

Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



September 2007



Ministers

Every member
of the Church

Pastor

Don Weatherup

Director of Music

Kevin Griffin

Administrative Assistant

Dave Russell

Ministry Center

11211 Dexter-
Pinckney Rd.
Pinckney, MI
48169

734 878-1928

734 878-2748 (F)

www.arisechurch.org



Labor Day
September 3

Arise Youth Mission a Success!



Arise youth attended a 4 day Mission Day Camp this summer. What a productive, engaging event it was.

Arise youth, Matt Concannon, Austin & CJ Bollinger, Melissa Vaden, Elly Sherry, Carly & Chris Gannon, Lindsey Selvig, Tyler Tankka, & Olivia Dawson are a hard working group, full of energy, vigor and very unique individuals.

On Monday, we traveled to the Howell Nature Center to “help our environment”, as CJ put it. We spread wood chips along the “ropes course” and pathways leading to the animal habitats. It gave us an opportunity to explore the wonders of God, beyond the “human experience.”

On Tuesday, we made our way into Detroit where the group worked on sandwich-making for God’s children who live in the big city. The Cass UMC uses this activity as a means of helping others, but also as an income to support the church. We learned about the hardships of others, their struggles and.... that they deserve our love.

Wednesday gave us the opportunity to work closely together beautifying the grounds of our parsonage. We weeded, planted and trimmed bushes until it was too hot to work any longer. God said, “Take a break, you

have worked hard, my children!” We learned about serving those close to us just “because.”

While we relaxed in the splendor of the barn, we were blessed to have 3 guests who were contestants in the Miss Deaf Michigan Pageant. Jillian, Carly and Nicole told us about their lives, the challenges and especially the joys. They informed us that the only difference they have from everyone else is that they cannot hear—plain and simple. In no way are their lives “impaired or disabled.” What a lesson for all of us to learn! Tyler said that this was the highlight of his week. Carly & Jillian won the title of Miss Teen Deaf Michigan and Miss Deaf Michigan. What a joy to share in their success. They won the opportunity to represent the deaf community all around Michigan for 2 years as well as college scholarship money.

Thursday was our Sabbath Day, where we rested and enjoyed the work that was done. We had a brief time at Rolling Hills Water Park until the rains came down! We laughed, giggled, ate ice cream and fellowshiped together. What a relaxing day to sit around with friends and enjoy this life together.

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**Vacation
Bible School
“lifts off”
at Arise,
8/13 – 17!**

Read about the learning, fellowship and fun for adults & kids alike, and enjoy the photos on pages 4-5.



Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

You've no doubt heard the phrase that life is about the dash. The dash between the year of your birth and the year of your death on your tombstone represents your life.

As I write this article, this week I experienced what for many people is the symbol of the beginning of life—a baptism. I also experienced the symbol of the end of life—a funeral. It got my mind thinking

about just how precious this life really is. And, it got me thinking about the similarities of these two events.

In the case of the baptism it was an opportunity to ponder what kind of life the baby will have. What will she grow up to be like? It's a chance to give thanks for life itself and to ponder all the possibilities that the future holds.

In the case of the funeral, it was a chance to hear about how one life touched so many other people. Like every funeral I have ever been to, what people talked about most was relationship. They shared the ways in which this one person shared love in so many ways. The stories were touching and profound.

Both events made me think about my own life. Both events sparked my reflection on the things that are really important in my life. Both events made me reflect on my relationship to God, and my relationship to others.

Nobody talked about how much money the baby would make in her lifetime. Nobody talked about the material goods the man who had died acquired. So why do we spend the majority of our life worried about things that don't make a Kingdom difference?

I am thankful for events that break the routine of my life; the kind of things that cause me to stop in my tracks and evaluate. I'm even beginning to see in a real way how God can help us use the challenges in our lives to make our faith stronger. The times in my life when I've made the biggest strides in my spiritual growth have been prompted by challenges. For example, being immobile this week has opened my mind to what a blessing it was to be mobile. I guess we take things for granted until they are taken away. Life is like that.

I am beginning to understand why James wrote "God will bless you, if you don't give up when your faith is being tested. He will reward you with a glorious life...just as he rewards everyone who loves him." (James 1:12)

I wish my mind could stay right where it is this moment. Focused on what's really important. Loving God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength. And to love others.

Baptisms and funerals are a gift; they are a celebration of life. And on the outside they seem like they have nothing in common. Two ends of the spectrum. And yet, they are connected by the dash.

With you on the journey,

Rev. Don Weatherup

Matched Giving: A Double Blessing

Due to the generosity of an anonymous giver, Arise has the unique opportunity to double our money for the Arise Building Fund through 2007. To date, \$13,556 has been donated above last year's giving level, thus qualifying for a Matched Gift.

The wonderful news is that fundraising now qualifies for the Matched Giving program, too. The Arise Barn Sale and other church fundraisers can now raise twice as much money for the Building Fund. Watch for details soon about obtaining Busch's and Kroger grocery cards. These will also qualify for Matched Giving funds. Other churches have raised thousands of dollars using these grocery cards.

During the 2nd Quarter, April – June 2007, \$4,888 in extra giving was matched.

In the current 3rd Quarter, July – September 2007, \$8,668 has been matched as of August 12th. This is an excellent time to give extra gifts, since we have good momentum this quarter.

Money in the Arise Land and Building Fund is anticipated to be depleted by early fall, as major progress is being made on the barn renovation. Extra giving now will provide funds for continued work on the new church building through the fall.

The ability to have our contributions doubled is truly a blessing. We are "building as we give." The opportunity to benefit from over \$39,000 more in Matched Gifts has been put before us. Please pray about how you can participate in the Matched Giving program to further the Lord's work in the Pinckney community and the world.



Worship is... Relevant: the Verbal Message

By Kevin Griffin

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

Does thee wish that we find succor in our worship by manifold use of the King's English? Prithee, do tell! Whilst such speech rings of the poetic, dost thee converse in such an ill form of English? Is it not beneficent that God hath condescended to knoweth our present parlance of language!

If the above paragraph was somewhat unintelligible, then you see the need for worship to be relevant by using contemporary and understandable words. One danger of using archaic words in worship is that we begin to believe that God talks that way or that only that particular form of speech is acceptable to God. As if the language used during a period of time in history is sanctified, holy and proper "church" language while their meanings go unknown. Those of you who may have grown up in the pre-Vatican II Catholic church may remember the mass being done in Latin, a dead language. Some of you may have grown up going to an ethnic church, like a German Methodist congregation, where the whole service was in German. In the same way, by using old English, how much meaning would we take away from experiences like that?

Not only is contemporary language necessary for relevant worship, language relevant to subgroups within our culture is also important. Think of the potential relevance and communication problems between the current crop of teenagers and their slang and octogenarians and vice versa. Language is always in flux with new words being added, meanings changing and some words falling into disuse. Groovy, huh!

Some irrelevance exists because of the specialized vocabulary present in our worship services. Theological terms such as justification, sanctification, saved by the blood of the Lamb, and more can be wholly mysterious. And just what is a sheave and why are we bringing it in to our worship experience? While there is a place for technical, specialized language within the church, do we fully understand those words?

Part of the Reformation movement stressed the use of native tongues in worship rather than foreign dialects. Rather than using archaic or specialized words, let's try to bring people to God in our common language, using words that have meaning to all of us. Let's learn to communicate our faith in Jesus using our commonly understood language. Let's be sure to speak relevantly as we enter times of worship, so as not to alienate ourselves or others from God.

Building for the Future

The Arise new church construction is coming along extremely well. Skilled trades have been in the barn recently preparing the heating and cooling, plumbing, and electrical work. The next big project is removal of the barn loft. When this is completed, another barn tour will be scheduled. That will give a real sense of the size and volume of the worship space in the traditional barn.

Other tasks that will soon be underway are securing walls in the new classrooms to the trusses, framing and pouring the entrance stoops, installing the framing and glass for the main entryway, doing masonry work to fill in around old windows and other areas, raise the floor in the barn, complete the exterior siding and install windows. The goal is to have the building 'sealed up' when cold weather comes, so interior work can continue through the winter months.

We have a very dedicated crew of Arise workers who have sacrificed many hours getting the building to this stage. Help from regular volunteers is now needed for such tasks as hanging and painting of siding, staining windowsills, laying sand for the floor of the sanctuary and providing hospitality. An Arise crew just completed tidying up the barn floor and covering the venting recently. We will have crews working most Saturday mornings and some weekday evenings.

To volunteer your help on this project, contact Beth Plachta, (810) 231-7588 or Brad and Norma Topp, (810) 231-4979.

Wednesday Nighters Sponsor Fellowship Meals

The idea began with the Wednesday Nighters—why not hold a monthly Arise Fellowship Meal, open it to everyone at Arise and their guests, have a brief Bible study, then share a meal together? At the end, \$2 - \$5 would be donated from each person present (guests optional) and donated to a mission project.

The first such event was held at Jean Oxender's home on August 8. Everyone had a great time and \$67 was donated toward the Liberian Pastor Relief Fund. A short Bible study was held on the topic of Heaven.

The purpose of the meals is three-fold:

- To increase fellowship opportunities for Arise folks
- To increase opportunities for Arise people to invite non-members to a non-threatening social event
- To generate a little extra income for Arise Missions

Watch announcements for the next Arise Fellowship Meal to be held at the home of Tom and Donna Terhune.

Arise: A Community of Connections

Vacation Bible School 2007

By Jen Wagner

(Editor's Note: Jen Wagner and Vicki Dawson were co-captains of VBS this year. Outstanding job, ladies!)

Things were looking up at Arise Acres on August 13—literally! This year's VBS hot air balloon theme—Lift Off! Soaring to New Heights with God—included an actual hot air balloon demonstration. Thanks to hot air balloon owner Jody Leatherberry's generous 90% discount, we were able to provide tethered launches for all the kids and adults at VBS on Monday night. That was a once in a lifetime, memorable experience for all. For a chartered trip on The Phoenix, call (517) 851-7348.

Thanks to 31 volunteers, 27 food providers, and 31 participants, Lift Off! was a blast! "Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul." (Psalm 143:8b) was our theme verse, which was reinforced by five lessons: following, trusting, listening, repenting, and serving. Children were led through four stations following the dinner and opening ceremony. The kids really enjoyed the crafts, recreation, story, and discovery time

where different characters from the Bible reinforced each night's lesson. We opened and closed with upbeat music led by Anita and Amber Pagano, as well as skits by Scoop (Micah Woods) and Skylar the Squirrel (true identity never to be revealed).

Pastor Don led an adult discussion group of 13 participants. Each evening was filled with mind-opening, thought-provoking conversation sparked by different authors of religious literature.

A canned food drive headed up by Laura Bowen was our VBS mission. We collected an entire stage full of bags overflowing with non-perishables. This was donated to Gleaners Food Bank right here in Livingston County. Our

entire congregation will follow suit with a drive of its own this month. Gleaners is in desperate need of toiletries and food to fill its shelves for those in need.

We owe a very special thank you to the Howell UMC and Central UMC of Waterford for giving Arise most of our VBS materials. We could not have provided such a full program without their generosity. Building a strong, Christian foundation in children's lives is something all of us must do. Thank you to all who made this happen by doing what Jesus would have done!



Enthusiastic Turnout for Adult VBS

Thirty adults participated in the thought-provoking adult vacation bible school, led by Pastor Don and including video presentations. Topics included The Case for a Creator, Christianity and Islam, Journey Toward Forgiveness and Atheism vs. Christianity.







Jason Janovits: The Circle of Faith

Jason Janovits grew up attending Arise under the mentorship of Pastor Doug McMunn, Johnny Aho, Cheryl Bollinger and many other adults who have worked and interacted with the youth of Arise. On

Sept. 2, Jason begins a new faith adventure at Dearborn Community Covenant Church (Evangelical Covenant denomination). "I will be the Youth Ministries Intern there and will essentially be the acting youth director for the church," shares Jason. Johnny Aho is the current pastor at Dearborn Community.

His duties will include direct leadership of the middle-school aged youth group while providing support and leadership for volunteers who lead the high school group. "I have been tasked with going out into the community (schools, areas where teens hang out, etc.) and beginning relationships with kids in an effort to introduce them to Christ and connect them to Christian fellowship within the church's existing youth ministry." Jason will also coordinate the development of volunteer and student leaders within the existing program.

Responding to the observation that he has completed a circle of faith, first as a youth under Johnny Aho at Arise and now working under Johnny as an intern, Jason acknowledges the continuity. "I can't say specifically one way that Johnny influenced me, but I do remember that he was very good at going out to meet the kids where they were and not expecting the kids to come to him. I think that's important and it's my approach, too. I saw Johnny a year or so ago at Aquire the Fire. He mentioned that he'd be looking for a Youth Ministries Intern at some point, so when I finished school, I gave him a call and it worked out."

Although looking forward to the challenge, he states that he's "somewhat nervous, since this will be the first time I do some of the more administrative parts of being a youth minister and I cannot know fully what to expect. However, I'm also really excited about the possibilities in front of me as a result of this internship and hope to continue on in this position even after the internship period is over. Leaving Arise is somewhat bittersweet for me. I am sad to leave a Christian family that supports me and in which I feel safe, but I do relish the opportunity to get to know a new family in the form of this new congregation and grow as a result of the different environment and responsibilities of my new position."

Our prayers go with Jason, as he steps out on faith to begin this new chapter in his life.

Touching Hearts Across the World: Operation Christmas Child

What happens to all of those shoeboxes filled with toys, candy and needed items that you pack up each fall? Do they really get to needy children? They really do! The Fike's Wednesday Bible Study and friends packed 68 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes last fall. A card with an address and the names of those who donated was placed in each box along with a prayer. One of the boxes reached the home of Ardra Malhews of Chemmannar in Idukks District, Kerala State, India. She wrote a touching, thankful letter...

...I am giving you my sincere thanks to all for your love and kind which gave me as a gift...Did you hear about my Kerala? It is also called "God's own land" because it is beautiful land which has several small streams, hills, beautiful forests, green meadows, etc. We Keralites, also called Malayal's, likes and wears white coloured dresses.... You know the elephants in Kerala are very beautiful than African Elephants...About me, I have so many friends in my school and village. I like to play...we are really grateful to God, whom he have us a happy family and the beautiful nature around us...We are really glad to receive your gifts because when we are accepting your gift, we are accepting your love also. We love you all...

Ardra goes on to explain that she lives with her parents, brother and grandmother. Her mother, Ammsa, is writing the letter for her.

So, yes, the boxes do get to grateful, loving children. And a project that was meant to bring hope to a child, has also touched the hearts of our church family.



Arise Missions

Youth Mission:... continued from pg. 1

Then it was back to Arise UMC. The Youth Mission Day Camp gave us the opportunity to learn about each other, grow in God together through worship and fellowship and learn how to share love and trust. We learned that we have leaders in the group, hard workers, even in nitty gritty dirt, hot sun and the buggy woods. We have funny, smart, witty, energetic, loving youth who want to love and serve God and each other. Get to know them, they will enrich your world!

*Vicki Dawson
(Proudly) Middle School Youth Leader*

P.S. Thanks to all the adult leaders who joined us in our mission. Your support is invaluable!

SEPTEMBER 2007 CALENDAR

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday _____

Services at Arise Acres
 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)
Men's Huddle will start up again on Monday September 10th, 7-9 pm at the Morphew's again this year.

Divorce Recovery

Wednesday _____

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

2008 Stewardship Campaign Coming!

We are fortunate to have the ever-enthusiastic Al Smith chairing the upcoming stewardship campaign. Stay tuned for information in the next months, and the choice to renew and increase your 2008 tithes and gifts in late October. This year we have the added opportunity for matching funds, thanks to our anonymous donor. Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact Al at 810-231-8131 or lamocu007@hotmail.com.



Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it. — Proverbs 22:6

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
August 26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 Holy Communion 9 am Jammin' Kids practice	3 LABOR DAY 	4 7 pm Church Council	5 7 pm Building Team	6	7 10 am TGIF Sisters	8
9	10	11 Patriot Day 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	12	13	14	15
16 9 am Jammin' Kids practice	17	18	19 7 pm Building Team	20 7 pm Barn Sale Mtg.	21 10 am TGIF Sisters 7 pm Euchre Night, Morphew's	22
23	24	25 10 am Newsletter folding 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	26 7 pm Worship Committee	27	28	29
30 9 am Jammin' Kids practice	1	2 7 pm Church Council	3 7 pm Building Team	4	5 10 am TGIF Sisters 7 pm Building Team	6

Arise Barn Sale 2007

If you thought the Arise Barn Sale was good in past years, wait until you see this one! Everyone has been saving their merchandise for two years, so we should have lots to sell. The Barn Sale is planned for Friday, Oct. 12, 9 am – 5 pm and Saturday, Oct. 13, 9 am – 3 pm.

The Barn Sale Committee had a great turnout of 13 people for the first planning meeting. We are in need of brown paper grocery bags with handles, so please save them. Many helping hands and team leaders for different aspects of the sale are needed, too.

The pole barn will be used, as well as tents around the property. The traditional barn

will not be used, due to construction for the new church building.

All proceeds will go to the Arise Building Fund and, thanks to our very generous anonymous donor, money raised will qualify for the Matching Gifts Program. This is an extraordinary opportunity to double our fundraising efforts!

Contact Diane Gould at (734) 665-8997 for details and for ways to volunteer.





UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Arise Ministry Center
11211 Dexter-Pinckney Rd.
Pinckney, MI 48169

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September Anniversaries

9/8 Tom & Donna Terhune
9/10 Dean & Nancy Swartzwelter
9/13 Matt & Beth Plachta
9/15 Paul & Anita Pagano
9/26 Steve & Cheryl Bollinger – 15 years
9/29 Gene & Fran Smith
9/30 Jim & Cindy Morphew

September Birthdays

9/6	Marge Smith	9/22	Dean Swartzwelter
9/12	Sherry Graham	9/23	Matt Concannon
	Olivia Dawson	9/25	Jessica Concannon
9/14	Don Weatherup		Andrea Majewski
9/16	Joyce Barnard		

ARISE NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editorial:
April Flanagan
Beth Plachta

Layout/Design:
Barbara Wood

Distribution:
Dorothy Winslow
& the Primetimers

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