



VISIONS

December 2005
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One Pastor's Perspective

Sister Joan Chittister writes regarding Advent, "There is much to wait for now in life: human development, love, peace in the church and in the world. And most of us do not wait well for what we want or what we are meant to be. We get impatient or we get depressed. We question or we doubt. We argue or we get alienated. And now, we all wait, not for the coming of Christ—God took care of that—but for the coming of the Gospel...."

We are all about waiting and preparing for the coming of the Gospel in this Advent season. We began by preparing our worship space for the season—now the real work of waiting, preparing, and examining our lives begins. What is my role in the coming of the Good News? What is yours?

The Glendale community will have many opportunities to work with these

A Word from the Church Council Chair

The first worship service that I attended at Glendale was during Advent. I still remember the feeling of community I immediately sensed when I sat down in the pew. It started with a warm, smiling welcome from Bettie Shepherd and continued with the sights and sounds of a spirited people of all ages at worship. I couldn't have asked for a more perfect introduction to a caring community of equality and grace. Ten years later, I still walk into this sacred place with gratitude for a community that seeks to share the peace of Christ with all brothers and sisters, be they first time visitors or

questions in the coming weeks. We will incorporate the concept of appropriate giving, holiday and otherwise. How much? To whom? For what reason? By what motivation? The Stewardship Committee is helping us to sort through these thoughts.

We will include those who don't feel particularly merry this holiday season in a service of worship for those who are grieving. We will also have many opportunities for conversation and fellowship to enhance our relationships with one another.

What shall we do as we wait and work for the coming of the Good News? What shall we bring to the manger? Come and see.

Amy

charter members. Wherever you are in your walk with Glendale, it is my hope that you will feel loved and cared for in this community.

The first Sunday in Advent, November 27, marked the one year anniversary of Glendale's co-pastorate. I am very thankful for the extraordinary gifts and talents of our pastors, Amy Mears and April Baker. How blessed we are as a congregation for them to be called to our service!

Peace, Thomas

Room In The Inn

Glendale will host eight men for Room In The Inn on **Friday, December 2 and December 16**. Two volunteers are needed to host each night.

As has been our custom for the past few years, we will host eight men on **Christmas Eve**. This is a congregation-wide endeavor. Glendalers are asked to provide food for dinner and breakfast as well as sack lunches. We hope to have a potluck dinner as we have had in the past so Glendalers can fellowship with our guests. Two Glendalers are needed to spend the night.

Please contact Lisa Lehr at 831.1299 (h), 902.1428 (w), 517.2779 or 479.3185 (m).

Quarterly Business Meeting Report

On November 20, Glendalers gathered in the fellowship hall for the regular quarterly business meeting. Items of business approved at the meeting were: a Financial Plan for Ministry in 2006; a revised pianist job description; housing allowances in 2006 for the pastors; and authorizations for the church council chair, administration division chair, treasurer and church steward to negotiate debt matters with a financial institution for the remainder of 2005 and 2006.

Holiday Service for Those Who Grieve

On Sunday, December 4 at 5:00 PM, we will observe a holiday service of worship for those who are grieving. The season of family, friends, good cheer and laughter can be especially difficult for individuals who have experienced sadness and loss. This time of worship together when we observe the rituals of the season--music, candle-lighting, decoration--while acknowledging our grief and sadness together, can lighten the burden somewhat. Please feel welcome to invite those whom you know that are grieving and accompany them to the service.

Christmas Weekend Worship Times

Christmas Eve, December 24
4:00 PM
"Carols and Candlelight"

Christmas Day, December 25
10:30 AM
"A Service of Lessons and Carols"
Church will open at 9:30 AM, but there will be no Sunday School on this day.

Wednesday Evening Schedule

11/30: Giving Good Gifts: An Alternative Christmas Gift Fair
12/7: Division and Committee Meetings; Bible Study with Ted Mears for those not in meetings
12/14: Conversation—Is Glendale a Peace Church?
12/21: Christmas Caroling and Hot Chocolate
12/28: No Activities

Gathering at the Table: Fellowship and Worship Together Tuesday, November 29 Dinner at 6:30 PM, Worship at 7:15 PM



As members of the Alliance of Baptists, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the United Church of Christ live into our "Partnership in Mission and Ministry," we will gather together around both the dinner table and the Lord's Table for a special evening of fellowship and worship. All members of middle Tennessee congregations affiliated with these partner churches are invited to join us.



Approximately ten charitable organizations will be a part of our alternative gift fair. "Gifts" will be available for purchase in honor and memory of family and special friends. Every shopper will be given a "shopping list" of available items. Shoppers will mark their list and write one check to Glendale. Monies will be distributed to the participating organizations according to each shopper's wishes. Shoppers will receive a gift card for each donation.

Our special guests for the evening will be the Partnership Council that nurtures this ecumenical relationship, including national staff members Stan Hastey of the Alliance of Baptists, Lydia Veliko of the United Church of Christ, and Robert Welsh of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Reservations are required for dinner. All are welcome for worship at 7:15. Preschool childcare will be available.

Giving Good Gift ...An Alternative Christmas Gift Fair Wednesday, November 30 6:45 – 8:30 PM

What a wonderful way to say "Merry Christmas" to lots of people on your list and at the same time lend a charitable hand to help others. There will be representatives from each organization to answer questions.

If you cannot attend but would like to participate, let Sharon Hiatt or Beverly Feinstein know and they will provide a shopping list and gift cards. Children are welcome to come and shop with their parents.

Happy Birthday to You (CHA, CHA, CHA) Happy Birthday to You (CHA, CHA, CHA) Happy Birthday Dear December Babies... Happy Birthday to You (CHA, CHA, CHA)

2 - MAT Trotter
2 - Peter
3 - Francis Martin
8 - David Webb
8 - Stuart Harris
8 - Carolyn Warford
8 - Rachel
8 - Ella
10 - Beverly Feinstein

11 - Walden
15 - Harold Crowell
24 - Ralph Baugh
25 - Frank Feinstein
27 - Larry Cohen
29 - Doug Trotter
30 - Doug Brightwell
31 - Lanita Harris
31 - Jon Hines

Kid's Corner

Colin and Owen Maynard were dedicated in worship on Sunday, November 20. Mark Caldwell, proud grandfather, introduced the babies to the congregation.

In **Faithful Friends** on **November 20**, we decorated two wreaths for the Hanging of the Greens worship service. We learned about Advent, the beginning of the church year.

We will not have **Faithful Friends** in December so the children can participate in the Advent worship services.

Children's choir will meet on **December 7 and 14**. Following choir, the children will make nativity sets to take home or give as gifts. On **December 21**, the children will join others in the church for a night of **caroling** in the neighborhood. Children are invited to bring "**jingle bells**" for caroling.

Children, parents and others are invited to go see the production of *Seussical* at the Nashville Children's Theatre on **Sunday, January 8, at 2:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$7.50 each and reservations need to be made by December 20. Please let Julie Coulter know if you would like to attend.

All elementary children and their families are invited to help prepare dinner and sack lunches for **Room In The Inn** guests on **Friday, January 20**. We will eat dinner with our guests and then help clean up. Grades 3-6 may spend the night upstairs with me for a slumber party. (The older children often like to ride in the van to pick up the guests, too.) We won't stay up too late because we'll be up early in the morning for breakfast with our guests. Parents will be needed to help prepare dinner and breakfast. Details to follow.

Youth Happenings

Whenever you want to know what the youth are doing, visit their **calendar** at http://my.calendars.net/glendale_youth.

As is the tradition, **the youth stayed an extra night at the Great Glendale Gathering** on Saturday, November 19. Thomas Conner and Anne-Leslie Owens spent the night with the youth at Rau-Wood.

The youth have been practicing for their **handbell choir debut** which as on the second Sunday of Advent. Thanks to Don Schlosser who leads the group, as well as all the ringers!

Thomas Conner attended the planning meeting for **Baptist Youth Camp** in early November. Plans are underway for camp, July 1-7, 2006, at Camp Laurel Ridge in North Carolina.

The youth will have their **annual Christmas Party** on Sunday, December 11, at the Sisson-Davis-Brock Home. More details to follow.

Church wide Baby Shower Sunday, December 4

David and Pat Elkin's Deacon Group is hosting a church wide baby shower for **Susanne Shepherd-Frisch** and her husband **Fred Frisch**. The shower will be held immediately after church on Sunday, December 4, and everyone is invited to attend.

Susanne and Fred are expecting a boy, and are registered under **Susanne Shepherd at The Cottage, Baby Style, Babies R Us, and Totshop**. For more information, contact Pat Elkins at 331.8284 or patanddavid@hotmail.com.

Needle Nuts Sunday, December 11

Needle Nuts will meet at the home of Connie Gowen (2705 Belmont Blvd.) on **Sunday, December 11**. We will have lunch at noon and knitting will commence after lunch. Join us for this special time!

From the Library

As you shop for Christmas, remember to check *Consumer Reports* in the church library!

The literature rack outside the library is stocked with all sorts of goodies. Browse the rack and take home some reading material from Heifer International, the Alliance of Baptists, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Baptist Peacemaker and other organizations.

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | WED MENU | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|--|---|---|-------|--------------------------|--|
| | | <i>11/29 Gathering at the Table Partnership Celebration 6:30 PM</i> | <i>11/30 Giving Good Gifts: An Alternative Christmas Gift Fair 6:45-8:30 PM</i> | | 12/1 | 12/2 Room In The Inn | 12/3 |
| December 4_ 9:15 First Sunday Breakfast <i>(Young Adults Class Hosting)</i> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Baby Shower for Susanne Shepherd-Frisch and Fred Frisch 5:00 "A Service for Those Who Grieve" Girl Scouts 4-6 PM | 12/5 | 12/6 | 12/7 5:15 Adult Choir 5:45 Dinner 6:30 Children's Choir 6:45 Division and Committee Meetings or Bible Study w/Ted Mears | <i>Adult Menu</i> <i>Chicken Parmesan</i> <i>Rice</i> <i>Salad</i> <i>Green Beans</i> <i>Children's Menu</i> <i>Pizza Rolls</i> | 12/8 | 12/9 | 12/10 Nashville Family Pride 4-7 PM |
| December 11_ 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Needle Nuts <i>(Connie Gowen's Home)</i> | 12/12 | 12/13 6:00 Church Council Meeting Luke 14:12 | 12/14 5:15 Adult Choir 5:45 Dinner 6:30 Children's Choir 6:45 Conversation: Is Glendale a Peace Church? | <i>Menu</i> <i>Pasta w/ Marinara Sauce</i> <i>Salad</i> <i>Broccoli</i> <i>Garlic Bread</i> | 12/15 | 12/16 Room In The Inn | 12/17 |
| December 18 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 4:00-7:00 Pastors' Christmas Drop-In <i>(Mears/Webb Home)</i> Girl Scouts 4-6 PM | 12/19 Deadline to submit Visions info. | 12/20 | 12/21 5:15 Adult Choir 5:45 Dinner 6:45 Caroling and Hot Chocolate <i>(Adults and Children)</i> | <i>Adult Menu</i> <i>Slow Cooked Chicken</i> <i>Baked Potato</i> <i>Garden Salad</i> <i>Corn</i> <i>Children's Menu</i> <i>Corn Dogs</i> <i>Tater Tots</i> | 12/22 | 12/23 | 12/24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 "Carols and Candlelight" Service Room In The Inn |
| December 25 CHRISTMAS 9:30 Church Open 10:30 "A Service of Lessons and Carols" | 12/26 | 12/27 | 12/28 NO SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES | | 12/29 | 12/30 | 12/31 |

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