

~ 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

“The Stuff that Makes Us Squirm”

One of my earliest memories is receiving one dollar each Saturday night, putting a dime in my church offering envelope, and checking the little boxes on the envelope indicating what I'd accomplished for Jesus that week – Present...Bible Brought...Bible Read Daily...Sunday School Lesson Studied...Giving...Worship Attendance...Outreach Contacts. Tithing was as regular a part of life as was going to church every Sunday, and I am grateful for that discipline. I'm sure that because of it, I am a more generous person than I might have been otherwise. When I wanted to use my allowance for something that cost more than what was left after I'd given my tithe, I would have to wait until next week. Of course I resented that sometimes, but I learned the lessons of generosity and sharing, even if it meant waiting for something I wanted.

As we enter the time of year when we plan our church budget, the memories of those lessons from childhood have permeated my thinking. The discipline of systematic giving is something to which we have committed ourselves as a church. Our missions budget is paid quarterly even if it means that we spend less on something else or we have to borrow money to meet our commitments. And each year we systematically increase the percentage of our budget that goes to missions and ministries outside of Glendale. Each of us has a responsibility to determine how our own giving is a part of the ministry of the church.

For many of us, this is where we start to squirm, thinking “I haven't been giving enough” or we start to check out, thinking, “Here comes the guilt trip to make me give more.” Perhaps we need to ask ourselves why we are squirming or why we might

feel guilty, but the real question is: “Are we being faithful stewards of what we have individually, and are we using those resources of time, money, gifts, and talents so that collectively we can continue becoming the beacon on the hill that God is calling us to be?”

We aren't just planning how to spend money with our budget; we are practicing **discernment, commitment, and accountability** to one another and to God. We are deciding what our ministry together will be and committing ourselves to supporting that ministry with our time, our gifts, and our money. These decisions are not just financial; rather, they are decisions of faithful discipleship, of weighing everything we do against the covenant we have made as a church, against the teachings of Jesus, and against the leadership of God's Spirit in our individual lives and our life together as a faith community.

Our covenant requires of us the hard work of giving systematically to support our ministry as God's church. It also requires of us sacrificial giving when there is a need. At this time when our offerings are insufficient to meet our budget and we are discussing extending our line of credit, it is time for us to look at our covenant, holding our budget and our giving against it to see if we are living into who we have promised to be. It is time to celebrate what we have been able to do and to ask, “Is that all God would have us do?” And it is time to renew our commitment to being God's church and to sharing God's love in God's world.

—April

Discernment & Search Committee Update

Advertising: We have made contact with individuals who help with placement at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the new Baptist seminaries and divinity schools. We have also placed ads in the following publications: *Baptists Today*, *Christian Century*, *The Other Side*, *Folio* (Baptist Women in Ministry), *Baptist Peacemaker* and *Connections* (Alliance of Baptists).

Applications: We are receiving resumes and applications for the position of pastor. We are inviting candidates to include a philosophy of ministry in their application, which includes how they understand the idea of working in partnership with another pastor and a ministry team.

Discernment: As a committee we continue to pray and talk together about how we can best discern among the candidates that enter into the process with us, to understand who will best fit into our context in terms of the job description, current ministry team, and our church over all. Please continue to pray with us and for us, and for the candidates.

If you are new to Glendale and want to know more about our process, we invite you to visit our website http://www.glendalebaptist.org/pastoral_search and to feel free to contact any of the members of the DSC with your questions or thoughts.

Sincerely,

Your Discernment and Search Committee

Eileen Campbell-Reed (chair), Louise Clifton, Jimmy Davis,
Christy Halbert, Jim Hiatt, Nell Magee, Dave Shepherd

ACLU HONORS CHRIS FERRELL

*The American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee will present its Legislative Lights Award to one of our members, **Chris Ferrell**, along with Eileen Beehhan "for their bold sponsorship of a sexual orientation anti-discrimination ordinance during their recent tenure on the Metro Nashville Council." The awards will be presented at the annual Bill of Rights Celebration dinner on November 8.*

----- Congratulations!

Belmont University's Circle magazine (Joan Yarborough, managing editor and Adrian Constant, contributing writer) recently received the Gold Award for best magazine in the Tennessee College Public Relations Association's annual competition. This is the second year in a row that the magazine has won the top award.

Benefit for Second Presbyterian Church

Ten Thousand Villages is holding a special sale on Sunday, November 2, 1-5 p.m. to benefit the rebuilding of Second Presbyterian Church. I hope you have already visited us, but if not, we are a non-profit gift store that supports artisans in developing countries by selling their crafts. Our store is located behind the Donut Den in Green Hills.

INTERIM PASTOR'S MUSINGS

The beginning of the Protestant Reformation is traditionally dated from Martin Luther's posting of his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on the Eve of All Saints Day (Oct. 31), 1517.

But the challenge of reforming and revitalizing the Church continues in every generation, and I believe that the Glendale Baptist Church is playing a vital and prophetic role in that reformation process, especially within the Baptist tradition.

It is not enough, however, for us to enjoy the fellowship of a progressive, open, welcoming "caring community of equality and grace." We must consider the kind of commitments which are required to maintain and strengthen this crucial witness.

One of those commitments is financial. For some the word "tithing" suggests legalism and conservatism. But if conservative churches are liberal in their giving, this doesn't have to mean that liberal churches are conservative in their giving. Let each of us consider his or her role in assuring that the mission and witness of the Glendale Baptist Church is fully funded.

—John Laney

TNT UPDATE

Tying Nashville Together is about to celebrate its 10th anniversary. This citizen action campaign trains Nashvillians to take responsibility for solving problems in our community and to renew citizen interest in public life. Glendale, as a founding partner congregation, has participated in TNT's emphasis on solving housing, education, and health care fairness issues, placing two members on the TNT Strategy Team for 2003-2004.

The TNT Strategy Team met most recently on October 13, 2003 at St. Ann's Episcopal Church. Under consideration were:

1. Scheduling meetings with newly elected councilpersons to reconfirm officials' commitment to educational, housing, and health care delivery progress advocated by TNT for Nashville.
2. Hosting the Southeast Regional IAF Assembly (anticipated attendance of 2,000) in conjunction with the celebration of TNT's 10th anniversary in March, 2004.
3. Creating a TNT book study group to discuss *Roots for Radicals: Organizing for Power, Action, and Justice*.
4. Preliminary discussion of a commemorative 40th anniversary "Freedom Summer" program, placing ten groups of ten college students each in diverse Tennessee communities (evenly involving students of differing races) to undertake projects under the supervision of TNT member churches akin to original Freedom Summer activities, such as voter registration, restoration of citizenship and voting rights for former inmates, and/or freedom schools.

Glendale remains committed to TNT via missions giving and member participation. For more information about TNT involvement or to participate in the study of *Roots for Radicals*, please contact Jennifer or Kreis White.

ROOM IN THE INN

Its time for another season of Room in the Inn to begin. This year there will be a couple of changes: We will be keeping 8-10 women (instead of men) each time, and we will have an additional night on Christmas Eve. So far, there have been no definite commitments for people to spend the night for any of the nights. Please review your schedules and see if that would be a possibility for you.

Dates:

November 7 & 21
December 5, 19 & 24***
January 2 & 16
February 6 & 20
March 5 & 19

Also, it would be good to have an alternate driver for the rental van on some of those evenings.

The Room In The Inn closet still has room for underwear and warm, large-size clothes.

Please contact Lisa Lehr if you have any questions or are able to help: hm 331-7776/470-3185 cell

*****Christmas Eve will not be sponsored by a deacons group; rather, it will be a special church-wide event. Please let Lisa know as soon as possible if you can participate in any way.**

Youth Happenings

The past month. . .

The **Titan's game and hotdogs** were the agenda for Sunday afternoon, October 5. April and Deborah hung out with the youth at Thomas' house for part of the afternoon, as well.

Thomas and a number of youth saw the **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** film at the Belcourt Theater on Wednesday, October 15.

Our own **Peter Sturdevant** starred as Hansel in the Olde Worlde Theatre production of *Hansel and Grete!* His mom, **Becky Way**, was the witch.

Things to come. . .

A youth retreat is planned for **Saturday night, November 15**, at Rau-Wood Retreat Center. The gathering time has yet to be determined. Watch the youth listserv for details.

Summer youth camp dates are tentatively set for June 27 – July 2. More details will be available after Thomas returns from the planning meeting in Atlanta, November 2-5.

The Great Glendale Gathering — A HOMECOMING —

Friday, Nov. 14 - Saturday, Nov. 15 at Rau-Wood
Special Homecoming Service - Sunday, Nov. 16 at Glendale

The Great Glendale Gathering is always a kind of homecoming event, and this year is even more special as we welcome friends and former members to be a part of the festivities. Come and meet Glendalers old and new, relive memories in story, song, and pictures, and make new memories as we gather together at Rau-Wood. Nestled in a bend of the South Harpeth River, Rau-Wood Retreat and Conference Center is located in southwestern Davidson County about 25-30 minutes away from church. Whether you stay the entire time or join us on Friday or Saturday, you won't want to miss this special Glendale tradition. On Sunday, Reverend Will D. Campbell, long-time friend of Glendale, will be preaching during our morning service at church. The Homecoming celebration will conclude with a potluck dinner following the service. To make reservations for Rau-Wood or for more information, please see Anne-Leslie.

Glendale's Fourth Visit to Cuba

Six members of Glendale Baptist Church will travel to Cuba on Thursday, November 6 to visit face-to-face with our partner church in Santa Clara, Cuba. The travel team will make Glendale's fourth trip to Cuba. The travel team includes our Associate Pastor April Baker, David Gooch, Laura Kendall, Nell Magee, Anne-Leslie Owens, and Don Schlosser.

Glendale's partner church in Santa Clara is La Iglesia Bautista Alberto J. Diaz (Alberto J. Diaz Baptist Church). On the final night of the trip, the Glendale travelers will worship with our partner congregation celebrating the first anniversary of the constitution of the church.

Our team will also attend the annual meeting of the Fraternidad de Iglesias Bautistas de Cuba (Fraternity of Baptist Churches of Cuba) in Havana at the William Carey Baptist Church. Our partner church in Santa Clara is the newest Fraternity church.

The travel group will carry greatly needed pharmaceuticals to Cuba for distribution through the Fraternity's medical assistance program. Glendale gets most of these medical supplies and drugs through CrossLink International, a not-for-profit group near Washington, D.C., which supplies Christian mission travelers with critically needed items for their destination country. In addition, Glendalers will take educational supplies (tablets, colored pencils/markers/crayons) to our partner church.

While in Santa Clara, the Glendale team will join Pastor Niubes in visiting the homes of some shut-ins of the church and will visit with participants in the new rural mission of our partner church in the nearby countryside community called "Yabu." The team will see some highlights of Havana and Santa

Clara, as well as Cuban countryside on the six-hour drive to Santa Clara.

In fulfilling the trip theme "Face-to-Face," the Missions Division is making photographs of Glendalers for the travelers to share with the members of our partner church on the evening of the first anniversary of the mission becoming a church. The travelers plan to bring back photos of the members of our partner congregation.

The travelers will take gifts Glendalers gave for another "Shower in a Suitcase" for the second child of our partner church's pastor, Niubes Montes de Oca, and her husband, Bernardo. The expected child (who "ultrasounds" like a boy) will join their one-year old daughter, Niubesita, later this fall.

The travel team is scheduled to leave Santa Clara early on Tuesday, November 11, and return to Nashville that same evening.

(David Gooch, Cuba Partner Coordinator, Missions Division)

Please consider the following:

How You Can Participate in the Fourth Visit to Cuba

- Pray for the travelers and the success of the trip
- Have your photograph made for the travelers to take with them to share with our partner congregation
- Continue to pray for our partner church
- Give your offerings to Glendale whose budget provides support for the trip
- Bring an infant gift for the "Shower in a Suitcase"
- Serve as a Prayer Partner for one of the travel team members

Kid's Corner



My dream world is that the world is not polluted so we can continue living in peace. The world can make it if we try. I know it will take a lot of money, but we can afford it.

—Esteban Montes, Age 10

A group of children and adults went to the Belcourt Theater on October 25 to see **Hansel and Gretel**, a production of the Olde Worlde Theatre. **Peter Sturdevant** starred as Hansel and **Becky Way** was the witch!

The children wore their **Halloween costumes** on Wednesday, October 29. We had some terrific characters in children's choir that night!

Faithful Friends is scheduled for **Sunday, November 23**. Since Will Campbell will preach on the third Sunday, November 16, Faithful Friends has been postponed a week.

The 1-2 year old room has **new toddler-size kitchen furniture**. The 3-4 year old room has a **new wooden "boat"** similar to the one in the younger classroom. This is a hit with the kids, so a new one was bought for the older group to enjoy. Both rooms also have new rugs.



Some Glendalers are traveling to Cuba to visit our friends there. They will leave on Nov. 6. Be sure to get a copy of their itinerary from April so you can learn a little about Cuba and pray for our travelers while they are there and for our friends in our Partner Church.