



July  
2010  
Issue I

# GRAND AVENEWS

## Staff

Edward E. Wyers  
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



Welcome New Member! Jared Teer was received by Profession of Faith and Holy Baptism on Sunday, June 20. Jared is the son of Jerry and Tracy Teer. Welcome!

Congratulations to another Grand Avenue family receiving the title of North Arkansas County Farm Family of the Year. Stephen and Elizabeth Hoskyn, we are proud of you and are blessed to have your family and your support. Congrats!

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR PASTOR ROOK

102 Dottie  
Hot Springs, AR 71901  
Phone: 870-659-6616  
Email: gaumcpastor@sbcglobal.net

Thank you to everyone who helped make the UMM Hamburger Supper a successful event!

Grand Avenue Christian Education is pleased to announce the formation of a new ministry in our Sunday School Program. Concepts is a new class that is aimed at the young single college-age members and guests here at Grand Avenue. Concepts will be a fast paced discussion format that will deal with issues affecting the age group that gets lost in the modern church. Concepts will begin with a look at the Methodist Church and the beliefs that we as Methodists hold dear. Concepts would like to invite everyone that does not attend a Sunday school class at Grand Avenue to give this new ministry a look.

Concepts will begin on July 11<sup>th</sup> in the classroom behind the chapel across from the library.

Meetings this month: Trustees (Monday, July 19 @ 7pm - Church Office); Finance (Tuesday, July 20 @ 7pm - Library); Admin Council (Tuesday, July 20 @ 7:30pm - Fellowship Hall).

ATTENTION BIBLE SCHOOLERS: Please turn in all registration forms to the church office as soon as you can. See you there!



The Youth Float Trip is  
July 16-18!



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. Please make sure your registration forms are turned in on time.

#### **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."

Dear Members and Friends of Grand Avenue,

Thank you for the 40 inch Sharp Aquos HD LCD Television (endorsed by Major League Baseball for the quickest refreshment rate) and for the monetary gift you presented him as going away gifts during the Luau on Wednesday, June 16. As I said that night, I am truly humbled and overwhelmed by your generosity. You were very generous! I appreciate the gifts and I deeply appreciate each of you. The food at the Luau was delicious and authentic, and the decorations made me feel as if I were back in Hawaii!

Also, I want to thank you for the beautiful public reception on Sunday, June 27. I was once again humbled by such a beautiful tribute. Everything about the reception was perfect: the food, the decorations and the music. Hours were spent by many different individuals planning and presenting this event, and I recognize the special contributions made by so many of you! The various gifts and the cards with their printed and personal notes mean a great deal to me. Yes, I will miss you! I will cherish many beautiful memories of our time together, including the Wednesday night Luau and the public reception.

I am not good at saying goodbyes because I get weepy, but you know I love you and will miss you, and that I will often think of you and will continue to pray the best for Grand Avenue and for each of you. This was a good sixteen years. God bless!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

George E. Rook

**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.

**Housewarming suggestions for Pastor Ed and Linda:**

Belks:

1. Shark Cordless Floor and Carpet Cleaner
2. Home Accents "Everlast" beige or tan towels, wash cloths and hand towels
3. Two bathtub rugs in tan

Walmart:

1. (1 set) Microfiber cleaning towels (automotive department)
2. (1set) Decorative kitchen towel - Red print
3. (1 set) Decorative pot holder and glove - Red print
4. Red rag kitchen rug 21"x34"
5. Paula Deen Red Cookware
6. Two Standard pillow cases
7. Four Cotton Pillow covers
8. Tan or Beige towels, wash cloths and hand towels

Other suggested items:

Gift Certificates for car washes, eating out or a subscription to the Daily Leader

Canned goods, rice, pasta, beans, baking supplies, flour, sugar, soda, salt, spices, cake mixes, etc.

Cleaning supplies, detergent, bathroom cleaners

Yard Guard or other insect spray

Houseplants

(small indoor plants and outdoor patio plants)

## Youth News

Grand Avenue Youth has hit summer full force. We hosted a Taco Bar for Bike and Build and raised \$600 that helped the group to be fed, allowed them to swim and take in a movie. Grand Avenue is becoming a favorite stop to stay at on the nation wide bike ride.

The Summer Float Trip will be July 16 through 18th and will be to the Spring/Southfork Rivers. The cabins we are staying in are located on the Spring River but the group will be floating the Southfork River. The Youth had to help with the church fish fry and/or the Bike and Build group and every youth helped with both.

Church Softball will be starting soon so be sure and let David Jacobs know that you will be playing with Grand Avenue. There are rumors of new shirts so sign up ASAP!!!!

As Grand Avenue loses Bro. George, the Youth would like to say how much they have appreciated and enjoyed their time with him. Grand Avenue in Hot Springs is getting a wonderful pastor and we hope that Bro. George has been blessed here as much as he has blessed us.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Many of us remember with kindness that special Sunday School teacher who greeted us with a big smile and a hug at the doorway of our classroom each Sunday morning. Think back to first hearing the name Noah or Jonah or being a part of your first Christmas program and wearing a dishtowel on your head as a shepherd boy.

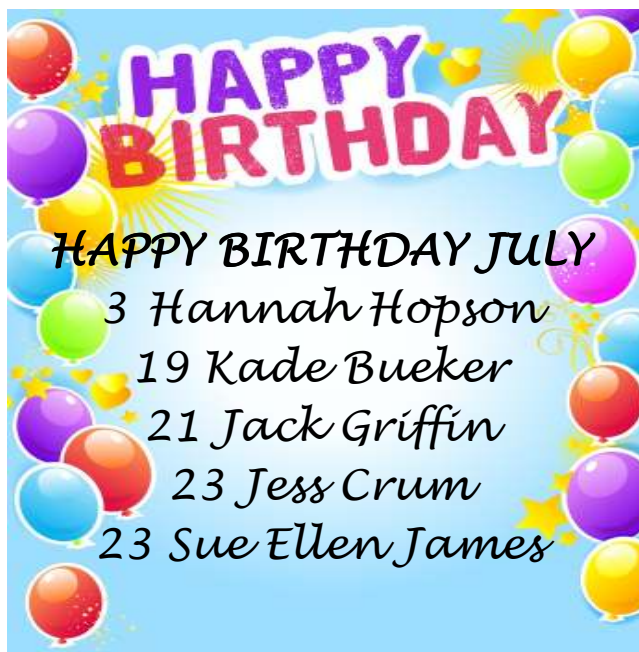
Don't let busy schedules rob your children of the same memory. Worship together this Sunday.

- Disciple Sunday School Class "Crazy Love – Overwhelmed By A Relentless God". DVD 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
- Challengers "Noah Built His Ark in the Sunshine" 2<sup>nd</sup> floor across from Nursery
- Pathfinders "Troublesome Bible Passages" Church Office
- Crusaders "Irresistible Invitation" Library

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### PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR JUNE

Kailyn Domrase  
Regan, Whitney and Wrana Tull



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Don't forget about the Grand Avenue Summer Reading Program. If you have finished a book, please return it to the library.

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## FROM THE PASTOR

### “In God We Trust”

The United States had been invaded, the eastern seaboard was assaulted and Washington D.C. was threatened and before the end of hostilities the White House would be burned. A scene from a modern novel of terrorist activity? No, history! A scene from the War of 1812, when England attempted to win back the “colonies” for the British Empire.

It was during September of 1814 that Francis Scott Key was sent on a mission by the President to seek the release of a hostage held by the British. He was detained by enemy troops and forced to watch an assault of an American fort. As morning dawned on September 14, 1814, Francis saw that the American forces had withstood the 25- hour bombardment. He penned the words to a poem that became a patriotic hymn and eventually our national anthem, The Star-Spangled Banner.

We all know the first stanza, but few of us are aware that there are four stanzas to “The Star-Spangled Banner!” The words to the fourth stanza are: Oh, thus be it ever when free men shall stand Between their loved homes and the war’s desolation; Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven-rescued land Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation! Then conquer we must when our cause it is just. And this be our motto: “In God is our trust.” And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Did you notice the words I emphasized (In God is our trust)? Here we find the origin of our nation’s motto “In God We Trust,” almost hidden in the fourth stanza of our national anthem, dating back to 1814! In 1864 the American Civil War was drawing to a close and the United States Mint struck one of our nations most unusual and fascinating coins – the copper Two Cent piece. The coin’s front shows the Union shield with a ribbon banner over the top emblazoned with the words “In God We Trust.” The U.S. two-cent coin was minted between 1864 and 1873 and was the first coin to bear the motto “In God We Trust.” The motto was omitted from the new gold coins issued in 1907, causing a storm of public criticism. As a result, legislation passed in May 1908 made “In God We Trust” mandatory on all coins on which it had previously appeared. Legislation approved July 11, 1955, made the appearance of “In God We Trust” mandatory on all coins and paper currency of the United States. By Act of July 30, 1956, “In God We Trust” became the official national motto of the United States.

Another patriotic hymn that goes back to the 1800’s is the well known “America,” by Samuel Smith. It was written in February, 1832 and performed for the first time at the July 4, 1832 Independence Day celebration in Boston.

We all know the first stanza without looking at the words, but once again it’s the fourth and final stanza that dramatizes the connection between our nation and God:

Our fathers’ God to thee  
Author of liberty  
To thee we sing.  
Long may our land be bright  
With freedom’s holy light  
Protect us with thy might  
Great God, our King.

(continued onto next page)

(From the Pastor continued)

In our generation there is much discussion as to the role of religion (specifically Judeo-Christian biblical heritage) in our society. Church/State issues are debated, the “under God” phrase in our Pledge of Allegiance to our flag is under attack as well as our “In God We Trust” motto on our money. What did the founders of our nation intend for the role of religion, belief in God? Is our current controversy due to evangelical Christians forcing religion on our society or are atheists and humanists trying to remove a fundamental part of our culture and history?

In 1831 a young Frenchman, Alexis de Tocqueville, was sent to America to study the promises and pitfalls of democracy. His voluminous masterpiece was titled, “Democracy in America.” An often quoted portion of de Tocqueville’s work includes these words: I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers, and it was not there; in the fertile fields and boundless prairies, and it was not there; in her rich mines and her vast world commerce, and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits, aflame with righteousness, did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great. Alexis de Tocqueville believed that successful American democratic life came down to the character of its citizens.

The fourth stanza of another patriotic hymn concludes this God and nation article. “America the Beautiful” was written by Katharine Lee Bates in 1893. Once again the first stanza is the one we know best. The final stanza has these stirring words: O beautiful for patriot dream That sees beyond the years Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears! America! America! God shed His grace on thee, And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea.

Pastor Edward E. Wyers



#### 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 Sherrod; Jack Coker; Myrna Peters; Holly Dabbs Whitcomb; Lindsey Neighbors Franklin; 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.

# MEMORIALS

**In honor of Pastor George E. Rook**

given by

**Lou W. Neighbors**

**Frances H. Byers**

**In memory of Floyd Brothers**

given by

**Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Joe Greenhill**

**Mr. & Mrs. Carl Gunter**

**Ann Prislovsky**

**In memory of Clarence South**

given by

**Mr. & Mrs. Randy Erwin**

**In memory of Virginia Perkins**

given by

**Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Joe Greenhill**

**In memory of Jim Gingerich**

given by

**The Crusaders Sunday School Class**

**Mr. & Mrs. Joey Hopson**

**Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Garrison**

**In memory of Jim Gingerich**

**as a gift to the Music Ministry Fund**

given by

**Frances H. Byers**

**In honor of Bill Brothers**

given by

**Jim Beck and Kathy Kirk**

**In memory of Janita Hoskyn**

given by

**Mr. & Mrs. Jack Jacobs**

## **A PRAYER FOR SUMMER**

A rippling sea of green and gold  
Is shimmering before us  
As wind stirs the tall corn,  
Wave after green wave rises high,  
Reaching for the summer sun.

Lord God,  
When you summon seeds  
From these furrowed fields,  
How readily they obey!

Like the myriad crops,  
Help us grow steadily:  
Help us stretch, ripen  
Round out, unfold.

In the warm rays of your strength,  
Help us yield goodness!

“Very truly,  
I tell you,  
whoever  
keeps my  
WORD will  
never see  
DEATH.”  
John 8:51, NRSV



## Church Softball Schedule 2010



### Key

- Team #
- 1 First Baptist Stuttgart
  - 2 Stuttgart Harvest Church
  - 3 First United Methodist
  - 4 First Baptist Almyra

The team listed 1st will be the home team and use the 3rd base dugout.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>FIELD 2</u>
Thursday 7/8	5:30	2 vs 1
	<b>6:30</b>	<b>4 vs 5</b>
	7:30	4 vs 3
Tuesday 7/13	5:30	3 vs 6
	<b>6:30</b>	<b>2 vs 5</b>
	<b>7:30</b>	<b>1 vs 5</b>
Thursday 7/15	5:30	2 vs 3
	6:30	3 vs 4
	7:30	6 vs 4
Tuesday 7/20	<b>5:30</b>	<b>5 vs 3</b>
	6:30	6 vs 2
	7:30	6 vs 1
Thursday 7/22	<b>5:30</b>	<b>5 vs 6</b>
	6:30	4 vs 1
	7:30	4 vs 2
Tuesday 7/27	5:30	1 vs 3
	<b>6:30</b>	<b>1 vs 5</b>
	<b>7:30</b>	<b>2 vs 5</b>

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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