

~ Visions ~

GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH
A caring community of equality and grace.

1021 Glendale Lane
Nashville, Tennessee 37204
269-0926 or 269-3149 — Fax. 269-0988
URL: www.glendalebaptist.org — E-Mail: GBC@glendalebaptist.org

One Pastor's Perspective

In the coming weeks you will be hearing from our Church Council about our "Financial Plan for Ministry" for the coming year. We have called such a thing a budget in the past. However, when we look together at the financial resources we have, we choose what to do with them, how to use them to support the ministry to which we believe that God is calling us, we are aware that we are doing much more than budgeting. What looks like a spreadsheet full of lines and numbers really is a plan for what ministry we will do in the coming year and some of the ways we will support it. It is the result of prayer and discipleship as much as it is of accounting and balance sheets.

You'll also be hearing from our Stewardship Committee in the next few weeks and throughout the year. The words "stewardship committee" often conjure images of pledge cards and phone calls when you don't get yours in on time. Yes, our Stewardship Committee is concerned with helping us "pledge the budget." But they are also leading us in the spiritual discipline of stewardship. They are leading us to faithfully and responsibly take stock of what we have available and to discern as individuals and as community how to use our resources. You might say we've asked them to help us develop a plan for faithful discipleship that supports our plan for ministry.

As we enter the season when we do our budgeting and pledging, let's look with new eyes at our plan for ministry and our discipleship. Let's talk about it in terms of our faith and our commitment to the teachings of Jesus. Let's remind each other that whether we are working on the Unity Build, sitting in a Quarterly Business Meeting, or gathered for worship, we are always striving to create a caring community of equality and grace that speaks a word of hope and lives a word of love for the world. Let's enter the process with the expectation that not only will we have a financially responsible plan for ministry and a committed level of support for it, but we will be transformed yet again for having participated in the working, living Body of Christ.

April

Outdoor Work Day

There will be an outdoor work day at the church on **Saturday, November 5th**. The two main projects on the agenda are to bush hog the hill side and do some serious hedge trimming around the church. There's always weeding to be done and new swings need to be added to the swing set by the basketball goal. Come as early and stay as late as you can. See David Webb if you have any questions.

A Word from the Church Council Chair

As is the case with most new Glendale church councils, this council has spent much of its start-up time addressing the “staffing” needs of our various lay positions. We have spent a lot of time crafting the financial picture for 2006, as well. Some of the items of discussion have included the following:

- Reviewing revenues and quarterly trends
- Balancing analytical data with signs of a growing, thriving congregation
- Installing a wall upstairs to accommodate more children’s classrooms
- Planning a church-wide discussion, A Financial Plan for Glendale’s Ministry, on Wed., November 9th

So, indeed, the council has really been forced to balance the concerns of finances with the joys of our growth and the promise of living into our vision as a caring community of equality and grace. We will be seeking your affirmation for our work on a budget that we hope will stretch Glendale in new ways yet also demonstrate sincere attention to our borrowing and the need for fiscal accountability.

Shalom,
Thomas

From the Worship Division

Thanks to all who took time to participate in the Christmas Survey sent to you online or by mail in October. We will soon have the results tabulated and communicate preferences for our services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. As announced in the survey, the Moravian Love Feast, though not planned for this year, will return next year as an every other year event.

This year’s theme for Advent will be “What Will We Bring to the Manger” reminding us of our many gifts and talents that we have to bring to our church and our world. On the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, we will experience the “Hanging of the Green” ceremony. Also planned during the Season is beautiful art, wonderful music, including youth hand bells, and inspiring sermons from our co-pastors. You will not want to miss anything.

Stewardship Committee Update

As the Stewardship Committee has met, one of the early discussions concerned our motto--Glendale: A Caring Community of Equality and Grace. Church members worked long and hard a few years ago defining a phase that describes who we are. ***We feel that grace encompasses giving.*** The scripture from 2 Corinthians 8:7 says “Abound in this grace also.” That seems to be saying to us, as a church family, “You abide in grace, but go a big step forward and ***abound in the grace of giving, also.***”

As a committee we are attempting to understand what it means to be a congregation of generous people. We are asking ourselves, “Should generosity be one of the core values of religious folks?” And if the answer is yes, what does this mean for each of us and for our church congregation as we consider sharing our time, money, and talents?

We hope you will prayerfully consider these questions with us.

The Stewardship Committee
Ralph Baugh, Molly Boyd, Raye Nell Dyer, Jim Fey, and Frenchie Fortenberry.

Financial Update as of September 30, 2005:

Tithes and Offerings:	\$192,460.52
Budget Requirement:	\$245,163.58
Giving to date last year:	\$150,426.46

Quarterly Business Meeting – Sunday, November 20

You won't want to miss this meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
The 2006 budget will be the primary focus.

* * * **HELP WANTED** * * *

We have the following positions available. The work is hard, and there is no pay other than the rewards of helping children on their faith journey. Curriculum and training are provided. If you wish to apply for any of these positions, please contact Linda Ray Miller at lindaray_miller@yahoo.com or 258-2453.

- Sunday School teacher for Tweens in Transition Class (5th-7th grades)
- Sunday School teacher for Four-Five Year Old Class (not yet in Kindergarten)
- Co-teacher (with Rosalyn Ramage) for One-Two Year Old Class
- Wednesday Missions Leader for Elementary Children (This group meets 7:00-7:30p.m. after Children's Choir.)

Wednesday Night Schedule

November 2:	Small Groups or Bible Study with Ted Mears
November 9:	Financial Plan for Glendale's Ministry presented by Church Council
November 16:	Stewardship Committee Presentation
November 23:	<i>Church activities cancelled</i>
November 30:	Giving Good Gifts Fair

Worship Care: What's That?

Once a quarter, Glendalers volunteer to care for our preschoolers during worship. When the weather's nice, you can take the children outside to our new playground. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know the smallest members of our community and offer a loving and safe experience to visiting children as they explore Glendale. Interested? Lanita Harris (lanitaharris@comcast.net, 889-3848) will be happy to sign you up!

Attention Primetimers!

Friday, November 11, will be SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF NASHVILLE DAY!

11:00 -- Tour of Second Harvest which is located at 331 Great Circle Road
(Directions will come later. We can carpool from the church.)

11:30 - Share a gourmet meal there at First Harvest Cafe
(\$10 each, \$5 of which goes to Second Harvest)

12:30 or so - Stay after lunch to help sort foods for Second Harvest.

Great opportunity for food, fellowship, and service! Let your intentions be known by contacting Rosalyn at rramage@comcast.net or by calling her at 383-7696.

***Needle Nuts** will meet on Saturday, December 3rd, at the home of Connie Gowen.*

Join us for a Holiday Needle Nuts at 10:00 AM. More details to come!

Membership News

- Mark your calendars for the annual **Great Glendale Gathering which begins with dinner on Friday evening, November 18th and continues through Saturday lunch on November 19th** at Rau-Wood Retreat Center. Festivities this year will include a writers night, storytelling, devotional time, and of course s'mores and hot chocolate. Details regarding the schedule, menu, meal and lodging prices, etc. will be available the first week of November. In the meantime, please contact Lyndi Hewitt (lyndi.hewitt@vanderbilt.edu, 423-0525) if you have any questions or you would like to help.
- The membership division would like to thank everyone who participated in making our recent new member orientation a great success. In particular, we tip our hats to the church council, our pastors, the Mears-Webb family, Stewart and Louise Clifton, and Julie O'Neal. We are thrilled and blessed to have the following new members in our midst: Susan Compton (mizzflute@yahoo.com), Kim Sheehan (kim.c.sheehan@gmail.com), and Raye Dene Berry (rayedene@comcast.net), Jenny Madison (jennymadison@comcast.net) and Keaton Landis. Welcome to Glendale!

Children's Sabbath

Children's Sabbath was celebrated on October 16th. We were blessed with the leadership in worship of Alexis Maynard, Evie Davis, Jackson Ferrell and Lara Webb who helped us remember children around the world who live with poverty, war and neglect.

Four children were dedicated on Children's Sabbath. Ellie Hewitt-Corzine, born in March, was celebrated. Louis Hines, Miguel Rogers-Wyatt and Carlos Rogers-Wyatt, three wonderful boys adopted into their families during the past year, were also dedicated. In addition to Glendalers who have come to adore these children, there were plenty of friends and family who joined us for this special occasion.

Bibles were presented to first graders and all children who are new and were not here during their first grade year of school. As April read the lectionary texts for the morning, the children stood beside her and followed along in their new Bibles.

Partnership Council

On Tuesday, **November 29**, Glendale will host a gathering of the national meeting of the Partnership Council. This is the steering committee for the ecumenical partnership of the Alliance of Baptists, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. More details to come!

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

*A **cross that will hang on the back wall of the baptistry given in memory of James Yarborough** by his daughter, Julie Yarborough. With the help of the artistic talents of Beth Walker and Julie O'Neal, George O'Neal will construct the cross using the remaining wood from the recent pew shortening. It is especially memorable to think that James, at some time, might have sat in this pew. This project will soon be underway and is something we can all look forward to. It will indeed be a meaningful addition to the sanctuary.

*A “**Giving Good Gifts Fair**”, an alternative Christmas Gift Market coming on Wednesday, November 30. Mark your calendar now and recapture the “real” joy of giving. See you there!

Tales of Youth Adventure!



- Whenever you want to know what the youth are doing, visit their **calendar** at http://my.calendars.net/glendale_youth. The **youth council** met on October 23 and filled in more activities for the youth.
- A number of youth and a few adults had a great time **horseback riding** on October 2.
- On October 19, the youth visited **Congregation Micah** and met Rabbi Remson.
- **Wednesday nights** are full of variety! During November the youth will hear from Peter Sturdevant about Peace Camp, continue practicing handbells for their Advent debut and meet with Molly Grisham to learn about her experience in the Republic of Georgia.
- A fall youth **caving retreat** will be held **October 28-30** at the Berry Cabin in Sewanee. The youth will leave Friday evening and return by 11:30a.m. on Sunday.
- The youth will return to Congregation Micah on Friday, **November 4, for a Shabbat Service.**
- Thomas Conner will attend the **Baptist Youth Camp planning session** in Georgia, November 6-8. The theme for 2006 is being built around the Exodus.
- As is the tradition, the youth will stay an extra night at the Great Glendale Gathering. The youth will have **Rau-Wood** to themselves on **Saturday night, November 19**. They will worship together in the great outdoors on Sunday morning and return to Glendale by 11:30a.m.

Kid's Corner



- **Children's Sabbath** was observed on October 16. Children led in worship through word and music. Ellie, Louis, Miguel and Carlos were dedicated on this special day, as well.
- On **October 23**, we talked about decision making in **Faithful Friends**. We learned that our decisions often affect people around us. Our last Faithful Friends for the year will be on November. In December, we will participate in all the Advent worship services.
- Plans are being made to put a wall in a large classroom upstairs to provide more **Sunday School space** for children. Get ready for the construction zone in 2006!
- **Passport Kids! Camp 2006** registration is due by November 1. Camp will be July 5-8, 2006, with a theme of *Under the Big Tree*. Current 3rd-6th graders are eligible. See Julie Coulter for details.