

~ Visions ~

GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH

A caring community of equality and grace.

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INTERIM PASTOR'S FAREWELL

On February 15, I will conclude my tenure as your interim pastor, and I want to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to all of you for the gracious way in which you have received and encouraged me since my arrival here on Sept. 2.

From the very first contact with me, the Interim Committee members have done everything possible to make my coming here as comfortable as possible. The other church groups and officers have been a delight to work with.

You are fortunate in the church staff which you have, and I want to thank April Baker especially for all that she has done to be helpful to me. April is not only an exceptionally capable pastor, but more importantly, she has a pastor's heart. Would that this could be said of all pastors.

Every church which I have served as an interim pastor in the past fourteen years since retiring from the pastorate has been different. Needless to say, Glendale has been even more different than the others, and mostly that is a very good thing. You are to be commended for taking highly principled positions even when it is costly and painful. Despite all that the church has gone through, or possibly because of it, the congregation exhibits a wonderfully positive and unified spirit. This points toward a great future the Glendale Baptist Church.

So that you may not succumb to the sin of pride, I will probably share with the Interim Committee a few suggestions as to ways in which I feel this great church might be even better.

Finally, the most significant way in which this interim has been far different for me personally than all of the others I have served is that I have experienced an especially warm and loving relationship with one of your members.

Thanks, again, to all of you for helping make these past few months some of the most memorable of my life!

Sincerely,

John Laney

Handbells!

The handbells have been dusted and polished, as nearly a dozen folks are now rehearsing to bring the beautiful sounds of the bells back to worship at Glendale. Marjorie Halbert is directing this group that meets Wednesday evenings at 7:30.

Writers Night
at the
Glendale Cafe
February 22, 5:30-7:30

The Membership Division is delighted to bring back Writers Night. All writers of song, poetry, and prose are invited to share their original work on Sunday evening, February 22, from 5:30-7:30. Invite your friends, neighbors, prospects—anyone who would enjoy this wonderful Glendale tradition. Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share. This will be the first official Sunday for Mahan Siler, our Interim Pastor. We anticipate that this will be a great way to get to know him better and share a little bit of Glendale with him.

Discernment and Search Committee Update

In our most recent report to the church, January 7, we shared some of the information we have collected from other churches, clergy and laity, who are attempting to use non-traditional and less hierarchical models of staff ministry. Our conversations with the other churches confirmed to us the use of the working term "co-pastors" as well as our attempt to move toward a collaborative model of leadership. While there are other terms that describe the models we considered, and we have also used other descriptive terms (shared pastorate, partner pastors), at this point we think "co-pastor" is the most accessible and communicates the change we are trying to make as a church.

We learned about some pitfalls to try and avoid, such as problems with communication, lack of management structure and accountability, the return of hierarchy to otherwise "flat" systems, artificial job descriptions, and issues of trust. We also learned some ways to help us avoid such pitfalls while searching, such as open communication, clarity about the job and the relationships that are part of the job, and making adjustments to our physical space to accommodate both co-pastors.

Also confirmed by our process of listening both with our congregation and with the other churches we will attempt, as a new pastor comes, to be . . .

- ... asking both co-pastors to work from the same job description/do the same job for a year
- ... withholding our judgments about what gifts each co-pastor brings to the collaboration
- ... moving toward more involvement in "team" of all paid staff
- ... creating a climate and structure that promotes open, multi-directional communication and feedback
- ... recommending a built-in, paid sabbatical for each co-pastor
- ... supporting a Personnel Committee that will function to promote and ensure the success of the evolving model.

Two additional reports were given on January 7. We heard from April Baker about how she is doing through the various transitions since arriving 18 months ago, as well as her hopes and dreams for changes on the horizon. And we heard from the newly formed Personnel Committee about the direction their work. Copies of their report can be found on the DSC bulletin board in the church foyer.

Thank you for your support and prayers. If you have questions or comments, please send them to us at our email address: search@glendalebaptist.org

Eileen Campbell-Reed, Lou Clifton, Jimmy Davis, Christy Halbert, Jim Hiatt, Nell Magee, David Shepherd

CBF, American Baptists aid Iranian earthquake victims by Robert Marus

WASHINGTON (ABP) – The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the American Baptist Churches are sending relief funds to aid victims of the earthquake that virtually wiped out the Iranian city of Bam.

The Dec. 26 temblor killed according the U.S. Agency of International Development, 33,000-34,000 people – nearly half the population of the ancient city. It also left 30,000 injured and nearly 70,000 homeless in the region after thousands of unreinforced mud-brick buildings crumbled.

American Baptists' World Relief Office has already provided \$20,000 in emergency funds to be spent on disaster relief in Bam.

The Atlanta-based CBF has also provided an initial gift of \$20,000 for Iranian earthquake victims. Of that, \$10,000 is being directed through Persian

World Outreach, "for help in the transitional needs for victims with a long-term perspective of how PWO can work in the future in transformational development."

The other \$10,000 from CBF is divided evenly between Baptist World Aid and Conscience International. The latter group "is a private voluntary organization that creates programs and provides services for the relief of hunger, disease, suffering, homelessness, and the denial of human rights," according to CBF's release. The Conscience International funds will be spent on medical relief and grief counseling.

CBF leaders hope the division of gifts means the Fellowship will have a hand in both short-term relief and long-term redevelopment after the disaster.

CUBA TRIP INTRODUCTORY MEETING

At a meeting following the January 25 Sunday morning worship, at least eleven youth and more than twice as many parents (at least one grandparent) and youth leaders explored together the possibilities of a youth trip to Cuba to visit our partner congregation. The presenters answered basic questions about the upcoming trip: Who, what, when, where, why, how, and how much.

The trip will be Glendale's fifth trip to Cuba to visit our partner church in Santa Clara, Iglesia Bautista Alberto J. Diaz (Alberto J. Diaz Baptist Church). The focus of the trip is on youth of both churches. In addition to educational and recreational supplies for the church, the travelers will take much-needed pharmaceuticals to the medical services program of the Fraternity of Baptist Churches of Cuba, of which our partner church is a member.

The journey to Cuba will include two nights in Havana, a drive along part of the northern coast of the island, driving through the countryside, three days in Santa Clara, and a concluding retreat near an old coastal city. From Nashville, the group will travel by commercial airline to Miami and on to Havana by charter carrier. In Cuba, the group will travel by van or mini-bus. Former Glendalers who have been to Cuba reminded the group that the weather is tropical and the trip is being made in the summer. They said, "It's hot and humid. And there's lots of walking."

Glendale youth who are rising 9th graders or older may participate in the trip, while younger youth may participate if accompanied by a parent. The contribution toward the cost of the trip is \$500 for each individual.

Associate Pastor April Baker told the group that the trip was a great opportunity to experience missions and to build relationships with our partner church in Cuba, as well as an opportunity to learn about a different culture and society.

The dates of the trip will be determined in mid-March after snow days have determined the last day of school for area schools. The trip will be made in late May-early June.

Any youth interested in joining this travel group should express her/his tentative interest to one of the following: Minister of Youth, Thomas Conner; Anne-Leslie Owens; or Cuba Partnership Coordinator, David Gooch.

Painting and repairs funding wrap-up

Most Glendalers know that this year we incurred some out-of-the-ordinary expenses. Thanks to the extraordinary support of many families and individuals, we begin this year with a major painting and repair project completed and paid for!

Our church building has for some time needed an outside paint job. Once we began to solicit estimates and seriously look at the condition of the building, we knew we also had some significant repairs to deal with.

So we got it done—and it looks good! We not only repainted but we also re-built our steeple and handled several repairs, some safety-related and some appearance-related.

Here's how we did that. Each year we place a small (probably too small) amount of revenue in a capital sinking fund to handle such needs that don't occur every year. Counting the 2003 transfer, we had a total balance in this fund of \$14,854.41.

Responding to appeals for special giving beyond normal budget giving, Glendalers designated \$12,142. The remaining \$4,899.59 was covered by transferring from operating funds.

Here is the summary:

- Capital sinking funds used: \$14,854.41
- Special designated offerings: \$12,142.00
- Operating account funds used: \$ 4,899.59
- Total: \$31,896.00

Many thanks to all of you who gave over and above. You have helped keep our debt down and prevented any robbing of resources allocated to other church obligations and needs. More importantly, you have made real our covenant commitment to "give systematically from our personal financial resources, giving sacrificially when such giving is needed."

Stewart Clifton
For the Administration Division

GLENDALE HOSTING TNT CLERGY

Our church will host the next meeting of the TNT (Tying Nashville Together) Clergy on **Tuesday, February 10**, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon. They will be dealing with major TNT initiatives in the areas of education, health care, and neighborhoods and affordable housing.

They will also be considering plans for promoting **TNT's 10th anniversary celebration** and delegate assembly set for **Sunday, March 21, at 4:00 p.m.** Several thousand people are expected for this gathering which will also include significant representation from partner organizations in other parts of Tennessee and in adjoining states. All presidential candidates are being invited, with indications that at least some of them will attend.

The Glendale Baptist Church has been asked to send between 19-25 persons to this 10th anniversary celebration and delegate assembly. **Kreis and Jennifer White** can tell you more about this. Put it on your calendar now!

Youth Happenings

The past month. . .

The 7th – 8th grade boys class and their families class watched the Titans game at the Sisson-Davis home on Saturday, January 10. Everyone had a good time until the Titans lost to the Patriots, 14-17.

On January 11, those not rehearsing in the youth band had lunch at **Subway and then went bowling.**

An information meeting for the **youth trip to Cuba** was held on Sunday, January 25. Plans are underway for a group to travel to Cuba soon after school is out for the summer.

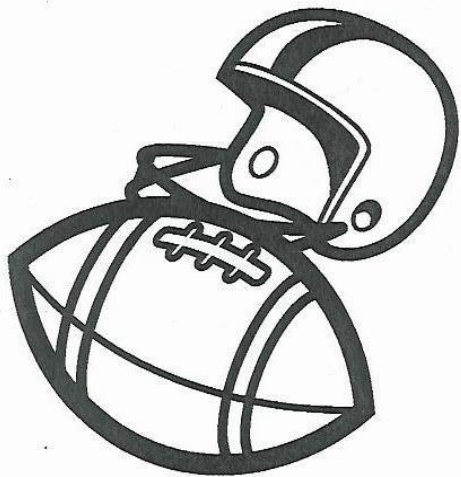
The youth have been faithful in helping **set up for Room in the Inn** every other Wednesday. Thank you!

Things to come. . .

The **youth band** is in full swing. New members are invited to join. Practices are scheduled for Sundays, February 22 and 29, 12:30–2:00 p.m.

The youth are planning to participate in the "**Souper Bowl**" special offering for hunger on February 1. Of course, a Super Bowl party will follow later in the afternoon!

Those going to the **Baptist Youth Camp at Laurel Ridge, NC** will be leave on June 26 and return on July 2. Thomas will attend the second and final gathering of youth ministers for camp planning in Charlotte, February 15-17..



Kid's Corner



Keep your heart clean with peace. Don't get it dirty with greed. It is not too late to clean it.

*—Kaila Spencer
Age 8, Colorado*

Raye Nell Dyer led Faithful Friends in January. The children learned about her work as a hospital chaplain and then planned a **dedication of the chapel at the new Vanderbilt Children's Hospital.** The children visited the hospital on January 25 for the dedication and a brief tour. Everyone had a role—from singing to reading to playing the cello and violin! Thank you, Raye Nell, for such a special opportunity!

Celebrate!, a new Sunday worship opportunity, is coming for preschool and elementary children, their parents, and other Glendalers who are young at heart! Beginning Sunday, February 22, at 11:40 (or 10 minutes after worship ends), everyone is invited to gather at the front of the sanctuary for a brief (10 minutes) time of music and storytelling. Marjorie Halbert shared this idea with a number of folks and enlisted Christy Halbert, Ginger Newman, and Don Schlosser to lead this worship experience. The first four weeks will focus on the stories Jesus told and will be followed by two more four-week sessions. Children under 9 should be accompanied by an adult because great enthusiasm is expected in this time of singing, dancing, and storytelling! Join us for a fun and meaningful time!

The elementary children celebrated Epiphany in Sunday School early in January. Jackson Ferrell found the bean in his Epiphany cupcake. The children blessed each adult Sunday School class (all with paper crowns and a turn at chalking the inscription beside the doors and swinging the incense). The inscription, 20+C+M+B+04, traditionally stands for Christus Mansionem Benedicat, or "Christ, bless this home."

Elementary children hosted Room in the Inn on Friday, January 16. The children (and parents) helped prepare dinner and eat with the guests on Friday. Margie Way spent the night upstairs and had a slumber party with Julie! Jackson and Chris Ferrell arrived early on Saturday to prepare and serve breakfast.

Faithful Friends is scheduled for the usual third Sunday, February 15. Eileen Campbell-Reed and friends will be leading the children in a time of learning about how we are looking for another pastor, what "co-pastors" means, and other things related to the DSC work.