

Connections

Arise—a United Methodist Church



July/August 2007



Welcome to New Arise Members, Joining in June!

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

Ministers

Every member
of the Church

Pastor

Don Weatherup

Director of Music

Kevin Griffin

Administrative Assistant

Dave Russell

Ministry Center

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JULY
4th



Sue Boltach grew up going to church with her family. "I've never not gone to church," she said with a laugh. Raised in Midland, she attended the Reformed Church and then moved to Grand Rapids, where

she graduated from Calvin College with her nursing degree. From there, Sue moved to Ann Arbor and became active in the Christian Reformed Church.

"We moved to Hamburg in 1982 and I became a member of the Green Oak Free Methodist Church. Then, in 1995, I attended Arise and liked it from the start", she said. "It's so special that I can attend church with my sister. (Beverly Selvig, profiled in the June issue, also joined Arise recently.) "I'm the oldest child in the family and she's the youngest. We have so much fun together."

Many people know that Sue lost her daughter, Katie and her husband, Phil while she has attended Arise. Despite such significant losses, she remains optimistic and energetic. Her daughter, Heather and grandson Jalen, and son Geoff, with grandson Caleb, keep her very busy. Sue attends special events with her children at Brighton Assembly of God from time to time. "They encourage me to join their church, but my heart is at Arise. I am very blessed to have spiritual, believing children. It's just great."

As for Sue, "I like to keep busy. I'm a nurse at U of M Med Sport clinic and just completed a

certification for orthopedic nurses. "I've been there since 1980—it's comfortable for me and I'll retire from there eventually." Besides her job, Sue also loves the water and recently moved to Portage Lake, where she boats, gardens and "loves to clean things." You may have seen her busily cleaning out the green barn recently on the Arise Work Day. We're glad you're with us at Arise, Sue!



Karen Vaden grew up in Warren, Michigan and was raised Catholic. From there, she said, she moved to Florida and, after a period of time, she and her husband Jeff moved back to Michigan "to be closer to family." She

now has two children of her own, Brad, 18 and Melissa, 17.

If there is one thing she loves, besides her family, it is dogs. "I grew up in the city", she said, "but we always had pets and dogs. I even had chickens." This love of animals continues in her adult life. She spends hours teaching dog obedience classes and 4-H Dog Leader Training programs at the Livingston County Humane Society.

Professionally, she manages the Ann Arbor V.A. Hospital Vascular Lab, which she loves. "I have always liked the elderly population," she said, enthusiastically, "it's a great job!"

Karen has had an interesting faith journey, attending a Ukrainian Catholic church as

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Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

The month of June brings two important anniversaries to my life. The first is the five-year anniversary with my wonderful wife Shelley. June 23rd ...or 25th. ...maybe it's the 24th. I know! Typical man! Sorry. I usually remember stuff like that. Don't worry; I'll be sure to find out before then.

It's been a good five years. We have been very blessed. Blending families

is no easy task, but we have been blessed! Our children get along well, which is the biggest challenge with a blended family. After a bit of a bumpy first year we worked out some challenges and it's been pretty smooth sailing since then.

Shelley and I dated for seven years. I relentlessly pursued her because I was convinced that she was a gift from God. Although she broke up with me three times, I kept at it. Finally I persevered and she acquiesced to my desire to get married. Why did I stick with it? Because I was convinced that she was a gift from God for me. I felt deep in my soul that she and I were meant to be – a Divine plan.

I was also able to stick with it because, as the saying goes, "I married up." Meaning, I found a person of far superior character and patience than myself. When it comes to my wife – I am extraordinarily blessed.

The second anniversary I am celebrating at the end of June is my one-year anniversary at Arise Church. It's hard to believe that one year ago I was packing boxes and wondering what life at Arise Church would be like. And what a year it has been!

Churches and pastors, just like a marriage, require a time of adjustment. There is a phrase for that too – "the honeymoon phase." During this first year the church and the pastor spend time getting to know one another; recognizing both their strengths and weaknesses. Sometimes the first year is really rough. Sometimes it's the second year, because during the first year the people (and the pastor) give more benefit of the doubt.

One of the most critical things to help avoid the bumpy ride after the honeymoon is over is – dialogue! Open communication is absolutely vital both in marriages and in the church/pastor relationship. If there is anything you need to discuss with me, please do! What happens more often than not is that people keep things to themselves. And those things over time slowly simmer. And then they boil. And then it turns to anger. All this happens without

any dialogue. Before you know it someone's feelings are hurt. Sometimes people leave churches very hurt and it's sad because it is often avoidable with dialogue.

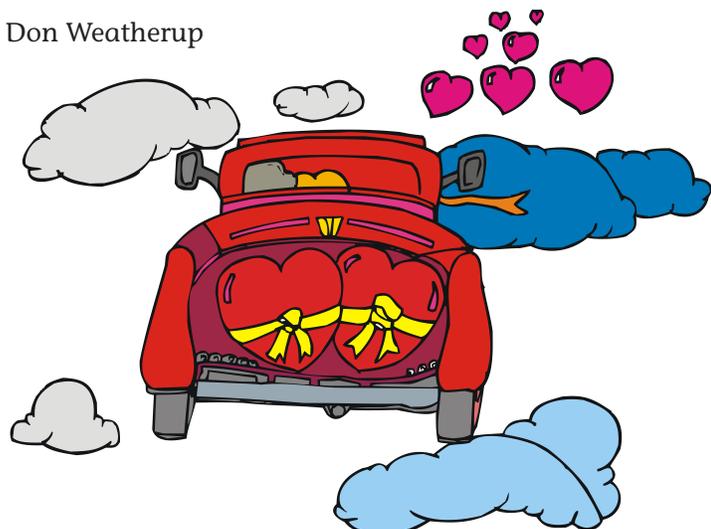
Please remember that, like you, I am only human. I make mistakes like everyone else. I miss things. I forget things. I misinterpret things. And, while I am gifted with some good traits for ministry, mind reading isn't one of them. The only way I know how you are feeling, (and the only way you know how your spouse is really feeling), is to sit down and discuss things face-to-face. I can't promise that whatever the situation is will change, but at least you and I will have been heard and we can come to an understanding of each other's ideas, feelings and circumstances. And because of it, we will be blessed for it.

I love Arise church. I really do. I love the people. I love the ministries. I love the challenges. Like my marriage, I have been truly blessed. It's quite likely that you and I share the same hopes and dreams for Arise Church. We have the same love for Christ and His church. It's important that we always remember that no matter what may become cause for concern today or down the road, we have that one thing in common. It is always there to unify us.

My "marriage" to Arise church has been a blessing to me. I am thankful to be here. I am thankful to be your pastor. Here's to another wonderful year together! If we keep talking and praying, who knows – maybe the honeymoon will continue. I know my love for Shelley keeps growing with no end in sight. I pray that will be the case between you and I.

With you on the journey,

Rev. Don Weatherup



Worship is...

By Kevin Griffin

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



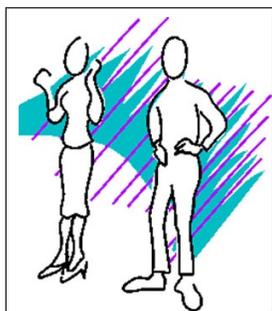
Relevant. Or at least it's supposed to be. But what does the word relevant mean? The American Heritage Dictionary gives a definition of "Related to the matter at hand; pertinent". The related word relevance has the meaning of "social applicability". So, in a worship context, what we say, do and present ought to relate to our relationship with God and

apply to the social situation in which we find ourselves. Or to put it in other words, God should be able to speak to the heart of the worshipper in ways that the participant understands and can relate.

To see this in a different context, imagine entering a community that is foreign to you. How much understanding and communication will you be able to do... What does that mean? What did she just say? Are they talking about me? Did I just miss something important? Yikes!! Are times of worship at Arise as confusing to some of us as the above example is for the traveler in a foreign land?

But maybe I'm getting ahead of myself. Why should worship be relevant to the participant? Going back to a former article in this column, worship was discussed as being communication between God and the worshipper. Good communication only happens when both parties are on the same wavelength. When the communication is relevant in every aspect.

We also see this relevance in the gospel of Jesus Christ. He was and is relevant to people because He became flesh and dwelt among us. God made the ultimate leap to communicate His love and forgiveness; to make following Jesus relevant to us; He became us.



**Experiencing
Worship**

So, if Jesus is the ultimate relevant communication between God and humans, and worship is about communication, what example does that set for us as a local body of Christ? How should our times of corporate worship relate to the community of faith that has gathered? To the newcomers in our midst? Is relevance found

in the words, symbols, forms and music of the church? Are we communicating what we believe, hope and long for with ourselves, others and with God in our times of worship? These questions can be useful for each of us, as we engage in reflection and prayer.

In the upcoming issues of Connections, we will look at the words we use, following with an examination of the forms of worship and finally we will take to heart music and its relevance in worship.

Mission Day Camp: Outreach Opportunity for Arise Youth!

All middle and high school youth are encouraged to be a part of the Arise Youth Mission Day Camp on July 16-19 from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. at Arise Acres. The plan and purpose for this day camp is for Arise youth to enjoy time together in fellowship and in the service of God through daily outreach mission activities. There will be three mission trips (one in Detroit, one local, and one at Arise Acres) with a fun wrap-up session on Thursday. Please register with Vicki Dawson by July 1st.

'Tweens Live Big

Arise has been using Cokesbury's Live Big Sunday School curriculum for preschool – fourth grade students since September 2006. Beginning September 2007 we will also teach the 'tweens class (fifth-eighth grades) using Live Big. We have heard positive feedback about the 'tween portion of the Live Big program from other churches. It will also be a very smooth transition for our graduating fourth graders. Go to iLiveBig.com for details about the curriculum, activities for kids and ideas for parents.



A big welcome to our latest Arise member, Avery Lynn Germain, born June 4th. (L to R) Ann Marie, Carrie, Avery, Kevin and Ben. Congratulations!

Arise: A Community of Connections

Sunday Evening Campfire Vespers Begin on June 24th

Arise is a congregation of hard workers, and we're also a church family who enjoys each others' company. During last year's visioning process, there was a unanimous request for some fun gatherings that DO NOT involve work. Our Sunday Evening Campfire Vespers are one such opportunity.

Weather permitting, come and gather around an Arise Acres campfire for what Pastor Don calls "an unstructured evening of fun and fellowship." That could mean bring your own marshmallows or s'more fixin's, a spontaneous song or musical interlude, sharing of faith stories, or a chance to just plain catch up with each other.



The campfires will begin at 9 pm (come at 8:45 if you want to help get the fire started), when it starts to get dark. "We'll see how that goes," says Pastor Don. "I'm open for changing the starting time and arrangements, if it makes sense." There is no fixed time; come for a while or stay longer...whatever you want.

So bring a spirit of play and any of the following that you wish:

- A chair or blanket
- Simple food or drink...individual or to pass
- A musical instrument or favorite song
- Anything else you'd like to share.
- Wood for our woodpile.

See you 'round the campfire!



Relay for Life Held May 18th and 19th

By Jen Wagner

Thank you to all of the people of Arise who contributed to the May 18 Relay for Life at Brighton High School. Barb and Duane Haines once again provided our team headquarters--the "fifth wheel" camper! Josiah Woods walked all night long and most of the following day! Several folks walked one or two hour shifts and even more sponsored those walkers with monetary donations to the American Cancer Society. Our partner, the Pinckney Community Congregational Church, won the award for the best campsite. 4,500 luminaries lined the track and 3,000 walkers passed by them. As successful as this year's relay was, we envision next May's relay to be even better! Help lead the fight against cancer by getting involved in the Relay for Life!



Arise Cancer Survivors & Warriors

(L to R) Jen Wagner, Diane Gould, Mark Wood, Norma Topp, Mary Read Gannon, Wayne Kieb

Luminaries in honor of Survivor/Warriors Jen Wagner, Norine Bibicoff, and Paul Smith.



Arise Missions: Uniting for a Local Cause

"Our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action." 1 John 3:18



On Saturday, June 2nd, a group of Arise members installed insulation in the Livingston County "Circle of Faith" Habitat for Humanity home. The

Habitat for Humanity mission works in partnership with God and people to develop communities by building and renovating houses for people in need. The home, located on Linwood in Hamburg Township, is being built for

single mom Veronica Ostrowski. She has two sons, ages 7 and 10, and works as a hairdresser and attends Schoolcraft College, pursuing a degree in business.

Habitat for Humanity is very selective with new homeowners. Applicants must have an income 30 – 50 percent below the median income in the area, demonstrate ability to pay the no-interest home loan, live in the home for at least 10 years and provide 250 hours of "sweat equity" during building.

The Arise team worked in some **very** warm conditions. But the hot weather didn't subdue the collective spirit. The insulation was completed within five hours. What a great feeling to do God's work!

Arise Missions



VBS 2007: "Lift Off—Soaring to New Heights with God!"

On August 13-17 we will have Vacation Bible School at Arise Acres. This summer's hot air balloon theme focuses on a flight plan for following God. So gather up all of the kids you know and bring them to Arise Acres for dinner, Christian fellowship, and tons of fun.

The VBS schedule is as follows:

- 6:00 meal/fellowship
- 6:30 music/opening
- 6:45 – 8:30 VBS "Lift Off" programming

For more information or to volunteer/donate please contact Vicki Dawson or Jen Wagner. God bless VBS and our children!



Exciting News for Arise Youth

By Cheryl Bollinger



Cheryl

Arise Youth is in the process of making many new and exciting changes. I am stepping down from youth leadership, in order to focus in other areas of ministry. I am very excited that Vicki Dawson will be leading the middle school life team, grades 5th – 8th. Sherry Graham will be leading the senior high life team, grades 9th – 12th. Al Smith will be working with the youth in raising funds for mission work through candy machine sales. Sherry, Vicki and Al are really looking forward to spending more time with the youth and their families.



Vicki

If you are interested in helping with either Youth L.I.F.E. Team, please see me, Vicki Dawson or Sherry Graham. The youth still need an adult that will help organize youth outings and programs. A few examples might be the secret pal program, laser tag and the 5th Quarter Bonfire.



Sherry

It has been such a great pleasure to serve as youth leader. At Arise you really care for the youth and it shows through your actions. At the time of the secret pal program, several adults signed up right away to be a secret pal. When a sign up sheet goes around for adults to sign up to help at the 5th quarter, the sheet comes back to me almost full. That truly is a sign to me of how much you love and nurture our youth. They are



Al

the present and the future of Arise. Our youth are a great group of kids-- please consider joining Sherry, Vicki and Al in an awesome adult youth team.



Bailey Bird, a parrot puppet, helps Laura Bowen deliver the children's message on June 3rd about the importance of taking time out to pray...just like Jesus did.

Friendship Meals: Fun, Food and Fellowship

Twenty-nine Arise friends shared a potluck meal together at one of three different homes in May and June and got to know each other a little better. The response was positive from hosts and guests alike. Seven of the attendees were children this year, making it a family affair for some of the mealtimes. Thanks to the Barnards, Plachtas and Wagners for hosting meals and to the Osbornes and Morphews for being available to host, if needed.



Bob Barnard poses with the "bevy of beauties" whom he and wife, Joyce, hosted as part of the Sunday Home Dinner series. (L to R) Jean Oxender, Diane Gould, Evva Funk, Joyce and April Flanagan

Welcome New Members:.... continued from pg. 1

a child, where services were spoken in Ukrainian. She has also attended Pentecostal and Baptist churches. "I love the friendliness of Arise," she maintains. "You get a warm, caring feeling when you walk in. I used to be an Arise greeter a couple of years ago. I started attending again last November and it fits like a glove. I really liked the new member classes—Pastor Don did a nice job and I

liked the information. Methodism is something I can live with—there aren't a lot of rules like some other churches. I tell everyone about Arise!"

When asked where she might enjoy serving within Arise, Karen says she's not sure yet. "But I'm checking out a book about spiritual gifts to learn about that", she said. Welcome to Arise, Karen!



A vacation is what you take when you can no longer take what you've been taking. ~Earl Wilson

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday _____

Tent Worship Services at Arise Acres
 9:00 am—Traditional
 10:00 am—Youth Sunday School
 11:00 am—Praise
 9:00 pm
 Sunday Evening Campfire Vespers at Arise Acres (weather permitting)

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)



Help Wanted

The building team will be needing 2-4 helpers most Saturdays throughout the summer for things like staining, weed control, clean-up, and various other semiskilled and unskilled jobs. If you'd like to help, please contact Brad or Norma Topp at 810-231-4979

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
July 1 Holy Communion 9 am Jammin' Kids practice	2 7 pm Divorce Recovery	3 7 pm Council	4  <i>July 4th</i>	5	6	7
8 9 am Jammin' Kids practice	9 7 pm Divorce Recovery	10 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study (call Vicki Dawson if planning to attend)	11	12	13	14
15 9 am Jammin' Kids practice	16	17	18	19	20 7 pm Euchre Night, Morphew's	21
22 9 am Jammin' Kids practice	23	24 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study (call Vicki Dawson if planning to attend)	25 7 pm Worship Committee	26	27	28
29 9 am Jammin' Kids practice	30	31	August 1	2	3	4

Congratulations, Grads!



Hats off to Arise Pinckney High School graduates Amber Pagano, Shaun Richardson and Matthew Romans, and to Natalie Sherry, who graduated from the University of Michigan School of Nursing with a Bachelors Degree in Nursing (BSN). They were honored with a cake on June 3rd. Peter Graham (husband of Sherry) also received his teaching certificate from EMU last December, and plans to teach high school math and physics.

Community Rewards Reminder; Contact Person Needed



Arise is fortunate to receive "free" money from both Meijer and Todd's Services through their community rewards programs. We benefit when people shop at Meijer or landscape with Todd's Services and choose Arise as the recipient. We are seeking a volunteer to be the contact person for Arise regarding these programs. You would keep track of our rewards, promote both programs, and periodically report our earnings to the congregation. Please let Jen Wagner or Dave Russell know if you'd be willing to oversee these rewards programs that generate contributions for Arise.



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To every person in the home of:

If you wish to be removed from our newsletter mailing list, please return this mailing panel to us. Thank you.



July-August Anniversaries

July 23 Gary & Judy Miller
July 29 Brad & Norma Topp—Happy 35th!
August 7 Rob & Jen Wagner
August 18 Rich & Pat Sliter

July-August Birthdays

July 2	Herbert Shay Brenda Whalen	August 4	Barbara Wood
July 4	Wilson Wagner	August 7	Bob Barnard
July 5	Janet Woodruff	August 10	Bob Whalen
July 6	Carol Sanborn	August 12	Andrea Beaudin
July 16	Anne Marie Germain	August 16	Laura Bowen
July 19	Philip Brown	August 23	Jane Fuller
July 20	Patty Boyne		

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

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