

# Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



March 2008



## Ministers

Every member  
of the Church

## Pastor

Don Weatherup

## Director of Music

Kevin Griffin

## Administrative

Assistant

Dave Russell

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## The Bollingers: Faith in Action

Catching up with the Bollingers on a Sunday was a challenge. It was their turn to work on the Moving Team together as a family, Cheryl taught Sunday School, while Steve worked on the A-V team. Their sons also help in various ways on Sundays... so they opted for a conference call after church with everyone on the phone line together!



The Bollinger family. C.J., Kevin, Cheryl, Austin and Steve

Steve is the youngest child out of five and grew up as a United Methodist preacher's kid. "Traveling is in my blood," he quipped, since his family moved so much. Being on the road must suit him, as he's worked long-term for UPS. Before that, he taught school, having earned a degree in teaching from Adrian College. He met Cheryl when they were in high school, where she attended the church that his father pastored in Fairgrove-- a small farming community in the Michigan thumb. They began dating five years after high school, married and started a family.

"When we moved to this area, friends from Dearborn UMC recommended trying the contemporary worship service here," Steve continues. "We connected with Arise right away." He explains that it's the people at Arise that keep them here. "One of the things I liked best about Arise was the Discover Your Gifts

class and also having a Faith Friend to support you. Mine was Rob Wagner—God had his hand in that—Rob will be my lifelong buddy and friend. The thing that inspires me most about Arise is the way people have hung in there, despite all the growing pains. Church is all about relationships—the love and support. The resiliency of Arise is amazing."

In addition to the Moving and A-V teams, Steve has been active in Trustees, Youth Group, Staff Parish, working on the new Worship Center, and being a co-leader of the Dads L.I.F.E. team. Outside of Arise, he loves active recreation such as basketball and mountain biking, "although it takes more joint wraps and hot tubs to recover than it used to", along with fishing and camping with the family.

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## Pastor's Column



**Pastor Don Weatherup**

Like many people, I am a person who had struggled with my faith because I didn't just want to take the claims of Christianity with blind faith, I wanted proof. I wanted to see concrete facts. Especially when the Bible asks me to believe things that are very difficult to believe.

Of all of the claims of the Bible, one claim surfaces larger than all the others; that Jesus rose from the dead. Its claim isn't that Jesus was resuscitated. Its claim is that he was resurrected. That he was totally and completely, undeniably dead, and then came back to life after being buried in a tomb.

Whenever I have the opportunity to talk with non-believers, I often start with discussions of the resurrection. Why? Because, the entire Christian faith hinges on the resurrection of Jesus. If there is no resurrection, there is no Christianity. Believe in the resurrection and everything else in the Bible is easy to believe because there is tremendous credibility in the words of someone who has beaten death.

In his book *Immortality—The Other Side of Death*, authors Gary Habermas and J.P. Moreland write, "Well over three hundred verses are concerned with the subject of Jesus' resurrection in the New Testament. We are told that this event is a sign for unbelievers (Matt. 12:38-40; John 20:24-29) as well as the answer for the believer's doubt (Luke 24:38-43). It serves as the guarantee that Jesus' teachings are true (Acts 2:22-24; 1 Cor. 15:12-20) and is the center of the gospel itself (Rom. 4:24-25, 10:9; 1 Cor. 15:1-4). Further, the resurrection is the impetus for evangelism (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 10:39-43), the key indication of the believer's daily power to live the Christian life (Rom. 6:4-14, 8:9-11; Phil. 3:10) and the reason for the total commitment of our lives (Rom. 7:4; 1 Cor. 15:57-58). The resurrection even addresses the fear of death (John 11:25; 1 Cor. 15:54-58; Heb. 2:14-15) and is related to the second coming of Jesus (Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7). Lastly, this event is a model of the Christian's resurrection from the dead (Acts 4:2; 1 Cor. 6:14; 1 Thess. 4:13-18) and provides a foretaste of heaven for the believer (Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Peter 1:3-5)."

I was a skeptic, but I'm not anymore. I took the time it takes to investigate the facts. And there is plenty of evidence to look at. Easter Sunday I'll be taking a look at four possible reactions to the claim that Jesus rose from the dead: investigate, ignore, reject, or believe. Where do

you stand? If you're in the reject category, can I convince you to at least investigate? If you have a non-believer in your life, can you encourage them to investigate?

The late attorney and British statesman Sir Lionel Luckhoo (of The Guinness Book of World Records fame for his unprecedented 245 consecutive defense murder trial acquittals) was asked to investigate the strength of the case for the resurrection. He looked into the facts for 1 ½ years. Upon finishing his investigation he wrote, "I have spent more than 42 years as a defense trial lawyer appearing in many parts of the world and am still in active practice. I have been fortunate to secure a number of successes in jury trials and I say unequivocally the evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt."

What does the resurrection of Christ mean to me?  
Everything!

I am looking forward to a deeply moving service on Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at Country Elementary, a Good Friday service at Community Congregational Church, and a gloriously joy filled Easter celebration at Country Elementary. There will be a breakfast at 9:00 a.m. followed by a gathering of the whole Arise Church family at one worship service (blended) at 10:00 a.m.

With you on the journey,

*Don*



# Church News

The Worship Committee wishes to thank everyone who participated in the Arise Music Survey. The decision to survey the congregation about the Arise music program was made when people began sharing their ideas and opinions with Pastor Don. The committee worked together to develop the survey questions and have been impressed with the response rate (41 surveys turned in) and by the sincere and honest feedback that was offered up by participants. We have been collating the responses and are now beginning to take action on what we learned based on common themes. These patterns will help the committee identify areas for improvement--ways to enhance the worship experience through music.



So far we can say that, based on your feedback, we have focused our energies on two broad areas that came up often in the surveys. The first is to find ways to increase the energy level as it pertains to music at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The second is to increase the use of familiar songs in worship and to select music that is easy to sing. We are exploring the manner and frequency of how we introduce new music and how that might improve both familiarity and ease of sing-ability.

The Music Worship Survey contained a lot of information. While it indicated a general level of satisfaction with the worship music, it was clear that an opportunity exists for improvement. The most important point we would like you to know at this point is how much we appreciate your feedback. We will be working with both the Church Council and, where appropriate, the Staff Parish Relations Committee to implement the changes we need to make in order to ensure our worship experience has as much meaning and impact as possible in developing disciples of Jesus Christ.

The action plan resulting from this survey will address the Council's request for committees and L.I.F.E. teams to identify ways we can all help to contribute to one of our primary objectives for 2008--promoting excellence in worship. If you have further questions about the work of the Worship Committee, please see one of us below who are working on the results and we'd be happy to discuss it with you.

*Rev. Don Weatherup, Beth Plachta, Evva Funk, Laurie Russell, Anita Pagano.*

## Sermons on the Web!

By Dave Russell

*(Editor's Note: Dave has been hard at work in recent months making this happen. Thanks, Dave!)*



**Dave Russell**

Ever awakened to find 2 feet of snow in your driveway and just couldn't get to church? Have you ever gotten home from church, thought about the sermon and said, "What was that middle part again"? Ever wondered, "Was God speaking to me"? Well now you can get those nagging questions and more answered at: [www.arisechurch.org](http://www.arisechurch.org) with the all new Sermons on the Web!

That's right, no more wondering what the Pastor said. Just click on the Sermons link to see a listing of the available sermons. Currently sermons going back to the later half of 2007 are available with future sermons to be added as they become available.

How much does this incredible technological miracle cost you? Nothing, it's free! Just a couple of clicks and you will have the Sunday Sermon preached in the privacy of your own home. No need to tidy up the living room first. Just click to: [www.arisechurch.org](http://www.arisechurch.org) and look for the Sermons link on the left side of the page.



**Bollinger's...** *continued from pg. 1*

Cheryl also grew up with her brother as a United Methodist, her parents being members of the Evangelical United Brethren Church—the denomination that the Methodists merged with in 1968 to create the United Methodist Church. Cheryl took child development classes in high school and then worked as a nurse's aid in a nursing home and in home care. After having children, people asked her to take care of their children and that led her to open a daycare business in her home. "I love being able to work from home and be there for my kids when they get out of school," she said enthusiastically. "I also love getting to know my daycare families and having the opportunity to share my faith with them." Several families have attended Arise over the years as a result of their relationship with Cheryl. "I agree with Steve about what we love about this church. It makes life such a pleasure to be able to count on people at Arise. We have such close friendships here." Steve and Cheryl wanted their boys to be able to attend school with their church friends, so they opted for Pinckney as a "school of choice", since they live outside the district.

Cheryl led the Arise Youth, both Sr. and Jr. High for over five years. "The youth group was my only L.I.F.E. team for years—all the activities kept me busy, but I learned so much from the youth and they supported me just as much as I did them. I loved to play with them—the fun activities we did together were great." Cheryl agrees with the observation that she connects with youth in a special, personal way. "You have to go where the youth are," she

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**Fun and team spirit were everywhere at the Arise Super Bowl party, on February 3rd.**

Love those team colors, Dave! Go, Giants!!



**Bollinger's...** *continued from pg. 4*

explains. In related work, Cheryl has been Camp Coordinator, Sunday School teacher for youth and adults and she and her family rotate one Sunday a month on the Moving Team. She enjoys horseback riding, hiking in the woods, scrapbooking and time together at their family cabin. "I've also spent a lot of time on bleachers, watching sporting events," she said, laughing.

And as for their boys, the oldest, Kevin Atkerson, 19, lives in Millington. On his family's first day at Arise, he was invited to attend Acquire the Fire with Arise Youth, under the direction of Gail Osborne, and he was so excited about the experience, he insisted the family make Arise their church home. Kevin now works as a cook at the Bavarian Inn and loves tennis, wrestling and snowboarding. He leaves April 15 for Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas and will specialize in electronics after basic training.

C.J., short for Charles Jared, is 13 and in 8th grade. He loves to draw, writes fiction and fantasy and basketball is his sport. He likes being at Arise because "it's a small community and you can know people's names and make lots of friends." His favorite thing so far is Secret Pals and, along with his brother, Austin, C.J. will sometimes be seen in first service by himself, because when he's helping with Kids' Club during second service, their mom and dad want them to experience worship, as well. He also ushers in second service with the youth.

Austin, 11, is in 5th grade and loves basketball, too, as well as football and baseball. "I really like all the people at Arise and going to Youth Group. My favorite things are Secret Pals, Laser Tag and going to the Battle Cry concert and hearing Ron Luce talk." Austin helps out with the Arise Jammin' Kids and Kids' Club, and ushers at first service. Both C.J. and Austin have invited their non-Arise friends to various activities at Arise.

Thank you, Bollingers, for letting us get to know you a little better and for all you do for Christ at Arise Church!



## Secret Pals Revealed on February 10th!

*By Cheryl Bollinger*

A very special thank you goes out to all of the adults who were Secret Pals this year. There were 11 youth and 11 adults who took part this year. From Oct – Feb adults gave small gifts, notes of encouragement and prayed for a particular youth.

Conner Graham/Andrea Majewski

CJ Bollinger/April Flanagan

Austin Bollinger/Norine Bibicoff

Elly Sherry/Beverly Selvig

Elizabeth Roebuck/Shelley Weatherup

Lindsey Selvig/Vicki Dawson

Shannon Haines/Jen Wagner

Olivia Dawson/Karen Vaden

Ellen Russell/Sherry Graham

Melissa Vaden/Anita Pagano

Daphney Weatherup/Norma Topp



Research shows that the greater number of supporting adults a youth has in his or her life, the more that youth is apt to develop into a nurturing adult. (For more on Asset Building, see [www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org)) By being a Secret Pal you have given the youth something so much more than what you can fit into the Secret Pal gift box. The love and support you have shown will reach farther than you will ever know!



# The Arise Cross: How it Came to Be

By Bob Whalen

This is the story of how the cross at Arise Acres came to be. First, you know the story of Jesus and the cross. Different cross and story, same meaning. In 1958 the local boy scouts planted hundreds of evergreen trees in different varieties on approximately 40 acres in Gregory. Brenda and I purchased 12 of those acres about 20 years ago with mainly white pine in that area (our state tree). Over the years they have grown very well to approximately 50-60 feet tall.

One year a storm came through and snapped two of the trees in half--the upper half resting very high on the tree canopy next to them. For safety reasons, I cut down the broken trees.

Wondering what I could do with the logs, I decided to make some beams. I have some interest in building a post and beam building some day. So, I called two friends to help retrieve the logs from the woods. We dragged them with a four-wheel drive A.T.V. motorcycle over to the house. For traction one guy sat on the handlebars and the other two sat on the seat. We three grown men were quite a sight.

Using a chain saw, I cut the logs to 8"x8" square timbers. Then I placed the timbers in my garage to dry. Not finding a use for them, I left the logs sit in the garage for about 3 years.

Sometime in the process our family started attending Arise church. We joined one of the L.I.F.E. Teams called Wednesday Night Bible Study. I joined when it first started. Ron Fike, the team leader, asked the group, "How can we help Arise church?" The idea of building a cross for Arise Acres came to mind, but I didn't want to go through the unfamiliar process to have it approved. Ron and the group said, "Build it, we're sure they will like it." So I did.

Transporting it was interesting. The cross is approximately 14 feet long and 6 feet wide.

Tony and I placed this cross in the back of my Chevy S-10 pickup truck. Driving through the town of Gregory and Hell, we had a lot of funny looks by people in their cars and walking by. We were thinking the people probably thought we were big into religious symbolism... or just crazy. We had a good laugh during the whole drive over.



We placed the cross in the barn and asked Tom Terhune to find out if it was all right to erect it on the property. Tom got approval and said, "Go ahead and put it up." My next question was where to place it. Tom said, "They didn't say, so I guess you decide." The first thing I thought of was on the mount.

The next day Tony and I set out to erect the cross on the hill. All of the above-mentioned people made the cross happen. I believe it was with Divine guidance.

## Beth Stalker on American Idol!

Did you happen to catch the season premiere of American Idol? See anybody familiar? Beth Stalker, who played at our Friendship Brunch last February, was at the Philadelphia tryouts, made the cut, and advanced on to Hollywood. There were also a few shots of Chloe, Beth's daughter. Some of you held the baby when she was here. Beth wasn't an Idol finalist, but she did have her time in the national spotlight!



## Say "Cheese!"



If you see Jan Richards running around snapping photos at Arise events, it's because she's the new photographer for Arise Connections. She has a good artistic eye and enjoys photography—especially opportunities to capture her family, Ross, Wes and Ben and husband, Tim, in action. She started submitting photos for the newsletter last month. In addition to this role, Jan also works in the church nursery, hosts T.G.I.F. Sisters in her home and has served on the SPRC. Welcome, Jan! We're pleased to have you on our team!

# MARCH 2008 CALENDAR

"Christ the Lord is risen today, Sons of men and angels say. Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply."

Charles Wesley



## WEEKLY EVENTS

(All services at Country Elementary)

### 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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
February 24 4 PM The God Squad	25	26 10am Newsletter Folding 6:30 pm AWE 7 pm Adult Choir	27 10 am Lenten Breakfast 7 pm Worship Committee	28	29	1
2 Holy Communion Sunday	3	4 7 pm Council	5 10 am Lenten Breakfast 7 pm Building Team 7 pm PR Committee	6	7 World Day of Prayer 10 am TGIF Sisters	8 9 am – 3 pm Women's Retreat at Holden's
9 Girl Scout Sunday 4 pm The God Squad	10 7 pm Threads of Faith	11 7 pm SPRC meeting	12 10 am Lenten Breakfast	13	14	15
16 Palm Sunday	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 7 pm Adult Choir	19 10 am Lenten Breakfast 7 pm Building Team	20 Maundy Thursday 7 pm Worship at Community Congregational	21 Good Friday 10 am TGIF Sisters 7 pm service at Community Congregational	22
23 Easter Sunday 9 an Breakfast 10 am Worship (1 service)	24	25	26 7 pm Worship Committee	27	28	29
30 4 pm The God Squad	31	1	2 7 pm Building Team	3	4 10 am TGIF Sisters	5

## Feeding Our Bodies, Feeding Our Souls

Ladies of Arise, come and enjoy a day away during our **Spring Women's Retreat**, co-sponsored by T.G.I.F. Sisters and the Women of Community Congregational UCC.

**Date:** Saturday, March 8th; Continental breakfast 8:30 am; 9 am – 3 pm

**Place:** 10201 Kress Rd., Lakeland—home of John Holden  
Experience building community with other women of faith

Join in preparing healthy Italian soup and appetizers with  
engaging guest speaker, JoAnna DeCamp

Hear women share how they live their faith in real life

Fun, relaxing, inspiring...and a tour of John's fabulous log home following the retreat

**Cost:** \$20, due to Jane Fuller (734) 878-2247 with reservation by **March 1**





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### March Birthdays

3/3	Paul Pagano	3/28	Rachel Beaudin
3/10	Nancy Swartzwelter	3/29	E.J. Sherry
3/11	Amber Pagano	3/30	Al Smith
3/17	Conner Graham	3/31	Chelsea Sherry

#### ARISE NEWSLETTER TEAM

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

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