



VISIONS

Glendale's Monthly Newsletter

February 2010

Volume 19, Issue 2

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ONE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

In 2009, the Alban Institute and Indiana University conducted the **Congregational Economic Impact Study**, which has some interesting insight for us. Here is what they say: "Prompted by the worst economic recession since the Great Depression, this new research reveals at least three important things: first, it has surprising news about the resilience of congregations. At a time when almost every American institution had to trim its budget, a majority of the congregations surveyed saw their fundraising receipts hold steady or increase. That is good and important news for those accustomed to the prevailing "mainline decline" narrative told in our culture. Second, it shows that congregations responded to the economic crisis with food, clothing, and shelter for those in need. The traditional, charitable impulses of Christian congregations endure and still make an important difference. Third, the survey reveals that the same congregations that many write off as dying are in fact innovating, partnering with a host of not-for-profit organizations like Habitat for Humanity and Second Harvest and doing new things like offering credit counseling and emergency loans. Not every American congregation saw its income increase during this tough time, and more than a few had to cut back their programs. But this survey provides evidence, as do larger surveys like Giving USA 2009, that even in an era when many are dropping out of organized religion and turning to less demanding types of spirituality, giving to religious institutions, unlike other sectors, actually increases when times are tough."

Glendale has encountered our own set of financial questions and we are responding together in broad and deep ways. 1) We are committing ourselves to a 24/7 campaign to eliminate our line of credit. 2) We are gathering this week, on Thursday night and Saturday lunch to talk together about our own experiences with money and giving - as our patterns of charitable giving, spending, and saving, may be formed early, but can be adjusted. 3) We continue to participate in the church's ongoing mission. We have added extra time with Room in the Inn because of the extreme cold; we've also gathered outerwear through January's "Tree of Warmth" to distribute in the community along with our regular efforts. 4) The spirit of engagement is lively and energetic, and folk from within and without respond from the deep places of their lives. We complete this week a series of worship services on the themes "Enough," "Margin," and "Generosity," seeking answers to questions of our stewardship of money, time, energy and resources that cannot be found on a ledger.

Our Stewardship Ministry Chair, Lynn Reed, made us one promise at the beginning of this stewardship season: talking about money is not easy, and we're not going to like it. That's probably very true, but equally true is the fact that we CAN do it - we CAN learn to talk together, as a community of faith, about our finances. May God continue to bless our efforts to do it.

- Amy Mears



FIRST SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Please join us on **Sunday, February 7 at 9 AM** for our First Sunday Breakfast hosted by the Young Adult Class. All are welcome.

HOW DO WE THINK ABOUT MONEY?

Please plan to join us at Glendale for a chili/soup dinner and small group discussions regarding the role of money in our lives, how we manage it, and how it manages us. These meetings will be a safe place for us to discuss money, both personally and corporately, and you will not be asked what you make, give, or any particular details. You are welcome to share as little or as much as you like about your story.

Plan to come for a few hours on **Thursday, February 4 at 5:30 PM** or **Saturday, February 6 at 11:30 AM**. We will begin with a pot luck meal, so plan to bring chili/soup, bread, salad or fixings. Childcare will be provided.

To start thinking about the role of money in our lives, please visit www.gbod.org/stewardship/autobio.pdf. Consider some of the questions. We will likely use some of these to help prompt the discussion.

If you would like to attend, please contact Lynn Reed to advise him of your contribution to the meal.

Visions is a monthly newsletter of
GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH
 A CARING COMMUNITY OF EQUALITY AND GRACE

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Julie Coulter and 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 RESPONDS TO CRISIS AND NEED

The people of Haiti are suffering in an unimaginable way, and their suffering will only increase over the next days and weeks. The Missions Ministry has established a special designated fund with an initial \$100 for Haitian Relief. Please add your generous gift to this Haitian Relief Fund. There will be special envelopes for you to place in the offering plate. Please make your check payable to the *Glendale Baptist Church Haitian Relief Fund*. We will forward our contributions to support relief programs on the ground in Haiti. Thanks to you all.

- Sharon Hiett, Missions Chair



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

More than 20 years ago, the **Souper Bowl of Caring** began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat." Since that day, more than \$60 million has been raised for local charities across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving.

The Glendale Baptist Church youth group is part of this movement and invites you to participate, too. As you exit the sanctuary after the worship service this Sunday, February 7, please give generously. Every dollar donated goes directly to the **Luke 14:12** feeding program, our 2010 Souper Bowl of Caring local charity of choice.

GLENDALE'S TREE OF WARMTH

Sharon Hiett delivered all of the items from Glendale's Tree of Warmth to the **Campus for Human Development** on Friday morning, January 29 (just in time for this wintery weekend). Our friends at the CHD wish to extend their gratitude to everyone here at Glendale for their generosity and thoughtfulness during this special campaign.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE PROCESS BEGINS FEBRUARY 7

On Sunday, February 7, every church member will be asked to nominate 5 persons to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2010-11. Every person having their name placed in nomination will receive a letter from the church council asking if they are willing to serve if elected. The church council will determine the top 10 nominees who are willing to serve and present the church with a ballot on Sunday, February 21. The 5 with the most votes will be elected to serve. Please use this week to consider those you will nominate. **Current Church Council members will not be eligible for nomination.**

24/7 DEBT REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

As you know Glendale is a 24/7 operation. We send list serve messages 24/7, we e-mail the pastors 24/7, the heat/air is on 24/7. The grass grows, the paint chips, the HVAC units break down 24/7. We are born, die, grow, learn, love, rejoice, sing, pray, worship and are community for one another 24/7. We pay our staff, run our website, give to missions, support other Baptist organizations and stake our place in the Baptist world 24/7.

Over the last two years through recession, transition, vacations, sickness and health, Glendale has been our community 24/7 and in the process of all this living we have drawn on our line of credit for over \$24,000. The Stewardship Ministry and the Church Council invite us to work together to pay off the line of credit over the next seven Sundays. With your help and maybe even some sacrificial giving, we can eliminate this debt and start to help ourselves establish some financial margin.

Please use the designated envelopes in the pews to make your gift to reduce the debt. With help from all of us we can pay off the line of credit by the end of February, move into 2010 with a fresh start, and continue our work of being a "Caring Community of Equality and Grace" 24/7.

- Lynn Reed, Stewardship Chair

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

Do you know what stormwater is, where it goes, and how you can to ensure “good” stormwater? Why you should even care about stormwater? To help answer these questions, the Green Team is initiating a stormwater management education plan this year. This plan will be informative AND save us money!

Last year, Metro Nashville instituted a stormwater fee to provide funds to overhaul the stormwater management infrastructure in the city. The program allows for property owners to take certain actions to reduce their fee by up to 20%. One action is to develop and implement a stormwater education plan.

In the fall, students in Darlene Panvini’s Environmental Science course helped craft a stormwater management education program that would meet the guidelines so that we were eligible to apply for the fee reduction. The education program consists of: quarterly stormwater management tips in the newsletter and bulletin, quarterly programming with the youth and children, a brochure in new member’s packets, and programming at the annual Earth Day dinner in April. Other activities such as storm drain stenciling, stream clean ups, and rain barrel workshops will also be organized. Additionally, the Green Team hopes to install some “dogipot” dog waste pick up stations on the church grounds. If you are interested in getting involved or knowing more, please contact Darlene Panvini or a member of the Green Team.

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

This is the water from rain, snow, and sleet that flows along the surface and eventually ends up in a storm drain. Anything that goes into a storm drain is not treated before it reaches the Cumberland River. So keeping oil, wastes, and yard debris off the streets and sidewalks will ensure cleaner river water and less clogging in the stormwater sewer system. Here are a few tips to remember this winter:

- Dispose of old chemicals and paint cans at hazardous household waste sites (please visit www.nashville.gov/Recycle/hhw.asp for locations & hours of operation). On average, the average home in Tennessee produces 20 pounds of hazardous waste each year.
- Limit your use of de-icer products and be sure to sweep up any excess salt after the ice melts - you can reuse it next time!
- Perform regular checks on your septic tank to ensure that it is not leaking or overflowing.
- Share or use up products such as household cleaners, paint, and solvents instead of throwing them away. Trade products with neighbors and family members.
- Don't dump snow or salt into nearby bodies of water.

RECYCLING UPDATE

Thanks to Stewart Clifton, Phil Fortenberry, Peggy Phelps, MAT, and Linda Ray for recycling in the fall. If you would like to help with recycling contact any of these folks to learn more.

CHOIR TO SING RUTTER’S *REQUIEM*

The Glendale Choir will sing the Requiem by John Rutter on Good Friday this year. There is an intensive kick-off rehearsal on **Sunday, February 7** from 12:30-2:30 PM. All singers are welcome. For more information, please contact Don Schlosser or Linda Ray Miller.

RINGERS NEEDED

Our handbells took a trip to the Handbell Spa (aka the repair and refurbishing shop) this past fall. Now they are rested and feeling like new. So, we are looking for ringers to play them! If you would like to play handbells and are available for rehearsal on **Sundays from 12:30-1:30 PM**, please contact Linda Ray Miller.

IT’S COOL IN THE FURNACE

The children of Glendale are studying stories from the Exile in Sunday School. This will culminate with a performance of "It's Cool in the Furnace", a musical that describes the stories of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, on Wednesday evening, March 10. We have enough copies of the music for each family with elementary children to have a copy. There is also a recording of the musical available for checkout in the Church Library, so parents can hear what the music sounds like. Please only check the recording out for one week so everyone can get a chance to hear it before March 10. If you have questions about the musical, please see Linda Ray Miller or Rosalyn Ramage.

Happy Birthday To You February Babies!

(CHA, CHA, CHA)



- 01 - Quenton B.
- 02 - Jeremy Tuchmayer
- 03 - Bill Halbert
- 03 - David Wilson
- 04 - Suzanne Smith Blokland
- 04 - George O’Neal
- 09 - Pat Sapp
- 13 - Monique Blackburn
- 13 - Eli C.
- 15 - Zack N.
- 25 - Beverly Bernard
- 25 - Rand Carpenter
- 25 - Poli Polidoro-Hughes
- 27 - Jill Webb-Hill

Wednesday Night Program Schedule

February 3

Ministries & Committees

February 10

Program TBA

February 17

Ash Wednesday

February 24

Program TBA

FEBRUARY 2010

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wednesday	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 5:15 Choir Practice 5:45 Dinner: Creamed Chicken & Cornbread (<i>prepared by Joy Gooch & Peggy Phelps</i>) 6:45 Children & Youth Programs 6:45 Ministries & Committees	4 5:30 PM Potluck Meal & Money Discussion (F.H.)	5 6:00 PM Room In the Inn (<i>hosts: Blackburn, Crawley, Fisher, Jones</i>)	6 11:30 AM Potluck Meal & Money Discussion (F.H.)
<u>February 7</u> 9:00 AM 1st Sunday Breakfast (<i>hosted by the Young Adult class</i>) 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 1:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 3:00 PM NiH Rehearsal (<i>Sanctuary</i>) 4:45 PM Youth Super Bowl Party (<i>Sisson-Davis home</i>)	8	9 Luke 14:12 6:30 PM Church Council Mtg	10 5:15 Choir Practice 5:45 Dinner: Menu & Crew TBA 6:45 Children & Youth Programs 6:45 Program TBA	11 Primetimers Events: 5:30 Dinner 7:30 God's Trombones	12	13 4:30 PM 1st Birthday Celebration for Eli C. (F.H.)
<u>February 14</u> 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal (<i>Sanctuary</i>) 3:00 PM NiH Rehearsal (<i>Sanctuary</i>)	15 GBC OFFICE CLOSED Deadline to submit <i>Visions</i> info	16	17 5:15 Choir Practice 5:45 Dinner: Menu & Crew TBA 6:45 Children & Youth Programs 6:45 Ash Wednesday	18	19 6:00 PM Room In the Inn (<i>Roosters</i>)	20
<u>February 21</u> 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal (<i>Sanctuary</i>) 3:00 PM NiH Rehearsal (<i>Sanctuary</i>)	22	23	24 5:15 Choir Practice 5:45 Dinner: Menu & Crew TBA 6:45 Children & Youth Programs 6:45 Program TBA	25	26	27
<u>February 28</u> 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal (<i>Sanctuary</i>) 3:00 PM NiH Rehearsal (<i>Sanctuary</i>)						