



VISIONS

March 2006
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Two Pastors' Perspectives

This week your pastors overheard a conversation that went something like this:

"What did you do in Faithful Friends today?"

"We read a book about Martin Luther King and ... um ... some guy said 'let ... let ... let something roll down like water.'"

"Let Justice roll down like water?"

"Yea! Let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. And then we rolled marbles down this thing."

Some guy did say that. And years later some children at Glendale Baptist learned a little about what that means. That gives us a measure of hope we've needed this week as we've discussed comments on the Baptist Peace Fellowship list serve that have centered around the steady deterioration of the political system in our country. Instead of government by the people and for the people, the argument is being made that our present reality is government by the powerful for the wealthy. On an alarmingly large scale, the most vulnerable people with the fewest resources are being pushed to the edges of our society to fend for themselves while oil companies, pharmaceutical companies, media conglomerates and multinational corporations determine foreign policy, access to health care, the flow of information, and allocation of resources.

"Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Hearing our children quote the prophet Amos to us should wake us up. The passage preceding this verse speaks words of woe to those who "...trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain..." In a "Thus says the Lord..." passage, we hear "I hate and despise your religious festivals...Take away from me the noise of your songs..." Yet in our day the loudest voices professing to be Christian have sidled up to the powers and principalities and have supported wars and the elimination of funding for food, shelter and health care for our citizens who are poor. Others of us have spoken up to say "That's wrong! That's not what Jesus taught us in the Sermon on the Mount; it's not what he showed us when he faced Pilate and Herod; it's not what he meant when he said "Love one another as I have loved you."

We confess that as we approach this Lenten season, we feel like the voices we try to raise for justice and peace are drowned by the powers and principalities. We confess to feeling disheartened sometimes because there is so much that needs to be turned around, so much repenting that needs to happen and so few voices calling for accountability. We want to throw up our hands in exasperation because it is overwhelming. Somehow, hearing the voice of one of our children call out Amos' words restores our resolve. It's their lives we are working to preserve. It's the hope of a world of peace and beauty that children can see that we are trying to

Preparations for Cuba Visitors

On **March 5**, we will hold a **church-wide potluck** in the Fellowship Hall. On this "Cuba Partnership Sunday" we will make plans for an upcoming visit from **Rev. Niubes Montes de Oca** (pastor) and **Alexis Obregon Mederos** (a lay leader) from our partner church in Santa Clara, the Alberto J. Diaz Baptist Church. **Come join us to learn how YOU can be involved in their visit.**

Scheduled for April 17-May 23, this visit will be Niubes and Alexis' first to the United States. Both have learned a lot about Glendale from our travel teams to Cuba. They are anxious to now learn firsthand about our ministries and join in worship and fellowship with their partner church.

Room In The Inn

Glendale is hosting gentlemen at Room In The Inn two more Fridays this winter. Overnight hosts are needed for **March 3 and 17.**

Please contact Lisa Lehr if you are able to help.
831-1299 - home
517-2779 - cell
902-1428 - wk

Visions is a monthly newsletter of
Glendale Baptist Church
A Caring Community of Equality
and Grace

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Administration

Anne-Leslie Owens
Communications

Linda Ray Miller
Education

Lane Simpson
Membership

Don Ramage
Ministry

Chris Ferrell
Missions

Sharon Hiatt
Worship

For over 50 years, we have worked as a congregation, learning together what this mission of becoming a "caring community of equality and grace" truly means. As a result, we endeavor to celebrate all of God's creation-and we welcome all persons to worship with us, regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation.

We invite you to come and experience the Glendale that studies the scriptures and worships God together each Sunday morning-and the Glendale that gathers on Wednesday evenings for dinner, prayer, and genuine caring for one another.

Two Pastors' Perspectives

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sustain. Progress is incremental sometimes.

Since our theme for Lent this year is "Come Thou Fount" and we will have around us in art and music and word reminders of the cleansing, filling hope that flowing water brings, a song by Holly Near seems appropriate for the day:

*Can we be like drops of water, falling on the stone
Splashing, breaking, dispersing in air,
Weaker than the stone by far, but, be aware
that as time goes by the rock will wear away...and the water comes again.*

May the water keep flowing!

Amy and April

Church Council Report

Church Council News

The church council welcomes **Lane Simpson** as membership division chair. Lane was elected by the church on February 12 to serve the remaining term of as chair of the membership division. He will receive much support and assistance from Rosalyn Ramage who possesses a wealth of knowledge and experience with membership matters. Thanks to both for their service!

New Nominating Committee

New nominating committee members are: Julie Coulter, Chalene Helmuth, Sue Kinzer, David Shepherd and Joy Smith. This committee is charged with the responsibility for nominating members of the church council, church moderator, ordination committee, church history committee, clerk, steward, treasurer, and assistant treasurers. Please support this committee's efforts as they look beyond this church year and help plan for our future leadership needs.

Quarterly Business Meeting

At our quarterly business meeting on February 19, the church adopted the following amendment to the Bylaws:

Section 15. The Stewardship Division

The division shall be responsible for the church's awareness and continuing discernment of stewardship in order to provide a formal, consistent stewardship presence in the church and to tie that presence to the planning and discussions of the church council. In this context, stewardship is understood to have an encompassing definition, including how church members practice spiritual discipline in the discernment and giving of their gifts, talents and financial resources to Glendale Baptist Church, as well as the collective church's use of its space and resources in the community and the world.

The division is composed of a chair and other persons as the chair may find necessary and as approved by the council.

Stewardship Committee Report

The Stewardship Committee is pleased to report that we have received \$225,320 worth of pledges toward Glendale's Financial Plan for Ministry. We remain on an upward swing in terms of giving and have an increase this year just as we did last year. We feel this is due to the hard work and commitment of Glendalers to truly be a congregation of generous people.

The Stewardship Committee is finalizing a survey which will be passed out to the congregation in early March. The survey is an opportunity for each member to note their areas of interest in the life of the church. **On Sunday, March 19, the congregation will have an opportunity to come to the front and place their surveys on the altar just as we did the pledge cards in January.** As we commit ourselves to the areas in which we are interested and gifted, the mission of the church is accomplished.

We continue to promote the book we have based our work of the Stewardship Committee on, *Creating Congregations of Generous People*, and are encouraging everyone to read it. Thomas Conner gave each of the Church Council members a copy of it for Christmas and after they read it, they will pass it on to people in their division. The book is also available in the library. We hope everyone in the congregation will read it as we together continue on the journey of being good stewards of all of our gifts.

Thanks to everyone for being a part of this important journey with us.

*Ralph Baugh
Molly Boyd
Raye Nell Dyer
Jim Fey
Frenchie Fortenberry*

New Member Orientation Class

The Membership Division will be conducting a New Members Orientation Class, beginning with a dinner meeting on Friday evening, **March 10, at 6 p.m.** at the Baker-Lynn Home. The following two Sundays, **March 12 and March 19, at 8:45 a.m.** the class will meet in Fellowship Hall followed by a celebration of new members during the worship service on March 19. If you are interested in becoming a member at Glendale and participating in the class, please contact one of the pastors (269-0926) or Lane Simpson (596-8584).

Presently, there are four people who will be participating in the orientation classes. They are Jonathan Turner, Selena and Rand Carpenter, and Myrte Veach. Welcome to these new members within our midst!

Thoroughly Fabulous February

If you have any questions about worship, just ask our 3rd and 4th graders! Last month's Sunday School classes covered the ABC's of worship, from acolytes to banners to communion to . . . Well, there's just not enough room in this space to begin to "splain it" properly. The kids in this class learned a great deal about the "why's and wherefore's" of worship, and more specifically, worship at Glendale. Many of our church leaders participated in this series of lessons, and I'm extremely grateful for their leadership and support during this special study. You will be seeing more of these children as they grow into their roles as worship helpers. We are blessed to have them among us.

Vespers Returns

After dinner on March 29, we will convene in the Sanctuary for 5th Wednesday Vespers.

Wednesday Night Programs and Service

- 3/1:** Ash Wednesday
- 3/8:** Division and Committee Meetings
- 3/15:** State of the Church from Division Chairs
- 3/22:** State of the Church - Appreciative Inquiry on Co-pastorate
- 3/29:** Vespers

Needle Nuts

Needle Nuts will meet on **Saturday, March 18, 10:00a.m.** Experienced and novice knitters and the like are invited to join us for fellowship and lunch. The location is yet to be determined.

Primetimer Events

A group of Primitimers (Glendalers aged 55 and above) and friends are looking forward to the performance of **Minton Sparks** (Jill Webb-Hill) at TPAC's Johnson Hall on **May 13.** The Primitimers will celebrate **St. Patrick's Day** with the wearing of the green and a potluck meal at the home of Carolyn and Charles Warford on Friday, **March 17, 6:00 p.m.** More details to follow.

Alliance of Baptists Convocation

Join fellow Alliance members **April 21-23** at the Southside Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL. The program includes special programs for children and youth. For more information, go to www.allianceofbaptists.org.

Following the Alliance Convocation, all are welcome at the **“Let’s Get Acquainted Luncheon”** at Southside Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL. The luncheon, sponsored by the **Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists**, is scheduled for **12:30-3pm on April 23**. Cost is \$5. For more information call 608.255.2155 or email ken@wabaptists.org.

Tennessee CBF General Assembly

The theme for the **Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship’s General Assembly** meeting is **“Breathe!”** Inhale the breath of life, exhale the breath of God. Kyle Matthews is the musician and worship leader; Molly Marshall, president of Central Baptist Seminary, Kansas City, will be the preacher. The General Assembly will be held from **9am-4pm on Saturday, April 22** at First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro. Reserve your space at www.tncbf.org, by phone at 888.661.8223, or email tcbfoffice@tncbf.org

Save the Date for Crop Walk— April 9

The Greater Nashville area joins thousands of communities around the country in a 5K fundraising walk to fight hunger and poverty – locally and around the world. Local agencies benefiting from the evening include MANNA, Luke 14:12 and Nashville’s Table/Second Harvest Food Bank. Funds supporting national and international emergency relief will go through the cooperative ministry programs of Church World Service. Save the date and look for full details in mid-March!

Teddy Bear Drive—K-2nd Grade Sunday School Report

The Early Elementary Sunday School (K-2nd grade) class is attempting to further our learning of supporting the community and giving to those less fortunate than ourselves. The children have been very excited about learning of God’s commandment to honor others. To put this concept into modern-day terms through our actions, **we will be conducting a “Teddy Bear Drive” through Easter Sunday and honor Christ through our gifts to others.**

These teddy bears are used for therapeutic interviewing done with victims of severe child abuse who visit the Nashville Child Advocacy Center for treatment and services. Children’s Advocacy Centers are child-friendly multidisciplinary programs that allow professionals from child protective services, law enforcement, criminal justice, victim advocacy agencies, and the medical and mental health communities to work in a collaborative way to better serve child victims of abuse.

Research has shown that children are more likely to provide accurate and truthful information to investigators, clinicians, and other professionals when services are age-appropriate and provided in a supportive and nurturing environment. Attention to the needs and abilities of children is the hallmark of a Children’s Advocacy Center program and is the fundamental standard required for membership in the Tennessee Chapter of Child Advocacy Centers.

We are asking that each family donate at least one teddy bear for our class to collect and then bless before donating them to the Nashville Child Advocacy Center. We will be available on Sundays to collect your donations before services or you may simply bring them to our classroom on the second floor. Please join us in putting our faith into action by giving to our community through this campaign.

Mud Hut Banks and “Doing Missions”

During the elementary children’s study on “Doing Missions,” they are learning about the homeless children in South Africa. They are also learning that “A friend is always a friend” (Prov. 17:17 CEV). As a result of these two things, they have expressed concern about how they might be able to do more than just hear the stories and say a prayer for the children. They want to take action and be a friend in some small way.

On March 8 they will be making mud hut banks which will be placed on a table in the church foyer. **During the rest of March, Glendalers are invited to drop their change into the mud hut banks.** In April, they will share this money with some “homeless friends” in the South African part of the world. This will be done through the CBF and the Office of Global Missions. Thank you in advance for helping our children put action with their prayers by putting money in their banks.

Kid's Corner

In **Faithful Friends** on **February 19**, we talked Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy and about the prophet Amos who King quoted in his famous speech in Washington, D.C., "Let justice roll down like water and righteousness flow like and everflowing spring." We decided water would be a bit messy, so we used marbles and each time said, "**Let justice roll down like marbles!**"

Faithful Friends on **March 19** will focus on hunger and the **Crop Walk**. All children and their families are invited to participate in this fundraiser on Sunday, April 9.

The **Wednesday night missions focus** is on South Africa and the problem of children and homelessness. The children will have "mud banks" in the foyer during much of March to raise money for programs that assist children in South Africa.

The early elementary Sunday School class is busy with their **Teddy Bear drive** which will last through Lent.

Youth Happenings

Visit the **youth calendar** at http://my.calendars.net/glendale_youth.

A youth-led "**Souper Bowl of Caring**" mission moment during the February 5 worship service yielded a special mission offering of \$261 to be donated to the Luke 14:12 soup kitchen, as suggested by Chris Ferrell.

The youth had a great time at the **annual Super Bowl party** hosted by the Sisson-Davis-Brock household!

Nine of our youth and two adults participated in **PeaceJam** on February 25-26. They traveled to Memphis to participate in this international education program where they interacted with a former Nobel Peace Prize recipient as they learned and experienced peacemaking.

Seven youth gathered at Thomas' house to watch "Life is Beautiful" on February 11. Plans are to have a **movie night once a month**.

Registration (\$50 deposit and registration form) for **Baptist Youth Camp** is due by March 15. Camp fees are \$300 per camper. See Thomas if you are interested.

Youth PeaceJam in Memphis

Nine youth attended "Apprenticeship with Jose Ramos-Horta" in Memphis, February 25-26. Since January 18, youth have spent Wednesday evenings discussing issues of violence, non-violence, oppression, racism, peace and peacemaking in the community, the country and the world. Anna, Carson, Daniel, Davis, Garrett, Holly, Jonas, Paul and Rachel attended. Ginger Newman and Thomas Conner chaperoned the trip. Anne-Leslie Owens, Amy Mears, Deborah Lynn and David Berry participated in Wednesday evenings, along with Sharon Hiatt, who helped the youth choose a "peace pole" project which was presented at PeaceJam. Learn more about the peace poll project at <http://www.glendalebaptist.org/youth/peacepole>.

Happy Birthday to You... (CHA, CHA, CHA)

3 – Bill Junker
3 – Devin Wells
9 – Connie Moore
10 – Katie
11 – Amy Mears
12 – Claire Richardson
12 – Davis
14 – Stewart Clifton
15 – Matthew White
16 – Mark Caldwell
16 – Kreis White
17 – Patsy Junker
17 – Thom Elsberry
17 – Ellie
20 – Kay Musgrove
20 – Theodore Lehr
21 – April Baker
24 – Randy Miller
31 – Jack Kelley

Need Work?

Bill Halbert is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant to help facilitate his work as a leadership consultant. Hours are flexible and would be perfect for someone with school-age children. A jack/jill-of-all-trades, with some typing/data entry ability should be able to do this job well. Call Bill at 373-1228 if you're interested or to refer someone.

Super Pie Supper

Once again, our annual pie supper at the Ramages was well attended (despite the icy weather) on February 19. Many thanks to the Ramages for welcoming Glendaleers into their home for this annual fellowship time.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	WED MENU	THU	FRI	SAT
			3/1 5:15 Adult Choir 5:45 Dinner 6:30 Children's Choir 6:45 Ash Wednesday Service	Menu Burgers and Dogs Potato Salad Cole Slaw Chips Ice Cream	3/2	3/3 Room In The Inn	3/4 Nashville Family Pride 4-7 PM
March 5 9:15 First Sunday Breakfast (Reflections Class Hosting) 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Potluck/Program Anticipating Cuba Friends Visit	3/6 12 :00 noon UCC, DoC, AoB Partnership Steering Committee Amy and April at Convergence	3/7	3/8 5:15 Adult Choir 5:45 Dinner 6:30 Children's Choir 6:45 Program: Division and Committee Meetings	Menu Pasta with Marinara Sauce Caesar Salad Green Beans Garlic Bread	3/9 BSU from Charlotte	3/10 6:00 New Member Orientation Dinner at Baker-Lynns	3/11
March 12 8:45 New Member Orientation Class 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Girl Scouts 4-5:30 PM	3/13	3/14 6:00 Church Council Meeting Luke 14:12	3/15 5:15 Adult Choir 5:45 Dinner 6:30 Children's Choir 6:45 Program: State of the Church from Division Chairs	Menu Grilled Pork Loin Rice Garden Salad Corn	3/16	3/17 Room In The Inn 6:00 Primetimers Dinner at Warfords	3/18 10:00 Needle Nuts. Site TBD
March 19 8:45 New Member Orientation Class 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Faithful Friends New Member Celebration	3/20 Deadline to submit Visions info.	3/21	3/22 5:15 Adult Choir 5:45 Dinner 6:30 Children's Choir 6:45 Program: State of the Church- Appreciative Inquiry on Co-Pastorate	Menu Soup Salad w/Chix Strips Baked Potato Crackers Kids Menu Pizza Bagels	3/23	3/24	3/25
March 26 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Girl Scouts 4-5:30 PM	3/27	3/28	3/22 5:15 Adult Choir 5:45 Dinner 6:30 Children's Choir 6:45 Vespers Service	Menu Grilled Chicken Rice Garden Salad Broccoli	3/30	3/31	

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