

~ Visions ~

GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH

A caring community of equality and grace.

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Happenings from the Quarterly Business Meeting (8.17.03)

Changes in Denominational Giving

On Sunday, August 17, the Church took action to change its denominational giving formula, eliminating the Cooperative Program of the Tennessee Baptist Convention (TBC) and the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). It also realigned the current denominational giving to reflect members' choices. The Alliance of Baptists will receive 86% of the offering while the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will receive 16%. This Church action follows the Tennessee Baptist Convention's move to dissolve the relationship between the TBC and Glendale.

The action of the Church also changed the choices available to members on the "Elections Forms," which contributors may use to direct the denominationally-related portion of their offering. The options that formerly included the Cooperative Program were eliminated. Now persons who wish to direct this portion of their offering, which is currently 5% of the total, may choose to give all to the Alliance of Baptists, all to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, split their gift 50-50 between the two, or accept the church's distribution (now at 86% Alliance / 14% CBF). The new election forms will be available in the church office and at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday. The actions came as two recommendations from the Missions Division, which had been tabled at the

first quarterly church business, were taken off the table for consideration at Sunday's business meeting.

In another action, the Church reallocated the 2nd quarter's portion of missions giving which had been earmarked for the Cooperative Program according to the new distribution split. The amount reallocated was \$9.81.

In new business the Church approved a policy, upon recommendation of the Missions Division, that "contributions which members wish to give to any agency or program of the Southern Baptist Convention or the Tennessee Baptist Convention (other than those approved in the church budget) be sent directly to that agency or program by the contributor." This policy avoids any embarrassment or uneasiness of TBC and SBC agencies if they received a check from Glendale which they might believe should be refused and thus returned to Glendale.

The Missions Division proposed these changes to reflect more accurately the identity of the Church, to avoid awkward situations with organizations with which we have been in relationship in the past, and to simplify election choices.

Glendale Becomes an Official AWAB Church

At the quarterly business meeting on August 17, Glendale voted to become an official "welcoming and affirming" church by joining the Association of Welcome and Affirming Baptists (AWAB). Since AWAB already claims an official line item in Glendale's missions budget, and since Glendale has already been giving significantly more to this organization than is required in order to become an official member, this decision requires no new financial commitments on the part of the church.

The official document that will be submitted from Glendale to AWAB—to confirm that we are indeed a "welcoming and affirming" church—is the church covenant. As a consequence of this action, Glendale will be listed on the AWAB website and will be referred to persons in middle Tennessee who are seeking a "welcoming and affirming" church home. In turn, Glendale will include a link to AWAB on the Glendale website.

More Happenings from the Quarterly Business Meeting (8.17.03)

- ❖ **Phil Fortenberry** was elected to serve on the **History Committee** through August 2005. Phil is replacing Richard Sapp on this committee. **Thanks Phil for agreeing to serve.**
- ❖ Glendale Baptist Church made a change in the wording of our church covenant. After much discussion, the decision was made to add the word *inclusive* to an existing phrase, making the phrase now read: **“to build an inclusive Christian community that affirms the worth of all persons.”** This decision came after months of discussion/feedback and committee work. The Church Council is appreciative of the contributions from everyone and for the sincere and thoughtful process that brought us to this wording. This statement is reflective of our community of faith and our covenant with God and with one another.

—Martha Jo Berry

Local and Global Missions

Habitat Unity Build—September 27th

Glendale will be participating in the Habitat Unity Build on September 27th from 7:00 AM till 5:00 p.m. For those of you who have already volunteered, please note the directions and details below. For those of you who might still be interested, it is not too late to sign up on the form in the stairwell by the Fellowship Hall or to e-mail me at lynn.reed@mindspring.com. If you are interested in helping with food, please speak with Frenchie Fortenberry.

Directions:

I-24 West to the northwest side of town. Take Briley Parkway East then exit north on Brick Church Pike. After you get through the Briley/Brick Church interchange, take the first right on Masonwood. Then

take the 2nd left on Moorewood. If you are coming to the build and will be working construction, please wear old clothes that you do not mind getting dirty (and painted). Wear sturdy shoes (no open toes). The following may be helpful to you to bring as well:

- Work Gloves
- Sun Screen
- Hat
- Hammer and Nail Apron (If available)

Please mark your tools with your name. Thanks for your willingness to work on this project!!

Note: Habitat volunteers work RAIN OR SHINE!!! A light breakfast, lunch, and lots of water and snacks will be provided.

CBF Meeting Needs

In Iraq: CBF has shifted its focus for post-war ministry in Iraq from refugees to meeting immediate and long-term needs. CBF is restarting ministry among the Kurds in northern Iraq that had to be suspended because of military action. To date, CBF has channeled more than \$40,000 from churches, individuals, and CBF relief funds toward relief efforts in Iraq.

Worldwide: About ¾ of CBF's global missions field personnel live and work among un-evangelized people groups. One field person visited an ancient tribal community, hoping to find people of the same culture and language as the people he had been working with in another country. He discovered fervent believers whose faith has deepened many years after missionaries had been expelled from the region. Now, CBF is helping these villagers share the Gospel with their distant "cousins."

Invitation from The Alliance of Baptists

Dear Friends:

The weekend of September 18-21 will be an historic one for the Alliance of Baptists. For the first time in its seventeen year history, the Alliance's Board of Directors has chosen to hold its Fall Board meeting in the city other than Washington, D. C. where our national office is headquartered. The Alliance's Board will also be considering the adoption of a strategic plan which will guide us through the next several years.

Our Fall Board meeting will be held at the Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville. The main reason the Alliance's Board is meeting in Nashville is to show our solidarity with and support for you as you live out your calling. In that regard we would like to invite you to a dessert fellowship to be held at Glendale on Friday evening, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. All of the Alliance Board members will be there, and this will give us an opportunity to meet you, get to know one another better, and answer any questions you might have about the Alliance. I hope you will be able to join us for this special occasion.

We look forward to seeing all of you in September.

Sincerely yours,

W. Craig Henry, President

Perspectives on Glendale

The View from the Chair . . .

The Summer of 2003 began in the usual way with the Annual Ice Cream Supper. This year it was grand, with more ice cream and people to enjoy it than ever before! The children and youth have enjoyed the summer with Terrific Tuesdays and Wonderful Wednesdays as well as a Sounds game and lots of good reading. The youth have shared with us their incredible experiences at Youth Camp. And yes, the adults have enjoyed fried donuts, banana splits, and a variety of great Sunday School classes including our “first semester” of Companions in Christ.

Many committees have been hard at work. The Nominating Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee had a busy May. The Interim Committee and the Discernment and Search Committee are in full swing, logging many hours and giving us ample opportunities to participate. The Communications Committee continues to work as Glendale Baptist Church has spread its message across the country and beyond . . . with a little help from the Associated Press. The Church Council, all of whom have volunteered to continue for the 2003-04 church year, have done a tremendous job of keeping all areas of our church operating smoothly and providing quality programming. The summer is usually a time when our attendance is down due to summer travel. But not so this summer.

The summer of 2003 saw our attendance at a consistent rate, with more visitors than at any time in our church's history. We are hopeful that many of those visitors will join us as members. Our summer series, “Sacred Storytelling,” has been a meaningful experience for all of us. We have spent time and energy improving our website as our members and guests turn to the internet for information. And we have received e-mails of support from all over the world.

As we come to our fourth quarter and look to the beginning of a new church year, our attention turns to staffing and budgets for the coming year. We will continue to revisit our visioning process and eagerly work with our Discernment and Search Committee. We are excited about the arrival of our interim pastor, John Laney. The church council is planning a new forum for communication called *Friends of Glendale*. This will be in the form of a newsletter, space on the website, and opportunity for giving for our many friends who are not members of our community of faith, but who wish to maintain communication and support us financially and prayerfully. You will hear more about this effort in the coming weeks and months. Another means of outreach will be the Great Glendale Gathering. This fall we hope to make the event a Homecoming Gathering, inviting folks to return and retreat with us—sharing in the sacred stories of Glendale from many years ago to the present time.

These are exciting times around this place! We need you to be involved. We need your time, your

money, and your prayers. We need YOU! Come worship, come build a Habitat House, come learn more about our mission opportunities, and come spend some time with your friends. **The view from the chair is full of possibility!**

—Martha Jo Berry

Reflections and Gratitudes . . .

Our summer of Sacred Storytelling has been rich to say the least. We began by placing our stones in the rivers, releasing what we needed to let go of to the waters of God's grace. And we have received those stones again from the waters where they have been washed with the stories of our faith. We have heard a great cloud of witnesses to God's goodness and love. We have spoken, sung, and prayed the stories of God's people—and our own stories among them. We have heard the voices of our elders and our children speaking clearly of who and whose we are, and the wonders and mysteries of God's love for us and all creation. We've been surrounded by banners proclaiming stories of God's being with God's people. We have shared a holy adventure.

Our deep gratitude goes to all who shared with us in worship this summer. Your music, words, movement, art, prayers, and presence testify to the sacredness of the stories. Thank you. Particularly, thank you to Karen Turner. Her gifts in planning and preparing worship have helped us express to God the things of our hearts and to worship together in ways that left us feeling “surely the presence of the Lord in this place.”

As we carry that assurance into the new church year and we welcome John Laney as he comes to minister with us, we set our hearts and our faces toward the next turn on our journey of living into being the church—the disciples—that God is leading us to be.

Traveling mercies for the journey, we pray. I'm honored to be walking with you all.

—April Baker

From the Discernment and Search Committee

The Discernment and Search Committee is currently leading discussions on Wednesday nights with the congregation about a job description and person description for a new pastor. You may pick up copies of both documents and a rationale for our proposals in the foyer at the church. We hope that you will be a part of improving our proposals and giving us your thoughts and feelings. **We are scheduled to take a vote on these matters at a special called business meeting on Wednesday, September 3, 2003 following supper at 6:30 in fellowship hall.** We hope you will join us for these important conversations and decisions.

Sunday School Clean-up

On Saturday, September 6, 9:30am-12:00pm, Sunday School teachers and others are invited to help prepare for the first Sunday of the new church year. The Preschool classes will be switching rooms as will young adults and the Girls' Youth Class. We will do some cleaning and organizing in the pre-school area, as well.

Companions in Christ Organizational Meeting

There will be an organizational meeting for Companions in Christ groups to begin in early October on Sunday, September 14, 11:45am-12:30pm. All interested in participating in a spiritual formation group are invited to attend. Meeting times and places will be determined by the participants.

Celebration Sunday

It's time to celebrate the work of the church this past year and to bring in the new! Join us for a potluck lunch on Sunday, September 7. As the first Sunday in our new church year, children will promote to their new classes. All serving in various capacities in the different divisions will begin their new roles, as well.

Heifer International Read to Feed

The summer reading club sponsored by the Glendale library concluded on August 3. The children raised \$650, thanks to the support of their friends and the Glendale family! During Faithful Friends in August, the children decided to buy a goat, a pig, three sheep, a flock of geese, a trio of rabbits, and a hive of bees.

Dear Glendale Friends:

It was with a deep sense of gratitude and of humility that I received the news that you are giving me the opportunity to serve as your interim pastor. My recent weekend visit with you convinced me that you are truly "a caring community of equality and grace."

I am deeply grateful to each of the many individual members who did so much in such a variety of ways to make my weekend with you such an enjoyable and rewarding experience for me. I wish I could have written personal notes to each of you, but so many of you were involved that this would have been a challenging task. Please know that I feel a personal sense of gratitude to each of you.

As I look forward to our sharing together in the journey of faith and witness, I ask for your prayers even as you are in my prayers.

Sincerely,
John Laney

Youth Happenings

The past month . . .

- The youth met with the members of the **Discernment and Search Committee** in early August. They offered some very good input!
- A **Nertz tournament** was held on Sunday, August 17. Those who went to Youth Camp in July brought this crazy card game back and introduced it to the group. A great time was had by all!
- The **girls of the youth group had lunch** at Julie Coulter's on August 24 with Chalene Helmuth, who will be teaching the girls in Sunday School this fall. Anne-Leslie, Chalene, and Julie fixed a Mexican lunch.
- Thomas took a group to **Shakespeare in the Park** on August 29.

Things to come . . .

- All three youth Sunday School classes are using the **We Are Baptists curriculum** by Judson Press for the fall. Historic Baptist principles will serve as a focal point for each lesson that is biblically rooted and offers discussion for applications to present day living.
- After church on September 14, the youth will **canoe down the Harpeth River**. After a wet afternoon they will be back in time for the Artist's Night. More details are available from Thomas.
- A **lock-in** will begin at 9:00p.m. on Friday, September 26. Thomas is planning various activities through the night and into the early morning hours. More details will soon be available.
- **Lunch and volleyball** are on the agenda for September 28 after church.

New Email Link Established w/Cuba; 4th Trip Being Planned

A new email link directly to Santa Clara, Cuba emerged this month. Several exchanges have already occurred, including a lengthy message from our partner church pastor Niubes Montes de Oca. The link is apparently with a member of the congregation who has email service at his work. Glendale's partner church is the La Iglesia Bautista Alberto J. Diaz (Alberto J. Diaz Baptist Church) of Santa Clara, Cuba.

Pastor Niubes reports that the church, though small in numbers, is growing in faith and is stronger. She details a very active church life. She reports that there is now a "Third Age" Group called "Cedars of Lebanon" in the church. She says work with the young people continues to grow, too. She also reports that there is a small musical group to enrich the worship services. The church is sponsoring a leadership development course using curriculum of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center and the Biblical University of Costa Rica. Every Thursday night the church's new mission meets in Yabu, a rural community near Santa Clara.

Niubes sent us a number of prayer requests for members of their congregation. And she asked if a group from Glendale would be coming to Cuba to celebrate the first anniversary of the constitution as a church.

The Mission Division is planning a Fourth Visit to Cuba on November 9-12, 2003, to coincide with that anniversary. Approximately 5-7 Glendalers will travel to Cuba to visit the annual meeting in Havana of the Fraternity of Baptist Churches of Cuba and go to Santa Clara to visit our partner congregation. A pamphlet outlining information about the trip and inviting Glendalers to join the travel team is available at the church. The pamphlet tells how all Glendalers can support the trip even if they cannot actually go to Cuba.

—David Gooch, Cuba Partnership Coordinator

What's Happening @ Glendale

New Member Orientation Class Starting Soon

The next new member class will start on Sunday, September 7 with a dinner at the home of Rosalyn and Don Ramage. For the following three Sundays—September 14, 21, and 28—the class will meet from 9-10:15. During this time, new member candidates will have a chance to learn more about Glendale's history, our current structure and activities, opportunities for service, and our vision for the future. Staff members and chairs from the various divisions will make brief presentations and be available for questions.

Visitors: If you have been visiting Glendale and would like to learn more, we encourage you to join us at any of these Sunday morning meetings. For more information, please contact Anne-Leslie.

Interim Committee

John Laney begins as interim pastor Sept. 2, 2003 and will go through mid-February. He will arrive in time for Wednesday night church on Sept. 3. He will preach for the first time on September 7, which is also the beginning of our new SS year. Thanks to everyone who helped the weekend John was here. We appreciate your participation in the events planned to help us begin to get to know him—and all you did to make it a successful time.

The church has leased a duplex for John near the church, 4431 Lealand Lane. We have furnished it with items loaned by people in the church. We appreciate the items you have given and the help in delivering them. It is a two-bedroom duplex in very good shape, great hardwood floors, and is in a great neighborhood. We signed a lease for a year to cover the whole interim period.

Raye Nell Dyer, Chair

Save the Date

The Great Glendale Gathering is scheduled for November 14-15 at Rau-Wood in southwestern Davidson County. More details to follow. Mark your calendars now.

Artists Night at the Glendale Gallery

**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 Glendalers and friends. And while you are looking, you can enjoy the jazzy sounds of Glendale's own Ginger Newman.

No gallery admission price, but you are encouraged to bring an appetizer to share. Invite members, visitors, neighbors—all are welcome to participate!!

—Sponsored by The Membership Division. See Anne-Leslie for more information.

Call to Artists . . .

The Glendale Gallery is looking for artists for Artists Night 2003, to be held on Sunday, September 14, 6-8 pm. All mediums of visual art are encouraged: painting, photography, sculpture, glass, wood, and fiber. Up to three works of art per person will be accepted on Sunday morning, September 14.

Glendale's curators will spend the afternoon composing the gallery for the showing that evening. Each artist will have a time for "show and tell."

Artists, please SIGN UP downstairs on the Membership Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall.



*Being Aware of the Presence of God...
(A quote from Children's Letters to God, 1991)*

Dear God,
If you watch in church on Sunday, I'll show you my
new shoes.

Mickey D.

Faithful Friends

The next Faithful Friends worship service will
be Sunday, September 21.

Camp Opportunity for Older Elementary Kids

PASSPORTkids! is a new, quality camp for children developed in partnership between Passport, Inc., and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Many of the ingredients that have made PASSPORT a success for the past ten years—such as a thoroughly trained staff, a well-honed program, an emphasis on Christian missions, and a devotion to God in every aspect of camp—will be preserved for PASSPORTkids! Unique elements will include: an overall design that is developmentally appropriate for children who have completed grades 3-6; locations chosen for their beautiful, natural settings, the quality of their facilities, and the variety of fun activities they offer; and innovative and exciting ways to involve children in missions. Possible dates for Glendale are July 4-7, July 8-11, July 14-17. If you are interested, please let April know as soon as possible.

THANKYOU! THANKYOU! THANKYOU!

As many of you know, this summer instead of a week of Vacation Bible School, we did a summer-long program called "We Are Baptists!" The format of meeting two Tuesdays a month and each Wednesday night gave us opportunity to have many people teach the children about Baptist distinctives and why we are Glendale Baptist Church. I think the children learned a lot. When Martha Jo was talking to them about the ministry of the laity, the children kept insisting "But we are ALL ministers!" We had talked about the priesthood of all believers on the previous night.

Thanks to all the children who came to eat pizza and chicken nuggets, play on the slip-and-slide, and learn about whom we are and why we are Baptists. Thanks to all of the adults who have shared themselves and their gifts with the children this summer. Your willingness to miss the "adult" program to be with the children lets them know just how important they are to all of us.

Thank you!

Jennifer and Kris White, Carolyn and Charles Warford, Linda Ray Miller, David Gooch, Rosalyn Ramage, Martha Jo Berry, Chris Ferrell, Julie Coulter