

July 3, 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



Sympathy is extended to Lou Neighbors on the death of her mother, Adavene Ward of Quitman. Cards may be addressed to Lou at: 2525 Donaghey, Apt 2534, Conway, AR 72034

Cagle E. Fair, former Pastor of the Grand Avenue Church from 1979 to 1983, died June 21 in Perryville, Missouri and was buried from the Fairview UMC in Texarkana on June 28. Sympathy is extended to his family.

Sympathy is also extended to Tommy Jackson on the death of his mother, Bernice Jackson of Searcy; to Lois Ann Jackson on the death of her uncle, Dick Cooley of Arkadelphia; and to Sloan Houston on the death of his grandfather, Elbert Houston.

Remembering a Former Member

A memorial service was held June 30 at Kahaluu UMC in Kaneohe, Hawaii for a former member of Grand Avenue, Mrs. Ovita Sue Harris Gardner.

Ovita Sue was the daughter of Ward and Ilma Rosencrantz Harris who were long time members of Grand Avenue. She was a 1949 graduate of Stuttgart High School and a 1953 graduate of Southern Methodist University and Missionary Training at Scaritt College in Nashville, Tenn. She later earned a masters in Counseling and Guidance from the University of Rochester, New York and wrote and published a teaching kit for early childhood educators.

In 1953 Ovita's first missionary assignment was as youth director at Kekaha UMC on Kauai. She was encouraged by her home church of Grand Avenue, Stuttgart. She continued her work with youth, directed the choir and was organist at the church. She is listed in Grand Avenue's Archival List of youth in full or part time Christian Service.

Beside her immediate family she is survived by three sisters, Mae Ree Goetz (Harold) of Stuttgart, June Wilson (Ray) of Mesa, Ariz., and Becky Harris of Conway; a brother John Joe Harris (Karen) of Sun City, West Ariz.; and a cousin, Jo Rosencrantz III (Shirley) of Stuttgart.



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. The games are scheduled to begin on 7/10/08.

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.

UNITED METHODIST MEN TO MEET JULY 10

The United Methodist Men will meet Thursday, July 10 at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall instead of the usual first Thursday of the month meeting time. \$5 is the suggested donation (not required) for the catered meal. Those attending for the first time are guests and need not make a contribution toward the meal. All Grand Avenue men are invited to attend.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE UMM HAMBURGER SUPPER AND TO EVERYONE WHO BOUGHT OR SOLD TICKETS! THANK YOU!

ANOTHER BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC, ESPECIALLY TO CAROLYN MOORE AS CHAIRPERSON OF FAMILY LIFE. THANK YOU!



MUSIC NEWS from MR. CHUCK

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.

ONE NOTE PAID—ONE TO GO!

The Administrative Council meeting on Tuesday, June 17 voted to pay off the note on the Sanctuary Remodeling project (\$31,785.22) from money on hand in the Investment Account with the United Methodist Foundation. The second note (\$20,000) for replacing five air conditioners and furnaces has been set on a 36 month payment schedule (\$609.22 monthly with interest at 6%) but can be paid off early without penalty. Contributions may be given to the "Air Conditioner Loan Fund." Thank you for your past and continuing support!

The 6ft ladder is missing from the Fellowship Hall, if you have borrowed it and forgot to bring it back, please do so as soon as possible. If you know of someone who may have borrowed it, please give them a call. Thanks! Karen Dabbs

MISSION TEAM FROM ST. JAMES UMC, LITTLE ROCK

A mission team from St. James UMC in Little Rock was in Stuttgart on Saturday, June 21 helping with debris removal from the May 10 tornado. Grand Avenue hosted the team and provided a fried chicken lunch with barbecue beans, fried okra and apple cobbler.

In addition to hosting the mission team, Grand Avenue has hosted free of charge various groups displaced by the tornado. The groups include Southside Baptist Church, DBS and the Senior Adult Drivers' Education Class. We were originally scheduled to be the dining location for the Arkansas State Troopers and other responders. We are still scheduled to host teams from Volunteers in Mission.



FREEDOM

Each one of us is born most free
And we alone can choose
To do what God would have us do,
To use what God would use.

Or, we are also free to seek
The proud and selfish way —
A life where other gods come first
To reign and hold full sway.

But when we follow where Christ leads,
We find that freedom's place
Is really in God's Will for us,
And we have chosen GRACE!

—Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems



WEIGHT LOSS CLASSES WITH SPIRITUAL ENCOURAGEMENT

Starting/continuing on July 10th from 12 noon until 1pm. Classes will meet weekly in the fellowship hall of St. John's Lutheran Church on the corner of 4th and College. Cost is \$10/person for the 12 week course. Bring a sack lunch. Each week we will weigh in (confidentially), have a short prayer and scripture lesson, and get hand-outs of menus, calorie counts, etc. Come for fellowship even if you don't need to lose weight! To sign up or get more information call Mary Johnson at 673-6490, Judy Graham at 241-1040, Janice Reed at 673-6097 or Susan Sparrow at 673-6418.

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.

HAVE YOU READ YOUR "UPPER ROOM" TODAY?

Youth and adults are invited to make "The Upper Room" a part of each day. The daily scripture readings, devotional, prayer and "Thought For The Day" are a convenient way to increase your spiritual formation. Each edition of "The Upper Room" also includes a prayer workshop section located in the middle of the publication. A format for weekly small group Bible study is found at the back of the booklet. Perhaps you would like to have a small group Bible study in your home or as part of a group meeting or as a new Sunday School class at Grand Avenue. This section would be an excellent fit! If you as a youth or as an adult are not currently reading "The Upper Room," you are invited to take home a free copy located in the narthex, in the literature rack at the side entrance of the sanctuary and in various classrooms around the church. Take home a copy today!

Many thanks to everyone for keeping my mother in your prayers. We have moved her to a very nice assisted living complex in Austin, Texas near my sister. She is doing a lot better and the infection on her foot is going away. She wants to go home (Magnolia, MS) but has accepted that she may not be able to. So please continue to keep her in your prayers. Cards and correspondence can be mailed to her new address:

Hazel Bryant, Parsons House, 1130 Camino La Costa, Room 349, Austin, TX 78762

Rolfe Bryant

VCS Correction!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DATE HAS CHANGED TO:
MONDAY, JULY 28—THURSDAY, JULY 31
5:30PM TO 8PM**

MEMORIALS

In memory of Bernice Jackson
given by
Pierce & Company, Inc.
Bancorp South
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Roth
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Currie
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Harris

and as a gift to the Sanctuary Remodeling Fund
given by
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Jacobs
Fredda Voumard

and as a gift to the Handbell Ministry given by
Mary Lois Stockman
Mary Ann Briggs
Tracy Futch

In memory of Iline Hipp
given by
Pierce & Company, Inc.

In memory of Harold Taylor's mother as a gift to the
Sanctuary Remodeling Fund given by
Mr. & Mrs. Clark Roth

In memory of Dick Cooley
given by
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Currie
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Roth
and as a gift to the Sanctuary Remodeling Fund
given by
Fredda Voumard

In memory of Elbert Houston
given by
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Roth

In memory of Audrey Helms
given by
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Roth
Mr. & Mrs. Clark Roth
Mrs. Eunice Montgomery

In honor of Harry Beck for Father's Day
given by
His Family

In honor of Carolyn Moore
as a gift to the Sanctuary Remodeling Fund
given by
Mr. & Mrs. John Jackson

PRAYER LIST

*Ralph Patterson; Eli James; Bruce Yeager; 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; Janice Henderson; Brian
Hayes; Brian Reynolds; Daniel White; The family of Cagle Fair; The family of Adavene Ward;
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

Do you love the Grand Avenue congregation? I do. In fact, I admired Grand Avenue many years before I was ever appointed to be your Pastor, back when I was Pastor of the Altheimer/Wabaseka Charge. Grand Avenue stands for spiritual formation and Christian discipleship where members grow in understanding and living the Christian faith. Grand Avenue stands for Christian community where members are supportive of one another so we don't have to face life alone. Grand Avenue stands for mission where members engage our community and world in mission programs. Grand Avenue stands for a great spiritual legacy for her families and for the community of Stuttgart. Yes, I still love this congregation and I am hopeful that everyone who comes here will catch the vision of who we are as a congregation.

Several years after beginning my ministry at Grand Avenue, I was offered a much larger congregation where I would have been Senior Pastor with an Associate Pastor and would have received a much larger salary. That church has a pipe organ and a very large choir singing classical Christian anthems. Accepting that appointment would have helped me move up the ladder of appointments, enjoy more discretionary income and add to my retirement accounts, but I declined. Why? I declined because I love where I am. I love our church family at Grand Avenue and how we genuinely do love the Lord Jesus, seek to know his mind and strive to live as he would have us live.

The 2008 Easter Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church in Texarkana contained an interesting article entitled "Escape From Consumer Church" by Bob Hyatt. Copies of this article were mailed to seventeen of our key church leaders responsible for the kind of programming that builds up our church family. Eight of our Age Level Coordinators were included in the mailing as were our Lay Leader, Lay Member of Annual Conference, Administrative Council Chairperson and others. The article was then presented for discussion to everyone in attendance at the next Administrative Council meeting.

It seems Bob Hyatt had worked in a mega church and became disillusioned with what was taking place. He writes: "It was working in a mega church that opened my eyes to the fact that in many ways, the church in America had pursued a model that created consumers of church primarily and community only incidentally." In contrast, he writes of his present church: "We are not about the show. We don't have a light show or a rocking band. We don't want people to be at evergreen (the congregation's name) because of what happens on the stage on Sunday morning. We want them because they sense that our community is a place where they can find God and walk along side others who are also searching. We are doing our best to be a church community where people can belong before they believe - a church for the unchurched and the formerly churched." He closed his article by reminding his church family: ". . . you are the ones who will drive ministry here. . . . This is your community. . . . You are here for the church, your community, and your community, the church is here for the world. Jesus did not die to make you into a sanctified consumer. He died to bring you alive to God and to a desperately needy world."

I believe Bob Hyatt is searching for a Grand Avenue. His vision of what it means to be the church is what we have at Grand Avenue, which is what I wrote to our church leaders and shared with the Administrative Council, and this is why I am now in my fifteenth year as your Pastor and why I did not move years ago to a larger church. Bob Hyatt and I have searched for the same kind of congregation and I have found that congregation at Grand Avenue. I am hopeful that you as participants and church leaders will always be united in guiding Grand Avenue to be the congregation Jesus would have us be. And I am hopeful you will join with me in thanking God for the great blessing we enjoy by having Grand Avenue as our church family.

- George E. Rook



2008

USHERS FOR JULY
 Derek Bohanan—Cpt.
 Ryan Eagle
 Brian Roth
 Bob Crum

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 Exercise 9:30am	2	3 Exercise 10am	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
6	7 UMW Sack Luncheon 11:30 FH	8 Exercise 9:30am	9 Circle 1 5:30p FH	10 Exercise 10am UMM 7pm FH	11	12
13	14 Circle 2 10:30am FH Circle 3 7:30pm	15 Exercise 9:30am	16	17 Exercise 10am	18	19
20 Singles Luncheon	21 Trustees 7pm Church Office	22 Exercise 9:30am Finance 7pm Library Admin Co. 7:30pm Fellowship Hall	23	24 Exercise 10am	25	26
27 ICCM	28	29 Exercise 9:30am	30	31	Pastor on Vacation 7/23 – 8/5	
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL July 28 through July 31 5:30pm to 8pm				

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

★ **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. 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.★
