

January 9, 2008

GRAND AVENEWS

Staff

George E. Rook
Pastor

Chuck Law
Director of
Music 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



It is a pleasure to welcome Richard, Missy, Cole and Kali Wilson as our newest members by transfer from another denomination on December 16th. Welcome!

Sympathy is extended to the family of Katherine Thompson. Katherine died Friday, December 28 at Crestpark.

Congratulations to Jeremy and Heather Ruff on the birth of their son, Spencer Wilson Ruff, who was born Wednesday, December 26 at St. Bernard's Medical Center in Jonesboro. Spencer weighed 7lbs, 8oz. Grandparents are John and Paula Ruff and maternal great-grandmother is Ruth Simpson.

We also extend our congratulations to Robert and Amanda Bakowski on the birth of their daughter, Amelia Bakowski, who was born January 5 in Shreveport, Louisiana. Amelia is the granddaughter of Joy and Rick Graham and great-granddaughter of Jim and Peggy Gingerich.

SUMMER JOBS AT TANAKO

Please help Tanako fill all the Summer Job Positions for 2008 with young Methodist adults from across the state. If we hire someone from Grand Avenue, we will give your church one free camper-ship to be used as you desire.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

Counselors:

Male and Female at least 20 years old.

Lifeguards:

Male and Female High School Grad with current lifeguard credentials

Kitchen Staff:

Male and Female High School Grad

Contact the Camp Office for details and to set up an interview.

Camp Tanako 501-262-2600
4301 Hwy 290
Hot Springs, AR 71913

WEIGHT LOSS CLASSES WITH SPIRITUAL ENCOURAGEMENT

Starting on January 10, from 12 noon until 1pm. Classes will meet weekly in the fellowship hall of St. John's Lutheran Church on the corner of 4th and College.

Cost is \$10 per person for the course. Bring a sack lunch.

Each week we will weigh in (confidentially), have a short prayer and scripture lesson, and get hand-outs of menus, calorie counts, etc. Come for fellowship even if you don't need to lose weight!

To sign up or get more information call Mary Johnson at 673-6490, or Judy Graham at 241-1040, or Janice Reed at 673-6097 or Susan Sparrow at 673-6418.

EASTER 2008—The date for Easter 2008 (March 23) is the earliest it can possible be. In the 250 years between 1875-2124, Easter occurs that early only one other year—1913.

The Youth Council will meet in the Fellowship Hall after Morning Worship on Sunday, January 13.

The youth will meet this Sunday, January 13 at 6:00 in the fellowship hall. Supper will be served.

We are still without a youth leader, so if you would like to volunteer to lead the youth one Sunday evening please give Shelley a call at 673-4184, 673-4567 or bardwell_alan@yahoo.com.

“BE BRAVE, BE TOUGH, BE ASSERTIVE AND TELL YOUR KIDS THAT YOU MADE A PROMISE TO GOD TO DO YOUR BEST TO ENSURE THEIR SUCCESS IN ALL ASPECTS OF THEIR LIVES: MENTAL, PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, SOCIAL AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, SPIRITUAL.”

Rod Hocott

Arkansas Area minister with youth and young adults

United Methodist Newspaper 2000

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: **Age-Level Coordinators** will meet in the Church Library after Morning Worship on Sunday, January 20. :
• This will be a time to better understand the important role of Age-Level Coordinators in the life of the local :
• church and to take a moment for planning. Please come prepared with your ideas and don't forget to :
• bring your calendars! :
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The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 21 for the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance.

JANUARY MEETINGS

Trustees will meet in the Church Office on Monday, January 21 at 7pm.

Finance Committee will meet in the Library on Tuesday, January 22 at 7pm.

Administrative Council will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, January 22 at 7:30pm.

CONFIRMATION CLASS 2008

A Confirmation Class is being organized for youth in or above the sixth grade. You are encouraged to pre-register before Tuesday, January 22 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 27.

UMW Sunday is January 27 with Ellen McNulty as our guest speaker. Various UMW members will participate in the service as worship leaders. You are invited to attend!

YEAR END CONTRIBUTION REPORTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP IN THE VESTIBULE THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 13.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES:

Please remember to give copies of your meeting minutes to Jim and Peggy Gingerich for the archives. Thank you!

LOOKING AHEAD:

The Children's Council will meet early in February. Watch for the announcement coming soon!

Sanctuary Remodeling Project: Contributions are now being encouraged and received for the Sanctuary Remodeling Project. The more funds we have up front will reduce the amount of money needed to borrow. Please make your check to Grand Avenue and designate the memo corner "Sanctuary Project." Your generosity is appreciated! Approximately \$48,971 is currently set aside for this project, which includes around \$10,000 that is to be received from the General Endowment Fund.

MUSIC NOTES AT GRAND AVENUE

A big THANK YOU to Jim Gingerich for leading the chancel choir this Sunday so that I could attend the Choristers Guild Convention in Dallas this past Sunday. The Chorister Guild is a wonderful organization that's primary focus is on church music. Their publishing and resources are invaluable to any church music program and I had a great time attending classes and reading sessions. I primarily attended sessions taught by Mark Patterson who is a nationally known composer and children's choir mentor. His valuable expertise, knowledge and sincerity shows in his clinics. I am proud of what we accomplish at Grand Avenue. When knowledge and ideas are shared, the experience helps to solidify and recharge the batteries as the saying goes.

Please remember that the Chancel Choir and Hand bells will start back this week at normal times and our Children's music program will start back January 16th. If you need another copy of the calendar please don't hesitate to ask and or call Heather in the office or myself. Mr. Chuck

Rotation Sunday School will start off the new year by studying Creation. We will be exploring the story through art, cookery, science, story, games and video.

Other stories we will learn about this year include Joseph, The Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus Calms the Storm and Pentecost.

Charlotte Eagle is the shepherd for the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten age group. Lainie Hoskyn is the shepherd for the 1st thru 4th graders and Cindy Crum is the shepherd for the 5th and 6th graders.

We would like to thank all of those who helped with Rotation Sunday School last year. The rotation is three Sundays out of the month. We would encourage everyone to participate. We have a great group of kids and this is a fun way to get to know them.

We also offer a Junior/Senior High Class. All students in grades 7 through 12 are invited to join us.

The Toddlers & Twos have a great time every week. During this month, the children will see Jesus as more than a baby born in a stable - but how Jesus grew and how they grow, too.

GAUMC MISSION TRIP—FEBRUARY 3, 2008

The GAUMC Mission Team will be leaving February 3 for Baldwin, Louisiana. The team will be going to UMCOR Sager-Brown distribution center to work and help assemble disaster kits.

You are invited to donate items to be used for the kits and/or donate monetary gifts to purchase the items. **The deadline for donations is Sunday, January 27.**

If you wish to write a check, please make it payable to GAUMC with the memo for “mission supplies.” Items donated may be placed in the UMCOR box in the Fellowship Hall.

Top Ten Most Needed Items:

Terry Cloth Hand Towels	Baby Sweaters
Toothpaste	Cloth Baby Diapers
Metal Nail Files or Clippers	Ruled Paper
Children’s Blunt Scissors	Baby Gowns or Sleepers
Pencil Sharpeners	School Bags (as specified on list)



2008

USHERS FOR JANUARY

Donald Painter*
Ralph Patterson
Trent Dabbs

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Handbells & Choir 6 / 7pm	10 Exercise 10am Grand Needlers 6pm	11	12
13 Youth Council Meeting after MW In Chapel	14	15 Exercise 9:30am	16 Kid's Choir 3:45 - 5pm Handbells & Choir 6 / 7pm	17 Exercise 10am	18	19
20 Age-Level Coordinator's Meeting Library after MW	21 OFFICE CLOSED Trustees-7pm Church Office	22 Finance—7pm Library Admin Co. 7:30pm Fellowship Hall	23 Kid's Choir 3:45 - 5pm Handbells & Choir 6 / 7pm	24 Exercise 10am	25	26
27 UMW Sunday 2008 Confirmation Class Meeting Library after MW	28	29	30 Kid's Choir 3:45 - 5pm Handbells & Choir 6 / 7pm	31 Exercise 10am		



VALENTINE DINNER FOR YOUR SWEETIE!

The United Methodist Men will be sponsoring a Valentine Dinner in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, February 14 at 7:00pm. Make plans now to join the UMM in honoring those who enrich our lives so much. There is no cost for the catered dinner, but reservations are required for the dinner and also for child care, which will be provided. THERE WILL BE SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT THIS YEAR!!! Please call the Church Office (673-6317) before noon on Thursday, February 7 OR YOU MAY MAKE YOUR RESERVATION JANUARY 20, 27 OR FEBRUARY 3 AT COFFEE TIME BY SIGNING FOR YOU AND YOUR GUEST (If you wish to bring a guest) ON THE REGISTRATION PAD next to the coffee carafes. NOTE: If you need to cancel your reservations, please do so by noon on Thursday, February 7.



MEMORIALS

In honor of Harry Beck, in celebration of his 80th birthday, a gift has been given to the Grand Avenue Sanctuary Remodeling Project by his Family.

In memory of Miss Patsy's work for the 3rd grade class of 1960-1961, a gift of Bibles has been given to Grand Avenue by Jerry A. Core.

In memory of Edna B. Hastings, a gift has been given to the Grand Avenue Music Department by Jerry A. Core.

In honor of the Grand Needlers, a gift has been given to Grand Avenue by Jennifer Walls Payton.

In memory of Rollie Rich
given by
Mrs. Kermit E. Hale
John & Debbie Newkirk

In memory of Roger & Louise Crum
given by
Diane Hutchins

In memory of Mary Bledsoe
given by
John & Debbie Newkirk

In memory of Vernon R. Simpson
given by
Mrs. Kermit E. Hale
Diane Hutchins
John & Debbie Newkirk

In memory of Bob Allison
given by
John & Debbie Newkirk

In memory of Fern Bock
given by
John & Debbie Newkirk

In honor of Jim & Peggy Gingrich
given by
John & Debbie Newkirk

In memory of Elmer Lewis Grant
given by
John & Debbie Newkirk

In memory of Katherine Thompson
given by
Pastor George E. Rook

In memory of Dorothy Jones &
Norman Watts Core
given by
Jerry A. Core

In memory of Harrison Brewer
given by
John & Debbie Newkirk

FROM THE PASTOR

Religious and non-religious people know and often quote these words from Ecclesiastes: "For everything there is season, and a time for every matter under heaven: . . . a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted" (3:1, 2b). The writer, known as the Preacher or even as the Teacher in newer translations, tells us everything has its time. Standing on the threshold of a new year, perhaps now is the time:

- to take one's faith seriously
- to learn the Lord's will and do it
- to read the Bible with study helps like a commentary and Bible dictionary in order to understand what the scriptures are actually saying
- to read devotionals like "The Upper Room" magazine in order to learn from others how to live one's faith on a daily basis
- to develop a prayer life that also includes time for listening
- to study the faith by reading Christian biographies, histories and stories
- to avoid missing worship and being late for Sunday School
- to take on services projects
- to rededicate one's life and family to God
- to be pure in thought, word, action and life
- to be reverent in worship and frequent at Holy Communion
- to remember the significance of one's baptism and be thankful
- to serve in the church rather than expecting to be served.

It has been said people often work at their hobbies and play at their religion. May our Grand Avenue members never be guilty of playing at their religion and may 2008 be a time of tremendous spiritual growth and commitment for our youth and adults! Yes, everything listed above is appropriate for youth; furthermore, this is important for the spiritual formation of our youth if they are to courageously stand against the tremendous downward pull of our popular culture.

Everything has its time. Change happens in our personal lives and in our congregation. What does 2008 hold for Grand Avenue and what does 2008 hold for you?

- George E. Rook

PRAYERLIST

Frances Byers; Betty Oliphant; Pete Shirkey; John Jackson; Claudia Roebbeke; Roland Endres; Holdyn Hoskyn; Gertie Sanders; Sherry Tuminello; Susan Freeze; Brayden Black; Tammy Wilson; Ray Holsted; Beth Ragan Adams; Clarence Thomason; Tim Walton; Caroline Bull Galloway; Joni Thomas; Steve Tranna; Loma Essex; Kelly Williams; Karen Aureli; Regina Earlywine; Rick Bednar; Randy Smith; Dell Bueker; Becki Wilson; Brian Hayes; The family of Katherine Thompson; Cathie Jones; Ellen Southall; Sylvia Mills; Clio Clary; All our sick and shut-in; President George Bush; 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.

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Grand Avenue,
Thank you so much for the box of goodies. It came just in time for finals and it was very thoughtful! I enjoyed all the delicious food very much. Thanks again for your thoughtfulness! Sincerely,
Nora Gibbons

Dear Grand Avenue,
Thank you very much for the snack box. I appreciate your thoughtfulness, the snacks were very helpful during finals. Thanks again! Sincerely,
Andrew Gibbons

Dear Grand Avenue,
I just wanted to say thank you so much for all of the wonderful goodies that was sent to me during finals! I really appreciated it! Thanks for always remembering me.
Brittany Prislovsky

Dear Grand Avenue Church Family,
Thank you so much for the Care Package during finals week. It was so nice to know someone was thinking of me during that tough week! I live in the Chi Omega house so I shared the treat with all of my pledge sisters. They really enjoyed all of the treats too, especially the peanut brittle! Thanks again for thinking of me. Be blessed,
Caroline Cook

The family of Willa Summerville Lambert would like to thank everyone at Grand Avenue for all you did for her while she lived in Stuttgart and during her lung cancer illness. The visits, cards, food from your circles, flowers, and especially your prayers were so meaningful to her as well as to the rest of her family. Even though she was never well enough to join and get involved in your church, you showed so much Christian love to her. We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Grand Avenue for the privilege of serving as Chairman of the Administrative Council for the past two years.

The restoration of our sanctuary will get under way shortly, after many years of research on the project. There are many opportunities and possibilities for our church and it is only with everyone working to explore these possibilities that they will come to be. "Young men will see visions; old men will dream dreams" (Joel 2:28). I encourage you to support your church and attend the council meetings to discuss new ideas and carry out the work of the church. In Christian Love,
Agnes Jackson

12/16/07

Dear Friends,

I've been very busy moving to Florida to live with Wayne and Carolyn and haven't had as much time as I would like. This is a good time for me to tell you how much I appreciate all of your love and caring over the years. I've had the best friends that anyone could hope for. I hope you and your families are healthy and happy and that 2008 brings more of the same.

If you should ever want to give me a call, I would love to hear from you. My number is 954-565-4810, and my new mailing address is: 2856 NE 36th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308.

With a little luck, we'll visit Stuttgart from time to time and maybe get to say "hello" in person.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all...

With all my love,
Emily Shirkey

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.

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

WEDNESDAY CHILDREN’S MUSIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

3:20-3:45pm — Music K through 2nd Grade
3:45pm — Snacks and activities K through 2nd Grade
3:50-4:45pm — Music 3rd through 5th Grade