

May 23, 2007

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@ceturytel.net



Sympathy is extended to Bryan Brewer on the death of his grandfather, Harrison E. "Pete" Brewer of Wabbaseka.

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



YOUTH MINISTRY AT GRAND AVENUE

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 beginning this September 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!



Are you interested in playing on the Grand Avenue Softball Team in the Church League? Please contact David Jacobs at (870) 673-2555. The team will be coed, which means everyone is invited to participate!

THE SEASON OF PENTECOST begins with Pentecost Sunday, which will be June 3 for 2007. Pentecost is a high day in the Church's life because, among many important reasons, it is the ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THE DISCIPLES AND IT IS THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH. The word Pentecost comes from the Greek "Pentekoste" meaning fifty - fifty days after Easter. PENTECOST BEGINS THE SECOND HALF OF THE CHRISTIAN YEAR. The first half began with Advent and closed with Ascension. Pentecost begins the longest season of the Church Year with as many as twenty-seven Sundays. While the first half of the year observes the life of Christ, the second half deals with the life of the Church through the work, gifts, and fruit of the Holy Spirit.

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL MEETING MAY 27 AFTER WORSHIP -

We will meet to further discuss plans and organization. This meeting is open to anyone who would like to help, whether it be volunteering to teach, decorating, or donating supplies. Helping or not, we would like your kind thoughts and prayers to make this year's VBS a hit! For more information contact Cindy Crum at 672-9822.

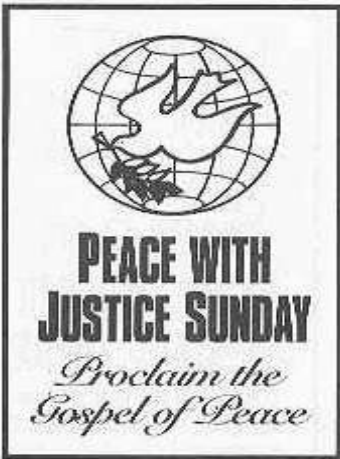


ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Morning Worship on Sunday, May 27 will include a special remembrance of those who have died on behalf of our nation. It seems the true meaning of Memorial Day has been forgotten. Grand Avenue will not forget. If you or a family member has served in the Armed Forces, won't you plan on attending worship that day?

The office will be closed May 28 for Memorial Day.



PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY IS JUNE 3, 2007

Peace with Justice supports ministries through the General Board of Church and Society and the annual conference. An offering envelope will be placed in Sunday's bulletin.

"Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand."

Proverbs 8:1-2



Pentecost will be observed on June 3. There will be a processional of children carrying red banners in celebration of this significant day. Everyone is encouraged to

Our 2007 Church Picnic potluck is June 3 at the John Cain Park immediately after Morning Worship. While casual dress is always acceptable at Grand Avenue, everyone is encouraged to dress casually (in red for Pentecost) on this Sunday. Shorts and sandals are appropriate.



The Arkansas Annual Conference will be meeting June 10 - 13 (Sunday - Wednesday) in Russellville.

SINGLES NEWS

Saturday, June 9 join us for a tour of the Arkansas Post national memorial. We will walk the trails (free) and tour the museum (\$2.75). Bus leaves the church parking lot at 10:30am. Contact Howard Black for more info at 673-3441.



2007 HAMBURGER SUPPER

Thursday, July 12

5pm to 7pm



The United Methodist Men are hosting a dine-in or carry-out hamburger supper. Because the UMM are actively supporting programs in our congregation, ticket sales need to be brisk in order to fund these projects in the coming year. More info soon!

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

GRAND AVENUE TRIVIA

Did you know?

The last baby to be baptized in the old sanctuary was Thomas Charles Hoskyn and the first baby baptized in the new sanctuary was John David "Jack" Jacobs.

FROM THE PASTOR/PRAYER LIST

The "Arkansas Democrat-Gazette" published in the sports section on Saturday, May 12 a commentary by David Whitley of "The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel." He was wondering why the phrase "Hi, Mom!" was no longer on the tips of athletes' tongues the way it once was. With Mother's Day being that weekend, David wrote: "Now we're so caught up in ourselves, we hardly can remember the little phrase that said so much. . . . So why are we forgetting her name? If Sigmund Freud was still around, maybe he'd have the answer. The best I can come up with is the Mom Generation has become the Me Generation. College students certainly seem stuck on themselves. A recent study by a San Diego State researcher found that narcissism and entitlement are at an all-time high. . . . Technology is partially to blame. People used to sit on the porch and converse. Now they sit at computers and promote themselves. . . ." He continued by quoting Grant Hill's observation about athletes wanting to appear on television highlights and then commented, "You can do it the old-fashioned way, by hitting a home run or catching a touchdown. But now you also can do it by celebrating yourself after the play." He then noted: "Psychologists say narcissism leads to the breakdown of close relationships." David closed his article in tribute to mothers by writing, "Without her they wouldn't even have a chest to beat."

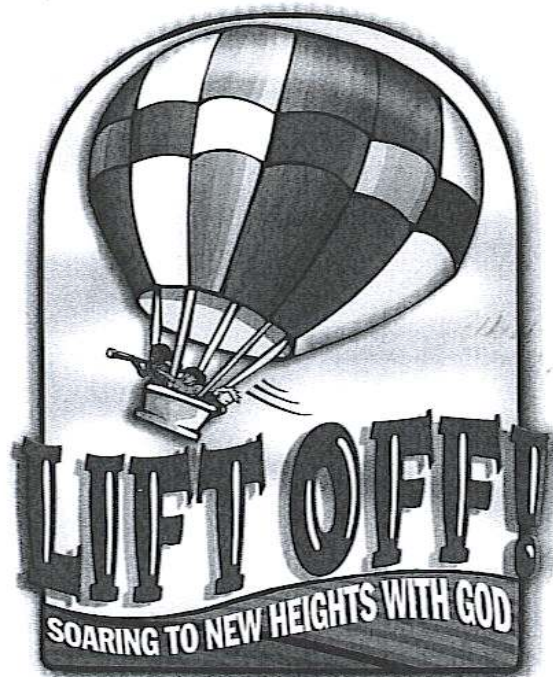
Narcissism is an excessive interest in oneself. The term is derived from the Greek myth about a youth named Narcissus who fell in love with his own reflection in water. What is true for athletes in David's article is sadly true for many individuals in a variety of other settings. "Narcissism leads to the breakdown of close relationships" in business circles, in classes at school, in friendships, in marriages, in families, in clubs and organizations and, regrettably, even in congregations. The church is plagued by two extremes of narcissism. There are those harmlessly self-absorbed members who drift around without thinking seriously about their church families. They simply don't think about their congregations! On the other extreme of church narcissism are those who have become smug, arrogant, self-righteous and mean-spirited. These individuals are dangerous and can be deadly to a church. Jesus had much to say about this type of individual when he challenged them during his ministry!

Both of these groups grieve the heart of Jesus. They have sadly missed the mark of what he would have them be. Jesus said he would give his disciples inner peace and a sense of well-being. He also asked us to love God and to love those inside and outside the church. Aloof narcissistic individuals harm only themselves by failing to fully commit to Jesus and experience the rich blessing of the abundant life he would give. Arrogant narcissistic individuals harm both themselves and others -often tearing apart congregations and giving a false impression before the community that Christians are not very nice to each other! After all, who would want to become a Christian or join a congregation after seeing this kind of behavior?

So, what did you think about the sports commentary? It gave me much thought.

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Roth; Rita Cress; Rollie Rich; Brayden Black; Tammy Wilson; Willa Lambert; Gene Smith; Ray Holsted; Beth Ragan Adams; Fern Bock; Clarence Thomason; Tim Walton; Fred McCuiston; Joey Hillis; Brenda Crum; John Robert Graves; Robert Lisko; Linda Fisher; Joni Thomas; Clifford Burdett; Steve Tranna; Johnny McCullom; Susan Blake; Loma Essex; Sam Scales; Kelly Williams; Karen Aureli; Bailey Simpson; Bethany Jackson; Cathie Jones; Casey Jones; Ellen Southall; Sylvia Mills; Clio Clary; The Family of Harrison Brewer; 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.



Vacation Bible School

Teach me the way
I should go, for to you
I lift up my soul.

Psalm 143:8b

Date June 25 through June 29

Place Grand Avenue

Address 705 South Grand Avenue

Time 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Ages Pre-K through 6th Grade