

Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



January/February 2007

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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Jason Janovits: Finding His Purpose in Youth Ministry



No doubt you've seen him around Arise and the Pinckney community...working the AV equipment, serving on the lay leadership team, acting in Arise skits and Pinckney H.S. plays, participating with youth and young

adults, or working at Busch's. Jason Janovits is everywhere! But what you may not know about the recently turned 21-year old is that he is studying to be a youth minister.

Jason attends Spring Arbor University in Spring Arbor, MI, where he will graduate this year. He started several years ago at Eastern Michigan University, studying to be a high school drama teacher. "I really like theatre... went to EMU and got the prerequisites out of the way. Between freshman and sophomore year, I realized I was wrong. I kind of mixed up the signals a little bit. Instead of having teaching lead to youth ministry, I started to realize that youth ministry could lead to teaching." He understood that he would not get the philosophy and training to work with youth at EMU. So he transferred to Spring Arbor, a Free Methodist institution that describes itself as follows:

For over 130 years, Spring Arbor University has distinguished itself as the place where faith and learning meet. Since 1873, Spring Arbor University has combined a commitment to the liberal arts and a passion to see all truth from God's perspective with purposeful training in the arts and the professions. (www.spring.arbor.edu)

His courses cover youth ministry philosophy, principles, communications, administration and a capstone senior reflection; these have

helped him to discover his own ministry style...which he terms *incarnational*. "I want to go out and meet kids where they are and get to know where they are, and earn the right to work with them. Go to them; not expect them to come to me. That's really the style that is most like Jesus...what He is all about. Jesus didn't practice any one way of ministering to people. It's not like we can do everything the same way with everyone."

In addition to his vocational studies, Jason puts his words into action by working with youth at Jackson High School, through a parachurch ministry called Young Life. "We do incarnational ministry and talk to kids who have probably heard about Jesus and those who haven't. We just say we want to get to know you because we like you for who you are; we are coming here because we care; we don't get paid. We want to get involved in your life and know what's going on." In addition to forming some close relationships and being a member of the high school liaison team, there are plans to hold a "club" where youth can get together, have fun, play games and hear a message. "It's about building trust...I'm going with a group from Wyld Life, our middle school program, in February for a winter weekend just so I can get to know some of the guys who will be coming into our program." In addition, there is a small group Bible study program for those who have progressed further in their faith journeys, and wish to participate.

"I guess, to me, youth ministry is extremely important. I saw what it did for me to have someone express an interest and care, so if I could give that back to just one young person, that would be spectacular! Who knows where that one person will go? The whole thing for

continued on pg. 5

Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

Time certainly does fly. Seems like the smell of evergreen is still in the air from Christmas and in just three weeks we start the beginning of Lent.

This year, I'd like to make a suggestion for what you can give up for Lent. It doesn't involve you giving up chocolate, soda pop, or potato chips, or whatever you might typically consider giving up for Lent. I'd like you to give up something far more difficult to

give up. I'd like you to give up some of your time.

This Lent, I'd like you to give up some time so that you can GET something this Lent. That something I'm talking about is something that seems elusive for many of us. What you will GET is spiritual growth.

I am personally inviting you to join me on a Lenten journey that I think you will find rather enjoyable. For the six weeks during Lent, the entire Arise Church family will learn how to make spiritual disciplines an everyday part of life. I know what you're probably thinking, "Oh, great, an opportunity to make me feel guilty about not reading the Bible or praying enough." Wrong! You'll love the approach of this book.

Together, all of us – the entire church, youth group through adults - will read John Ortberg's wonderful book "The Life You've Always Wanted." His book tells how average people like you and me can intentionally fit spiritual disciplines into our busy lives. I think the book is fantastic. For those of you who hate to read, it's also available as a book on tape/CD-ROM.

I'll start the week off with a sermon based on the same topics you will read in the book. Then, here is where the giving up your time part comes in. Will you please give up 90 minutes a week for just six weeks during Lent to talk about the book with other Arise folks?

Beginning in early February at church on Sunday morning you will have an opportunity to sign up for a small group that will get together to discuss what you heard in the sermon and what you read in the book. At this small group gathering John Ortberg will give a short teaching on DVD and then you will discuss questions from the back of the book. I think you will find that it will be time well spent. And since you will already be giving up something for Lent, (your time) we can have chocolate, pop and potato chips at the small group gatherings if we want!

Some groups will meet in homes during the week. Others will meet on Sunday morning at Country Elementary. We'll have a variety of times to meet varying schedules. My goal is to have 125 people on this Lenten journey. Of course, it will be open to anyone you would like to invite. It's a great entry opportunity into Arise Church. Who can you invite? If you'd like to host/facilitate a group, please let me know. It is my understanding that all the current L.I.F.E. teams will suspend their normal curriculum and study this book. See your L.I.F.E. team leader if you are not sure.

To make things convenient, we will have copies of "The Life You've Always Wanted" available for sale on Sunday morning for a couple of weeks in late February. Or, you can start looking for it online or at a retail location of your choice. Some free books will be available. You might also check your local library. We will not let cost be a barrier for anyone.

Keep an eye out for more details in the Sunday bulletins and Arise Church E-announcements. I'm excited that we can make this Lent a time of real change, and real spiritual growth. Plus, we just solved our annual dilemma of what to give up for Lent.

With you on the journey,

February 4th Hunger Collections



We've done it...not once, not twice...but five times in the past.

What is it? The Super Bowl Sunday "Souper Bowl of Caring" collection by our youth, of course! Arise has raised \$852.25 for this hunger relief effort over the last five years.

On February 4, Arise youth will be standing by the doors after each service with soup pots. No, they're not cooking our lunch, but they are performing a valuable service—collecting money that will be used for feeding street children in Liberia. The youth would love it if everyone could donate \$1. This will replace the Inside Outreach offering that normally occurs during communion that Sunday. An additional benefit is that it helps Arise work toward being a "spotlight church"—one that goes above and beyond our normal missionary giving.

Please join our youth, as they participate in this grassroots movement of caring. Thousands of young people across the country are joining together to fight hunger and poverty that day. National donation totals will be announced during the Super Bowl, too. Any questions? Contact Cheryl Bollinger at (517) 545-9153.

Arise Update: Moving From Visioning to Results

From 11/12/05 to 10/8/06, a group of 12-15 leaders from Arise met for eight sessions of three hours, each, to discuss the current reality and future vision for Arise. This process began with Pastor Doug McMunn, and has been continued with Pastor Don Weatherup. It has been communicated to the broader congregation in town meetings, newsletter articles and other messages, and included:

- Affirming and/or revitalizing the Core Values, Purpose, Vision and Mission of Arise.
- Visioning where we want to be at Arise, five years from now.

- Considering the current reality - how time and resources are used in today's activities
- Identifying programs and activities that are desired, but missing
- Prioritizing gaps between the current reality and desired vision
- Agreeing on four overarching strategic initiatives, with several strategic objectives under each. Following discussion with the broader Arise congregation, these will be the basis for teams and committees to set goals and take action, beginning in 2007.

Summary of Purpose, Core Values, Vision & Mission and Strategies

It is understood that the broader purpose of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Under that command, Arise has formed the following:

Purpose:

To live a Christian faith that is exciting, practical and relevant every day.

Core Values:

- **Lordship:** Jesus is Lord
- **Biblical:** The Bible is our inspired and authoritative source of Christian faith and practice
- **Covenant:** We are highly committed to Christ and one another as members of Christ's body, the church
- **Celebration:** We worship and praise God in ways that are relevant to our community
- **Ministry:** We are gifted to serve others and share God's love



Vision & Mission:

Growing in God's love and passing it on.

Strategic Initiatives, with Strategic Objectives under each:

Growing Spiritually

1. Offer short-term special topic studies to be held at various times
2. Grow new Life Teams
3. Discover Spiritual gifts and match them with the needs of the church



Meaningful Missions

1. Participate in hands-on missionary work
2. Pay Conference apportionments at 100%



Experiencing Worship

1. Maintain highly skilled and consistent musicians
2. Promote high energy and participation
3. Welcome visitors and plan to orient them to membership

Caring Community

1. Plan and implement events for fun and fellowship
2. Offer events and experiences that deepen Christian relationships
3. Develop intentional programs and ministries to help people in our congregation struggling with challenging and potentially stressful life issues such as divorce, job loss, addictions, new baby, illnesses, etc.



Throughout 2007 and beyond, you will be invited to participate in these new or continuing initiatives and objectives. Thanks to all who have been involved in this journey!

Growing Spiritually



Arise has begun 2007 with an even broader commitment to spiritual growth for all ages, with 10 am Sunday School programs for Children (Jen Wagner, Vicki Dawson) and Adults (Jean Oxender), Kids Club during the Praise Worship (Judy Miller), and the continuation of L.I.F.E teams, including

Men's Huddle (Lance Korzilius), Wednesday Night Bible Study (Ron & Gayle Fike), TGIF Sisters (Sherry Graham), Threads of Faith (Beth Plachta) and Youth (Cheryl Bollinger). These programs and activities support our strategic goals, and all are invited to attend those of interest.



Al Smith gives the Children's Message during the Praise Worship, on January 7th.

Adult Sunday School Comes to Arise



It's here! Sunday School for adults has been added to the Sunday worship and learning experience. Class was well attended on the first day of this new Sunday schedule, January 7. Adults meet in the first

service space at 10 am immediately following the early worship service.

Under the guidance of Jean Oxender, adults began a 27 week video series entitled "That the World May Know". The film started with an introduction by James Dobson of Focus on the Family, describing his moving trip to Israel a few years ago. Instead of making the usual tourist stops in the Holy Land, his group, led by Ray Vander Laan, from Grand Rapids, Michigan, went into more remote areas of the country. They saw actual

historical sites where Old and New Testament events occurred and were intrigued with Ray's gift of making Bible stories come alive with his knowledge of those times and the ability to make them relevant for life today.

Determined to share this unique experience with as many people as possible, a film crew returned with Ray on another trip and this video series is the result. Jean is quick to point out that attendees will learn a lot about the culture, geography and history of the Holy Land during this series. But both Jean and Ray Vander Laan assert that watching a travelogue is not the intent of these videos. "The purpose of this class and my hope for all of you," Jean told the class, "is that each of you will be drawn closer to the Lord Jesus Christ through this experience." Under Jean's skilled facilitation, adults have a lot to look forward to in the months ahead at Arise Sunday School, and newcomers are welcome at any time. Thank you, Jean, for sharing your gift of teaching and this fascinating series with us!

Children's Sunday School is BIG news!

"God is a great BIG God. God loves us with a great BIG love. We are part of God's great BIG world!" These are the three BIG truths behind our new Sunday School curriculum. We started using the Live BIG materials in September. Striving towards consistent Christian education for

our children is an ongoing goal. With this goal in mind, we have decided to use one lead teacher for grades pre-school through first grade and another lead teacher for grades two through four. Mrs. Anita Pagano teaches



(L to R) Wilson & Myles Wagner, Ross & Ben Richards and Jacob Russell listen to Sunday School lessons

the younger class and Mrs. Jen Wagner teaches the older class. Each Sunday a teacher's aide is assigned to help in the classroom. The children who attend regularly will quickly grow comfortable with these familiar adult faces. Learning can only happen when kids feel safe.

As of now, the format is as follows: at 10:00 A.M. all of the children

gather in the media center for attendance and the DVD portion of the lesson (which includes a skit and the song of the month), then Mrs. Pagano's class leaves for the art room and Mrs. Wagner's class stays in the media center. The lesson is the same for both age groups, but activities are tailored for a developmentally appropriate fit.

Anyone who is interested in becoming an aide or substitute aide/teacher, please contact Vicki Dawson. If you have questions about the curriculum, please contact Jen Wagner. We plan on having monthly teacher meetings at 6:30 P.M. on the fourth Tuesday of the month (location may vary). A solid Christian education is the most important asset we will give our children. We look forward to this priceless opportunity of building strong foundations.

Jen Wagner, Co-coordinator

Jammin' Kids Grow through Ringing!

What a great December we had with ringin' and singin'! The "Kids" were Jammin' to "Jingle Bells" and played percussion instruments while singing loud and clear. On Christmas Eve we rang beautifully to "Silver Bells," one of the longest songs in our repertoire.



Arise Jammin' Kids!

We are a fun group of musically multi-talented kids aged 4-10 (grades pre-K thru 4th. grade). We would love to have all kids of Arise join us for this fun, lively Life Team, the smallest at Arise. We learn about God, pray for one another (and our congregation) and sing and ring our little hearts out. What a joy for me to be a part of these little lives. Come join us on the 1st & 3rd Sundays at 9:00am in the Art Room. We would love to play with you!

*Vicki Dawson, Arise Jammin' Kids
Ringleader (810) 231-9226*

A "Sweet" Idea for Arise Youth

Beginning January 14, an innovative new fundraising program to support Arise youth missions begins. Arise member, Al Smith, has donated several retail candy vending machines that he owns in the area for the youth to monitor and fill with candy to generate income toward a youth missions fund. The youth look forward to this fun new way of earning money for a great cause. Thanks to Al for this generous gift!

Other youth news includes a new meeting time—now in the West Pod during the Sunday School hour at 10 am. A DVD "Nooma Series" by Rob Bell is being used by the group. They view a weekly segment that challenges viewers to examine their thoughts and beliefs about God and their faith. This is followed up with a group discussion and exchange of ideas after the film. "It's a really interesting series," says their teacher, Cheryl Bollinger, "and is good for adults and L.I.F.E. teams to use, as well. Arise owns this and we're glad to share it."

Currently, all ages of youth are meeting as one large group. Brenda Whalen, Sherry Graham, Pastor Don

and Shelley Weatherup often help during the evening youth events. But as the sole youth leader for Spiritual Development on Sunday mornings right now, Cheryl says there is a great need for another adult to help her. "This way, classes can be split into grades 5-8 and 9-12, making the age interactions more age appropriate for all youth involved," she says. If you would enjoy working with middle school or high school youth in this ministry and showing them that they are an important part of the Arise church family, contact Cheryl Bollinger at (517) 545-9153.

Jason Janovitz:... continued from pg. 1

me is not really the results; it's doing what I'm called to do, faithfully." Purpose is very important to Jason. As a junior in high school, he came to know Jesus in a personal way after a long journey of understanding and exploration, with the support of Arise Youth Minister Johnny Aho and, later, Steve Raymond. "When I sit back and reflect on it, my life is infinitely better just because I know Jesus... Christianity showed me the path I could walk and have the most fulfilling life I could have. If I could ever give that to somebody...I'd love to be there and walk alongside of them."

His advice to other young people is to "make sure you're listening to God for your calling. Don't start with what you want and then ask God for confirmation. It's more 'God what do you want me to do?' Really, for kids to do that... just to sit down and have presence of mind; that would help them immensely to take life as it comes, and go where they're supposed to go. I've seen so many people who have changed majors 4-6 times. Talk to God. Don't just

continued on pg. 6

Meet the Band!

by Sally Guyon, Singer



Sally Guyon

(Note: This article is part of a series begun in November)

This month I would like to tell you a little about myself and the beginning of my involvement in music. But first, a little bit about my family. I have been married to Richard for 23 years and we have two children, Dan, 21 and Katherine, 20. They are at MSU studying Engineering and Psychology, respectively. We

have lived in Pinckney for 22 years where we bought our first house, and have been attending Arise just about from the beginning. Richard has served as Lay Leader and Council chair, and is currently on the Staff/Parish Relations Committee. In addition to my involvement with the Praise Band and Choir over the years, I have served on the Building Committee for almost 5 years.

I grew up in Dearborn with a love for music, primarily dancing to it anywhere I could, including ballet and jazz lessons for several years in my adolescence. I began at about 5 years old, but quit after a few years despite encouragement and acknowledgment of some talent by the dance school owner to continue, and pleading from my mother and grandmother to return. All I can say is that I remember a feeling of being afraid to be a good dancer and didn't have the confidence or belief in myself to continue. Richard and I took some ballroom and jitterbug classes about 20 years ago, and have had a blast going out dancing, at weddings, etc., although we've slowed down a bit now.

While growing up I never sang in church or school choirs (didn't think I could) and didn't play a band instrument (unless you count the flutophone in 5th grade!), but did learn to play guitar (slightly) and sang and harmonized with a friend when we spent the night at each other's house, singing 60's era folk songs. I sold my guitar in college because I needed the money, and outside of playing Raffi and Gemini tapes for our kids and singing along, this leads me to the present... the last 10 years at Arise.

It wasn't until about 7-8 years ago when I began singing with the Praise Singers, our Arise adult choir under Steve Raymond's direction, that I truly began to learn how to use my voice: working on shaping vowels, breathing technique, resonance in the "mask" (face), scales and much more. I had never sung in front of anyone other than my friend and my kids. I took private lessons with Steve for a couple of years, and as daunting as it was, he

had me learning 17th & 18th century Italian arias, in Italian!, right from the beginning. A year ago last August I auditioned for the Livingston County Women's Chorus, a goal of mine once my kids went on to college. That Fall our chorus of 70 women and an Ann Arbor 90-man chorus sang along with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and 3 soloists for 4 nights at Orchestra Hall, singing Tony award-winning songs from Broadway musicals. It was such a thrill! This never would have been possible if not for Arise, because I wouldn't have had the confidence or belief in myself to try out for the Chorus. This year I began singing with Ladies First, a group of 20 women selected from the Women's Chorus, which has been very rewarding as well.

I still don't usually believe I am good enough to do solos, but I know that I am realizing a dream by having learned a little at a time here at Arise... that through belief in God, the source of our strength, wonderful things happen. I would like to thank Steve Raymond, my teacher, and Marriane McMunn for her encouragement and friendship. My purpose for sharing this story is to give back to Arise and God what they so freely gave to me... by encouraging anyone out there who has an ear to come join us, because if I can do it, so can you!

(Ed. Thanks, Sally...for this wonderful testimonial to God's gifts and the use you've made of them!)

Jason Janovitz:... continued from pg. 5

fly by the seat of your pants. Having a plan is SO much better than taking a shot in the dark. And for parents, totally... give your kids advice. One of the best ways to confirm your calling is from another Christian who has been praying with you, so do that with your kids. Listen and talk. If it seems to be OK, don't just shoot it down. That would be impeding God's work...which is a sin. In the end it's really about relying on God for where you're going to go. At any age...you're always relying on God. Really...get steeped in prayer. Instead of always asking for things, ask where you should be going and what you should be doing."

So what does the future hold after graduation? Jason will be seeking a part or full-time job as a youth minister. "I'm a big believer in family, so I'd like to stay in Michigan for that reason." He offers his thanks to mom and dad, Ellen and Pete, for their continuing spiritual, emotional and financial support, as well as to all of his church family at Arise. Back at 'cha, Jason! Thanks to you for your many church ministries and for the powerful role model that you are for our youth!

FEBRUARY 2007 CALENDAR

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday _____

9:00 am
Spirited Traditional
Worship
10:00 am
Sunday School
11:00 am
Contemporary Praise
Worship

Monday _____

7:00 pm
Men's Huddle
(contact Lance Korzilius)

Wednesday _____





10:00 am
Worship Design
7:00 pm
Wednesday-Night Bible
Study
(contact Ron or Gayle Fike)

7:30 pm
Walking Team

Saturday _____

8:30 pm
Young Adult LIFE Team

*I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you
along straight paths. —Proverbs 4:11 (NIV)*

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
January 28	29	30	31	1		3 Ann Arbor District Leadership Training
4 Holy Communion Boy Scout Sunday, Soup-er Bowl Sunday Jammin' Kids; 9 am	5	6 Church Council 7 pm	7	8	9 TGIF Sisters	10
11 Blood Pressure Screening	12 Threads of Faith at Plachta's 7 pm	13	14 Valentine's Day 	15	16	17
18 Transfiguration Sunday Jammin' Kids; 9 am	19 President's Day 	20	21 7 pm 	22	23 TGIF Sisters	24
25 Lenten Study Begins	26 Newsletter folding	27 Sunday School teachers meeting 6:30 pm	28	1	2 World Day of Prayer	3

May 5th
Save the date,
Arise women!
Plans are underway for the Annual Women's Conference/Retreat, to be held again at the Mophew's home, from 8:30 am to 4 pm. Stay tuned for details to come!

Volunteers Needed: Relay for Life Captain Needed

Arise needs a volunteer to be this year's Relay for Life Team Captain. Relay for Life is an American Cancer Society event which raises money to find a cure. May 18-19, 2007, Arise plans to have a team walking the track at Brighton High School. Would you like to be the one to organize the walker schedule, line up refreshment donations, and register our team at the event? If so, please contact Diane Gould (734) 665-8997.

Hospitality

I'm back, and will need some people to sign up to help me with the hospitality ministry. What we need (since I can't be there every week) is someone from the first service to make coffee, punch, etc. and put the refreshments out, and someone from the second service to clean up, empty the juice and coffee pot, wash them out and put them away. Please contact me or sign up after church on the white board if you are able to serve, when needed. My thanks to all who have furnished or done any of the above while I was absent. God bless each of you.

Dorothy Winslow, Hospitality Chair

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January/February Anniversaries

1/5/82 Vlad & Norine Bibicoff - **Happy 25th!**

2/3/78 E.J. & Kim Sherry

January/February Birthdays

1/2 Wesley Richards
1/4 Carolyn Stafford
1/6 Judy Miller
1/12 Norma Topp
1/22 Jerry Dawson
1/23 Ellen Russell
1/24 Jewell Smith
1/25 Jeremy Bartel

1/26 Edwin Sherry
Gene Smith
1/27 Evva Funk
2/1 Tony Whalen
2/7 Gayle Fike
Noah Sherry
2/9 Rick Beaudin

2/12 Natalie Sherry
Anjalie Sherry
2/17 Ian Donovan
2/19 Laurie Russell
Myles Wagner
2/23 Jenell Barnard
2/25 Gary Miller

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