

**The Circuit Writer**  
Ghent United Methodist Church  
531 Raleigh Avenue  
Norfolk Virginia 23507

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# The Circuit Writer

Ghent United Methodist Church

February 2011

## Souper Bowl of Caring to benefit Ghent Area Ministries...

by Bill McClung

Our youth, joining young people in churches across the country, will hold soup pots at church doors on **Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday**, this Sunday, February 6, 2011.

Last year, \$10 million was collected by Souper Bowl of Caring participants for local charities. Collected money is donated to a charity selected by the participant - none of the money is sent to the Souper Bowl of Caring headquarters. Organizers only ask that participants report proceeds so national totals can be determined and announced. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990, more than \$71 million has gone to help people in need. Please support the youth of our church and show "love to our Ghent neighbors" by dropping a donation in the Soup Pot this Sunday.



## Youth Raising Funds for Summer Mission Trip – Appalachian Service Project

by Bill McClung

Founded in 1969 by Rev. Glenn "Tex" Evans, a United Methodist minister, the Appalachian Service Project works to make homes warmer, safer and drier for hundreds of Central Appalachian families every year. Far more than just a building program, forging friendship is as important as swinging hammers. While the homes of poor Appalachian families are repaired, groundwork is laid for a lifetime of service benefitting youth and adult volunteers, their churches and their communities far beyond their ASP experience.

ASP has grown from 50 volunteers its first year to over 15,000. The organization operates in 28 communities in Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia each summer; and operates four year-round centers through which volunteers serve.

***This summer our youth will be working in Tennessee the week of June 25 - July 2. It costs \$400 per person to attend. Please support our youth fundraisers this spring.***

**ANOINTED  
TRANSFORMED  
REDEEMED**

*A Study of David*

## Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed: a Study of David.

Join us starting February 7 for this 6 week study of God's servant David, taught by 3 incredible Bible teachers, Priscilla Shirer, Beth Moore and Kay Arthur.

We meet weekly 9:30-11:00 on Monday mornings at the church.

All women are invited and child care can be made available if needed.

Please call Debbie Bonnewell to order a workbook (\$15 cost). We will enjoy a cup of Starbucks coffee, a healthy snack, the teaching video, discussion and prayer.

Now all we need is you!



The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days." (Exodus 16:3-5 NIV)

## In the Wilderness...

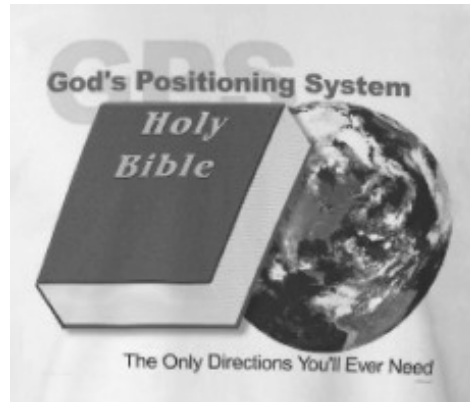
I have just returned from our Virginia Conference Pastor's Convocation where we looked at the Exodus experience and its relevance for the church today. As we look around at many churches today, we are clearly in the wilderness, just like the Israelites.

They were not far removed from slavery in Egypt, and suddenly they had doubts and a crisis of faith. They began to complain that they had it better in Egypt. At least as slaves, they had received food.

Our churches complain today, when we remember the good old days of the 50's when most churches were at the zenith of membership.

The challenge for us today, like the Israelites of so long ago, is sustenance in the wilderness. God

provided the food and water they needed in the forms of manna from heaven, quail for meat, and water. They doubted and God provided.



When they came to a place of faith, God provided even more, as he delivered them to the promised land. To move out of that wilderness experience, they had to rely on their **G.P.S.** or **God Positioning System.** God guided them in the form of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

If we, the church of today will look for God's guidance and follow Him, He will provide for us and set us on the right path to be His people in a new land. May we open our hearts to our G.P.S. each and every day.

Feeding the Community,

*Bill McClung*

## Ghent Church Contact List

**Pastor Bill McClung 268-4384**  
pastor@ghentumc.org

### UMW

#### President

Margaret Spencer, 483-9361  
writer714@juno.com

#### Laubach Circle

Carolyn Long, 855-4577  
cndlong@cox.net

#### Mary & Martha Circle

Christin Johnson, 757.489.1639  
cln\_odu@yahoo.com  
Melissa Meador, 757.204.7281  
melissameador@cox.net

#### Circuit Writer & Website

Sara Garner, ssgarner@cox.net  
Ralph Garner, garnerralph@cox.net

#### Vacation Bible School Chairperson

Lisa King 623-1350  
Boatrite@cox.net

#### Ghent Women's Bible Study

Debbie Bonnewell 855-5553  
gdbonnewell@cox.net

#### Children's Ministry

Kristen McClung, 269-4385  
kristen.mcclung@hotmail.com

#### Music Ministry & Concert Series

Jason Peterson 512-5426  
jason.paul.peterson@googlemail.com

#### Church Council Chairperson

Jim Blassingham 627-1010  
james.blassingham@verizon.net

**(Church office info listed below)**

## Ghent Faith Family February Birthdays

01	Russell Evett	11	Blair Willis	18	Jacob Nothstine
01	Lynn Tiedge	15	Linda Rienarth	18	Ashten Riggs
02	Charles Crisman	16	Grace Bonnewell	19	Katie Crabbs
05	Brian King	16	Wayne Richard	19	Annie Cramer
07	Kimberly Elinsky	16	Jennifer Sawyer	25	Stephanie Allen
09	Lauren Docalovich	17	Katarina Docalovich	26	Mary Vellines
09	Floyd Smith	18	Grace Garner	27	Michael Gunn
11	Jeff Martin	18	Jack Hagn	28	Michael Lindale

## Stewardship & Attendance

### Attendance:

January 2	47	\$3,388.81
January 9	72	\$3,535.53
January 16	95	\$2,177.46
January 23	69	\$1,745.08
January 30	68	\$1,313.59

Also: \$6,392 annual endowment fund interest  
Needed Weekly: \$5,186.00

## Ghent UMC Office

**Patricia Dominicci - Administrator**  
531 Raleigh Ave, Norfolk 23507  
757 622-2843 OR office@ghentumc.org  
www.ghentumc.org

**GUMP Hours:** M-F, 8 am - 1 pm

### Church Office Hours:

Monday- Thursday, 8 am - 3 pm,  
Fridays - closed.

# February 2011

Need a reminder of God's Love this month? Find it here: John 3:16-20, Jeremiah 31:3, Romans 5:6-8 and 8:35-37, Deuteronomy 7:7-8, Isaiah 43:1-4, 1 John 4:7-8. There are many more! Keep looking!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Children's Ministry Planning Luncheon</b> noon - 1:30 February 6th!	1 Laubach Circle 10 am	2 Art 4:30 Choir 5:30 Chancel 7:00 AA 7:30	3 Art 4:30	4	5	
6 SS/Worship 9:45-noon GUMY 4 pm CONCERT Chua 3 pm	7 Bible Study 9:30 am	8 Mary/ Martha 9:30 am	9 Art 4:30 Choir 5:30 Chancel 7:00 AA 7:30	10 Art 4:30	11	12
13 SS/Worship 9:45-noon GUMY 4 pm	14 Bible Study 9:30 am	15	16 Art 4:30 Choir 5:30 Chancel 7:00 AA 7:30	17 Art 4:30	18	19 GUMP Sale 8 am-1 pm
20 SS/Worship 9:45-noon GUMY 4 pm	21 Office/ GUMP closed Bible Study 9:30 am	22	23 Art 4:30 Choir 5:30 Chancel 7:00 AA 7:30	24 Art 4:30	25	26 Wedding 4 pm
27 SS/Worship 9:45-noon GUMY 4 pm	28 Bible Study 9:30 am					



GHENT UNITED  
METHODIST PRESCHOOL

## Stock Up for Spring!

When the hangers and tags and posters appear in the Education foyer it is a sure sign that the **GUMP**

**Spring Consignment Sale** is coming up soon! Mark your calendar for **Saturday, February 19th** from **8 am to 1 pm**. GUMP parents and volunteers through amazing organization and *esprit de corps* always have a fun and successful sale. The Spring Sale focuses on warm weather clothing and summer gear for newborn to size 8.

Potential consigners can have questions answered by Jennifer Graham or Joan Smith at [gumpconsignment-sale@gmail.com](mailto:gumpconsignment-sale@gmail.com). Potential buyers just need to get up early and head over to Ghent UMC for great deals on Saturday, February 19th!

### Children's Ministry Planning Luncheon!

Join us for lunch and ministry event planning **Sunday, February 6, 12 - 1:30 pm**. We'll be looking at Easter activities and planning through June.

***This is a fun and spiritually rewarding time on the church calendar!*** Brainstorm with us as we explore joyful ways to teach and share God's love! Childcare is provided! We WILL finish on time! **RSVP to Kristen McClung** (p. 9).



by Kristen McClung

During Wee Worship in January, our children learned about Jesus' life as a boy, including his visit to the temple. We studied archaeological findings from first century Nazareth to find out what Jesus' home may have been like, and then made our own homes out of clay. We also learned about the kinds of food Jesus would have eaten, and the games children of Nazareth may have played.

In February, we will get a little wet as we talk about baptism!

Wee Worship, which is held after the children's message during the 11 am worship service, is for children of all ages who are unable to sit through the worship service. Children learn a Bible story and participate in activities related to the story. Parents pick children up after worship in the Wee Worship room on the third floor of the education building.

Check the Wee Worship bulletin board for art and photos! Questions? Contact Kristen McClung. (p. 9)





# Ghent UMW News and Notes

## Souper News for Chili Lovers!

by Christin Johnson

The UMW will be selling chili during their **SOUPER BOWL CHILI SALE on Sunday, February 6th** after worship service in the Narthex and Education Lobby. Both meat and vegetarian varieties will be available. **\$10 per quart includes a side of bread!** All monies raised through this sale will go toward UMW Missions.

## Show Love for VBS!

by Christin Johnson

The Mary & Martha gals will be selling "**Smores on a Stick**"



before and after worship on

**Sunday, February 13th** in the **Education Lobby**. These unique and delicious treats are perfect for **Valentine's Day!** All monies raised will **benefit VBS 2011.**



## Let Go & Let God

by Margaret Spencer

**Let go and let God** is the theme for the **April 9th Norfolk District UMW Women's Retreat**. **Debbie Bonnewell** will be featured as one of four session speakers and presenters. How can a mother (nurse/ chauffeur/tutor/ domestic engineer) let go of some of the many hats she wears and let God take control?

The retreat will be held at Memorial UMC in Virginia Beach from 9 AM until 3:30 PM. The keynote speaker and worship leader is the **Reverend Kathleen Haynes** of Heritage UMC. The day includes music, worship, small group sessions, continental breakfast, lunch and missions. Child care will be available.

Registration is \$15 plus an item for spring cleaning (Simple Green, Mr. Clean, Pine-Sol, etc.) to be donated to the Wesley Community Center in Portsmouth, please contact Margaret Spencer for more details.

**The Laubach Circle** will meet at **10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 1** All are invited, call Carolyn Long (p.9) with questions!

The **Mary & Martha Circle** will meet Tuesday, February 8 at 9:30 a.m. on the third floor of the church. Childcare is lovingly provided! For more information, please contact Christin Johnson or Melissa Meador. (p. 9)



Ghent United Methodist Youth (G.U.M.Y.) is a group where youth feel safe, cared for and appreciated. We seek to learn how to apply our faith to our daily lives. Weekly meetings are on Sundays from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Youth room on the third floor of the education building.

**Sunday February 6 - Souper Bowl of Caring** - During the Morning worship our GUMY's will stand at the doors to collect money for the Souper Bowl of Caring. All donations will go to **Ghent Area Ministries.**

**Sunday February 6- Souper Bowl Party at the Church** - on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m. at the church. Join us for a time of fun, fellowship, food and football! Please bring snacks to share and a 2 liter bottle of soda. Invite your friends!

**Sunday February 13 - No meeting** Pastor Bill will be on vacation. Do something loving for someone in honor of Valentines Day.

**Sunday February 20 - Lunch Bunch** We will go after church to a local restaurant for lunch and fellowship together. Bring a friend!

**Sunday February 27 - Pancake Brunch ASP fundraiser.** Youth will prepare a yummy pancake lunch with sausage, juice, and drinks! Join us after church and support the ASP!





# Preparing for PandaMania!

by Lisa King

Please get ready for the adventure of a lifetime! This summer, a pack of fun-loving panda bears will invade Ghent UMC for PandaMania Vacation Bible School! There will be a **WILD CELEBRATION** of God's unconditional love!

**Kids will discover that God has a purpose and a plan for everyone, and that he crafted each of us with his own loving hands.**

PandaMania is filled with super incredible Bible-learning experiences kids will see, hear, touch, and even taste! Bible Point crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the PandaMania activities that help faith flow into real life

This year we are hoping to reach out to more kids in the community than last summer with PandaMania! But we need your help to do so. Please **pray** for this outreach- that our PandaMania VBS will allow God's love to

come to life like never before, touching lives, changing hearts, and drawing kids and adults closer to Christ!

Also, it's not too early to **volunteer!** We are seeking leaders for the various stations such as Bamboo Blast Games

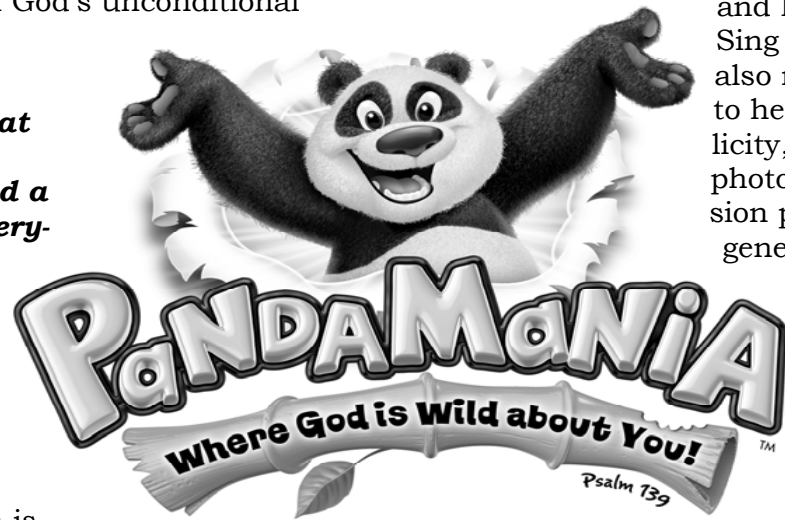
and Party Time Sing & Play. We also need people to help with publicity, decorating, photography, mission project, and general help.

Please keep your panda eyes and ears open for **decorations** we may be able to borrow:

stuffed toy panda bears; bamboo; silk or plastic leaves; paper lanterns and umbrellas; and green paper, cellophane, or material.

Finally, please support our February **fund raiser** that the Mary and Martha Circle is leading!

Thank you for being a part of this wild outreach! For more information, to volunteer, or to let us know about decorations you may have, please contact Lisa King. (p.9)



# Loving God in February

**Write a Psalm** praising God and telling Him how you love Him!

**Make a list** of all the ways God shows His love for you, and thank Him for each one. If you don't already, **read your Bible** every day; try the Gospel of John, and Psalms!

Just as you tell friends and neighbors about your children, spouse, favorite author, recipe or TV show - **share about the wonder of God**, maybe talk about your list!

**Sing a love song** to our Triune God! Hymns, Gregorian Chant, Handel's Messiah, Gospel, Praise, Southern Harmony, Christian Contemporary.. whatever! Sing your love to God!

**Take pictures or sketch or sew or knit**, based on Scripture and lovingly dedicate your work as a Valentine to God!

**Pray** - Talk to the One you love and who loves you, and delights in hearing from you!

**"The love for equals is a human thing—**  
of friend for friend, brother for brother.  
It is to love what is loving and lovely.  
The world smiles.

**The love for the less fortunate is a beautiful thing—**  
the love for those who suffer, for those who are poor,  
the sick, the failures, the unlovely.  
This is compassion, and it touches the heart of the world.

**The love for the more fortunate is a rare thing—**  
to love those who succeed where we fail,  
to rejoice without envy with those who rejoice,  
the love of the poor for the rich...  
The world is always bewildered by its saints.

**And then there is the love for the enemy—**  
the love for the one who does not love you  
but mocks, threatens, and inflicts pain.  
The tortured's love for the torturer.

**This is God's love.  
It conquers the world."**

Frederick Buechner  
*The Magnificent Defeat*

## Ghent Faith Family Prayers:

Deployed Military and their Families:  
Steven Morse, Chris Martin

Those who are ill:  
**Adam Dittmore**  
**Aundrea Dunham**  
**Tom Dunham**  
**Gail Evett**  
**Stephen Evett**

**Mary C. Gallo**  
**Ian Garner**  
**Midge Garner**  
**Rev. Jim McClung**  
**Marjorie Mitchell**  
**Walter Remington**

**Lana Robertson**  
**Gene Smith**  
**Mary Vellines**  
**Meredith Wilkins**  
**Joe White**

Those Grieving: **Brian & Lisa King** and their family on the death of his mother, Patsy King.

Those Rejoicing: The families of **Kimberly Elinsky**, **Ali Loomis**, and **Emily Starnes** on recent engagements! The families of **Colin Lindale**, and **Jane Anne Bartlett** on their reception in the family of Christ through Infant Baptism!