

Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



June 2007

Arise
A United
Methodist
Church

Ministers

Every member
of the Church

Pastor

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Welcome to New Arise Members, Joining in June!

(Note: This is the first of two parts, introducing new 2007 Arise members.)



Penny and Jack Dunlap have been highly visible in the Arise community since they began attending services last year... including Jack's involvement in the building project and as a Trustee.

He is a licensed builder (despite a degree in fresh water biology) and she is a self-employed nurse, working with home bound patients and case management. Together, they buy and renovate homes and turn them into investment rentals.

Jack grew up outside of Buffalo, NY, and has lived in Michigan most of his life. His faith journey began in the Presbyterian Church. Penny, a Michigan native, is a "reformed Catholic." They tried different churches including Renaissance Unity (formerly the Church of Today), before coming to Arise. Penny comments, "First my sister-in-law, Peggy, came. She invited us; we walked in the door and the warmth was overwhelming. Our first pastoral contact was with Doug McMunn, who has the warmest heart. Debbie Short and many others welcomed us so sincerely that we've been coming ever since."

In their spare time, Penny enjoys gardening and kayaking and Jack's favorite fun is track racing with modified cars. We're so pleased that you've decided to "settle" at Arise, Jack and Penny. Welcome!



Beverly Selvig is no stranger to Arise Church. She has been attending with her daughter, Lindsey, 14, and sister Sue Boltach, since she moved to Pinckney with her family three years ago. Raised in

Midland, she grew up in the Reformed Church. She and her husband, Steve, moved from Midland to Ann Arbor, where they have both been employed by the City of Ann Arbor for a number of years.

"I decided it was time to join...to become more involved now that our daughter is a little older," she said. Beverly adds, "I like the feel of small churches. You can volunteer for whatever you like to do." Beverly is especially interested in hospitality. She provided a lunch for the barn renovation crew awhile back and they're still talking about it! In addition, she and Lindsey have enjoyed shopping for the Haiti kits and assembling them together. The Salvation Army Angel Tree is another mission project they look forward to, as well as helping with the Arise Barn sale.

Beverly is very busy, working 9 hour days, so her free time in the evening is limited. "I get home later than most people, so I'm pretty busy during the week. Plus, we're moving soon, but we still won't be that far away from Arise." Please welcome Beverly when you see her in the traditional worship service or during hospitality time. We're glad you're part of our church family, Beverly!

Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

Christianity is that it all happened without church buildings. It happened without church staff. Most of the time, it happened without clergy!

These revival meetings later became known as “camp meetings” and occurred in what was considered remote areas – small towns all across the Midwest. These events happened without fancy advertising. The information spread by word of mouth and through personal invitation. Once a date and place were selected, people came from far and near. These camp meetings were popular because they provided an opportunity for people to gather. Life on the frontier was often lonely. People responded to the idea of gathering together for any reason. It was just fun to get together.

Once at the camp meeting, worship services were held throughout the day. These worship services were very vibrant. They were joyful and energetic. There was only one focus. Telling people about Jesus Christ!

How effective were the camp meetings? They were tremendously successful. The growth of the Methodist movement was, in a word, explosive! After people heard about the grace of God and experienced Christian fellowship, they yearned to have more of it. That's how tens of thousands of Methodist churches were started in small towns across the Midwest.

Interesting how all of that occurred without the things we would consider necessary for evangelistic conversion today. There were no hip and happenin' youth directors. No big choirs to join. No cool VBS. No great Sunday school teachers. No fancy churches. All there was to offer was Jesus and the joy of Christian fellowship.

Is it possible that this approach can work today? I believe it can.

The camp meetings were successful because they met people's deep heartfelt need. They had a need for social fellowship. And they had a need for a savior. What has changed in nearly 200 years? Not much.

In today's fast paced, technologically oriented society, what I am finding that people need, more than anything else, is a desire to feel valued. People want a place to belong. People really just want to be loved and appreciated for who they are. What people really want deep in their heart is an answer to the question, “does my life really matter?” and “there must be a deeper purpose to my life.”

As we pitch our tent at Arise Acres, let us be mindful that we STILL offer the kind of things that meet the deepest needs and desires of people's hearts. We have Jesus and we have Christian fellowship. Honesty and truly, what is holding back the next great Christian awakening is a hesitation on the part of Christians to invite people to our current day camp meetings.

In the back of our minds we are afraid that we may not have what our friends, neighbors, co-workers and family members need from a church. But the reality is that we DO! What they need is God and a place to feel loved.

Even in a tent alongside a pond in a tiny town in the Midwest, we have all they need.

Now all that they need is an invitation.

With you on the journey,
Rev. Don Weatherup



Worship is...

By Kevin Griffin

(This is the third in a series of articles by Kevin about the worship experience.)



When we hear the word worship, what images and ideas come to our mind? Do we think of a programmed time on a certain day, in a particular location? What words, music or actions fill our concept of what worship is? Do we often see it as a certain form of words and actions that are directed towards God but with no response from Him? Is

our attitude that worship is something done for us? If so, I would like us to explore an expanded concept of what worship is this month.

When we look back to the beginning, the first chapters of Genesis tell of Adam and Eve conversing with God in the cool of the evening in the garden. No buildings, rituals, nor music for that matter. Rather, just conversation between friends sharing a moment together. From this we get an idea that communion with God could be on a personal and informal basis.

Not only can worship be communion and conversation with God but ongoing communion was to be the norm; not just one hour a week. Hebrews 13: 15-16 brings to light the concept of worship as going beyond the time spent in a corporate worship service. Not all worship is meant to be contained within the time spent on Sunday

morning. Worship can be a part of all our activities in life.

We can also have spontaneous worship in our lives as we give God praise and honor for His blessings, His work in our lives, and for His grace and mercy in time of need. Simply marveling at the splendor of God's creation can be a moment for spontaneous worship.

Finally, when we gather as a community of believers, worship is not meant to be entertainment done for us but rather participation by us. The worshiper gives, participates, and enters into the moment. Some lift hand(s), some bow their heads, others are demonstrative, some are reserved, some speak and others are silent. The various elements of a worship service are meant to draw the participant into the presence of God rather than be bystanders or a passive audience.



The next time we gather together, let's think of our worship as a conversation and communion with God. And don't forget to enjoy those informal times of spontaneous worship as the wonder and work of God are displayed in our world.

Arise "Tent Revival" Begins on June 3

You may have already heard the news! Arise purchased a large tent and will be using it for summer worship at Arise Acres during the summer months. The first worship service in the tent will begin on Sunday, June 3.

Some Arise members will remember worshipping under a tent at the Hamburg Professional Building and also on the lawn at Country Elementary School about 9 years ago. This is a great opportunity to invite friends to visit Arise and experience this outdoor worship setting.

There is an indoor bathroom being built in the green barn that will be available this summer and will be handicapped accessible, replacing the need for portable facilities.

Also on June 3, after the worship services, there will be tours given of the Arise barn renovation by members of

the Arise Building Team. For safety reasons, children will need to be accompanied by a parent for the barn tour.

Mark your calendars and don't miss these exciting new events in the life of Arise Church!



April 28th was cleanup day at Arise Acres! Thanks to all who participated!



Women of Purpose,

On May 5th, twenty-five women gathered at Jim and Cindy Morphey's home to enjoy fellowship, share experiences, explore their gifts more deeply and consider what types of actions could lead to a fuller personal faith ministry.

Lynn Martin, Pastor of Community Congregational Church of Christ in Pinckney, was the morning speaker. Lynn has known that she wanted to be in ministry since she was four years old and announced to her parents that she wanted to be a nun (even though she wasn't Catholic)! Her faith journey has taken her through many twists and turns, including joining the Army, where she was stationed in Germany in Worms...the town where Martin Luther started The Reformation. She has traveled, taught, and worked as an army and hospital chaplain.

Lynn is single ("Pastoring takes all of my energy!"), and has been with her Pinckney church family for the last 18 months. She is interested in partnering with other churches to share gifts through service, as she encourages her congregation to do. Regarding using our gifts, Lynn advises "Just do it and see where it takes you. The path may not be straight and clearly defined, but God is using us all for a purpose."

Kristi Sigal, Pastor of Marble Memorial UMC in Milan, was the afternoon speaker. Kristi, a "cradle Methodist," always wanted to be a "Mommy" and also felt the tug toward ministry since she was an early teenager. Her faith journey has focused on combining the two, and her family now involves her husband and three children, one of whom is a toddler. Kristi did an internship in the US Navy in the Chaplain's Office, and her first assignment was as Associate Pastor of the Brighton UMC.

There were struggles between motherhood and ministry during those early times, and the Arise congregation knows her because she "hung out" with us. After much soul searching and counsel from Joy Barrett, the District Superintendent of the UMC A2 District, she decided to stay in the ministry and combine it with motherhood. The opportunity to serve in Milan has helped her to explore how both roles can be combined. Kristi encouraged attendees to "Be the Miracle" and passed out scripture from Romans 8: 22 -28, comparing the Holy Spirit's work within us to birth pangs. She said "Using your gifts makes all the difference."

During the afternoon action circles, participants explored working with prayer, gardening, children,

Women of Action

welcoming and community partnering. Laurie Russell also performed a beautiful rendition of the song "The Potter's Hand" and led the group in song with Merilee Zane and Betty Korzilius. Thanks to all who participated in this wonderful celebration of women!



Caring Community

On May 13, the Haiti Relief Kit tubs were brought in for a blessing by Pastor Don before being taken to the UMC Annual Conference. Laura Bowen, Missions Chair, poses with the record 188 kits that were assembled (81 Health; 79 School; 10 Layette; 11 Sewing and 7 Glasses). Special thanks go to Ron & Gayle Fike, and the Wednesday Night Bible Study Life Team, who put together 63 health kits. Well done, Arise Community!



United Methodist Church Camps: Fun for Everyone

If you were in worship a few Sundays ago, you won't forget about church camp this year. Camp coordinator Cheryl Bollinger and her sons C.J. and Austin, gave a memorable and entertaining skit about all of the many church camp opportunities available through the United Methodist Church. The boys named reasons why people couldn't attend camp and each time, Cheryl let 'noisy air' out of a big, red balloon



Austin, Cheryl and C.J. Bollinger

to dispute that excuse for not going to camp. Too young for camp? Nope, there's a Teddy Bear camp for little ones. Too old for camp? Never! There's an Elder Camp. Don't want to go to camp alone? You're in luck—there's a Family Camp. Name a hobby or interest and likely, you'll find a camp that suits your needs. Oh, and by the way, do you think camp is unaffordable? No, again. The costs are very reasonable and scholarships are available. See Cheryl for more information on camping, UMC style. As Cheryl said with her big, red balloon... "This is your brain...this is your brain, heart and soul when you attend one of the UMC camps; Don't Blow It!!

Building Team Seeks Volunteers



How would you like to help in getting our new church built? The Building Team is ready to set up a database describing how people in the congregation, and even those outside of Arise, can assist with the Arise building effort. A form that lists a variety of skills and interests was included in the church bulletin on Sunday, May 19. During worship, it was described how the Arise church family will be contacted by telephone to compile a list of volunteers. Skills that are needed range from hospitality, to clean up, to skilled trades, to painting, to clerical help with invoices. There are ways for everyone to help. Gathering this information will enable us to know who to call when a particular need comes up. Availability for helping, such as evenings or weekends, as well as how to best contact people will also be asked for during the phone call.

Please give thoughtful and prayerful consideration to how you can become part of this exciting "Build As We Give" project! For questions, contact Brad and Norma Topp (810) 231-4979 or Beth Plachta (810) 231-7588.

Praise God!

...for a \$10,000 gift to the Building Fund received on Sunday, May 6th!



Vicki Dawson rehearses with the Arise Jammin' kids, one of our important youth ministries!



Judy Miller presents Shelley Weatherup's Mother's Day gift to Pastor Don, complete with chicken soup fixin's and prayers for healing, on behalf of Arise Kid's Club.

JUNE 2007 CALENDAR

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday _____

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

Monday _____

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

Wednesday _____

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

What we are is God's gift to us.
What we become is our gift to God. —Eleanor Powell



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
May 27 Pentecost 9 am Children's Sunday School Teachers' Mtg.	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31	1 TGIF Sisters	2
3 Tent Worship Service at Arise Acres Holy Communion New Member Induction 9 am Jammin' Kids practice	4	5 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 7 pm Church Council	6 7 pm Building Team	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15 TGIF Sisters 7 pm Euchre Night, Morpew's	16
17 Father's Day 9 am Jammin' Kids practice	18	19 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	20 7 pm Building Team	21	22	23
24	25	26 10 am Newsletter folding/mailing	27 7 pm Worship Committee	28	29 TGIF Sisters	30



Sunday, June 3
 we begin
 worshipping at
 Arise Acres
 for the summer!
 See you there!

Free Upper Rooms

You will find Upper Room daily devotionals available on the information table.

Help yourself to one—they have a daily Bible reading, a brief devotional written by people from all over the world and a closing prayer. It's an easy way to include some spiritual time into your day. Enjoy a copy, compliments of Arise Church.

Summer Hospitality—Lighter Beverages

During the summer months of worshipping in the Arise tent, there will be punch and water served as beverages during the hospitality time. Hot drinks will be served again in the fall once we return to Country El.

Please feel free to bring your own coffee with you during the summer, if desired.





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June Anniversaries

June 2 Bob & Brenda Whalen
June 16 Peter & Sherry Graham
June 21 Don & Jane Fuller

June Birthdays

June 5 Tim Richards
June 12 Brad Topp
June 18 Jen Wagner
June 20 Paul Pagano
June 28 Sally Guyon
June 29 Mark Wood

ARISE NEWSLETTER TEAM

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