

Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



July 2006

Arise
A United Methodist Church

Ministers
Every member of the Church

Pastor
Douglas J. McMunn

Director of Music
Kevin Griffin

Administrative Assistant
Dave Russell

Ministry Center
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Independence Day
July 4

Farewell to the McMunns!



Farewell to the McMunns! (l to r) Marianne, Katie, Marsha, Matthew, Earl & Marilyn (Doug's parents) and Pastor Doug

Thanks from SPRC!

As Doug prepares to leave Arise, the Staff Parish Relations committee would like to thank him for his ten years of faithful service to our congregation. This transition calls to mind a quote from Patrick Overton, "When you walk to the edge of all the light you have and take that first step into the darkness of the unknown, you must believe that one of two things will happen. There will be something solid for you to stand upon or you will be taught how to fly."

We have no doubt Doug's ministry will take flight as he continues his work in Oxford. Just as we have no doubt Arise is prepared for lift off under the leadership of Pastor Weatherup. We are looking forward to great things!

Arise Staff Parish Relations Committee



Thanks for the Memories...

Following are a few comments about the imprint that Pastor Doug, Marianne, Matthew, Katie and Marsha have left on this Arise community. We will continue to collect these, and incorporate them into a Memory Book for presentation to the McMunns at our Tenth Anniversary Celebration this fall. (Contact April Flanagan for details.)

From Steve Bollinger – The Dad's LIFE Team

The Dad's LIFE team would like to wish the McMunn family the very best as they move on and forward to continue to do the work of the Lord in Oxford, MI. Thank you, Doug, for having the vision and seeing the need for a time when busy husbands and fathers can gather to fellowship aside from just Sunday mornings. As a husband and father yourself with lots of commitments to these areas in your own life, it was a privilege to share in your joys and pains and to be able to connect with you on a level we all experience together. We learned that pastors face the same marital and parental challenges that many of us do. Dad's provided the opportunity to discuss, encourage, celebrate and pray over many areas and issues. The men of Dad's cherish your example and faithfulness and want to thank you for being a "hands on father, husband, pastor and friend." Always remain "wild at heart" and spiritually aggressive. And may God continue to bless you and your family. We love you and we'll miss you. Steve.

From Gene and Fran Smith

In the few years that we have been associated with Arise, we feel blessed to have benefited from Pastor Doug & Marianne's ministry and also the warmth and kindness that your family has shown everyone in the Arise family. We wish you well in your new

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Pastor's Column



Pastor Doug McMunn

The Cottonwood trees have produced another supply of Cottonwood seeds. I saw them today, floating on the wind. One large tree is near our church office, and at times it seems the air is filled with floating white puffs, rising and falling softly, like summer snowflakes. I remember watching this miracle on the farm of my childhood. The huge tree was a quarter

of a mile up the road, but the seeds landed all around me. That tree was the biggest living thing in my world, and it all began when one tiny seed took root.

It has been a privilege to plant with you the seed of Arise United Methodist Church. We stirred the soil here in southern Livingston County and the wind of the Spirit brought the seed of the Gospel. The seed sprouted and the young tree has grown roots, branches, and leaves. Ten summers and winters have passed, and the young tree is on its way up, firmly rooted, ready for the changes and growth that lie ahead.

And me? I am one of those seeds, now carried by the Spirit to a new place. By God's grace I shall find good soil and send out roots again, and spread the seed of God's Word in more places, and bring faith to more hearts, and see hope in more faces, and share love with more souls through our Lord Jesus Christ.

And Arise? Arise Church has taken root and its branches are reaching outward. It is now a producer of seeds. In God's time thousands of people will see the signs of God's love and God's Spirit at work. Folks near and far will be blessed by the seeds of faith that come from this spiritual home at Arise Acres.

I'll be up the road a piece, but I believe I will live to see you grow tall and strong, scattering good seed, year by year, and this gives me great joy. "I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last." John 15:16
Thank you all for your faith, hope, love, and partnership.

*Love always,
Doug McMunn, pastor*



Dear Arise Church,

As I bid you farewell, I want you to understand both sides of my heart... that I am both sad to leave and excited about my new appointment. I will miss you, but the call has come, and I embrace it as a change I believe is good for Arise, good for the church at Oxford, and good for me. It feels like a good time for this inevitable transition, and I gladly go now to serve God in this new way. I am grateful for this new opportunity in my life.

Thank you for giving our family such a beautiful send-off! I enjoyed the special music, the large congregation, the gifts, the hugs, and the kind words. We will cherish the photograph of the congregation gathered outside the barn beside the Arise moving trailer. We are glad the Arise Youth Center is going up week by week, and soon you won't need that trailer every Sunday! We thank you for the special reception and picnic overlooking the pond and the cross on the hill. Thank you to all who came, helped, and sent their love and best wishes. It really meant a lot to us.

This has been an emotional month, and I want you to know that we loved our ten and a half years at Arise Church, and you will remain in our hearts and we pray all the best for you.

*Sincerely in Christ,
Doug McMunn, Pastor*



Closing Conversations with the McMunns...

From startup through ten and one half years of faith, growth and community, Pastor Doug, Marianne, Matthew, Katie and Marsha reflect on their time with the Arise Community...

The Early Years...



Marianne: I recall the early years at Kestrel Ridge, with three young children and the church staff of Doug, Steve and Sharyn working full time at our house. Our kids were in 4th, 2nd and Kindergarten and I kept trying to keep those kids quiet...even with friends in the house. It was a really happy memory of connections...a

buzzing place. After the startup campaign, we were meeting at the Jane Tasch theatre. I think prayer is really foundational. That's what this church was started on... a product of prayer. I know there were so many people praying when we were trying to find a church home and Sally Guyon suggested Arise Acres.



Doug: I remember meeting leaders of the Pinckney Community Schools in the early weeks. It seemed like a God moment. I was in a community meeting of 200 people gathering community input and sat at an empty table; no one knew me. The three highest ranking administra-

tors in the district sat at the table with me. We wanted to rent school facilities and needed to gain acceptance, credibility and trust. That evening was just like God had arranged it for us.

One day after living here one month, I was laying on the floor praying in my office in the parsonage and I felt like God gave me the next steps of how to begin... how to start the congregation. I remember the Pioneer gatherings including SNAX (Saturday Nights Around Christ); we advertised in the local paper; met people and invited them; gathered Saturday nights to sing and pray and dream about a new church. In the parsonage, we discussed the core values and name of the church. We brainstormed 200 names; Arise arose to the top. The shepherding committee and members of the UMC in the area helped a lot. With the emerging core of Arise church we had 100 volunteers. We held training sessions for them. We set up 10 temporary phone lines in the office and dialed up every house in the area--11,700! It was an enormous campaign. We sent mailers to people who accepted our offer of literature. It was a real spiritual endeavor.

The Middle Years...

Marianne: I've sung in the Praise Band, worked on worship design, led the prayer team, trained as a certified lay speaker and served on the Ann Arbor District United Methodist Women's Mission Team as spiritual coordinator. I've also been on the Bishop's prayer team where a small group of us get to meet with him three times a year. We're a connectional church.

One of the gifts that God has given me that I use the most is hospitality; our home is very open. Many kids stay overnight, including foreign exchange students. So many people have been in and out for church meetings and Bible study. It's one of the most exciting things for me to see when my whole house is buzzing.

Doug: I've always thought my calling was to be an encourager... to encourage the church to live up to its sacred mission. A calling to encourage people to offer their gifts to God. I remember when leaders began to emerge within the crowd... becoming more vulnerable and real...talking about matters of the heart. I really felt like that was a significant birthing of the church.

Often on Sundays I ask Marianne, "Did I preach Jesus and was I enthusiastic?"

I feel very grateful to her for her steadfast spiritual partnership through every day and every challenge. And also grateful to the scores of faithful people who are Arise church.



Matthew: One of the biggest turning points was a last minute mission trip to Juarez, Mexico when I was in 6th grade. I had never been out of the country... never seen any kind of poverty. The injustice of it; didn't seem fair; I'm so wealthy and people down there have no opportunity or money. Getting the chance to help people in impoverished situations made me want some more of that service, through Boy Scouts, Gleaners Food Bank, and the Cass Ave. soup kitchen. I'd never been in an urban situation and seen homeless people before that.



Katie: I really enjoyed Arise Kids, which we started. It gave me the opportunity to sing and act, which has always been a passion of mine. After all, I'm Miss Morebucks! Memories include the trip with AYMADT to Iron Mountain in the

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FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES

Closing conversations... continued from pg. 3

Upper Peninsula; we were able to go back and visit with our old church with friends from our new church! I remember being excited when we first got the new property. Everyone was helping us move from the old house to here, and I kept walking around Arise Acres, enjoying it!



Marsha: I'll always remember Arise Kids with Steve Raymond. We did all of the shows. I really enjoy being a pastor's daughter. I get to experience a lot more things than a lot of kids. I get acquainted with so many people in the church. I have a church family all of the time. It's been hard, but I really enjoy it!

The Transition...

Marianne: God and Jesus are just so much bigger to me now than before. I've been reading and praying. You can't put Jesus in a box. The message he shared is so much bigger than we can even fathom. The thing I've been learning in the past few months is that there's so much more love and less judgment in Jesus.

I love the Arise Community with all my heart. I just know that God's going to use this body of Christ in this community in a really special way. They helped me raise my kids. They really have!

Matthew: It's been a really good experience... singing, putting together a program with a Christian message and bonding with those people and the Word of God. I'm sure I will bring that into my career. I love you all! (Note: Matt is now at school in Chicago and focusing on singing, dancing, directing, stage management, and will be in Pinckney for the summer.)

Katie: It's been really cool being a pastor's daughter; we get so much extra support because of who we are... that other kids don't get. We have the whole church family, and everyone is loving and forgiving. It's sometimes challenging, though. You feel like you're always being watched, which, I guess, is a good thing. Thanks for being such a great big part of my life! You will all be missed very, very much!

(Katie will be attending Western Michigan University in the fall, and staying in Pinckney this summer with her friend, Sophie Foytik.)

Marsha: I know I will never forget how loving Arise has been and always there to take care of our family if we ever need anything. There's always a hug and open arms. (Marsha hopes to go to college out of state in a

few years, and return to England to visit. Future plans may include the Peace Corps.)

Doug: It's been a rare privilege to serve as a founding pastor; most pastors go through a lifetime and never serve as a founding pastor. It's been the most challenging...stretched me and caused me to grow.

I have always felt a tremendous outpouring of care and support from the congregation for me and my family, and that has made it possible for me to do what I do. I thank everyone for every tangible and spiritual support they have given me. Because you have treated me so well, I know you will welcome Pastor Don and give him and his family every support he needs for the next leg of the journey at Arise.



FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES



FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES

Thanks... *continued from pg. 1*

assignment and know the congregation at Oxford will be very fortunate and blessed to have your family in their church & community. God be with you.

From Lance and Betty Korzilius

The whole family is wonderful and very outgoing. Marianne is there anytime, for anyone. The McMunn children are as much of the ministry as anyone could ask; they have done a lot for the church. We hope they all have a wonderful experience in the Oxford Church!

From Sherry Graham

As Lay Leader I have had many wonderful memories of working with Doug, but I cannot share them all as there is not enough space and some are still wrapped up in my heart and will come as I continue to grow in my faith.

I really have enjoyed watching Doug deliver a sermon. He has grown in his abilities and delivery. I am a Lay Speaker and watch many preachers, so I notice some of the things they do and this adds to my growth. During one sermon, Doug brought a football and threw it into the seats to us. This reminded me about the importance of using symbols in illustrating a point and how they help to etch something into a person's memory.

Many of you know that I have been considering going into ministry, so I had gone to a special conference retreat to explore this in November of 2004. I was sitting in this retreat watching a video on the opportunities in ministry in the conference. All of a sudden, there is Doug in the video at Arise and there is my church family, too! I shouted, "That's my pastor and there is my church and that's me when I was talking about the Emmaus Walk retreat!" I lost it and just started crying because here I was exploring one of the most important things I have ever considered in my faith walk and my pastor and my church family were right there in front of me.

From Jerry, Vicki, Kahlin and Olivia Dawson

Thank you for 10 years of our family's growing up in God together. God loves you and so do we.



From Ron Fike

I have fond memories of Matthew as the "Mighty Matey" at all of the H.S. football games. He WAS the Mighty Matey!

I also have a fond memory of having the opportunity to share communion with Doug at an Emmaus Service. This was wonderful because Doug was able to have a chance to take communion without being in charge of it, simply to be one of the congregation, and I know it was very special to him.

From the Hillakers

(Nancy to Marianne) I so appreciated taking Disciple Bible Study with you. You are a gifted small group leader and Disciple enabled me to get to see a whole different side of you. We have such different interests and personalities, but a very similar hunger to know and follow Christ with all our hearts. Thank you for investing yourself in helping me expand my knowledge and experience of Christ through study and through your gentle and loving ways. I also thank you for the many prayers and many, many words of encouragement you have offered for me.

(Todd to Doug) Thanks for your persistence in inviting me to take a "Walk to Emmaus." Thank you for your spiritual leadership throughout the years.

(Jeffrey to Pastor Doug) On the youth retreat 3 years ago, we went to Rolling Hills Water Park and I didn't have any friends along, so you were my swimming buddy and helped me have a lot of fun. I felt it was a sacrifice for you, as you seemed to want to lay in the shade and read a book. I was really happy that I could actually go swimming. Thanks!



The McMunn's new address is:

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21 E. Burdick
Oxford, MI 48371
248-628-1289

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91 Cross Timbers Dr
Oxford, MI 48371
248-628-1022

JULY 2006 CALENDAR

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday _____

9:00 a.m.
Spirited Traditional
Worship
9:45 a.m.
Friendship Coffee
10:30 a.m.
Praise Celebration

Wednesday _____

7:00 p.m.
Adult Bible Study

Thursday _____

10:00 a.m.
Worship Design

Saturday _____

8:30 p.m.
Young Adult LIFE Team

Coming Events



July 24-28

VBS – Gospel Express is Coming to Town!

Gospel Express is our VBS theme this year, which will be July 24-28 and we are getting off to a great start. Gospel Express is based on a train theme and we have some great ideas to make it work for us with our limitations of building use this year.

Program Details for this Summer—Ages 3 and up only this year. Class levels will be determined for the grade they are going into. We will not be providing a meal before VBS this year, but will have a healthy snack when they arrive and one later in the evening, also. Dorothy Winslow is coordinating this.

Pre-registration at this time will be on June 18, 25th, & July 9, & 16.

There will be no charge for registration again this year, just a free will donation collection basket

Nothing in the world can take the place of Persistence. Talent will not... Genius will not... Education will not... Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'Press ON' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.

—Calvin Coolidge
(a favorite quote of Pastor Doug)

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
June 25	26	27	28	29	30 TGIF Sisters 10 a.m.	July 1
2 Worship at Arise Acres; Holy Communion First Sunday with Pastor Don Weatherup Arise Kids 9 a.m.	3 Worship Design 6:30 p.m. Walking Team Pinckney Depot 7:30 p.m. (every Monday)	4 	5 Walking Team Pinckney Depot 7:30 p.m. (every Wednesday)	6 Arise Jammin Kids Building Service Project 6:30-8 p.m.	7	8
9 Ice Cream Social: welcome Pastor Don & family VBS 11:30	10 Threads of Faith, 7 p.m. Finance Committee at Plachta's 7 p.m.	11 Church Council 7 p.m.	12	13	14 TGIF Sisters 10 a.m.	15
16 Arise Kids 9 a.m. Youth Night; Meet the pastor and send off to Mexico, 9 p.m.	17 VBS, 6 p.m.	18 VBS, 6 p.m.	19 Trustees 7 p.m.	20 VBS set-up	21 VBS set-up	22 VBS set-up Chris Kieb Memorial Golf Outing
23 VBS Kick-off during worship	24 VBS, 6 p.m.	25 VBS, 6 p.m.	26 VBS, 6 p.m.	27 VBS, 6 p.m.	28 TGIF Sisters 10 a.m.	29 Youth Mission Trip to Mexico (7/29 - 8/5)
30	31	Aug 1	2	3	4	5

Arise Kids Are Jammin'

See calendar for times, and stay tuned for this article in the August newsletter. See you on July 2nd for the next Jammin' time!



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To every person in the home of:

If you wish to be removed from our newsletter mailing list, please return this mailing panel to us. Thank you.

JULY ANNIVERSARIES



16—Brad & Norma Topp
23—Gary & Judy Miller

Have a fun, safe holiday weekend!

INDEPENDENCE DAY

JULY BIRTHDAYS



2 Brenda Whalen	5 Janet Woodruff	6 Gloria Jackett Carol Sanborn
9 Carrie Engel	16 Becky Fahmie	17 Debbie Fox
20 Patty Boyne	23 Alex Saenz deViteri	

We would like to share your celebrations and apologize if we missed any special dates. To have a birthday or anniversary included in future newsletters, please give the information, in writing, to Dorothy Winslow. Thank you!

ARISE NEWSLETTER TEAM

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*Thanks to all who contribute;
please contact us with your feedback
and suggestions!*

• We are pleased to announce that Arise Connections is now available online at www.arisechurch.org •