

May 21, 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



Grand Avenue welcomes Lily Grace Horton, who was born at 1:50pm on May 2 at the St. Bernard's Hospital in Jonesboro. Lily Grace weighed 7'10" at birth. She is the daughter of David and Sarah Horton of Jonesboro and the granddaughter of Bill and Barbara Erstine and Carl and Linda Horton of Wynne.

MEMBERS AND FAMILY OF GAUMC IN THE MILITARY

Brian Hayes, SSGT
447th ECES/CEOH
APO AE 09321

Cpt. Daniel Nelson White
Delta Company
39th BSB
Building 2490
25th Street
Camp Shelby, MS 39407

To all who are graduating from high schools, colleges and universities, we wish for each of you the best in your future plans!

The Lennox Golf Tournament to benefit ICCM has been canceled.

Look in the next issue for news about the 2008 Church Softball League!

DONATIONS FOR STORM VICTIMS:

Please make your check to GAUMC and designate the memo corner "Storms" (designate the m e m o c o r n e r "Stuttgart" if your gift is restricted to tornado relief work in our community) or contributions may be made over the phone by contacting the American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS.

If you or a neighbor need yard clean-up or light building repair, please notify the Church Office. Volunteers in mission of the UMC will be providing their services to our local citizens.

NURSERY ATTENDANTS NEEDED

We are in need of substitute nursery attendants. Applications may be made through the Church Office. A background check is required. If a former nursery attendant cannot return on a regular basis, we will also need an additional full time attendant.

REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH THIS SUMMER

The saying goes that summer heat can dry of church finances because people leave town and take their money with them, but there are still bills to be paid, programs to be funded and payroll to be made. Please remember your church as you plan your summer activities.

Also, a word of gratitude goes to all the members and non-members who financially support Grand Avenue (not all our members do). Your support not only ensures that we keep the lights and air conditioning on for our guests, but that we can continue to welcome and embrace everyone who enters the doors of this church.

MEMORIAL DAY



**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED MONDAY FOR
MEMORIAL DAY.**

Sunday, May 25 is part of
Memorial Day Weekend.

A recent custom at Grand Avenue
is to include a special prayer and
hymn in our Morning Worship on
Memorial Day Weekend that
observes the true meaning of
Memorial Day.

Arkansas Annual Conference
Hot Springs
June 8—11

Members of our UMW will be attend-
ing this year, if you are interested in
attending, please contact
Carolyn Moore at 830-2936

Our 2008 Church Picnic potluck is June 8 at the
John Cain Park immediately after Morning
Worship. While casual dress is always acceptable
at Grand Avenue, everyone is encouraged to dress
casually on this Sunday. Shorts and sandals are
appropriate.



The United Methodist Men will meet in the Fellowship Hall
Thursday, June 5 at 7pm. \$5 is the suggested donation (not
required) for the catered dinner. Those men attending for
the first time are considered guests and need not contribute
toward the dinner. All men of Grand Avenue are welcome!

TAKE - ME - OUT TO THE BALL GAME

The UMM of Grand Avenue is
once again offering a trip to see
the Travelers play San Antonio on
Sunday, June 1, 2008 at 2pm. The
cost is \$7 per person with groups
of more than 20, \$8 per person for
groups less than 20. These are
reserved seats.

The church bus is reserved,
seating is limited (15 people).
Once the bus is filled, members
and guests will need
to supply their own transport.

To RSVP and reserve a seat
on the bus, contact:
the
Church Office 673-6317

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is MONDAY, JULY 28 THRU FRIDAY, AUGUST 1—5:30 to 8pm

GRAND AVENUE YOUTH NEWS

Youth, please mark your calendars for GAUMC's annual hamburger supper that has been scheduled for Thursday, June 26TH. They have always counted on our youth to help out if at all possible.

We are working on our summer calendar and we are hoping to plan a canoe or float trip around mid July. Watch your newsletter for more information to come!

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!

STUTTGART TORNADO

The tornado that cut across the southern section of Stuttgart just after 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 10 affected many Grand Avenue members. Homes suffered everything from minor to extensive to major damage. Our thoughts and prayers remain with our members and with everyone else who has been affected by the tornado.

The area surrounding Grand Avenue was not affected by the tornado, other than a loss of electricity until early Sunday afternoon; therefore, Grand Avenue hosted Southside Baptist Church on Thursday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m. for their rescheduled Wednesday service and was scheduled to host Southside on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Their congregation was able to move back into their damaged building quicker than anticipated and are now worshipping back home in their church.

Grand Avenue was also scheduled to be the meal center for the Arkansas State Police and other responders until their plans changed.

We are currently scheduled to host Volunteer In Mission teams working with the United Methodist Committee on Relief. If you or a neighbor need yard clean-up or light building repair, please notify the Church Office at 673-6317. We do not know when the teams will be scheduled for our area.

PRAYER LIST

Lily Grace Horton; Loretta Cox; Ann Dilday; Carolyn Painter; Charlotte Scales; Betty Oliphant; Claudia Roebbeke; Hazel Bryant; Elbert Houston; John Jackson; Roland Endres; Lucille Holbert; Gertie Sanders; Mary Gene Smith; Tammy Wilson; Ray Holsted; Beth Ragan Adams; Clarence Thomason; Tim Walton; Joni Thomas; Steve Tranna; Kelly Williams; Randy Smith; Beckj Wilson; Brian Hayes; Brian Reynolds; Daniel White; Those suffering from storms in Stuttgart, in Arkansas and elsewhere; 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.

FROM THE PASTOR

Pentecost Sunday 2008 did not go as planned. The tables in the Fellowship Hall were beautifully decorated for the annual Mother's Day Breakfast, but the tables remained vacant, even as the Fellowship Hall remained quiet and dark. There were no handbells for Morning Worship nor was there a special anthem by our mothers and children. Instead, the thirty or so worshipers gathered on May 11 in a dark church amid the soft glow of our two altar candles and sang hymns with the piano instead of with the organ. How plans can change!

Morning Worship was changed to begin with these words from the Apostle Paul: "Blessed be the God who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God" (II Corinthians 1:3a, 4). An opening prayer was then offered for those dealing with loss of property and beloved pets, and for those facing the salvage of personal property and days of rebuilding. The prayer included a thanksgiving for no loss of human life; for every act of compassion, care and self sacrifice; and for the example of personal sacrifice on behalf of others that we learned from Christ. The police, fire department, all first responders and all caregivers were remembered in this special prayer. The closing hymn, which had been selected for Pentecost, was changed to "It Is Well with My Soul." The small congregation sang with great reverence these words: "When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul."

My dad was a man who never asked "why" when bad things happened. He was always-always— calm and accepting of whatever came his way. He lived the following words of Paul: "...suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:3b-5). A lot of character has been displayed by the citizens of Stuttgart. As I visited with many of our families as I could in the aftermath of the tornado, I was deeply impressed with the quiet way in which neighbors helped neighbors in an orderly cleanup and genuine caring for one another. You could see the presence of Christ in our Stuttgart citizens (as well as in those who came from elsewhere to help) and how over the years the character of Christ has been etched into these lives. What was taught at home and at Sunday School and worship in Stuttgart's many churches has produced some wonderful people!

Jesus was once asked "why" about a group of Galileans who were killed by Pilate while making their sacrifices to God. In other words, they were murdered while at church! Why? What evil had they done? Jesus countered this question by pointing out the eighteen people killed by a falling tower in Siloam were not any worse people than anybody else. Jesus' point was: "...unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did" (Lk.13:1-5). The questioners were concerned about physically perishing while Jesus was concerned about spiritually perishing. In other words, we all need to be ready to enter the nearer presence of God. The tornado of May 10 was certainly a wake up call about this!

Something else: we enjoy our possessions. They make our homes comfortable and often remind us of places and people we enjoy. Even the way we decorate our homes often has something to say about who we are: our concept of beauty, our special interests, our favorite forms of recreation and what brings joy to our lives. Loss of property is itself a reality check about the place these possessions occupy in our lives. Whenever there is loss of property, I am personally reminded how Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (St. Matthew 6:19-21). I think we have seen how many people in Stuttgart are rich toward God! They have laid up treasures in heaven! This will make a tremendous difference in how they deal with the loss of property and face the difficult days of rebuilding that lie ahead.

May God bless Stuttgart, her people and all who have provided help in this time of need!

-George E. Rook



2008

USHERS FOR June
 David Jacobs—Cpt.
 Steve Currie
 Kortney Gray
 Tim Melson

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 UMM Trip to Game	2	3 Exercise 9:30am	4	5 Exercise 10am UMM 7pm FH	6	7
8 CHURCH PICNIC	9 Circle 2 10:30am FH Circle 3 7:30pm	10 Exercise 9:30am	11 Circle 1—5:30p FH	12 Exercise 10am Grand Needlers 6pm	13	14
← Arkansas Annual Conference →						
15 Singles Luncheon	16 Trustees 7pm Church Office	17 Exercise 9:30am Finance 7pm Library Admin Co. 7:30pm Fellowship Hall	18	19 Exercise 10am	20	21 UMW Retreat
22	23	24 Exercise 9:30am	25	26 Exercise 10am	27	28
29 ICCM	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

PRAYER FOR OUR TROOPS

*Lord, hold our troops
In your loving hands.
Protect them as they protect them as they protect us.
Bless them and their families
For the selfless acts they perform
For us in our time of need.
And give us peace.
I ask this in the name of Jesus,
Our Lord and Savior. Amen*

—Roman Catholic Archdiocese For The Military Services, USA