

Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



October 2006

Arise
A United
Methodist
Church

Ministers

Every member
of the Church

Pastor

Donald Weatherup

Director of Music

Kevin Griffin

Administrative Assistant

Dave Russell

Ministry Center

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Pinckney, MI
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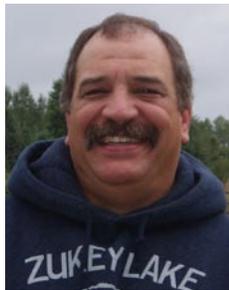
www.arisechurch.org



**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN
OCTOBER 31**

Meet our new Arise Members!

In June, we welcomed Al, Carolyn, Emily and Jean into the Arise family. The following information is provided to help get to know them better!



Al Smith joins us as a transfer from Shalom Lutheran Church in Pinckney. Having been a Scoutmaster for three years and a Boy Scout Unit Commissioner, overseeing the local unit and doing PR work for

over 10 years, he became friends with Pastor Doug McMunn. Being single again, he was considering a church move that would work both for him and his family. Having been raised United Methodist, he sees Arise as "having many needs and many opportunities to serve" and he says he is "comfortable with this path".

Al says he feels that he is being called by God to work within the church in some formal capacity—he's just not sure exactly what that

is yet. Corporate down-sizing came his way, so for now, he is self-employed. Having read the book "Half Time", about second careers in mid-life, he has been inspired to think about all the possibilities to serve in areas he loves. He enjoys working with youth and is considering youth retreats as a possible option, among other things. Al just started coaching JV football at Pinckney High this fall.

Being a self described "video junkie," Al has a large animated film collection. If he had to pick a favorite, it would be between Looney Tunes cartoons and Rocky and Bullwinkle, he says with a laugh. He is skilled in the theater arts and active in the Arise Drama Team, as well as the Stewardship Committee. Lay speaker training is on his "to do" list, as public speaking is another one of his gifts.

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Arise Celebrates 10th Anniversary!

On September 24th, we celebrated ten years of faith, hope and love in the Arise community, with one special service at Country Elementary, followed by a potluck lunch. Joyce Barnard and her team coordinated a wonderful day, including:

- Guest preacher Rev. Terry Euper, Assistant to the Bishop
- Rev. Doug McMunn, who passed the traditional baton to Rev. Don Weatherup
- A special video presentation showing "Arise in Time."
- A beautiful picture board with years of memories
- Balloons, cake and a special Anniversary gift for attendees
- A soup, salad & bread potluck.
- The "BIG" Rally Day Children's Church Kick Off, with food, games, prizes and an inflatable moon bounce!



See the November issue for photos of our anniversary celebration!

Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

Last spring I read a great book by John Ortberg called "The Life You've Always Wanted." In his book, John talks about the ways in which spiritual disciplines help us to live a life like Christ. There was one example in his book that I had not even thought of as a spiritual discipline. It is the spiritual discipline of celebration. Celebration is something that God wants us to participate in. If you look at many of the festivals that

God commanded of the Israelites, they included a time of celebration. What an awesome God we have! We worship a God who loves to watch people fellowship together and to celebrate their accomplishments. The fact is we really don't celebrate enough. We're too busy charging on to the next challenge in life. It's a good idea that we stop occasionally and celebrate even the small victories.

I was so glad to hear that celebration is a spiritual discipline, because I just love a good celebration! Good food. Laughter. Hugs. Smiles. It was a good idea that together we celebrate the 10th Anniversary at Arise. And what fun it was!

There is another celebration coming up that, at first, you might not think of as a celebration—but it is! On Sunday, October 22, we will celebrate "One Step Of Faith: We're Building and Growing!" It's the day that we dedicate our financial pledge to God in 2007. You might be saying... "Celebration? That's not a celebration. I hate pledging time. It just makes me feel guilty. I hate talking about money!" I've heard plenty of other responses to stewardship time throughout my ministry.

But let me explain how it can and SHOULD be a celebration. There was a time in my life when I did not tithe. In fact, I didn't come remotely close to tithing. I plopped ten bucks a week in the offering plate (when I showed up) and felt like that was good enough. It represented less than 1% of my income. My faith in God at that point wasn't much of a priority. God didn't get my best. God got my leftovers.

Years later, after a failed marriage, the death of my mother, and a whole host of other problems, I found that my spiritual life really became important to me. I found myself going to church more. Praying more. I started attending a Bible study. It was a time in my life when

God became real. I really trusted that God would take care of me. It was only when I began turning toward God that my life improved.

Once I really believed that God would take care of me, something amazing happened. I found myself having no problem at all putting a little more of my dough into the offering plate. Ten bucks became twenty. Then forty. A little while later I learned from scripture that what God asks of me is 10% of my income. It seemed like a stretch, but slowly over a few years, I inched my way toward tithing. I found myself giving to God, not out of guilt, but out of thanksgiving. It felt good to give. Through my giving to the church I was helping to support great ministries both around town and around the world. The more I gave, the better I felt.

As my faith grew, so did my understanding and appreciation for tithing. Pledging time for me turned from a negative, guilt ridden experience into a joyful celebration.

In my 8 years of ministry, I have not found a single person who regretted stretching their faith and increasing their giving until they gave at a tithe or higher. With 100% confidence I can say that God really does bless those who give. Does that mean that people who tithe don't have problems in life? Of course not. But they have something even better. They have peace of mind. They have joy. It is the kind of joy that burrows deep in your soul. It's the kind of joy that nobody can take away from you.

For Shelley and me, Sunday October 22nd will indeed be a great day of celebration. We will celebrate the incredible goodness of God. We will celebrate this great church. We will eat great food. Delicious catered food. We will hug our friends from this church. We will laugh and smile together. We will gladly and joyfully give to God. Why? Because we could never give God enough back to express our appreciation for what God's already done for us. And we haven't even experienced the joy of heaven yet. We've got a lot more giving to do before we get there!

What percentage of your income is God calling you to give?

With you on the journey,

Don



Celebrating the ministry of Arla and Sara

For those of you that regularly attend our 9 am worship service, Arla McPeck and Sara Potti have become familiar faces sitting behind the keyboard. Both have filled an important part of the ministry of Arise church by playing the hymns and other musical pieces during the past year or so at our first service. We've been blessed to have them participate with us over these past several months and the time has come to say farewell and Godspeed.

Sara is attending school at Loyola in Chicago. She is majoring in a pre-law/international affairs program and hopes to go to law school later on. Sara is still playing the piano and is taking lessons at the university. She can be emailed at sarapotti@yahoo.com if you want to contact her.

Arla has taken up a newly created paid position at the Brighton UMC. She is starting to work there as the Multi Media Coordinator. Her responsibilities will include the oversight, the putting together and weekly review of all of the video presentations and PowerPoint slides used in worship; working with the drama team and other ministry groups to develop the worship theme for the week; and she will also continue her work as the Children's Music Director.

So, with a mixture of sadness for our loss, and joy for their new roles and ministries, we say farewell for now and God bless.

Kevin Griffin, Director of Music

The Youngest Among Us

Evva Funk has taken the Arise Church Nursery program under her care and has arranged for adult coverage to staff the nursery every Sunday. Thanks to Evva, Sherry Graham, Carrie and Kevin Germain and Mary Ellen Kieb who will be serving in this way. A teen volunteer is needed every Sunday to team up with the adult nursery worker in providing the best care for our infant to 4 year old children. If you are in 7th grade or above, enjoy children and could help out in the nursery during second service, we need you.

Contact Evva for more information.



**Evva Funk,
Nursery and
Altar Ministries**

Arise Welcomes Two New Accompanists



Andrew

Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Ann Arbor and sings in their contemporary choir.

Susanna lives in Hartland and has quite a commute to get down this way for worship. She also is involved in music ministry with a new Lutheran church in South Lyon when she isn't playing for us.

So make sure to say 'hello and welcome' the next time you are at worship with either Andrew or Susanna.

Arise has been blessed with the ministry of two new people who are playing for the 9 am worship service. Andrew Keller and Susanna Swan have begun tickling the ivories, starting their work back in August and September.

Andrew is a senior at Dexter High School and plays the piano for the high school choir and trumpet in the band. He

also plays solos at his home church of



Susanna

Kevin Griffin, Director of Music

New Altar Team

Are you able to help set up the altar for first service and move it to the second service worship space? Could you help dismantle the altar after second service and pack it up for the moving team? Maybe you would like to provide flowers for the altar for Sunday worship. A team of people are needed every Sunday for this purpose. Please contact Evva Funk at (734) 878-5501 if you would be interested in serving on the Altar Team.

Blood Pressure Screening

Thanks to Diane Gould of the Arise Health Ministry for coordinating this important ministry, which is offered the second Sunday of every month after each worship service. A few nurses at Arise help to provide this service to our congregation. More nurses are needed to assist. Please contact Diane at (734) 665-8997.



**Jane Fuller takes Fran
Smith's blood pressure.**

Operation Christmas Child—Oct. 8 - Nov. 5



“A pastor in El Seybo had completed a shoe box distribution in their church and decided to take a leftover box to her nephew. On the way there, the pastor saw a very sad-looking boy in

the street. He was poor and barefoot. The pastor felt moved to give the box to the boy. Among the gifts inside was a pair of shoes. The shoes fit the boy’s feet perfectly.” (Samaritan’s Purse International)

This fall, Arise will again be participating in the Operation Christmas Child shoe box campaign. Shoe box gifts are a tangible demonstration of God’s love to children and families living in difficult circumstances, and prepares hearts to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Here’s how you can participate:

1. Find an empty shoe box (you can wrap it if you wish)
2. Decide whether your gift will be for a boy or girl, and the child’s age category: 2-4, 5-9, 10-14
3. The first ingredient is PRAYER
4. Fill your box with a variety of gifts: School supplies, small toys, hygiene items, hard candy...
5. Drop off your box at Arise services between Oct. 8th and Nov. 5th



Operation Christmas Child is one way you can reach the heart of one child and open it to the love of Jesus.

*Arise Missions,
Laura Bowen*

Building at Arise

The Walls Are Up! As the photos show, a lot of work has been done and the push is on to have trusses in place by fall.

Drive by the barn at Arise Acres and you will notice some new changes. The roof has been removed and new walls are being erected for classrooms, a nursery and a multi-purpose worship space. These are all visible signs of steady progress in our effort to make a permanent home for Arise Church. The Arise Building Project is being completed on a volunteer and “build as we give” basis. Such a major undertaking requires a great deal of faith and hard work—Arise has demonstrated both. A dedicated core group of volunteers have been working regularly on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings to accomplish what you see today. Thanks, team! Work on our church building will continue as funding and workers are available. This fall, additional masonry block work will be done, a new roof constructed (trusses, plywood sheathing and shingles), windows installed and exterior wood siding added to the addition and painted to prepare the building for winter and interior work. To learn how you can help, contact Brad Topp, Arise Building Committee Chair, at (810) 231-4979.



Meet our new Arise Members... *continued from pg. 1*

"I used to be a real worrier, but now I can see it's a waste of time," he says. "It's been a hard year, but things are better, now that God is back in my life again." Al has three children, Alexander, 19, a sophomore at Eastern, Trevor, 18, a freshman at Western and Melissa, 13, an 8th grader this fall in Pinckney. Al's faith friend is Jerry Dawson. Al, we are happy to have you at Arise!



Emily Scott will be a sophomore at Pinckney High School this fall. Joining us on profession of faith, Emily attended a number of churches in the area before choosing membership at Arise. When asked what it was about Arise that drew her here, she answered without hesitation, "This church doesn't tell you that you

have to be a certain way to be a Christian. There are many different ways to being a Christian. I like that about Arise."

Emily's brother, John, had attended Arise for a time and knew some of the youth here, so Emily saw a few familiar faces when she arrived. Emily is a familiar face at Arise herself, being active in the Drama Team during worship. In school, she is a member of the Twin Masks Theater Group and does occasional babysitting to earn extra money. Active in the Arise Youth Group, Emily's faith friend is Cheryl Bollinger. Welcome, Emily! We're glad you're among us.

Carolyn Stafford transferred her membership from Saline UMC, after moving to Howell in December 2004 to live closer to her children-- daughter Cindy, and son and daughter-in-law Greg and Barb, members at Arise. When Carolyn arrived in the area, she found helping hands at Arise through the Health Ministry Team, to assist her in Bob's care at the end of his illness. Carolyn's husband Bob lost his long struggle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) over one year ago.



Career-wise, Carolyn found her niche as a homemaker after taking a bit of nurse's training early in her life, and then changing her major to pre-school education. Greg recalls that his mother was a coordinator for the Head Start program when his parents lived in the Fenton area. While living in Saline, they had a book business, setting up book displays for early education conferences. Their donation of many children's books helped to start the lending library at the Saline church.

Carolyn has become active in Threads of Faith-- knitting prayer shawls and helping with sewing projects, as well as being invaluable at VBS this year. "I want to be useful

and supportive of people wherever I'm needed," she affirms. Some of her passions are University of Michigan football and genealogy, currently joining Cindy and Barb in this last pursuit. Her recent travels took her to Israel, where she stretched her comfort zone by traveling with a group of strangers on a tour of the Holy Land. Having to return to the States early, due to a respiratory illness, she says, "I never thought I could do it alone, but I found out that God was there with me all the way." It turned out to be a faith-building experience for her. Beth Plachta is her faith friend. We're glad you're here, Carolyn!

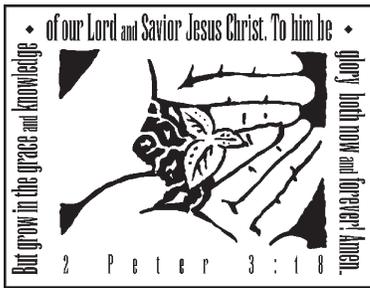
Jean Oxender transfers her associate membership from Dixboro UMC. She is a "snowbird," who spends her winters in Tucson, Ariz., where she is active at St. Mark's UMC. Having taken the Walk to Emmaus, Jean was looking for a church that provided a "4th Day Group"—an equivalent to the Arise L.I.F.E. Team experience. Since she lives in Ann Arbor she e-mailed a number of churches in the area, and only Pastor Doug McMunn responded, encouraging her to attend and connected her with Diane Gould, an Arise member and "neighbor" down the road. He assured Jean that "the Holy Spirit was present at Arise", so she ventured a ride with Diane and found the people at Arise to be "warm, friendly and so sincere." She thought to herself, "I can really fellowship with these Christians," and decided to join the church.



In spite of a 40 mile round trip from her home, Jean is active in Wednesday Night Bible Study and T.G.I.F. Sisters. Ron Fike loaned her a book referencing Revelations 5:8, which describes the prayers of the saints being cherished by God in golden bowls. This inspired her to provide Arise with a "golden bowl", which holds the prayer requests that are brought before God.

A gifted and trained Lay Speaker, Jean provided the message during a spring worship service. Others of her gifts are those of giving, teaching and praying. She was also an elementary school teacher for over 30 years and has written 18 children's books. Her husband and partner of 48 ½ years, Dale, passed away in Dec. '03, after a long career as a biochemistry professor at U of M and scientist at Park-Davis. They had the opportunity to travel to many fascinating locales around the world in that time. Jean loves to read, listen to tapes and watch videos. She has shared many of these materials to help create the new Arise Lending Library. Jean has two sons, Derrick and Ted, both in Ann Arbor. Her faith friend is Diane Gould. Welcome to Arise, Jean!

Arise: Ten Years of God's Grace



Did you know that there was a Methodist Church in the Village of Pinckney as early as 1854? That building stood until 1985. By that time, that congregation had merged with what is

now Community Congregational Church. It wasn't until 1976 that members of Brighton UMC envisioned a new congregation in the Pinckney area. From 1992 to 1995, members of local United Methodist congregations in the Detroit Conference contributed to the "Pass It On" Campaign—raising money for new church development. Arise was one of four "start up" churches that benefited from these generous efforts.

It is likely that many people attend church and never give a thought to how many years that congregation has been in existence or know anything about its early history. Founding members have always sacrificed their time, money and labor to make their churches a reality. The Arise congregation has shared in the adventure of being early church pioneers. People who have attended Arise services over the years located in a theater, a tent, a school cafeteria, and a barn have quickly become familiar with the concept of a young church and its unique joys and challenges. With God's grace and guidance, Arise will continue to be a welcoming sign of Christ's presence in the Pinckney area.

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Blessings of Arise

I attended Arise for the first time at the barn right after we moved to Pinckney. Don was recuperating from open heart surgery, so I came by myself. It was spring time and cooler than I had anticipated. Dave Russell was standing by the door holding Jacob, then a young child. He greeted me warmly, introduced himself and then asked if I had brought a coat with me. I said no, but I could drive home to get one, if I needed to. He took Jacob and went to his car, brought back a blanket and wrapped it around me. He was so gracious; I always felt a strong connection to him after that. It is just one example of how people care for each other at Arise. —*Jane Fuller*

The first service we came to was an Easter service held in Jane Tasch Theater. They did a re-enactment of the Easter story that Sunday. We felt Arise

had a lot of creative energy and offered more than the traditional worship services we had experienced. This really appealed to us. The L.I.F.E. teams at Arise are very unique, too, and are another source of energy and creativity within the church. There are a lot of good things happening at Arise. —*Nancy Bartel*

We began to attend Arise in the summer of 1999. Worship had just been moved from Jane Tasch Theater to a tent outside the Hamburg Professional Center. We were blessed with lovely weather that summer and it was this unique setting outdoors, along with the energy of the Praise Band and the friendliness of the people that spoke to my heart. I remember being impressed with the flexibility and determination of this group of Christians to continue meeting so enthusiastically without a building. It was a very spiritual experience and one of my favorite memories of Arise. —*Beth Plachta*

Wearing Name Tags Makes a Statement About Arise!

Wearing name tags are a tangible way to show guests that they are important, belong, and are included because EVERYONE wears one. This approach allows guests to be identified, yet not singled out. The name tag facilitates a warm and welcoming environment by allowing EVERYONE to be called by name! It also creates an "open arms" feeling in the church, and helps everyone know that they 'belong' at Arise. We are much more likely to greet someone if we see their name displayed.



Do you know the names of ALL the adults in our church?

Do you know the names of ALL of the young people?

Do you know the names of ALL of the children?

If we want to be "THE CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR", it is important to open the door in such a way that people want to come in and STAY! As our congregation continues to grow name tags become even more important.

You will be issued a name tag at the 10th anniversary—please wear it EVERY SUNDAY to show that Arise is a welcoming, friendly, and is open to all of God's people.

Jean Oxender, Name Tag Ministry

OCTOBER 2006 CALENDAR

*Stewardship is not humanity's way of raising money,
but rather God's way of raising people into the likeness of His Son*
—Doug Carter

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday _____

9:00 am
Spirited Traditional
Worship
9:45 am
Friendship Coffee
10:30 am
Praise Celebration

Monday _____

7:00 pm
Men's Huddle

Wednesday _____

10:00 am
Worship Design
7:00 pm
Adult Bible Study
7:30 pm
Walking Team

Saturday _____

8:30 pm
Young Adult LIFE Team

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
October 1 Holy Communion Arise Jammin' Kids practice 9 am New Children's Ministry—Sunday School starts, with teacher dedication	2	3 Church Council 7 pm	4	5	6 TGIF Sisters 10 am 5th Quarter Bonfire—PHS Homecoming	7
8 Visioning noon – 3 pm Blood pressure screening Children's Ministry refreshment sale	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Arise Jammin' Kids (AJK) practice 9 am—singing both services Sunday School Bible presentaion	16 Threads of Faith, 7 pm	17	18 Trustee Meeting 7 pm	19	20 TGIF Sisters 10 am	21 Lay Speaker Training at Saline UMC
22 Stewardship Sunday—One Step of Faith Catered Church Dinner	23	24 Collate Newsletter 10 am	25	26	27	28
29 Pastor Appreciation Sunday	30	31  Halloween	November 1	2	3 TGIF Sisters 10 am	4

**Please note:
Arise worship services have moved back to Country Elementary for the fall/winter. See you there!**



Children's Ministry-Sunday School Program Begins!

October 1st marks the beginning of the Children's Ministry-Sunday School Program at Country Elementary.

As usual, the children will be released from second service at a specified time, but to attend a one room program with teachers working in teams and rotating

each Sunday. "BIG"- Belief in God, is an interactive program for all ages with continual emphasis for the Sunday lesson. We are very excited!

You can check it out by logging onto iLiveBIG.com. Please contact Judy Miller (i.e. Mrs. J.) at 734-649-7967 or judylmiller2001@charter.net, or Pastor Don at 734-878-1928 or pastor@arisechurch.org. Please pray for a great year of growth for our Arise children!

Arise

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Arise Ministry Center
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October Anniversaries

- 10/5 Tony & Becky Fahmie
- 10/7 Rich & Sally Guyon
- 10/14 Dave & Laura Bowen
Ken & Laurie Watson
- 10/15 Greg & Barb Stafford
- 10/16 Dave & Laurie Russell

October Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 10/4 Matt Plachta | 10/27 Katie McMunn |
| 10/9 Norine Bibicoff | 10/28 Jennifer Saenzdeviteri |
| 10/12 Steve Bollinger | Eric Tice |
| 10/16 Jim Morpew | 10/31 Debbie Short |

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