

~ Visions ~

LENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH

A caring community of equality and grace.

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Good News from Cuba!

This week we received the email below from our friends at Iglesia Bautista Alberto J. Diaz in Santa Clara, Cuba. Access to email has made it difficult for our friends there to communicate directly with us, so hearing from Pastora Niubes is good news indeed. We were able to send a handwritten letter to them with Paco Rhodes when we saw him at the Alliance of Baptists gathering in April. Along with the news in that letter, we sent some art supplies and coloring books in Spanish, and a pledge to assist Niubes with her theological education by providing the scholarship that she mentions in her note. The news about the mission work that they are doing in a rural area near Santa Clara is exciting. Hopefully the next group to travel to Santa Clara will get to visit there and bring a message of support and encouragement to that young community of faith just as Niubes' note is a source of encouragement and hope to us.

Cuba Partner Church News

We received this email from Cuba this week. It was passed along to us from Niubes Montes De Oca, the Pastor of our partner church, Alberto J. Diaz Baptist Church, in Santa Clara, Cuba. Paco Rodes, president of the Fraternity of Baptist Churches of Cuba, says he has translated her message into "Spanglish" before forwarding it to us. The Spanglish text follows:

"Dear brothers and sisters from Glendale:

"I was very happy with the news from you. We also keep in pray for you all, and specially for the sick.

"The grant of the scholarship for the Latin American Biblical University is something that we appreciate so much. I hope to make there the bachelor and the Licenciatura in Theology.

"I want to tell you that we have a new mission in a rural area, which is named "Yabú," but we renamed it "The Emmaus' s walkers." In this place we count

25 persons, including adults, young and teenagers, however nobody is baptized yet. Now we are starting a group of 6 for baptism. At the same time we are forming local leaders in special courses with good materials that we have received. These leaders classes are going on in Yabú and Santa Clara as well. We are optimistic about the growing in the Lord. The work is increasing every day, and the little Niubes is growing too.

"With love and special greetings for all the Church, Bernardo and Niubes."

We are grateful for this word from Cuba. "Bernardo" is the pastor' s husband and their baby Niubesita' s father. The scholarship she expresses thanks for is a grant of \$25 each month from Glendale' s Mission budget that provides Niubes with enough funds to support her theological studies as she discusses above.

Let us continue to pray for our partner church in Santa Clara, and for Niubes and her family.

—David Gooch, Cuba Partnership Contact Person, Missions Division

Discernment and Search Committee Update: Holy Listening

“Conversation is always an act of love . . . Every act of listening, inquiring, restating, courteous challenging, gracious backing down, asking again, and listening is an act of ordinary love that creates community . . .”

—Robert C. Morris “Listening with the Heart: Conversation as Charity” (*Weavings*, July/Aug, 2003)

The DSC wants your input, ideas and opinions. We are listening together with the church for God’s wisdom and leadership. To date, we have held listening sessions with seven Sunday school classes (5 adult classes and 2 children’s classes), five Divisions, the Primetimers, the Interim Committee and the paid Staff. We are scheduled to meet in the weeks ahead with the Choir, one more Sunday school class, the Church Council and the youth.

Thanks to each of you who have attended one of these listening sessions (or two or three of them!) and for your very thoughtful and interested responses.

Please let us know if we have overlooked any church group so that we can schedule a meeting with you. If you were not able to attend one of the meetings, we would welcome your input in writing. You may record your responses to the questions below and email or hand them to any of the DSC members.

The following questions have been posed to each group, and participants have responded in light of the particular interests of their group as well as from their individual experience and perspective. If you did meet with us, but find yourself having additional thoughts or ideas that you want to share, you are welcome to send them along to the committee.

- **What do you need from your pastor?**
- **What does Glendale need from its pastors?**
- **What does Glendale have to offer to a pastor?**
- **What qualities of leadership and spiritual gifts are most important for a new pastor?**
- **Last November we identified as part of our “Practical Vision” that we want an “innovative and inspired church leadership model.” What does this mean for calling new pastoral leadership?**

After a month of sustained listening, the committee’s next task will be to discern what we have heard, and how we need to move toward **1) a description of the work** of the pastor whom we will call and **2) a description of the kinds of gifts and leadership for ministry** which will fit best with the work we are already doing at Glendale Baptist Church. Please continue to remember us in your prayers.

Tying Nashville Together

TNT Delegates Assembly will be held on Sunday, June 22 at 4 pm at The Temple. We have committed to sending 10 delegates from Glendale. Please let April know if you are planning to attend.

Interim Committee

The Interim Committee has been busy and hard at work. We began the organizing of the Sacred Storytelling series and have now turned it over to Karen Turner. We are working with the Financial Summit, budget, Discernment & Search Committee, etc. on how to cover our expenses during this time. We are receiving resumes and are having phone conversations with potential candidates. We are not there yet, but we are closer than we have been!

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 C. know. We will start determining group meeting times so we are ready to begin in early September.

Companions in Christ Leader Training

If you are interested in going to a leader-training event for Companions in Christ on Saturday, August 2, please let Julie C. know as soon as possible. This one-day conference will offer an introduction to CIC, time to experience the curriculum and an opportunity to observe and discuss the distinctive leadership skills that most enhance the resource.

Youth Camp

Anna , Carson, Paul, Ben, Corey, Josh, Rachel and Joy will leave for youth camp on June 29 and will return on July 5. Thomas and Anne-Leslie are chaperones.

Worship Division

Sacred Storytelling

June

- 22 Chris Ferrell
Parable of the Great Banquet
- 29 April Baker

July

- 6 Michelle Tooley
- 13 Peggy Way
Parable of the Mustard Seed
- 20 Peggy Way
Story of Jesus Calming the Storm
- 27 April Baker
*Stories of Jesus Dining w/Sinners;
Agape Meal*

The Yarborough family certainly has felt loved and cared for by the Glendale family. I know why "The Servant Song" is so fitting for this congregation. I see it in practice everywhere. How can I ever thank you for all you've done?... for sitting with us and helping make James' homegoing such a spiritual experience; for feeding us so well and so often; for the wonderful memorial service; for all your cards, letters, calls, prayers and caring concern. I still feel overwhelmed but, oh, so grateful for this caring community of equality and grace. I am proud to be one of you.

Joan Yarborough



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.
Karooon Wata, 12, Fiji

We Are Baptists!

Our summer program for children will be awash with what it means to be Baptists. On Terrific Tuesdays, we will gather for supper and will have some activity that involves water as part of our learning and playing time. In addition to Terrific Tuesdays, Wonderful Wednesdays will 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 summer program will include other topics like the Bible, baptism, missions and evangelism, discipleship, religious liberty and the ministry of the laity.

June

Terrific Tuesday, June 17, 5:30 – 7:00 (grades k-6)

Bring \$3.00 for pizza and wear clothes that can get wet – or your swimsuit.

We'll begin with a pizza supper. The program for the night will be focused on the Baptist principle of Soul Freedom. Children will learn what "soul freedom" means, why Baptists value it, and how it applies to their life as a child of God. After the program we'll move outside for games that will cool us off and get us a little soggy.

Wonderful Wednesday, June 18, 6:30-7:15

Topic for the night is Believers Baptism. We'll talk about the meaning of baptism for Baptists and why we practice believers' baptism by immersion.

Faithful Friends, June 22

Joy Gooch and Lanita Harris will lead Faithful Friends in talking about Heifer Project and our summer Read to Feed program

Chicken Run, June 24, 10 a.m. at the Greens Hills Theater

Admission is free; all ages are invited to join us. We will meet at the theater. If your child needs a ride, please let April know ASAP.

Wonderful Wednesday, June 25, 6:30-7:30

Children will join the adults for the presentation of selections from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

Terrific Tuesday, July 1, 5:30 – 7:00 (grades k-6)
The Bible

Faithful Friends, July 20

Wonderful Wednesday, July 2, 6:30-7:15
Priesthood of All Believers

Wonderful Wednesday, July 9, 6:30-7:15
Religious Liberty

Wonderful Wednesday, July 16, 6:30-7:15
Ministry of the Laity

Terrific Tuesday, July 1, 5:30 – 7:00 (grades k-6)
Autonomy of local church

Wonderful Wednesday, July 23, 6:30-7:15
Discipleship

Wonderful Wednesday, July 30, 6:30-7:15
Evangelism

Terrific Tuesday, August 5, 5:30 – 7:00 (grades k-6)
Worship

Wonderful Wednesday, August 6, 6:30-7:15
Issues of Faith

Wonderful Wednesday, August 13, 6:30-7:15
Prophetic Role

Terrific Tuesday, August 19, 5:30 – 7:00 (grades k-6)
Diversity

Wonderful Wednesday, August 20, 6:30-7:15
Mission

Heifer International Read to Feed

The summer reading club sponsored by the Glendale library will begin 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 between June 22 and August 3.

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. Please see Joy Gooch, Lanita Harris or Bev Bernard for details.

Elementary Service Project

On **Tuesday, July 7, at 11:40a.m.** children are invited to help serve lunch at the soup kitchen (Edgehill United Methodist Church), a ministry of Luke 14:12. Amy Gallagher, program director, will meet us there. She will talk with us about homelessness and hunger in Nashville. Parents are invited to help serve, too. We will be done by 1:00p.m.