

~ Visions ~

GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH
a caring community of equality and grace

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Church Council Report
August 22, 2004

This is an important time for this Church Council. We are quickly approaching the final days of a two year term of service for this Council. It has truly been a pleasure to sit with this group and to be a part of their planning and decision-making in times of concern and in times of celebration.

We have learned about one another, and hopefully we have led the church to learn more about itself and the paths it has chosen for the journey. We have made “sticky wall” a household phrase in our discussions about visioning for our church, Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth as well as Rightly Dividing the Wealth! We spent many of our first months together dealing with the press and wondering when we would get the opportunity to just get back to being church. A few weeks ago, we

came full circle with a half-page story about the Appalachian Backpack Mission, and the AP hasn't been the least bit interested. It felt good to again be doing God's work in this room with our church family and sharing that story with the rest of Nashville. We have many new faces at Glendale during these last two years. Some of those faces have accepted leadership roles and can be seen in our new Council for the 2004-05 church year. We can be proud of our work together over these past two years, providing the foundation that will support the continuation of many projects in the days ahead.

Please express your thanks to all those who have served as your church council from 2002-2004.

Martha Jo Berry

WE WENT TO THE MOUNTAINS

On August 7, 2004 a caravan of six vehicles loaded with Glendalers and backpacks headed for the Appalachian Mountains and Jefferson City, Tennessee. You could feel the energy from the entire church as we unloaded the cars and set up for distribution to children and parents who were already lined up anxiously waiting our arrival.

The Appalachian Outreach staff had the delivery well organized. As students were registered at the front of the parking lot gate (thank goodness for the beautiful day God gave us), each of us would greet and take them to the top of the hill and give them one of our backpacks. Some had come with special needs, and thanks to the generosity of so many, we had extras to fill those needs. We heard many comments from parents and grandparents, stating that these schools supplies were “truly a godsend to them,” . . . and we knew they meant it.

When the day was over and our group left for home, we were tired, but with the “good tired” that comes from doing good work. That day, we were God's hands and feet, but we saw God's face in the smiles of the children in the parking lot.

The Missions Division would like once again to thank each and every one of you who sent us to the mountains with such enthusiasm. Your money, your time, your prayers, and your encouragement are what made this project possible.

And all God's children (and the Missions Division) said AMEN.

Discernment Search Committee - August Update

Over a year ago, we thoughtfully and prayerfully developed a process of discernment and search. We have been transparent with those expressing interest in Glendale because our goal is to find a good fit between a new co-pastor and us. We have also been as frank with the church as confidentiality would allow because you have trusted and supported us in everything we have done.

We came to the end of engaging with several candidates, but none developed into a call for a variety of reasons. Though at first we were disappointed, it is completely clear in hindsight that our process is indeed sound because none of these candidates would have been the right match for us.

We did not start over from scratch but within two weeks had nearly a dozen resumes to evaluate, several of them outstanding – the best yet.

We did not feel at liberty to give the church this much detail in our last report because we had candidates who needed to be released. We wanted to communicate with them directly and not have them hear through the grapevine that we were not interested in them.

We are moving quickly toward finding someone who will be a good fit for us and us for them. We are also moving on the parallel processes, i.e. preparing for our new co-pastor, which include the following:

- Financial compensation for co-pastors
- Space renovation and clean up
- Computers
- Sound system
- Integration of new staff with existing staff
- By-laws: what needs to be changed
- Website - updated

We need the following support from the church at this point to prepare for our new co-pastors:

- Your continued prayer as we move forward.
- Your leadership and elbow grease to spiff up, clean up our physical plant. This is no different than when you have planned a big party at your home. You clean and repair things that have needed updating for some time and that the whole family will enjoy. However, the upcoming party gives you a goal and a focus for completion. The arrival of our new co-pastor gives us an opportunity to make the church more attractive and comfortable for all of us.
- Your serious consideration of how to best prepare for our new co-pastors financially.

We take seriously your trust and patience and are excited about finding a co-pastor who will join with April and the congregation in continuing to become a community of equality and grace.

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

Interim Committee

April Baker, the Associate Pastor of Glendale Baptist Church, will assume duties beginning September 1, 2004, to serve as **Associate Pastor with Interim Duties**. We are very grateful to have April moving into this role, which will be in effect until we hire another staff member, at which time April and the new person will begin their new roles as Co-Pastors.

Blessing the Animals

The vespers service on Wednesday, August 11 was quite lively! Glendale's brought their beloved animals of all shapes and sizes for this special service. Due to rain, we ate dinner and held the vespers service in a Fellowship Hall full of people, cats, and dogs. April and Stephanie led us in this service and were, at times, accompanied by the wonderful noises of the animals!

Heifer International Read to Feed

The **children's summer reading club**, sponsored by the Glendale library, ended on August 8. 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. The children (and a few adults!) raised money to buy gifts of livestock for struggling families who have few resources and need an ongoing source of income. During Faithful Friends on August 29, the children will select the animals/trees they will purchase with the money.

Needle Nuts

Needle Nuts will meet at the home of Connie Gowen on Saturday, September 18, at 10:00a.m. Experienced and novice knitters (and those doing other types of handiwork) are invited to attend.

Habitat Build

Lynn Reed is coordinating Glendale's involvement in a Habitat for Humanity Build again this year. Mark Saturday, October 2, on your calendar. Details will be available soon.

Worship and Missions division to emphasize Second Harvest Food Bank in Fall

In early summer, the Worship Division provided a display called "A Bountiful Feast" for a CBF meeting in Birmingham. We will be using that display, along with our Psalm banners, in the church this fall to call us to awareness of the great feast set before us and the great need that surrounds us, much of it pertaining to hunger.

We are asking that Glendalers bring food for Second Harvest Food Bank from the first Sunday in September (5th) through the second Sunday in November (14th). We ask that you make this a matter of real concern within your families or as individuals—that you bring something every Sunday and that you remember to ask God's blessing on the food, the givers, and the receivers. The Mission Division will provide a list of most-needed items and will coordinate the delivery of the food you bring.

In Matthew 25, we have Jesus' words: ". . . the righteous will answer . . . , 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food . . . ?' and the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'" Let us all see Jesus in everyone who needs food, as well as in each other and in ourselves.

CBF Donates \$12,000 to Aid Flood Victims

In response to devastating floods in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, the Fellowship is donating \$12,000 to aid organizations that serve the two countries.

Torrential rain left in its wake more than 2,600 dead and missing in Haiti and more than 700 dead and missing in the neighboring Dominican Republic, according to the *New York Times*.

In response, the Fellowship is sending \$10,000 to World Vision, earmarked for Haitian aid efforts, and \$2,000 to Baptist World Aid, earmarked for the Dominican Republic.

Earlier this year, the Fellowship announced a partnership in Haiti with World Vision, the largest Christian relief development agency in the world. In keeping with the Fellowship's commitment to meet the needs of the most neglected, Haiti was chosen because its people suffer from challenging socioeconomic problems, stemming from a history of governmental instability and abuse.

Worship Division

THANK YOU, Karen Turner, for your excellent leadership in worship this summer. Our focus on Sabbath has been meaningful and timely for us as individuals and as a congregation in transition. The creative ways in which you have led us have challenged and encouraged us to focus more on being a Sabbath people. Thank you for all that you have done.

Karen will be on sabbatical during the months of September and October. May your time, Karen, be renewing and refreshing. We will miss you and will look forward to your return.

Companions in Christ

Companions in 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. Glendale has had three groups since the fall of 2002 who have use the Companions in Christ material as well as the Way of Forgiveness. Sample materials are on the table in the foyer. If you are interested in participating in a new group to begin in the fall, please let Julie Coulter or David Reeves know. An informational meeting will be scheduled for mid-September.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING

The Wednesday night programming for September is as follows:

September 1	Small Group Meetings and Fellowship
September 8	Vespers
September 15	TBA
September 22	TBA
September 29	TBA

ARTS AND CRAFTS AT THE GLENDALE GALLERY

The Glendale Gallery is looking for artists and crafts-makers for Artists' Night 2004, to be held on Sunday, September 12, 6-8 pm. Invite members, visitors, and neighbors; all are welcome to participate!!

All mediums are encouraged: painting, photography, sculpture, glass, wood, and fiber. Needle Nuts, this is your chance to show off the items you have been crocheting and knitting!! All kinds of handwork are welcome. Up to three pieces per person will be accepted on Sunday morning, September 12 in Fellowship Hall. 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." At 6 p.m. we'll enjoy live music and conversation as we view the exhibits.

If you would like to assist in setting up, please see Anne-Leslie Owens. All artists must SIGN UP on the Membership Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall.

GREAT GLENDALE GATHERING

Great Glendale Gathering, a church-wide, fun-filled event will be held October 29-30, at Rau-Wood Retreat and Conference Center just outside Nashville. More details to follow. See Lyndi Hewitt if you would like to help plan this event.

GLENDALE YARD SALE

The Glendale Yard Sale Newsletter is ready and may be picked up at the table in the foyer or viewed on the GBC website. The Glendale Yard Sale will be held Saturday, October 9. Proceeds will benefit Glendale's children's ministry. See Sharon Hiatt or Anne-Leslie Owens if you would like to help plan this event or have any questions.

NOTE: There are lots of jobs to be done: advertising, pricing, setting up, answering questions, taking money, counting money, directing traffic, cleaning up, hauling left-over items, etc. Everyone can start now by weeding through your attics, basements, and closets for items to sell. We will collect items at church beginning Sunday, October 3.

Youth Happenings

The past month. . .

The first Sunday in August was a lot of fun for those who went to **lunch and bowling** after church. The youth tried out the Italian restaurant, Maffazio's.

Thanks to the youth who **played games with the children** on Wednesday evening, August 4!

Jonas, Evelyn, Josh, Matthew and Rachel helped the children serve lunch at **Edgehill Soup Kitchen** on August 10.

On August 7, Evelyn and Rachel made the trip to the Appalachian Outreach Center in Jefferson County, TN. The **Appalachian Backpack Project** provided a great opportunity for all to be involved. Rachel, Matthew, Evelyn, and Josh helped pack everything up on Friday evening before the trip.

The Sisson/Davis household hosted a **back-to-school celebration** on August 12. Everyone made his or her own pizza bagels!

Things to come. . .

A **fall planning meeting** for youth parents and youth is scheduled for Sunday, August 29 after the worship service. Please bring lunch items to share for a potluck.

Hello Glendale!

I gave some of you my email before I left. However, there was a whole mess of numbers in my address, which probably made it hard to remember. I have recently discovered a feature of yahoo where you can have several yahoo addresses go to the same account (but a different color & if I chose a different older than my in-box). This comes in handy because my inbox gets cluttered very fast. If anyone wants to send me an email, send it to: omegaeagle2000-glendalebaptist@yahoo.com

All emails sent to this address will go into a special folder in my yahoo account named (Glendale Baptist).

On a different note, Alaska is a lot of fun. I also saw Joy Gooch the week before last--that was nice.

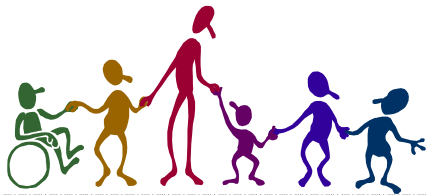
Hey, catch ya'll later.

(Chow)

REGARDS

Theo Lehr

Kid's Corner



Keep your heart clean with peace. Don't get it dirty with greed. It is not too late to clean it.

—Kaila Spencer

Children's choir, for grades K-6, will resume on Wednesday, September 1. All are invited to join Linda Ray Miller as they sing and create music in many ways.

The children (and a few adults!) did a great job raising money for **Heifer International's Read to Feed** program. We will select our animals during **Faithful Friends on Sunday, August 29**, after all the money has been collected. Thanks to Joy Gooch, Lanita Harris, and Bev Bernard for organizing this wonderful endeavor.

Liza and her friend, Addie, served lunch at **Edgehill Soup Kitchen** on Tuesday, August 10, along with some youth, Stephanie, April, and Julie. Liza and Addie were wonderful servers who brought smiles to the faces of many lunch guests.

Faithful Friends is scheduled for Sunday, September 19. **Celebrate!** will also return on this date.