



May
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 Blake
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

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www.gaumc.com



Sympathy is extended to the family of Jim Gingerich on the occasion of his death on Sunday, May 9.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Pentecost at Grand Avenue
A celebration of the Christian Church's "birthday"
Sunday, May 23

Join us for birthday cake in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45am and Morning Worship at 10am. The children will gather in the narthex before our 10am service and form a processional for the opening hymn.

You are invited to wear red, the color of Pentecost!

Fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, on a day called Pentecost, the Christian Church was born. Because Pentecost was a holiday celebrating the harvest (a bit like our Thanksgiving), the apostles and a large crowd had gathered to celebrate in Jerusalem.

Many people had assembled near Peter and the other followers of Christ when "from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind..." (Acts 2:2 ff, NRSV) Then tongues of fire descended on everyone in the crowd.

After the wind and fire descended, all sorts of languages came out of the crowd. Each person spoke "about God's deeds of power". (verse 11) No wonder Luke wrote, "All were amazed and

Perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'" (verse 12)

The whole affair was mind-boggling and life-changing. The Holy Spirit had come upon many people; they knew God was powerfully at work in their midst.

On Pentecost many years ago, some 3,000 people came to believe in Christ. That's why today Christians remember this powerful event has the birthday of the Church. Pentecost occurs on May 23 this year.

--From *The Newsletter Newsletter*



The Administrative Council of the Grand Avenue United Methodist Church is sponsoring a fish fry from 5pm to 7pm on Thursday, May 27 with all proceeds going toward the general budget in an effort to help fund the programs of our church.

All members are being asked to help by selling tickets. Tickets to sell will be distributed to every church family. If you sell the five tickets and are able to sell more, please call the Church Office for additional tickets. We will need to have a count of sold tickets by Monday, May 24. Please call the Church Office (673-6317) or Judy Jacobs (673-2555) to report the amount of tickets you have sold.

If you do not wish to sell tickets, please return them to the Church Office or hand them to an usher on Sunday morning. Please know you are not obligated or under any pressure to sell these tickets.

Thank you for helping make this a successful project!



A Parsonage Renovation Fund has been established to repay the loan for parsonage renovation. Your generosity in supporting this fund is appreciated! Please make your check to GAUMC and designate the memo corner "Parsonage Fund."

Memorial Day Weekend is next week and as a recent custom at Grand Avenue, we invite you to join us in closing Morning Worship, Sunday, May 30 with a special service that observes the true meaning of Memorial Day.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 31 IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY.

Sunday, May 30 is ICCM (Food Bank) Sunday. Please make your check to GAUMC and designate the memo corner "ICCM." Gifts of nonperishable food may be left in the basket by the cabinet at the side door of the Sanctuary.

DATES TO REMEMBER

The 2010 Annual Conference is June 6 - 9 (Sunday - Wednesday) at The Hot Springs Convention Center.

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|-------------------|---|
| Sunday, June 6: | The Church Picnic at John Cain Park after Morning Worship. |
| Sunday, June 6: | The Last Celebration of Holy Communion with Pastor George E. Rook |
| Sunday, June 27: | The last Sunday for Pastor George E. Rook to be with us. |
| Tuesday, June 29: | Moving Day for all clergy being reassigned in the Arkansas Annual Conference. |
| Sunday, July 4: | The first Sunday for Pastor Edward E. Wyers to preach at Grand Avenue. |
| Thursday, July 8: | UMM Hamburger Supper from 5-7pm |

TANAKO SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Grand Avenue United Methodist Men meeting on Thursday, May 6 awarded ten full scholarships to Camp Tanako for children and youth (member and non-member) associated with Grand Avenue. The ten scholarships totaled \$3,305.50. These scholarships, along with T-shirts for Vacation Church School and postage for the Care Packages mailed to our college students, are possible only because of the strong support given to the UMM Hamburger Supper by our members and guests.

TOUR OF GRAND AVENUE BOOKLET (reprinted)

"A Tour of The Grand Avenue United Methodist Church," an informational booklet about the symbolism and significant features found in our sanctuary, has been reprinted after the initial printing from a year ago was depleted. Copies are available free of charge from the literature rack at the side entrance of the sanctuary. The booklet is based on the "Talking Points" covered by the current pastor in his annual Confirmation Class tour of the sanctuary and contains supplementary information. The booklet was written by Pastor George E. Rook and "is dedicated to those faithful ones of past, present and future generations who have made Grand Avenue into the congregation I will always cherish." Out of town readers may order copies from the Church Office: 803 S. Grand Avenue, Stuttgart, AR 72160.

Thank you's

Dear Grand Avenue Church Members,
Thank you so much for all of the graduation gifts. They will all be put to good use. I greatly appreciate them very much. Thanks,
Jacob Persons

Bro. George and Grand Avenue Family,
I want to thank you very much for the gifts that were presented to me on Senior Day. I want to also thank each one of you for the part you have played in my life over the past few years. Thank you for the guidance and Christian values I will hold dear and near to me wherever life takes me! May God bless each and every one of you!
Jonathon James

Is There Life Without Sunday School?

Every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. I am in the library with my dear friends. We are known as the Crusaders Class.

I joined Grand Avenue because of the wonderful people in this class. We have lessons every Sunday. However, we have so much more than just a study class. We spend about 15 minutes every Sunday catching up. We want our time together to be relevant to our lives as they are now. The wonderful thing about Sunday School is how close we are to the other members of the class. We laugh together; we cry together; we care together. We have been together for years in a very special way.

Is there life without Sunday School? The answer is no. I could write a book titled What Sunday School Has Meant to Me. I am so thankful I am in the library at 9 a.m. every Sunday morning.

Suzanne Braithwaite

Spotlight Class:

Pathfinders Sunday School Class is currently studying “Troublesome Bible Passages”. This class meets in the church office. A few of the members of the class are: Clark and Aldora Roth, Gwen Reynolds, Bill and Martha Brothers, Agnes Jackson and Tommy and Dora Lou Hoskyn.

OTHER CLASSES TO CHOOSE FROM:

Young Adults 2nd floor

“Crazy Love - Overwhelmed By A Relentless God”

Challengers 2nd floor across from Nursery

“Noah Built His Ark in the Sunshine”

Crusaders Library

“Irresistible Invitation”



CHILDREN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Rock Solid

Building A Heart of Faith

PreK 3 – 4th Grade

Paul Tells the Good News

May 23

Pentecost

May 30

Paul and Lydia

5th – 6th Grade

Faith Building Bible Verses

Jr. High

Does God Love Me No Matter What?

Sr. High

Good God Theater – DVD Series



PENTECOST

May 23 is Pentecost Sunday and all children are to meet at the front door of the church for the procession.

- 1 Nicholas Griffin
- Alaina Hiryak
- 19 Seth Henley
- 21 Caleb Brewer
- 24 Evan Jacobs

May Birthdays



FROM THE PASTOR

Many Americans are a mixture of various religious traditions. A variety of religious backgrounds even exist among our members at Grand Avenue, with these backgrounds shaping what we believe and how we react to certain music, worship styles, social issues and methods of evangelization, but in spite of our differences, we are one in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit uniting us together in him.

Pentecost celebrates the birthday of the Church. Filled with the Holy Spirit, our early Christian ancestors were empowered at Pentecost to begin the Church's active missionary work. The scripture from Acts that will be read this coming Sunday records the disciples and followers of Jesus were gathered together in Jerusalem following the events of the cross and Jesus' resurrection from the dead. At the same time, the Jews were celebrating the festival of Shavuot, which was originally an agricultural festival celebrating the completion of the harvest - something like our Thanksgiving. Over the years this festival had also become a time for celebrating the renewal of the covenant between God and God's people. This meant the Jewish people gathered each year to give thanks for God's bountiful blessings while also remembering and rededicating themselves to their part in the covenant between God and them.

On Pentecost, God's Spirit once again breathed into being a new creation by forming The Christian Church - The New Testament people of God. Like the Jews rededicating themselves as "people of the covenant" while observing Shavuot, Pentecost is a time for us to renew our commitment both as individuals and as a church family to be all we are meant to be as the New Testament people of God. Stephen P. McCutchan, who is a retired Presbyterian pastor, wrote the following about the kind of rededication that is applicable for us as Christians celebrating Pentecost: "We rededicate ourselves to try to listen to the word of God, to try to hear how God is trying to express himself in our lives, and to try to discover whatever gift of language God seeks to give us that will enable us to speak across a barrier that divides this world."

As brothers and sisters in Christ, on Pentecost Sunday 2010 may we once again rededicate ourselves to the Church's active missionary work for Christ Jesus our Lord!

- George E. Rook

PRAYER LIST

Johnny Ruff; Taylor Gauge Reynolds; Claudia Roebbeke; Arva Ideker; Dale Tull; Norma Mattison; Ruby Self; Louie McKissack; Vivian Howie; Ray Holsted; Harriet Boyd; Janita Hoskyn; Melvin Tipton; Michael Acklin; Cletus Carlock; Juanita Pierce; Denise Black; Joy Buerkle Rush; Bobbie Green; Darrell Gray; Tony Sherrod; Floyd Brothers; Maurine Smith; Rhena Phelps; Charles Oltmann; The family of Jim Gingerich (especially for Peggy); The family of Kathleen Savage (mother-in-law of J.D. Gingerich); For all those in all of the states affected by tornadoes in recent weeks; 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.



2010

USHERS FOR June

David Jacobs—Cpt.
Steve Currie
Kortney Gray
Tim Melson

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 Exercise 10am	2	3 Exercise 10am UMM 7pm FH	4	5
6 CHURCH PICNIC	7 UMW Luncheon 11:30 FH	8 Exercise 10am	9	10 Exercise 10am	11	12
13 Taco Bar after Morning Worship to benefit Bike and Build	14 Circle 2 10:30am FH Circle 3 7:30pm	15 Exercise 10am FH Reserved Bike n Build	16 Circle 1—5:30p FH 3rd Wednesday Luau! FH Reserved Bike n Build	17 Exercise 10am	18	19
20 Singles Luncheon	21 Trustees 7pm Church Office	22 Exercise 10am Finance 7pm Library Admin Co. 7:30pm Fellowship Hall	23	24 Exercise 10am	25	26
27 ICCM	28	29 Exercise 10am	30			

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

Swimming Lessons

June 14 - 25

Classes will be Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for one hour each. The first session time will be from 8-9am and the second session from 9-10am.

The instructors will be Shelby Free and Hannah Hopson, both with two years of life guarding experience and certified in CPR.

**For more information contact:
Shelby Free (870) 830-4650
Hannah Hopson (870) 830-4993**