

~ Visions ~

LENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH

A caring community of equality and grace.

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ADVENT – A SEASON OF EAGER EXPECTATION

Advent reminds us that we don't so much celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus as much as the Incarnation, the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us full of grace and truth. We not only rejoice that Jesus came 2,000 years ago, but we live in anticipation and expectation of the ways that the living Christ continues to come to and confront us.

The four Sundays of Advent help inspire this spirit of expectation. As part of the processional in our Sunday worship services, some of our children will add items to a manger scene in preparation for the placing of the baby on Christmas Eve. During each of the worship services we will light the Advent candles, three purple and one rose. Purple is a symbol of penitence and humility as we focus on our continuing individual and corporate need for a redeemer. The rose candle on the third Sunday is a harbinger of the joy that will come to us.

On the first Sunday of Advent, **November 30**, we will light the candle of **hope** affirming the "hope is a star that shines in the night."

On the second Sunday of Advent, **December 7**, the lighting of the candle of **peace** will proclaim that "peace is a ribbon that circles the earth."

On the third Sunday of Advent, **December 14**, the rose candle will signify **joy**: "Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn."

On the fourth and final Sunday of Advent, **December 21**, the candle of **love** will reflect the faith that "Love is a flame that burns in our hearts."

The Advent Season prepares us for our **Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service** on Wednesday, December 24, at **6:30 p.m.** We will be reading the various parts of the biblical story of the nativity and singing the beloved Christmas carols which also retell the story. Since our church will be hosting **Room in the Inn**, we hope that some of the women who will be spending the night in the church as our guests will also join us for this inspiring service.

In addition to your own participation in all of these services, you are encouraged to invite your friends and neighbors, especially those who have no church home, to join us for these special services. Often people who don't worship regularly are open for invitations during special seasons such as Advent and Christmas.

Stories, Royalty, and Great Food Highlight the Great Glendale Gathering

Over 70 Glendalers and friends came together Friday night, November 14, at the Great Glendale Gathering held at Rau-Wood Retreat Center. Frenchie Fortenberry and Louise Clifton prepared hot homemade vegetable soup and bread, the perfect meal on this cool fall evening. Following dinner we had storytelling led by Bill Halbert. We learned what can happen when you priss around in a red slinky gown with a high slit and about the kindness of homeless men and Cracker Barrel employees and patrons when trying to get a cat out of a cave or a culvert. Another highlight of the evening was the Glendale Homecoming Court. Five couples made the final cut. They all wowed the audience but the unanimous favorite was our youngest couple, Davis Gooch and Walden Ferrell. While Davis played "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" on violin, Walden danced in circles. They were crowned by our reigning Queen of Glendale, Marjorie Halbert (who insists she will always be the Queen!). It was reported by Walden' s parents that

she awoke at 2 am to check on the whereabouts of her crown. On Saturday, Rhonda Pearson headed up the team that made a breakfast feast. After breakfast, many of the kids helped Julie Coulter make puppets and helped Anne-Leslie with the Cuba banner. Paul Davis, Jimmy Davis, Kreis White, and Josh White entertained with guitar and mandolin while others played games and enjoyed the fire. Just before lunch we had a worship service led by John Laney. Josh White and Davis Gooch accompanied on guitar and violin. Rosalyn Ramage arranged for a bar-b-que lunch that we topped off with a birthday cake for Sharon Hiett. Youth stayed Saturday night and reportedly played the card game Nertz into the wee hours of Sunday morning.

Thank you to everyone who attended the GGG and especially to those who helped plan and worked on this special Glendale tradition.

Anne-Leslie

The Rev. Will D. Campbell Preached at Homecoming Service

Glendale was honored to have the Rev. Will D. Campbell at the Sunday morning service following the Great Glendale Gathering. The pews where full as many members, guests, and visitors came to hear this noted civil rights advocate, author, and long-time friend of Glendale. It was a wonderful service, and we hope to have him as our guest preacher again soon.

Church Council Report – Quarterly Business Meeting – November 23, 2003

Your church council has been busy since our last report on August 17, 2003 at the Third Quarter Business Meeting. Let me remind you of some opportunities we have brought to you in this past quarter...

We have welcomed John Laney into the Glendale family. We hosted the Alliance of Baptists Board for Discussion and Dessert and had our first annual Glendale Artist Night.

An outdoor cleanup day followed the painting and repairing of the exterior of our building. We also had the windows cleaned and installed a new furnace.

A Friends of Glendale Letter was mailed previous members and fellow travelers who have indicated their support of our church and a Friends page was added to our website.

Nashville Family Pride, a family support group, will use our building for periodic meetings. The Baptist Peace Fellowship Board held their meeting at Glendale. We enjoyed guests Bente Claussen's discussion regarding the Separation of church and State and Jenny Eaton's presentation about AIDS of Africa.

We received a letter from our friends at Belmont Heights Baptist Church and have done follow-up in preparing to meet with their Reconciliation Team.

Room in the Inn got started for the season. We made our 4th trip to Cuba.

The Great Glendale Gathering/Homecoming Weekend had its largest attendance on Friday night that anyone can remember and we enjoyed Will Campbell leading our morning worship and a great pot luck dinner to finish the weekend.

We are preparing for the Advent Season including Room in the Inn on Christmas Eve.

Much of our time and energy has been focused on our financial status the preparation of the proposed Budget for 2004. The council has been in discussion with the Treasurer's Office as well as the Budget and Finance Committee regarding our financial future. We will continue to discuss these issues and develop a plan for addressing them. As side from these concerns, the council is most pleased with the "state of the church" .

Discernment and Search Committee - Update

We will be bringing you updates and more information in the weeks ahead. If you need or want additional information about how we have come to the place we are now in the discernment and search process, you can:

- * **take a look at the bulletin board in the church foyer,**
- * **visit our church web site www.glendalebaptist.org and look at the "pastoral search" pages,**
- * **or email us at search@glendalebaptist.org**

Our most pressing need at this time is your prayer for us and for the candidates who are entering into this process with us. Please continue to pray with the committee as we are reading resumes and discerning who among the candidates will be the best fit for our congregation. Also, please pray for the candidates: this is risky business to consider uprooting oneself and one's family, changing the place one works and lives, and starting something new. They are all people in transition, too.

Thanks be to God for traveling mercies as we make our way through this world!

Sincerely,

Your Discernment and Search Committee

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

Dec. 10 Children's Choir will share their musical gifts by presenting a Christmas musical, *The Surprising Christmas Pageant* by Dennis Hartin. This comic pageant tells the story of Christ's birth, reminding us that God's grace and love are new every day.

Youth Happenings

The past month. . .

The **youth retreat** on Saturday night, November 15, at Rau-Wood Retreat Center was great! Rhonda Pearson and Kreis White stayed overnight with Thomas and the youth. Everyone was a little weary when they arrived at church on Sunday morning, but that was evidence that all had fun into the early morning hours!

The **youth band** met on November 23 for a rehearsal. Everyone else went to lunch and a movie after church.

Thomas attended the first **planning session** for next summer's **Baptist Youth Camp** in July. The theme for camp will focus on creation.

Things to come. . .

Youth will **narrate the children's musical, *The Surprise Christmas Pageant***, on Wednesday, December 10.

Requested Recipe

Thanks for your enthusiastic response to the the Friday evening meal at the Gathering. Frenchie and I enjoyed preparing it for you. Many of you requested the recipe for the cornbread which follows. It came to me from Anne Leslie. Thanks, Anne Leslie. Thanks, too, for your hard work on the Gathering. We all enjoyed it. Louise

Broccoli Cornbread

- 1 stick margarine
- 2 boxes or pkgs corn bread mix
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 4 large eggs
- 8 oz. cottage cheese
- 10 oz chopped broccoli, thawed

Pre-heat oven to 350-400. Melt margarine in 9 x 13 pan. Mix rest of ingredients and pour into melted margarine. Cook 35-40 minutes until browned.

—Louise Clifton

Kid's Corner



*If we all loved each other we would not fight.
We would hold hands. We would share.
—Ramdaye Singh, age 5, Trinidad*

There will be a special **Faithful Friends** on the first Sunday of Advent, **November 30**. April Baker and Don Schlosser will lead the children as they learn about the meaning of Advent. Children are invited to participate in the celebration of Advent each of the following Sundays with the entire congregation.

Ten children attended the **Great Glendale Gathering**. Many of them helped Anne-Leslie Owens assemble the new Cuba banner.

Thanks to **Joy and Richard Smith** for the two new **rocking chairs** in the baby room!

A **children's team** has met twice this fall. This group keeps visioning goals at the forefront. Issues currently being addressed include children's safety in and around the church, creation of a children's game room, and Advent education. Members of the team include April Baker, Molly Boyd, Julie Coulter, Lanita Harris, Chalene Helmuth, and Linda Ray Miller.

The children's choir will perform ***The Surprise Christmas Pageant*** on **Wednesday, December 10**. Everyone is invited to attend.

The children will host **Room in the Inn** on **Friday, January 16**. All children are invited to help prepare dinner and the sack lunches, as well as eat with the guests on Friday evening. Older elementary children, grades 3-6, will spend the night upstairs, and help clean up on Saturday morning as the guests prepare to leave. More details will follow.

Larry Cohen has joined Jennifer White in teaching the **3 - 4 year old Sunday School** class. Thank you, Larry!

Passport KIDS! Camp

Who?

Children who are currently in grades 3-6 plus April and/or Julie.

What?

A four-day camp experience with an emphasis on missions, recreation, Bible study designed especially for kids, and learning about another culture.

When?

July 8-11

Where ?

Clyde M. York 4-H Center, Crossville, TN

Cost ?

\$189 per person

Registration begins December 1. Please sign up on sheet on April's door if you would like to participate in this camp experience!