

February 6, 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



Sympathy is extended to Paul Blackwell on the death of his mother, Doris Blackwell of Wabbaseka; to John Jackson on the death of his brother, Billy Joe Jackson of Humphrey; to Anna Bates on the death of her mother, Verna Morgan Carter of Crossett; and to Susie Madsen on the death of her mother, Rebecca E. Bennett of El Dorado. Sympathy on Rebecca's death is also extended to her granddaughters, Leslie Brewer and Jennifer Bueker.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Judy Jacobs was recently given a Certificate of Appreciation for her dedicated work in the Children's Christian Education Department from 1964 to 2007. The Christian Education Committee would like to extend a very special thank you to Judy Jacobs for all of the work you've done with the Children's Christian Education Department. She has touched many lives in the Grand Avenue Family we truly appreciate all that she has done for our children and us. We will miss you upstairs, but we'll see you in church.

Dear Grand Avenue Family,

Thank you so much for the care package. It really came in handy. Everything was so good. Thank you again.

*Love,
Jordan Krisell*

Sanctuary Remodeling Project:

Contributions are 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! More than \$68,781 is currently set aside for this project, which includes around \$10,000 that is to be received from the General Endowment Fund.

Hazel Bryant
McComb Extended Care
501 S. Locust
McComb, MS 39648

Hazel Bryant, mother of Rolfe Bryant, is currently a patient at McComb Extended Care. Cards may be mailed to her at the above address.



ORDER FORMS FOR EASTER LILIES WILL SOON BE
AVAILABLE IN YOUR WORSHIP FOLDERS ON
SUNDAY MORNING AND AT THE CHURCH OFFICE.



THE CHILDREN'S WEDNESDAY
MUSIC GROUP WILL SING
DURING WORSHIP THIS
SUNDAY, FEB 10.

February 10th 2008 3:00
First United Methodist Church
307 West 4th



Lennox Concert Series
Susan Brummell Belcher *Soprano*
Tickets Available at the Door



The following is the UMY
Schedule and teachers for each
Sunday. Meetings on Sunday
at 6pm unless otherwise noted.

February 10—Missy Wilson
February 17—David Jacobs
February 24—Melinda Hopson



DO YOU WANT TO DISCOVER GOD'S WILL?

The current issue of "The Upper Room" devotes the prayer workshop section to the topic of "Discovering God's Will." You may find this article on pages 40-42. The questions for reflection found on page 42 make this section into an informative program that can be used by church groups.

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.

BIBLE STUDY: "INVITATION TO JOHN"

An eleven session short-term Disciple Bible Study entitled "Invitation to John" will be taught by the Pastor in the Fellowship Hall beginning Wednesday, February 13 at 10:30am. Each Wednesday Session will last 1½ hours. The class will be repeated in a shorter version on Sunday mornings beginning February 17. The class will meet in the Leadership Classroom on the second floor. The Bible Study will not meet Wednesday, March 19 (Holy Week) or Sunday, March 23 (Easter). The suggested donation for student books is \$9 (not required). **PLEASE REGISTER** by calling the Church Office and specify if you are enrolling in the Wednesday or Sunday Class (673-6317). **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.



Calling all surfer dudes and dudettes!

Would you like to spend a whole week this summer at a huge BEACH PARTY complete with surfing lessons, great beach music, and beachcombing adventures, and so much more?

Sign up for a Vacation Bible School leadership role and you will be promised an incredible week of fun in the Son as you help our children surf through the Scriptures and develop new Beach Be-Attitudes!!

A MEETING FOR ALL THOSE INTERESTED WILL BE IMMEDIATELY AFTER MORNING WORSHIP ON FEBRUARY 10 IN THE LIBRARY! PLEASE COME JOIN US!



Rotation Sunday School will be studying about Joseph and how he forgave his brothers in February. We will be exploring the story through art, cookery, science, story, games and video.

Other stories we will learn about this year include 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.

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 with Jana Coleman. They've been learning about how Jesus grew and how they grow too.

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 6

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

FROM THE PASTOR

The season of Lent has begun as of Wednesday, February 6. Lent is a forty day period (excluding Sundays) when Christians are more intentional about spiritual formation. Fasting, along with prayer and study of the scriptures, has been a significant Lenten practice. The purpose of fasting is to open ourselves more fully to the presence of the Holy Spirit as we face our battles, to reinforce our penitence for our sins, to help us identify with Christ's sufferings and to remind us that we do "not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord" (Dt. 8:3; Mt. 4:4).

Many Christians fast by abstaining from meat on Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent) and the Fridays of Lent (Jesus died on a Friday). Why meat? Because people like meat and readily notice its absence. Our own John Wesley fasted on Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the entire year. His fast would begin after dinner on Tuesdays and Thursdays and would continue until 3:00 p.m. on the days of fasting. As part of his fast, Wesley would drink modest amounts of water during the day and eat no food of any kind. Christians engage in fasting because Jesus said his disciples would fast after his earthly ministry was over. Just as Jesus fasted and prayed, his disciples (including us) are to fast and pray (Mt. 6:16-18; 9:15).

Regardless of whether or not you fast, let me add the real intent of Lent is that we should look within. The prophet Joel says in the Old Testament reading for Ash Wednesday, "Return to the Lord, our God . . ." (Joel 2:13). We participate in Lent by bringing our sins before God and laying them in his presence with a genuine, heartfelt desire of making a new start. Joel challenges us to turn back, change directions and make a new start by unburdening our souls in repentance. Why? Because, "God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love"(Joel 2:13). Lent is a time of repentance and it is also a time of forgiveness!

I recently read and clipped the following article: "An old Scottish clergyman once said that the devil really has only two lies to tell us. The first lie the devil tells us comes before we commit a sin when the devil says that it doesn't matter what we do for no one will know. The second lie the devil tells us comes after we've sinned when the devil tells us that no one can forgive us what we have done." Lent tells us that not only does God know what we have done, but that no sin is too great to be forgiven. Lent is a time of repentance and forgiveness; furthermore, it is a time of hope, renewal and refreshment because we know God loves us and will forgive us.

- George E. Rook

PRAYERLIST

Clio Clary; Claudia Roebbcke; Hazel Bryant; Frances Byers; Betty Oliphant; Pete Shirkey; John Jackson; Roland Endres; Holdyn Hoskyn; Gertie Sanders; 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 Doris Blackwell especially for Paul Blackwell; The family of Verna Morgan Carter especially for Anna Bates; The family of Rebecca E. Bennett especially for Susie Madsen, Leslie Brewer and Jennifer Bueker; The Grand Avenue Mission Team; Cathie Jones; Sylvia Mills; Sherry Tuminello; 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.

MEMORIALS

In memory of Doris Blackwell
given by
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Clark Roth
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Holsted
Mildred Beverly

In memory of Ellen McMillin Southall
given by
Mildred Beverly
Mrs. Eugene Acklin
Avon Howell
Deanna Shook
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lucke
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Roth
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Jacobs
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Currie
Pastor George E. Rook
Eunice Montgomery
Mr. & Mrs. James P. Mayfield
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Simpson

In memory of Margaret Jerome Sampson
given by
Mrs. Eugene Acklin
Mr. Jesse Townsend, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Roth
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Jacobs
Mr. & Mrs. James P. Mayfield
Mrs. Fredda Voumard
The Pathfinders Sunday School Class

In memory of Grace Jordan
given by
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Roth

In memory of Diane Elizabeth Hall Ray
given by
Mrs. Eugene Acklin
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Jacobs
Eunice Montgomery
Mr. & Mrs. James P. Mayfield
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Holsted

In memory of Jeffrey Lynn Fletcher
given by
Mrs. Eugene Acklin
Mr. Jesse Townsend, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Roth

In honor of Ray & Dorothy Roth as a gift to the
Grand Avenue Sanctuary Remodeling Project
given by
James D. Roth

In memory of Ellen McMillin Southall as a gift to
the Grand Avenue Music Ministries Program
given by
Mrs. Vernon Simpson

In memory of Diane Elizabeth Hall Ray as a gift to
the Grand Avenue Music Ministries Program
given by
Mrs. Vernon Simpson

In memory of Jeffrey Lynn Fletcher as a gift to the
Grand Avenue Sanctuary Remodeling Project
given by
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Clark Roth

In memory of Diane Elizabeth Hall Ray as a gift to
the Grand Avenue Sanctuary Remodeling Project
given by
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Clark Roth

In memory of Ellen McMillin Southall as a gift to
the Grand Avenue Sanctuary Remodeling Project
given by
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Clark Roth
Lou W. Neighbors
Mr. & Mrs. William L. Erstine

In memory of Margaret Jerome Simpson as a gift to
the Grand Avenue Sanctuary Remodeling Project
given by
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Clark Roth
Mr. & Mrs. William L. Erstine
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Currie

In memory of Doris Blackwell as a gift to the
Grand Avenue Sanctuary Remodeling Project
given by
Mr. Jesse Townsend, Jr.

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