

Grand AveNews

January 2021



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“7-Ups” for the New Year

A couple of years ago as we stood on the threshold of a New Year, I shared with you “Seven ‘Up’s” that would make good resolutions for the coming year. I’ve seen several versions of this list throughout my ministry, but this is one that really spoke to me at the time. (Indeed, it resonates with me still.) I have continued to file this list away in a place where I will be reminded of the importance of these life lessons each January. In that same spirit, I share them now with you:

Wake Up! Decide to have a good day. “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” (*Psalms 118:24*)

Dress Up! The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. “...the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” (*1 Samuel 16:7*)

Shut Up! Watch your tongue. Decide not to gossip. Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so we are meant to do twice as much listening as talking. “Those who guard their lips guard their soul.” (*Proverbs 13:3*)

Stand Up! Take a stand for what you believe. Stand for something or you will fall for anything. “So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all...” (*Galatians 6:9-10*)

Look Up! – Open your eyes to the Lord. “I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me.” (*Philippians 4:13*)

Reach Up! Connect with a higher power through prayer. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path.” (*Proverbs 3:5-6*)

Lift Up! Be available to help those in need by serving, supporting, and sharing. “Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.” (*1 Thessalonians 5:11*)

I pray that you will be blessed with peace, hope, joy, and love throughout the coming year, and that you will be resolved to growing deeper in your discipleship with each passing day.

~David Fleming

Administrative Council 2021

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 5:13

Greetings from your GAUMC Administrative Council. A new calendar year has begun, and we are still experiencing a world-wide pandemic. Science brings hope to ultimately return again to a less restricted life. Our faith brings hope in the Good News that the Savior has come, and we are called to serve Him by serving one another. The people of GAUMC continue to be creative and flexible in our worship, our studies, our giving, and our outreach. Praying you health, happiness, and hope in 2021!

Sheila McLarty

Our 2021 Administrative Council Members

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Chair | Sheila McLarty |
| Senior Pastor (also Nominations Chairperson) | David Fleming |
| Lay Leader/Lay Member ARUMC | Mike Blythe |
| Communications Coordinator (also Alternate Lay Member ARUMC) | Linda Stanley |
| Steward / “Building Faith” | Carol Scrivner |
| Steward / “Bringing Hope” | Cheryl Murphy |
| Steward / “Reaching Out in Love” | Shari Coston |
| Staff Parish Relations Chair | Jonnie Nix |
| Trustees Chair | Joe Peters |
| Finance Chair | Pat Penor |
| Treasurer | Chris Headley |
| UMM President | Larry Williams |
| UMW President | Carol Dickinson |
| UMM Outreach Chair | Jay Leak |
| Permanent Endowment Chair | Dickey Cooley |
| Church Historian | Alison Haynie |
| Secretary | Sammie Grace |

Church Endowment Fund

It is hard to write this time of year and not be trite and use cliches that are overused. However, one hopes that these next few words spark a thought about your church endowment fund and your relationship with it. Your church endowment fund is a long-term goal and it is sometimes difficult to maintain interest during periods of time. The church has set a goal and embarked on a project that will take years to reach. Along the way we must be steadfast and disciplined. Just because the goal is in the distance does not mean that we cannot derive benefits during the journey. It makes one feel good to be part of a worthwhile effort and pull in harmony with your church friends. The Endowment Fund has been doing well, and you should feel a sense of pride knowing that you are part of the success.

Try to give to your church endowment fund on a regular basis if possible. If not, there are special occasions that might be an appropriate time to give. Remember, your giving's do not have to be a big amount. We are in this for the long haul so every bit counts. Keep your church endowment fund in your mind and heart throughout the coming year. Thank you for your contributions in 2020 and let us look forward to 2021.

Dickey Cooley

Year End Statements

Thank you for your generosity throughout 2020. year-end statements will be mailed once our books have been closed. If you need a record of giving before then, please call Chris in the church office at 501-623-5626.

Sign up now for Sanctuary Flowers in 2021



A new flower calendar for 2021 is available in the church office. If you would like to place flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion, call Chris to make arrangements for the date of your choice. Many dates are available, and even while we are not meeting for worship in-person, we use the flowers to film for our on-line services. Call the church office (501-623-5626) to make your arrangements today.

Memorials

Received in November & December 2020

In memory of ...

Ernie Griffin by Jennie Peck

Dennis Beaird by
Dennis and Donna Ellis
Larry & Marguerite Harty
Strivers Sunday School Class
Kay Furo
Dorothy Johnson

Jim Latture by Dorothy Johnson

Hazel & Jim Latture by Jamie & Danny Collier

Texas Myers by Jean Grandstaff



Honorariums

Received in November & December 2020

In honor of ...

Mary Tom Taylor by Anonymous

In appreciation of ...

Karla Hefty and Table of Grace Team #1
by Mary Tom Taylor

Bob & Ellen Clements and Table of Grace Team #2
by Mary Tom Taylor

Sheila McLarty and Table of Grace Team #3
by Mary Tom Taylor

Mark & Carol Scrivner and Table of Grace Team #4
by Mary Tom Taylor



Garland County Jail Ministry

The initial culture shock experienced by every inmate is the loss of freedom. For some this is a startling revelation that causes them to turn inward, lose hope, and become bitter. For others it is a wake-up call and a reminder of how a wayward life filled with poor choices doesn't work. Garland County Jail Ministries was founded to reach out to inmates who have been slaves to sin and are now open and ready to consider spiritual guidance. The mission is to reach out to nonbelievers with the Written Word and turn their hearts toward Jesus. The ministry embraces those who make a confession of faith together with those who are already believers. Evangelism and discipleship are at the heart of everything the GCJM does. Here are ways you can help:

Ministry Needs:

- Stamped envelopes and stationary for inmates
- Reading Glasses (1.75, 2.0, 2.5, or 3.0 brown or black plastic frames only)
- Color Laser Printer (commercial grade needed)
- Large Print Bibles: NKJ, NIV, or NASB versions desired (must have softback covers)

Volunteers Needed:

- Lead Bible Studies at Adult Detention Center
- Lead Worship Services at Adult Detention Center
- Lead Bible Studies at Juvenile Detention Center
- Lead Worship Services at Juvenile Detention Center

For more information, contact Chaplain Dennis Brown: 501-651-7849/dbrown@garlandcounty.org

Christmas Projects

Christmas is a time of giving to others, and GAUMC is known for the outreach to those who are less fortunate than us. Some of the special activities that our church organizations engaged in during Advent 2020 are as follows:

Habitat for Humanity – Chuck Clark and Morris Coston participated the new home dedication ceremony for Stevie Simmons and her daughters Ka’Leah and Heaven. A gift certificate to Lowes for \$100 from our church was presented to the new homeowners on December 19.

The GAUMC budget for 2020 has a line-item amount to use for helping students in Hot Springs School District be successful in school. There are lots of things families need that would qualify for this type of support. Just before Christmas we received a call from Langston Elementary School for a kindergarten boy who had only Flip Flops to wear to school. As we looked into this opportunity, we found the young guy had 5 siblings at other school in the district who also needed shoes. So we purchased 5 new pair of shoes along with sets of socks for each child. It was sure to have been a Merry Christmas in that house!



Habitat for Humanity house recipient family

Some of the organizations within our church have annual traditions of special projects just for the Christmas Season. Open Door Sunday School Class provided \$25 gift certificates for children at Ouachita Children’s Center. The Upper Room Sunday School Class works with Missy Reed at Teen Challenge every year to provide Christmas wrapped items for resident men there who have no family in their lives. This year clothing, shoes, and toiletries were provided as needed for 7 men. Teams 3 and 4 of Table of Grace has special treats for our dinner guests on the Sundays before and after Christmas. The Strivers Sunday School Class traditionally adopts one or more “angels” from the Salvation Army Christmas Tree and provides gifts as indicated on the individual “angel.” The Deborah Circle works with partner organizations to provide bicycles as needed for children who have asked for them. And you know the rest of this story...the ones most blessed by these “Giving” Projects were the church members who “gave” of their riches to help others.



Shari Coston delivers gifts to Missy Reed for Teen Challenge students.



Andy and Linda Hemphill wrap gifts for Teen Challenge residents.

During January Outreach is collecting Spaghetti & Sauce.

In the Mailbox...

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your gracious and generous gift for Christmas. You have always taken such good care of the staff of Grand Avenue and I am very grateful! I am so looking forward to the day we can meet again in worship, rehearsal, and fellowship. The Lord give us patience until then!

In love and gratitude,

Kathie



I want to give a great BIG thank you to my friends Shari Coston and Grand Avenue United Methodist Church (The Upper Room Sunday School) for always taking on sponsorship for so many students for Christmas. You all go over and above to bless these men. It's been several years now that I have been able to depend on y'all for the help, and I just want you to know that you are going to be putting huge smiles on the men's faces in the morning. We love you here at Teen Challenge. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus and helping these guys have a wonderful Christmas. Merry Christmas to all of you.

Missy Reed

Teen Challenge

On behalf of Garland County Habitat for Humanity, we want to thank the congregation for all the support you have provided this year. Our construction crew always enjoys the food that Morris and crew bring each month. Also, you have been a blessing to the families that get their new home with a Lowe's giftcard

Dennis Cooper

Habitat for Humanity

Thank you Grand Avenue UMC for the generous and thoughtful Christmas gift. It is truly a blessing to be part of such a wonderful church family.

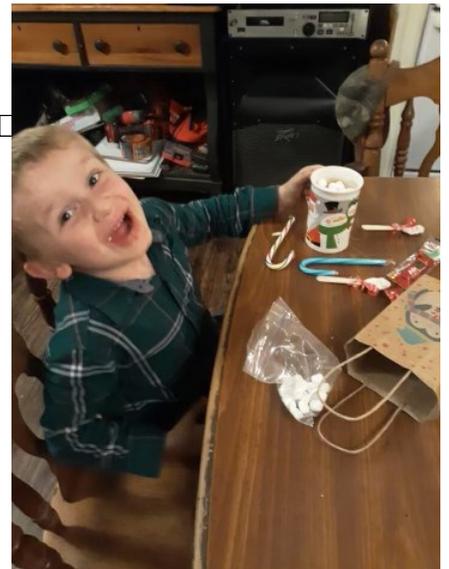
Chris Headley

Dear Friends,

I am overwhelmed by the extravagant generosity you showed to our staff, to my family, and to me this Christmas season. The gracious gift that you shared with each of us has truly been a blessing, and we are grateful.

The pandemic has limited many of our activities this past year, and Karla and I regret that we've not been able to spend time with Andrew. As soon as it is safe for us to travel, we plan to use your gift to visit Andrew in Florida and celebrate the completion of his mission there. Watch for pictures in a future edition of Grand AveNews!

David Fleming



Jaxon enjoys his cocoa treats from the children's Sunday School teachers. Thank you, teachers!



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We're Here to Serve You

Senior Pastor - Rev. David M. Fleming
Chancel Choir Director - Kathie White
Administrative Assistant - Chris Headley
Grand AveNews Editor - Linda Stanley

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Fax: (501) 623-3526

**E-mail: grand.avenue@sbcglobal.net
www.gaumch.org**



**While we are not meeting in person,
watch for these online events**

QuaranTunes Returning

(Beginning Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Lowella Cherry, Tommy Phillips, Bill Kratz,
and other members of our music ministry will present
songs and stories for fun and inspiration.)

Thoughts from the Upper Room - a Devotional

(On Wednesday at 2:00 pm, Pastor David Fleming shares his thoughts
inspired by the day's reading from
The Upper Room Devotional booklet.)

Sunday Morning Worship

(Watch Facebook Live on Sunday at 10:45 am or click on