

September 12,  
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@centurytel.net

Website  
www.gaumc.com



*Sympathy is extended to the family of Rollie Rich on the occasion of his recent death. Rollie died August 30.*

## ***A SPECIAL THANK YOU***

On August 4, 2007 I tripped and fell on my patio breaking my right arm and hitting my head on a flower pot. Fortunately, the poor plant in the pot got the worst of it so my head is okay. I just had some bad bruises on my face that scared little children. I did have to have surgery to repair the broken bone in my arm. I do not know where or how to begin to thank everyone at Grand Avenue for their concern and support, with the cards, phone calls, visits and food. I am truly blessed with a loving family both at home and in my church. God Bless you all.

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Moore

## ***Singles News***

The Singles will meet in the Church Library for a planning session after worship, September 16 before leaving for lunch in Stuttgart. All Singles are invited to attend!

**Autumn Bible Study at Grand Avenue:** "Invitation To The New Testament," which is a short-term Disciple Bible Study of eight sessions (one hour each), will be led by the Pastor in two separate classes that will begin Wednesday, September 26 at 10:30am (continuing Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; Nov. 7, 14) and Sunday, September 30 at 9:00am (continuing Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28; Nov. 4, 11, 18). **THERE WILL BE AN ORIENTATION SESSION ONE WEEK BEFORE THE CLASSES BEGIN.** The orientation sessions are Wednesday, September 19 at 10:30am and Sunday, September 23 at 9:00am. Student Books will be distributed and the format of the program (student participation instead of lecture) reviewed during these orientation sessions. Both Wednesday and Sunday classes will be held in the Fellowship Hall near the stage. You may register for either the Sunday or Wednesday Class with the understanding you are free to alternate your attendance between the two classes. These intergenerational classes are open for adults and for youth in or above the seventh grade. **You may enroll for either class by calling the Church Office (673-6317).** The suggested donation (not required) for each student book is \$9.00

**The younger children will not be having music during Christian Education on Sunday mornings. A day and time will be decided at the upcoming CE meeting, which will be announced later.**



## EDUCATION NEVER ENDS

In September, Christian education programs will be in full swing in most churches. Pastors, Christian education leaders and teachers are always delighted to see full classrooms of children learning about Christ, faith and the Christian way. Many parents make sure their kids get to Sunday school class, yet don't attend a class themselves.

Learning about Christ is a lifelong pursuit. It doesn't end when we grow up. If we are to love God with our minds as well as our hearts, our souls and our strength, we should keep learning even into old age. We need to be well informed about our faith, our church and its beliefs so that we can express to non-Christians what Christianity is.

We love God with our minds when we know the Bible, when we understand what we believe and when we're able to tell others the reason for the faith we embrace.

~2004 Newsletter Newsletter

## UMCOR KITS Reminder

Church members are encouraged to prepare one or more of the following kits to be sent to UMCOR this fall during the Ingathering. UMCOR requests that no religious, political or patriotic notes or emblems be on any items in the kits. If you buy toothpaste, check the date. It needs to be dated a year or more from the Ingathering, November 2008 or later if possible.

It is important that the items included in the kits are the same as specified on the lists. Donated kits may be placed in the old church office. Money may be donated to complete items for the kits, or to buy blankets (\$5.00 each).

Bulk items may be donated also. These items will be used at UMCOR to make the kits. Any of the items listed in the kits may be donated in bulk as long as they are as specified on the lists.

## TOP TEN BULK ITEMS NEEDED

1. Terry Cloth Hand Towels
2. Toothpaste
3. Metal Nail Files or Clippers
4. Children's Blunt Scissors
5. Pencil Sharpeners
6. Baby Sweaters
7. Cloth Baby Diapers
8. Ruled Paper
9. Baby Gowns or Sleepers
10. School Bags (as specified on list)

\*NOTE: Extra UMCOR lists are available in the Church Office, Sanctuary and Vestibule.



## THE PASSION PLAY - OCTOBER 6-7

GAUMYouth will be traveling to the Passion Play in Eureka Springs on October 6/7. If your child plans to attend please let Shelley know no later than September 7. Hotel accommodations and meals will be provided for attending youth. Hotel reservations and Passion Play tickets must be made in advance to insure everyone has a room and will be seated together at the play. If you have any questions contact Shelley at 673-4184.

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

*We invite our Grand Avenue Family to share in the marriage celebration*

*of*

*Lauren Brooke Mashburn*

*and*

*Brian Jay Reynolds*

*Saturday, September 29, 2007 at 5:00p.m.*

*at the home of Bob and Gwen Reynolds*

*8861 Hurricane Road*

*DeValls Bluff, Arkansas*

*870-830-3919*

## FROM THE PASTOR / PRAYER LIST

The Lay Leadership Committee (Nominations and Personnel) will have met to nominate and recruit individuals to serve as leaders and helpers in 2008 by the time you receive this issue of the newsletter. We have all heard the New Testament say Christian communities are blessed with talented individuals who share their talents in building up the church. Some of these talents are obvious while other talents have to be discovered or cultivated. Discovering or cultivating talents often requires that individuals move beyond their present comfort zone.

There will always be a need for individuals to serve as leaders and helpers if we are to sustain the church life we enjoy at Grand Avenue and fulfill the will of Christ for us as a congregation. This means we cannot sustain the quality of church life we enjoy without your support and we cannot (nor is it even desirable) that we have a paid staff to take on what should be opportunities for service by our own members. Service among the people of God allows leaders and helpers to stretch and grow in knowledge of the Bible, Church history, Christian doctrine, building maintenance issues and a host of church needs, as well as how to work with others as brothers and sisters in Christ. There are age-level coordinators creating programs for our members, a finance committee monitoring the financial health of our congregation and a board of trustees addressing issues related to our buildings and grounds. We have a worship committee along with other areas where your participation is needed in order to sustain and grow our church life.

Will you serve? I am hopeful you will freely share your talents with the Grand Avenue Church family. Only you can help us be all that we can be!

-George E. Rook



### PRAYER LIST

*Claudia Roebbeke; Roland Endres; Flora Jean Roth; Holdyn Hoskyn; Charlie Acklin; Carolyn Moore; Sherry Tuminello; Phaedra Farar; Brayden Black; Tammy Wilson; Willa Lambert; Ray Holsted; Beth Ragan Adams; Clarence Thomason; Tim Walton; Fred McCuiston; Brenda Crum; Linda Fisher; Joni Thomas; Clifford Burdett; Steve Tranna; Loma Essex; Kelly Williams; Karen Aureli; Regina Earlywine; Bailey Simpson; Bethany Jackson; The Family of Rollie Rich; 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.*

**October 21<sup>st</sup> 2007 - 7:00PM**

## **Grand Avenue Chancel Choir celebrates Charles Wesley**

The combined choirs of First United Methodist and Grand Avenue will join with other choirs and full orchestra to present "Testament of Praise". This evening service starting at 7:00 will celebrate 300 years of Methodist tradition and music. Please mark your calendars to attend this special service.

### **Testament of Praise: A Celebration of Faith**

This new collection was commissioned to celebrate the bicentennial of First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, PA, and to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley. The collection includes six Wesley hymn texts chosen for their messages: worship, love, thanksgiving, service, life, and grace, all subjects that occur throughout Wesley's hymns.

The book works as both a collection of individual anthems and as an extended festival work. It includes suggestions for presenting the work, with a service plan, litanies, narration, and banners.

The instrumental prelude leads to the opening vocal medley, including references to commonly used tunes of "Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above," "Sing with Glad Anticipation," "Rejoice, the Lord Is King" and "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing." An original for including the congregational part of "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" is included in the back of the book. The sections that follow are settings of:

- "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," using BUNESSAN ("Morning Has Broken")
- "Thankful for Our Every Blessing," with original music by Martin
- A Call to Service: "A Charge to Keep I Have" and "The Vigilance Our Lord Demands" with original music by Martin. This music has a rather *marziale* quality to it. It works well with the text.
- "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" with original music by Martin that shows his gifts as a melodist and an arranger. Beautiful phrases and harmonies with an effective accompaniment. This setting will be a favorite of your people and choir.
- "And Can It Be" to Campbell's familiar SAGINA tune. This tune from our hymnal is challenging for some congregations, but it has become the preferred tune for this text, possibly Wesley's greatest. The tune is a difficult one to set chorally, but Martin has done so.

## **Hello from "Mr. Chuck"**

Fall is here and rehearsals for the Chancel Choir and Handbells have just started back. We welcome all new and returning members to both of these important groups. This year the Hand bells will be attending Hand bell festival in Memphis again as well as having a special concert this spring. The Chancel choir is busy with preparing music for the weekly service as well as up-coming concerts and special music for the Christian Holidays. Openings exist in both groups and more will be announced about NEW Members joining both. Please remember that everyone has something to offer and there is no such thing as a "bad voice"!

Our third through fifth graders from Grand Avenue will be starting back this week with Wednesday Music from 3:45 to 5:00. Please encourage your child to attend and participate. I am excited about what can happen with this special group of youth. Scheduling of junior high and the younger children is underway and will be announced soon.

I am constantly learning and absorbing new ideas from laypeople, fellow music ministers and YOU. Always remember that your input into the programs at Grand Avenue is what makes Grand Avenue a special place to be.

Mr. Chuck