

~ Visions ~

LENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH
a caring community of equality and grace

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One Pastor's Perspective

Lately I've been thinking about beginnings and endings – some of the milestones by which we mark the journeys of life. Some are personal and made or marked individually; some are corporate and lived out in community. We've marked some significant beginnings as a community of faith recently by beginning a new way of thinking about and embodying pastoral leadership. We've welcomed Amy and her family as she begins her ministry with us as one of our pastors. Just a few weeks ago in the installation service, we honored the covenant that we make as congregation and pastors and committed ourselves to working together – all of us, with our own unique gifts and roles – to bring the vision of God's Reign more clearly into our lives and into our world.

I have also been reflecting on some personal beginnings and endings. One ending in particular stands out at this time. For 11 years I have served on the board of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. Our next meeting will be in May and it will be my last as a board member. My involvement with BPFNA has been among the most formative things in my life. I have learned more about courage, love, faithfulness, and being a disciple of Jesus Christ from the people of BPFNA than I have from most other parts of my life thus far. As I anticipate leaving the board, a measure of grief washes over me. The folks with whom I've served are more than fellow board members. They are friends who are as close as sisters and brothers. They have encouraged me and gently but relentlessly challenged me to seek the ways of peace and justice and to look at the world from outside my own experiences. I will miss the regular sharing of work and heart that has characterized our meeting times. On the other hand, I greet leaving the board with some measure of contentment. I look forward to letting go of some of those board responsibilities and just being a member of BPFNA. I look forward to being involved as part of a partner congregation and to finding ways together that all of us at Glendale can continue to add voice to the call for peace in our world and justice in our societies.

There is excitement in both endings and beginnings. They are multi-faceted experiences. And they bring a variety of insight and emotion to our lives.

This year it seems that the beginning of the church year with Advent, Christmas and Epiphany is followed all too quickly by the season of Lent and the remembrance of all the beginnings and endings that we observe during this season. Before we could take down the stars, ashes were waiting for us. Sometimes beginnings and endings mingle a little too closely for our comfort. They bring some holy disturbances that cause us to shake a little and wonder if we really are standing on solid ground. On the journey through Lent, we encounter some of those holy disturbances -- intersections and disconnects -- that bring us joy, grief, insight, contentment, wonder, fear, uncertainty and a host of other thoughts and feelings. They remind us that the journey through Lent is not a journey to the destination of Easter; rather it is a journey toward that which is so mysterious that we cannot comprehend it even though we do experience it. Beginnings and endings are not really the point. The point is that we travel a journey that leads us by all that is sacred and it is ours to discover along the way. I am honored to travel this way with all of you. I am counting on you to help me see the sacred and I'll do my best to do the same for you.

Grace for the journey,
 April

Daily Lenten Meditations may be found at www.journeytothecross.org

Glendale Lenten Luncheons

Glendale Baptist Church will observe Lenten Luncheons on each **Tuesday** during Lent. Everyone is welcome to bring a lunch, meet in the fellowship hall at noon for a time of community around the table, then participate in a presentation by one of Glendale's "pastors-from-within."

The schedule for March is as follows:

March 1: John Laney

March 8: Ted Mears

March 15: Richard Smith

Glendale looks forward to hosting any of our church family and community friends who are able to attend.

Holy Week 2005 Schedule

Community observance of traditional rituals

Sunday, March 20 – Palm Sunday

9:15 a.m. All school-age children, who would like to participate in the Palm Sunday processional, gather in the sanctuary for practice before Sunday School.

10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday worship. Children will carry palm branches in the processional.

Wednesday, March 23

7:00 p.m. Holy Week Communion and Footwashing

Though we often share Communion in worship on Sunday mornings, coming to the Table during Holy Week is a special time of remembrance and ritual. We perhaps are more keenly aware that Good Friday looms near. The observance of Footwashing as part of this time of remembrance and worship allows us to symbolize our humility and willingness to live the servant life of Christian discipleship. Participants are invited to have their feet washed and in turn wash the feet of another, or to share in the experience by meditation and prayer as the ritual is observed.

Friday, March 25 – Good Friday

12:00 noon Meditation on the Stations of the Cross

Gather in the sanctuary for a time of meditation. For each station of the cross, we will read a reflection and spend a time in silent prayer as we remember the day Jesus was crucified.

6:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service

Commemoration of the death of Christ through a service of shadows, or darkness. The service includes readings from the story of the crucifixion and the gradual extinguishing of lights.

Sunday, March 27 – Easter

8:30 a.m. Covered Dish Breakfast in Fellowship Hall. Everyone brings something to share. Children should bring their Easter baskets for the annual egg hunt after breakfast

9:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

This annual egg hunt, after Easter breakfast, is a fun children's event on the church lawn.

10:30 a.m. Easter Worship

Celebration of Resurrection and New Life

Hearing Assistance

Through the generous gift of an anonymous donor we now have an assisted listening system at the church. It is compatible with most hearing aids; but it can also be used by folks who do not need hearing aids, but for whom hearing in a crowd or in a large room is difficult. The system is portable and can be used in all areas of the church. Receivers are available in the back of the sanctuary near the sound system cabinet for Sunday morning services. There will be a brief "orientation" to the new system in the sanctuary at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, February 27, and Sunday, March 6, for anyone who would like to use it or just know how it works.

Nominating Committee for 2005-06 Elected

Listed here are the members of your church Nominating Committee for 2005-06:

Louise Clifton

John Laney

Thom Elsberry

Jennifer White

David Farmer

When you receive a call giving you the opportunity to serve your church in leadership for the next year, prayerfully consider the request. Your talents and gifts are valued and needed in God's service.

Support Glendale's Youth and Youth Camp

To support Baptist Youth Camp and Glendale's transportation costs, you can make a donation to the camp fund. Make your check to Glendale and designate "Baptist Youth Camp."

Please be aware...Back gate closes (for good) on March 1.

After that date, you must enter the grounds via the front drive from Scenic Drive. The gate will only be open when icy conditions prevent the use of the front drive.

Welcome to our Newest Candidates for Membership!

We were happy to have the following people recently confirmed into membership at Glendale. We look forward to getting to know these people better in coming days. Glendaleers, please introduce yourselves and make them feel welcome.

They are:

Mark Simpson

Lane Simpson and Doug Brightwell

Connie Brookshire and Devin Wells

Bryan Rogers and Loren Wyatt

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to the following people who have come into our midst during recent times. They are:

Betty and Ted Mears

Michael Rahm

Amy Mears and David Webb

Karen and Katie Rhodes

Joe O'Cain

Beverly and Frank Feinstein

New in the Library

Given by Charlie Green in memory of Janis Green

The Sun Also Rises

by Ernest Hemingway

For Whom the Bell Tolls

by Ernest Hemingway

Today in History: A Day-By-Day Review of World Events

Needle Nuts will meet Saturday, March 19, at 10:00a.m. Novice and expert knitters and such will gather at the home of Dot Pearigen. Please let Dot know if you plan to attend so lunch can be planned accordingly.

A big thank you to Frenchie Fortenberry, Louise Clifton, and Bev Bernard for coordinating the covered dish luncheon following the installation service. We all appreciate your hard work and sweet spirits.

Mark Your Calendar!

On Sunday, March 6 at 6:00 p.m., Jason and deMarco, renowned contemporary Christian duo will give a concert at Glendale. Admission is free, but a love offering will be taken.

Given by David Shepherd
***Unspeakable: Facing Up To Evil In An Age Of
Genocide And Terror***
by Os Guinness

Given in memory of Ralph Baugh's dog, Otis
***To Absent Friends: A Collection of Stories of
the Dogs We Miss***
compiled by Jameson Parker

A Life With Dogs
by Roger Welsch
both from John Laney & Joan Yarborough

Dog Heaven
by Cynthia Rylant
from Julie Yarborough, Susan Jorjorian
Yarborough, Jim Yarborough & their families

The Hallo-wiener
by Dav Pilkey
from Jim Yarborough, Sheila Cain, and Piper

Given by Joy Gooch & Paul Wheeler in memory of
Bill Stephenson, grandfather of Rachel, Jessie &
Anna Bernard
The new Caldecott Medal winner ***Kitten's First
Full Moon***

by Kevin Henkes
The current Newbery Medal winner ***Kira-Kira***
by Cynthia Kadohata

The Lady in the Box
by Ann McGovern
[A children's book about befriending a homeless
person.]

Girls in Pants: The Summer of the Sisterhood
by Ann Brashares

In memory of Jim Lee,
***God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong
and the Left Doesn't Get It***
by Jim Wallis
from Bettie & David Shepherd.

In memory of James Yarborough:
Healing In God's Light
Hope In God's Light
Joy In God's Light
Recovery In God's Light
all by Byron Jorjorian, photographer
from Susan Yarborough Jorjorian

Youth News!

Past Events . . .

The youth gathered at Stephanie's apartment on January 21 to eat Chinese food, watch *The Mission*, and discuss the film.

Youth gathered at the Sisson-Davis home on February 6 to watch the Super Bowl. The youth quietly chit-chatted during the game, only to SHHHHH one another when the commercials came on. The youth consumed a great deal of Ale-8, a power-packed, caffeinated ginger ale drink that hails from Thomas' hometown.

The youth band is meeting twice a month. They met after church on February 13 to eat pizza and jam. The youth band musicians are Paul, Claire, Ben, and Jonas. Other Glendale youth participate from time to time, and non-youth types also join in. The group has played music by The Beatles, Michelle Branch, Semisonic, Steppenwolf, Dropkick Murphys, and others.

Upcoming Events . . .

There will be a meeting for youth and their parents on March 13 after church to discuss the upcoming Spring Retreat and Baptist Youth Camp.

The youth will be preparing meals for Room in the Inn March 18-19. Please contact Stephanie if you want to help with this effort.

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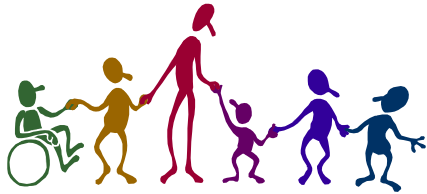
Youth News! — Upcoming Events . . . *continued from other side*

Those wishing to participate in **Baptist Youth Camp (July 2-8 2005)** must have an interest form and a \$50.00 deposit to Stephanie no later than **March 27, Easter Sunday**. The total cost for camp is \$300.00. The camp will take place at Laurel Ridge Camp in Laurel Springs, North Carolina again this year. The theme is the story of the Exodus.

We still need an extra male chaperone to join us for Baptist Youth Camp. Chaperones who have gone in the past will tell you that they get just as much out of the experience as the youth. Please consider joining us. See Stephanie for more information.

Mark your calendars for the Spring Retreat at Penuel Ridge Retreat Center, April 29-May 1. The purpose of the retreat is to talk about sexuality and relationships, helping youth to reflect on their identity as sexual beings and discussing how to form healthy connections with others. The retreat will be facilitated by Annie Hardison, pastoral intern.

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

Have you noticed how children slip out of church for **Faithful Friends** once a month during the first hymn? By summer, we plan to have a special way to call children to Faithful Friends. During Faithful Friends in February, we began planning a **banner that represents children and worship at Glendale**. The banner will be walked down the aisles during the first hymn so that children may follow the banner through the sanctuary and downstairs to Faithful Friends. **Julie O'Neal and Beth Walker told us their stories** of creating banners and helped us brainstorm on the meaningfulness of worship for us.

We will not have Faithful Friends in March due to Palm Sunday falling on the third Sunday of the month. **Faithful Friends will resume on April 17.**

Celebrate! will not occur on Easter Sunday, March 27.

All school-age children who would like to participate in the Palm Sunday worship service should meet at 9:15a.m. in the sanctuary, Sunday, March 20. The children will carry in palms during the processional. **We will practice this at 9:15 before Sunday School.**

Children should bring their Easter baskets for the **annual egg hunt** after breakfast (8:30a.m.) in the fellowship hall on Sunday morning, March 27.

Each Sunday, **Sermon Sacks** will be at the back of the sanctuary for children and their parents/adult friends to take with them to their pew. We want our children to worship with us and know they are an important part of our community. While children can participate in many parts of worship (finding the hymns, singing, reading responsively, etc.) the sermon can be a time when it's difficult to sit still and listen. The **Sermon Sacks** contain paper and pencil, a lectionary based worksheet, tissues and a few other items for children to use during the sermon. There is also a note to the children as well as the adults with whom they sit outlining some suggestions to help children actively participate in worship. At the end of worship, the **Sermon Sacks** should be returned to the basket so they can be prepared for next week. Thanks to all who gave input on this idea and especially Margaret McGill who sewed our twelve sacks!

By the end of March, we will have 30 children! Help is needed during Sunday School with the 1-2 year olds and grades K-2.