



June  
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

Website  
www.gaumc.com



Sympathy is extended to Charles Wright on the recent death of his father Charles Wright, Sr. Charles works with Grand Avenue's Cub and Boy Scout Troop 84 at Grand Avenue.

**A Wedding Shower will be held in honor of Kati and Jason Reynolds on Saturday, June 19th from 10:30 to 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

Attention all UMW members! Don't forget our annual retreat/mission study at Jacobs' River House on Saturday, June 19 from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Our study this year is "The Beauty and Courage of Sudan". Lunch is Potluck so bring a dish and join us. The church bus will leave the church at around 8:45. Contact Carolyn Moore at 673-4706 or 830-2936 or Judy Jacobs at 830-2602 for more details or if you plan to attend.

**Meetings this week:** Trustees (Monday, June 21 at 7pm - Church Office); Finance (Tuesday, June 22 at 7pm - Library); Admin Council (Tuesday, June 22 at 7:30pm - Fellowship Hall). REMINDER: These groups do not meet in August! Please plan presentations before the Council and committees with this in mind.

A Christian Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 24 at 12:00 in the fellowship hall (bring a sack lunch). We will be discussing plans for a GA Christian Education survey and programs for the fall. All Sunday School teachers (of all ages) and anyone interested in this program are encouraged to attend.



Openings for the 2010 Summer Art Camp are still available. Art camps for children that have completed grades K-5th will be the week of June 14th and July 5th. A new camp experience for PreK-4 and PreK-5 year olds will be June 28. Please call Mr. Chuck for an application.



The Supper is Thursday, July 1, from 5 to 7pm. Tickets are only \$8 each. Proceeds go to fund Tanako Camp Scholarships, The Valentine Banquet, The Mothers Day Breakfast and other projects with special emphasis on the Youth. Please call the church office and let them know how many tickets have been sold. Please call on or before Thursday, June 24th.

**The office will be closed Monday, July 5 for the Independence Day weekend.**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, June 27:  
Tuesday, June 29:  
Thursday, July 1:  
Sunday, July 4:  
Monday, July 5:

The last Sunday for Pastor George E. Rook to be with us.  
Moving Day for all clergy being reassigned in the Arkansas Annual Conference.  
UMM Hamburger Supper from 5-7pm; Tickets are \$8.  
The first Sunday for Pastor Edward E. Wyers to preach at Grand Avenue.  
Office is closed.



**FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR PASTOR ROOK**  
**Sunday, June 27 from 2 - 4pm at the**  
**Grand Avenue Fellowship Hall.**

Leaving a loving, supporting church that lives God's word will not be easy for Pastor George Rook. After a sixteen year appointment at Grand Avenue United Methodist Church in Stuttgart, Arkansas, he has been appointed to Grand Avenue United Methodist Church in Hot Springs beginning July 4<sup>th</sup>, where he will continue after 33 years in the ministry. "I cannot say enough about Brother George. He inspires me to be a better person," member Agnes Jackson said.



Pastor Rook is a native of Lewisville, Arkansas. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Hendrix, he earned his Masters of Theology from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

Pastor Rook took his first step into the ministry by serving as a Deacon, and then he served as a youth pastor and choirmaster. Before coming to Stuttgart, Brother George led many churches such as the Bearden and Thornton United Methodist Churches, the Altheimer and Wabbaseka United Methodist Churches, First United Methodist Church of Gurdon and the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church of Clark County.

Since his appointment in 1994, at Grand Avenue United Methodist Pastor Rook has officiated 34 weddings, 70 Baptisms, 128 funerals of which 120 of those being members of Grand Avenue, and has welcomed 201 new members by profession of faith or transfer of letter.

Through all of his accomplishments in the ministry, Grand Avenue has also impacted him in a huge way. "The people are wonderful people and have always treated me as a pastor should be treated," Pastor Rook said. "This has been a healing church for me." Pastor Rook describes Grand Avenue as a church that always addresses the needs of the community. "Our congregation is a strong supporter of the ICCM food bank, and I was so proud of how our church came through during the tornado of 2008.

Members of Grand Avenue describe his sermons as humorous, relative to everyday life, comforting and inspiring. To prepare for sermons, Brother George reads, collects clippings and is constantly making changes to his sermons up until Sunday mornings.

Outside of the church, Brother George can be found watching the New York Yankees or listening to classical music. He is also a member of the San Francisco Opera Association, The Metropolitan Opera Guild of New York City, the National Cathedral Association of Washington Cathedral and the Cathedral Founders Society, which is affiliated with Washington Cathedral in Washington D. C.

Grand Avenue United Methodist of Hot Springs will be welcoming Pastor Rook with open arms. His new church will have 150 more members than Grand Avenue Stuttgart, three Sunday Services and a special service once a month for the nursing home in Hot Springs. "I'm looking forward to the walking trails and the seasonal foliage," he said.

As a tribute to Brother George Rook's service to Grand Avenue Stuttgart, the church family would like to cordially invite the community to attend his final worship service in Stuttgart on Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the Sanctuary. Then please join us for a reception honoring Brother George in the Grand Avenue Fellowship Hall from 2-4pm on Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.



Church Softball will be played in July, make your plans to play. Full details have not been released yet. David Jacobs has once again consented to be our organizer. New T-shirts will be ordered this year!



Vacation Church School will be July 25-28 (Sunday - Wednesday) from 5:30 to 8pm each day. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend or help. Registration forms are available in the Fellowship Hall, the Sanctuary and will be mailed out as well.



## FLOAT TRIP

The Youth Float Trip is July 16-18. Contact Austin Hayes for additional information.

### GRAND AVENUE YOUTH:

Youth meetings for the summer will be as follows: Jr. High and Sr. High will meet together at 6:00. Meal will be at 6:45, dismissed between 7:15 and 7:30. This format will go through the Float Trip. From July 25th until September 5th Sunday meetings will not take place. Game and Movie nights will be scheduled weekly during that time.



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." So far we've collected \$24,589.82. Thank you!

### 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.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Brother Ed and Linda will be welcomed with a potluck dinner after church on Sunday, July 11 and a "Parsonage House Warming". Meaning, if you want to bring a small house warming gift, I am sure it will be welcome. More information will follow.



For the beautiful music on Sunday mornings,  
For your dedication in attending rehearsals,  
For inspiring us to lift our hearts,  
minds and voices in singing praises  
to our Lord,  
Choir, we thank you!

**Thank you  
GAUMC Choir**



## FROM THE PASTOR - A FINAL WORD:

A member of St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Shreveport, Louisiana often said, "Sometimes what seems like the end is really a new beginning." The end of our sixteen years together as Pastor and parish is quickly drawing to a close and brakes cannot be applied to slow it down. Yes, your anxiety level and my anxiety level are both rising as we face the inevitable change and the new beginning it brings.

On the Sunday you were informed as a congregation I was being appointed to Grand Avenue, Hot Springs and would not be returning as your Pastor, I shared with you the story of Jesus asleep in a boat caught in a violent storm (Mark. 4:35-41).. Jesus' disciples wake him and ask, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Whereupon Jesus calmed the wind and sea by saying, "Peace! Be still!" The disciples needed to be calmed as much or more than the storm itself! I shared with you how easy it is to forget Jesus is in the boat with us amid whatever storms we face, including the storm of changing a longtime pastoral relationship. Jesus says to us, "Peace! Be still!" I also shared with you how the ceiling in our church resembles an inverted ship to remind us the church is like a ship of the faithful going from this world to the next. The mast of the ship is the cross and Jesus is at the helm; therefore, remember Jesus is in the boat with us! "Peace! Be still!"

There have been notable accomplishments through our shared ministry of sixteen years. I have enjoyed being your Pastor and you have been a great blessing to me! I cannot thank you enough for your kindness and respect or commend you enough in your discipleship. You have given me some beautiful memories to cherish as long as I live. I have known and loved some wonderful people at Grand Avenue! The engraved plaque on the preacher's side of the pulpit reminds the speaker about the congregation's one desire, "We Wish To See Jesus" (St. John 12:21). Well, I have truly seen Jesus in you through your love and discipleship!

Thank you! Thank you for a wonderful ministry at Grand Avenue. Thank you for your dedication to Christ and this congregation. Thank you for your dedication in recognizing "what seems like the end is really a new beginning." Robert Raines said, "Departure, like death, brings all of our lives into momentary focus. We are poised on tiptoe, hovering between memory and hope. We take the measure of our meanings as we leave the known for the unknown. We let yesterday go as we touch tomorrow. And today we say 'yes' to the Lord who makes all things new." As you touch tomorrow, I know you will continue to take seriously your role in the growth and nurture of Grand Avenue. After all, the Lord who makes all things new is in the boat with you!

Have you ever noticed the pattern of rain on a windshield? How the streams of water begin their separate courses at the top of the windshield, flow together for awhile and then separate to run their different courses? Human relationships are like this. As we separate to run our different courses, I thank God for the time we enjoyed together!

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. . . . And this is my

prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:3-6, 9-11).

God bless each of you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor George E. Rook

# Memorials

In memory of Floyd Brothers  
given by

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Roth  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Bardwell  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Fletcher  
Mrs. Eunice Montgomery  
Mrs. Eugene Acklin  
Mrs. Marion Hartz  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Roth  
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Cox  
Patricia Jane Ferguson  
Margaret Tackett  
Mr. & Mrs. Norris Ragan  
Mildred Beverly  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Gray, Jr.  
Mrs. John Jackson

In memory of Floyd Brothers  
as a gift to the Parsonage Renovation Fund  
given by

Mary Humphrey  
Jesse Townsend  
Mr. & Mrs. Clark Roth  
as a gift to the Music Ministries Fund  
given by  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Erstine  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Currie

In memory of Virginia Perkins  
given by

Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Doepel  
George & Jerry Reap  
Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Stone

In memory of Jim Gingerich  
given by

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Bardwell  
Mrs. Ruth Simpson  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Creekmore  
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Cox  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Fletcher  
Margaret Amps  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Roth  
Farmers & Merchants Bank  
Mr. & Mrs. Norris Ragan  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Gray, Jr.  
Mendy Hoskyn  
Hollis F. Haley  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob White  
Patricia A. Davis

In memory of Jim Gingerich  
as a gift to the ICCM Food Bank  
given by

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Hoskyn  
as a gift to the Music Ministries Fund  
given by  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Currie

In memory of Clarence South  
given by

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Roth  
Patricia Jane Ferguson

In memory of John Jackson  
given by

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Gray, Jr.

## PRAYER LIST

Johnny Ruff; Claudia Roebbeke; Arva Ideker; Dale Tull; Ruby Self; Louie McKissack; Ray Holsted; Harriet Boyd; Janita Hoskyn; Melvin Tipton; Michael Acklin; Cletus Carlock; Juanita Pierce; Joy Buerkle Rush; Tony Sherrrod; Jack Coker; Myrna Peters; Holly Dabbs Whitcomb; Lindsey Neighbors Franklin; Teresa Stowell and family; The families of the flash flood victims; The family of Lillian Wilson; 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.

# JULY

# 2010

## July Ushers

Derek Bohanan - Cpt.  
 Ryan Eagle  
 Brian Roth  
 Austin Hayes

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 Exercise 10am  UMM Hamburger Supper	2	3
4	5 UMW Sack Luncheon 11:30 FH  Circle 3 7:30pm  OFFICE CLOSED	6	7  Circle 1 5:30pm - FH	8 Exercise 10am	9	10
11  FH Reserved	12	13  Exercise 10am	14	15  Exercise 10am	16  Youth Float Trip  Bus Reserved	17
18  Singles Luncheon  →	19  Trustees 7pm Church Office	20  Exercise 10am  Finance 7pm Library  Admin Co. 7:30pm Fellowship Hall	21	22  Exercise 10am	23	24
25  ICCM  ←	26  Vacation Church School	27  Exercise 10am	28	29  Exercise 10am	30	31

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

**FROM ATHE UPPER ROOM@ - Thursday, November 20, 2007**

After it was announced that our pastor of 13 years would be moving to another congregation, some members expressed concern. They feared losing our spiritual leader and wondered who would be chosen to replace him; they questioned how we would be able to accomplish our church goals.

Change is often hard, but it is inevitable. I thought about how we could learn from the disciples. That group went through many changes - from the lifestyle change when they were called to follow Christ through the anguish of seeing him crucified to the joy of his resurrection and finally to their role of reaching others.

Jesus picked ordinary people to be his disciples, those not unlike us. Being ordinary people, the disciples struggled with their faith, their commitment and their pride. But by following Jesus' example of praying, being humble and serving, the disciples accomplished great things.

Although we may be ordinary people, we likewise can accomplish great things by these same gifts that Jesus gave the disciples.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for trusting us ordinary people to further your kingdom. Help us to answer when you call us to do what may seem difficult. Amen.

Thought for the Day: God accomplishes great things through ordinary people like us.

Prayer Focus: Churches Undergoing Change.

- John D. Bown (Minnesota)