



VISIONS

Glendale's Monthly Newsletter

December 2008

Volume XVII, Issue 12

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ONE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

by April Baker



Like most Baptists in the southern US, the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas were filled with preparations for Christmas. Which cedar tree from the thicket behind PawPaw's house would be just right for this year? The familiar decorations came out of the attic and adorned the tree. The smell of cedar drifted through the house, and a Christmas mood would start to fill the air.

The most spiritual part of the preparation of that time was bringing out the nativity scene and placing it on top of the TV console. Shepherds, sheep, Joseph, Mary, the baby Jesus, and the angel all took their place in the wooden stable made by my dad. A blue Christmas bulb hung through a little hole in the back casting a bit of a magical glow on the whole thing, at least to my young eyes. It was good spiritual preparation for the season, and a good reminder throughout the season that this was about something other than the tree and the presents.

As the season of Advent has become part of the rhythm of faith life for me, I find that my preparation for Christmas is much richer and more intentional. The magical glow of that little blue light holds space for mystery in which I can wait and wonder without hurrying toward anything. The quiet moments of thoughtfulness and reflection give welcome contrast to the noise and bustle of other preparations. Slowing down brings my attention to the simple beauty of a handmade stable, banners that draw my eyes to worship, the flame of a single candle, the joy of conversation with people I cherish. An eager peacefulness settles into the anticipation and hope is nurtured into dreams realized and life restored once again.

The nostalgia of the season holds great meaning, and yet there is more than nostalgia. Advent allows us to remember, to reflect, to settle into the discipline of waiting and anticipation without giving way to immediate gratification. This is the season that reminds us to prepare our hearts, prepare our homes, prepare our spirits, prepare our lives for the birth of hope and the enduring presence of the Holy with us. This is the season of great anticipation. What will happen with us? With Mary, we say, "Here are we, servants of the Holy One. May it be to us according to your word"

...and we wait.

SALVATION ARMY "ADOPT-A-FAMILY"

The Salvation Army's Adopt-A-Family program is currently looking for groups to participate. You may recall that the Hiett/Owens along with the Dyer/ Webb ministry groups did this last year.

Perhaps there might be a Sunday School class or other group who is looking for a way to minister to and serve our local community. There is likely an even greater need this year than last. If you are interested, please contact Linda Meeks at 291-9981, or call the Salvation Army cell phone at 480-6017.



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

As we settle into the season of Advent, there are a number of things that you can use to enhance this time of preparation and hope. Leading up to Advent, you may have picked up a prayer guide that was created to help us come into the season with thoughtfulness and intention. The prayer guides are available throughout Advent – one for each week. You will want to have these at home as you ponder all that we hope for and all that we anticipate through these days.

When you enter the sanctuary you will see new banners that bear some of the names we call Jesus, especially during this season. The names are written in English, in Greek and in Hebrew, reminding us of some of the languages that first told the stories of our faith and conveyed our sacred texts.

During worship throughout Advent, you may notice that we are spending more time praying together. We will begin worship with a prayer of invocation, we will offer prayers as we light the Advent candles each week, we will speak prayers of confession and we will keep silence together. The sermons through Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany will focus on prayers offered by one of the prophets, a psalmist, Zachariah, Mary, the shepherds, and Simeon and Anna.

Visions is a monthly newsletter of
Glendale Baptist Church
A Caring Community of
Equality and Grace

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Membership Ministry

Martha Jo Berry
Missions Ministry

OPEN
Stewardship Ministry

Beth Walker
Worship Ministry

Julie Coulter & Alan Green
Visions Editors

For over 50 years, we have worked as a congregation, learning together what this mission of becoming a "caring community of equality and grace" truly means. As a result, we endeavor to celebrate all of God's creation and we welcome all persons to worship with us, regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation.

At Glendale, we value relationships and partnerships ecumenically as well as within the Baptist family. We are officially affiliated with the Alliance of Baptists, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, and the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. Our other relationships include a local ecumenical partnership with the Disciples of Christ churches and the United Church of Christ churches in Nashville, a "Churches Supporting Churches" partnership with Grace Church of Slidell in the New Orleans area, and a partnership with Iglesia Bautista Alberto J. Díaz in Santa Clara, Cuba.

GLENDALE WELCOMES STAN HASTEY

The **Rev. Dr. Stan Haste**y was the executive director of the **Alliance of Baptists** for 18 years and since May 2007 has been the minister for mission and ecumenism. Stan is no stranger to Glendale and we look forward to his upcoming visit when we will honor and thank him for his contributions both to our partnership with the **Alberto J. Diaz Baptist Church in Santa Clara, Cuba**, and for his years of service to the Alliance of Baptists. Stan will retire in May 2009.



• Saturday, December 6th, 2:00-4:00 PM

Bring fruit or dessert along with photos and memories to share as we remember our Cuba Partnership and the six trips we have made to visit with our friends in Santa Clara. We have 33 members who have made the trip. We have many new members who need to hear about the journey!

• Sunday, December 7th, 9:00-11:30 AM

We will start the day with First Sunday Breakfast. During the Sunday School hour, youth and adults are invited to remain in Fellowship Hall as Stan brings us words from the Alliance of Baptists. Stan will continue his message as he leads us in worship.

*Please mark your calendars and join us as we celebrate and honor our good friend, Stan Haste*y.

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Our third quarter business meeting was held on **November 16th**. Official minutes are forthcoming, so here are a few highlights:

- Six new candidates were approved for membership.
- A motion from the Missions Ministry was approved. Money is being moved from line items into a designated account for use in funding a work trip to Slidell, LA, the home of our new partner church, as well as a designated account for use in funding travel to visit our partner church in Cuba.
- The 2009 Financial Plan for Ministry was approved by those in attendance. With the 2008 Administration budget overspent due to repairs on the air conditioning system, there was quite a bit of discussion about maintenance needs for 2009. The approved FPM has \$2000 for general maintenance, but with estimates of more than \$3000 needed for known repairs, the maintenance matter was referred to the Church Council and the Administration Ministry for more study.



PERSONNEL COMMITTEE UPDATE

On Wednesday October 22nd, the Personnel Committee hosted a conversation about the Glendale Co-Pastorate Model. After almost 4 years into this new venture, it was a great start to a conversation that helps us capture the model we are creating. We will continue the conversation in January.



GLENDALE CHILDREN'S CHOIR CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Children's Choir will present a Christmas Pageant on **Wednesday, December 10th**. We hope that everyone can join us for this special Holiday program. For more information, please contact Linda Ray Miller.





MORAVIAN LOVEFEAST

On **Christmas Eve**, we will gather at 6:00 PM to celebrate God's love with an old tradition that dates back hundreds of years in the Moravian community. The **Lovefeast** is a service of music, scripture, sweetened Moravian buns and a hot drink. At Christmas, beeswax candles are added as a symbol of God's love. We light the candles acknowledging that as Jesus said, "I am the light of the world," he also says to us, "You are the light of the world." Please join us for this wonderful celebration.

PASTORS' OPEN HOUSE

All of the Glendale family and friends are invited to the annual Pastors' Open House on **Sunday, December 21st from 4:00-6:00 PM** at the Mears/Webb home. This is an informal time of gathering to share holiday good wishes, refreshments and conversation. The Open House is one of the pastors' favorite tangible ways of expressing their love and gratitude for this community of faith. Please come!

ROOM IN THE INN

Many thanks to those who have signed up to help with **Room In the Inn!** Thanks to great teamwork, all meals are taken care of, along with many opportunities to drive and spend the night. We are still in need of several drivers and individuals willing to stay overnight, so please let Kylene or Paul know if this interests you. We can always use donations of men's winter clothing, underwear, and toiletry items.

A special thanks to those who hosted RITI in November! The group formerly known as the Trotter/Wells deacon group hosted the first evening, accompanied by Rand Carpenter and Leann Crawley who both drove. MAT and Linda Ray were kind enough to spend the night that evening. And, the second night in November was hosted by the Special Studies class, with Don Ramage and Marshall Walker driving, and Marshall Walker and John Hill spending the night. Thanks also to the Sisson-Davis family for the use of their mini van every night of RITI this season!



ADVENT GREETINGS FROM OUR GLENDALE GREEN TEAM

Ho, Ho, Ho! Whoa! Surely you haven't finished your holiday shopping!? If you haven't, you still have a golden opportunity to do some creative, inexpensive and earth-saving things for Christmas. Here are some ideas:

- Visit the Cool People Care website at www.coolpeoplecare.org and click on "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday". They have lots of great ideas and post new ones every day. Check out the downloadable gift tags that explain why you're giving a gift that the recipient could interpret as "strange".
- Check out our very own "Fortenberry Foot Warmers" - the bags filled with corn that you heat in your microwave! They're great foot/hand warmers, they last a very long time and they're easy to make, and way less expensive than the alternative store-bought varieties. Before this Visions article goes to print, we'll have descriptive gift tags available for those of you who have already stitched up some of these practical things to give as gifts.
- Start using compact fluorescent light bulbs everywhere you can, and spend the money you would have given to NES on somebody else, or give the savings to Glendale!
- Go to www.amazon.com and search under "Books" for "You Are Here: The Vital Link Between What We Do and What That Does to the Planet." The author is Thomas M. Kostigen. It's one of many informative books about our future and what we can do to save the earth.

Remember - Cool People Care. Happy Holidays!



Happy Birthday To You December Babies!

(CHA, CHA, CHA)



- 02 – MATrotter
- 02 – Peter Sturdevant
- 07 – Michael Rahm
- 08 – Ella H.
- 08 – Stuart Harris
- 08 – Carolyn Warford
- 08 – David Webb
- 08 – Rachel W.
- 10 – Beverly Feinstein
- 11 – Walden F.
- 15 – Harold Crowell
- 16 – Lori McGrew
- 17 – Chelsea K.
- 21 – Charles Green
- 22 – Joe McGrew
- 23 – Brooke Cantrell
- 24 – Ralph Baugh
- 25 – Frank Feinstein
- 27 – Larry Cohen
- 27 – Julien F.
- 28 – Graham Kelly
- 29 - Doug Trotter
- 30 – Doug Brightwell
- 31 – Lanita Harris
- 31 – Jon Hines

Wednesday Night Program Schedule

December 3rd

Special Called Business Mtng
Ministries & Committees

December 10th

GBC Children's Choir
Christmas Pageant

December 17th

Laurel Buchi-Fotre of
Chishawasha Children's
Home / Christmas Caroling

December 24th

Moravian LoveFeast
& Room In the Inn

December 31st

NO CHURCH ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2008

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wednesday	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 6:30 Church Council	3 5:45 Stuffed Baked Potato Bar 6:15 Special Called Business Meeting 6:45 Ministries & Committees Preschoolers Missions Children's Choir	4	5 Room In the Inn - hosted by the Roosters Class	6 2:00 PM A Reception with Rev. Dr. Stan Hastey from the Alliance of Baptists
<u>December 7th</u> Second Sunday of Advent 9:00 1st Sunday Breakfast (hosted by Bible@Glendale.etc) 9:30 Sunday School / Discussion with Stan Hastey 10:30 Worship Service with Stan Hastey	8	9 Luke 14:12 4:00 PeaceJam Ambassadors Training at GBC	10 5:45 Pizza Night 6:45 GBC Children's Choir Christmas Pageant	11	12 Primitimers Christmas Open House (Ramage home)	13
<u>December 14th</u> Third Sunday of Advent 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Youth Christmas Party & Potluck Lunch (offsite)	15 Deadline to submit <i>Visions</i> info	16	17 5:45 Chili & Grilled Cheese 6:45 Laurel Buchi-Fotre of Chishawasha Children's Home, Fannie Battle Christmas Caroling, Preschoolers Missions	18	19 Room In the Inn - hosted by Rand, Selena, & friends	20
<u>December 21st</u> Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 4:00 Pastor's Open House (Mears-Webb home)	22	23	24 6:00 Moravian Love Feast & Potluck with RITI guests hosted by Baker, Fisher, Lynn, & Sonner	25 <i>GBC Office Closed</i>	26 <i>GBC Office Closed</i>	27
<u>December 28th</u> Christmas Sunday 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service	29 <i>GBC Office Closed</i>	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE - NO CHURCH ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED	January 1 <i>GBC Office Closed</i>		

GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH

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