

November 27, 2007

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

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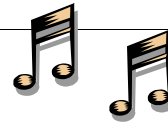


Sympathy is extended to Shirley Petter on the death of her sister, Darlene Bullard.

CHARGE CONFERENCE - DECEMBER 4

The 2007 Charge Conference will be a joint Charge Conference with First United Methodist Church on Tuesday, December 4 at 6:30pm in the Chapel of First United Methodist Church. Reminder: All members of the Administrative Council are members of the Charge Conference and are urged to attend.

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Touch of an Angel

Thank you everyone for a great rehearsal this past Sunday. Next week we will meet at 4:30 instead of 5:00. I have sent out cue cards for lines to everyone that has a speaking part. We will work on the lines as well as the music.

Wednesday Group

The children that meet on Wednesdays will be singing in church this Sunday. Please support their efforts as well as the efforts of all of the children at Grand Avenue. We will meet at 9:30 for a quick rehearsal in the sanctuary this Sunday.

Chancel Choir and Adult Hand bells

There will be no rehearsal this Wednesday for bells. Bells will resume back next week, December 5th. Thank You.

We are very busy choir and your help and participation are greatly needed as we prepare for our Christmas cantata. We will have full rehearsal this Wednesday starting at 7:00.

Rehearsal Schedule Reminder.

Wednesday November 28th 7:00

Sunday December 2nd 11:00 – 11:30

Wednesday December 5th – 7:00

Saturday December 8th – 9:00

Sunday December 9th - Service

CANDLELIGHT CAROLS IN HENDRIX SERVICE

The Hendrix College Choir will put on the 43rd annual Hendrix Candlelight Carol Service, a telling of the Christmas story through Scripture and music, at 7:30pm Nov. 29-Dec.1 and 4pm Dec 2 in Greene Chapel at Hendrix, 1600 Washington Ave., Conway. Admission is free, but reservations are required and the services usually fill up quickly.

2008 OFFICER SHEETS are available in the narthex and on the table at the side entrance of the sanctuary. Thank you to everyone who either volunteered or was recruited to serve in 2008. Thank you to everyone who faithfully served in a church office during 2007!



The Singles Christmas Party and Potluck will be held in the Fellowship Hall on December 15 at 6:30pm.

WORLD AIDS DAY OFFERING

Sunday, December 2nd is World AIDS Day. This is a day to remember those who have died as a result of AIDS and those who live with HIV/AIDS. We will celebrate the progress that is being made in fighting AIDS and recognize the work and ministry that is still before us.

The AIDS pandemic is affecting the lives of millions around the world.

- Approximately 40 million have the virus
- 25,800,000 infected persons live in sub-Saharan Africa
- Outside the United States, almost half of all those infected are women
- Worldwide, 8,000 persons die daily of the virus
- Approximately 600,000 children each year are infected; 14 million children have been orphaned
- Approximately 930,000 persons with AIDS reside in the United States

The 2004 General Conference created the UMC Global AIDS Fund with the goal of raising 48 million over the next four years. This Fund provides United Methodists with a dedicated way to address the AIDS pandemic around the globe. Of the total money raised in each annual conference, 25% will be retained by the annual conference and 75% will be sent to the Advance.

The goal for funding this Advance Special is \$1.00 per member. Our conference has 138,317 members at this time. I challenge your congregation to receive a special offering on December 2, World AIDS Day, for this important work of The United Methodist Church. Your gift can go where you cannot go and do what you cannot do.

Faithfully,

Charles N. Crutchfield, Bishop



A MISSION MINUTE

United Methodist Women

Our invitation of membership is extended to all women of Grand Avenue.

- The next general meeting is Monday, December 3, at 11:30 in the fellowship hall. Installation of officers
- Circle 2 has flowers for November
- Thanks to everyone who baked and bought for the Fall Bake Sale.



Youth News

- Thank you!! Thank You!! To everyone who gave of their time and donations to the Youth Potato Bar. Because of your generosity, we collected \$951! Once again Grand Avenue comes through with the love and support for our youth. It was a very successful lunch. After the lunch, the youth delivered gift baskets to GA members at the nursing home and delivered a potato lunch to the Fire Department.
- A Progressive Dinner/Christmas Party is planned for the youth on Sunday, December 9. They will leave from the church parking lot at 5:15 for their first course at 5:30. The youth will draw names during Sunday School on December 2 for a gift exchange at the dinner. If your youth would like to participate in the gift exchange, please let Shelley know by Saturday, December 1 so they can be included in the drawing that Sunday. Watch your email for more information.

If you would like to host a "course" at your home, please contact Shelley at 673-4567 or 673-4184 or email at bardwell_alan@yahoo.com

A VISIT FROM SANTA at the MUSEUM OF THE ARKANSAS GRAND PRAIRIE - DECEMBER 8 from 2-3pm!

We would like to invite all of your young children, up through age 8, to a special occasion here at the Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie. We are inviting Mr. & Mrs. Santa Clause to drop by on Saturday, December 8, from 2-3pm. They want to sit and talk with the children about anything on their minds, in a very informal atmosphere. There will be treats for all, but in order for this to work out, we must know how many are coming.

Please call 673-7001 to let us know how many will be here. We will have just enough treats for the ones who call...no extras.

The Museum's Doll House Village is up with animals, cars, decorations and all. It is a treat to see in itself! We also have a huge 12 foot tall decorated Christmas Tree with beautifully wrapped presents...Hope to hear from you soon.

Our visiting Clause couple is very good with children.



**THE UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME
CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING 2007**

The United Methodist Children's Home, founded over 100 years ago, has grown rapidly in recent years from one residential group facility to a statewide comprehensive behavioral healthcare system for children ages 3 to 18. Combined with the Methodist Behavioral Hospital in Maumelle and therapeutic group homes around the state, the Children's Home is part of a Continuum of Care under the umbrella of Methodist Family Health. On a typical day, 200 or more youngsters will be under the care of this historic ministry. Facilities are located in Batesville, Fayetteville, Little Rock, Magnolia, Maumelle, Searcy and Springdale. The continued success of this extraordinary ministry of the Arkansas Annual Conference is heavily dependent on the annual Christmas Special Offering. United Methodists across Arkansas are asked to donate as generously as possible to this special offering on December 9 and 16, and to pray for this ministry of rebuilding lives. Thank you!

Mr. and Mrs. James B. Refeld
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter
Heather Raeann Refeld
and
Paul Ryan Braithwaite
Son of Susanne G. Braithwaite
Saturday, the eighth of December
Two thousand seven
Two o'clock in the afternoon
Grand Avenue Sanctuary

HOME ADVENT WREATH SERVICE

The Nov/Dec issue of "The Upper Room" contains an order of worship for home advent wreaths. The service is printed on pages 40-42. Copies of this publication are free of charge and are currently available in the sanctuary narthex, in "The Upper Room" rack on the back wall of the sanctuary and in the publication rack across from the old office at the side entrance of the sanctuary.

NOTHING BUT NETS ~ \$340 was collected to purchase mosquito netting for families in sub-Saharan Africa. At \$10 per net, 34 nets were given by Grand Avenue members to keep families protected for up to four years. Thank you!

WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE SANCTUARY REMODELING PROJECT?

Contributions are now being encouraged and received for the Sanctuary Remodeling Project. The more funds we have up front will lessen the amount of money we will need to borrow. Please make your check out to Grand Avenue UMC and designate the memo corner "Sanctuary Project." Your generosity is truly appreciated!

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Are you searching for something beautiful, unique and Christian? Check out www.shop.cathedral.org for a large assortment of Christian based gifts. This is the Museum Store of Washington National Cathedral.



GRAND AVENUE TWEENS ARE LIVING B.I.G.



Grand Avenue Tweens have kicked off their year with the

Each week a study series has been designed to guide us to live our Belief In God.

All youth grades 5TH & 6TH are invited to attend each Sunday Evening at 6:00 p.m. We are beginning our second month of study and are looking forward to the lessons ahead.

Month 1- Theme - God Chooses Us
The B.I.G. Idea - We believe God chooses ordinary people to make a difference in God's world.
Bible Verse – 1 Samuel 16:7 *The Lord Looks at the Heart.*
Song – “The Beauty of Grace” by Krystal Meyers

Month 2- Theme – We Choose God
The B.I.G. Idea - We believe that by choosing to be faithful to God we set an example for others.
Bible Verse – Psalm 119:10 *With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments.*
Song – “Dive” by Steven Curtis Chapman

Month 3- Theme – Moses Leads the Great Escape
The B.I.G. Idea – We believe we can trust God's guidance and care, and know that God is always with us.
Bible Verse – Exodus 6:7 *I will take you as my people, and I will be your God.*
Song – “The Beauty of Grace” by Krystal Meyers



Thank you Grand Avenue for making this study experience possible for us!

YOUTH MINISTRY AT GRAND AVENUE

Are You Called To Youth Ministry? An energetic, inspiring individual who will serve as a Christian role model and be the director of our youth program beginning this September is invited to visit with the Pastor to share his or her vision of youth ministry. Please call the Church Office to schedule an appointment: 673-6317. Perhaps you know someone you might encourage to enter this important ministry!

PRAYER LIST

Katherine Thompson; Betty Oliphant; Pete Shirkey; John Jackson; Rita Cress; Claudia Roebbke; Roland Endres; Holdyn Hoskyn; Heather Ruff; 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; Michael Garrison; Randy Smith; Dell Bueker; 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.

FROM THE PASTOR

Christmas decorations are appearing around Stuttgart as families take from storage their heirloom ornaments and relive beautiful memories of special times enjoyed with family and friends. I suppose no other holiday generates such a vast amount of treasured memorabilia that opens a window into the history of one's life and family. Boxes are unpacked to reveal carefully wrapped Christmas tree ornaments bought on different vacations or a German nutcracker that was a gift from a beloved friend. Then, there are the cherished nativity scenes of different types and ages - all lovingly preserved and passed down to the present generation of family.

The main nativity scene to be displayed at the parsonage this year is from the Provence region of France and is referred to as santons, which means "little saints." Santons are made from the region's clay, which seems appropriate since Genesis 2:7 says God used clay to form the first human. An internet article on santons provides the following summary about how they are made: "A first sample is sculpted in a block of clay. Then, the santon maker makes a 2-part mold in plaster around this first sample. This mold will be used to make all the other santons. Each santon will be made using a block of clay pressed in the 2-part mold. After having been pressed, the clay is carefully taken out of the mold and needs to dry about 2 days. All the little defaults are corrected by hand. Then, the santons are placed in a kiln to be gradually heated to 1750 degrees and stays 12 hours at that temperature. Then, the kiln gradually cools for another 12 hour period. Only after that time is it opened and the santons will go to the last step ... the painting, which is only handmade. For that step, the santon maker is sometimes helped by persons working from home or by art students. . . . This explains the small differences you can find in the decoration of the santons." Furthermore, santons can be dressed in real cloth and are just hand-painted, which is the more popular and the kind displayed at the parsonage. While these figures appeared in French churches prior to the French Revolution, they appeared in homes only after the revolutionaries looted and closed the churches and cathedrals, even martyring many priests, nuns, monks and laity. Unable to worship in their closed churches, the people of the villages made santons for use in their own homes.

Santons are known for their simplicity, their incredible variety and the rural charm of their humble dress. What I find especially intriguing is that all the characters of the old French countryside are found among the santons. There is the lavender gatherer, the priest, the basket maker and a host of others joining the shepherds and wisemen at the stable in adoration of the newborn Jesus. The symbolism is that Jesus is everybody's savior and before him we all bow in adoration. I like this idea, which is something we should remember throughout Advent as we prepare to once again celebrate the true meaning of Christmas: our Savior has been born! Jesus is your Savior and my Savior in our everyday kind of world. He is the Savior of the farm worker, the school teacher, the businessperson, the pastor and everyone else. Jesus has come among us at Bethlehem, continues to come among us in word and sacrament and Spirit, and will one day come again. May we continually welcome his presence into our lives as we grow more and more in his likeness, and as we once again bow in adoration with everybody else before the newborn baby who remains the Savior of the world.

Have a meaningful Advent!

-George E. Rook

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT - PROVIDER OR COMMUNITY?

How do you view Grand Avenue? Do you see Grand Avenue as a provider with you as the consumer, which means if the product you want isn't here exactly the way you want it to be you take your shopping list to another provider? Or do you see Grand Avenue as a community and family of which you are a part with all its successes and failures, which means you work well with the other members you love and care about in creating a wholesome church life for everyone? I believe Grand Avenue is like a family with a variety of ages and interests, with limited financial abilities (like everyone's family) and with successes and failures (also like everyone's family). Just as your own family requires mutual support, understanding and budgeting with everyone doing his or her part, so does Grand Avenue. Do you see Grand Avenue as a community and family where you willingly and joyfully share yourself with others who know and care about you so as to help create the best church family we can be given who we are? I hope you do! Thank you for being good family members.



ADVENT I (DEC 2)

10:00am - Morning Worship

3:00pm - Lennox Concert - Esteian Winds

5:30pm - Hanging of the Greens Program

A Chili Supper will be held following the Hanging of the Greens.

ADVENT II (DEC 9)

10:00am - Christmas Cantata

"Emmanuel God with Us!"

3:00pm - 76 Christmas Candlelight Musicals
located at First UMC



ADVENT III (DEC 16)

10:00am - Morning Worship

6:00pm - Children's Christmas Pageant

"Touch of an Angel"

ADVENT IV (DEC 25)

10:00am - Morning Worship



CHRISTMAS EVE

6:30pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion





2007

USHERS FOR DECEMBER

Jerry Burkett*
Clark Roth
Dale Tull
Bob Crum

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2 World Aids Day Choir Concert 3pm - Sanctuary Hanging of Greens & Chili Supper 5:30pm NO YOUTH	3 UMW Luncheon 11:30pm FH	4 Exercise 9:30am Charge Conference FUMC 6:30pm	5 Kid's Choir 3:45 - 5pm Handbells & Choir 6 / 7pm	6 Exercise 10am UMM 7pm	7 FH Reserved	1 Refeld/ Braithwaite Wedding 2pm Sanctuary 8
9 Children's Home Offering Youth Progressive Dinner & Christmas Party 5:15pm	10 Circle 2 10:30am FH Circle 3 7:30pm	11 Exercise 9:30am	12 Kid's Choir 3:45 - 5pm Circle 1 FH 5:30pm Handbells & Choir 6 / 7pm	13 Exercise 10am Grand Needlers 6pm	14	15 Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal 10am Singles Pot Luck Christmas Party 6:30pm FH
16 Children's Home Offering Singles Luncheon Christmas Pageant NO YOUTH	17	18 Exercise 9:30am	19 Kid's Choir 3:45 - 5pm Handbells & Choir 6 / 7pm	20 Exercise 10am	21	22
23 NO YOUTH	24 Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION 6:30PM	25 Christmas Day	26	27 Exercise 10am	28	29
OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY						
30 Take home poinsettias after worship. NO YOUTH	31					

