

~ Visions ~

LENDALE 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

A Pastor's Perspective

Over the past few weeks I have heard several references to our Visioning process from the fall of 2002. It seemed a good time to pull out those documents that we created from our ideas that we put up on the "sticky wall," the results of our surveys, our collective distillation of the information we gathered in our conversations. Amy and I sat down with some of those documents and, with highlighters in hand, we marked the items according to what we are observing: yellow for those things we've achieved, green for those that are in process, pink for those that we see little evidence of —yet, blue for the ones that two years ago might have made sense, but might need to be examined a little differently now. The delightful discovery is that most of the page is green and yellow. In many areas, we are living into what we said we wanted to be.

One page is titled "What Do We Want to See in Place in Three to Five Years?" Our responses to that question included things like

- "be a beacon"
- develop a strategy for ecumenical partnerships
- be a powerful voice in the community
- involve children and youth in missions
- be community leaders in reaching out to those who are poor and disenfranchised
- create a unique model of pastoral staffing (I don't know that it's unique, but it's different!)
- use our space to create community
- have a safe and fun playground for preschool and school-age children
- be more engaged with the Bible
- have ongoing diverse worship experiences
- have authentic evangelistic outreach that tells good news

Surprisingly, one of the pinkest areas on the page was the section titled "Nurture Community through Relationships." The items in that category pointed us toward more ways for folks to interact in small groups and across generations. One of my favorite suggestions in that box is "coerce intergenerational play." I don't usually find Glendalers in need of being coerced into play. Maybe encouraged a bit, though. So, we'll encourage each other to play over the coming months. Our summer theme is "A Sacred Call to Holy Play." And as we play together, we will create more opportunities to continue nurturing the strong relationships of this community, and with the new friends we are making. Look for times to gather in a playful spirit and share the beauty of God's creation. Watch for opportunities for conversation with other Glendalers in small group settings. Be ready for a surprise or two. Join us for a summer of celebrating the playfulness of God's Spirit in our midst as we continue to live into the vision that God is revealing to us.

As I was finishing this article, Amy handed me a quote from Kobi Yamada. It seems particularly appropriate as an ending:

"Embrace your uniqueness. Time is too short to be living someone else's life."

Peace,
 April

Don't miss Kate Campbell performing at Glendale April 29

Country/folk singer and civil rights advocate, Kate Campbell, will perform here at Glendale at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29. The concert is a benefit for [Room in the Inn](#), Nashville's shelter program for the homeless. Glendale has participated in Room in the Inn since its beginning in 1985.

The price of admission at the door will be \$15; \$10 for ages 17 & under.

Growing up in Mississippi and Nashville, Kate found the people and culture of the modern South to be inspiration for her songs. The singer-songwriter, daughter of a Baptist preacher, uses her songs to chronicle and interpret societal changes below the Mason-Dixon line. Many songs on her 12 CDs feature themes from civil rights struggles since the '60s.

A Boston Globe writer said: "Her songs artfully skirt the border between country and folk with a few blues twists." The fact that virtually every song she's written and recorded (on 12 CDs) is regularly requested on her solo acoustic tours shows the high quality and durability of her music.

Playground Project Workday - April 30

Come one, come all! It's time to pull up fencing and playground equipment to prepare for the installation of our new playground. The Playground Project was approved at the special called business meeting on April 10, 2005. To begin preparation, there will be a **workday on Saturday, April 30, 8:30 a.m.** We need lots of folks to tear down the current equipment and fence. The swing sets and fencing will be stored and other pieces will be taken to the dump (unless someone would like them!). Then we'll be ready for the land to be leveled to prepare for our new playground.

Help us prepare for a safe and fun playground for our children. There will even be park benches for grown-ups, but that doesn't mean they can't hang on the monkey bars if they're adventuresome!

New Members Dinner/Celebration

The Membership Division is planning to celebrate all the members who have joined us at Glendale during the past year. Last May we celebrated at the Nashville Zoo. This year we will be back in our own Fellowship Hall on **SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 22, STARTING AT 5:30 p.m.** Details about the fun/information-filled event will be circulated soon, but, in the meantime, mark your calendars and plan to come and participate. You won't want to miss it!

Mark your calendars for the Glendale Ice Cream Social!

Get your ice cream churn out of storage and get ready to bring your favorite recipe to church on Sunday June 5 at 5:30 p.m.. You may also bring fruit or baked goods, but the main item is ICE CREAM!

SPECIAL OFFERING OPPORTUNITY

The church in a special-called business meeting on Sunday, April 10, approved moving forward with a plan to replace and expand the children's playground. Beginning Sunday, April 24, Special Offering envelopes are available in the pews for you to use in giving to the children's playground. The plan for the remodeled, safer playground includes grading the area, purchasing new play sets, providing picnic tables and park benches and putting up some new fencing. Almost \$4000 was raised to start this effort at the yard sale last year. In addition to your regular Sunday offerings to support the work of Glendale, please help raise the additional \$14,000 needed for this project by contributing in one of the Special Offering envelopes.

Your Stewardship Committee

Primetimers

On May 3, the first Tuesday in May, Primetimers will meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of gluing copies of the newly revised covenants and "The Servant Song" in the back of the church hymnals.

We will then share a salad lunch (which will be potluck) and enjoy fellowship over our meal. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

Needle Nuts will meet Saturday, May 21, at 10:00 a.m. Novice and expert knitters and such will gather at a place yet to be determined.

Thank You

Glendale Baptist Church has the most caring and compassionate folk in the world, for which I have extra reason to appreciate. Thank you, all of you, for all you have done, and continue to do, for me in these long weeks of recuperation from knee surgery. I thank God for all of you.

Nell Magee

Nominating Committee Preparing to “Call Forth Gifts”

Thanks for the many suggestions offered on Calling Forth Gifts. We have compiled and are studying your ideas. It's not too late if you didn't get 'round to returning your form or if you are inspired with additional thoughts – just email or give your sheet to any of us on the committee. Additional forms are in the foyer.

More important, remember in your prayers each member in our community of faith and this committee, too. This is a formative and creative time in the life of our church. We must each carefully think about our gifts and how we can contribute. The committee needs your prayers as we work to call forth your gifts.

Lou Clifton, Thom Elsberry, David Farmer, John Laney, and
Jennifer White

Youth News!

Spring Retreat

The youth will participate in a **Spring Retreat April 29 - May 1 at Penuel Ridge Retreat Center** in Ashland City, Tennessee. The subject of the retreat will be relationships and coming to understand one's sexuality in God's world. Annie Hardison, pastoral intern, developed the curriculum for her Carpenter Program project at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Also chaperoning will be Stephanie Wyatt and Thomas Conner.

Youth should bring: sleeping bags or sheets and blankets, towels, bug spray, and a flashlight in addition to other personal items. Dress comfortably and bring layers. There will be time for a short hike on Saturday afternoon so bring appropriate shoes. There is a lake where we are welcome to fish. Bring tackle if you are interested.

Calling All Generous Glendalers!

The youth program could still use donations to help provide scholarship money for Baptist Youth Campers and defray our travel costs. See Stephanie for more details. You may contact Stephanie by email as well revsteph@hotmail.com Make checks payable to Glendale Baptist and indicate you are donating to the Baptist Youth Camp Designated Fund.

New in the Library

Christ's Passion, Our Passions: Reflections on the Seven Last Words from the Cross

by Margaret Bullit-Jonas

Kid's Corner



On April 17 in **Faithful Friends, Carolyn and Charles Warford** were our special guests. They talked with us about being missionaries in Germany and taught us a song, *Lobe den Herrn* (Praise God).

In May, we will celebrate **Pentecost in Faithful**

Friends. Children (and adults) are invited to wear red, the liturgical color for this special day in the church year.

Children's choir will end for the school year on May 18. Programming for the entire church on May 25 will be at Howard UCC. Plans are underway for summer programming.

Vacation Bible School will be July 17-20. We'll use Cokesbury's material, "Circle G Ranch." Scott and Jon Hines will help with music. Annette Sisson has volunteered to help with food. Anne-Leslie Owens will head up our decorations team. Lane Simpson has volunteered to help as well. We will need lots more helpers, though! Glendale Methodist Church has been invited to join us this year, as they have a handful of children and a few volunteers who are interested. We have joined forces in years past with this church down the street.

Passport Kids! camp is July 6-9. Julie Coulter will accompany Alexis, Evie, Jackson, Katie and Margie to camp in Crossville, TN.

The volume of friendship

*Lord, make a factory of peace,
Make more hope,
Hate, the least. Make war as small as a speck of sand
And terrorism a wick on a candle that burns to ashes.
And make love and peace as big as a skyscraper.
And hope like a mountain that's 1,000 feet tall.
And make the volume of friendship be so loud
It shakes the ground.*

—Alex House

*Alex House lives in Upton, Massachusetts
He wrote this poem in Sunday school on
Feb. 16, 2003, when he was 8 years old.*