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The Circuit Writer

Ghent United Methodist Church

September 2010

After a restful summer get ready for an Autumn overflowing with opportunities to reap a harvest of spiritual blessings at Ghent UMC!

Minter that while idol worship may seem like ancient history, we still face the modern-day equivalent as needs compete with God's rightful

place in our lives. The study hasn't been picked yet - do you have a preference? Call Debbie at 855-5333 with your vote!

Ghent Women's Bible Study resumes weekly study **Tuesday, September 14th**. Choose between a morning study time of **9:30-11 am** or evening study **7-8:30 pm**.

A Harvest  of Blessings this Autumn at Ghent UMC

Do you find yourself

Longing for Enough in a Culture of More? Join the **Ghent Church Book Club** on **Sunday, September 26th from 4-5:30** in a discussion of this book by Paul Escamillo, widely available online and at Cokesbury. Enjoy a cup of tea along with conversation! Questions? Call Debbie at 855-5333.

Two studies are under review. First is **Sweeter than Chocolate!** *Sweet Words and Real Solutions from God's Book*, by Pam Gillaspie. This inductive study involves digging deep into Psalm 119, an acrostic Psalm that extols the beauty and power of the Word of God. Carrying the metaphor further are serving suggestions of chocolate for study sessions!

Also being considered is **No Other Gods:** *Confronting our Modern Day Idols*. Think you don't worship idols? An encounter with a Sphinx at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts reminded study author Kelly

Dr. Jason Peterson has another fabulous concert scheduled for **Saturday, September 11, 7 pm**. James Barbato, tenor, will sing the passionate songs of **Robert Schumann: A 200th Anniversary Liederabend**, accompanied by Dr. Peterson, pianist. Don't miss it!

Robert Schumann: A 200th Anniversary *Liederabend*



James Barbato, Tenor
is currently singing
with the Florida
Grand Opera.

Dr. Jason Peterson, pianist, and James Barbato, tenor will present an evening of the lushly passionate music of Robert Schumann. Schumann's forbidden courtship of Clara Wieck, a piano protégé of great renown, inspired a joyous outpouring of heady, tumultuous music once the couple finally wed. Don't miss this performance of beautiful, romantic art song!

Saturday, September 11th, 2010 7:00 pm
Ghent UMC Sanctuary, Tickets \$15 adults \$12 students
Proceeds benefit the Ghent UMC Organ Restoration Fund



Road Trip

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."
 Genesis 12:1-3



I've always loved to travel. In fact my family will tell you that I hardly sleep when we are traveling. I love sight-

seeing along the way. I don't want to miss enjoying the beauty of our great nation. My dream vacation (and Kristen's worst nightmare) would be to rent an RV (recreational vehicle!) for a few weeks to travel cross-country.

A favorite song along this theme is "Route 66" by Nat King Cole. Another great song of a more modern road trip would be by the Talking Heads. "The Road to Nowhere" lyrics say this:

Well, we know where we're going, but we don't know where we've been,

and we know what we're knowing, but we can't say what we've seen,

and we're not little children and we know what we want,

and the future is certain, give us time to work it out.

As I think about the "great adventure" road trip, I naturally reflect on the faith concept of our life-long Spiritual Journey. We are much like Abram, to whom God says, "go on the journey to the promised land."

God tells us to go, and we have to have things in place to be able to get up and go. During September I will use this metaphor to talk about our Spiritual Road Trips. September 5 we will look at "**Restoring Our Car**" for the trip. September 12 we will talk about the "**Owner's Manual**" and September 19 we will talk about our "**Driving Skills**." As summer time winds down, set your GPS for Ghent UMC and join us as we all prepare for a Spiritual Journey that will leave each of us refreshed and replenished in ways that a vacation never will.

Feeding the Community,

Bill

Ghent Faith Family August Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|----------------|
| 01 | Greyson Byrom | 15 | Emily Carter |
| 04 | Rick Young | 17 | Susanne Dawson |
| 05 | Denise Descoteaux | 20 | William Wells |
| 05 | Debbie Bonnewell | 21 | Jim Savin |
| 05 | Kevin Matthews | 22 | DeWeese Bohn |
| 07 | Bill Walker | 23 | Frank Rives |
| 07 | Mac Rorrer | 23 | Sara Garner |
| 08 | Jane Bennett | 23 | Regan Riggs |
| 08 | Mary Elizabeth Wallingford | 24 | Brenda Pfister |
| 10 | Tiffany Maloney | 30 | Gary Bonnewell |
| 12 | Glen Raby | 30 | Melanie Cramer |
| 12 | Lydia Bariteau | 31 | Yvette Baker |
| 12 | Brad Byrom | 31 | Mike Allen |
| 14 | Sheila Pfister | | |



*Belated
 Best Wishes &
 Blessings to our
 Ghent Faith Family
 celebrating
 August Birthdays!*

Ghent Faith Family September Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|------------------------|
| 02 | Rosemary Hossli | 18 | Laura Pilley |
| 04 | Debbie Dyer Smith | 18 | Anne Vanderberry |
| 04 | Jean Peppito | 19 | Drew McClung |
| 04 | Barbara Gurganus Barrett | 19 | Rachel Zelibor |
| 06 | Melvin Allen | 20 | Virginia Parsons |
| 08 | Dorothy Allen | 20 | Dani Powers |
| 09 | Laurie De Grand | 21 | Ronnie Young |
| 10 | Laura Braswell | 22 | Houston White |
| 15 | Mike Maloney | 24 | Stephanie Byrom |
| 16 | Will Ellson | 27 | Gerard "Peppi" Peppito |
| 16 | Michael Husk | 27 | Donna Briggs |
| 16 | Riley Ricks | 29 | Alice Bingham |
| 16 | Weldon Vanderberry | 30 | Mark Rienarth |
| 17 | Ann Horner | 30 | Brenda Richard |
| 17 | Heike Walker | 30 | Madison Zelibor |
| 18 | Jim Carraway | | |

*May this day,
 and all of your days
 be filled with the
 wonder of God,
 and His special love
 for you!*

Happy Birthday!



The Circuit Writer is published and mailed out monthly. Please send announcements and articles to ssgarner@cox.net or call 623-1862. Deadline for the next issue **October** is Sunday, September 19th.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
MISSION: Hats for Haiti now through 9/19.			1 Choir	2	3	4
5 FS Foodbank SS-Worship GUMY	6 Labor Day	7	8 Choir	9	10	11 Concert
12 SS-Worship GUMY	13 Eggleston Circle	14 Bible Study M&M Circle	15 Choir	16	17	18
19 SS-Worship PICNIC	20	21 Bible Study	22 Children Choir Chancel Choir	23	24	25
26 SS-Worship GUMY Book Club	27	28 Bible Study	29 Children Choir Chancel Choir	30	Next First Sunday Foodbank-October 3rd	

Regular Weekly Schedule

Sunday

Sunday School 9:45 am
Worship 11 am
GUMY 4 pm

Tuesday

Ghent Women's Bible Study- 9:30 am, OR
7 pm. New Study begins Sept 14th!
Contact: Debbie at 855-5333.

Wednesday

NEW Children's Choir (starts 9/22)
5 - 6 pm (Kindergarten-5th Grade)
Chancel Choir Practice 7 pm

GUMP & Church Office

GUMP - M-F, 9 am to noon
Church Office - M-F 9 am to 3 pm,
closed Labor Day

Ghent UMC Meetings & Events

Saturday, September 11th

Schumann: A 200th Anniversary
Liederabend. 7 pm in the Sanctuary.
Tickets \$15/\$12

Monday, September 13

Eggleston Circle 7 pm at the home of
Debbie Bonnewell.

Tuesday, September 14

Mary & Martha Circle 9:30 am at church.

Sunday, September 19th

Ghent UMC Church Picnic in Stockley
Gardens after 11 am worship!

Sunday, September 26th

NEW Ghent Church Book Club Literary Tea
4-5:30 pm in the library.

Ghent Church Picnic on Stockley Gardens!



Join us after
worship on
**September
19th** for our
annual **Church
Picnic** in front
of the church

in Stockley Gardens.

The church will provide burgers,
hot dogs (and the fixings), grilled
chicken and drinks. Each family is
asked to bring a side dish (salad,
vegetable or dessert) to share. Pack
lawn chairs or picnic blankets and
bring a friend or neighbor too!

There will be games and activities
for the younger ones, including a
moon bounce, pony rides and a pet-
ting zoo!

Do you have a canopy we could use
for shade that day? Please let the
church office know.

Help us plan properly and be good
stewards of our funds by taking a
moment to sign up on the **Church
Picnic Sign Up Sheets** located in
the narthex and foyer of the educa-
tion building, calling 622-2843 or
emailing us at office@ghentumc.org
with your attendance!



The 2010 - 2011
school year will begin
at GUMP on Tues-
day, September 7th!
We will open with full
enrollment and one

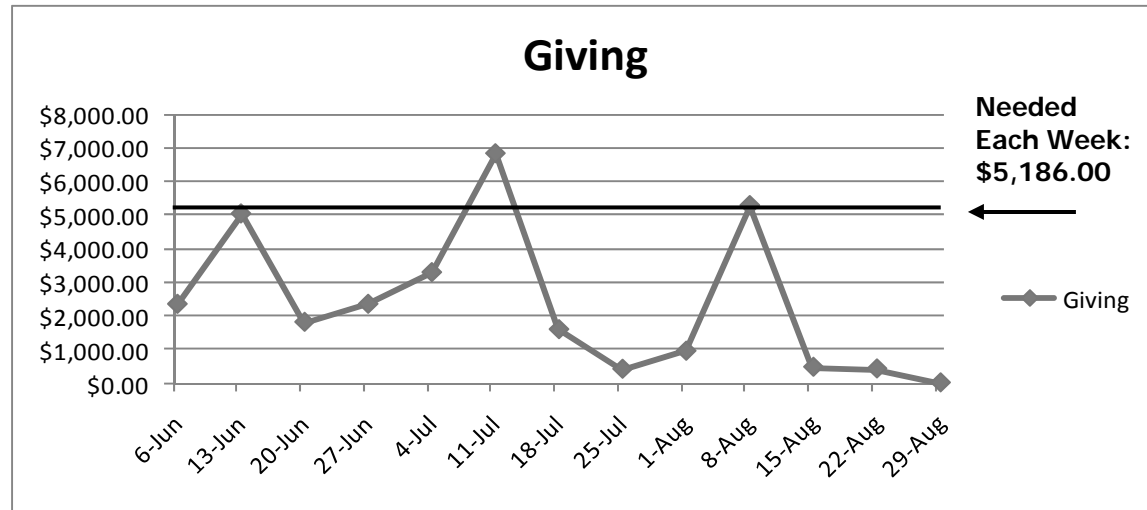
new addition to our staff. Rebecca
Louth will become our Pre-K assis-
tant. God has blessed us with an
amazing and talented staff and
extremely supportive parents.

On Sunday, September 19th, the
Pre-K class will be presented their
very own Bible by Ghent Church.
Bible Sunday, in its seventh year,
is becoming a tradition! The Bibles
are used during GUMP Chapel,
held in the church sanctuary every
Friday. The 2's, 3's and Pre-K
children hear Bible stories, sing
familiar songs and pray for our
many blessings. The children are
always excited when "their" Bible
is used to tell the story! We want
to teach and reinforce what our
children are learning at home.
GUMP parents are warmly invited
to stay for the church picnic. We
enjoy this opportunity for Ghent
church members to meet our pre-
school families!

The **Consignment Sale** is set for
Saturday, October 2, 8 am to 2 pm
in the Fellowship Hall. To consign
items, please contact Nancy
Mooney at tfm3stl@msn.com.



Ghent UMC Bulletin Board



Giving Not Meeting Church Budget Needs

Like a lot of bad news, our giving information tends to be on the back page. The stewardship information appears in the newsletter and in the bulletin each week. The dollar amount needed each week in order to meet our operating expenses is \$5,186, yet we often receive much less. Most challenging are the summer months, when attendance is low. We can only operate in the red for so long before our Church succumbs to a lack of life-sustaining funds.

So, if you are a member of this church and have not made a pledge to our budget, **please prayerfully** consider doing so now. If you are giving the same amount you did in years past, **please prayerfully** revisit the amount you pledge and consider in-

creasing your pledge. If you attend our church and are not a member, **please prayerfully** consider the mission and outreach we offer to the Ghent community and help our church continue to minister to you, your family, our neighbors, to all in need of Christ's saving grace.

Please pray with us for guidance in our use of the gifts we receive that we might meet our expenses and continue to bring Glory to God through worship and bring Christ to those who need to hear, taste, see and feel His message of love, forgiveness and peace.

Jim Blassingham

Stewardship & Attendance

Attendance:		Pledges:
August 1	68	\$ 942.44
August 8	59	\$5278.87
August 15	70	\$ 464.44
August 22	62	\$ 413.71
August 29		Needed Weekly: \$5,186.00

Ghent Faith Family Prayer List

- Laura Birkman (*Dr. Whitehurst's niece*)
- Scott Brown (*Ralph Garner's friend*)
- Ian Burke
- Lisa Caster
- J. Parker Cross, II
- Laura Griffin
- Bill Hazlet
- Pat & John King (*Brian King's parents*)
- Marjorie Mitchell
- McDaniel Randall
- Lana Robertson
- Dorothy Thomson
- Meredith Wilkins
- Parents of Steve Vegh
- Persecuted Christians
- Ghent Church Stewardship
- The United Methodist Church
- The United States of America

Deployed Military and their Families:
Rob Collett, Steven Morse, Chris Martin

"If thou should'st never see my face again, pray for my soul.
More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."
Alfred, Lord Tennyson

"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go."
Abraham Lincoln

Prayer is exhaling the spirit of man, and inhaling the Spirit of God.
Edwin Keith



Ghent United Methodist

Youth (G.U.M.Y.) is a community of youth, who seek to make all members feel safe, cared for and appreciated while learning to apply faith to life. Join our weekly meetings with Pastor Bill **Sundays from 4-5:30 p.m.** in the Youth Room.

- Sunday Sept. 5 - Weekly meeting**
- Sunday Sept. 12 - Weekly Meeting: Back-to-school discussion**
- Sunday Sept. 19 - No meeting - Church Picnic**
- Sunday, Sept. 26 - Weekly Meeting**



Hats for Haiti

The people of Haiti experience an extremely high rate of eye health and vision problems caused by unprotected exposure to the bright sunlight. An easy way to avoid and alleviate some of the damage is by providing sunglasses and hats with brims!

Ghent UMC is collecting sun hats of all types (except, please, not really wide brims), baseball caps, visors, and sunglasses. Boxes are in the narthex and in the lobby of the Educational Building. Please drop off whatever you can! We will be collecting through September 26.

Carolyn Long



VBS: Whole Church Outreach - Thanks!

From July 12th through the 16th, Ghent Church was transformed into a ship sailing across the high seas of God's Love with over **50 children and 45 volunteers on board experiencing God's Word** through Vacation Bible School! By the end of the week, all participants learned the message that God's Word is true, comforting, surprising, life-changing, and for everyone!

The mission project was to prepare totes for Project Night Night which include a blanket, animal and book. **Over 25 Totes were put together!** These totes will go to children ages newborn through grade 5 in the For Kids homeless shelters in Norfolk, Chesapeake, and Suffolk. Numerous individuals worked for several months prior to Vacation Bible School to help sew the handmade blankets for the project.

Many in our congregation and community heard the call of *His* boatswain's pipe to help with this year's High Seas Vaca-

tion Bible School! **We give a big thanks** to all of those who helped by praying, planning, sewing, raising and donating funds, lending and donating decorations, helping with publicity, decorating and cleaning, and volunteering to be station leaders, crew leaders, registration workers, greeters, and deckhands. We really could not have gotten underway without all hands on deck!

We are also thankful for all of the children who participated, as **their faith and enthusiastic presence reminded us of how joyful it is to let God's Word into our hearts!** Finally, we are also thankful for our loving God who made this ministry possible!

As summer leads into fall and the last of the portholes is dismantled, the final seagull shooed out of the social hall, and the puppets stored away, **please keep next summer's Vacation Bible School in your prayers.** Please ask God to guide us in this ministry, and to fill our hearts with His joy so we are prepared to share it next summer.

Lisa King

Lights, Camera, Action!

It may seem early to talk about Christmas, but mark your calendar anyway for the 2010 Children's Christmas play, **Bethlehem's Best**, set for **Sunday, December 5, 4 pm.** Children and youth of all ages are invited to participate! There are speaking and non-speaking parts available.

Dr. Jason Peterson will teach the music for the play during **Children's Choir** practices, Wednesdays at 5 pm starting September 22nd. **Bethle-**

hem's Best rehearsals are planned for 4 pm each Sunday in November, with a Dress Rehearsal on Saturday, December 4. Interested children and youth are asked to complete the **Bethlehem's Best Sign Up Sheets** on the desk in the foyer of the education building October 3rd and 10th.

If you have questions about the Christmas play or would like to sign up your child, please contact me at kristen_mcclung@hotmail.com or 268-4385. Kristen McClung



Practice Makes Perfect! Especially faith!

Before Bill and I moved to Norfolk, we lived in a small town in southwest Virginia where football reigned supreme. Every Friday night, the whole town turned out to cheer on the high school football team, and would travel more than an hour to the away games. The support for the local team was incredible and the spirited energy was contagious! Soon football became a big part of our lives as well.

One evening at small group Bible study, a few of the parents complained about homework requirements and how difficult it was for the kids to complete it with three-hour football practices after school each day. I asked one of the parents, "Why does your son go to football practice?" His reply was, "Well, to practice his skills." I then asked, "Why does your son have homework?" He smiled and didn't respond. I thought I had probably made him angry, but later this father told me it was an "Aha" mo-

ment for him. "How can I expect my son to get good at something if he doesn't practice it? That goes for his school work, too," he said.

Most things we do in our lives require practice. Reading, math, soccer, piano, ballet – and especially faith. **Sunday School provides a rare place where your children can learn about the Christian faith,** pray and enjoy hands-on activities. It is one hour every week when kids are focused on learning about God and the saving power of Christ.

This fall as you plan your children's activities, include Sunday School. Think about it as a practice time for your children's faith journey! **Sunday School classes are held every Sunday from 9:45 – 10:45 on the third floor of the education building.** We can't wait to learn about God and grow in our faith with you!

Kristen McClung

Get the Wiggles Out at Wee Worship

This fall, the children in **Wee Worship** will travel back in time as we explore truths from the Old Testament. In September, we will learn about a tricky snake in Genesis, with Adam and Eve. In October, learning to work together is stressed as we study the Tower of Babel. Then in November,



kids will learn how small children can do big things as we remember David and Goliath. In December, we will focus on the birth of Jesus.

Let me know if you have questions about Wee Worship or would like to help out! 268-4385 or email kristin_mclung@gmail.com