

February 16, 2007

GRAND AVENEWS

Grand Avenue United Methodist Church

George E. Rook
Pastor

Chuck Law
Director of
Music Ministries

Sarah Alt
Youth Director

Wanda Mayfield
Organist

Heather Sanders
Secretary

Sunday Schedule

9:00am
Sunday School*

9:45am
Fellowship

10:00am
Worship*

*Child Care Provided

Phone Number
870-673-6317

Fax Number
870-673-3697

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It is a joy to welcome Ryan and Mikah Eagle as our newest members! Mikah was received by Profession of Faith and Holy Baptism while Ryan was received by transfer from another denomination. Both were received on Thursday, February 8. Welcome!

Sympathy is extended to Julia Gibbons on the recent death of her mother, Margaret Hohenberg. Sympathy is also extended to Susan Blake on the recent death of her uncle, Joe Urbani.

Because of your generosity, the Grand Avenue UMY raised \$192.17 and collected twenty canned and packaged goods on Super Bowl Sunday for the local food bank as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring program. Thank you!

CATCH THE VISION - A special offering for "Catch the Vision" will be received February 18. This is a program to establish or redevelop churches in the Arkansas Conference. Please make your check to "GAUMC" and designate the memo corner "Catch the Vision".

Calling All Sky Scouts!

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT: If you would volunteer to help with Vacation Church School, please meet in the Fellowship Hall after Morning Worship on February 18. The theme and available jobs will be described.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH

Trustees 2-19-07 @ 7pm

Finance Committee 2-20-07 @ 7pm

Administrative Council 2-20-07 @ 7:30pm

The Singles will leave from the side door of the Sanctuary after worship for lunch on February 18.

THE SANCTUARY FOR LENT 2007

“The Sanctuary For Lent 2007” is a devotional booklet (regular and large print) available from the Narthex table and the literature rack at the side entrance of the Sanctuary beginning Sunday, February 11. The children will receive their Lenten materials after the children’s sermon during Morning Worship on Sunday, February 18. Lent begins Wednesday, February 21.

The Prayer Team needs you. Come join us for an organizational meeting Sunday, February 25 in the Chapel after church. This will be a quick meeting to update the prayer chain and the email list. If you were on the Prayer Team previously or would like to be on the Prayer Team, please plan to attend this meeting.

Susanne Braithwaite, Evangelism Chair



HENDRIX COLLEGE FELLOWSHIP TEAM TO VISIT FEBRUARY 25

The Hendrix College Fellowship Team will be our worship leaders on Sunday, February 25. This is the first time to have the team with us at Grand Avenue. The team includes Rebecca Flynn, who is a freshman from Sherwood, granddaughter of our own Ralph and Velma Patterson, and a member of First UMC, North Little Rock; Conner McCuthchen, who is a freshman from Wynne and a member of First UMC, Wynne; Katie Robinson, who is a freshman from Bentonville and a member of First UMC, Bentonville; and Jacob Williams, who is a junior from Alma and a member of Mt. View UMC. After worship, our own UMY will host the Fellowship Team for lunch at a local restaurant.

This is a very special event for Grand Avenue and your attendance is encouraged. Please invite family and friends to attend.

Eighth Annual African Potluck Dinner, Drumming, and Dancing Event Feb. 24

Mark your calendar for the
Eighth Annual African Potluck Dinner, Drumming, and Dancing Event
Saturday, February 24, 2007
6:00-9:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
723 Center Street, Little Rock

benefiting

The ATEFEO Orphan Program of Burkina Faso, West Africa and the Arkansas (United Methodist) Conference Initiative in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Info from UMC.Org

CONTINUED ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Canine Guide to the Good Life: Best-Selling Author of "The Gospel According to Dogs" to Host Book Signing

Best-selling author Robert Short will sign his new book [The Gospel According to Dogs: What Our Four-Legged Saints Can Teach Us](#), at Quapaw Quarter United Methodist Church on Sunday, February 25 at 3:00 p.m.

The event will also serve as a fundraiser for the church's pet food ministry, which feeds the companion animals of the homeless and disadvantaged.

The Gospel According to Dogs reveals what man's best friend can teach us about life. Dogs do much more than keep us company and give us love and attention -- they are models for how we can live better lives as humans. Short uses examples from more than forty classic comic strips (including the Democrat-Gazette's Ron Wolfe) and charming photographs to create a delightfully entertaining book for dog lovers, comic enthusiasts and anyone looking for reassuring wisdom for the good life.

Robert Short is the author of the huge bestsellers The Gospel According to Peanuts and The Parables of Peanuts. An ordained Methodist minister and a widely traveled speaker in theology and the arts, Short holds graduate degrees in theology and literature from S.M.U., North Texas University and the University of Chicago Divinity School.

Books will be available at the door.

Info from UMC.org

For more information, go to www.qqumc.org

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - The World Day of Prayer, sponsored by Church Women United, will be held at Holy Rosary Catholic Church on Friday, March 2 at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be served following the service.



SUNDAY MARCH 4th we will honor eight new members to Grand Avenue at our New Member Luncheon after church. This will be a potluck and our new members will be our guests.

Our new members are Bea Ratekin, Drew Alderson, Darren Walker, Heather Sanders, Morgan Blake, Phyllis Orlicek, Ryan Eagle and Mikah Eagle.

Mark March 4th on your calendar and come meet and greet our new members.



The "Grand Heritage" cookbooks are in and are \$18.00. To purchase a book please see Shelley Bardwell, Janet Bryant, Clara Dobson, Jane Ferguson, Agnes Jackson, Judy Jacobs, Carolyn Moore, Aldora Roth, Joyce Roth, Shirley Young, The Jacobs Co., or the Church Office.

GREAT JOB CHILDRENS CHOIR

A big **Thank you** goes out to all of the children that participated in church this Sunday. As our Wednesday program continues and grows, I hope more will participate. I am looking forward to this group growing and sharing their special talents.

Mr. Chuck

Wednesday Children's Program to Present Spring Musical

Please make plans to come see our Wednesday Children's Music Ministry Spring Program on April 29th at 3:00pm in the Sanctuary.

JOURNEY
of
PRAISE



JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR

Your choir is always looking for new members. If you find yourself singing in the shower or to the radio you should be in the choir. Everyone can participate and reading music and having a perfect ear are not requirements to join the fun and fellowship. Please consider singing with us on Sundays. We would be glad to have you!

New Youth Hand Bell/Instrumental Group to be formed - We are lucky at Grand Avenue to have a wonderful bunch of excited elementary youth. I am going to be starting a new small group of 3rd and 4th graders to start and work with them in hand bell ringing. Orff Instruments and drumming beginning in the next few weeks. This group will start small and like an oak tree, will grow and expand.

Chancel Choirs to Present "Testament of Praise" - The Life of Charles Wesley

The combined choirs of Grand Avenue and First United Methodist will present "Testament of Praise" by Charles Wesley. Arrangements and orchestrations of these familiar hymns celebrating the life and gifts of Charles Wesley will be **May 6 at 3:00pm at First United Methodist Church**. Please make plans to attend this special celebration of music and fellowship. Guest musicians, soloists and narration will top off the afternoon and will have something for everyone to experience.

February 24 (Saturday night) from 7:00 - 10:00

Mask-O-Rave Ball

This is a Youth Service Fund (YSF) money-raising event. Dress will be semi-formal with masks required. If you don't have a mask, they will be selling them at the door for \$2.00 each. The type of masks are to be elegant - not scary!! Techno music will be played until the last 15 songs, which will be your choice by vote.

Transportation from Grand Avenue can/will be arranged.

**Brinkley United Methodist Church
\$5.00 Admission
Grades: 7-12**

CAMP TANAKO

Camp registration forms are in, pick yours up from the Church Office!

UMM Scholarship information will be released at a later date.

FROM THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE:

Grand Avenue has benefited and is greatly benefiting from the generous gifts left in the wills of concerned person. There is no time like the present to make out a will. The best of intentions, the finest and fairest of plans, will have been made in vain if we have not left a valid will to direct the disposition of our estate. We, as Christians, are blessed with the faith and revelation from God that through Christ death for us is a natural part of life and brings us into the nearer presence of God, who has created us and desires our everlasting joy and peace.

Please consider (as others have and are) Grand Avenue in a will. Help us to continue our presence and witness now and in the future. A gift to our General Endowment Fund will be a gift that keeps on giving in perpetuity to the ministry of the Grand Avenue Church.

For more information on how to remember Grand Avenue, please contact The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas at 866-281-8914. Thank you!

PRAYER FOR THE GRAND AVENUE CHURCH

Hear our prayer, most gracious God, for the people of Grand Avenue. Grant us enquiring hearts and minds to seek your Truth and inspire us to do your will in all that we undertake. Open our hearts to the concerns of our neighbors that we may seek justice, care for the afflicted, feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. May we be the instrument of your love and grace in this world. Deliver us from pride, hypocrisy, divisions, and all evil and grant that in our lives and labors we may praise your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Roth; Rita Cress; Ruby Self; Mary Bledsoe; Becki Wilson; Tammy Wilson; Willa Lambert; Sherry Tuminello; Gene Smith; Elizabeth Richardson; Ray Holsted; Beth Ragan Adams; Fern Bock; Clarence Thomason; Tim Walton; Pam Drotar; Michael Acklin; Fred McCuiston; Caroline Galloway; Bobbie Relyea; Judy Hackney; Joey Hillis; Heather Tumbleson; Dana Bateman; Brenda Crum; Sam Scales; Robert Lisko; Jackson Carmean; Bailey Simpson; Bethany Jackson; The Grand Avenue Mission Team; The family of Margaret Hohenberg; Cathie Jones; Casey 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.

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



Set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday, March 11 before you go to bed!

GROUPS & GATHERINGS

- YOUTH:** The Youth Music Group (grades 5-12) meets each Sunday from 5pm to 6pm. in the Choir Room (contact Chuck Law at 673-6317 or 672-2019);
The United Methodist Youth (grades 7-12) meets each Sunday at 6pm to 7pm in the second floor Youth Wing (contact Sarah Carmean at 501-450-2984 {cell}).
- TWEENS:** The “Tweens” group (grades 5-6) meets in their room every Sunday at 6pm (contact Lainie Hoskyn at 659-0089).
- CHILDREN:** The Children’s Music Group (grades K-4) meets each Wednesday from 3:30pm to 5pm in the Choir Room (contact Chuck Law at 673-6317 or 672-2019).

LENTEN SUGGESTIONS FROM YOUR CHURCH LIBRARY

Searching for a book to read during Lent? Here are a few suggestions from our Church Library that are currently on display and available from the library desk.

Walking The Bible: A Journey By Land Through The Five Books Of Moses by Bruce Feiler (published in 2001) and based on the recent PBS series. This book is easy to read and quickly draws the reader into the writer's fascinating experiences.

Also available by Bruce Feiler is **Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths** published in 2002.

Just As I Am: The Autobiography of Billy Graham is currently available as is **The Purpose Driven Life: What On Earth Am I Here For?** by Rick Warren.

Several beautifully illustrated books include **The Story of Jesus** by Reader's Digest, **Prayers and Poems of Inspiration** by Ideals and **The Cross** by Max Lucado.

In The Footsteps of Jesus: 2000 Years Later by Wolfgang E. Pax was republished in 1999 from the original book published in 1970. Your Pastor owns a copy of the original edition and read it while in high school. This beautifully illustrated book is accompanied with an interesting and informative text surrounding the life of Jesus, the locations where he lived and taught, and the shrines and churches associated with these historical sites. The Grand Avenue Church Library has many books similar to these that might interest you. The Library also owns a large collection of commentaries to help in understanding biblical texts and a selection of concordances to help locate biblical passages. Lent is an excellent time to experience what your library has to offer in assisting your spiritual formation.

LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 21

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word...

-The Book of Common Prayer

QUESTIONS ABOUT LENT

What is Lent?

It is the liturgical season which begins Ash Wednesday and ends with Holy Saturday. It consists of forty days (Sundays excluded), It is thought that the word "Lent" comes from the word "lengthen" since it occurs when the daylight hours are lengthening.

How did Lent get started?

In the Early Church, baptisms usually took place on Easter Eve. A forty day period of final instructions and fasting for the candidates preceded the baptisms. The number related to Jesus' forty days of meditation and fasting in the desert. Eventually this preparatory period was extended to all Christians.

What re the main themes of Lent?

The Book of Common Prayer (pg. 264) stresses that it is a season of preparation to celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord. That preparation consists of penitence and fasting, prayer and self-denial, as well as reading and meditating on Scripture.

-From "Ask Me About" by the Rev. Canon Warren E. Crews