

# ~ Visions ~

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

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## GATHERED IN A CIRCLE

**Alberto J. Díaz Baptist and Glendale Baptist Partnership**  
 May 27 - June 3, 2004

**Gathered in a circle** in a small building in Santa Clara, Cuba, were teenagers from Glendale Baptist Church, from Alberto J. Díaz Baptist Church, and from the mission in Yabu that AJD sponsors, “The Emmaus Walkers”. The young people met each other timidly, even shyly. Some from each group had expressed anxiety: “Will they like us?” “Will they want to know us?” Those anxieties were soon dispelled. Excited chatter and laughter began to fill the room as shouts of “Vladimir, we need you for a minute!” rose above the noise. (Vladimir was our translator.) Soon names were exchanged, and the young people began to find common ground.

**Gathered in a circle** at Alberto J. Díaz Baptist Church those who had never visited there were called into the center of the circle and welcomed into that community of faith with a musical ritual of blessing and an outpouring of love. Then they were invited to join the larger circle and hence forth to be a part of that group, welcoming others to the ever enlarging circle of friends.

**Gathered in a circle** in a hotel room, Glendalers shared their observations, feelings, and thoughts about meeting their Cuban sisters and brothers. “They are happy.” “They look you in the eye.” “They asked me to come join the group.” “I was nervous, but after we got there and met them, it was so much fun. I wasn’t anxious at all.” Some of us shared our joy at seeing friends we’ve made on previous trips. As the group in that circle shared, it was obvious that for this trip building individual relationships and getting to know our friends there would be priority. In that same circle, we then read some of the notes you sent with us—your prayers for safe travel and a good journey, your reminders to be open to new and challenging experiences, your assurance that you were with us in spirit, and Walden’s picture with the caption: “This is a circle.”

**Gathered in a circle** in the sea, we witnessed the baptism of 6 people from the “Emmaus Walkers” mission: Barbara and Ovier, the leaders of the mission; their children, Oviel and Oslaidy; and two other faithful members of the mission, Eduardo and Yordany. Some have been Christians for a long time, but only now had the opportunity to go through the discipleship training and preparation classes for baptism. The Glendalers were honored to be a part of the circle of friends there. As each person was immersed and came up out of the water, we sang “Santo, Santo, Santo” together in Spanish. (One of the few songs the US Americans could all sing in Spanish!) The ones who were baptized were embraced by Niubes Montes de Oca, the pastor of our partner church, as they came up from the water—a visible and moving symbol of being welcomed into the body of Christ.

**Gathered in a circle** at Glendale on the Sunday after we returned, we shared communion. We were reminded of the abundance of God’s goodness and love and of the threads that connect all who come to Christ’s table even when they are not present one with the other. Surely our cups are overflowing!

## Update from the Discernment & Search Committee

### “First Impressions”

I've been thinking a lot lately about first impressions. Our committee has been getting first impressions of candidates for some months now. And it is fascinating to find out if those first impressions hold true as we get to know a candidate better. At the same time we are making first impressions on those same candidates.

While occasionally something surprises us in life, often the first impressions we receive hold sturdy truths about a situation or person.

As a church we are making first impressions all the time, not just on candidates who visit our website, but on all the visitors who join us for worship or Wednesday night dinner. Several weeks ago the DSC led a discussion about how we are extending hospitality and welcoming guests and others. The Church Council followed that discussion more recently with one about our plans for our physical space. These are important matters for our attention and intention if we want to make a first impression that matches our deep commitments.

Recently someone visited our church and made some observations to me. We as a church made a great first impression with worship, initial greeting and our website. However, he noticed some of the same things we've been talking about in recent weeks: the flower beds, children's playground and parking were not as welcoming as they could be with a little work. At first this annoyed me that he would point out these things! How could he?! But then I realized he was just seeing what we had already noticed – and it made an impression. I share this story to affirm two things: We are on the right track and need to continue giving both our talk and, more importantly, our action to improving our “first impression” on our neighborhood, our visitors and our pastoral candidates. And most importantly, we want that impression to match who we are, which is a wonderful and caring community – of equality and grace!

Blessings!  
Eileen Campbell-Reed

Chair DSC

## Church Council 2004-2005

The Church Council for 2004-2005 was voted in on Sunday, June 13.

Thanks to all who have agreed to serve and to the Nominating Committee for their hard work.

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Martha Jo Berry</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>Kreis White</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>Joan Yarborough</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>Julie Coulter and David Reeves</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Lyndi Hewitt</b>
<b>Ministry</b>	<b>John Laney and MATrotter</b>
<b>Missions</b>	<b>Lisa Lehr</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>Don Schlosser</b>

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## WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING

The Wednesday night programming for July is as follows:

- July 7 Report from Baptist Youth Camp
- July 14 Simply Conversation: The DaVinci Code
- July 21 Appalachian Backpacks (We will pack the backpacks!)
- July 28 Vacation Bible School program: Under the Baobab Tree

**Simply Conversation** will be an opportunity for the church to come together and enjoy conversation about a specific topic.

Closing in on the goal for . . .

### **Mission: Appalachian Backpacks**

**Mission: Appalachian Backpacks** is about Glendale Baptist Church providing backpacks and school supplies for some Jefferson County, Tennessee, school children who won't have them otherwise.

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

Glendale is helping this year by providing school backpacks and startup school supplies for children who can't afford them. And, thanks to the generosity of Glendale members (with some help from Office Depot, Sanford Corporation, and Sam's), we are on the verge of meeting our goal: assembling 600 backpacks for grades K-5.

On **Wednesday, July 21**, we will pack the backpacks to prepare them for distribution. Please come to dinner and then join us as we pack up the school supplies!

Thanks for being a part of this and helping 600 school children have perhaps their best school beginning ever.

The Glendale Missions Division

## Glendale Movers

Volunteers are needed on Saturday morning, July 10, to help unload a U-Haul for Joy Royes and Terry Denne. Joy and Terry are friends of Don Schlosser who visited Glendale in June. Joy, Terry, and their two daughters are moving to Nashville from Detroit so that Joy can begin her studies at the Vanderbilt Law School.

The address is 595 Hicks Rd., unit #10A;  
the phone number is (615) 673-8326.

We will begin at 9:00 AM.

### **Directions:**

**I-40W to Highway 70S (Bellevue).**

**Turn left and go past the Bellevue Center Mall.**

**Turn left on Sawyer Brown Road.**

**Turn right on Hicks Road.**



## The Ice Cream Social held on June 6

... was a smashing success! Nearly forty Glendalers and friends enjoyed a variety of ice creams, cookies and other goodies. No cicadas were present, but we did have lavender ice cream!

## Needle Nuts

Needle Nuts met at the home of Julie Coulter in June. Experienced and novice knitters (and those doing other types of handiwork) are invited to attend. The group will meet on **Saturday, July 17, at 10:00 a.m.** The location will be announced at a later time.

## AA Meetings

An Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) group has begun meeting during the Sunday School hour in the kitchen pantry. This is not a Sunday School class, but rather it is a typical AA meeting. If you have questions, please contact MATrotter.

## Heifer International Read to Feed

The children's summer reading club sponsored by the Glendale library began on June 20. 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 goal is to raise money to

## Youth Happenings

### The past month. . .

Six youth chaperoned five adults on the trip to **Cuba**. Anna, Carson, Paul, Ben, Holly and Peter have wonderful and amazing stories to tell about their trip and their new friends at our partner church in Santa Clara.

During the summer, the **youth Sunday School classes will combine**. The middle school age group will meet together and the high schoolers will have class together.

A group went to dinner and to see **Shrek 2** on May 27.

Stephanie Wyatt led the **youth in a discussion about time, secular and sacred**, on Thursday evening, June 10. The Elsberry's hosted this event that was well attended.

buy gifts of livestock for struggling families who have few resources and need an ongoing source of income. Children will be asking you to sponsor them for the books they read. Please join them in supporting this wonderful organization!

## Music Minister

Marjorie Halbert, our minister of music, is on sabbatical this summer and will return in August. As she takes a much deserved rest, we are grateful to Karen Turner and all the choir members and other musicians who so willingly share their gifts of music and ministry with us.

## From the Interim Committee. . .

The landlord of the Lealand Lane apartment graciously let us out of our lease for July and August, as he has rented the apartment beginning July 1. Thanks to all who helped furnish the apartment for John Laney and Mahan Siler during the past number of months.

## The DaVinci Code

by Dan Brown

Have you read it? Would you like to discuss it? If you are interested, start reading for the first or second time! On **Wednesday, July 14**, we will have a time of **Simply Conversation** about this most interesting novel!

The **girl's youth class had a bake sale** on Sunday, June 13, after church. They plan to use the money to decorate their classroom.

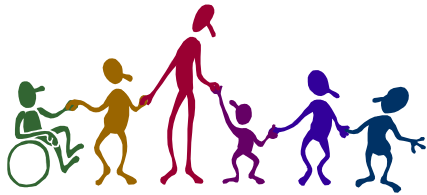
**Thomas Conner hosted a cookout** at his home on Sunday, June 13. A great time was had by all!

The youth had a night of **games with the children** on Wednesday, June 16. Hopefully, they will be able to do this a few more times this summer, as everyone had a ball!

### Things to come. . .

Twelve youth and four adults will be going to the **Baptist Youth Camp at Laurel Ridge, NC**, will be leave on June 26 and return on July 2.

## 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, grades K-5, are invited to join various individuals for **games during the summer on Wednesday evenings**. (The schedule is on the announcement sheet each Wednesday.) Children should remain with their parents through the singing of "Happy Birthday" after the announcements. Preschoolers may go upstairs with Jenny Strange-Mills at 6:30p.m. or a little earlier, depending on the needs of our little ones.

**During the summer months** it is tempting for children to play outside unattended. In order to keep our children safe, it is suggested that elementary children go to the children's playroom if they will not be staying in the fellowship hall through the singing of "Happy Birthday" unless there is an adult to supervise outside.

For the summer, children (and others) will have the opportunity to learn and sing some of the old songs that many grew up with in the Baptist tradition. **We will meet at the front of the sanctuary each Sunday after worship like we have for Celebrate!** The Celebrate! crew will be taking a break, so other Glendalers will lead the children in this brief time of singing each Sunday throughout the summer. Children will learn songs such as Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam, Deep and Wide, Zaccheus and others.

**The children celebrated** meeting their goal of bringing their Bibles to church each Sunday with a **pizza party** on Sunday, May 25. Thanks for organizing this, Linda Ray!

Rosalyn Ramage and her grandson, Zach, led a special **Faithful Friends** in June as they shared stories about their trip to the Heifer International farm in Arkansas last year. We also kicked off the summer reading club, Read to Feed.

Children have their supplies for the **summer reading club**, Heifer International's Read to Feed. Children will be asking for sponsors through August 8 as they read books. The goal is to raise money to buy gifts of livestock for struggling families who have few resources. Please see Joy Gooch, Lanita Harris or Bev Bernard for details.

**Faithful Friends** is scheduled for Sunday, July 18.

**Vacation Bible School** will begin Sunday afternoon, July 25, and conclude on Wednesday evening, July 28. The theme is **Under the Baobab Tree**. Please save these dates on your calendar. A planning meeting will be scheduled soon for adults interested in helping.

**Passport Kids!** is coming soon. Alexis, Grace Anne, Margie and April will head to camp on July 4 for three nights of a mission-oriented camp in Crossville, TN.