

~ Visions ~

GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH

A caring community of equality and grace.

1021 Glendale Lane

Nashville, Tennessee 37204

269-0926 or 269-3149 — Fax. 269-0988

URL: www.glendalebaptist.org — E-Mail: GBC@glendalebaptist.org

Holy Week at Glendale

Several years ago at a women's retreat a friend observed that in the church year there is such a short time between the seasons of Advent and Lent, between the birth of Jesus and the death of Jesus. Musing on this thought, several provocative ideas circulated – what if we just didn't have Lent, Holy Week, Easter one year? What if the cycle spanned three years, reflective of the recorded ministry of Jesus on earth, instead of three months? Easter once every three years...there's a thought that shakes the church calendar a bit! It does seem that strains of the songs of herald angels are just floating out of our hearing and we are already heading to Jerusalem with palm branches waving high. How do we navigate that journey from Bethlehem to Jerusalem in such a short time?

The rhythm of the church year walks us through the life of Jesus in way that does not let us think so linearly as we might if we held to a time line. Spending three years between Advent and Lent might be more accurate chronologically, but observing the church year as we do brings us the pivotal events in Jesus' in a concentrated way so that when we begin that long period of ordinary time between Pentecost and Advent focusing our Gospel readings on the life and teachings of Jesus, we have already framed it with Jesus' birth, his death, and his life again. We affirm that we live on this side of Easter, hoping in the power of life over death, trusting in the incomprehensible love of God, and placing our faith in that One who has hold of us.

So as we move into Holy Week this year, let the symbols and stories and rhythms of this season speak to you – not of something that we can define and put into a clear time line or chart, but of a mystery that compels us toward the One who brings life even out of death. Join us for the observances of Holy Week Communion and Footwashing on Wednesday night and reflect on the gifts of bread and wine, of God's table, of Jesus' example of servant living and loving. Come on Friday at noon as we pray together and meditate on the stations of the cross. Gather on Friday evening at 9:00 for a Tenebrae service, a service of shadows remembering the death of Jesus. And join us and Christians around the world to celebrate Easter Sunday, the power of Resurrection hope, the living Christ among us.

Palm Sunday

All school-age children who would like to participate in the Palm Sunday worship service should meet at **9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary, Sunday, April 4**. The children will carry in palms during the processional. We will practice this before Sunday School.

Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt

Easter breakfast will be on Sunday, April 11, at 8:30 a.m. Frenchie Fortenberry is coordinating the menu for this morning. Following breakfast, the children will hunt for eggs outside. Children should bring Easter baskets, but we have extras in case baskets are left at home!

Exploring Life as a Community of Faith

There is a change in the schedule for these sessions. On Wednesday, March 31, Mahan will offer an abbreviated version of the session we did a few Saturdays ago so that those who were not able to attend can have a starting place if they want to join the other two Saturdays.

Using the book *Creating a Healthier Church* by Ron Richardson, Mahan Siler will be leading an interactive study/discussion using systems theory to talk about our church and the changes we anticipate with new leadership. The book is a readable introduction to systems thinking related to the church. Mahan hopes to expand the scope to include our own families, but keep the emphasis on the congregational system.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the sessions. They will be held on Saturday mornings and possibly repeated on Sunday afternoons if necessary. Each session will be 9:00 am - 11:30 am on the following dates:

April 3
April 24

Mahan Siler's Schedule

Mahan will continue his ministry of pastoral consulting with us in this interim time. He is scheduled to be with us on the following dates:

March 27 – April 12
April 24 – May 5

Mission: Appalachian Backpacks

Don't get the wrong idea. We are not promoting mountain hiking, though that's not a bad thought. "Appalachian Backpacks" is Glendale's opportunity to provide school backpacks and supplies for some school children who've never been able to afford them.

Appalachian Backpacks is part of the ministry of Appalachian Outreach, a program in Jefferson City started in 1984 by students at Carson-Newman. We will be helping students in seven elementary schools in Jefferson County, Tennessee. Approximately 49% of the students in the school system are on free or reduced-fee lunches. Many do not have the necessary school supplies. Jean Ann Washam, director of AO, estimates that there are 600 students who need help. Now is our chance to help some children have one less thing to worry about as school starts next fall.

You will be hearing and seeing more about this soon. Everyone is thinking right now about school ending, but the Missions Division is thinking about Beginnings . . . Good Beginnings for elementary kids in Appalachia, maybe the best they have ever had. We know you will want to join us on this journey.

- The Glendale Missions Division

A CHANCE TO HELP INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS

Nell Magee has volunteered Glendale's to provide refreshments for International Friends Thursday, April 1. Any kind of snacking food will be good. Give to Nell on Wednesday night, March 31.

Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

“One Song: Celebrating Christian Unity”

Trinity Baptist Church, Cordova ~ April 23-24, 2004

Plans for 2004 General Assembly Underway

Make plans now to attend the 2004 National Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly to be held June 24-26 in Birmingham, Ala. John Kinney, dean of the theology school at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Va., will be the keynote speaker. For more information and periodic updates, or to make hotel reservation online, go to Community/General Assembly at <http://www.cbfonline.org/>.

TYING NASHVILLE TOGETHER CONVOCATION HIGHLY ATTENDED

TNT celebrated its tenth anniversary on March 21 at Temple Church. Glendale was well represented with twenty-eight members in attendance (including six youth delegates). Our Missions division was heavily represented, as was present and past paid church staff. While there, Glendale was honored as a charter member of this grassroots interfaith coalition of some sixty-five churches, mosques, synagogues public interest associations and neighborhood groups.

Participants included our congressman, mayor, vice mayor, director of schools, several Metro council members and the governor via video. These officials all agreed to take specific action as requested by TNT for education audits, neighborhood livability standards and participation in a health care summit designed to enhance availability of adequate health care to Tennesseans, especially children, senior adults and disabled citizens.

TNT is a participatory organization. Volunteers are needed for school and neighborhood audits and opportunities abound for any Glendale member to become involved in research action teams. Please contact Kreis or Jennifer White at 371-0881 for additional details.

YOUTH AND ADULTS SERVE DISMAS HOUSE AND ROOM IN THE INN

Glendale's youth shared our caring community of equality and grace with residents of Dismas House and gentlemen from Room in the Inn on Friday, March 5.

While Room in the Inn is more of an established ministry effort at Glendale, several Glendalers are very involved with the work of Dismas House, a transition house providing support services for men and women recently released from prison or jail. Several Glendalers have provided clothing and linens for residents while others regularly serve meals at the Music Row home of Dismas Nashville.

Glendaler Susan Cunningham is the executive director of Dismas House Inc. In anticipation of the girls coming to bring dinner, Susan Cunningham remarked that it is an "opportunity to learn about and share with people who are facing numerous difficulties as they re-enter society from prison, an oppressed environment. The chance of success for ex-offenders is so much greater when he or she has support from caring communities. Also, many of our residents have children they haven't seen in years and enjoy having youth come to the House and bring fresh ideas and attitudes. The meaning of Dismas is truly experienced when sharing fellowship around the dinner table. My understanding of Dismas is reflected in the message from our founder, Fr. Jack Hickey: 'In the courage of those who suffer and in the compassion of those who stand with them, people will see God at work and join in.'"

For more information on how you can get involved with the work of Dismas House, see Susan Cunningham or call her at 297-4511.

Thank you

to Rebecca Way and Eileen Campbell-Reed for donating computers to the Love One Another Children's Game Room (LOACGR). The children are able to use the computers to play Bible study games after Children's Choir on Wednesday evenings. Soon, we will also be able to use the computers during Sunday school time, as well. Thanks for your generosity!

Congratulations

to Ben Elsberry who has been chosen to attend The Governor's School this summer.

"Normal"

On Sunday night, Feb. 29, several dozen of us gathered in the fellowship hall to view the HBO made-for-TV movie, *Normal*. *Normal* tells the story "of a seemingly 'normal' Midwestern factory worker who stuns his family and community by revealing he wants a sex-change operation." Elise and Joni Elrod hosted this viewing and fielded questions during and after the movie.

On Monday, March 22, Elise presented a Special Lecture on "Gender Identity Disorder" at Vanderbilt University. Using clips from the HBO movie, *Normal*, Elise discussed more in depth her journey from male to female and its impact on her career, her family, and her faith. We have certainly been the recipients of the talents and good graces of Elise and Joni, and are grateful they have made their church home at Glendale.

Discernment and Search Committee Update

In an update given on Wednesday Night, March 17, and repeated on Sunday, March 28, we told those present that at this moment in our process of search and discernment, we are doing some of our hardest work, and yet we can talk the least about it due to the confidential nature of our deliberations. We continue to be in conversation with candidates, and we ask your continued prayers for our wisdom and guidance and clarity for our candidates in this time as well.

Meanwhile we are also working on several other fronts to make preparations for someone new to join us, as another full-time pastor. (In the last issue of Visions we offered a list of “parallel processes” we are attempting to care for.) In our two March update meetings we asked for feedback from the congregation about how to make our space (that is our physical space and also the emotional and social space that we create together) as welcoming and hospitable as possible for members, guests and the people who work in these spaces. We got several good suggestions and will pass them along to those who lead us in the appropriate divisions. One very specific item on our list is the office space for two full-time pastors. We have gathered ideas in the form of sketches from a local architect, and we are passing those along to the properties committee. Those ideas are part of a long-term solution, and we are also working toward a short-term response to this need as well.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We have been working for a year, meeting often and discerning much. And you have been patient and gracious, especially those of you giving up family time so that we can do our work. Thanks to you especially. We surely hope that “it won’t be as long as it has been.”

Alliance of Baptists 18th Annual Convocation April 16-18, 2004 First Baptist Church Dayton, Ohio

(Registration forms and flyers are on the table in the foyer.)

Several Glendalers are planning to attend the Alliance of Baptists Annual Convocation. If you are interested in attending or need more information, contact the church office or Alliance board member, David Gooch.

Using the theme, “Lifting Our Lights Together,” this convocation will celebrate the ecumenical and interfaith relationships the Alliance is partnering with others to create. Featured worship leaders and speakers include Charles Kimball, Jeremiah Wright, Karen Thomas Smith, James Fowler, and Stephanie Ford. Some Glendalers will be particularly interested in the Saturday evening worship followed by a concert by Kate Campbell.

Youth Happenings

The past month. . .

On Friday, March 5, the **girls served dinner at Dismas House while the boys served dinner to our Room in the Inn guests.** Afterwards, everyone met together for two games of laser quest.

Thomas hosted the youth on March 14 as many gathered to watch the SEC men’s championship game.

The youth band continues to meet and practice. Their debut at the Writer’s Night was well received by all!

Things to come. . .

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

Glendale Youth to visit Cuba Partners

A group of older Glendale youth will journey to Cuba to visit our partner church in Santa Clara. The teenagers and the travel companions will travel to Havana and on to Santa Clara to spend time with members of the Alberto J. Diaz Baptist Church. They will leave Nashville on May 27 and return on the evening of June 3.

Please pray for the planning of Glendale's fifth visit to Cuba. Also pray for our partner church as they prepare for our visit. The Cuba Trip Planning Committee expects to announce the travel group in early April. As plans develop, many other opportunities for the congregation to participate in the trip will be announced.

--David Gooch, Cuba Partnership Coordinator

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*

Celebrate! has begun!

This new Sunday worship opportunity for preschool and elementary children, their parents and other Glendaleers began in February. Children and others gathered at the front of the sanctuary for a brief (10 minutes) time of music and storytelling ten minutes after worship. All are invited to join this group each Sunday.

All school-age children who would like to participate in the **Palm Sunday** worship service should meet at 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary, Sunday, April 4. 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, April 11.

Faithful Friends is scheduled for the usual third **Sunday, April 18.**

Vacation Bible School will begin Sunday afternoon and conclude on Wednesday evening. Please save these dates on your calendar **July 25-28.**

April will accompany three children to **Passport Kids!**, a missions centered camp for older elementary children. Alexis Maynard, Margie Way and Grace Anne Roberts are excited about this opportunity in early July.

April continues to meet with a great group of kids each week for **Time Out!**, a discipleship class for older children and younger youth.