

Due to last Wednesday's storm, the memorial list was left out of the newsletter, it will be included in the next one!

May 8, 2009

# GRAND AVENEWS

## Staff

George E. Rook  
Pastor

Chuck Law  
Director of  
Music Ministries

Austin Hayes  
Director of Children,  
Twins & Youth Ministries

Wanda Mayfield  
Organist

Heather Sanders  
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

## **Website**

[www.gaumc.com](http://www.gaumc.com)



Sympathy is extended to the family of Betty Oliphant. Betty died April 24, 2009 and was buried from The Grand Avenue Church on April 27, 2009.

Sympathy is also extended to Bob Reynolds on the death of his brother, John "J.M." Reynolds of Alexander. John died Sunday, May 3.



## **THE DATE HAS CHANGED!**

The Grand Avenue Seniors who will be graduating from Stuttgart High School this year and will be honored Sunday, May 17 during the annual Senior Recognition Potluck are:

**Bradley Aaron Hawes, Meagan Elizabeth Hiryak and Whitney Elizabeth Melson. Congratulations!**

### **"A TOUR OF..."**

"A Tour of The Grand Avenue United Methodist Church," an informational booklet about the symbolism and significance of our worship space, has been published by the Church Office and is available free of charge. This booklet is based on the "talking points" covered by our current pastor in his annual Confirmation Class tour of the sanctuary. Topics include the altar, the pulpit, the baptismal font and its location, the ship appearance of our ceiling and the windows. There are supplements in the booklet not covered in the class tour. Copies are available from the Church Office and from the literature rack at the side entrance of the sanctuary. Those living outside of Stuttgart may request a copy by writing or phoning the Church Office (870-673-6317). Booklets will be mailed free of charge.



The Administrative Council of the Grand Avenue United Methodist Church is sponsoring a fish fry from 5pm to 7pm on Thursday, May 21 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 18. 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 the Administrative Council make this a successful project!



**GAUMC Singles** will eat at Dondie's White River Princess in Des Arc on **Sat. May 16, 2009**. Bus leaves the church parking lot at 4:15pm. Contact Howard Black at 673-3441 or [howard5511@yahoo.com](mailto:howard5511@yahoo.com) to reserve your seat on the bus.

Music Notes from  
Mr. Chuck

Hand Bells will perform June 7th. Please mark your calendars.

**Hands for Him/Youth Music**

The Grand Avenue Music Program is pleased to announce that May 17th the Youth will be presenting a short music program. Our own Youth handbell/Choir and Wednesday program "Hands for Him" will be participating. Please make plans to attend this fun time and fellowship and support our youth. The program will begin at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

Listed below is the rehearsal schedule for music including our Spring program May 17th at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

Dress Rehearsal Saturday, May 16th at 9:00 am  
in the Fellowship Hall  
*Spring Performance*  
May 17th 6:00  
Children need to arrive at 5:30 Choir Room

May 9th – 9:00AM  
May 13th 4:00  
Dress Rehearsal Saturday, May 16th at 9:00am  
in the Fellowship Hall

The Art Center of the Grand Prairie and the The Lennox Performing Arts Series is proud to announce two upcoming events. May 15th at the Arts Center, The Pangolins Steel Drum Band will perform starting at 7:00. Refreshments will be available for purchase. May 18th the Community Choir of the Grand Prairie will present their spring concert at 7:30 at First United Methodist Church. Tickets for both events are \$10.00 and will be available at the door. All proceeds will go towards the Art Center summer youth programs. The Art Center is also pleased to announce Summer Camp 2009 for children that have completed K thru 5th. June 1st and June 15th the center will host camps from 9:00am to noon. Please see Mr. Chuck for more information and or call the Arts Center at 673-1781



We are getting ready for Vacation Church School at Grand Avenue! This year's theme is CAMP E.D.G.E., which is an action- packed, adrenaline-filled expedition that teaches kids their strength and might come from God. Through rockin' contemporary music, larger- than-life recreation games, mind -boggling science activities, extreme sports videos, and cool, challenging crafts, you'll show your kids how to live on the E.D.G.E. in their faith.

CAMP E.D.G.E. VBS 2009 Daily E.D.G.E. Pledges:

God is with me. I will stay close to God.  
God guides me. I will follow.  
God teaches me. I will learn.  
God loves me. I will love God and others.  
God sends me. I will go.

FRIDAY, JULY 31 ~ 5:30 to 8:00PM and  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 1 ~ 9:00am-3:00pm  
(Enrollment forms will be available soon)

Right now, we are asking for volunteers to help in any way they can, if you are interested in helping make another Vacation Church School a huge success, please call the Church Office to sign up at 870-673-6317 or email the office at [gaumc@centurytel.net](mailto:gaumc@centurytel.net)

*The Lord is my strength  
and my might. psalm 118:14*



GAUMC  
Rotation  
Sunday School  
For Our Children  
Every Sunday  
upstairs at 9:00

Pre-K thru 4<sup>th</sup> grade - The kids will be learning bible verses: The Ten Commandments and The Lord's Prayer. We encourage you to work with your children to learn these important biblical foundations. We learn through stories, games, art, video and even cookery. Our hope is that we will have your child(ren) in Sunday School this Sunday!

May - Ten Commandments  
June - Teach us to Pray

Meetings this month: Trustees - 5/18 @ 7pm in the Church Office; Finance - 5/19 @ 7pm in the Library; Admin Council - 5/19 @ 7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

*Thank you Grand Avenue for the food, flowers, cards, calls, prayers from all of you, I am very blessed to be a part of the Grand Avenue family and I love everyone here!*

*Madelíne Lucke*

FROM THE PASTOR - A SERMON EXCERPT FROM "GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY"  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 3, 2009. St. John 10:11-18

It grieves me to see a great many people, especially our young people - young people even here in Stuttgart, being negatively influenced by sports, music, television and movie celebrities and by individuals in their peer group who do not have their best interest at heart. Sadly, many of these celebrities our youngsters look up to as role models live in a culture that cannot imagine the kind of life we know and enjoy as Christians. These pop culture celebrities are often shackled in a world of antisocial behavior, immoral conduct, filthy speech and an "in your face" rude attitude. That is their world and because that is their world, they think this is the world of everyone! They mistakenly believe their values represent the values of society everywhere, which is not true. I grieve for the young people who turn their backs on Christ and the wholesome, fulfilling lifestyle of those who belong to the Kingdom of God in exchange for a cheap, tawdry, degrading lifestyle that caters to the very worst in human nature; furthermore, I also grieve for these celebrities who are locked into a culture that has robbed them of their true humanity - a culture that has robbed them of decency, compassion, self-control, integrity and invincible goodwill toward others.

In our modern times, whose voice is it that we heed and follow? To our school students and college students, whose voice do you hear when you are urged to join the crowd in doing what violates your upbringing as a Christian? Is it Christ as the Good Shepherd of our lives or do you heed and follow others voices - of worthless hirelings or false shepherds who have no genuine concern for your welfare the way your parents and church family do, and the way Jesus does? The Good Shepherd loves his sheep, respects them, cares for them, wants the best for them and, if need be, dies for them so they might live. And he really did die on the cross where he overcame our greatest foe-death itself! Jesus Christ is the ultimate Good Shepherd and it is only by booking to him that we gain a wholesome understanding about life and morality, and about our obligations to God and humankind as we are led into the abundant life of our true selves in our Father's kingdom safely away from the ravenous wolves seeking our complete destruction. His is the voice we need to heed and follow!

May we all live with a confident, inner peace under the guidance of this loving shepherd who knows each of us by name and who desires only our best!

- George E. Rook

**PRAYER LIST**

Arva Ideker; Violet Haase; Madeline Lucke; Donald Painter; Johnny Ruff; Dot Renner; Billy Self; Velma Patterson; Louie McKissack; Vivian Howie; Stan Wilson; Hazel Riley; John Jackson; Ray Holsted; Gertie Sanders; Harriet Boyd; Janita Hoskyn; Sherley Black; Hollie Blake; Ralph Ligon; Terry Newton; Carolyn Larkin; Charles King; Jim Kyne; Michael Acklin; Lisa Holcombe; Cathie Jones; Sylvia Mills; Pete Shirkey; The family of Betty Oliphant (especially for Rhett, Kandy, Lindsey, Megan, Kortney and Onita); The family of John "J.M." Reynolds (especially for Bob Reynolds); 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.

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. (contact Austin Hayes 673-6317).

**TWEENS:** The "Tweens" group (grades 5-6) meets in their room on the 3rd floor, every Sunday at 6pm . (contact Lainie Hoskyn at 659-0089).

**CHILDREN'S HANDBELLS:** Grades 5-7 meet in the choir room every Sunday at 5pm. (Chuck Law 673-6317)

**HANDS FOR HIM:** Wednesday Music Program for Children: Grades K-6 meet at 4:30pm and Pre-K will meet at 5pm. Contact Chuck Law (673-6317) or Elizabeth Hoskyn (673-0079).

**THE 3rd WEDNESDAY:** Adults \$3 - Children \$2 - Seniors \$2 - Fun, food & fellowship every third Wednesday. Program starts at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. RSVP - 673-6317

**HANDBELL CHOIR:** Meets every Wednesday at 6pm. (Chuck Law 673-6317).

**ADULT CHOIR:** Meets every Wednesday at 7pm. (Chuck Law 673-6317).

**EXERSICE:** Meets every Tuesday at 9:30am in the FH; and every Thursday at 10am in the FH.

**Other groups meet weekly and/or monthly. Please check the calendar for meeting times and dates.**