



February
2010
Issue I

GRAND AVENEWS

Staff

George E. Rook
Pastor

Chuck Law
Director of
Music Ministries

Austin Hayes
Director of Children,
Tweens & Youth Ministries

Wanda Mayfield
Organist

Heather Sanders
Secretary

Sunday Schedule

9:00am
Sunday School*

9:45am
Fellowship

10:00am
Worship

*Child Care Provided

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870-673-6317

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Sympathy is extended to Maurie Alderson on the recent death of her older brother, Thomas Edward Hayley of Bryant.

Best wishes to Harry and Margaret Ann Beck on the occasion of their sixtieth wedding anniversary, which was celebrated this past Friday, February 5! Harry and Margaret Ann were married in the sanctuary of the Grand Avenue Church on February 5, 1950.

Because of your generosity, more than \$700 has been collected for the Haitian relief effort and more than \$800 was collected for our GA Mission Team to deliver to the UMCOR Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana.

THE OFFICE WILL
BE CLOSED MON-
DAY, FEBRUARY
15 IN OBSER-
VANCE OF PRESI-
DENTS DAY.

The Children's Council will meet in the Fellowship Hall after morning worship on Sunday, February 14 to make plans that include the Palm Sunday Processional.

Lent begins Wednesday, February 17. "The Sanctuary for Lent 2010," a Lenten devotional booklet, is available free of charge in regular and large print from the narthex and the table at the side entrance of the sanctuary.

The children will receive their Lenten activity booklets and posters after the Children's Sermon on Sunday, February 14.

BIBLE STUDY "INVITATION TO GENESIS" - A ten session short-term Disciple Bible Study entitled "Invitation to Genesis" will be taught by the Pastor in the Fellowship Hall beginning Wednesday, February 17 at 10:30am. Each Wednesday Session will last 1.5 hours. The class will not meet Wednesday, March 31 (Holy Week). REMEMBER: YOU WILL NEED TO BEGIN YOUR PREPARATION FROM THE STUDENT BOOK ONE WEEK BEFORE THE FIRST CLASS SESSION as there are important daily assignments leading up to this first session. Student books are available from the Church Office.

SCOUT FUNDRAISER

A Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, February 25. Carry outs only from 5-7pm. Plates are \$8. Please come show your support!

The United Methodist Men will be sponsoring a Valentine Banquet in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, February 18 at 7pm.

SINGLES EVENTS

February 21, Sunday - Lunch at Larry's Pizza
February 27, Saturday - Murry's Dinner Theatre (SECOND TIME Around) cost \$32.00
+ gratuity + cost of gas. Church bus will leave the parking lot at 5:15pm.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

Trustees will meet Monday 2-15 at 7pm - Church Office

Finance will meet Tuesday 2-16 at 7pm -Library

Admin. Council will meet Tuesday 2-16 - FH



The New Member Potluck Luncheon will be in the Fellowship Hall after Morning Worship on Sunday, March 7. All new members, as well as visitors, are our guests and need not bring a dish.

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

LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 17

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

Grand Avenue is in charge of distributing food at the ICCM food pantry during the month of March. We need volunteers to work on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 11:40 to 1:00 p.m. Most of our volunteers only have to work 2 or 3 times during the month. We especially need men to help with the heavy lifting. If you can't work during those times, we also need help restocking the shelves which is usually done on the weekends. If you only have 1 day to spare, we can use you. Please call Tom or Joyce Roth at 673-3398 or just tell us at church that you would like to help. This is your opportunity to participate in some wonderful short term mission work that helps those less fortunate in our community.

Christian Education - Every Sunday at 9am

Start the new year off by attending a Sunday School class at Grand Avenue. Take this opportunity to join friends or make new friends and connect in a group bible study. Our doors are always open for new ideas on making Sunday morning the best possible experience for you and your children.

Shelley Bardwell
Christian Education
Bardwell_alan@yahoo.com

PRE-K3- 4th GRADE

Rock Solid – Building A Heart of Faith

Young Adults

“Crazy Love - Overwhelmed By A Relentless God”

February 14	The Four Friends
February 21	Jesus Heals Bartimaeus
February 28	Jesus Heals the Ten Lepers

Challengers

“Faith Is The Answer, But What Are the Questions”

Pathfinders

“Troublesome Bible Passages”

Crusaders

“Irresistible Invitation”



JANUARY PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Kailyn Domrase, Jacob Eagle, Bentley Carlock, Regan Tull,
Whitney Tull, Wrana Tull, Matthew Lin & Jess Crum

What Sunday School Means To Me

Every Sunday morning I look forward to being with my church family in Sunday School at Grand Avenue. When I can't attend, my week is not the same. Going to Sunday School has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember and I could not ever imagine that changing. The small group closeness encourages and increases our love for God and our fellow man. I need that time weekly to recheck my priorities and goals in life. Through the lessons, I am able to learn about God and his plan for my life. At times I teach my class and would encourage others to try teaching. The teacher always learns more than the students. If you want to have a good week, start it by attending Sunday School and church.

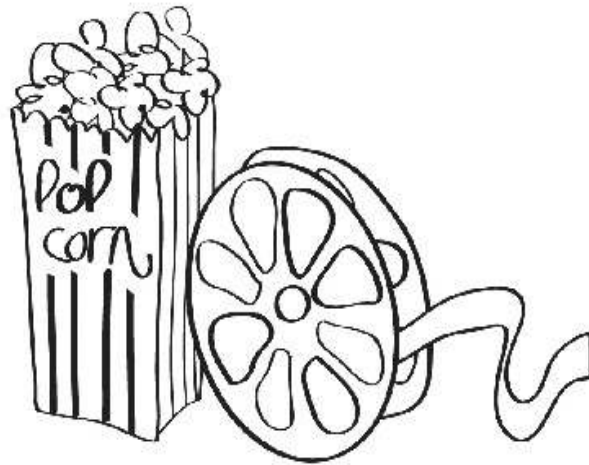
Tom Roth

LIBRARY REMINDER

Don't forget about the Children's Library on the 2nd floor in the Children's wing. Books are available for children of every age. Complete the card located in the book and drop it in the box on the counter. When you return the book, just lay it on the counter beside the box.

There are several books and videos on Easter that you and your family would enjoy during this special season.

Grand Avenue Adult
Groups
Present:
Movie Day 2010!!!



Youth Providing Snack Bar in-
cluding Drinks,
& Popcorn
Babysitter on site

FEBRUARY 28
2:00PM
GRAND AVENUE FELLOWSHIP HALL

FROM THE PASTOR - George E. Rook

“Most of the kids in the daughter’s generation have been on a never-ending entitlement program since Day I, and as such things go, *respect* for their parents has been replaced by *expect* of their parents.”

John Rosemond, “Arkansas Democrat-Gazette” - February 3, 2010

Respect vs. Expect. This is all too true with contemporary church life. I want you to reflect with me on how this ties in with “modernism” to affect Christian worship. Let me begin with the observation that if you come to worship to be entertained, you have missed the point. Worship is based on a belief there is a God and that this God is worthy of being worshiped by a community of his people. Gathering in the presence of God as a congregation of his people should be an awe-inspiring moment as we adore and pay God the reverence he is rightly due as God. Russian Orthodox Christians take this so much to heart that their churches do not have pews because they consider it inappropriate to sit in the presence of God when gathered in worship (there is a point in The Divine Liturgy when the congregation kneels together directly on the floor and there are a few chairs placed along the wall for the elderly and the infirm).

What should Christian worship include? Christian worship should consist of prayer, hearing the scriptures read, listening to a sermon proclaiming God’s word, rehearsing the tenets of our faith in the Creeds, giving a thank offering and celebrating the sacraments (remember Jesus is the one who began the Sacrament of Holy Communion and gave it to his people as a central feature of worship. People who have a problem with Holy Communion will have to take this up with Jesus, for example an evangelism workshop I once attended said not to celebrate Holy Communion on Christmas Eve and high holy days because it made visitors feel uncomfortable). Let me continue by saying Christian worship is often enhanced by additional features such as music and congregational singing. What else?

Now, contrast this view of Christian worship with worship centers where there are stadium seats ordered with cup holders, where the scriptures are no longer read but somehow retold in stories during the “talk,” where elements from our Christian heritage are discarded (such as the creeds and the sacraments) and where motivational speeches take the place of sermons.

Some years ago G. K. Chesterton, the noted Christian apologist, spoke about the rise of a movement known as “modernism.” One aspect of modernism is the replacement of tradition with a love of fads and celebrities; therefore, the modernist is indifferent to creeds of the past - just not interested! While he may take certain things for granted, he is not interested in studying and learning about what he does take for granted. Of course, Chesterton notes, fads are killed by their followers since even the new becomes old. The same ideas are not held very long so that the latest is viewed as the best. The new is continually craved and replaces what is now viewed as the recently old.

Most people attending worship are not aware of the years of training that goes into producing an organist, a Choirmaster or a Pastor; furthermore, most people are not aware of the hours spent each week by these individuals in preparing for worship, which includes hours spent each Saturday and Sunday morning to complete the finishing touch. All of this is taken for granted without knowing what is required to prepare for worship. It is just *expected* and often *not respected*.

What I am asking you to do is to think about God and divine worship, about your worship leaders and their commitment to worship, and about your role as worshiper - an informed, active worshiper.

PRAYER LIST

John Jackson; Tommy Hoskyn; Norma Mattison; Jessie Cheek; Ruby Self; Billy Self; Clarence South; Louie McKissack; Vivian Howie; Hazel Riley; Ray Holsted; Harriet Boyd; Janita Hoskyn; Melvin Tipton; Michael Acklin; Cletus Carlock; Floyd Brothers; Lauren Lisko; Juanita Buerkle; Christina Bormann; Juanita Pierce; The people of Haiti; All our sick and shut-in; President 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.

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 Junior High Youth (grades 7-8) meets each Sunday at 6pm to 7:30pm in the second floor Youth Wing, the Senior High Youth (grades 9-12) meets each Sunday at 6:45pm to 8:15pm. (contact Austin Hayes 673-6317).

TWEENS: The "Tweens" group (grades 5-6) meets in the Fellowship Hall, every Wednesday 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 PreK-5 meet at 3:30pm. Contact Chuck Law (673-6317) or Elizabeth Hoskyn (673-0079).

THE 3rd WEDNESDAY: Adults \$3 - Children \$2 - Seniors \$2 - Fun, food & fellowship every third
Seasonal Meeting Times 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 10am 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.

Baptism and Confirmation

If you were able to pick up a copy of *The United Methodist Hymnal* and turned to page 32, you would read what The United Methodist Church believes regarding baptism. This would lead you to the Baptismal Covenants practiced in worship at United Methodist churches. Every one of these covenants state:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism
we are initiated into Christ's holy church.
We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation
and given new birth through water and the Spirit.
All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.
(*The United Methodist Hymnal*, page 33)

Our liturgy puts us squarely in the tradition of John Wesley. We believe that baptism is the sacrament that claims us as God's own. Confirmation does not complete baptism. Baptism is God's act; it is complete in itself.

Then what is confirmation? It is an act of the Holy Spirit, working in and through the church. The Spirit leads each person to make a profession of faith. The Spirit then empowers each person to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. For those who have been baptized or who come to reaffirm their faith in Jesus Christ, the covenant states:

Through Confirmation,
and through the reaffirmation of our faith,
We renew the covenant declared at our baptism,
acknowledge what God is doing for us,
and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church.
("Baptismal Covenant I," *The United Methodist Hymnal*, page 33)

When our children who have been baptized come forward to be confirmed, the ritual begins by reminding us of the covenant made at baptism. We are not re-baptized, but we are reminded again of God's claim on us as children of God.

Part of the gift given to United Methodists through the writings of John Wesley is a view of the importance of grace in our lives. It is our belief in God's grace - what Wesley call "prevenient," meaning that it was present in our lives even before we are able to recognize it - that affirms for us God's presence through the Holy Spirit in the lives of our children. It is the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of our children that leads our youth toward faith in God and Jesus Christ.

Confirmation does not impart the gift of the Holy Spirit; the Spirit has already been given and received and is at work in our lives. At confirmation the pastor leads the congregation in this prayer:

The Holy Spirit work within you,
that having been born through water and the Spirit,
you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.
("Baptismal Covenant I," *The United Methodist Hymnal*, page 37)

It is the same prayer given at baptism. It acknowledges that all of us are surrounded by God's grace and have as friend and encourager the gift of the Holy Spirit.

"Questions Parents Ask About Confirmation - A Handbook," pp. 25,26
(Available from Cokesbury at \$5.50 a copy plus tax and shipping).