



Arise
A United Methodist Church

Ministers
Every member of the Church

Pastor
Donald Weatherup

Director of Music
Kevin Griffin

Administrative Assistant
Dave Russell

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See pages 4-5 for photos and reflections on the wonderful Arise Easter celebration!

Peeking Behind the Curtain: A Look at the SPRC

Ever wonder how the human resource work of Arise gets done? The Staff Parish Relations



Outgoing SPRC chair, Barbara Wood (L) and current chair, Rich Guyan (R)

Committee (SPRC) is the committee responsible for overseeing the recruitment, evaluation, compensation, feedback and recommendations regarding paid Arise staff, which is the Pastor, Music Director and Administrative Assistant. For the past three years it has been headed by Barbara Wood, who handed over the chairmanship to Rich Guyon in January. Says Barbara, "We're sort of the human resources of the local church, and we report to the Pastor's boss, the District Superintendent. It's all about managing relationships." They meet at least four times per year, more if needed. The SPRC chair also holds a seat on Church Council.

In addition to Barbara, former members include; Jan Richards, Laurel Hubbard, Vicki Dawson, and Tom Terhune. Current members are Rich, Sherry Graham, Carrie Germain, Ken Pargulski and Joyce Barnard. Jan likens the responsibility of working with SPRC issues that are important and often confidential to "peeking behind the curtain at Disney Land". They are the inner processes and issues of which members of the congregation are often unaware.

In 2006, of course, a major part of their work involved the pastoral change. "It was a surprise. We hadn't asked for a change, nor

had he. People wondered why? We weren't sure if the district would pay attention to what we needed, but they did. We really felt that they did listen to us and the whole process was very prayerful," Barbara reflects.

An important part of the ongoing SPRC role is to listen to complaints (and occasionally compliments!) from the congregation, make sure that all parties are heard, evaluate options and make recommendations and/or give feedback to the pastor and staff. She adds, "The pastor can't be all things to all people; it's a difficult job." In fact, conflict resolution is an emerging role for churches everywhere, including our own Ann Arbor District. "Maybe our lives have gotten out of control," Barbara speculates. "More people are questioning things in general." For this reason, she and others have participated in courses offered by the district on congregational resilience.

Actually, Barbara sees the ways that we manage conflict as one opportunity to lead *continued on pg. 6*

Women's Retreat May 5th!



Pastors Lynn Martin (L) of Community Congregational Church and Kristi Sigal (R) of Milan UMC will be featured speakers. See p. 7 for more information.

Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

I was in a store a few weeks ago and my attention was drawn to a small carousel of inspirational plaques. One that caught my attention was one that said, "A family that plays together stays together." Let me explain why it caught my attention that day.

Countless times I've heard people talk about how much work it is to be a mobile church. And now that I've experienced it, I can see it, and I can feel it! Ministry as a mobile church is indeed more work. The good news of course is that we have solid plans to overcome that obstacle with the new building. Progress is being made but it seems like it can't come soon enough.

I've talked to many of you who are tired and wonder if the challenges will ever end? It is very, very difficult to continue as a mobile church PLUS to take on the building project simultaneously. In addition, we're doing our best to improve our ministries so that people are attracted to Arise Church so it can grow. That takes work. On top of that we continue to reach out in mission to people around town and all over the world. Let there be no doubt, it's all hard work.

It's my job as your pastor and leader to point out the good news and to encourage you. I hope I am doing that. There is plenty of good news!

Progress is being made every week on the new building. Our limiting factor is money. At the rate we are giving it will take another 3 years or so to purchase all the supplies and some contracting work to fully complete the project. But here is the fantastic news; when we get there – what a celebration it will be! We will be in our own debt free facility and will happily decommission the moving team. No more searching bins for supplies. We will have a place for the band to practice. It will be great! In the midst of the challenges we face today, please don't lose sight of the bigger picture that lies ahead. What we are doing today really is worth the work. We do it to the glory of God! The seeds we plant today will produce fruit for many generations to come. Today we endure because one day we will celebrate.

So why do I mention all of this? Because that plaque reminded me of something that Arise Church decided as part of our 5-year strategies and objectives: "Plan and implement events for fun and fellowship."

I think our leaders came up with this objective because many of us are tired and are in need of refreshment and revival. Make no mistake—our biggest hope for revival is to continue turning to God for strength, endurance, peace and joy. But I would like Arise Church to take another important step. I would like us to get serious about having fun together.

We desperately need to get together as a church for just plain ol' fun. We need events that require very little work, very few volunteers, and a big focus on fun. I am in the process now of trying to organize those events and I need your ideas. For example, the Morpheus's have invited people to their home the third Friday of every month to play Euchre for the sole purpose of having fun. The Plachta's are organizing Friendship Meals in May and June where Arise friends can share a potluck in each other's homes—another opportunity for fun and fellowship. Both great ideas!

What fun events would appeal to a broad spectrum of Arise Church people? The rule is that they MUST be very easy to implement. It would not make sense for us to have fun together if we need to work like dogs to make it happen. So what ideas do you have? Here are a couple of mine:

- Have a kite-flying afternoon at Arise Acres.
- Attend a Lansing Lugnuts baseball game during one of their "Christian Nights."
- Take a chartered boat tour of the chain of lakes in the Fall.
- Start a Sunday night campfire time at Arise Acres with singing...BYOM... bring your own marshmallows.



It's always time to get serious about God, but now I think God is calling us to be serious about fun, fellowship and renewal! I'm waiting to hear from you.

With you on the journey,

Rev. Don Weatherup



Maundy Thursday: Remember Me

“Do this in remembrance of me.” These words of Jesus are still echoed down through the centuries in Christian communion services all over the world. They were heard again during the Arise Maundy Thursday service at Country Elementary School.

Held in the space used for Sunday Traditional Worship, the setting was intimate and the lighting muted. In the front corner of the room, a large table was beautifully decorated with a brown burlap tablecloth, multiple votive candles, red wine glasses, plates of bread and scripture verses about the Last Supper at each place. Symbolically, there was seating for twelve. In the center of the table, there were 3 very tall, large nails imbedded into a loaf of bread.

The service was thoughtful and meditative, as well as interactive with hymns and two songs from Arise singers. Pastor Don talked about how much Jesus loved his disciples and used a very moving movie segment of a dying mother saying goodbye to her children to demonstrate the emotions of Jesus during that last meal with his best friends on earth.

Worshippers were invited to come when they were ready to sit together around the table, take communion, read the scripture and take as much time as they needed to reflect. The service was dismissed in silence.

It was an inspiring and creative worship experience that served to remind us of the sacrifice made because of God’s immeasurable love for us all.



“Pumping Up” our Christian Faith!

Dave Russell (L) and Al Smith (R) appeared in a skit that played off of the popular “Hans & Frans” routine from TV show Saturday Night Live, reminding us that we need to exercise our Christian muscles!

New Arise Building Team Begins to Meet



Architectural rendering of phase 1/stage 1 of our building master plan

What has ten members, meets every other week and has loads of enthusiasm for the new Arise Church Building Project? The new Arise Building Team! It has already

met several times and its members are busily planning each stage of construction under the watchful eye of Mark Wood.

The previous Arise Building Committee met for four years to plan the project up to the point of beginning the building process. This new team will work together to coordinate different aspects of the building process, anticipate materials needs, recruit volunteers and communicate with each other, the congregation and the wider United Methodist Church about the project.

Each member of the new Building Team has responsibility for an aspect of the work that needs to be done.

The members and their corresponding roles to date are:

Matt Plachta	Team Facilitator
Mark Wood	Construction Manager
Barbara Wood	Construction Manager Liaison, Volunteers, Communications
Bob Barnard	Crew Chief
Jerry Dawson	Plumbing/permits
Beth Plachta	Volunteers/Hospitality
Brad Topp	Volunteers/Hospitality
Norma Topp	Volunteers/Hospitality
Don Weatherup	Communications Coordinator
Bob Whalen	Crew Chief

** Roles yet to be filled are Materials Coordinator and Invoice/Payment/Waiver Coordinator*

The Volunteer/Hospitality Team will soon be placing outbound calls to all Arise members to develop a skills list and determine areas of interest. The church is being completed on the “build as we give” model, so as pledges and donations come in, more building can be done.

A “Building Tour” will be conducted after worship soon, to enable us to get an “up close” look at what is being done on the project.

Ongoing prayers are requested for all aspects of the building project, including safety for workers, as more exterior work gets done in the upcoming warmer months.

Please contact Matt Plachta, (810) 231-7588 or mplachta@umich.edu for questions related to the Arise Building Team.



Easter Sunday...a Huge Celebrat

If you were there, you probably won't forget it. If you weren't there, you've probably heard about it. Easter Sunday. As Pastor Don called it—"The Grand Daddy of all celebrations." And it was!

Starting with a delicious continental brunch and brief thought-provoking skit, the waiting congregation was ushered into the dark sanctuary lined with black balloons, a black tarp covering the stage, a black cloth over the altar and music akin to a funeral procession.

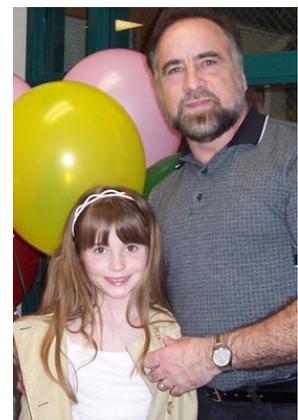
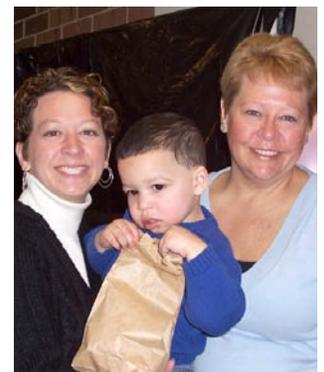
All at once, the lights came on and the black décor was replaced with brightly colored balloons. The Arise Praise Band led the congregation in singing spirited praises to a Risen Lord, while children brought spring plants down to the altar. With more energetic music and inspiring messages for both children and adults, it was a memorable service from beginning to end. The children finished out the morning with an Easter Egg Hunt in the library, joined by their parents and grandparents.

We were blessed to have a large gathering of Arise members, along with their friends, family and new visitors this year. Easter has always been a special experience at our church. This year was no exception. Although we will need to wait a whole year until Easter returns, we are fortunate that we can express that same enthusiastic gratitude for Jesus every day.





ion at Arise!



Thanks to The Many Who Helped Make Easter Week Special!

A myriad of volunteers gave of their time, talents and energy to make this past Holy Week a special occasion. It was, indeed, a "cast of thousands" that pulled it all together. A big thank you to all volunteers! And we had a record turnout of 150 worshippers; thanks to all who participated!



CARING COMMUNITY

Prayer Shawls and Quilts: Cozy Comfort

For several years, the Arise L.I.F.E. Team “Threads of Faith” has been knitting prayer shawls to give to those who are hurting for a variety of reasons. Many hours of needlework and prayer goes into the making of one of these shawls. Fran Smith, one of our “Threads” members, brought this idea to the group several years ago and she and the rest of the knitters took off with the idea! The job of gifting the shawls is delegated to the pastor, who usually makes a call to the home or hospital room of the recipient and prays with them, as well.

On occasion, we get helpers from outside of Arise. Glenda Pettis was a good friend of Kim Sherry’s mother Dorthee Auman and recently passed away. Glenda and her sister loved to knit and donated many hours making shawls for “Threads of Faith”. We want to recognize Glenda and her sister for this generous act of kindness.

Prayer Quilts are another variation of this idea. Brighton UMC has been making prayer quilts for quite a few years under the direction of Carol Riffe. Mark Wood was a recent recipient of one such quilt, having been an active member, with his wife Barbara, before attending Arise.

At Brighton, the quilt is displayed in the worship service and announced who it will be given to. The congregation is invited to tie a knot in the quilt top and say a prayer for the recipient. For Mark’s quilt, the Brighton church tied half of the knots, then sent the quilt to Arise to have our congregation tie the rest and add our names to the prayer card. We were appreciative to have been part of this significant prayer ministry. Janet Woodruff, recently benefited from a Brighton prayer quilt, also, while she recovered from surgery. Janet not only worships at both churches, but makes both prayer shawls and prayer quilts for each ministry.

Whether prayer shawl or quilt, it is a ministry of love that is offered by those who care enough to use their gifts and talents to comfort those in pain. A big thank you goes to all who have participated in this ministry at Arise. If you would like to help with the Arise Prayer Shawl ministry, see Beth Plachta, Threads of Faith Team Leader, (810) 231-7588.



Beth Plachta ties a prayer knot on a quilt for Mark Wood, given by the Brighton UMC.

Thanks from Diane!

Dear Arise family,
Once again, I have been blessed to hear the word remission! Thank you to all who helped. Thank you for all of your prayers, for all the food, for helping to care for my baby granddaughter and the many, many cards! Most of all, thank you for the hugs on Sunday mornings. I love that hugs are a part of our worship! God’s blessing to all,



Diane Gould

The Wisdom of Mom

Mother (to son wandering around the room):
“What are you looking for?”
Son: “Nothing.”
Mother: “You’ll find it in the box where the candy was.”

SPRC:... continued from pg. 1

a more Christian life. “There is a process for conflict resolution outlined in the Bible, in Matthew: 18. First go inward, pray, look to myself, and ask if it’s really about them or me. The second step is to go directly to the other person. The third step is to involve another person, usually an SPRC member or the pastor. Both parties have to agree to this. If that doesn’t work, we are asked to take it to the whole church. It’s important to address it directly, instead of sweeping it under the rug. And it’s important to remember that taking offense is a choice.”

Her hope is that the SPRC will continue to work toward developing a relational covenant under Rich’s guidance, including educating the congregation, “because our focus is people and love and being good to each other, giving each other the benefit of the doubt.”

As Rich accepts the leadership baton from Barbara, he comments “As a six year member of the SPRC, I am humbled by the grace and effectiveness of previous SPRC leadership – Barb Wood, Debbie Short and Gloria Jackett, during my tenure. It is my prayer that the next SPRC team will faithfully continue the work already set into motion. Challenges and opportunities abound, and this past year has once again demonstrated the “behind the curtain” quiet strength that the SPRC has delivered for many years. I was the one who recruited Barb to chair SPRC, so it is only fair that she now passes it on to me. Now it is her turn to pray for me! Thanks Barb for your leadership!”

Congratulations, Barbara, for a job well done and best wishes to Rich and the SPRC on their important work ahead!

MAY 2007 CALENDAR

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday _____

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

Monday _____

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

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

Chris Kieb Memorial Golf Tournament- July 21st

Attention golfers: save **Saturday, July 21, 2007** for the Chris Kieb Memorial Scramble at Reddeman Farms Golf Club in Chelsea, MI.

Proceeds will fund another scholarship for the Manchester Band, in honor of our son. Thanks for your support and please feel free to forward this to anyone interested!

- Wayne & Mary Ellen Kieb

A mother is a person who, seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie.

- Teneva Jordan

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
April 29	30	1 7 pm Church Council	2 7 pm Building Team, Plachta's	3 National Day of Prayer	4 TGIF Sisters	5 8:30 am – 4pm Arise Women's Retreat, Morphew's
6 Holy Communion 9 am Jammin' Kids practice; Haiti Relief Kit shipping	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day 7 pm New Member Class	14 7 pm Threads of Faith	15	16 7 pm Building Team, Plachta's	17	18 TGIF Sisters Relay for Life 24-hour walk	19 Relay for Life 24-hour walk
20 9 am Jammin' Kids practice	21	22 10 am Newsletter folding/ mailing	23 7 pm Worship Committee	24	25 TGIF Sisters	26
27 Pentecost 	28 Memorial Day 	29	30	31	June 1 TGIF Sisters	2

Hope to See You at the Women's Retreat - May 5th!

Location: Morphew's home, 3058 Dana Pointe Dr. Pinckney, MI 48169

Title: "Women of Purpose: Women of Action"

Theme: "Putting Our Gifts Into Action"

Cost: \$20 payable to Jane Fuller by 4/29

Please join the women of Arise as we once again enjoy a day away filled with inspiration, food, fun and fellowship with one another. We'll learn about the gifts we each

have to offer, what holds us back and how we can "kick it up a notch" to follow our passion in the faith community. We are so blessed to have fabulous speakers Rev. Kristi Sigal from Marble Memorial UMC and Rev. Lynn Martin, Community Congregational Church of Christ joining us. This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity! This day has been planned and sponsored by T.G.I.F Sisters. We hope to see you there!



Arise Ministry Center
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May Anniversaries

- 5/5 Bob & Joyce Barnard
Barry & Kelley Boyes
- 5/10 Mark & Barbara Wood
- 5/21 Ron & Gayle Fike
- 5/31 Chuck & Patty Boyne

May Birthdays

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 5/1 Veronica Pargulski | 5/11 Paul Smith | 5/20 Dave Russell |
| 5/2 Emily Scott | 5/15 Pat Sliter | 5/25 Kahlin Dawson |
| 5/3 Leah Sherry | 5/17 Ben Germain | 5/26 Jared Bollinger |
| 5/10 Dorothy Winslow | 5/18 Rob Wagner | |

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