

July 6, 2007

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@ceturytel.net

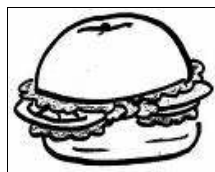
www.gaumc.com



Sympathy is extended to Robin Burkett and family on the death of her mother, Mary Bledsoe of Benton, who died Sunday, June 24 in Little Rock.

YOUTH MINISTRY AT GRAND AVENUE

Are You Called To Youth Ministry? An energetic, inspiring individual who will serve as a Christian role model and be the director of our youth program beginning this September is invited to visit with the Pastor to share his or her vision of youth ministry. Please call the Church Office to schedule an appointment: 673-6317. Perhaps you know someone you might encourage to enter this important ministry!

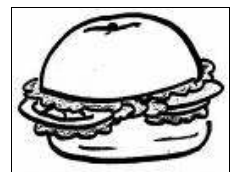


2007 UMM HAMBURGER SUPPER

Thursday, July 12

5pm to 7pm

\$7.00 each



The United Methodist Men's Hamburger Supper is Thursday, July 12. Please remember this supper supports Tanako Scholarships, T-Shirts for VCS, postage on our College Care Packages and numerous other special projects. If you would like to volunteer to work in the kitchen, please contact Madeline Lucke at 673-3297, also if you can bake a cake, please contact Carolyn Moore at 673-4706. Ask Carolyn about having your cake picked up! Thank you.

Meetings this month:

Trustees - Mon 7-16 @ 7pm - Church Office

Finance - Tues 7-17 @ 7pm - Library

Admin Council - Tues 7-17 @ 7:30pm - FH

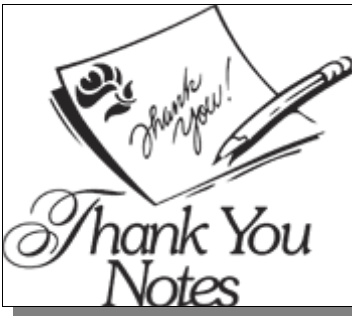
**REMINDER: THERE WILL BE
NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST!**

Please plan your presentations before the Council and committees with this in mind.



www.gaumc.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Thank you to everyone who helped with Vacation Church School 2007. It took the whole Sky Crew to make VCS a success and enable all that attended to "soar to new heights with God."

Because of your generosity, \$160 was collected Sunday, July 1 to provide members of the armed forces with copies of "Strength for Service to God and Country," a devotional book written for those in service of others. This program is supported by the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

Thank you for the cards, phone calls and words of comfort on the occasion of Tallulah's death. She was a special friend and will be greatly missed. I appreciate your present kindness even as I remain grateful for the support you gave me a short seven months ago when Moses died. You have my abiding appreciation for the compassion shown to me on both occasions of sorrow.

- Pastor George E. Rook



Are you interested in playing on the Grand Avenue Softball Team in the Church League? Please contact David Jacobs at (870) 673-2555. The team will be coed, which means everyone is invited to participate!



ICCM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FROM GAUMC

Grand Avenue is in charge of the ICCM program for July. We need volunteer workers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12pm to 1pm. If you would like to help, please contact Tom or Joyce Roth at 673-3398.

SPECIAL SERVICES DURING THE PASTOR'S VACATION

The Pastor will be on vacation July 18-31 and August 15-28. The Pathfinders Sunday School Class is preparing a very special service for July 22 while our own Clara Dobson will be preacher and worship leader on July 29. Bob Crum is planning the Gideon Service for August 19 (Grand Avenue has two members of the Gideons) and Lainie Hoskyn is planning our service for August 26 when she will be guest preacher. Mark your calendars and plan to attend these special services conducted by our own members.

LAY DELEGATE REPORT JULY 8

Madeline Lucke, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference, will give a brief report during the Morning Worship announcements on Sunday, July 8.

SINGLES LUNCHEON IS SUNDAY, JULY 15 AFTER WORSHIP

WEDDING AND BUILDING USE POLICIES REVISED

The Administrative Council recently approved a revision of the wedding and building use policies after months of careful work and numerous draft revisions. Along with the wedding policy and rules for use of the buildings are fees listed in two categories:

- A). Fees for Active Church Members and Participating Non-Members
- B). Fees for Non-Members Who Don't Participate and Non-Participating Members

These policies were last revised in 1990. Needless to say, after seventeen years the fees are significantly higher than in 1990 but remain reasonable based on today's expenses. Please be sure to examine a copy of these policies before you schedule an event at Grand Avenue.



DIGITAL PHOTOS NEEDED

The church office needs digital photos to display on our church website. Exterior and interior photos as well as any "outings," anything church related will do. In addition to email, we will also accept photos on disks or memory cards. gaumc@centurytel.net

Check out our progress as we work!
www.gaumc.com



TIME TO UPDATE OUR MEMBER DIRECTORY!

It is time for a new member directory and we need your help! There are several options in which to provide us your current information: Call us at 673-6317 or email us at gaumc@centurytel.net or turn the provided form into the Church Office (form is located on the back of your newsletter). We appreciate your help! Information needed - Name (family included), Address, Phone Number & Email Address

REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH THIS SUMMER

The saying goes that summer heat can dry of church finances because people leave town and take their money with them, but there are still bills to be paid, programs to be funded and payroll to be made. Please remember your church as you plan your summer activities.

Also, a word of gratitude goes to all the members and non-members who financially support Grand Avenue (not all our members do). Your support not only ensures that we keep the lights and air conditioning on for our guests, but that we can continue to welcome and embrace everyone who enters the doors of this church.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Camp Tanako, a ministry of the Arkansas Conference, has three openings for summer employment:

Cook's helper - must have completed high school

Summer staff / Lifeguard - current lifeguard certification required and completed high school

Male Cabin Counselor - at least 20 years old

Contact the camp office for more information.

Camp Tanako
4301 Highway 290
Hot Springs, AR 71913
501-262-2600
tanako@arkansas.net

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

MEMBER DIRECTORY UPDATE FORM

NAME _____

CHILDREN _____

ADDRESS _____

PH# _____

EMAIL _____

MEMORIALS AND PRAYER LIST

IN LOVING MEMORY

*In memory of Jim Rogers
given by:*

*Mr. & Mrs. Alan Bardwell
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel White*

*In memory of Paul Blackwell, Sr.
given by:*

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel White

*In memory of Mary Bledsoe
given by:*

*Mildred Beverly
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel White
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Erwin
Mr. & Mrs. Norris Ragan
Mr. & Mrs. Donald McCauley
Mary Helen Black*

*In memory of Tallaluh
given by:
John Savers*

GRAND AVENUE TRIVIA

Did you know?

In 1902, Pastor McFarlane became demented and the early church records of Grand Avenue were lost, including some names of charter members, cost of the original building, and members of the official board.

JULY USHERS

Derek Bohanan*
Ryan Eagle
Brian Roth
Roland Endres

AUGUST USHERS

Tommy Hoskyn*
Rhett Oliphant
Tony Carlock
Pat Mayfield

*Serves as Captain

PRAYER LIST

Rita Cress; Ruby Self; Carl Madsen; Elmer Grant; Amy Law; Phaedra Farar; Geraldine Urbani; Rollie Rich; Brayden Black; Tammy Wilson; Willa Lambert; Ray Holsted; Beth Ragan Adams; Clarence Thomason; Tim Walton; Fred McCuistion; Brenda Crum; John Robert Graves; Robert Lisko; Linda Fisher; Joni Thomas; Clifford Burdett; Steve Tranna; Susan Blake; Loma Essex; Sam Scales; Kelly Williams; Karen Aureli; Regina Earlywine; Amanda Bakowski; David Flynn; Hollie Blake; The Family of Mary Bledsoe; Bailey Simpson; Bethany Jackson; Cathie Jones; Casey Jones; Ellen Southall; Sylvia Mills; Clio Clary; 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

"(Scrooge) was not alone, but sat by the side of a fair young girl in a mourning-dress: in whose eyes there were tears, which sparkled in the light that shone out of the Ghost of Christmas Past.

'It matters little,' she said, softly. 'To you, very little. ANOTHER IDOL HAS DISPLACED ME; and if it can cheer and comfort you in time to come, as I would have tried to do, I have no just cause to grieve.'

'What Idol has displaced you?' he rejoined.

'A golden one. . . I have seen your nobler aspirations fall off one by one, until the master-passion, Gain, engrosses you. Have I not? . . . May you be happy in the life you have chosen!'"

- A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

The one love enriching Scrooge's life was replaced with a golden idol that made Scrooge into a wretched man who required redemption through the visit of three ghosts on Christmas Eve, these ghosts appearing at the request of Scrooge's deceased business associate, Marley. It is a sad truth that Christ has likewise been displaced in many lives! The Book of Revelation has the Risen Christ saying to the Church at Ephesus, "... I have this against you that YOU HAVE ABANDONED THE LOVE YOU HAD AT FIRST. Remember then from what you have fallen . . ." (Rev. 2:4b, 5a). Many a church member has fallen from being a disciple and fits more in the category of a consumer. A consumer asks, "What's in it for me?;" whereas, a disciple sits at the feet of Jesus, follows his teachings and finds life surprisingly enriched through this relationship with the Teacher.

The "Arkansas Democrat-Gazette" printed the following article on Sunday, June 24, 2007 -p. 3B: "After 86 years, Lions Club in El Dorado calling it quits." Former President Freddie Sligh was quoted as saying, "Over time, we've grown older, and we can't get any young people. The young people aren't interested in service to the community. THEY'RE JUST INTERESTED IN SERVICE TO THEMSELVES." Sligh continued, "I've talked to the young people, and they'll ask what the Lions club does, so I'll tell them. THEN THEY WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S IN IT FOR THEM. I tell them what's in it for them is hard work and paying back to the community, and they say they just don't have time, that they have to make a living." Taker versus Giver. Consumer versus Disciple. You don't have to be numbered exclusively among "the young" to be a Taker instead of a Giver and a Consumer instead of a Disciple.

Like that Lions Club President in El Dorado, Jesus laid down some hard, honest challenges for his disciples, challenges involving commitment - involving absolute devotion. Of course a wonderful side benefit of discipleship is that we will be made into our most human selves through abiding in Jesus and living out his teachings! Are you a Consumer or are you a Disciple? A disciple will make personal sacrifices to build Grand Avenue into the kind of congregation Jesus would have us be. A disciple understands the ministerial staff actually includes all the members using their talents to serve the larger good instead of members waiting to be served by paid professionals, and remembers that congregations are renewed from generation to generation by the energy of faithful disciples working together.

"When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs'" (St. John 21:15).

-George E. Rook



JR/SR HIGH YOUTH NEWS

The Grand Avenue Youth have several activities planned for the summer and some still in the making. Please mark your calendars so you won't miss any of the fun.

ACTIVITIES

- July 12 **Youth to help with hamburger supper**
- July 15 Swimming Party
2:00 – 5:30 at 1110 Cherry Court (David Gealy's house, thanks David)
- Weekend River Retreat
Of July 20 An overnight retreat at the Jacobs new "cabin" at Wilcox Acres on
the White River. More info to come
- **The youth will also meet for lunch one day in July and August.**
- October 6 The Passion Play
Plans are still being made for this trip.

NEWS FROM THE WEBELO SCOUT GOD AND FAMILY SUMMER CLASS:

The Webelos scouts are working on their religious emblem as the second part of the God & Country series Bible studies this summer. Last summer they recycled soda tabs for Arkansas Children's Hospital (which is still an ongoing process) and this summer they are going to be making care packages for patients at Stuttgart Regional Medical Center. The scouts are making greeting cards for the patient's food trays to help brighten their day while in the hospital. The care packages they will put together will consist of all travel size items: baby lotion, comb, toothbrush, toothpaste and a bar of soap. If you would like to help the scouts out in donating any of these items you may drop them off at the church office or in a box that will soon be in the fellowship hall. These Scouts are working very hard this summer on this Bible Study. They are devoting an hour and a half each week to learning the bible stories and how they can grow as a family from these stories. The big thing they have to learn this summer is all Ten Commandments. Coming soon in the fellowship hall will be a display of what they are learning. Thanks for supporting the scouts!

A MISSION MINUTE **United Methodist Women**

- The Grand Avenue United Methodist Women will host the clergy picnic on Friday, July 13 at 6:00 in the fellowship hall.
- The next general meeting is Monday, July 9 beginning at 11:30 with a sack lunch and meeting at 12:00.
- A Fall Luncheon will be held on August 25 from 11:00 – 1:00 in the fellowship hall. The lunch menu will feature recipes from the Grand Heritage Cookbook. Many of our Grand Avenue members (men, women and children) will be modeling fashions from Belk. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased from any UMW member or the church office. A limited number of tickets are available.