

# ~ Visions ~

## GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH

*A caring community of equality and grace.*

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## Cuba Partnership Update

On the first Sunday of every month, Glendale honors a commitment to our partner church in Santa Clara, Cuba by observing a special time in the morning worship. The partner churches have committed to pray for each other on first Sundays. On Sunday, July 6 during the Morning Prayer, the names of some of the members of the Cuba congregation were read.

Last November, five Glendalers represented our church at the special service that constituted the congregation as a church in Santa Clara. During the service, the Glendale group presented a banner from Glendale to our Santa Clara partner congregation. The banner read (in English) "The Peace of Christ" and had ribbons attached which had been signed by many Glendalers.

Before and after the constitution service, the members and children of the congregation in Santa Clara also wrote their names on ribbons to be attached to a similar banner for Glendale which reads "La Paz de Cristo." The travel group brought this banner back to Glendale.

This exchange of banners is a symbolic way of being present with one another. The ribbons, with the names of the signers from our partner church in Cuba, are affixed to the banner which is at Glendale. Those are the names that were read on Sunday, July 6:

Angel Costa Rondon	Rita M. Perez	Elida Ramirez
Morta Silvera Vorgas	Preheco Iraidia Canalda	Sergio Proenza
Yoandra Martinez Garcia	Lizardo Sanchez Rodriguez	Evelyn Mendoza Lopez
Adelina Mendoza Silvera	Yanet Perez Diaz	Jessica Castro Dominguez
Alexis Obregon Mederos	Evidio Delgado Avila	Finaily Delgarcia Mantanica
Hiedileda Ayala	Hildalina Ayala	Caridad Mora Perez
Niubes Montes de Ochpernas	Niubesitica	Rosa Avila Linares Martinez
Yanet Fuentes Gomez	Jorge Luis Pavez Diaz	Bernardo Toledo Velazquez
Barlin Perez Gomez	Alexey DeRio Rojas	
Ava Aguila	Lizardo Perez Sanchez	

Perhaps you will use this list of the names of some of the members and children of our partner congregation, the Alberto J. Diaz Baptist Church in Santa Clara, Cuba, to guide your prayers.

—David Gooch, Cuba Partnership Contact Person, Missions Division

## **Greetings from the Ministry Division**

I hope you have had the opportunity to meet with your deacon group this year, or attend the pie supper at the Ramages or the ice cream social at the church. We sure know how to have fellowship with each other around here! (Reminds me of the joke of the children who were supposed to bring a symbol of their faith to school, and the Baptist boy brought a casserole dish.) If you've missed out on these gatherings, don't despair. We will have more!

The new church year gets underway in September, and this means that some of you will have the opportunity to be deacons for the next year. Some folks currently on the Ministry Division have served several years and now have other additional responsibilities on the Interim committee or the Discernment and Search committee. I would ask that you seriously and prayerfully consider a positive response when you are approached by the nominating committee, or by me or other members of the Church Council who are seeking to staff our divisions. This is one of the places where you can live out your faith.

MATrotter

## **Interim Committee**

The Interim Committee has considered 10 people for our interim position during the past several weeks. On Wednesday night, July 16, our committee announced that John Laney is the person whom we will recommend to the church for the first part of the Interim period. John lives in Gaithersburg, Maryland, comes highly recommended, has successfully served as an Interim Pastor for several Alliance & American Baptist Churches, and seems to be a good fit for us. We have invited him to spend the weekend of August 1-3 with us so that we can begin to get acquainted with him. The Interim Committee will send out a schedule for the weekend as soon as it is finalized. After John's visit, the committee will recommend him to the church for a vote.

Raye Nell Dyer, Chair, Interim Committee

## **Companions in Christ**

Companions for Christ offers a transforming experience in spiritual formation. This 26-week curriculum developed by The Upper Room explores classic spiritual practices and invites participants to deepen their relationship with God and one another. If you are interested in participating in new groups to begin in September, please let Julie Coulter or Eileen Campbell-Reed know. We will start determining group meeting times so we are ready to begin in early September.

## **Heifer International Read to Feed**

Heifer International developed Read to Feed as a great vehicle to help children understand and appreciate the web of relationships between people, their actions, animals, and environment. This summer reading club for Glendale children began on June 22. The children will read books (or have books read to them) through August 1 and will ask you to sponsor them for the number of books they read. The goal is to raise money to buy gifts of livestock for struggling families who have few resources and need an ongoing source of income. Thanks to Joy Gooch, Lanita Harris, and Bev Bernard for heading this up!

## **Worship Division**

The Worship Division is grateful to everyone who has planned and participated in our "Sacred Storytelling" series this summer. We are especially grateful to Karen Turner for crafting the services and making them so meaningful for all of us.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

Glendale's Fall Retreat is scheduled for November 14-15 at Rau-Wood in southwestern Davidson County.

**Mark your calendars.**

## **Birthday Celebration**

Please join us to celebrate Jim Lee's 90th birthday and Liza Lee's 85th birthday with a potluck lunch after Church on Sunday August 10th.

Jim and Liza, for those of you who are newcomers, are charter members of Glendale and faithful attendees and supporters.

Bring your stories of Jim and Liza, as well as a covered dish, and let's share memories together. The Fortenberry and Ramage deacon groups are coordinating this effort.

## **Churchwide Opportunities to Meet Our**

### **Prospective Interim Pastor John Laney**

Saturday, August 2

Banana split Party

Church Fellowship Hall

7 p.m.

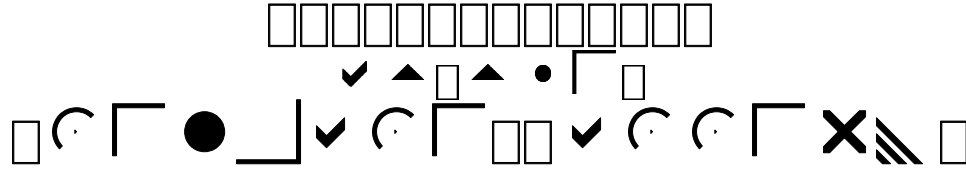
Sunday, August 3

Coffee/First Sunday Breakfast

9 a.m. (Please note time)

Rev. Laney will be visiting Glendale August 1-3. Besides these two events, he will also be meeting with the following:

The Staff, Church Council,  
Discernment and Search  
Committee, and Interim  
Committee.



Good food... jazzy music... new and old friends

And, GREAT ART !!!!

Join us on Sunday, September 14, 6-8 p.m. to "ooh" and "aah" at the artistic talents of Glendale' s membership.

Enjoy the jazzy sounds from Glendale' s own Ginger Newman.

No gallery admission price, but you are encouraged to bring an appetizer to share.

Artists, working in any medium, are invited to bring up to 3 pieces to Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning, September 14. That evening, each artist will be given an opportunity to "show and tell."

### WEDDING SHOWER FOR PHILLIP AND AMY

Let' s celebrate Phillip Berry and Amy Cushing' s upcoming marriage by "showering" them on Sunday afternoon, August 10.

The celebration party will be held at the home of Don and Rosalyn Ramage, 3312 Lealand Lane, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The shower is being sponsored by the Ramage Deacon Group.

Please mark your calendars for this special event!

6/27/03

Dear Members and Friends of GBC,

Thank you, thank you, thank you! I don't know how else to express my deep appreciation for your hospitality this week. From the host homes to the fellowship dinner to the most gracious response to our musical performance, you all embodied the spirit of welcome in the Glendale style. Our kids had a great time with you, and we are just so glad that we could find the time to be with you, even for a short while.

Thanks again for all you did to make our trip to Nashville so special.

Many blessings to all of you —  
Leanna Fuller and the Oakland UCC Youth Choir

# Discernment and Search Committee Report July 23, 2003

**Scripture**

**Prayer**

**"The Servant Song"**

**Brief History**

**We have three things to offer to you tonight in the way of a report:**

1. A plan for "preview advertising" to begin collecting the names of potentially interested candidates.
2. A request to the Personnel Committee and Church Council to create a supervision process for mutual feedback between staff & congregation.
3. An invitation to discern with us the role of the pastor in relation to the congregation and other staff.

## **1. Advertising plan**

- A) We will place a very short preview advertisement in a few select publications, announcing that we will be hiring new pastoral leadership, and inviting a visit to our website.
- B) We will contact potential candidates, through various personal networks to:
  - 1) inform them that we are in a discernment phase of a pastoral search
  - 2) invite them to visit our website and get to know Glendale
  - 3) ask them to fill in an electronic form if they are interested in getting a job description and more information when it becomes available (no later than 9/15)
- C) This does several important things:
  - 1) informs folks that we are in a search
  - 2) allows us time for discernment and church approval of a job description, etc. without unnecessary rushing
  - 3) gives us a core list of interested potential candidates when the church has approved the job description, etc.
- D) We will still advertise in national media with a description of the church and job and cast our net widely when the job description, etc., are ready.

## **2. Supervision Process**

While it seems clear that the church desires a new leadership model, concerns remain with the congregation and the Discernment and Search Committee about a process for surfacing and resolving problems and issues of concern from both the congregation and from the pastors and part-time staff. This underlying concern needs our careful attention. Addressing this issue is not the task of the DSC, and yet we believe it is critically important that a plan be formulated in order for us to move ahead with our work. We are asking the Personnel Committee and Church Council to develop and implement a process for supervision. "Supervision" means most basically "looking out over and naming what one sees." Such a process or mechanism we hope would not be perceived as entirely focused on the negative. But rather it would become a means by which the congregation and paid staff can regularly and honestly consider together how things are going, offering positive feedback, care and support, raising concerns from any or all parties, discerning God' s calling, considering gifts and calling for both leaders and congregation, and providing support and guidance for needed changes.

## **3. Invitation to discernment**

Over the next few weeks we invite you to participate in hearing information and talking together about the nature and authority of pastoral ministry at Glendale Baptist Church. As we listened to the congregation in

“holy listening” sessions, we were overwhelmed by words and phrases like: *partnership, teamwork, collaboration, flexibility, co-pastorate, shared leadership, fellow traveler, no hierarchy, and no “senior” pastor*. It seems abundantly clear to us that the church wants a new kind of leadership model that does not maintain the status quo. We are aware of tension between our desire to overcome the traditional gap between clergy and laity, and our plan to continue compensating staff who respond to a vocational call to ministry in our church. We want to lead the church in a process that helps us to discern more clearly what “an innovative and inspired church leadership model” means for pastoral leadership at this time in the life of our church.

**Two guiding principles for the discernment process will be the following:**

- A) Our shared commitment to historic Baptist principles (priesthood of all believers, autonomy of the local church, individual liberty of conscience, separation of church and state, etc.)
- B) Our shared identity as "a caring community of equality and grace"

**A schedule of discernment meetings:**

**August 13** -- Considering models of leadership for the church from Catholic to Quaker, focusing on Baptists and naming possible models

**August 20** -- Present job description and person description

**August 27** -- Baptist principles and GBC' s mission statement  
Telling “future stories” that honor our heritage

**September 3** -- Special called business meeting to vote on job description

In this time of discernment, the DSC is also in an ongoing conversation with April Baker, the Church Council and the part-time staff.

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**Kid's Corner**

*And a little child shall lead them...  
(quotes from children around the world)*

If you want others to respect you,  
then learn to respect them.  
Karoon Wata, 12, Fiji



**We Are Baptists!**

Our summer program for children who just completed grades K-6 are awash with what it means to be Baptists. On Terrific Tuesdays, we gather for supper and have some activity that involves water as part of our learning and playing time. In addition to Terrific Tuesdays, Wonderful Wednesdays give us a chance to continue our learning about Baptist distinctives like the priesthood of all believers and the autonomy of the local church. Our learning is based on the Judson Press curriculum, *We are Baptist*, which includes other topics like the Bible, baptism, missions and evangelism, discipleship, religious liberty. and the ministry of the laity.

## August

### Terrific Tuesday - August 5 and 19

#### Wonderful Wednesday

July 30

Linda Ray Miller will be teaching us about Discipleship and how following the teachings of Jesus is part of our Baptist heritage.

Aug 6

We will continue our summer program about what it means to be Baptists. Topic and Leader TBA

Aug 13

Chris Ferrell will help us learn about the Prophetic Role of people who follow Jesus and why Baptists believe it is important to do what God leads us to do even if we are the only ones doing it.

Aug 20

Aug 27

#### Faithful Friends

The next Faithful Friends worship service will be Sunday, August 17.

#### Heifer International Read to Feed

The summer reading club sponsored by the Glendale library kicked off on June 22. Read to Feed is a reading incentive program that offers global education opportunities and fosters a love for reading, a passion to help others, and a way to help create a better world. Children get sponsors for each book they read (or have read to them) between June 22 and August 1. The goal is to raise money to buy gifts of livestock for struggling families who have few resources and need an ongoing source of income.

#### **Kids Are Servant Leaders, Too**

I went to EdgeHill Soup Kichten on tuesday with April, Liza, Jill, and Joy. We went there to feed the homeless people. We each served one thing and the homeless people were all very nice and polite. After the homeliess people had eaten, we got to eat the leftovers. One guy tried to take twenty pieces of cake. I had a wonderful time and would defenitly like to go again!

—by Margie W.