

# Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



March 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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## Trustees: A Study in Stewardship

If you've ever wondered who handles all of the issues and opportunities related to Arise property, equipment and other assets...from musical to lawn mowers to the parsonage...it's the Trustees. If you think YOU have problems getting routine maintenance done at your home, multiply that a couple of times to understand what they do!

Deb Short and Norma Topp have co-chaired the Trustees Committee, comprised of Mark Wood, Merilee Zane and Wayne Kieb. Both Deb and Mark have now completed their terms, and Norma will continue co-chairing with Merilee. New members are Tim Richards and Jack Dunlap. Welcome! A big thanks to Deb and Mark for their significant commitments, along with many others who have previously served in this capacity, including Paul Smith, Donna and Tom Terhune. Mark, of course, continues his important work supervising the Arise building effort, and Deb continues on the Missions and Lay Leadership Committees.

Deb accepted this leadership responsibility from 2003 - 2006, after serving on the hospitality team and Staff Parish Relations Committee. "There are a lot of things that people don't understand; it's like maintaining your house. We're



**Deb Short**



**Merilee Zane**



**Norma Topp**

the committee that readies the barn for summer worship and Vacation Bible School, figures out where we will be in the winter, and gets phone calls about leaks in the basement or broken hot water pipes." It's a large job, including getting the grass mowed, securing permission for school bonfires and camping, safety and legal requirements, and anything else that comes up. "You just get it done."

"The biggest thing was preparing the parsonage when we changed pastors," Deb continues. "We only had one week to move the McMunn's out, clean, paint and move the Weatherup's in." Norma adds, "That was panic mode for a few minutes. Jack did all of the painting. Doug left at 5 pm on Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, with the Weatherup's coming in on Monday of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. It was crazy." They are quick to acknowledge the twenty-some volunteers who pitched in to get it done. As Norma says, "Trustees can only be as productive as the congregation allows. We had lots of teamwork and volunteers; there is no way we could thank everyone enough!"

*continued on pg. 2*

## Pastor's Column



**Pastor Don Weatherup**

the people of Arise very much. I am feeling comfortable with you. So now it's time to reveal yet another side of myself that you don't know.

Please remember we are friends. Don't laugh.

I absolutely love the television elimination programs. Not all of them. But I do have

my favorites. I love "Top Chef" on TLC. "Project Runway" on Bravo. "American Idol" on Fox. My brand new guilty pleasure is "Top Design" on TLC. Why do I like these shows? I tend to like non-fiction things more than fiction. Real life things have always appealed to me more than something someone made up in their head. Then there is the drama! Watching the way people interact between one another when they are in competition is fascinating. It's a sociologist's dream. The judges also intrigue me and what makes them tick? Why do they like what they like? Fascinating.

Once I started seeing American Idol commercials in the Fall, I could hardly wait until it started. I enjoy the blend of people that are great singers along with those that can't sing one note in tune. I laugh, along with the rest of America, when a contestant professes that they are an incredible singer and then at their audition, it's obvious they are tone deaf.

What is interesting in all of these shows is that the contestants have lots to say about what talents they possess or how good they are, but their real side comes out when the rubber meets the road and they are in the trenches cooking, designing a room, singing, or making clothes – whatever the task is for the program they are appearing on.

I wonder what would happen if I started a new television program. We could put it on the local cable channel. I'll call it "Top Christian." We will send a camera around to film each of you living your

daily life. We'll see who can compete to be the best Christian at Arise Church.

Hang on one minute. Let me think about this.

Never mind. Bad idea. We would probably all want to be Simon, Paula or Randy. I suspect we would all want to be judges, because all of us would fall short on video. If we were a judge instead of a contestant then people would not see the "real us." It would be easier to judge other people than to have our lives exposed for what they really are. Sounds like real life doesn't it?

But Wait!.....This is great news! The Executive Producer of "Top Christian" has informed us that instead of showing the video of our lives, He will show the video of His life in our place. Accept His free offer and all of your day-to-day mistakes will never make it to air. Wow. What a relief. You can be "Top Christian" after all. Thank you Executive Producer – Jesus.

With you on the journey,

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### **Trustees:...** *continued from pg. 5*

Merilee is looking forward to co-chairing with Norma, and has some ideas involving landscaping. "We're God's caretakers. My own vision of that is unlimited possibilities for outreach. Personally, for me, gardening is therapeutic. We're interested in putting in a memorial garden. Our main concern is getting the new church built and down the road, there will be opportunities to come out and work with the land. This could be a way for people to give back to God in their own way, through nature."

Shorter term, there are 1-2 congregation work days per year, with the next scheduled on April 28<sup>th</sup> for spring cleanup, to go in barn; clean up and clean out. All members of the Arise community are encouraged to participate. Stay tuned for details.

We are grateful to the Trustees for the stewardship that they provide, and especially thank Deb and Mark, as they step down from these responsibilities and focus on others. Well done, good and faithful servants!

# Experiencing Worship

By Kevin Griffin

*(This is the first in a series of articles by Kevin about the Worship Experience.)*



There's a current song on Christian radio that talks about how we were created to worship and the singer proclaims that she chooses to worship God. This song expresses that our desire to worship was created in us by God Himself and is meant to be directed towards Him.

Isn't it amazing that God created within us this innate desire to direct our devotion outside of

ourselves! And He has given us the free will to choose whom we will worship. We can see this in the plethora of religions in the world and the ways that all of them incorporate prayers and other forms of worship into their ritual. Even those who say they don't believe in the spiritual (God or anything else) still can't escape the need to uphold someone or something as their focus, as their guide, as their god.

Another aspect of worship is that it does something to us. This isn't the central point of worship but it is an effect

that it has on us. We become attached emotionally and spiritually to the person or object that is worshipped. As people who worship Jesus Christ, it is also a two way street as we commune with Him and He with us. Worship helps to build our relationship with God and affects us in how we live our life.

It is through sin, original and otherwise, that we direct our worship to other gods as our desires and priorities stray from communion with our Creator. Whether they be images, ideas, persons or practices, we are caught in this battle of allegiance as to who will receive our tribute, our worship, our sacrifice of time, talent, energy, resources, etc.

That's why worshipping anyone or thing other than God is idolatry. **We are offering our devotion to someone or something other than the One who created us.**

It is a conscious decision on our part to turn our hearts and minds to God and to make Jesus the center of our worship and devotion.

As we gather together to worship, let's come with our hearts and minds ready to offer praise to our God and Savior! Let it be a time spent together as a community to focus again on the One who is worthy of our worship.

# Playing Piano with a JOYful Heart

Joy Thiessen is an accomplished keyboardist and the newest addition to our Arise music team. Having majored in piano and composition at Hillsdale College, she is currently working on audition pieces and taking piano lessons in order to get her Master's degree in piano pedagogy. "What I'd really like to do is teach piano at the college level," Joy said, smiling. Asked if she has been an accompanist for other churches, she described her summer job last year. "I worked for a small non-denominational church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where I played keyboard and also led worship sometimes."



Joy also has a lovely voice and has joined the Praise Band in song on some occasions.

Joy grew up in a suburb of Chicago, and just recently moved from Howell to Hillsdale, where she has been hired to take care of a coin collection the college owns. Luckily for Arise, she saw our advertisement on a bulletin board in a music store near home and now plans to commute from Hillsdale to Pinckney to accompany us during Sunday worship. In her spare time, she enjoys playing basketball, running and likes to attend concerts. Thank you for sharing your gift of music, Joy! We're very glad to have you with us.

# Building Project



## Property History

In November 2000, Arise, in conjunction with the Ann Arbor District of the United Methodist Church, purchased 20 acres of property on Dexter-Pinckney Rd. in Pinckney. The property is located one mile south of the new high school and includes a home (parsonage), a small tack barn, a “traditional” barn and a large pole barn.

## Project Overview

Arise engaged The Meier Group Architects, PLC of Ann Arbor to work with our Building Committee to create a Master Plan for the development of Arise Acres. The Master Plan has two major phases. For financial reasons, Phase 1 has been divided into two stages.

Our initial project, Phase 1, Stage 1 of our Master Plan, is the renovation and expansion of an existing 2,950 sq. ft. barn into a Worship Center and multi-purpose space. A 2,250 sq. ft. expansion will be

added to the barn to create classroom, restroom and mechanical space. This initial project will allow the Arise congregation to worship and conduct a variety of other activities on our property year-round. It will take us from being a mobile church to a congregation with a home. We believe this change will result in substantial growth. Attached are schematic drawings of the exterior elevation and floor plan for this stage of our Phase 1, Stage 1 project.

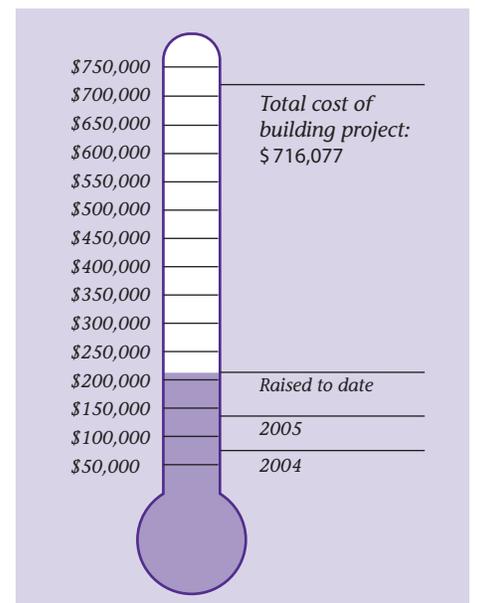
Later phases include Phase 1, Stage 2 of our Master Plan to build a larger worship/multi-purpose space, additional classrooms, a small kitchen and office space. The worship space in the renovated barn would become a youth center. Phase 2 of our Master Plan includes a sanctuary with seating for 350 people, additional classrooms and a large kitchen facility. Some existing classroom space may be converted to office space, as needed, and the worship/multi-purpose space will become a fellowship hall.

## Building fund progress

■ We started the renovation and expansion of the traditional barn to create a multi-purpose worship

area, classrooms and a nursery, and have spent just over \$110,000 on the project in 2006. Much progress has been made, with much more work ahead of us in our “Build as We Give” project.

■ Based on current assumptions, the renovation and expansion of the barn and site work is expected to cost \$716,077. We hope to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy and begin worshipping in the renovated barn before completing all the site work required by the township and county.



Note: income supports both the building project and the annual land mortgage payment of \$34,676)

The cost to complete the barn, utilities, well, septic field, etc. is estimated at \$538,104. We have raised a total of \$199,716 as of 12/31/06, and still need another \$338,338 to begin worshipping in our own facility.

■ When the property was purchased in 2000, Arise was not a Chartered church of the United Methodist Church. The Ann Arbor District of the United Methodist Church secured the bank financing for the purchase and hold the

Deed on the property. The District has agreed to work with us to finance our Phase 1, Stage 1 project. The commercial loan was recently renegotiated with a new term and interest rate, lowering our payments by almost \$1,000. We are also seeking additional financing in the form of a line of credit, construction loan or other instrument to finance a portion of the project during construction. We also plan to use significant volunteer labor and cash to finance the balance of the project costs.

## What Else Can We Do?

*(This is the first in a series of suggestions for Creative Giving to the Arise Land & Building Fund, for your consideration. All ideas are welcome!)*

- **Pay your Arise pledge early.**
- **Collect your spare change in a jar and donate it when it gets full; encourage your children to participate.**
- **Tithe your tax return.**

## 2006 Arise Missions: Our Community, Our Country, Our World

Wonder where your Arise missions giving goes, and what lives are touched? Read on...

### COMMUNITY

**REACH Program:** Arise members made dinner and chaperoned overnight local homeless.

**Gleaners Livingston County Food Pantry:** 636 meals and \$450 (August food drive, Soup-er Bowl).

**CROP Walk:** \$860 to Gleaners help feed area hungry; thanks to Rob Wagner for organizing!

**Local Needy Family Outreach:** Weekly contributions provide gift cards for area residents in critical need.

**Salvation Army Angel Tree:** Members bought gifts for area families at Christmas.

**Livingston County Habitat for Humanity, Brighton:** \$50 toward housing

### UNITED STATES

**Potato Feast:** \$198 was sent to St. Andrew's for produce distribution to hungry in U.S.

**Relay for Life:** Almost \$3,000 to the Relay for Life campaign, thanks to the awareness brought to us by Diane Gould and Jen Wagner.

**Tim and Carol Crawford, Kentucky:** \$200 in missions support to impoverished areas of Kentucky.

**Samaritan Counseling Center:** \$150 was sent for emotional support for those who can least afford it.

**Human Relations Day:** \$33 in support of U.S. urban community relations and social justice.

**Native American Ministries Sunday offering:** \$33 to help Native American missions ministry.

**Golden Cross:** \$33 to support health ministries.

**Rural Life Sunday:** \$33 to support rural life and ministry in the United States

### WORLD (GLOBALLY)

**One Great Hour of Sharing offering:** \$125.30 to UMCOR global ministry assistance.

**Peace with Justice Sunday offering:** \$88 to help promote interfaith peace missions.

**Operation Christmas Child:** Arise provided 118 boxes of toys and supplies, plus \$700 in shipping costs.

**Youth Trip to Mexico:** \$1,979.40 to send our youth on a memorable mission trip to Mexico.

### LIBERIA, AFRICA

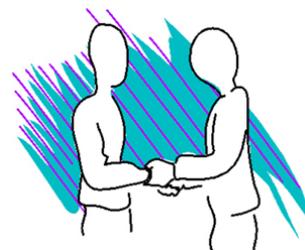
**Liberia, Africa:** 118 health and school kits plus \$700 shipping for basic necessities

**Liberia Street Children:** Arise Vacation Bible School donated \$135 to help feed Liberia Street Children.

**Liberia Conference Covenant:** \$150 help the Liberia Task Force connect with our Detroit Conference.

**Grand Bassa County, SW Liberia:** Prayer and financial support for our partner congregation

**Yaeway Camp UM Church** in St. John River District, Superintendent Rev. Nellie Wright; \$130 to **Pastor's Salary Support** and \$705 was sent for a vehicle.



## Meet the Band!

by Sally Guyon, Singer



**Sally Guyon**

This is the last installment featuring members of the Arise Praise bands. We hope you have enjoyed learning something new about each person and have an understanding of how music has influenced their lives, and particularly, how God and music have been partners in making these people who they are today.

Rich and Pat Sliter, married 22 years, have been attending Arise since its beginning and have lived in Pinckney for 14 years. Their son Josh is 19 and is studying architecture at Lawrence Tech. Rich was born into a musical family in Henderson, N.Y, and began entertaining at age 13. He and his two brothers and father provided entertainment for various church functions and also played at area supper clubs, singing country and bluegrass accompanied by guitar, bass and drums. For about 7 years he and his brothers played in a band called Mike White and the Sliter Brothers for Jamboree USA, a television program which is still being broadcast on some channels today.

A recording studio built in the basement is where Rich spends his free time unwinding, writing, recording, and arranging music for himself and others. He is currently writing music to accompany a documentary that some of his friends are producing for an upstate New York PBS station. Rich began playing in the Arise Praise bands after asking Steve Raymond, former music director at Arise, whether he needed a bass player, to which there was a resounding "yes!". Rich really enjoys playing and arranging music for Arise and feels it makes a difference in the worship experience when the music is really touching the band members, which draws the congregation in through the music to worship God.

Pat grew up in Roseville, MI as one of 5 kids in a strict Italian home. She graduated from Northeastern University

in Boston with a BS in Business with a Marketing concentration. She operated two consulting practices over 12 years to stay home with Josh. Besides working full time as Director of Corporate Marketing for Rowe, Inc. in Flint, she fulfills her desire to support non-profit organizations by donating her time on the YMCA board.

Pat always loved drums and would have liked to play in the high school marching band, but it wasn't until Rich encouraged her to take conga lessons so she could accompany his group when they played in local clubs, that she really developed her drumming ability. She would practice what she learned by playing along with the radio, and says that playing the drums helps alleviate any stress caused by her intense professional life. Pat says that playing with the Praise band has helped to make her faith stronger, and she feels closer to God through the music.

Eric Tice has been attending Arise from the beginning with his family, Laurie and Ken Watson, and siblings Ryan, 19 and Nicole, 11, and has lived in Pinckney for 13 years. He is currently a student at Eastern Michigan University studying Music Education, and hopes to be a choir teacher in public school one day. In the future he

would like to teach music to less fortunate kids who would like to pursue music, but can't afford lessons.

We will never forget Eric as Being Solomon in "The Secret of My Success", a musical starring the Arise Kids, when Eric was 11. He credits Steve Raymond, former Music Director at Arise, as being his mentor and getting him started in singing and performing. Johnny Aho, former "The Ride" youth band director was also instrumental in shaping Eric's love for music and bringing out his gift of singing. After Johnny moved to California, Eric learned to play guitar and formed a youth band with Nate and Jake McMann.

Local coffee shops in Pinckney and Dexter have had the pleasure of featuring Eric and his guitar on several occasions. Eric has a passion for music, performing, and God, and says when you put them all together, it's awesome! When he's not practicing or performing, Eric likes to stay active playing sports, watching movies and hanging out with his friends.



**Rich & Pat Sliter**



**Eric Tice**

# MARCH 2007 CALENDAR

*You were created to be a masterpiece of God  
—John Ortberg, The Life You've Always Wanted*

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

| Sun   | Mon   | Tues   | Wed                            | Thurs | Fri                             | Sat  |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>February 25</b><br>Lenten Study Begins<br>Services @ 9 & 11<br>Sunday School @ 10<br>Secret Pal Sunday<br>12:30 pm Youth Lazer Tag | 26  | 27<br>10 AM Newsletter folding<br>6:30 pm – Sunday School Teachers Meeting | 28                             | 1     | 2<br><b>World Day of Prayer</b> | 3<br>9 – 3 am, Bishop's Day for Evangelism & Stewardship, First UMC Saline |
| 4<br>Holy Communion<br>9 am – Arise Jammin' Kids Practice   | 5   | 6<br>Church Council, 7 pm  | 7                              | 8     | 9<br>TGIF Sisters               | 10   |
| 11<br>Blood Pressure Screening<br>Girl Scout Sunday<br>Daylight Savings Time Begins   | 12<br>Threads of Faith at Plachta's<br>7 pm | 13   | 14                             | 15    | 16                              | 17<br><b>St. Patrick's Day</b>   |
| 18  | 19  | 20   | 21                             | 22    | 23<br>TGIF Sisters              | 24   |
| 25<br>3:30 – Youth Worship @ Mars Hill Church – Meet Rob Bell   | 26  | 27<br>10 am Newsletter folding<br>6:30 pm – Sunday School Teachers Meeting | 28<br>7 pm – Worship Committee | 29    | 30                              | 31   |

### May 5th

### Save the date, Arise women!

Plans are underway for the Annual Women's Conference/Retreat, to be held again at the Morphew's home, from 8:30 am to 4 pm. Stay tuned for details to come!



"Miss Judy" Miller works with the Arise Kid's Club Life Team, which meets during 2<sup>nd</sup> Service, shown making pine cone bird feeders



Arise Ministry Center  
11211 Dexter-Pinckney Rd.  
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### *March Anniversaries*

3/10 Doug & Marianne McMunn

### *March Birthdays*

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 3/1 Danielle Weatherup  | 3/17 Rob Dice       |
| 3/3 Paul Pagano         | Conner Graham       |
| 3/10 Nancy Swartzwelter | 3/23 Mary Dice      |
| 3/13 Kelley Boyes       | 3/28 Rachel Beaudin |
| 3/14 Chris Seering      | 3/30 Al Smith       |

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