate with our choir as they will put on "Joy Unspeakable". This will require little speaking by me. Then the Fourth Sunday of Advent we will draw our attention to LOVE: and I know we can always be uplifted with a reminder of how LOVED we are and an exhortation to love one another too!

With this said, my wide view shows me that, just shortly after this, we look to Pentecost Sunday. This is just slightly before "Resurrection Sunday". Often I will ask Debbie and Cristina to place things on my calendar; like their planed leave or, specific to their areas of ministry, events that might be coming up and things that we would not wish to miss or overlap on.

I take myself this morning and try to imagine the perspective of our heavenly Father. He can look back to the creation of our world, to the fall of man, the plan to redeem them by sending His one and only Son, the Lord Jesus. Jesus came in the fullness of time (right on time), lived a whole life, died a sacrificial death for us, was raised from the dead, and ascended to the right hand of the Father. Now we are told he is making everything ready to come again and collect His bride and to bring her to be with Him where He is. This event while it is on my calendar as a must not miss, is posted as a banner with TBD on it. TBD- (to be told) the day nor the hour is not for any of us to know, but the event is on Fathers calendar and He sees it and has already made preparations for it and will bring it to pass.

We are told of this that we must be found watching and waiting when Jesus comes to collect us! While you too do not know the exact time or date, watch with me in an expectant fashion as if we could join Him any moment.

Word of encouragement from your Pastor

Love **Timothy**

MIHI YOUTH MADE IN HIS IMAGE

Birthdays

- 02 Louie Herrera
- 03 Beulah Quitariano
Elizabeth Philblad
- 06 Irma Dunn
Nancy Bennett
- 09 Robert Gregerson
- 10 Mary Barham
Charisse Quitariano
- 12 Michael Perry
Abigail Bennett
- 13 Pierre Dimaculangan
- 16 Monica Robinson
- 17 Dave Waters
Marcia Daniels
- 19 Mike Miller
- 23 Jessica Pryor
Stephanie Short
- 28 Kim Carr
Robert Daniels
- 29 Grace Bennett

Dear BBC,

This is the time of year I love most. Despite the cold (I'm a Texas girl at heart), I love this season that reminds me of the best gift ever to come to the earth. I am so thankful to live in a country where we have the freedom to express our faith in Jesus Christ. I love seeing nativities around the city. There is something that warms your heart to see that there are others in our family.

Of course, kids are out for a couple of weeks!! Woohoo!!! Which means, plenty of time to be involved with things in church like the Live Nativity. Parents, I'll do my best to keep you in touch with any youth activities coming up. If for any reason you don't receive my texts, let me know on Sunday. Lets remember how God specifically commanded festivals for His people so that we would remember what He has done for us. This Christmas, (as we should every Christmas) lets focus on Christ and make it a point to remember what He has done. None of us would be able to live a life without condemnation, none of us would be forgiven. I'm so humbled as I take time to think of it, and I pray that BBC can be an example to our community as we strive to show God's light in this dark world. See you all at the Live Nativity!

Love,

Cristina Riojas



Christian Education

As we surrender, we can feel His presence

Joseph O. Prewitt Diaz, PhD

As we study the book of Genesis, we have been exposed to the story of creation and the emergence of God's people. If we take the learnings at face value, we see a punishing God bringing floods, and destroying cities with fire. Once we absorb the lessons, the results are different. God shows His grace and love for us, and our imperfections. God is really saying:

(1) He is almighty, he wants us come in touch with Him. He has a plan for each one of us; He promises that He will give us a future and hope. The word says, "For I know the plans that I have for you, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope" (Jer. 29:11). You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands (Isaiah 55:12). God has the power to help the weakest, and grace enough to help the unworthiness of all that trust in him. Those that have been under religious melancholy, and by the grace of God have been relieved, are brought up out of desolation. Where God has given hope, he expects there should be a steady movement forward in the faith.

(2) God wants us to surrender our plans to him (Ps 37:7). He can transform our sinful nature and transform it for the good. God's desire is that we put our trust in Him. He will provide us with guidance and direction. Be still, quietly submit to His will, and acquiesce in all the dispensations of His providence. They are of God, and we are deserving of them; we should pray to him to sanctify us, to support us. We should bless his name that they are no worse, and that they are any ways useful to us. We should share with others the divine goodness we have experienced; we should be patient bearing the hand of God, and acceptance of His will.

(3) Attend to God's promises, even if they do not make sense at the time. Even when we cannot see His blessings manifested in our lives, "right now!" we should always believe in God's plan, because His mercy is always upon us, and everything works for the good. God can make the impossible truly possible. As we, at Braddock, witnessed His presence, this week as God healed the body of one of our own.

Summary

We hear from testimonies and see in the Word that God is the master planner. In Matthew, 5:3 Jesus confirms God's love, when He says: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." We are all "poor in spirit" but are assured that we will reach the kingdom. Amen.





A New Song

We have the Christmas Season upon us. Where is our focus? Is it the mounting, ever increasing cost of this Christmas season, or are we relishing this precious, very priceless gift of Jesus Christ born as a babe in the manger? Is our foresight on the January 2016 credit card bill or Jesus' continued growth-both physical and spiritually revealing, which leads to His crucifixion, burial, resurrection, and ascension? What does this all mean to us?

We shall turn to Psalms 89. This is a Psalm of praise to God for His covenant promises. Verse 1-"I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations."(KJV) Verse 1-"I will sing of the LORD's great love forever; ..." (NIV)

The prophetic fulfillment of His birth in Bethlehem continues to remind us of the significance of covenants already established. Refer to Psalms 89:34 "My covenant will I not break, nor the thing that is gone out of my lips."(KJV) Verse 34 - "I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered."(NIV) Consider Isaiah 55:10, 11 - "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please..." Malachi 3:6 "For I am the LORD, I change not..." Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that he should lie; ..."

The Old Testament (O.T.) reveals the Hebrew word - B'rith. It means "covenant," "alliance," "agreement," and "pledge." In essence, this would be an agreement of two or more persons or parties. When God makes a promise, there is a conditional. Certain terms are presented to us, such as obedience, repentance, and faith. God has been making covenants with man since Genesis.

The New Testament (N.T.) Greek word for covenant is - Diatheke. It breaks down in meaning as a will or a testament. Hebrews 8 states the new covenant was made effective through the shedding of blood. This was the sacrificial blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Passover Lamb. Jesus' crucifixion nullified the sacrifice of animals going back to the first recorded offering by Abel. (Genesis 4:4) {Genesis 3:21 "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them." Because of sin-disobedience, is the first mention of physical death on earth. An animal had to "shed" its blood to become a "covering" for Adam and Eve.} Jesus Christ was and is the ultimate sacrifice for mankind. Jesus is our Mediator because of this better covenant. (Hebrews 8:6) We are grafted in, as Gentiles, as joint heirs, spiritual heirs of all God have provided. (Galatians 3:14)

Where do we find the prophetic word in the scriptures about Christ coming as a baby but becoming our Messiah? Remember...God spoke to His people with visions, dreams, prophesy, and let us not forget about Abram's Theophany experience in Genesis 17. Even before Abram, consider Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

There are Messianic Psalms pointing to the coming of Christ. They would be: Psalms 2, 8, 16, 20-24, 31, 35, 40, 41, 45, 50-55, 61, 68, 69, 72, 89, 96-98, 102, 109, 110, 118, and 132. These Psalms would have the prophecies of Christ's birth, betrayal, agony, death, resurrection, ascension, coming again in glory and His reign on earth.

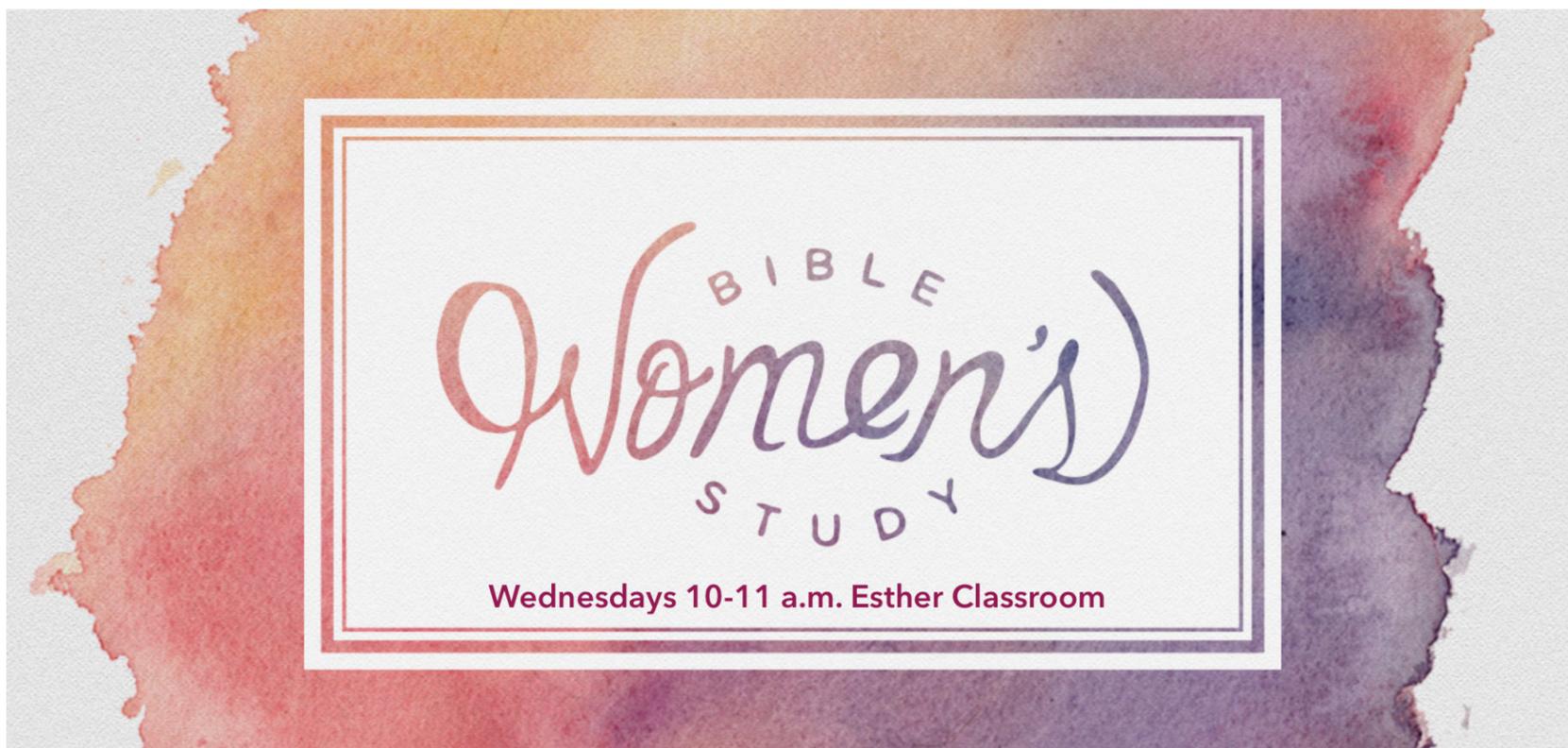
How do these Messianic psalms become a witness to us?

- He is a person; yet, the Son of God. (Psalms 2:6, 7)
- Christ is also the Son of Man. (Psalms 8:4-6)
- Christ's lineage is of the house of David. (Psalms 89:3, 4, 27)
- He had the office as Prophet (Psalms 22:22), Priest (Psalms 110:4), and as King. (Psalms 2)

There are additional references to the coming of Christ Jesus in the O.T.

When we plan our time of celebration with family and friends this Christmas, let us remember Elohim-Creator God had us in mind. May we all take the opportunity to offer praise for the treasures, riches of His Kingdom of whom we are the benefactors. We truly are rich! Our covenant with God is eternal!

Fan the Flames,
Elizabeth
Philblad



The Octavio Frias de Oliveira bridge is a cable-stayed bridge in São Paulo, Brazil over the Pinheiros River, opened in May 2008.