



February
2010
Issue 2

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

Phone Number
870-673-6317

Fax Number
870-673-3697

Email
gaumc@centurytel.
net

Website
www.gaumc.com



Sunday, February 28 is "ICCM" (Food Bank) Sunday. Gifts of nonperishable food may be left in the basket by the cabinet at the side entrance of the sanctuary. To make a financial gift, please make your check to "GAUMC" and designate the memo corner "ICCM."

Grand Avenue Adult Groups
Present:

Movie Day 2010!!!

Youth Providing Snack Bar
including
Drinks & Popcorn
Babysitter on site




FEBRUARY 28
2:00PM
GRAND AVENUE FELLOWSHIP HALL

The United Methodist Men will meet Thursday, March 4, at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. The suggested donation (not required) for the catered dinner is \$5 with those attending for the first time being considered guests of the Grand Avenue UMM. All men are invited to attend!

If you plan to attend the general UMW meeting at noon on March 1st, please bring a picture of yourself with someone you love. These photographs will be used as part of the program.



You are invited to the annual **World Day of Prayer** service on Friday, March 5th @ 12:00 noon at the First United Methodist Church. Service will end at 12:30 and you are invited to join us for a light lunch in the fellowship hall. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service. It is celebrated in more than 170 countries and religions and all people are welcome.



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.

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.

The Grand Avenue Mission Team has just returned from their trip to the UMCOR Depot in Baldwin, LA. Due to the generosity of the members of Grand Avenue, the team was able to complete 34 Health Kits and to deliver bulk items valued at \$925.50. We also delivered a donation check of approximately \$800. The members of our church always come through for us in our mission work. The mission team wants to thank you for being such a giving congregation.

On March 6 from 8am to 2pm, the Wesley Foundation of UAM will be having a rummage sale. All proceeds from the sale will be used to benefit the Wesley Foundation. The Wesley will take donations for this event! Do you have a garage you need to clean out? Let us know and we'll be happy to take your old stuff! Do you need someone to come and pick your stuff up? Give us a call at 870-735-6626! Anything not sold at the rummage sale will be given to the Wilson UMC mission in Warren. Thanks so much for your assistance!

God Bless.

Kavan Dodson

Director, UAM Wesley Foundation

**VBS planning meeting
after church SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 28! Please
meet in the fellowship
hall. If you can't attend
but would like to help
please contact
Kristian Dabbs
kkrisell@yahoo.com
THANKS!!!!**



Youth Sunday is March 14. Mike Meek, Youth Director of First Church in Arkadelphia, will be our guest speaker. The youth of Grand Avenue will serve as worship leaders.



MARCH 14, 2010

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night!

DISTRICT NEWS

BEAR CREEK CAMP
WORK DAY

Saturday, March 13,
2010

8am til ????

Bring rakes and leaf
blowers - lunch will be
provided.

Youth News

February is almost gone and with it hopefully the cold, nasty weather will leave with it. The Youth have a busy couple of months coming up with March and April. The Youth Sunday will be

March 14th with Mike Meeks from FUMC in Arkadelphia being the guest speaker. Mike is one of Arkansas's best youth directors and will undoubtedly do a great job.

Also during Spring Break the Youth and Tweens will help at ICCM during the lunch hour. This will be a great opportunity for your programs to see the inner workings of ICCM and the great number of people ICCM helps. The youth will also be preparing for Senior Recognition Sunday on May 2nd. Volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen and for set up and clean up that day. Please contact Austin to sign up.

Bike and Build will be back with us at Grand Avenue on Tuesday June 15th into Wednesday June 16th. Bike and Build is a nation wide project that raises money for Habitat for Humanity. The Youth will host a Taco Bar on June 13th after morning worship to raise money for the Bike and Build riders.

Lastly the Summer Float Trip will be July 16th through 18th to the Spring River. ALL Youth entering the 7th grade through the outgoing Seniors are invited to attend. More information will come as we approach the trip.

Help Needed!!! The youth need volunteers to sign up to prepare the Sunday night meals. This involves having a meal for 15 to 20 youth, being at the church from 6:00 to 7:00 and getting to know the Grand Avenue Youth. The Calendar is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up and support the Grand Avenue Youth!!!

Austin Hayes

Director of Children, Tweens, and Youth

Grand Avenue UMC

Stuttgart, AR

870-673-6317

MUSIC NEWS

Adult Choir

The Chancel choir will be presenting a special cantata on Palm Sunday. If you have not gotten your music from Mr. Chuck please do so as soon as possible. We will be rehearsing every week and anyone that would like to join the choir is welcomed. The choir meets every Wednesday from 7 - 8.

*Adult Hand Bells *

The adult hand bells will be performing March 14th . Please mark your calendars.

Youth Music on Sundays

Help is still needed for snacks. Please let Mr. Chuck know if you can help out. We meet every Sunday from 4:30 to 6:00.

*Choir Festival *

This years Children's Choir Festival will be the week after Easter. We will be taking the largest group since returning to the festival three years ago. Help is needed with chaperone's. We will leave that Friday and spend the night in Little Rock and participate Saturday. This years festival will be over Saturday afternoon with the closing service. More information to follow.....



The UMW Spring Bake Sale is Saturday, March 27 from 9 to 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

Lisa Mooney has returned from her leave of absence as a Nursery Attendant. Our nursery is now once again fully staffed.

Tanako registration forms are not yet available in the Church Office.

Christian Education - Every Sunday at 9am

Please consider one of the Sunday School classes below for your Sunday morning class. 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. Please let me know your ideas and suggestions.

Shelley Bardwell

ADULTS

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| <u>Young Adults</u> | "Crazy Love - Overwhelmed By A Relentless God" |
| <u>Challengers</u> | "Faith Is The Answer, But What Are the Questions" |
| <u>Pathfinders</u> | "Troublesome Bible Passages" |
| <u>Crusaders</u> | "Irresistible Invitation" |

CHILDREN

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <u>PreK 3 – 4th Grade</u> | Rock Solid
Building A Heart of Faith |
|--------------------------------------|---|

Remembering Jesus

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| March 7 | Palm Sunday Celebration |
| March 14 | Cleansing the Temple |
| March 21 | Passover with the Disciples |
| March 28 | In the Garden |

5th – 6th Grade

Jr. High Does God Love Me No Matter What?

Sr. High Good God Theater – DVD Series

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.

Congratulations to Evan Jacobs for placing 3rd in the Chemistry division of the UAPB science fair last Thursday. Job well done!!

ICCM 2009 REPORT

2009	Total # of People Served	# New People Served	# of Households served	0-18 Years Old	19-64 Years Old	Age 65 & Older	# of Households with at least one person employed
Jan	433	67	159	188	221	24	134
Feb	348	41	144	103	204	41	35
Mar	478	59	176	207	236	35	46
Apr	521	147	184	221	272	28	152
May	404	126	146	161	225	18	114
June	408	95	152	157	219	32	125
July	470	97	196	175	266	29	165
Aug	389	99	153	136	226	27	132
Sep	323	63	123	132	166	25	113
Oct	255	57	102	99	143	13	59
Nov	480	115	202	181	258	41	176
Dec	536	117	236	204	295	37	177
2009 Totals	5045	1083	1973	1964	2731	350	1428

The March/April issue of "The Upper Room" (regular and large print) is now available free of charge from the narthex, the literature rack on the back wall of the sanctuary and the literature rack at the side entrance of the sanctuary.

Dear Grand Avenue Church Family,
Thank you so much for the care package you sent me during finals week. It means so much to know that my church family is thinking of me. The care package was just what I needed to get me through my finals. Thank you for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers.
Sincerely,
Caroline Cook

Go to the village
 ahead of you,
 and as you enter it,
 you will find a
 colt tied there,
 which no one has
 ever ridden.



MARCH

2010

USHERS FOR MARCH

Alan Bardwell (Captain)
 Stephen Hoskyn
 Keith Holsted
 David Alderson

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<i>Easter Lilies are on sale now for \$16 order forms are available in the newsletter, bulletin and church office</i>	1 UMW Sack Lunch 11:30am FH	2 Exercise 10am Confirmation Class 3:30pm FH	3 Bible Study 10:30am FH	4 Exercise 10am UMM 7pm FH	5 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 12noon First Church	6 FH Reserved
7 NEW MEMBER POTLUCK LUNCHEON	8 Circle 2 10:30am FH Circle 3 7:30pm	9 Exercise 10am Confirmation Class 3:30pm FH	10 Bible Study 10:30am FH Circle 1 5:30pm FH	11 Exercise 10am	12	13
14 Daylight Saving Time begins One Great Hour of Sharing	15 Trustees 7pm Church Office Bus reserved for Singles trip to Helena	16 Exercise 10am Confirm Class 3:30pm FH Finance 7pm Library Admin Co. 7:30pm Fellowship Hall	17 Bible Study 10:30am FH	18 Exercise 10am	19	20
21 Singles Lunch to Papa Joe's Bus reserved	22 Deadline for Easter Lily Orders	23 Exercise 10am	24 Bible Study 10:30am FH	25 Exercise 10am	26	27 UMW Bake Sale 9-10:30am FH
← SPRING BREAK →						
28 Palm Sunday ICCM	29	30 Exercise 10am Confirmation Class 3:30pm FH	31 No Bible Study			

FROM THE PASTOR

“People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ And he took them up in his arms, laid hands on them, and blessed them.”

- St. Mark 10:13-16

While in this text the disciples might appear at first in an unfavorable light, they were not being as hard or as cruel as we might imagine. The disciples were turning people away as an act of kindness toward Jesus. They were protecting him from the crowds as he made his journey toward Jerusalem and what awaited him there. With that said, let us turn to Jesus and notice how much he loved the children and welcomed them. Jesus did not consider them a bother or a nuisance. He delighted in their presence! St. Luke, in relating this incident, reports that people even brought infants to Jesus and he blessed them (St. Luke 18:15-17)! Yes, “Jesus loves the little children. All the children of the world” Can you imagine the laughter and the giggles of the little children, and the thrill on the faces and in the eyes of their parents? A beautiful story! Since most Christians do not withhold the Sacrament of Holy Baptism from children and infants of Christian parents, this text often comes to mind as the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is celebrated. (The Eastern Orthodox Church, which is the second largest branch of Christianity after Roman Catholicism and which did not experience a Protestant Reformation, has never questioned the validity of infant baptism - even affirming it as an apostolic practice. Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox are in agreement about infant baptism while most leaders of the Protestant Reformation considered infant baptism as an apostolic practice that should not be discontinued. Infant baptism highlights Jesus’ acceptance of children).

Grand Avenue is a congregation that openly welcomes infants and children! It is our practice to embrace our children and let them know Jesus and his church welcomes them. There are a number of ways we share Jesus’ hospitality with children. Infants receive a blessing from the Pastor when they are brought to the communion rail while older children receiving the communion wafer hear these words, “Take this in remembrance that Jesus loves you and is always with you.” These are comforting, reassuring words for children - even for adults! Other signs of welcome are the children’s sermons and the rocking chairs at the back of the sanctuary where parents may take their infants during worship while still being in the sanctuary itself. There are also worship bags, which were developed by Christian educators as a way of keeping children in worship where they learn this is a good place to be and that Jesus accepts them for the children they are. We also invite our children to sing in worship and to participate in various other facets of worship, such as Palm Sunday and Pentecost Sunday processions. Grand Avenue also advertises that casual dress is appropriate, which helps our children feel comfortable in worship. Another way we welcome our children is by having age appropriate snacks for them during Fellowship Time immediately before Morning Worship.

I am hopeful our children will always feel important and welcomed at Grand Avenue and will, as adults, cherish fond memories of their childhood experiences here. I am also hopeful Jesus will be well pleased with the hospitality we have extended to our infants and children in his name.

- George E. Rook

PRAYER LIST

Dot Renner; John Jackson; Tommy Hoskyn; Norma Mattison; Jessie Cheek; Ruby Self; Billy Self; Clarence South; Louie McKissack; Vivian Howie; Ray Holsted; Harriet Boyd; Janita Hoskyn; Melvin Tipton; Michael Acklin; Cletus Carlock; Floyd Brothers; Lauren Lisko; Juanita Buerkle; Christina Bormann; Juanita Pierce; Denise Black; 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



If you would like to place an Easter Lily in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the form below and return to the Church Office or place in the offering plate. Cost of each lily is \$16.00 payable to Grand Avenue United Methodist Church.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS SUNDAY, MARCH 22.

___ Easter Lily in honor of _____

___ Easter Lily in memory of _____

By _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____