

~ Visions ~

GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH
a caring community of equality and grace

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One Pastor's Perspective

Advent, Christmastide, Epiphany, a Stewardship Emphasis. New house, new paint, new neighborhood, new schools. Church, friends, fun, challenges. December and January have provided the Mears/Webb clan with about a zillion opportunities to adjust, enjoy, decipher, and laugh.

We are grateful to our new family at Glendale for each effort that you have made to ease our transition and help us get plugged in. We have been met at every turn by gracious folks who are more than willing to show us around and teach us what we need to know to function. We are doing remarkably well as a family and as individuals, thanks to the kind attention and assistance of our church family.

Allow me to encourage you to continue to lavish your goodwill upon other church newcomers, now that my family is leaving its "rookie status" behind. I would estimate that we've had close to 50 visitors in the first three weeks of worship in January — and it's everybody's responsibility to see that they are treated as loved and valued guests in our home. So take a moment when you enter the sanctuary to assess the situation: who needs to be introduced to the children's worship care program? Who needs to receive a smile, handshake, and introduction from you? Who needs to be invited to lunch, or at least for a return visit?

'Tis a strange and wonderful place, Planet Glendale. I am grateful that God has given my family and me an opportunity to become citizens here.

Blessings,
 Amy

Installation Service, February 6

The day is almost here when we install our co-pastors! On February 6 at 10:30 a.m. Glendale members, as well as visitors from near and far, will gather to officially sanction our church and co-pastor relationship. Come and bring friends and family to this joyous occasion.

There will be paid childcare for the service so that all members will be free to attend.

Following the service, Glendale will host a potluck luncheon to celebrate the occasion. Since we are expecting quite a few guests, we are asking each family unit to bring extra food to accommodate them. Frenchie Fortenberry will coordinate the lunch, so if you have questions, contact her.

Many Thanks to the DSC

We gratefully express appreciation to the Discernment and Search Committee who worked so diligently for the past 18 months to bring our co-pastorate from dream to reality. We are thrilled with the results of your work and look, enthusiastically, toward the future. We also thank the families of each member who supported them and gave up so much time with them during that period.

Additional thanks go to George and Julie O'Neal and Anne Leslie Owens for all their creative work on the office-space renovations and redecorations. You've made us look good!

Glendale Spins Its Wheel of Fortune

If you weren't with us on Wednesday night, you missed arguably the premier performances of the year! The Stewardship Committee presented its Glendale vision of the game show, "Wheel of Fortune." John Sajack (Pat's brother on the Hill side) emceed, and Marjorie Halbert, dressed in fabulous sequins from head to toe, flawlessly played the letter-turner, Vanna White. The three contestants chosen at random were Connie Brookshire, Don Schlosser, and Annette Sisson-Davis. While each was very astute, Annette eventually solved the puzzle, which turned out to be the Stewardship emphasis theme for 2005 — **New Year, New Commitment, New Day**. Some of you may have seen the letters "NYNCND" around the church as a teaser for the evening's focus. The entire group then joined in a discussion led by Liz Allen-Fey focusing on the question: "What blocks us from giving generously at Glendale?"

Many new and thought-provoking statements emerged. We will be continued this discussion in Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour, Sunday, January 23.

On next Wednesday evening, January 26, the discussion session after supper, will focus on our own personal assessment of our relationship to our church. Finally, we conclude our "New Year, New Commitment, New Day" emphasis on Sunday, January 30, 2005. You'll be hearing more about that soon.

We need every Glendaler's help in making Glendale's "**New Year, New Commitment, New Day**" a shining one indeed.

Look Around You Next Sunday

Remember how glad you were when you finally found a "home" at Glendale? Pass it on!

If you approach someone who is already a member, he/she will forgive you (they may not know you, either) and it will be a good way to get to know another member.

The Bible tells us that, in entertaining strangers, some people have been unaware that they have entertained angels (Hebrews 13:2). There are, regularly, many "strangers" — in the form of visitors — in our services each week. Please go out of your way to welcome them. Many of them — disillusioned by previous church experiences — are seeking just such a fellowship and church home as Glendale. And, they may be just the angels we need with us on our journey to find "where God is at work in the world and to join in that work."

Help these visitors get to know us by urging them to fill out the free Wednesday supper reservation in the bulletin. A number of new members have told us that the fellowship of Wednesday evenings helped them to decide that Glendale was the place for them. You may help someone else find their way back to church.

And, if you have not been to the fellowship supper, fill out a reservation for yourself! You'll be glad you did.

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

Welcome Anne

Glendale welcomes our new pastoral intern, Anne Hardison. She will be with us through the spring semester, working with Stephanie Wyatt on curriculum development for youth and leading some conversations with adults concerning shared power. Welcome, Anne.

Shared Power in Ministry Discussion Group

"The style of all authentic ministry is mutual acknowledgement and shared leadership...This means that, at a time when much theology of ministry calls on the clergy to be the servants, the sacrificers, we must say instead that the church is called to act collectively, to enhance our common survival and mutual well-being"

—Beverly Harrison, "Keeping Faith in a Sexist Church"

How can we, as a congregation, experience and implement a vision of true mutuality? Join us on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:45 for a discussion group on shared power in ministry at Glendale — our past, present, and future. If you have any questions, contact Annie Hardison,

Pastoral Intern at

Anne.M.Hardison@vanderbilt.edu

April Baker has been observing some Sabbath time for two weeks. She will return on January 28. Amy Mears can be reached through the church office or her home phone, 673.2476

Room in the Inn

We continue to welcome guests from Room in the Inn to spend 1st and 3rd Friday nights in our fellowship hall. On Feb.4, the Way deacon group will host; on Feb. 18 the Newman/Miller group will host. Please contact John Hill if you would like to spend the night, or one of the deacons if you would like to eat the Friday evening meal with our guests.

TNT Update

Deirdra Reed has begun as TNT organizer. You will be impressed with her. She is energetic, organized and committed to improvement of public life in our city. The TNT Strategy Team is committed to allowing better input from member churches and organizations. Visioning is underway, as is activist training. Now is a great time to get involved with TNT. The next Strategy Team meeting will be February `4, 2005, 6:00 to 7:30 at Blakemore United Methodist Church at 3601 West End Avenue. All are invited.

For more details, contact Kreis or Jennifer White.

Quarterly Business Meeting and Annual Pie Supper

The First Quarter Business Meeting is scheduled for February 20 at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The annual Pie Supper will convene immediately following the meeting at the home of Don and Rosalyn Ramage, 3312 Lealand Lane. This is a special (sweet), winter tradition for Glendale, when the membership comes together to enjoy pie, and other goodies, as well as great fellowship after taking care of church business — winding up last year and planning for the new year.

Nominating Committee Selection

Ballots for selecting members of the nominating committee — which will be responsible for recruiting our church leaders for 2005-06 — will be inserted in the bulletins on February 6. Begin now to think of the five people you want to represent you for this very important task. Since February 6 is the day we install our co-pastors, we will not have many announcements. Please fill out your ballot and place it in the offering plate.

Wednesday Events Schedule

Preaching Schedule

(plus other important events as listed)

February 6: Installation Service
February 13: Amy
February 20: April
February 27: Amy

Wed-Jan 26 Stewardship Forum
Sun.-Jan 30 Stewardship Forum
Wed-Feb 2 Small Group Meetings
Shared Power in Ministry Discussion

Sun-Feb. 6 Installation Service Luncheon celebration
Wed-Feb 9 Vespers – Ash Wednesday
Wed-Feb 16 Discerning Our Gifts
Sun-Feb. 20 Quarterly Business Meeting & Annual Pie Supper
Web-Feb 23 Alliance, United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ joint meeting at Glendale

Thank You, Glendale Baptists

I want to thank all of you who stayed with me during 2004. Cancer was diagnosed in January. Your prayers, cards, telephone calls and visits helped carry me through the cancer operation and the syndrome that developed.

I felt God's presence all the way. Knowing that Glendale members were with me brought me joy daily. The doctor dismissed me in December. Her positive stand all the way through gave me much courage — a joy indeed.

Then on January 2, 2005, I turned 92 — feeling fine. You were most gracious to welcome me graciously at the January breakfast, and individually and at church. Glendale has meant joy, hope, love, and unity. I have grown this year.

Thank you for being a part of my healing.

Alma May Scarborough

Partnership Celebration

Wednesday, February 23, 2005 • Glendale Baptist Church

Dinner at 5:45 p.m.; Program at 6:30 p.m.

In 2003, the Alliance of Baptists, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the United Church of Christ joined together to form a unique "Partnership in Mission and Ministry." The similarities of our three church bodies drive this new expression of Christian unity. Members of all three bodies — from all participating congregations — are invited to join us on February 23 to meet our brothers and sisters in Christ, and learn about the many facets of the faith we hold in common.

We hope we will have a lot of guests on that evening. If you can join us, please make sure you have reservations for dinner (\$6.50) with the church office (615-269-0926 or e-mail: gbc@glendalebaptist.org) by noon on Monday, February 21.

This is the first of three celebrations planned in Nashville this year. A second event is scheduled for Vine Street Christian Church in April and a third event is scheduled for Howard Congregational UCC in May. Details are forthcoming.

NEW IN OUR LIBRARY DURING JANUARY

Nourishing Your Daughter by Carol Beck

given by Julie Coulter in honor of her mother Gail Coulter

Cuba, the untold history and ***100 questions and answers about CUBA***

by Carmen R. Alfonso Hernandez

given by Chalene Helmuth

A Good Days Fishing by James Prosek

given by Joy Gooch & Paul Wheeler in memory of Jim Lee

Long Night Moon by Cynthia Rylant and ***Snowmen At Night*** by Carolyn Buehner

given by Joan Yarborough & John Laney in memory of Richard Smith's sister Elizabeth (Libby) James

Tracks in the Snow by Wong Herbert Yee

given by Beth Walker in honor of April Baker & Amy Mears our new co-pastors

Robbie Clifton Pinter has given us a copy of her new book

For This Child I Prayed: Open Hearts, Open Hands, Open adoption

Habitat for Humanity Abroad

If you would like to participate in a build in Bulgaria, July 2-12, please come to an informational meeting Sunday, January 30 at 2 p.m. at Woodmont Hills Church of Christ. Everyone is welcomed. For more information call Kathi Johnson at 315-5889 or email at kathianandchadjohnson@hotmail.com.

Youth News!

Upcoming in the month of February

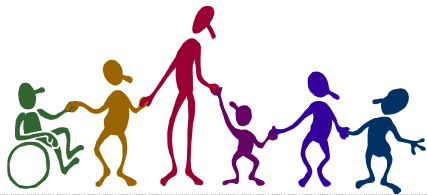
Super Bowl Party at the Sisson-Davis Home on February 6 . . . Check listserv and announcements for details!

The youth will participate in the Installation Service for April and Amy the morning of February 6.

Baptist Youth Camp Sign ups!!! Baptist Youth Camp will be held again at Camp Laurel Ridge in North Carolina July 2-8. A deposit of \$50.00 is due to Stephanie by Sunday March 27 (Easter Sunday). The total cost of camp will be approximately \$300 per camper. This year we will be focusing on the story of the Exodus. This is truly the highlight of the youth calendar. You will not want to miss it!

Chaperones needed: We will need to take one male chaperone and one female chaperone in addition to Thomas and Stephanie. Please let me know if you are interested.

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

Faithful Friends resumed on January 23 with Douglas Wood's, **Old Turtle and the Broken Truth** as the theme. The children will worship again in Faithful Friends on February 20.

Celebrate! will not occur on Sunday, February 6. Children are invited to join their families for the potluck lunch following the installation service that morning.

The children celebrated **Epiphany** during Sunday School on January 2. They had Epiphany cupcakes (Patrick got the pecan) and British crackers, learned the history of Epiphany and "blessed" each adult Sunday School class with the traditional Epiphany blessing.

On **Wednesday evening, January 19**, after dinner, Julie spent time with the children talking about **Room in the Inn**.

Elementary children and their families prepared dinner and sack lunches for **Room in the Inn** guests on **Friday, January 21**. We ate dinner with our guests and then helped clean up. Evie, Jackson, Katie and Margie spent the night upstairs with Julie. We didn't stay up too late because we were up early in the morning for breakfast with our guests.

We are having a population explosion in the children's area — and this is great! Once Miguel and Carlos (soon-to-be adopted children of Loren and Bryan) get here, we will have **29 children at Glendale**. Lyndi Hewitt's baby in March will make 30! Help is needed during Sunday School with the 1-2 year olds and grades K-2.