



THE PAUL PAGANOS: Father and Son Team

Ministers

Every member
of the Church

Pastor

Don Weatherup

Director of Music

Kevin Griffin

Administrative Assistant

Dave Russell

Ministry Center

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This is the third in a series of articles profiling those who go above and beyond by working on the Arise Building Project.

It was hard to catch up with these two. Paul Pagano, Jr. and Paul Pagano, Sr. both live in Kalamazoo and live very busy lives. On a weekend home, though, they were able to take a few minutes to describe what it means to them to work on the Arise Building Project.

Paul, Jr., nicknamed "Junior" by some of the crew, is a dynamo at construction work. Workers were often heard asking if he'd be around to help on a given day. Now that he is back in his third year of classes for Civil Engineering at Western, Paul has limited time at home.

But when he was here this summer, if there was work to be done at the barn, he was out there doing it. "I always liked construction, even as a little kid," he says with his characteristic enthusiasm.

"Other than helping my dad with home repair projects, I hadn't done any really big construction projects before. It feels good to give back. It's inspiring work to be building God's house. He rewards me for being in service to Him. Also, it's such a good opportunity to work with the older guys and learn from them. That crew of guys is a blast to work with. Everyone is great—it's a lot of work, but it doesn't seem too bad when you're doing it, it's so much fun." Paul says that he can also apply this experience to his future career. When home on occasional weekends, Paul works at Lakeland Hills Golf Course and still finds time to help out at the barn from time to time.

Paul, Sr. says he saw his son and others working on the building project and was so inspired by



their dedication and their "living by example" that he decided to join them. Many times father and son were seen working side by side. "Paul and I were hanging siding together on Father's Day weekend, so that was special. It's something we'll both remember for quite awhile. My son has a busy life and still found time to work out there, so that was a real inspiration to me," Paul says in his quiet way. "I had done some woodworking when the kids were young, but no real construction work. I've learned a lot from the professionals at Arise." Paul has managed to help out, in spite of job challenges. A research scientist in infectious disease for 20 years, he saw his company change hands several times, moving his family from Kalamazoo to Pinckney four years ago. When Pfizer closed in Ann Arbor, local jobs didn't work out, so he took a job at PharmOptima with a team he had worked with for years. Paul commutes back home on weekends to be with his wife Anita and daughter Amber. They have no plans to relocate yet, so they will continue living here for the foreseeable future. "One advantage of living in Kalamazoo," says Paul, "is that my son and I are on the same ice hockey league, so we get to see a lot of each other." Thanks to both Pauls for their dedicated help in building the new Arise worship center!



Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

We know that ministry is seed planting. Everything we do at Arise Church is for the purpose of helping people know Jesus and to develop a relationship with God. The frustrating thing about being in ministry is that often it takes time for seed planting to develop into mature fruit. And the wait is often agonizing.

We would like to see fruit TODAY!

We'd like our efforts to make a difference right now. But more often than not, ministry is a waiting game. For example, we work and work on the new building, but it isn't done. And the wait seems agonizing. We work on making our children's ministry as good as we can, but the growth is slow. We put our whole heart and effort into ministry and we don't always see results right away. And yet God whispers to us, be patient and remain faithful, the harvest is coming.

Christmas is the celebration of God coming to earth in human form. Emmanuel; God with us. Even though the shepherds proclaimed the birth of the Messiah, it would be nearly three decades before the ministry of Jesus began to make a difference. Nearly thirty years would go by before Jesus recruited his first disciples. That's a lot of waiting.

When we are being faithful and following God's plan and it looks like nothing is happening, rest assured, God is at work cultivating the seeds we have planted.

It reminds me of the hymn "O, Holy Night." It is Shelley's favorite Christmas hymn of all time. She's already made it known that she would like it played at her memorial service someday.

*Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine.*

The author of the lyrics was Placide Cappea, a resident of Roquemaure, France. He was a wine maker and an occasional writer of poetry. Cappeau was getting ready to go on a business trip to Paris when the local parish priest asked Cappeau to write a Christmas poem. On December 3, 1847, about halfway to Paris, Cappeau received the inspiration for the poem, "Minuit, Chrétiens."

When Cappea arrived in Paris he shared his poem with the composer Adolphe Adam. Together, their work

produced the hymn "O, Holy Night" and it premiered at the midnight mass on Christmas Eve 1847 in Roquemaure.

In spite of its beautiful lyrics and melody, "O Holy Night," was not well received by churchmen in Cappeau's native France. Although Cappeau was an outspoken opponent of slavery and injustice, the combination of his profession and his lack of church attendance made him to be considered by the religious leaders as a non-Christian.

Played once in 1847, the song received almost zero attention for the next 59 years!

"O, Holy Night" was rediscovered when an American pastor named John Sullivan Dwight translated the hymn from French to English. This carol had the distinction of being the first one ever played live on a Christmas radio broadcast on December 24, 1906 in Brant Rock, Massachusetts.

When Cappea received such harsh criticism about "O, Holy Night," he certainly must have felt that the song had little hope of making a difference. But look at it today! "O, Holy Night" remains one of the most loved and recorded carols of all time. It is yet another surprise ending.

What surprise ending does God have in store for your work and ministry? Nobody knows for sure. But I do know this. If you are faithful and keep planting seeds, the end result, whenever it should come, is going to be spectacular.

I pray that the upcoming Christmas season and the New Year bring you wonder, joy and laughter.

Merry Christmas!

Rev. Don Weatherup



2008 Arise Committee Changes Announced

Thanks for a job well done to the following people, who are stepping down from committee service at the completion of their terms...

CHURCH COUNCIL

Joyce Barnard
(Council Chair)

Rich Guyon
(Interim Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee – SPRC)

Matt Plachta (Chair, Finance Committee)

Sherry Graham
(Lay leader; will continue as Youth Co-coordinator)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Rob Wagner
(Treasurer)

Welcome and thanks to the following people, who have accepted the invitation to offer their gifts through committee service!

CHURCH COUNCIL

April Flanagan
(Council Chair)

Deb Short
(Chair, Finance Committee)

Al Smith
(Lay Leader)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Diane Gould

Gail Osborne
(Treasurer)

LAY LEADERSHIP

Donna Terhune

Barbara Wood

MEMBERSHIP

Micki Baumgart

Karen Vaden

MISSIONS

Ron Fike (co-chair, with Laura Bowen)

Barb Haines

SPRC

Steve Bollinger

Jim Gannon

WORSHIP

Rich Sliter

TRUSTEES

Carolyn Stafford



Joyce Barnard



Rich Guyon



Matt Plachta



Rob Wagner



April Flanagan



Deb Short



Al Smith



Gail Osborne



Ron Fike

Consecration Sunday 2007

It was another memorable gathering of the Arise Church family on Sunday, November 18, as our congregation worshipped together in one service and shared a wonderful catered meal afterward. Many thanks to the members of the Stewardship Committee; Don Weatherup, Don Mathis and Chair, Al Smith, for all of their work on this important event in the life of our church.



Rev. Martin

Guest pastor Lynn Martin gave an inspiring sermon about “The Secret”—that it’s no secret to us what God is doing and we should share that with others and not keep it a secret. She also talked about stewardship and maintaining harmony and enthusiasm for God’s work within the Body of Christ. Rev. Martin pastors the

Community Congregational Church in Pinckney. We were blessed to have had her join us.

Consecration Sunday celebrates the financial gifts we offer to God that enables Arise Church to do Christ’s work both locally and in the world. This year, there were 34 pledges made to the General Fund. Of these, 24 reflected increased giving over 2007. As a result, in 2008, we anticipate giving to the General Fund will be \$156,693, an approximate increase of 6.94 % over the previous 12 months’ giving.

There were 28 pledges made to the Arise Land and Building Fund, 19 of which reflected increased giving. An anticipated \$151,834 will be donated for use during 2008. The totals of these two funds will continue to increase over the next few weeks as additional pledges are turned in. Thanks to all for another successful Consecration Sunday and celebration of God’s blessings!

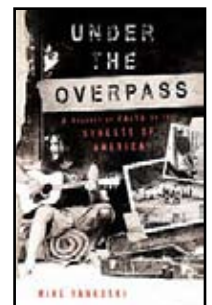
Pastor’s Picks

Following is one of Pastor Don’s favorite books and why he thinks it’s a good read. There are also many good books and videos in the Arise Library collection. Contact Gene Smith for details.

Title: ***Under The Overpass***

Author: Mike Yankoski

Mike and a friend volunteer to leave their comfortable life to live homeless to see what it is like. His experiences are amazing. A fascinating look at homelessness in America and the church’s response (or lack of response) to it.



Worship is... Christmas

By Kevin Griffin

(This is the final article in a series by Kevin about the worship experience.)



Sleigh bells jingling, mistletoe hanging, holly and ivy abounds along with trees and light posts adorned with colorful lit bulbs and ornaments. Music from the radio plays carols and popular seasonal tunes. Ah yes, it's Christmas time! Maybe we'll get some snow to make it all look just right too.

But can we worship God in all of this? Because our culture has been so good at both commercializing Christmas and at the same time removing the real, original reason for all the celebration, let's see if we can find connections to reclaim Christmas as a time to worship Jesus, the newborn King.

Let's start with the Christmas tree. It indeed has roots in pagan European winter solstice worship, but the Church, early in its growth in Europe, took it and changed its meaning to that of a symbol of eternal life found in the birth of Jesus. Some tree ornaments are very much geared to telling the story as stars and angels decorate the top of the tree. Some people may be familiar with and use Christmas ornaments, ornaments that tell the Christmas story through

symbols and images.

Moving on, nativity sets can remind us of whom to worship and can be the focus of a family time of devotion as Jesus' birth is read over a few weeks time, adding new characters to the scene. Holly and ivy portend the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus by the thorny crown and red color of the ivy and holly. Bright, colorful lights remind us of God sending light to the world.

The gifts we give and receive are reminders of the gifts the Wise Men brought to Jesus. There may not be much you can do with Santa Claus but the back story of Saint Nicholas speaks of the charity of God.

Even the word itself, Christmas, points to worship; Christ and Mass. Even those who have tried to eliminate Christ from Christmas by the use of xmas really haven't gotten very far. The letter x in English looks like the first letter in Greek for the word 'Christ'!

Hopefully, this has been a reminder of how to reclaim worship of Jesus within various seasonal traditions. So, slow down and take a moment this Christmas season and find again the worship of God that is a part of our faith in the midst of all the hoopla and fruit cakes.



Christmas Music: Where did it come from?

Christmas music seems like it's always been with us—but it started somewhere. Here are a few examples of how this music came to be...and came to be used for Christmas in particular.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

During the Middle Ages, Christmas celebrations in Europe were elevated to new heights when people adopted the custom of giving 12 gifts to loved ones, one every day from Christmas to Epiphany. From the grandest lords to the poorest peasants, this tradition of gift giving was celebrated with great enthusiasm.

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written sometime during the sixteenth century. Although predominantly about the tradition of giving extravagant gifts, this tune also glorified society's passion for "counting songs." Whether singing of golden rings or fat geese, even those

unable to buy such luxuries could hold these lyrics as promises of heartfelt gifts to come during this glittering season of giving.

Good King Wenceslas

Though history is laden with wicked royalty, one titled ruler stands tall: King Wenceslas (who was actually the Duke of Bohemia). His kind heart was silenced by a jealous brother in 929, but, centuries later, his memory surfaced as the subject of a children's song written by John Mason Neale.

To add the perfect melody to his tribute, Neale picked an unlikely Latin tune: "Tempus adest florum" or "Spring has unwrapped her flowers," first published in a Swedish song collection in 1582. Its application to Neale's lyrics proved to be a remarkable tribute to a beloved ruler whose kindness has never been forgotten

Jingle Bells

Some songs are known for their appeal to adults; others for their popularity with children. "Jingle Bells" enchants

both audiences, but it might surprise you to know that the original music, composed by Boston Sunday school teacher James Pierpont, was conceived as a Thanksgiving song in 1857.

Originally titled "The One Horse Open Sleigh," the song was taught by Pierpont to his pupils for a performance and was delighted to find that all 40 of them learned its lyrics almost immediately. Declared "a merry jingle" by a close friend, this holiday carol was fine-tuned and performed again at Christmastime, and quickly became a Yuletide classic.

To read more about all of your favorite Christmas songs and their origins, visit <http://christmas.howstuffworks.com/christmas-songs4.htm>

Christmas Through a Child's Eyes: Wisdom from Arise Kids

If you could give a gift to Baby Jesus, what would it be and why?

Myles Wagner: I would give Baby Jesus a big kissy because I love him!

Ross Richards: I would give Him clothes because He didn't have any.

Wilson Wagner: I would give Him a bed and a blanket to keep Him warm.



Why do we have Christmas?

Katie Yenor: because that's when Baby Jesus was born and we give presents because Baby Jesus was given presents

Wes Richards: because we can have snowball fights

Ben Germain: so we can celebrate Jesus's birthday

Giving in the Spirit of Christ

Are you hoping to nurture peace this Advent season and avoid the mad rush to buy every last gift on your list? Would you like your Christmas preparations to be filled with joy rather than anxiety? Do you want the gifts you give to be a reflection of God's love which, after all, is what this season is all about? With some thoughtfulness and planning it is possible to gift everyone with peace, joy, and love this Christmas – including yourself. Here are some ideas to get you started:

Gift someone with a daily devotional at the beginning of Advent An Advent devotional is the perfect

gift for someone wanting to observe the season in a sacred way. Choose a devotional that matches the style and sensitivities of the recipient. Would they like longer selections or short thoughts for the day? Do they like inspirational stories or would they rather dig into scripture? Selecting a fitting devotional will communicate: I know you and I want to help you grow in faith this season.

Purchase one gift for every week of Advent Focus your gifts by purchasing four presents that reflect Advent themes: peace, hope, joy, and love. If you would like to refine your gifts even more, ask your worship leader or a church school teacher for the scripture readings which will be heard during Advent. The passages could be read again before the gifts are opened. Imagine reading Mary's song of praise in Luke and then unwrap a CD of sacred music. Or follow the story of John the Baptizer with a jar of locally produced honey and a box of fair trade tea.

Print a poetic prayer and put it in a decorated frame One year the pastor of a small congregation was not able to spend the holidays with her extended family. So instead she decided to celebrate with the family of faith she was serving. During Advent she typed up prayers of blessing for some of the families in her congregation, printed them on beautiful paper, and placed them in simple, wooden frames. Then during the 12 days of Christmas, she went with her husband and infant daughter to sing carols, eat Christmas cookies, and read the prayer to the families.

Offer to give of your time in the coming year Make a book of coupons that contain chores the gift giver will do sometime in the future. Or decorate a small cardboard box and put pieces of paper inside with fun things the gift giver will do with the recipient such as play a game, do a puzzle, go for a bike ride, etc. One grown man made a date with his aging mother to travel the two hours to her house on the third Monday of every month. When he arrived, the son would take his mother out to lunch, run errands, and do small repairs around the house. Besides these practical benefits, the mother beamed as she spoke about the real gift of spending time with her son.

Make a donation to a helping agency in someone's name Choose an agency that reflects the concerns of the recipient and make a donation. Many national and international organizations provide gift cards specifically for this purpose. You can also share your gift by collecting information about the organization and placing it in a Christmas card with a message such as, "A monetary gift was given to [name of organization] in your name."

Source: www.simpleliving.org/download/BL47_fall_07.pdf



Youth Sponsored Harvest Gathering

It was a wonderful outpouring of love and support as, on November 10, the Arise Youth Group, calling themselves the “The God Squad”, lead the charge to host a community food collection for the Gleaners Food Bank. With hard work, cold toes and hands, tired bodies (they are teens!), the youth went door to door through select neighborhoods picking up sacks of food as well as solicited food and funds outside Busch’s all for the good of this community.

1812 pounds of food, personal products and \$600.26 was collected. WOW!! Hard work and sacrifice pays off as God has promised. Thanks to all the youth and adults who participated and helped to make this a successful event!

Vicki Dawson, Youth Coordinator

COME CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH ARISE YOUTH

**Come enjoy an Arise Christmas Celebration!
Sunday, December 9
Community Congregational Church**

Pot luck dinner, fellowship, music, caroling!
Fun activities for everyone, great food, and company!

Please join your hosts, “The God Squad”, the Arise youth group, as we have a great evening planned!

Sign up sheets for RSVP and potluck will be going around soon at Sunday worship.

Gifts of Kindness

By Becky White

I have a kindergartner, and we wanted to make sure he knew whose birthday it was. This year at the start of Advent, we wrapped a shoebox in gift wrap and cut a small hole in the top. We placed a bow on the box and a label that read, “To Jesus, From Gary, Becky, Henry, and Anna.” Then each week each of us tried to do at least three special acts of kindness. These things had to be out of the ordinary. In other words, Mom can’t say “I washed everyone’s laundry” because that is something she does anyway. Each act of kindness was recorded on a small piece of paper, with the “doer’s” name on it, and placed inside the box.

On Christmas morning, we opened the box and read the messages out loud. It was good for our children to see that we really did put some effort into giving a “present” to Jesus. And it was also good for them to hear the different “acts of kindness”

so that they get new ideas of things they could do themselves throughout the year.

“The Spirit of St. Nicholas” and “Gifts of Kindness” reprinted from *Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?* devotional.



DECEMBER 2007 CALENDAR

I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.

— Charles Dickens



WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday _____

Worship Services at Arise Acres
 9:00 am—Traditional Worship
 10:00 am—Youth Sunday School
 10:00 am—Youth Life Team
 11:00 am—Contemporary Praise Worship



Monday _____

7:00 – 9:00 pm
 Men's Huddle at Morphew's (contact Lance Korzilius)

7:00 pm
 Divorce Recovery

Wednesday _____

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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
November 25 10 am Youth Life Team	26	27 10 am Newsletter folding	28 7 pm Worship Committee	29	30 10 am TGIF Sisters	December 1
2 Advent; Holy Communion Sunday 9 am Arise Jammin' Kids practice	3 	4 7 pm Church Council	5 7 pm Building Team	6	7	8
9 4 – 8 pm Arise Christmas Party with Arise Youth @ CCC church	10	11 7 pm Threads of Faith	12	13	14 10 am TGIF Sisters	15
16 9 am Jammin' Kids perform	17	18	19 7 pm Building Team	20	21	22 First Day of Winter
23 Arise Youth Group at Good News Chapel	24 5 & 7 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service at Country Elementary	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29 
30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5

New Church E-mail...it's coming December 1!

IT'S ALL ABOUT CHOICES...

- Get the news you really want from your church—you choose what gets to you.
- Keep your e-mail address updated, so you get the latest updates.
- Generate ongoing reminders for your meetings and more—automatically.
- Protect your privacy—no list of addresses will show on church group e-mails
- Experience efficient and timely church e-mail communications.
- Use any computer to access this new web based system.

SO, BEFORE DECEMBER 1...

- Everyone with e-mail: visit www.arisechurch.org and register in the *GET CONNECTED* box.
- Arise leaders: arrange a 20 minute training session from Dave (Monday or Thursday) or Pastor Don





UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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.



December Anniversary

12/23 Tim & Jan Richards

December Birthdays

12/4 Laurie Glover (Watson)	12/8 Ron Fike
12/5 Susan Striz	Kim Sherry
12/6 Diane Gould	12/11 Rich Guyon
12/7 Mike Sanborn	12/17 Tyler Donovan
	12/28 Ross Richards

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

• Arise *Connections* is now available online and in color at <http://www.arisechurch.org> •