

April 10, 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

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gaumc@centurytel.net

Website  
www.gaumc.com



## UMW NEWS

April 12—Camp Aldersgate has designated Saturday, April 12 as our special day to celebrate the opening and dedication of our new Donald W. Reynolds facilities. This day will conclude with a fantastic party at the River Market Pavilion that evening. Contact Carolyn Moore if you would like to attend. More information can be found at [www.aldersgateafterdark.com](http://www.aldersgateafterdark.com)

April 19—Southeast District Spring Meeting in Helena. All UMW members are urged to attend. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 7:30am Saturday morning. Contact Carolyn Moore for more information at 673-4706.

## **ADULT AGE-LEVEL PLANNING MEETING AND DESSERT SOCIAL**

There will be an Adult Age-Level planning meeting with dessert social on Saturday, April 12 at 7:00pm located in the Mallard Room (3rd floor) of the Arkansas County Bank. We will discuss and plan social, educational and service activities for the adults of Grand Avenue. RSVP—Shelley Bardwell at 673-4184 or email at [bardwell\\_alan@yahoo.com](mailto:bardwell_alan@yahoo.com)

## **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY APRIL 13**



The 2008 Confirmation Sunday is April 13. Mark Dewberry, Tanner Chester and Kali Wilson will be Confirmed while Brittany Kimbrell will make her Profession of Faith and receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, which will be her Confirmation.

## **YOUTH COUNCIL—CHILDREN'S COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

The Youth Council will meet in the Fellowship Hall after Morning Worship on Sunday, April 13 to make plans through September while The Children's Council will meet in the Library after Morning Worship on Sunday, April 20 to also make plans through September. Due to various conflicts, these meetings have been moved up from late April and early May.

**A WEDDING SHOWER** honoring Megan Simpson, bride-elect of Kortney Gray will be held on Sunday, April 20 from 1pm to 2:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

## MEETINGS THIS MONTH

**The Singles will leave for lunch after Morning Worship on Sunday, April 20.**

Trustees @ Church Office on Monday, April 21 at 7pm.

Finance Committee @ Library on Tuesday, April 22 at 7pm.

Administrative Council @ Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, April 22 at 7:30pm.

### SOUTHEAST DISTRICT SPRING YOUTH RALLY

Three of our youth will be attending the Youth Rally held by the district on April 25-26 at the Bear Creek Camp in Marianna. If your youth is interested in attending, please contact Melinda Hopson at 501-519-2350 or if you have any questions.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Youth Sunday is May 18 with the Grand Avenue United Methodist Youth leading our worship.

The Children's Choir Spring Pageant is May 18—more information in the next newsletter!

### LADIES NIGHT

Monday, May 5

Our Annual UMW Ladies Night Potluck is Monday, May 5 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

If you reside in this community and are searching for a church home, we invite you to place your membership with us. Those who are already baptized may unite during the closing hymn by coming to the front of the church or may schedule a time with the pastor to be received privately. Those who are not yet baptized may schedule a time with the pastor to be received or may come forward during the closing hymn to announce their intentions to be baptized and received later. We welcome all who want to share the Christian walk with us!

**Roger Allen Crum, nephew of Bob Crum and grandson of the late Louise Crum, will be appointed Associate Pastor of First Church, Paragould. Allen is currently a student at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky after working with J.B. Hunt, Inc. in Northwest Arkansas. He has been on numerous trips and is how he met his wife, Connie—"Consuelo," who was an attorney in Columbia.**



**The Grand Avenue Seniors who will be graduating from Stuttgart High School this year and will be honored Sunday, May 4 during the annual Senior Recognition Potluck are Zack Bracewell, Rachel Erwin, Drew Alderson and Michael Bardwell. Congratulations!**

### SANCTUARY REMODELING UPDATE:

A total of \$87,950.85 has been collected for the approximately \$120,000 project, which includes \$12,909.33 received from the General Endowment Fund. \$31,000.00 has been borrowed from Farmers and Merchants Bank. Bills totaling \$114,462.32 have been paid. Thank you for your generous support!

Park Avenue Elementary Pre-K classes need scarves, shoes, men's and women's clothing, purses, clip-on ties, hats and Halloween costumes donated for their dramatic play centers. They are also in need of riding toys, tricycles, wagons and a picnic table for our outdoor play. If you can donate any of these items or have something else you would like to donate to their rooms, please call Lori White at 830-2897 or Amy Griffin at 830-8514. Thank you!

# CHOIR NOTES



## "Requiem" by John Rutter Performance April 21<sup>st</sup> 7:00

Members of the Grand Avenue Chancel Choir, First United Methodist Chancel Choir and the Community Choir of the Grand Prairie will present Requiem by John Rutter April 21<sup>st</sup> at First United Methodist Church, Stuttgart. The performance will start at 7:00. Tickets will be available at the door for ten dollars. This work was last performed in Stuttgart by the Chancel Choirs in 1991 and was directed by Amy Law. The Community choir is directed by Charles and Amy Law and Wanda Mayfield is the accompanist. The choir is sponsored by the Arts Center of the Grand Prairie.

**John Rutter** is one of the outstanding English choral composers and arrangers of our time. He took his degrees in music at Clare College of Cambridge University and was later Director of Music at Clare College from 1975 to 1979. Rutter was elected an honorary fellow of Westminster Choir College, Princeton, in 1980 and founded the Cambridge Singers in 1981. His many masterful arrangements of songs, anthems, and carols have been performed worldwide. His own works, written in a traditional and accessible style, are almost exclusively choral. They include two children's operas and much sacred music.

*Requiem* was written in 1985 and first performed in October of that year. (Movement 6 was composed in 1976 as a separate anthem and later incorporated into this work.) Following a precedent set by previous composers, such as Brahms and Fauré, Rutter is not strict in the use of Latin text from the Roman Catholic *Missa pro defunctis*, or "Mass for the Dead". Here, he combines selected Latin texts with English texts from the Anglican *Book of Common Prayer* in an arch-form meditation on themes of death and life. "Sanctus," centrally positioned as Movement 4, is a joyous affirmation of Divinity; the intimate "Pie Jesu" and the "Agnus Dei," Movements 3 and 5, are personal prayers to the Christ; the blues-like "Out of the Deep" and "The Lord Is My Shepherd," Movements 2 and 6, are Psalms 130 and 23, respectively; "Requiem aeternam" and "Lux aeterna" are prayers on behalf of all humanity. Rutter links the seven movements with musical patterns based on the rhythm and melody of the opening words, "Requiem aeternam, dona eis Domine." He also pays tribute to Gregorian chant in the melody of the words "Lux aeterna"- a melody from the original *Missa pro defunctis* -- and in the flute solo of Movement 5. After the "Agnus Dei," as thoughts turn to life and resurrection, the flute intones the melody of "Victimae paschali laudes," a sequence sung on Easter Sunday. *Requiem* opens and closes on the same words, sung to the same melody, bringing the work full circle: "Requiem aeternam, dona eis Domine; et lux perpetua luceat eis" ("Grant them rest eternal, Lord our God, we pray to thee; and light perpetual shine on them forever").

## GRAND AVENUE YOUTH PARTICIPATE IN STATEWIDE CHOIR FESTIVAL

April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> found the youth representing grades 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade participating in the Arkansas Conference United Methodist Church Children's Music Festival. The children participated with other churches across the state and presented a very spiritual and meaning afternoon service. Free time was spent swimming at the hotel, eating pizza and watching movies and having fellowship. Stuttgart had a total of 23 youth in attendance between the two churches and was the largest group in attendance.. Thank you to Cindy Crum for helping chaperone and to all the parents and youth that participated. Plans are already underway for next year.

Mr. Chuck

## GRAND AVENUE YOUTH NEWS

**Bible Lessons for Youth** – Bible Study – is set to begin Sunday, April 6, 2008 at 6 p.m. in the Grand Avenue Youth Room. Please mark your calendars to attend. There will only be five actual weeks of study. Each class focuses on three major areas of study, Signs of God's Covenant, The Covenant in Exile, and Restoration and Covenant Renewal. We are excited about the content and looking forward to having the Pathfinders Sunday School Class assist us in teaching this class. A snack supper will be served each night of study. We will skip the week of April 27<sup>TH</sup> due to Spring Rally, May 11<sup>TH</sup> for Mother's Day, and May 25<sup>TH</sup> due to Memorial Day weekend. Our Bible study will conclude Sunday, May 18<sup>TH</sup>. Please join us.



Friday, April 25<sup>TH</sup> - Sunday, April 27<sup>TH</sup> is Spring Rally for the Southeast District of Arkansas United Methodist Youth – This is open to all youth grades 7<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup>. We will leave from Grand Avenue on Friday afternoon and will return Sunday after church. Specific times and information is forthcoming. (We are still waiting for a flyer with this information) Spring Rally will be held at Bear Creek Camp in Marianna. Melinda Hopson and Lainie Hoskyn have volunteered to escort the youth to this event. We would love to have all of our youth attend if they can!

Senior Recognition Sunday is May 4, 2008. Graduating seniors Drew Alderson, Michael Bardwell, Zack Bracewell, and Rachel Erwin will be honored. Congratulations to our senior youth!

Youth Sunday at Grand Avenue is May 18<sup>TH</sup>! We are hoping to line up a special speaker to assist our youth with this event. More information to come.

Youth Council will meet April 13th to work on our summer calendar of activities. See second page article for details. Be thinking of some ideas for some summer fun.

Youth please mark your calendars for GAUMC's annual fish fry that has been scheduled for Thursday, May 22<sup>ND</sup> and GAUMC's annual hamburger supper that has been scheduled for Thursday, June 26<sup>TH</sup>. They have always counted on our youth to help out if at all possible.

Important information concerning the Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries can be obtained at their website [www.accym.org](http://www.accym.org)

Facebook also has a group for our youth to join called Arkansas United Methodist Youth. It has a direct link to the Arkansas Conference Council and is managed by Brandon Bates. Each conference youth activity should be linked to this website as well.

Questions concerning our district youth activities can also be sent to Emily Johnson via email at [Emily4oaks@aol.com](mailto:Emily4oaks@aol.com). Emily has been a friend to Grand Avenue for the past few years and has been very helpful in trying to involve us in our district's youth activities.

### YOUTH DIRECTOR STILL NEEDED

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 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!

## FROM THE PASTOR

These opening months of 2008 have passed with great speed. Lent began early and heralded an early Palm Sunday and Easter. The sanctuary remodeling project that began in the opening weeks of 2008 was completed in time for us to worship in the sanctuary on Palm Sunday with a traditional Palm Sunday service (processional of the palms and blessing of palm crosses for distribution to worshipers after the service) that was supplemented with a deeply moving cantata by our Chancel Choir and by members of our youth group helping with props. This cantata gave us some beautiful memories as we entered Holy Week and moved toward our great celebration on Easter Sunday. If you missed the cantata, you missed something very special. Thank you choir and youth!

After a long absence from Choir Festival, seven children from our Grand Avenue Children's Choir attended the Arkansas Annual Conference Choir Festival in Hot Springs this past weekend. Our own Sue Ellen James was even one of the worship leaders! Members of our Children's Choir are looking forward to participating at the festival next year in Little Rock and already have their anthems to learn.

The newly formed Children's Council is developing very well. These are a wonderful group of individuals with whom to work. You would be so pleased with these young, devoted members of Grand Avenue! These members work well together as they review and work toward maintaining a quality program for our children. The positive attitude, along with the spiritual leadership they exemplify, speaks highly of these participants and what they are offering to our congregation as faithful disciples of Christ. I simply cannot say enough good things about these participants!

The Youth Council continues to work well together in the absence of a Youth Director (do you know anyone we may recruit as Youth Director?) and exemplify what can be accomplished with leadership, commitment and a strong spirit of volunteerism. This is true not only of the adults participating in the Youth Council but also of our youth, who are dedicated to the members of their group and to maintaining an active United Methodist Youth program at Grand Avenue. Our youth group will even be participating at the District Rally at Bear Creek later this month. Again, a great group with whom to work! You warm your Pastor's heart!

The New Member Luncheon was recently held with the new members in attendance appreciating the welcome it exemplified. Mr. Tom VanDuyn sang "The Holy City" (he did a beautiful job!), the Challengers Sunday School Class gave a skit and Carolyn Moore directed the presentation of new members, including participants from the 2007 Confirmation Class. Everyone enjoyed this special time of being together as a church family!

Grand Avenue was a special congregation to me long before I was ever appointed pastor here. I admired you when I was the pastor at Alheimer and Wabaseka back in the eighties. You are indeed a special congregation noted for a genuine warmth among the members, a desire to know and do the Lord's work, active involvement in missions, racial inclusiveness, a strong spirit of volunteerism and leadership development, and on I could go. You are a wonderful example of Christian discipleship! What more can I say?

2008 continues to pass at a good clip. On Maundy Thursday we once again heard the familiar words of Jesus, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." May we live these words of our Lord as we continue being the faithful disciples Jesus would have us be!

- George E. Rook

### *PRAYER LIST*

*Amy Griffin; Raeann Braithwaite; Carolyn Painter; Charlotte Scales; Betty Oliphant; Claudia Roebbeke; Hazel Bryant; Elbert Houston; John Jackson; Roland Endres; Lucille Holbert; Gertie Sanders; Susan Freeze; Brayden Black; Tammy Wilson; Ray Holsted; Beth Ragan Adams; Clarence Thomason; Tim Walton; Joni Thomas; Steve Tranna; Loma Essex; Kelly Williams; Karen Aureli; Regina Earlywine; Randy Smith; Beckj Wilson; Don Davis; Brian Hayes; Brian Reynolds; Daniel White; Those in Arkansas and elsewhere dealing with floods; 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.*

# CAMP TANAKO 2008

## Camps and Events

Choose the camp according to the school grade the camper will be entering in the Fall of 2008.

<u>CAMPS</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>GRADES</u>
Family Camp	March 28 - 29	(For children ages 4-10 and their parents)
Fishing Camp	June 6 - 8	3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Golf Camp	June 16 - 18	7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Younger Elementary Extravaganza (Y.E.E.!)	June 16 - 18	1, 2
Senior High	June 23 - 27	9, 10, 11, 12
Middle Elementary I	June 30 - July 3	3, 4
Junior High I	July 7 - 11	7, 8, 9
Older Elementary I	July 14 - 18	5, 6
Middle Elementary II	July 18 - 20	3, 4
Junior High II	July 21 - 25	7, 8, 9
Older Elementary II	July 28 - August 1	5, 6



CAMP TANAKO  
4301 HWY 290  
HOT SPRINGS, AR 71913  
(501) 262-2600 info@tanako.org

The United Methodist Men will once again provide Camp Tanako Scholarships to the children and youth who attend or visit Grand Avenue (member or non-member). The scholarship amounts (partial or full) will be determined based on the number of requests and will be awarded after the UMM meeting on Thursday, May 1 PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN YOUR CAMP TANAKO REGISTRATION FORM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE. You will be contacted after the May 1 meeting if you will need to include a check with the forms that will be mailed by the Church Office to Camp Tanako. Registration forms are currently available in the Church Office.

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