

# ~ Visions ~

**GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
*a caring community of equality and grace*

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## The Prince of Peace is Coming!

As we look toward Advent this year, we are well practiced at the eagerness of waiting... anticipating... expecting. Our Discernment and Search Committee has led us through a thoughtful and Spirit-led process over the past year and a half. Advent, the beginning of the church calendar, also marks the beginning of a new journey for us as Amy and April minister with us as co-pastors.

As we worship, fellowship and minister together this Advent season, we look toward celebrating the coming of the Christ Child. Our world is in need of the Hope that incarnation brings. We long for Peace when all around us is violence and war. We reach for the Joy that gives us strength and reason to continue on the path that is before us. And we open ourselves to the greatest Love we can imagine. What a gift to know that even today we can make this claim! Let us make ready – for The Prince of Peace is indeed coming and this Christ bears the hope of the world.

The First Sunday of Advent  
 November 28  
 Lighting the Candle of Hope  
 Scripture readings:  
 Psalm 122  
 Isaiah 2:1-5  
 Romans 13:6-14  
 Matthew 24:37-44  
 Amy Mears, preaching

The Second Sunday of Advent  
 December 5  
 Lighting the Candle of Peace  
 Scripture readings:  
 Psalm 72  
 Isaiah 11:1-10  
 Romans 15:4-13  
 Matthew 3:1-12  
 April Baker, preaching

The Third Sunday of Advent  
 December 12  
 Lighting the Candle of Joy  
 Scripture readings:  
 Psalm 146  
 Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-10  
 Matthew 11:2-11  
 Amy Mears, preaching

The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
 December 19  
 Lighting the Candle of Love  
 Scripture readings:  
 Psalm 24  
 Isaiah 7:10-17  
 Romans 1:1-7  
 Matthew 1:18-35  
 April Baker, preaching

Christmas Eve  
 December 24  
 A Lovefeast in the Moravian Tradition  
 6:00 p.m.

The First Sunday after Christmas  
 December 26  
 Amy Mears, preaching

The Epiphany  
 January 2  
 April Baker, preaching

## View from the Chair. . . .

The view from the chair is a "flurry" of activity! There is CONSTRUCTION going on in the offices, there are all kinds of activities going on in the "library", folks are coming home from Cuba and planning for youth camp, cots are invading Fellowship Hall for Room in the Inn and we have new coffee pots in the kitchen! (Thanks to Linda Ray and MAT) Who could ask for more? We do.

### **WE WANT YOU TO BE A PART OF ALL THE ACTIVITY!**

That means being present with us during the upcoming Advent Season and getting to know Amy Mears and her family. Amy is preaching on the first Sunday of Advent. We are hopeful that her family will be joining her SOON.

This is an exciting time as Amy and April partnership together in leading our community of faith. And do I need to remind you of the beautiful music Margie, Karen and the choir always provide us with during this season!

Our celebration of the Bountiful Feast continues. . . . we are striving to raise \$20,000 by year's end to refurbish the office spaces for our co-pastors and office manager. Have you seen the handicap accessible restroom across from the library? Thanks to George and Julie O'Neal for a wonderful make over.

+The "flurry" of activity will certainly continue. . . .maybe even some "flurries" for the season. . . or is that dust flying through the air?

### **PAID CHILDCARE DURING ADVENT**

Paid childcare will be provided during worship for Advent. The first Sunday will be the most difficult to staff since it is also Thanksgiving weekend. Every attempt will be made to have paid workers for each Sunday, though **those scheduled should be aware they may need to help** if we don't have enough coverage.

### **Fabric and Buttons and a Communion Cloth!**

In celebration of completing the interim time and anticipation of beginning an exciting new era, we are planning to design and construct a communion table cover to represent the entire membership of Glendale. We need fabric (six inch squares) – or buttons, beads, lace or ribbon – to be used in the table cover. Choose fabric that is significant to you or your family and attach your names and a word about why you chose it. **Please bring your fabric to church by Sunday, December 5.** Place it in the basket on the piano at the back of the sanctuary.

### **Needle Nuts**

Needle Nuts met at the home of Rosalyn Ramage on November 20. We will not meet during December. Experienced and novice knitters (and those doing other types of handiwork) are invited to join the group after the new year on Saturday, January 15.

### **Room in the Inn**

Volunteers are needed to spend the night at Room in the Inn twice a month. Deacon groups and others are scheduled to prepare food and host our guests during dinner and breakfast the first and third Friday of each month, November - March. We will also host guests on Christmas Eve. If you would like to spend the night on December 3, 17 or 24, please contact John Hill or Lisa Lehr.

### **Mission Grants**

Each year a part of the missions budget is dedicated to mission grants. Organizations and individuals may apply for grants to be disbursed before the end of the year. Mission grant applications are due by December 1. Please contact Lisa Lehr for details.

As you're shopping for Christmas gifts, you may want to check out current or back-dated *Consumer Reports* in the church library. In addition to *Consumer Reports*, the library subscribes to *Christian Century*, *Family Fun* and *Weavings*.

## Thoughts from the Discernment & Search Committee on “Shedding”

Early in our work of discernment we adopted a process for seeking God’s wisdom that does not depend on consensus, although it values it. Neither does it depend on voting, although at times a vote in a Baptist church is called for. And neither does the process work if we assume that only one or a few people have all the wisdom.

The decision given to us by the congregation – to find and present another pastor – was imagined by us as a trip across a body of water. That trip had to be made on stepping stones. These stones were moments in the process like “listening” and “grounding” and “weighing.” Clearly this is not a linear process for decision making, but an intuitive one that sometimes means circling around and revisiting one stone or another. The stepping stone to which we returned most often was “shedding.”

This moment of discernment is one of letting go. Shedding means laying aside expectations and turning loose of particular outcomes that we hold individually, or even as a group. On this stone, we are called to release, not only the negative things that prevent us from seeing or hearing God’s wisdom, but sometimes we must let go of even our best hopes and dreams. Anything we cling to can keep us from seeing a new way across to the other shore.

Now as we are approaching the close of discernment process, with April and Amy soon to be in place as our co-pastors, the renovations soon to be complete, and Advent soon to be celebrated, we want to invite you to think with us about shedding. Near the beginning of the search (May, 2003) we led in a worship service in which the congregation ritualized letting go of both grief and pride, so that we might move into a new part of our journey together. Now near the end, it seems time again to consider what needs letting go. By way of invitation, we offer you these questions . . . .

What moment of disappointment, frustration or grief did you experience during our interim time? What past memory of pride or joy do you wish you could cling to as a part of our life together? What expectation, hope or dream did you hold out for how things would come together on the far shore of this search?

However you answer these questions, we invite you to consider letting go, releasing any memory or expectation that might hold you back from being fully present in this new time. Shedding does not necessarily mean forgetting. For memories and hopes knit us together. It is attachment that gets us into trouble. So when we can detach ourselves spiritually and emotionally from the remembrance, regret, plan or expectation, then our hands, eyes and hearts can be open to greet the unfolding moments that lie right in front of us. We need neither to glorify nor disparage the past. Neither do we need to venerate or fear the future. We were made to live fully in the present of our communal life in Christ.

It is an exciting time to be at Glendale Baptist Church, and it is our hope and prayer that we may all be fully present, shed of anything that distracts, and ready to step on to that far shore and into the next adventure of our life together.

Blessings,

Your Discernment & Search Committee

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

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING

The Wednesday night programming for September is as follows:

December 1	Small group meetings
December 8	Vespers
December 15	TBA
December 22	No dinner or programming due to holiday
December 29	No dinner or programming due to holiday

### **TNT Update: Neighbors Sell Neighbors Good Food**

On November 11, 2004, Tying Nashville Together held a well attended Assembly nearby at Carter Lawrence School. Its recently completed grocery store audit was designed to check for predatory pricing, unsafe food shelf life and storage, unfair availability of healthy food options, safety concerns and transportation obstacles to food availability. Attendees learned of three "food deserts," areas of concentrated poverty and little private transportation combined with the absence of full service grocery stores from TSU Geography professor, Dr. David Padgent. Other speakers shared personal experiences with inadequate access to fairly priced and healthy food options.

Over the last six months, members of thirty member churches and organizations have audited over sixty supermarkets and grocery stores.

Glendale's eight participants constituted the largest single group of auditors involved from any church or organization.

The aims of TNT include speaking in the voice of those not yet at Nashville's table of power, identifying issues of importance to the greeter Nashville community, and serving as a broad based coalition of members and congregations through which people of faith come together to improve our city.

There is a role in TNT for you. For more information on how you can become involved contact Kreis or Jennifer White at 371-0881.

### **The Great Glendale Gathering 2004**

Many thanks to the membership division and all those who helped make this year's Great Glendale Gathering a soaring success. On Friday evening, over 65 people gathered to enjoy Anne-Leslie's tasty chili supper, and then settled in for some lively entertainment at the Variety Show hosted by members of "Thunderbeast" (aka Jon and Scott Hines). The show featured a multitude of talented Glendalers who mesmerized us with their comedic and musical abilities. After the show, which concluded with an original piece of performance art, we all pigged out on s'mores and caramel apples and basked in the warm evening. On Saturday morning, a slightly smaller crowd enjoyed food, fellowship, fishing and games, as well as a thought-provoking and fruitful discussion on the subject of growing our church membership. We closed our time together on Saturday afternoon with a lovely devotional led by Rosalyn and April in the outdoor chapel at Rau-Wood. Thanks again to all who joined us for this time of Sabbath and fun.

### **FROM THE FAMILY OF JIM LEE**

Dear Friends at Glendale,

How can we thank you all enough for all you have done for our parents over the last few years.

We were overwhelmed with the food that so many people brought to our home. We will be eating it for the next week or so.

We also want to thank the church and particularly Rita for making the programs for the service. That was a lot of work, time, and expense, and we truly appreciate it.

And we want to thank you for the potted plant and the placing of the memorial brick in the Glendale Memorial Garden in honor of Daddy.

Glendale has always been a special place for our family especially due to the fact that Daddy designed and built it.

God bless you all for your faithfulness!

In His Love, Liza, Gayle, Jimmy, and Jan

#### **Amy Mears Contact Information**

**Email: [amymears@glendalebaptist.org](mailto:amymears@glendalebaptist.org)**

**Phone: 615.269.0926 Ex. 24**

## Youth Happenings

### The past month. . .

Stephanie has accepted nominations for those interested in serving on a **Youth Council**. Plans are underway to select the council and begin working after the holidays.

A number of youth attended the **Great Glendale Gathering** on October 29-30. Nine stayed at Rau-Wood Retreat Center on **Saturday night for their own retreat**, along with Stephanie and Thomas. Susan Cunningham joined the group on Saturday evening. They had their own worship service Sunday morning.

The acclaimed actor, rapper, playwright and educator, **Will Power**, performed his one-man Hip Hop Theatre production "**Flow**" on Friday, November 12, at Vanderbilt. Flow "chronicles the lives of seven storytellers and the quest for survival in a world of urban pitfalls." The eleven who went to the performance were challenged in creative ways. A Wednesday night youth discussion followed.

Stephanie represented Glendale at the **Baptist Youth Camp planning meeting** near Morgantown, NC, November 14-16.

### Things to come. . .

**Youth band rehearsals** are underway. The group typically meets the first and third Sundays, 3:00-4:30p.m. Upcoming practices are December 5 and 19.

**Wednesday night discussions** continue around the images of God.

There will be a **youth shopping trip and lunch** on a Sunday afternoon in December. The group will go to Ten Thousand Villages, a shop that supports free trade from under developed nations. This is a non-profit organization.

The youth are working with Susan Cunningham to create a **service project for December** with **Dismas House**.

## 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*

In November, **Faithful Friends** centered around the changes at Glendale. Louise Clifton, a member of the Discernment and Search Committee, was our guest and helped us prepare for the arrival of Amy Mears and her family. We also talked more about what it means to have co-pastors.

**Faithful Friends** will resume on Sunday, January 16, after Advent.

The children gathered for **pizza and ornament making on Sunday, November 21**, after worship. Julie O'Neal and Beth Walker have designed paper ornament patterns for Advent. There will be a children's tree in the foyer. Each week, the children will add a different style of ornament.

**The children reviewed a new video-based Sunday School curriculum** from Cokesbury on Sunday, November 14. Linda Ray Miller has been instrumental in the development of this curriculum. She also used the preschool curriculum with our 3-4 year olds during worship care that day. Julie Coulter also reviewed the curriculum. We will receive a \$75.00 voucher from the Cokesbury Bookstore for all our reviews!

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