

Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



November 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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Fifth Quarter Bonfires: Fun, fire and fellowship!



Under the direction of Cheryl Bollinger (left) and a host of adult chaperones, area youth have been able to enjoy a safe place for post-football game celebrations. From September 15th through October 20th, 100 – 200 youth have attended the bonfire at Arise Acres, following Pinckney High School home games. Lots of wood and flames (up to an alleged 30 feet)

have kept attendees warm on cold nights, while refreshments and music have provided the backdrop for fun and fellowship.

On a typical week there are 8-10 chaperones who greet and talk with the youth. Bob Fike, Eric Tice and Brent Robinson and band have provided excellent music. Pastor Don and Shelley Weatherup have lent their organizing and publicity talents. Cheryl and her team have done a great job, and she offers special thanks to all of the adults who have stepped forward and given generously of their time for this powerful outreach opportunity. In Cheryl's words, it has been

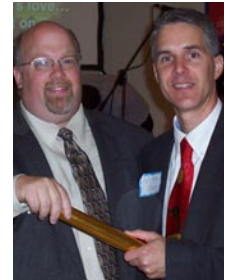
"just awesome!" Thanks for your many efforts in support of our youth, Cheryl!



Guitarist and singer Eric Tice (left) performs at a Fifth Quarter bonfire, as friends enjoy the bonfire, music and fellowship!



Arise Celebrates 10th Anniversary!



Passing the Baton from Pastor Doug to Pastor Don at the 10th Anniversary Celebration. (See more photos on pages 4-5.)

September 24th was a day of great celebration and fellowship in the Arise community. Both Rev. Don Weatherup and Rev. Doug McMunn participated in the service, with guest preacher Rev. Terry Euper, Assistant to the Bishop, delivering the sermon. A video history prepared by Al Smith captured many fond memories. Following the traditional "passing of the baton from Pastor Doug, through all members to Pastor Don, a soup, salad, bread

continued on page 4

Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

Last week I was asked to visit a local family whose father had unexpectedly died. They did not have a home church. Interesting that unchurched people have a sense that the church is a place they can find hope.

I arrived at the house before the medical examiner got there, so the deceased was covered with a sheet. The faces of his children were clear. There was sadness and shock.

I have to be honest, these situations are difficult because, at moments like that, I have no magic words to make the pain quickly go away. But, I do have a message of hope to offer. Great hope! I proceeded to explain and/or remind the family of the hope of resurrection after death and the promise of heaven. The response was curt, "my dad didn't believe any of that." And then, I was asked a question that really saddened me. I was asked, "Isn't there anything you can say to help him now?" I took this to mean, can't you pray something that will get him into heaven? I felt like they were in essence saying, "you're a pastor—do something!"

I decided it wasn't an appropriate time for a sermon. My previous comment about heaven made the point. Instead, I prayed a compassionate prayer that God would sustain this man's children in their time of loss. And silently prayed that through their dad's death they would be drawn to a life with Christ.

That question won't get out of my head. I wondered if this man ever heard about Christ. Did anyone take the time to share his or her testimony with him? I have been thinking a lot about Romans 10:14, "How can people have faith in the Lord and ask him to save them, if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear, unless someone tells them? Every day we come in contact with non-believers and we don't think about the urgency of sharing the message of Christ. That is, until they are terminally ill. Or—have died. Then we remember the urgency.

We Christians are in the life saving business.

Let me illustrate with a story from Stanton Knofel's book, "Heaven Bound Living."

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur, there was once a little life-saving station. The building was primitive, and there was just one boat, but the members of

the life-saving station were committed and kept a constant watch over the sea. When a ship went down, they unselfishly went out day or night to save the lost. Because that station saved so many lives it became famous.

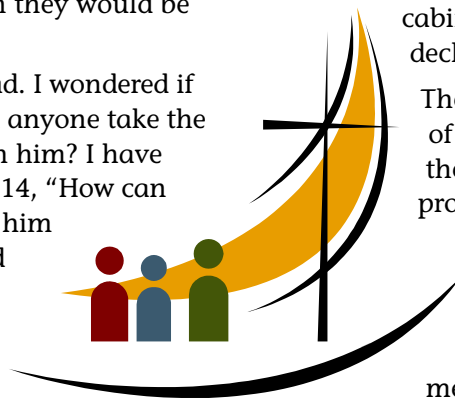
Consequently, many people wanted to be associated with the station to give their time, talent, and money to support its important work. New boats were bought, new crews were recruited, and a formal training session was offered. As the membership in the life-saving station grew, some of the members became unhappy that the building was so primitive and that the equipment was so outdated. They wanted a better place to welcome the survivors pulled from the sea. So they replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in the enlarged and newly decorated building.

Now the life-saving station became a popular gathering place for its members. They met regularly and when they did, it was apparent how they loved one another. They greeted each other, hugged each other, and shared with one another the events that had been going on in their lives. But fewer members were now interested in going to sea on life-saving missions; so they hired lifeboat crews to do this for them.

About this time, a large ship was wrecked off of the coast, and the hired crews brought into the life-saving station boatloads of cold, wet, dirty, sick, and half-drowned people. Some of them had black skin, and some had yellow skin. Some could speak English well, and some could hardly speak it at all. Some were first-class cabin passengers of the ship, and some were the deck hands.

The beautiful meeting place became a place of chaos. The plush carpets got dirty. Some of the exquisite furniture got scratched. So the property committee immediately had a shower built outside the house where the victims of shipwreck could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting there was rift in the membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's life-saving activities, for they were unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal fellowship of the members. Other members insisted that life saving was their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a life-saving station. But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the lives of all those various kinds of people who would be shipwrecked, they could begin their own life-saving station down the coast. And do you know what? That is what they did.



continued on pg. 6

Advent Series begins December 3rd



Please plan on joining us for a very special Advent Season. Pastor Don will share a five part series titled "The Cast of the Manger Miracle." In this series Pastor Don will look at the Christmas story from the unique perspective of five different characters of the Christmas story. Together we'll discover what each character's reactions and experiences might teach us today.

Sunday December 3rd – 1st Sunday of Advent

The Cast of the Manger Miracle, Part 1—
A Shocked Peasant Girl.

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38.

A look at Mary's reaction to God's plan for her life. Part 1 features a video clip from "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

Sunday December 10th – 2nd Sunday of Advent

The Cast Of The Manger Miracle, Part 2—
Pregnant Cousins In Joyful Gestation!

Scripture: Luke 1:39-56.

What can we learn from Mary's reaction to God's plan to make her the mother of the Messiah. Through Mary we learn three things that a calling from God usually includes. We'll also see a video clip from the movie "Simon Birch."

Sunday December 17th – 3rd Sunday of Advent

The Cast of the Manger Miracle, Part 3—
The Shepherds Who Left It All

Scripture: Luke 2:8-21, Genesis 46:31-33.

A look at what the shepherds can teach us about searching for God. Includes a video clip from the movie "The Grinch."



Sunday December 24, Morning Worship – 4th Sunday of Advent

"The Cast of the Manger Miracle, Part 4—
The Fraudulent King"

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-16

What happens when we put self-interest ahead of God's plan? A look at the response of King Herod and The Wise Men to the birth of Christ. Includes a video clip of the film "Jingle All The Way."

Christmas Eve – Evening Services

"The Cast of the Manger Miracle, Part 5—
Oh God, It's A Baby!"

Scripture: John 1:14-18

A look at the leading character of the Christmas story—the baby Jesus. What did the birth of this child mean to those who were there, and has that meaning changed from then until now? Includes a video clip from the television show "The Wonder Years."

One Step of Faith

By Matt Plachta, Stewardship Committee Chairperson

On Consecration Sunday, Oct. 22, members and friends of Arise participated in a special worship service by making pledges to support God's work in the world through Arise Church.



Demonstrating gratitude for all God has provided, the total expected giving for 2007 is \$237,976. Based on the pledges received, we anticipate 2007 General Fund giving to be \$176,290, an increase of 25%. The Land and Building Fund contributions are expected to be \$61,686, an increase of 17%. In addition, we received a \$50,000 matching pledge for the Land and Building Fund for 2007. This means that every dollar donated to Arise in either fund over 2006 tithes and offerings will be matched up to \$50,000.

Joining Arise on Consecration Sunday as guest speaker was Rev. Robert Ward, a retired pastor who served many churches during his career, including Court Street UMC in Flint and Birmingham First UMC, as well as being Ann Arbor District Superintendent at one time. Rev. Ward shared an inspiring message entitled "God's Giving and Ours."

Following the Sunday services, approximately 70 worshippers gathered to celebrate together at a catered luncheon. Thank you to the Arise Stewardship Committee who arranged the luncheon and this year's Consecration Sunday program.

ARISE 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Arise 10 Anniversary!... continued from pg. 1

and dessert potluck lunch was enjoyed. Here are some photos of the day, along with a short overview of the milestones that Arise has achieved in the first ten years. Congratulations to Joyce Barnard and her many team members for a wonderful celebration!



A r i s e T i m e L i n e

1992 – 1995: Getting Started

- ★ "Pass It On" Campaign
- ★ Demographic study of Hamburg-Pinckney



1996: Early Organization

- ★ January 1, 1996 Douglas J. McMunn appointed as founding pastor
- ★ June: Recruit and Train 100 volunteer "Phone Friends" for telemarketing.
- ★ July 21: Move into Arise Ministry Center at Hamburg Professional Center
- ★ August: Make 17,166 dial-ups offering information through the mail
- ★ September 29: First Worship Service Attendance: 385

1997: Roles & Responsibilities



- ★ January 19: First Service of Christian Baptism
- ★ February 2: First Membership Training Course begins with 40 persons enrolled.
- ★ May 18: First Professing Members received (32)
- ★ September 14: First Church Council meeting



ARISE 10TH ANNIVERSARY

1998: Developing Youth

- ★April 3, 4: Arise students attended "Acquire the Fire" youth rally at MSU
- ★April 5: Arise Student Ministries began Monday night "Teen Nite Tonite"

1999: New Locations

- ★Summer: Worship under a tent at Hamburg Ministry Center.
- ★September: Move Worship to Country Elementary, start "Friendship Brunch"



2000 – 2001: Arise Acres

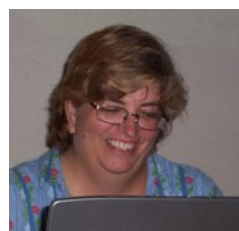
- ★November, 2000: Arise Acres, a 20 acre horse farm, purchased in Putnam Township
- ★December: Started second Sunday service, "Spirited Traditional Worship," at 9:00 a.m.
- ★2001: Ministry Center moved to the house on Arise Acres
- ★September 26 Chartered as "Arise—A United Methodist Church"

2002 – 2004: Planning for the Future

- ★2002: Formal Building Committee elected, Sold Hamburg Parsonage, moved McMunn's to Arise Acres, leased portable office unit
- ★2003 September: Consecration of Church Land and Parsonage
- ★2004: Master Plan for permanent facilities approved

2005 – 2006: Building the Facility

- ★May 1: Congregation Votes final approval of Phase I Building Plan.
- ★June 12: Groundbreaking Celebration for first permanent facilities
- ★Jan-Mar: work began on barn renovation



2006: Passing the Leadership Baton

- ★June Rev. Doug McMunn transfers to Oxford UMC
- ★July: Rev. Don Weatherup appointed to Arise
- ★August: First wall erected at new worship facility
- ★September: 10th Arise Anniversary Celebration



Meet the Band!

by Sally Guyon, Singer



Sally Guyon

This is the first in a series of four articles introducing the band members to our congregation and others who read our newsletter. I hope you will come away feeling you now know them better on paper, and also that it may create opportunities to get to know them in person. It's difficult to mix and

mingle when you need to help break down the equipment at the end of the service each week, but with the building progress we are making, a permanent sound system is in our future!

I'd like to start with **Kevin Griffin**, our wonderful Music Director and leader. Kevin has brought many gifts to Arise and has done a fabulous job coordinating music each week, organizing practices, polishing the video and working with the tech teams to make sure that the equipment is repaired and functional.



Kevin grew up in Iowa, the youngest in a musical family. He started playing trumpet in 5th grade, and then went on to play French horn during concert season in high school. Kevin's introduction to guitar came from a junior high music teacher who offered a class after school to interested students, and from that point on, has been self-taught. Berea College in Kentucky is his alma mater where he studied Art and Industrial Arts.

Kevin and his wife Diane are members of the Mission Society which is a para church organization started by United Methodists. As many of you know, he and Diane spent 3 years in Costa Rica and 2 ½ years in Peru as missionaries, then returned home and lived with Diane's parents in Howell while they searched for a home, which they found this past May in the Village of Pinckney.

Prior to their mission trips, due to their interest and goal of participating in a church start, they were involved in the Arise Capital Fund Drive through their friendship with Doug and Marianne McMunn.

In his spare time, Kevin enjoys sports, particularly basketball, and is fascinated by railroads and trains.



Laurie Russell, a vocalist in the Arise bands, moved to Lapeer when she was 6 from Canada. She and her husband Dave have been married 13 years and live in Brighton with their son Jacob, age 9. She has a degree in English Literature from MSU and currently works at the First National Bank in Howell.



Laurie's love of music got its start playing clarinet in 6th grade, then she went on to play bassoon in high school which she found was her favorite because it allowed her to express herself, and thus her love of classical music began to flourish. During those years, she sang in church and school choirs.

Her first solo was 14 years ago at Brighton United Methodist Church; she thanks her husband Dave, for introducing her to contemporary Christian music! Laurie helped to start a contemporary Saturday night service at Brighton, before joining Arise.

Laurie has been attending Arise since 1999 and has directed AYMADT (Arise Youth Music and Drama Team) and the Faith Singers, an all women choral group. She has participated in the Arise Wind Ensemble, Praise Singers (Choir), and Praise Bands over the years, and worked diligently during our periods when we did not have a music director to keep the music program going. She is currently very busy with her son Jacob's activities of figure skating and acting in the Howell Community Players production, for which she is sewing many costumes!

Next month, you will meet Jim Morphew, drummer and conga player, and Matthew Romans, bass player.

Pastor's Column... continued from pg. 2

As the years passed, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. It evolved into a place to meet regularly for fellowship, for committee meetings, and for special training sessions about their mission, but few went out to the drowning people. The drowning people were no longer welcomed in that new life-saving station. So another life-saving station was founded further down the coast. History continued to repeat itself. And if you visit that seacoast today, you will find a number of adequate meeting places with ample parking and plush carpeting. Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown.

With you on the journey,

NOVEMBER 2006 CALENDAR

*Enter into his gates with Thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise;
be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good... Psalm 100:4, 5a*

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 29	30	31	1 SPRC 6:30	2	3 TGIF Sisters 10 am	4
5 Holy Communion	6 Theology and the Movies 6:30 – 9:30 pm at the parsonage	7 Church Council 7 pm	8	9	10	11
12 Blood pressure screening	13 Theology and the Movies 6:30 – 9:30 pm at the parsonage Threads of Faith, 7 pm at Kim Sherry's	14	15 Trustee Meeting 7 pm	16	17 TGIF Sisters 10 am	18
19 Flu Shots	20 Theology and the Movies 6:30 – 9:30 pm at the parsonage	21 Children's Church Teachers Meeting Ministry Center 10 am	22	23 Thanksgiving 	24	25
26	27 Theology and the Movies 6:30 – 9:30 pm at the parsonage	28 Collate Newsletter 10 am	29	30	December 1 TGIF Sisters 10 am	2

**Coming in
December—
Annual Church
Conference
December 10,
1:00 pm
location tba**



Rebecca Johnson RN, Congregational Nurse Liaison, will be offering flu shots for adults at Arise on **Sunday, November 19th between 9:30 and 10:30 AM.**

Approximate cost is \$28.00. Medicare Part B will cover cost of the medication and injection fee.

Others will need to pay cash or check at the time of injection. A receipt will be given for you to submit to your insurance company.

Questions? Please contact Diane Gould – 734-665-8997

Happy Anniversary to a couple who shows how love can last! Fran and Gene Smith celebrated their 50th on September 29th!



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A United Methodist Church

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November Anniversaries

Paul & Jewell Smith	2
Jerry & Vicki Dawson	22

November Birthdays

Beth Plachta	3	Scott Badyna	12
Vicki Dawson	4	Benson Richards	20
Austin Bollinger	10	Cindy Morphew	21
April Flanagan	10	Jan Richards	23
Joe Roth	11	Sean Graham	25

ARISE NEWSLETTER TEAM

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