

~ Visions ~

GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH *A caring community of equality and grace.*

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Words from the Worship Division

Baptisms

On Easter, we celebrated the baptism of Alexis, Daniel, Davis, and Margie. These young people spent six weeks in discipleship class with April, learning what it means to be a Christian, a follower of Jesus, a child of God, and a member of a church, particularly a Baptist church. Each of them brought questions and wisdom to that class through their thoughts, beliefs, and understandings of the decisions they have made to follow Jesus. We continue to celebrate this important journey with them. May their insights about being a beloved child of God remind us all what a life of Christian discipleship is about.

Hand Bells

What a wonderful addition to our worship is the newly formed hand bell choir!! Thanks to Marjorie Halbert and all the bell ringers for sharing their gifts in this meaningful way. Please play often!

Celebrate!

Celebrate! is alive and well each Sunday after the worship service. This new program for our children has caught on quickly and is becoming a meaningful and fun experience for our little ones, as well as the adults who participate—and even to

those of us who are observers! Thanks to Marjorie Halbert, Don Schlosser, Christy Halbert, Ginger Newman, and the older kids who help with this delightful mini-worship service!

Worship Services

Thanks to Chris Ferrell for preaching on Sunday, April 18. April will preach on May 2, and Jason will preach on May 9. We are very fortunate to have so many folks in our midst who are gifted in proclamation. Certainly equal to that is the incredible program of music that we have.

We are blessed as a congregation by all the gifts offered every Sunday morning. From rocking the babies in the nursery, to greeting people as they gather, from tending to the building and operating the sound system, to creating beautiful and meaningful art which enhances our worship, the gifts that are shared are received with deep gratitude.

The Worship Division, Interim Committee, Staff, and Church Council are working on a plan for the summer similar to last summer's series. More details will be coming soon.

Spring Cleaning!

All Sunday School classes are invited to do a little spring cleaning in their classrooms this month. If each class would take responsibility for dusting, wiping down woodwork and furniture, etc., this will help make our classroom space more inviting.

The children's area will have a **workday on Saturday, May 1** in order to clean toys, organize closets, and make a few trips to Goodwill! All are invited to help the morning of May 1, 9:00a.m.

Discernment and Search Committee Update

Our work of discernment and conversation continues with candidates for the position of co-pastor. April Baker meets with us on a more regular basis as a part of this process, and we continue to need the support and prayers which you as a congregation have offered so generously. Additionally, we continue to work on several other fronts.

We are meeting with the properties committee to determine the best way to prepare for a new staff member in terms of creating appropriate office space for two full-time pastors. We are also meeting with the personnel committee as we seek to determine the parameters of the compensation package, including health coverage, disability insurance, and retirement benefits for both of our co-pastors.

We should be able to bring you some additional updates at our next Wednesday night report on April 28. We will also make a printed update available on Sunday, May 2. (Due to the New Member Lunch at the Zoo, we will not hold an update meeting on that day.)

Blessings,

Discernment and Search Committee:

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

Glendale Goes to the -->

Annual New Member Celebration

Sunday, May 2

11:45 a.m.

Potluck Picnic Lunch followed by Zoo Tours

Tickets for Lunch / Zoo are \$4

All Glendalers are invited to this church-wide event to honor the 18 new members who have joined Glendale over the past year. We'll meet immediately after the morning worship service at the Croft Center at the Nashville Zoo. (Maps will be provided.) Tickets for Lunch/Zoo are \$4 (adult, child, or senior) and will be available for purchase from Membership through Sunday morning, May 2. Children under 3 are free. Parking is also free. We'll have a picnic potluck lunch (no kitchen facilities will be available), so bring a dish to share. Ginger Newman will emcee our program. After the program, Glendalers may tour the zoo on their own.



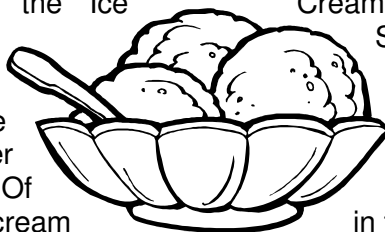
New Member Orientation Class

The latest new member orientation class included Jon Lawrence, Scott Hines, Alexis, Davis, Margie, and Daniel. The group enjoyed a light supper and a relaxing evening of fellowship at the home of Rosalyn and Don Ramage on Friday, April 11. On Sunday mornings, April 18 and 25, the group participated in a class designed to give an overview of Glendale's past, present, and future, highlighting the many areas where new members might want to serve. These new members will be celebrated in the morning worship service on Sunday, May 2.

Ice Cream Social Planned for June 6

Do you want cicadas with your ice cream? You'll have to go to an adjoining county! The much-anticipated cicada emergence during May and June will probably not affect Davidson County, although there could be some isolated outbreaks. So the Ice Cream Social will go on as planned, on the shady end of the parking lot, on Sunday, June 6 at 5:30pm.

Bring your churn of homemade Glendale for a feast of summer other items are good, too. Of course, if it is raining or if the cicadas do bother us, we will enjoy our ice cream



ice cream, cookies, cake, fruit, etc. to delight. Ice cream is the main dish, but in the Fellowship Hall.

Put this fun event on your calendar -- hope to see you there!

Pictorial Directory

At long last, Glendale Baptist Church will be compiling a new pictorial directory—early this summer!

The dates for the photography sessions are **Thursday, June 10** and **Monday, June 21**, and the photography sessions will run throughout the afternoon and evening hours. Members' photos and information will be included in the directory, but non-members and friends/family of members are also welcome to be included in the photography sessions if they are interested in purchasing personal pictures. Picture packages will be available for all to purchase, of course, but ordering additional photographs is purely optional. (Everyone will receive one free photo, and there will be no charge to members for the pictorial directory itself.)

Please mark your calendars for these dates/times! You will be hearing more about how to schedule your session soon. We are looking forward to having a current directory to enjoy for ourselves, to share with new members, and to provide a "guide to Glendale" for the coming (soon!?!?) co-pastor!

If you have questions or **would like to help with this project**, please contact Annette Sisson or Liz Allen Fey (co-chairs of Communications), or one of the "Directory" committee members: Larry Cohen, Deborah Lynn, Anne-Leslie Owen, or Rosalyn Ramage.

Mark your calendar for two Special Events on June 23, 2004, prior to this year's CBF General Assembly in Birmingham, Alabama
Companions in Christ One-Day Training Event

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Southside Baptist Church
11th Ave & 19th Street South
Birmingham, Alabama**

Registration: Early Bird Fee (if received by Wednesday, May 26) \$ 75
Regular fee for first participant from your church \$100
Additional participants from your church \$ 85

Registration fees include a complementary copy of the *Companions in Christ Participant's Book, Leader's Guide, Getting Started Guide, Journal*, and lunch. For more information about *Companions in Christ* or additional training dates, visit www.companionsinchrist.org

To register, call: 1 (800) 491-0912

For more information about this event, visit www.thefellowship.info or email frank@firstbaptistathens.org

Bountiful Feast

A Spiritual Formation Network Dinner

Co-sponsored by CBF's Congregational Life
and Upper Room Ministries

Wednesday, June 23, 2004, 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35 per person

Sheraton Birmingham Hotel

2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. N., * Birmingham, Alabama

Call 770-220-1654 or Email tdraper@thefellowship.info to reserve your space.



Quarterly Business Meeting and Banana Splits!

The quarterly business meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, May 16, 5:30p.m.** Following the business meeting we will make a huge banana split and then enjoy our culinary creation!



What's Happening in the Elementary Sunday School Class?

The Elementary Sunday School class is having a busy spring. We celebrated with two of our members, Margie and Alexis, who were baptized on Easter. We are helping the Missions Division with Missions Moments by advertising the Appalachian Backpack Project. We have almost all learned the books of the New Testament in order (but we have to sing it to get it right). And we are reading each week's gospel lesson and talking about it so that we can better understand what is happening in worship.

Each week, when we bring our Bibles to Sunday School, we get to put a Smiley Face on the wall. We almost have enough Smiley Faces to earn a pizza lunch. We hope to get enough Smiley Faces to get a swimming party before the summer is over. And Linda Ray has promised that if we get Smiley Faces all around the room, we can have an overnight party at the church.

Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time

On March 28 and April 4, Mahan Siler led us in two Sunday evening conversations around Marcus Borg's book, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*. The discussions were thought-provoking and insightful for all who attended. Thank you, Mahan!

Interim Committee

We are grateful for the meaningful time John Laney and Mahan Siler have spent with us during the past months. Their leadership has been strong, timely, and an important part of our journey. There is a good chance Mahan will not be able to be with us in the future as planned because of his increasing problem with his hip. He will likely have hip replacement surgery sooner than anticipated; we are waiting to hear more on that. In the meantime, let's pray for him and for John and Joan as they move closer to the time of their upcoming wedding!

Choir Chairs

Thanks again to Joan Yarbrough for the generous gift of chairs for the choir, given in honor of James. They are no doubt a comfortable and attractive addition!

Needle Nuts

A group of women (we're still waiting for a brave man to join us!) met at the home of Bettie Shepherd on April 17 for a morning of stitching before a wonderful lunch. Next month's gathering will be Saturday, May 15.

More about Mission: Appalachian Backpacks

Okay. By now most of us know that Appalachian Backpacks has very little to do with mountain hiking.

But it has everything to do with providing backpacks and school supplies for some Jefferson County school children that won't have them otherwise. Jefferson County is an impoverished area northeast of Knoxville in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains.

Mission: Appalachian Backpacks is a part of Appalachian Outreach, a ministry headquartered in Jefferson City, Tennessee.. A.O. collects and provides food, clothes, furniture, and toys year round, and coordinates home renovation as weather permits. It also operates Samaritan House, a temporary homeless shelter for families who need one.

Glendale's Missions Division has decided to help by providing school backpacks for next fall. To give an idea about the economic conditions in the county, Jean-Ann Washam, director of A.O., says that 49% of the school children in the seven county elementary schools are on a free or reduced-cost lunch program. She feels that 600 of the 1,500

elementary students won't be able to afford backpacks and many of the required school supplies. It has been a dream of hers for several years to be able to furnish these.

We are urging Glendalers to sponsor at least one or, hopefully, several of these students @ \$20 each. This will cover the clear backpack and a starter set of school supplies. A sample backpack is on display in the library window--a complete backpack and separate items that go in it.

Just across the hall on "April's Wall," you'll find a small blue backpack with backpack sign-up forms. Fill one out and leave in the backpack. Or, better still, put your check in one of the designated offering envelopes and drop it in the offering plate or give it to a committee member: Lyndi Hewitt, Sharon Hiatt (ex-officio), Bill Junker, Laura Kendall, Lisa Lehr, or Kreis White. It looks as if we'll need to order the backpacks by June 1, so let us know by then.

Thanks for being a part of this and helping these 600 children have maybe their best "beginning-of-school" ever.

The Glendale Missions Division

IS IT A CRIME TO BE POOR? *A look at being homeless in Nashville*

Following our meal together on Wednesday, May 5, the Nashville Homeless Power Project—a group of homeless and formerly homeless—will share their personal stories and give a look at what it looks like to be poor or homeless in Nashville. There are laws, bureaucracies, and stigmas that dehumanize and criminalize people around the country and right here in Nashville. At this forum, you will learn from first-hand experiences how interactions with police, business owners, tourists, and others have continued the cycle of poverty and criminalization. The Power Project develops solutions, but we need everyone. There are ways that you can deepen your relationship with the poor and the Power Project and participate in the solution.

TNT UPDATE

1,500 supporters of justice attended TNT's most recent action, the March 21st meeting at the Temple Baptist Church. The action accomplished the following goals:

1. There was great media coverage for our 10th anniversary, with articles in the *Tennessean* and other publications and coverage by WPLN and several TV stations. An editorial in the March 20th *Tennessean* stated, "Nashville is a better, stronger, smarter and more representative city today because TNT went to work 10 years ago. It continues today to give power back to people." Public awareness is key to TNT's keeping its place at the table where public policy decisions are made.
2. We obtained commitments from public officials to work toward the TNT agenda: Governor Bredesen (agreed excess lottery funds would go to expanding pre-K programs), Mayor Purcell, Vice-Mayor Gentry, Congressman Cooper, and Metro Schools Superintendent Garcia.
3. With sister organizations Shelby County Interfaith, Knoxville Interfaith Network, and the Rutherford County Sponsoring Committee, we set up a statewide TNT organization to work together on common issues.

TYING NASHVILLE TOGETHER SHARES AGENDA WITH METRO COUNCIL

In two April meetings, twenty-one Metro Council members met with TNT representatives to learn in greater detail about plans for TNT's new education initiatives, neighborhood livability standards, upcoming health care summit and citywide grocery store audit. Another eight council members have asked for an opportunity to participate in the near future.

All Glendale worshipers are welcome and encouraged to participate in these initiatives. Check the Tying Nashville Together website or ask Jennifer or Kreis White for further details.

Youth Happenings

The past month. . .

- **Daniel and Davis** were baptized Easter Sunday. It was a special day of celebration for these two as well as the entire church. Davis was also confirmed at West End Methodist on April 18. What an ecumenical guy!
- The youth spent a few Wednesday's discussing **The Wrestling Season**, a play offered by the Nashville Children's Theatre and Mockingbird Theatre. On Friday, April 23, after dinner at Pizza Perfect, a number of folks went to see the play and participate in the discussion afterwards. Our own **David Berry** had a key role in the production.
- The youth visited the Frist Center on Sunday, April 25.

Things to come. . .

- **Evelyn and Josh** will be graduating from high school in May. Evelyn will head to Brevard College in the fall, and Josh will go to Emory and Henry College. Congratulations to both!
- Six youth will be leaving for **Cuba on May 27**. Anna, Carson, Paul, Ben, Holly, and Peter will be going on the trip.
- Those going to the **Baptist Youth Camp at Laurel Ridge, NC**, will be leave on June 26 and return on July 2.

Alliance of Baptists Convocation

April Baker, Deborah Lynn, Eileen Campbell-Reed, Julie Coulter, David Gooch and Linda Ray Miller made the trip to Dayton, OH for the weekend of April 16-18 for the annual convocation. Special speakers included Charles Kimball who's on the faculty at Wake Forest University and James Fowler who teaches at Emory University. Kate Campbell's concert on Saturday evening was a highlight for all.

Two statements were adopted at the convocation. One statement concerns same-gender marriage. The other deals with travel between the US and Cuba. Our last travel team to Cuba was pulled out of the line to board their flight to Havana and challenged concerning the documentation that they had giving them license to travel to Cuba. The team was traveling legally under the license of the Alliance of Baptists. Eventually the travelers were allowed to board the plane and go to Havana. The official from the US Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control contacted the Alliance office

even after the travelers had returned from the trip. Additionally the US State Department again denied visas for our friends from the Fraternity of Baptist Churches of Cuba who were invited guests to the Alliance convocation. Consequently, we had representatives of all of our international partnerships except Cuba with us in Dayton. Last year several visas were requested and only one of them granted in time for our Cuban brother to get to the convocation, and then only on the final day of the meeting. It is these kinds of events that this statement addresses.

The Alliance of Baptists Statement on Same Sex Marriage April 17, 2004

Affirming that our federal and state constitutions exist to protect the rights of minorities from the tyranny of the majority and in the context of the current debate over same-sex marriage, we of the Alliance of Baptists decry the politicization of same-sex marriage in the current presidential contest and other races for public office. We specifically reject the proposed amendments to the constitution of the United States and state constitutions that would enshrine discrimination against sexual minorities and define marriage in such a way as to deny same-sex couples a legal framework in which to provide for one another and those entrusted to their care.

As Christians and as Baptists, we particularly lament the denigration of our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender sisters and brothers in this debate by those who claim to speak for God. We affirm that the Alliance of Baptists supports the rights of all citizens to full marriage equality, and we affirm anew that the Alliance will "create places of refuge and renewal for those who are ignored by the church."

A Statement on U.S.-Cuba Relations The Alliance of Baptists April 17, 2004

Consistent with our position over the past decade, we of the Alliance of Baptists renew our call for the removal of the ban on travel to Cuba imposed more than four decades ago and enforced by a succession of presidents of both political parties. We commend the Senate and House of Representatives for passing bills last year that would have removed the ban but express our outrage at the capitulation of the conference committee to a threatened veto of the legislation by President Bush.

We renew our call on Congress to pass similar legislation this year and pledge our renewed efforts to ensure that such proposals are passed with sufficient majorities to withstand a presidential veto. To that end, we pledge to continue working toward that objective.

We register our strong objection to the assignment of some 17 percent of the workers of the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control to the enforcement of the travel ban, as acknowledged recently by OFAC Director Richard Newcomb to a Senate committee. We further object to OFAC's pursuit and prosecution of those who choose to travel to Cuba without licenses rather than pursuing its congressionally mandated mission of tracking and freezing the assets of terrorists.

We further object to OFAC's decision last fall to cease granting licenses to educational institutions for "people-to-people" travel to Cuba.

Finally, we renew our commitment to working in coalition with others for the eventual normalization of relations between the United States and Cuba.

Planning Continues for Upcoming Youth Trip to Cuba

Six Glendale youth travel to Cuba next month to visit our partner congregation in Santa Clara, Cuba. They will fly to Havana and travel on to the city of Santa Clara where they will meet with youth from our partner congregation, La Iglesia Bautista Alberto J. Diaz (Alberto J. Diaz Baptist Church). On Sunday morning, May 30, the eleven-member travel team will be the first to worship with our partners in a "regular" Sunday morning worship service.

The travel team will be leaving Nashville early on the morning of May 27 and returning on the evening of June 3, 2004. The youth travelers include Anna, Carson, Paul, Ben, Holly, and Peter. Other travelers are April Baker, Louise Clifton, Thomas Conner, David Gooch, and Deborah Lynn. This travel team is the largest sent by our church (seven Glendalers comprised the first exploratory travel team).

Glendalers are invited to provide vitamins, children's vitamins, and over-the-counter pain killers for the group to take to Cuba. The group will also transport other prescription medications that are being provided by CrossLinks, a medical assistance pharmaceutical program in Vienna, Virginia.

worship services, May 16, to support the Cuba Church Partnership, celebrate the upcoming trip, and fete the new travelers. The fare will be Cuban. Veteran travelers to Cuba will serve as hosts of the dinner. Watch for more news about this event.

Currently, Glendale's Missions Division is sponsoring a special offering for the building fund of the partner congregation. The division has made "church-banks" in which members can collect their contributions along with a "giving guide calendar." The giving guide calendar not only helps suggest amounts to give, but may also provide some new information about Cuba. The travel group plans to take these contributions for our partner church's building fund with them next month. Please pick up a "Church-Bank" and a "calendar giving guide" at the church, if you are not already using one.

Beginning Sunday, April 25, the travelers will begin preparing for the trip in special sessions that will continue until their departure. More news about ways Glendalers can support the trip and upcoming events will be announced soon.

—David Gooch, Cuba Partnership Coordinator

A "Cuban Dinner" will be held after Sunday morning

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
Age 8, Colorado*

The **Elementary Sunday School class** is having a busy spring. They celebrated with Margie and Alexis, who were baptized on Easter. They are helping the Missions Division advertise the Appalachian Backpack Project. They have almost all learned the books of the New Testament in order (but we have to sing it to get it right). And, they are reading each week's gospel lesson and talking about it so they can better understand what happens in the worship service.

Each week, when the elementary children bring their Bibles to Sunday School, a **smiley face** is put on the wall. They have almost earned a pizza lunch! More smiley faces will earn a swimming party before the summer is over. And Linda Ray has promised that if smiley faces encircle the room, there will be an overnight party at the church.

Faithful Friends is scheduled for Sunday, May 16.

Vacation Bible School will begin Sunday afternoon, July 25 and conclude on Wednesday evening, July 28. The theme, Under the Baobab Tree, combines the Gospel with African, Caribbean and African American traditions. Please save these dates on your calendar.