

June 11, 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



WELCOME! It is a pleasure to welcome Violet M. Haase as our newest member. Violet united with Grand Avenue on Sunday, June 8 by transfer from the Mount Tabor United Methodist Church near Cabot.



Sympathy is extended to Pat Stanley on the recent death of her mother, Audrey Helms.

**Chancel Flowers:** Openings for Chancel Flowers are available. Sign up on the flower calendar outside old church office if you would like to place flowers in the chancel in memory or honor of someone.

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

Members in Iraq—address update:  
Sgt. Brian Reynolds  
A-CO 39th BSB, 168th BSB  
Camp Liberty, Iraq  
APO AE 09344

**By The Way:** A rocker is available in the usher area at the side of the narthex for use by adults with infants.



## **CHURCH BUS REMINDER:**

If your group uses the bus, it is your responsibility to fill the gas tank up for the next group.

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.

## **DONATIONS FOR STORM VICTIMS:**

Please make your check to GAUMC and designate the memo corner "Storms" (designate the memo corner "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.

# Pancake Breakfast

Honoring ALL PARENTS will be held this Sunday, June 15 at 8:00am. This is to make up for the Mother's Day breakfast and to include Father's Day also. Volunteers are needed to help serve and set up. See you there!

The Singles will leave through the side door of the Sanctuary for lunch in Stuttgart after Morning Worship on June 15th.



## MUSIC NEWS from MR. CHUCK

**Father's Day**– The Chancel Choir would like to invite all Fathers to join in the Introit this Sunday, June 15 singing in a special Father's Day Introit. During morning worship the choir will be presenting a special anthem for Mothers and Children. If you would like to participate, please be in the Choir Room at 9:45am to join in the fun and fellowship.

## NEW WEDNESDAY SUMMER PROGRAM!

Starting June 18th, all children that have completed grades 5-7th are invited to participate in the new Youth Handbell Group. We will have a pizza party each week starting at 5:30pm and will have bell rehearsal from 6-7pm. Please make plans to have consistent attendance with your child weekly. All you need to do is call the church office (673-6317) to sign up.

God Bless, Mr. Chuck.

## YOUTH NEWS

Attention Grand Avenue UMY members, grades 7th–12th, you are invited to a "weekend retreat" in Hot Springs compliments of Trent and Kristian Dabbs. Youth members will meet at the Grand Avenue parking lot Thursday evening, June 19th to caravan to Hot Springs. The youth will be returning Sunday afternoon on June 22. Youth members planning to attend must contact Lainie Hoskyn at [rlhoskyn@d-cl.com](mailto:rlhoskyn@d-cl.com) or 870-659-0089 to confirm your participation and get your permission slip completed by your parents.

THANK YOU GRAND AVENUE YOUTH FOR HELPING WITH OUR ANNUAL FISH FRY! IT WAS WONDERFUL TO HAVE SO MANY HELPING HANDS!

Don't forget the Grand Avenue Methodist Men's Annual Hamburger Supper to be held Thursday, June 26th. We'll need your helping hands again! Youth workers please be at the church as close to 4:30pm as possible!

Sunday, June 29th is ICCM (Food Bank) Sunday. Gifts of nonperishable food may be left in the ICCM Box by the cabinet at the side entrance of the Sanctuary. To make a financial gift, please make your check to GAUMC and designate the memo corner "ICCM." You are invited to consider making it a regular practice of contributing gifts of nonperishable food (or monetary gifts) to ICCM the last Sunday of each month.

### 2007 UMM HAMBURGER SUPPER



Thursday, June 26

5pm to 7pm

\$8.00 each



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. **PLEASE REPORT YOUR TICKET COUNT TO THE OFFICE ASAP**, we need a number so we don't run out of burgers! Please remember this supper supports Tanako Scholarships, T-Shirts for VCS, postage on our College Care Packages and numerous other special projects.

**WE ALSO NEED CAKE MAKERS.**

**If you will furnish a cake, please contact Carolyn Moore at 830-2936.**

### ARMED FORCES DEVOTIONAL BOOK - SPECIAL OFFERING JUNE 29

The Administrative Council has granted a request by our United Methodist Men that a special offering be collected Sunday, June 29 to provide members of the armed forces with copies of "Strength for Service to God and Country," a devotional book written for those in the service of others. More than 250,000 copies of this life-changing book have already been distributed overseas, but hundreds of thousands more are needed for those currently serving state-side or abroad.

The vision for the publication of a new edition of the World War II era book began as the Eagle Scout project of a young boy in Southern California. Evan Hunsberger found his grandfather's battered copy of the book which was originally published in 1942 and contained daily devotionals prepared by many of the leading Protestant pastors and theologians of the time. He decided to republish the devotional in honor of his grandfather who carried it throughout his service in World War II. Making only slight changes to the text, he solicited additional contributions from today's religious leaders. After three years of hard work, the book was published. For more information visit: [www.StrengthforService.org/methodist](http://www.StrengthforService.org/methodist). Distributing these devotional books is a program supported by the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

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

# Letters of Thanks

I would like to thank everyone at GAUMC. Senior recognition day was great. A special thanks to the circle that did our program and to everyone that put items in my basket. Also thanks to everyone who came to the program to help me celebrate.

Zachary Bracewell

Thanks again so much for letting us meet at your church. It is so well maintained and you were gracious hosts.

Gregg Greenway,  
Southside Baptist Church

A lot of people say that you don't realize how important something is or how much it means to you until it's gone. Well, Sunday, November 4, I realized just how much everyone means to me and that my family isn't only associated with my last name but can extend into a church full of people I consider family. Senior Recognition Sunday was great and I want to thank everyone that helped make it so unique. But most of all I want to thank the church as a whole for all of the years of love and support they have given me and letting me know that I will always have a church home here at Grand Avenue.

Thanks again  
Michael Bardwell

Dear Grand Avenue,

Thank you so much for the bible with my name on it and also the senior potluck. I am proud to be a member of Grand Avenue and I intend on coming back to church when I am home from college. Thanks,

Rachel Erwin



## *PRAYER LIST*

*Ralph Patterson; Charlotte Scales; Betty Oliphant; Claudia Roebbeke; Louie McKissack; Hazel Bryant; John Jackson; Spencer Ruff; Kelsey Hoffman; Roland Endres; Lucille Holbert; Gertie Sanders; Mary Gene Smith; Ray Holsted; Beth Ragan Adams; Tim Walton; Steve Tranna; Kelly Williams; Randy Smith; Becki Wilson; Brian Hayes; Brian Reynolds; Daniel White; Those suffering from storms in Stuttgart, in Arkansas and elsewhere; Cathie Jones; Sylvia Mills; 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

A discouraged pastor wrote to Billy Graham in a letter that was printed on Memorial Day 2008. Billy Graham used the letter to make an appeal for church members “to pray for their pastors, and to look for ways to help and encourage them.” Graham then went on to offer words of advice and encouragement to the pastor: “I hope you’ll see it as an opportunity - an opportunity to help them begin to use their gifts to serve Christ. . . . Ask God to help you understand more fully what He wants to do in their lives. . . . He wants them to grow closer to Himself, and He wants to teach them how to live for Christ in their daily lives.” Yes, we should all honor Christ by the way we live in our daily lives.

I share this article with you because pastors are being appointed to churches in the Arkansas Annual Conference as this edition of our newsletter is published. A certain amount of anticipation (fear and trembling perhaps?) gathers in the heart of every pastor as he or she enters the pulpit of a new church. What will the people be like? Will they accept me for who I am rather than rejecting me for what I am not? Will we be able to work together as a team or will there be individuals unwilling to work with others and refusing to build harmony in a shared vision for the church? Sadly, not every church and not every member will be an encouragement to these new pastors, which can lead to these pastors becoming discouraged.

Did you know that Paul’s First Letter to the Thessalonians is his earliest correspondence that we have, which makes it the earliest writing in the New Testament? As a pastor, I find this fascinating because in this earliest of Paul’s writings he makes the following appeal to church members: “. . . respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves” (I Thess. 5:12b, 13). I suppose you remember Paul was not always highly esteemed in his work! Remember those dreadful problems at Corinth? Nevertheless, this poster-child church for bad behavior did inspire Paul to compose the following: “If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. . . . Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. . . . And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love” (I Cor. 13:1, 4-6, 13).

The sermon for June 1 was based on one of Paul’s final letters. The Second Letter of Paul to Timothy is his most personal and is directed specifically to Timothy. It is referred to as “an earnest pastoral letter from a veteran missionary to a younger colleague. . . . It pictures Timothy as responsible for a group of churches and for preserving them from destructive influences from without and from dissidents within. Endurance is a prime quality for such a leader. Timothy is urged . . . to take his share of suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. . . . he must endeavor to be a sound worker . . . fit for the Master’s use. In this he can be helped by the example of Paul who is now at the end of his career and awaits the crown of righteousness. The farewell words (4:6-8) are a moving testimony of Christian fortitude and hope in the face of certain martyrdom” (The New Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV), p 307 - NT). The sermon at Grand Avenue was based on these farewell words of Paul found at 4:6-8.

Paul’s earliest letter challenges church members to “respect those who labor among you” while a letter from the end of his career encourages a church leader, specifically Timothy, in his ministry. In between I Thessalonians and II Timothy, Paul refused to be victimized by a renegade congregation, Corinth, and wrote his great chapter on love (I Corinthians 13). As a pastor, I am encouraged by these three texts from the beginning, middle and end of Paul’s ministry. I also share Paul’s concern for pastors. The New Testament reveals being a pastor is not a cushy, easy job - never has been! Then and now, it is not uncommon for members to be disrespectful instead of being respectful of those who labor among them. It is also not uncommon for pastors to be subjected to humiliation.

As Bishop Crutchfield is making appointments for the Arkansas Annual Conference, I am hopeful you will be in prayer for those who have been called into ministry. Pray for their spiritual strength and well-being. Pray they not become discouraged like the pastor who wrote to Billy Graham.

- George E. Rook

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

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★ **POSITION AVAILABLE:** Grand Avenue United Methodist Church in Stuttgart is seeking a part-★  
★ time (25 hours per week) Director of Children's, Tweens and Youth Ministry. Responsibilities in-★  
★ clude developing and programming ministries for these areas of church life, coordinating activi-★  
★ ties, recruiting and training volunteers, and being supportive of the children, youth, parents and★  
★ volunteers. This person should be committed to personal spiritual growth, be willing to commit to★  
★ the United Methodist Church's outreach and mission, have excellent organizational skills and be★  
★ dedicated to working with other staff as a member of a ministry team. A background in education★  
★ and previous work with volunteers is a plus. A background check with a drug test is required. A★  
★ copy of the ministry description may be obtained by contacting the church office at 870-673-6317★  
★ or email at [gaumc@centurytel.net](mailto:gaumc@centurytel.net). The salary is \$19,500 (no benefits). Resumes may be sub-★  
★ mitted to: Staff-Parish, Grand Avenue United Methodist Church, 803 S. Grand Avenue, Stuttgart,★  
★ AR 72160.★  
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