

January 7, 2009

GRAND AVENEWS

Staff

George E. Rook
Pastor

Chuck Law
Director of
Music Ministries

Austin Hayes
Director of Children,
Twens & Youth Ministries

Wanda Mayfield
Organist

Heather Sanders
Secretary

Sunday Schedule

9:00am
Sunday School*

9:45am
Fellowship

10:00am
Worship

*Child Care Provided

Contact Us

Phone Number
870-673-6317

Fax Number
870-673-3697

Email
gaumc@centurytel.net

Website
www.gaumc.com



Sympathy is extended to Rolfe Bryant on the death of his mother, Hazel Bryant of Magnolia, Mississippi. Hazel died Thursday, December 25 and was buried on Friday, January 2 in Magnolia.

Sympathy is also extended to Norris Ragan on the death of his mother, Beth Ragan Adams of Conway. Beth died Friday, December 26 and was buried on Sunday, December 28 in DeWitt.

Sympathy is also extended to Kevin Raper on the death of his grandfather, Carl Raper of Hazen. Carl died Friday, December 26 and was buried Sunday, December 28 in Hazen.

The Age Level Coordinators will have their annual orientation meeting in the Church Library after Morning Worship next Sunday, January 11. Watch your mail box for a packet of preparation materials!

The Youth Council will meet Sunday, January 18, after Morning Worship in the Fellowship Hall. All youth and their parents and anyone interested in our Youth program are invited to attend!

YEAR END CONTRIBUTION REPORTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP IN THE VESTIBULE THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 18.

JANUARY MEETINGS

Trustees will meet in the Church Office on Monday, January 19 at 7pm.

Finance Committee will meet in the Library on Tuesday, January 20 at 7pm.

Administrative Council will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, January 20 at 7:30pm.

The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 19 for the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance.

Happy New Year!



January

Nicholas Griffin
Jack Griffin

February

Loren Bohanan
Jessi Shelton



Martin Luther King Jr. Day

JANUARY 19, 2009

**Remember:
YOU may be the only
reflection of Christ
some people ever see.**



Jacob Dean Eagle, son of Clay and Ashley Eagle, will be baptized during Morning Worship, Sunday, January 18.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." -St. Luke 18:16

For your information: Grand Avenue now owes Farmers and Merchants Bank approximately \$2534.04 on the air conditioning/furnace loan. The disbursement from the General Endowment Fund, along with a special gift to Grand Avenue, have significantly lowered the balance owed.



SINGLES TRIP

Tuesday January 20, 2009.

Chanticleer

Warfield Concert, Helena, AR. 7:30pm. Free. Twelve beautiful and clear male singing voices! This is Chanticleer who brings both choir and solo voices with unbelievably beautiful results. Billed as "America's favorite choral ensemble" they will bring a wonderful musical experience. Bus leaves church parking lot at 5:30pm. Contact Howard Black at 673-3441 or email howard5511@yahoo.com to reserve your seat on the bus. All singles are welcome.



UMW Sunday is January 25 with Linda Cover as our guest speaker. Linda is the 2009 UMW Southeast District President. Various UMW members will participate in the service as worship leaders. You are invited to attend!

2009 CONFIRMATION CLASS

The 2009 Confirmation Class is being organized for youth in or above the sixth grade. You are encouraged to pre-register before Tuesday, January 20 by calling the Church Office (673-6317). An organizational meeting for the class will take place in the Church Library after Morning Worship on Sunday, January 25.

FROM THE PASTOR

“Tradition may be inherited, but if it isn’t consciously maintained, if each generation isn’t educated in its benefits, it can fade. Manners, habits, folkways aren’t automatic. They have to be inculcated, cultivated and passed on through time and the generations.”

- “Arkansas Democrat-Gazette”
Thursday, January 1, 2009 - Page 4B

Thank you! Thank you, Grand Avenue, for being you! Being faithful disciples of Jesus - living the character marks of those who belong to the Kingdom of God - remains the focus of our congregation and her members. Spiritual formation, as in growing more and more into the likeness of Christ, remains our reason for being, even as it has been generation after generation at Grand Avenue. If we ever fail in being the people Jesus would have us be, we will have lost our true identity and will no longer be running “with perseverance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1b).

Through challenges from society and within our congregation, you have continued looking to Jesus “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2). You have not only asked, “What would Jesus do?,” you have lived what Jesus would do. When you sing, “Here I Am Lord” (#593), you mean what you sing and, with God’s help, seek to live what you sing. You have the mind that was in Christ Jesus as “you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:4b; see also verses 5-11). As you live with forgiveness and compassion toward others, you have embraced Christ’s own humility so that, as servant people of God, you do not “think of yourself more highly than you ought to think” (Romans 12:3b), which is in sharp contrast to the hedonism, self-centeredness and divisiveness of contemporary culture - even in the church.

I want to begin 2009 by reminding you how special you are and have been to me. Even before I was appointed as your Pastor some fifteen years ago, I knew of your reputation years earlier when I was Pastor of the Altheimer/ Wabbaseka Charge. Let me share with you that even now your reputation remains known to others nearby and far away. People in Stuttgart refer to you as a “spiritual church,” which you are; furthermore, you are also a “servant church.” True, we are not everything we could be and yet, we want to be. We want to become more and more what Jesus wants us to be as we “run with perseverance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1b).

Regardless of what 2009 holds for us as individuals and as a congregation, in each generation remember who you are and what you stand for.

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. . . . And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God” (Philippians 1:3-6, 9-11).

- George E. Rook



Chancel Bells and Adult Choir

We have resumed our weekly rehearsal schedule and new members are always invited to share in the fun and fellowship. Many thanks to everyone again for wonderful singing, ringing and having fun celebrating our Lord Jesus Christ in 2008. I am very excited about the new year.

HANDS FOR HIM

We will resume our program this Wednesday. Please encourage your child to participate. This new program got off to a great start this fall and I encourage everyone to participate and support this program. Thank you again to all the parents, children and helpers that work to insure this and other programs at Grand Avenue are a success.

New Youth Sunday Group Starting

This Sunday at 4:00 I am pleased to announce a new program specifically for our youth in grades 3rd thru 6th. This group will focus on singing, music theory and rhythm study and will be preparing music for the annual Children's Choir Festival as well as performing in church. A meal is being planned to be served prior to Handbell rehearsal at 5:00.

Children's Youth Choir Festival

The dates for the annual Youth Choir Festival are March 7th and 8th this year. Please mark your calendars and encourage your child to participate. We will be working on the music during rehearsals on Sunday afternoon with our new group. The festival this year will be in Little Rock and we will be traveling just like last year and staying the night in Little Rock. Chaperones are needed for this trip. Please let Mr. Chuck know if you can help out. The festival is open to all children that are in 3rd thru 6th grade.

Sunday Youth Bells

Youth Bells will be starting back up this Sunday at 5:00. Please encourage your child to attend the new group starting at 4:00 and have pizza with everyone this Sunday. We will be watching the Raleigh Ringer DVD while eating in the Fellowship Hall this Sunday.

Austin Hayes to Attend Training Event in Dallas

Austin Hayes, Director of Children's, Tweens and Youth Ministry at Grand Avenue will be attending The Perkins School of Theology Youth Training Workshop (Foundations Course) in Dallas from Monday, January 12 through Thursday, January 15. This course addresses everything from programming, teaching, and administering a comprehensive program.

PRAYER LIST

Misti Garrison; Velma Patterson; Clio Clary; Mary Louise Hartz; Clarence South; Claudia Roebbeke; Louie McKissack; Vivian Howie; Stan Wilson; Hazel Riley; John Jackson; Joe Painter; Patsy Coose; Ray Holsted; Jan Anderson; Shelby Churchwell; Tim Walton; Stacey Fink; Harriet Boyd; Janita Hoskyn; Eleanor Suttle; Sherley Black; Rick Bednar; In Iraq—Brian Reynolds & Daniel White; The family of Hazel Bryant (especially for Rolfe); The family of Beth Ragan Adams (especially for Norris); The family of Carl Raper (especially for Kevin); Cathie Jones; Sylvia Mills; Pete Shirkey; All our sick and shut-in; President George Bush; President-Elect Barack Obama; Congress and our Leaders; The Leaders of our Allies; Members of the US, UK and Coalition Armed Forces and their Families; The families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.



2009

USHERS FOR JANUARY

Pat Mayfield*
Trent Dabbs
Rob Tipton
Jack Jacobs

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Exercise 9:30am	7 Handbells & Choir 6 / 7pm	8 Exercise 10am Grand Needlers 6pm	9	10
11 Age-Level Coordinator's Meeting Library after MW	12 Circle 3 7:30pm Sampson Home	13 Exercise 9:30am	14 Kid's Choir 3:45 - 5pm Handbells & Choir 6 / 7pm	15 Exercise 10am	16	17
18 Eagle Baptism Singles Luncheon	19 Trustees 7pm Church Office OFFICE CLOSED	20 Exercise 9:30am Finance—7pm Library Admin Co. 7:30pm Fellowship Hall	21 Kid's Choir 3:45 - 5pm Handbells & Choir 6 / 7pm	22 Exercise 10am	23	24
25 UMW Sun. Confirmation Class Org. Mtg. after MW ICCM	26	27 Exercise 9:30am	28 Kid's Choir 3:45 - 5pm Handbells & Choir 6 / 7pm	29 Exercise 10am	30	31
← Mission Trip to Baldwin, Louisiana →						

Grand Avenue United Methodist Church
803 S. Grand Ave.
Stuttgart, AR 72160

Non-Profit Org.
Standard Rate Paid
Stuttgart, AR 72160
Address Service
requested
Permit No. 42

GROUPS & GATHERINGS

YOUTH: The United Methodist Youth (grades 7-12) meets each Sunday at 6pm to 7pm in the second floor Youth Wing. (contact Austin Hayes 673-6317).

TWEENS: The "Tweens" group (grades 5-6) meets in their room on the 3rd floor, every Sunday at 6pm . (contact Lainie Hoskyn at 659-0089).

CHILDREN'S HANDBELLS: Grades 5-7 meet in the choir room every Sunday at 5pm. (Chuck Law 673-6317)

HANDS FOR HIM: Wednesday Music Program for Children: Grades K-6 meet at 4:30pm and Pre-K will meet at 5pm. Contact Chuck Law (673-6317) or Lainie Hoskyn (659-0089).

THE 3rd WEDNESDAY: Adults \$3 - Children \$2 - Seniors \$2 - Fun, food & fellowship every third Wednesday. Program starts at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. RSVP - 673-6317

HANDBELL CHOIR: Meets every Wednesday at 6pm. (Chuck Law 673-6317).

ADULT CHOIR: Meets every Wednesday at 7pm. (Chuck Law 673-6317).

EXERSICE: Meets every Tuesday at 9:30am in the FH; and every Thursday at 10am in the FH.

Other groups meet weekly and/or monthly. Please check the calendar for meeting times and dates.