



VISIONS

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My Chosen Place

What you are about to read is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God:

Until I came to Glendale, I was not a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7). I gave to my former churches because it was the right thing to do. I knew it took money to keep up the building, pay the staff, blah, blah, blah. So I wrote those checks, which provided me some “guilt abatement,” as I like to call it, and a hint of self-righteousness to boot.

Then I visited Glendale. I can't say for sure when the first miracle of cheerful giving happened. I do know that at the beginning of each service, I would be minding my own business, perusing the bulletin. Without warning, my hand would plunge into my handbag and pull out my checkbook, as if without instruction from my brain. I would start writing a check to Glendale, and lo and behold, the amount of the check was larger than the checks I'd been writing to my former churches. I did not understand or approve of this at all. At this point each week, my Outer Miser tried to argue with my Inner Giver, but the giver, ever cheerful and insistent, won out every time.

Here's the amazing part: it still happens. Every Sunday.

I can't say for sure what causes the recurring miracle. But I do know that every week when I walk in the door, April or Amy will cross my path, give me a hug and ask me how I'm doing. And I know that when I see Evie and Lara, they will call out, “Miss Beverly!” and I know then and there that all's right with my world. Later in the morning, after I've had the pleasure of spending Sunday School time with many of your children, I'll enter the sanctuary, wondering what outstanding visual offerings Julie O'Neal and Beth Walker have prepared for me. (I've never been disappointed.) And sometime between the moment when I sit down and the moment the offertory music begins (having heard all manner of wonderful words and music by that point); my hand will start digging for my checkbook. Another Sunday at Glendale, another miracle.

If Glendale is YOUR chosen place, take a moment to think about what Glendale means to you, and then... get in touch with your Inner Giver. I bet yours is cheerful, too.

- Beverly Feinstein

Visions is a monthly newsletter of
Glendale Baptist Church
A Caring Community of
Equality and Grace

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For over 50 years, we have worked as a congregation, learning together what this mission of becoming a "caring community of equality and grace" truly means. As a result, we endeavor to celebrate all of God's creation and we welcome all persons to worship with us, regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation.

At Glendale, we value relationships and partnerships ecumenically as well as within the Baptist family. We are officially affiliated with the Alliance of Baptists, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, and the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. Our other relationships include a local ecumenical partnership with the Disciples of Christ churches and the United Church of Christ churches in Nashville, a partnership with Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in New Orleans, LA, and a partnership with Iglesia Bautista Alberto J. Díaz in Santa Clara, Cuba.

A Message from the Ramages

The vigil beside my mother's bed has ended. She died peacefully on January 31st with all four daughters at her bedside and with her son arriving soon thereafter. After being with her these past days/weeks, we now have a new understanding of the words "may she rest in peace." This prolonged time of waiting and watching has turned out to be a time of family togetherness and bonding which we have not ever experienced in quite this way. And for that we are thankful.

We are grateful to you – our Glendale family – for your messages and calls as well as for the thoughts and prayers which have enveloped us during this time. That bubble of love has certainly helped sustain us over the past days and weeks.

With love to you all,
 Rosalyn and Don

Dear Friends,

It has been ten months since my heart nearly decided it was done and I wasn't sure I would be here with you now. You have held me in your thoughts and prayers through the months, visited me in the hospital when I had surgeries and at home, and brought delicious food that helped strengthen me enough to rejoin you on Sunday mornings. Thank you for being the community that I call my Glendale family.

Dot Pearigen

To Our Glendale Family

We say so-long; not goodbye. The kind and gentle awakening at Glendale replaced the rude awakening we had already experienced. We have been at Glendale almost five years. Glendalers will remain part of our hearts; a comfort on which to contemplate in times of trouble; an oasis when we need to find a smile; a place where friends reside. Thank you so much for the wonderful years of healing and growing and for the rich blessings and sending-out; as a part of our worshipping together. Please continue to include us a part of your prayers as we do the same for you.

Blessings and peace,
 Rev. Elise and Joni Elrod



souperbowl.org

GBC's Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 3rd is Super Bowl Sunday AND Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday.

As we have in the past, Glendale's youth will be collecting cash contributions after Sunday's worship service for the Luke 14:12 soup kitchen.

Please plan to join us for worship on Sunday, February 3rd and give whatever you can to support this worthy cause.

We are on a mission to fight hunger and poverty. You can help.

More than 15 years ago on a Super Bowl Sunday, a single youth group was inspired by a simple prayer. They started the Souper Bowl of Caring, a youth-led movement that is now an international event.

Since 1990, the Souper Bowl of Caring has raised more than \$33 million for individual charities across the country. It is also turning our nation's biggest weekend of football into its largest weekend of giving.

Each year, tens of thousands of our nation's youth put God's love into action through the Souper Bowl of Caring. You can help them feel the significance of caring for others.

Drop a dollar in a soup pot today as you leave worship. Your donation will go directly to a charity right here in our community. With your help, more dollars will be raised, more lives will be changed, and more young people will experience the joy of serving Christ by serving others.

"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat"



souperbowl.org

Glendale's "Acoustic Road Shows"

If you've heard about the Acoustic Road Shows that occur from time to time at various Glendale homes and have never experienced one, please plan to join us on **Saturday, February 9th at 7:00 PM** at the home of Julie Coulter. Jon Neergaard, Thom Elsberry and David Wood are as good as anyone you'll hear at the Bluebird Café, even better according to unbiased Glendaleers! Hot and cold drinks will be provided. Bring a munchie to share, if you like, and join your friends for some good music (see Julie for directions and parking instructions).

Since you can never have too much of a good thing, a second show has just been announced for **Saturday, February 23rd at 6:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. In addition to the music, Mike Awalt (along with Frenchie Fortenberry) will be preparing a Mexican fiesta for all who are interested in attending. The dinner cost is **\$5.00 per person**, and reservations can be made with Frenchie or through the church office.



Another Tale of Glendale's Amazing Children

Glendale's children hosted Room In The Inn on January 18. As usual, these amazing children prepared sack lunches, served dessert and made friends with guests at a few of the tables. Evie, Jackson, Carson (Jackson's friend), Kimber and Reid spent the night in the foyer with Julie as has been the tradition. There's nothing like sleeping on the foyer floor when the heat kicks on and the floor vibrates. (If you use your imagination, it's kind of like a massage!) They experienced a classic black and white Disney movie, *The Shaggy Dog*, with Fred MacMurray, while munching on popcorn and pretzels. The morning came early, but this crew set the speed record on crawling out of sleeping bags and heading downstairs to help with breakfast. Indeed, these are truly amazing children!

From the Worship Division: Lent Is Just Around the Corner!

From Epiphany on January 6 until Ash Wednesday on February 6 (Vespers with a special speaker), we have been and are experiencing 27 days of Ordinary Time, just a brief breathing space this year, it seems. Hardly time to prepare ourselves for Lent. Except that we must. In our meeting on January 2, the Worship Ministry began imagining and planning for a Lenten Season which is just ahead. We came from the meeting to suggest the theme of Pilgrimage, which our pastors and staff began to work with. We will soon have more details for you, but right now, the ideas are just beginning to come together. We hope this suggestion will begin to put us all into a journeying mode. It is an idea that can give us an impetus for moving through the many events of this central period of our church life and our own spiritual lives.

Growing requires changing, learning, experiencing new ideas. We will be on a challenging walk together along a new road which will lead us straight --- or maybe not so straight --- to Holy Week and Easter. We are up to it though, because "We are [already] travelers on a journey, fellow pilgrims on the road..." Remember? W. S. Merwin says in one of his poems, "...we are words on a journey, not inscriptions of a settled people." We will be hearing other lines from this work as we go along. Look around for your traveling shoes! It will be Lent soon, and we need to be ready.

- Beth Murray Walker

Green Tips for February...

Join the Green Team for Dinner and Conversation

Dr. Matthew Sleeth will join Glendale on Wednesday, February 6, for dinner, conversation, and Ash Wednesday services. Dr. Sleeth is giving public presentations at Vanderbilt on Thursday, Feb 6 from 4-5 (Benton Chapel) and at Belmont on Friday, Feb 8 from 10-11 (Bunch library multimedia room). The author of *Serve God, Save the Planet*, Dr. Sleeth shares his family's experiences of living a simpler lifestyle.

From his website (<http://www.servegodsavetheplanet.org/>): "Five years ago, Dr. J Matthew Sleeth and his family lived in a big house on the coast, had two luxury cars and many material possessions. As chief of the medical staff at a large hospital, Sleeth was living the American dream—until he realized that something was terribly wrong. As he saw patient after patient suffering from cancer, asthma, and other chronic diseases, he began to understand that the earth and its inhabitants were in trouble. Feeling helpless, he turned to his faith for guidance. He discovered how the Scriptural lessons of personal responsibility, simplicity, and stewardship could be applied to modern life. The Sleeths have since sold their big home and given away more than half of what they once owned."

Please join the Green Team for this conversation!



Room In the Inn

Glendale has participated in a city-wide homeless ministry called Room In The Inn since 1987, and we are one of only four congregations that have been involved for over 20 years.

Room In The Inn is part of the work of a local organization called the Campus for Human Development, a Christian mission that ministers to the needs of homeless persons in Nashville.

Room In The Inn is a cooperative effort of more than 150 church congregations that provide shelter and meals to homeless persons during the winter months. In the past year, 28,522 beds were provided to 1,033 different individuals, and 46% of these homeless persons were first-time guests.

During the 2007–2008 Room In The Inn season, Glendale has hosted 69 guests during 7 different nights. Four deacon groups have been responsible for a night each, the children hosted one night, and two nights have been hosted by the congregation at large. We've also seen participation by persons from outside our congregation, including friends of members and (we're especially proud to say) some families from the neighborhood around our church facilities.

Persons who have driven the van include David Shepherd, John Hill, Jim Hiatt, Paul Rockey, and Jim Fey. Church members who have been "overnight innkeepers" include George O'Neal, Stewart Clifton, Paul Davis, Paul Rockey, David Shepherd, Tracy Fisher, Kylene Dibble and Jeremy Tuchmayer, Thomas Conner, Craig Maynard, Rand Carpenter, Linda Ray Miller and MAT, and Doug Trotter. A hearty word of thanks goes out to these volunteers.

We have four nights of responsibility for Room In The Inn remaining this season and still have openings for persons to spend the night at church with our guests. Although it can be a physically demanding experience to "pull an all-nighter" at church, it's rewarding to get to know these guys and greet the new days with them. Please contact Kylene Dibble or Rand Carpenter if you're interested in participating in this ministry in any way.



**Happy Birthday to You
February Babies!**
(CHA, CHA, CHA)

01 - Quenton
02 - Jeremy Tuchmayer
03 - Bill Halbert
03 - David Wilson
04 - Suzanne Smith Blokland
04 - George O'Neal
09 - Pat Sapp
15 - Zack
21 - Johnson Clifton
22 - Stephanie Wyatt
23 - Adam Carr
24 - Lyndi Hewitt
25 - Beverly Bernard
25 - Rand Carpenter
25 - Poli Polidoro
27 - Jill Webb-Hill

Wednesday Night Program Schedule

February 6th
Ash Wednesday

February 13th
St. Valentine's Day
Celebration

February 20th
Appreciative Inquiry

February 27th
Vespers

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	WED MENU	THU	FRI	SAT
						2/1 Room In the Inn (hosted by the Webb-Dyer Deacon Group)	2/2
February 3rd 8:30 Handbell Choir 9:00 First Sunday Breakfast <i>hosted by Bible@Glendale.etc</i> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 GBC String Ensemble 11:45 Deacon Ministry Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	2/4	2/5	2/6 5:15 Adult Choir 5:45 Dinner 6:45 Ash Wednesday Service	Menu Griddle night! Grilled Cheese Sandwiches and Cream of Tomato Soup	2/7	2/8	2/9 Acoustic Road Show (7:00 PM @Coulter Home)
February 10th 8:30 Handbell Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service	2/11	2/12 Luke 14:12 6:00 Church Council	2/13 5:15 Adult Choir 5:45 Dinner 6:45 St. Valentine's Day Celebration	Menu Barbeque, Baked Beans, Salad & Bread	2/14	2/15 Room In the Inn (hosted by the Crowell Deacon Group)	2/16
February 17th 8:30 Handbell Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 GBC String Ensemble 5:30 GBC Quarterly Business Meeting	2/18 Deadline to submit Visions info.	2/19	2/20 5:15 Adult Choir 5:45 Dinner 6:45 Appreciative Inquiry	Menu Soup or Chili, Salad & Bread	2/21	2/22 Peace Jam	2/23 Peace Jam (cont.) Acoustic Road Show & Mexican Fiesta (Fellowship Hall - 6:00 PM)
February 24th Peace Jam (cont.) 8:30 Handbell Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service	2/25	2/26	2/27 5:15 Adult Choir 5:45 Dinner 6:45 Vespers	Menu Make your own sandwich from the sandwich bar	2/28		

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