

July 15, 2009

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 Sanders
Secretary

Sunday Schedule

9:00am
Sunday School*

9:45am
Fellowship

10:00am
Worship

*Child Care Provided

Phone Number

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870-673-3697

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gaumc@centurytel.
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www.gaumc.com



Sympathy is extended to Fletcher Bracewell and Bertie Grace Calhoun on the death of their brother, Noel Guy Bracewell.



Sympathy is also extended to Violet Haase on the death of her grandson, Timothy Brian Haase of Hampshire, Illinois. Tim died in an automobile accident on Friday, July 10.

Welcome! Jacob Thomas Persons united with Grand Avenue by transfer from another United Methodist congregation on Monday, July 13.



We also welcome Karsyn Elaine Gray, infant daughter of Kortney and Megan Gray. Karsyn Elaine was born Sunday, June 28 at the Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock. . Karsyn was 19 inches long at birth and weighed 7lbs. 1oz. She is the daughter of Kortney and Megan Gray. Grandparents include Kenny and Kandy Gray and Buddy and Barbara Sneed. Rhett Oliphant is the great-grandfather. Best wishes!

CLARA DOBSON AND STEPHEN HOSKYN TO PREACH AT GRAND AVENUE

Clara Dobson will be our guest preacher and worship leader on Sunday, July 19 while Stephen Hoskyn will be our guest preacher on Sunday, July 26 with Derek Bohanan serving as worship leader. All three of these individuals are faithful members of Grand Avenue and have agreed to serve in these capacities while our Pastor is on vacation. Welcome!



Meetings this month: Trustees (Monday, July 20 at 7pm in the Church Office); Finance (Tuesday, July 21 at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall); Administrative Council (Tuesday, July 21 at 7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall). THESE ARE THE LAST REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS UNTIL SEPTEMBER. Business for late summer and early autumn will be presented.

The Singles will leave from the side door of the sanctuary after Morning Worship on Sunday, July 19, for lunch together in Stuttgart. All singles are invited to attend!



The Pastor's vacation will be July 15 - 28. In case of emergency, the Pastor can be reached through the Church Office.



Sunday, July 26 is ICCM (food bank) Sunday. Please make your check to GAUMC and designate the memo corner "ICCM." Gifts of nonperishable food may be left by the cabinet at the side door of the Sanctuary.

ARMED FORCES DEVOTIONAL BOOK - SPECIAL OFFERING AUGUST 9TH

The Administrative Council has granted a request by our United Methodist Men that a special offering be collected Sunday, August 9, 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 stateside 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.StrengthInService.org/methodist. Distributing these devotional books is a program supported by the General Commission on United Methodist Men.



"Love
your Neighbor
as Yourself."
Mark 12:31

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY—SEPTEMBER 13, 2008

Friendship Sunday is September 13 and will include a potluck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship. FRAN cards will be printed in upcoming newsletters and placed around the church in classrooms, the Fellowship Hall and outside the old Church Office. You are encouraged to invite friends, relatives, associates and neighbors to join us on this special Sunday. They will, of course, be our guests at the luncheon.

Thank You!

Thursday, July 9, the United Methodist Men had their annual Hamburger Supper. The supper was very successful. We wanted to extend our thanks to all who helped us. The Women always help and we could not do the supper without you. Our church Youth help each year and make our job easier. Of course the whole congregation sells tickets and buys tickets. The end result is funds to support youth programs in the church and other projects. Thank you for helping the Methodist Men and may God Bless You!

Well, it is time to start packing for our camping trip to CAMP E.D.G.E. (Experience & Discover God Everywhere). We are trying something new once again. VBS will be on Friday, July 31 from 5:00pm - 8:15pm and Saturday, August 1 from 9:00am – 3:00 pm.

If you have camping gear that could be used for decorations, please bring them and place on the stage in the Fellowship Hall or at the church office. We need lanterns, sleeping bags, campfire equipment as well as old Christmas trees.

CAMPERS WHO PRE-REGISTER WILL RECEIVE A CAMP E.D.G.E. T-SHIRT!



Registration Form

Child's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Age Information: _____

Date of Birth _____ Age _____ School grade completed _____

Allergies/Medical Information/Other

Emergency Contact: Name _____ Phone _____

Dismissal Information

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS

Early registration Only: T-shirt size:

___YS ___YM ___YL ___AS ___AM ___AL

Church use only: Camper Group _____

YOUTH NEWS

August 4th: 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall. Cecilia Kelly will be here to discuss Sunday School rotation.

August 7th: Wild River Country YSF Lock-In. \$10 per person. Let Austin or the Church Office know if you are interested in going by August 5th.

August 11th: 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall. Rod Hocott will be here to discuss Youth program.

Supper will be provided, no youth or children. Anyone and everyone is encouraged to attend to give their opinion and support to these vital ministries.

FALL SCHEDULE 2009

No youth in August - We will be studying the Fruits of the Spirit

First youth of fall: September 6th

Progressive Dinner: September 13th

Pinnacle Mountain: October 11th

Party in the Park: October 17th

Church Hay Ride: October 24th (tentative)

Pack a Pew Fundraiser for adopted Christmas family: November 8th

Lock-In: November 13th and 14th

Shopping trip for adopted Christmas family: December 18th

Christmas Party: December 20th

Youth will be broken into 2 groups. The 7th and 8th graders will meet at 6pm until 6:45. The 9th thru 12th graders will meet at 7:30pm until 8:15pm. Meal time will be from 6:45 to 7:30 with both groups included.

Grand Avenue Youth -- Buffalo River Float Trip 09

July 17th-19th

Theme: Relationships, with God, with Peers, with Family

Schedule:

Friday

9:00: Meet at Chapel for devotional and prayer

9:30: Load bus and other vehicles and leave

3:00: Arrive at River, unpack

4:00-6:00: Free Time

7:00: Supper

8:30: Evening Devotional

Saturday

8:00: Breakfast

8:45: Morning Devotional

9:00-12:00: Free Time

12:00: Lunch

1:00-6:00: Free Time

7:00: Supper

8:30: Evening Devotional

11:30 Miracle at Midnight
(weather permitting)

Sunday

8:00: Breakfast

8:45: Morning Devotional

9:00-12:00: Church

12:00: Lunch

1:00: Departing Devotional

2:00: Leave Buffalo River

7:00: Get back to GAUMC

Over the weekend there will be opportunities for hikes, shopping, and other activities as they become available. Please bring your Bible, plenty of clean clothes, and a good attitude.

Dress code will follow Camp Tanako. There will be NO boys in the girl's quarters or visa versa.

Anyone caught breaking this rule will be sent home immediately!



MUSIC DEPARTMENT NOTES

Mr. Chuck will be on vacation until the June 25th. Please contact the Church office if you need anything.

A big THANK YOU to David for sharing his talent's with us this past Sunday in Church.

Please mark your calendar for July 26th during the service. We will be singing two stanzas from favorite hymns that the congregation will suggest. (*This is a great time to practice singing to join the choir this fall.*)

Adult Bell Schedule Fall

Bell ringers please mark your calendar accordingly for the Chancel Bells participation in morning worship. Thank you....

Sept 13th, October 4th, November 1st, December 6th, December 20th.

Rehearsals will start back with the Chancel bells August 26th. Please call Mr. Chuck if you would like to join. The ability to "read" music is not necessary.

Youth Music

I am very excited about the many possibilities that we have at Grand Avenue and our youth. Schedules will be going out outlining the Music Ministry schedule and programs. Please encourage your child to attend and participate.

Summer is here! It has been a wonderful spring with church services and programs. Getting to work with everyone in the music ministry is a joy to me personally and very rewarding in many ways. The Chancel Choir will be taking a break during the month of July, and will resume back with rehearsals starting at 7:00 August 19th. The next few weeks will feature soloists and youth from our own church as well as guests.

Please make plans this year to come and sing in the choir. You do not need to read music perfectly to participate. Your willingness and participation is all that is called on and the ability to trust Jesus to do the rest. The choir is a diverse mix of voices that come together to worship and praise Jesus Christ. The choir meets every Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:30 and rehearses in the sanctuary.

Up- Coming Dates to Put on your Schedule....

Vacation Bible School July 31st / August 1st

Adult Bells – rehearsals August 26th 6:00

Youth Bells – **August 23rd** 4:00 Music Room

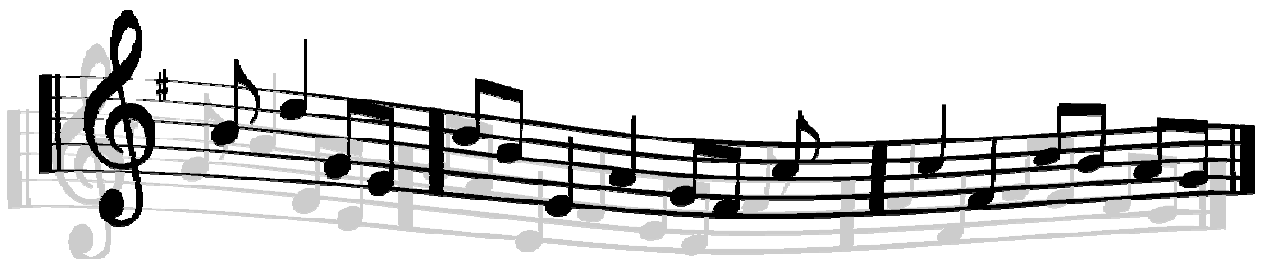
Hands for Him – **September 9th** Meets every Wednesday 4:30

Other Important Dates to Mark Your Calendar

Adult Christmas Cantata – December 20th

Children's Christmas Concert – December 20th

Mr. Chuck



FROM THE PASTOR

“ . . . tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it - not for sordid gain but eagerly.” - II Peter 5:2

The last article “From The Pastor” celebrated the kindness and respect extended by Grand Avenue to me as your pastor, but what is true for us as pastor and parish is not true for all pastors everywhere. In fact, the members of some congregations create a hostile working environment for their pastors. Several years ago Lloyd Rediger addressed this problem in his book, Clergy Killers. That title says it all!

There are congregations where pastors are mistreated simply because of who they are: marital status, children/no children, age, gender, race. I myself was once told after helping a church back on its feet that I could stay one more year while their new Christian Education Building was under construction, but after that, I would have to leave because they wanted someone younger, married and with children to attract people to their new building. I opted not to stay. Regrettably, I was appointed to a church where I was mistreated from the very beginning! Discrimination like this cannot exist in the corporate world because of lawsuits, but yet, it goes unchecked in the church, which should be a role model of good behavior for the world to follow!

Our Bishop recently appointed clergy to serve the churches of Arkansas. I see the thrill on the faces of new clergy as they receive their first appointments and the apprehension on the faces of older clergy who wonder what the next year holds. As a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry in the Southeast District, I hear stories of seminarians and local pastors, and their thirst to serve the Lord Jesus by tending “the flock of God” in their charge. Their enthusiasm is fresh and optimistic! Their enthusiasm is inspiring! But in their enthusiasm, I often wonder what the future holds for them. Will their dreams be dashed? Will they become discouraged because of people who claim to be people of God but don't live like they are? I wonder if their churches will be kind to them and help them grow in ministry by encouraging them rather than being judgmental and pouncing on them when they don't quite live up to their expectations. Members will play games with clergy such as “chase me” and “now I've got you” while clergy too often fall into the role of “kick me,” thinking if only they say or do “the right thing” everything will be fine, but it won't be fine with these kinds of “clergy killing” people.

My last article was upbeat while this article is sad. And it is sad because I want you to feel for the clergy of our state who make tremendous personal sacrifices to serve the people of God. Many of our rural clergy spend their finances and vacation time taking required courses at seminaries, not to mention how often all clergy sacrifice personal and family time for the sake of their members. And then for some to be mistreated!

Pray for our clergy! Speak kindly to them and of them. These are difficult times and we have some very good women and men out there who are doing their very best as servants of God.

- George E. Rook

PRAYER LIST

Frances Earhart; Mabel Moseley; Madeline Lucke; Donald Painter; Dot Renner; Louie McKissack; Vivian Howie; Hazel Riley; John Jackson; Ray Holsted; Harriet Boyd; Janita Hoskyn; Sherley Black; Hollie Blake; Ralph Ligon; Terry Newton; Carolyn Larkin; Charles King; Jim Kyne; Lisa Holcombe; Suzanne Stroh; Melvin Tipton; Scarlett-Marie Acklin; The family of Noel Bracewell (especially for Fletcher and Bertie Grace); The family of Timothy Brian Haase (especially for Violet Haase); Thanksgiving for the birth of Karsyn Elaine Gray (daughter of Kortney and Megan Gray); 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.



2009

USHERS FOR AUGUST

Tommy Hoskyn—Cpt.
Rhett Oliphant
Tony Carlock
Pat Mayfield

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3 UMW Sack Luncheon 11:30 FH	4 Exercise 9:30am Children's Sunday School Meeting FH 6pm	5	6 Exercise 10am UMM 7pm FH	7	1 VCS 9am - 3pm <hr/> 8
9	10 Circle 2 10:30am FH Circle 3 7:30pm	11 Exercise 9:30am Youth Parents Meeting FH 6pm	12 Circle 1 5:30p FH	13 Exercise 10am	14	15
16 Singles Luncheon	17	18 Exercise 9:30am	19	20 Exercise 10am	21	22 FH—Reserved
← Pastor's Vacation 8/19 to 9/1 →						
23	24	25 Exercise 9:30am	26	27 Exercise 10am	28	29 UMW Fall Luncheon
30	31					
ICCM						

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

First Place 4 Health weight loss class is starting July 23rd. This is a nationally known program with:

- **Christ-centered priorities:** Bible study, prayer, and Scripture memory
- **Choices for health:** Addressing the whole person - emotions, mind, body and spirit
- **Community:** Support and accountability through small groups

We will meet at St. John's Lutheran Church in their Fellowship Hall at 4th & College streets every Thursday from 12pm to 1pm. Cost is \$15 per person for 12 weeks. To get more information or to register, please call Judy Graham at 870-241-1040, or Mary Johnson at 870-673-6490 so we can order your materials.

4^{first place}health
discover a new way to healthy living

