

Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



July/August 2008

50 Years of Marriage: A Celebration of Love and Friendship

It started at Ypsi High, when **Don and Jane Fuller** met at a “dime” dance after a football game. “She looked at me and I liked her,” he recalls, and then she invited him to a Valentine’s Day party. They dated throughout high school, after which Jane went to nursing school at the University of Michigan and



Don worked at the Ford Plant before joining the Navy. He came home after three years and proposed, but Jane kept her promise to her parents to graduate before marrying. “So, I graduated one Saturday and married the next.” Then they moved to San Diego while he finished his tour of duty.

The Fullers relaxed in their living room, exchanging warm glances while recalling the past. On June 21st they celebrated 50 years of marriage with a trip to Branson, MO, and will continue to celebrate in Maui, Hawaii, this October. After marriage, Jane went on to a nursing career in hospitals and in the Belleville school district; Don joined the Postal Service, where he prided himself on customer service that even included helping with the paperwork to pay the bills for one man on his route, who waited for him every day. “I loved the early years; we had nothing to offer but service, so when our patrons wanted something, we tried to do it.”

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John Holden: Host and Caregiver

Many at Arise have had the wonderful opportunity of being welcomed by John Holden into his log home on Kress Road, in Lakeland. He has hosted Arise strategic planning sessions, the 2008 women’s retreat and a LaCasa “Twilight in the Garden” benefit for battered women and children in 2006. Sharing the beauty of that setting, amidst two lakes with magnificent vistas, is part of John’s commitment to stewardship. “There is a calming effect here. I like to create opportu-

nities for others to enjoy this house, and have that same feeling.”

The house was designed by John and his wife, Shari, who passed away from cancer in 2002. “We were best friends, buddies, in love and connected at the hip. We were married for 32 years.” Shari’s dream was to have a bed and breakfast, and together they created a home that has that potential. They worked to build the house in a record 17 months so that she

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Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

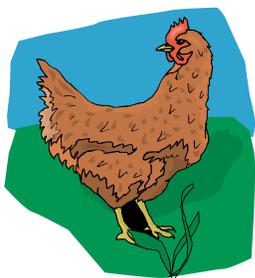
I was in the new building this morning and couldn't help but notice the barn swallows. Since the new building does not have all its exterior doors in place yet, the barn swallows have again taken up residence. What interests me is that the surroundings of that room which will be our temporary sanctuary have totally changed since they



last lived there. The primary place they had their nests was the underside of the hayloft and now the hayloft is gone. The room looks nothing like it did last year. And yet, they returned anyways. In spite of the obstacles thrown at them, the barn swallows adapted and returned. It's almost as if they have this remarkable unquenchable calling to nest in that spot and they simply won't take no for an answer.

It got me thinking. What if I had a barn swallow attitude with my faith? What if I was able to adapt the way they do to the obstacles in my life that makes it so easy for me to hold back from sharing my faith or inviting someone to come to church with me? What if my spiritual calling was as strong as the barn swallow's calling to nest? What could I accomplish for God that I'm not accomplishing right now?

The problem for many of us is that we have a tendency to be more like another bird. That's right, we're chicken! We often hear the promptings of the Holy Spirit nudging us to act, but we're afraid. Afraid someone will turn us down, afraid that we'll look like a fool if the person reacts negatively to our invitation.



We act like Peter when he was asked by Jesus to get out of the boat and walk on water. Although Peter had seen Jesus walk on water and had the assurance that Christ would give him that power as well, Peter doubted. And as a result of his lack of faith, he started to sink.

Jesus said, "The fields are ripe but the workers are few."

Recent research assures us over and over again that people in our culture are not adverse to the idea of attending church. What they're waiting for is a personal invitation. What they're waiting for is a positive recommendation from you. The same way you would

recommend a good book, or movie, or restaurant. And 6 out of 10 people have no church they call home.

The single biggest key to the growth of the church is US. No single factor helps churches grow faster and more effectively than by one-on-one personal invitations. That is a fact.

So, when it comes to making invitations, let us resolve to be a barn swallow. Be tenacious. Be bold. Don't be swayed easily. Go ahead and make the invitation.

Whose life can you change forever simply by inviting them to come to church? There is so much to gain and so little to lose.

With you on the journey,

Rev. Don Weatherup



Sherry Graham: She's got TNT!



It was June 1, 2008 and one of our own Arise members, Sherry Graham, was in beautiful San Diego, California. But she wasn't on vacation, relaxing by the beach. She was running

her first marathon--a lifelong goal and one that has been life-changing for her on many levels... physical, emotional and spiritual. Team in Training (TNT) was her sponsor and they train athletes in various endurance events, with proceeds going to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Runners choose a person to "run for" who is battling a blood cancer. Sherry chose Mark Wood, another Arise member who is fighting multiple myeloma, as her Honored Hero. Read Sherry's moving story in the next few Connections issues, beginning in September.

Arise Children's Ministry Summer Schedule

Summer is here with beautiful splendor!! Arise is alive with exciting worship, programs and fun for everyone.

The Children's Ministry programs are in full swing. Here is the "line-up" of who, what and where the fun stuff will be happening each Sunday and throughout the summer!

- 9:30-10:30 - Nursery, ages 0-4 years old: Arise Ministry Center
- 10:00-10:30 - Elementary Sunday School combined w/ Kids Klub, ages Pre-K thru 4th. Grade: Arise Ministry Center
- 10:30-11:30 (2nd. Sunday) - Youth Sunday School, MS/HS: Arise Acres Barn
- The God Squad, MS/HS youth - special fun outings and outreach mission projects: July 21-25 - Youth Mission Day Camp August 10 & 24 - 4-6:00 pm Arise Acres
- Vacation Bible School - August 11-15: Arise Acres

We look forward to seeing you each Sunday morning as we enjoy God's green earth in the beauty of Arise Acres. Come join us!

Children are God's future, treat them well!

Vicki Dawson & Jen Wagner, Children's Christian Education Leaders

Literacy for Liberia: Local School Teams with Arise to Help Mission

Heritage Elementary students in Stockbridge demonstrated their desire to help a small, struggling country with gently used textbooks in April. New curriculum materials had replaced the dated texts and the used books were stacking up in the Heritage storage room. A committee at the school saw this as a perfect opportunity



Several students from Mrs. Larson's and Mrs. Rivera's third grade class
Left adult, Julie Shotwell, Special Education teacher
Right adults, Mrs. Rivera and Mrs. Bowen, art teacher

for a reuse/recycle project! Laura Bowen coordinated the project with Arise as part of our annual Liberia relief efforts. A returnable bottle and can drive was held at the school to raise \$255.00 for shipping costs of the books, and 17 tubs (850 lbs.) full of books were sent to Liberia, along with Arise's 108 Health kits, 50 school kits, and 4 sewing kits! The school's project culminated on Earth Day with a teachers vs. fifth grade (the grade with the most bottle/cans) Dodge Ball game and lots of fun. The Arise Wednesday Nighters sent the children a thank you letter for all of their hard work and dedication to the project which was posted in their display at the school.

The Music Survey: Your Feedback at Work

Thanks to you and your response in last fall's music survey, improvements are being made to the overall quality of our Arise music worship experience. We hope you are noticing and enjoying them! Following is a summary of recommendations being implemented. Committee members welcome your feedback: Pastor Don Weatherup, Kevin Griffin, Evva Funk, Laurie Russell, Anita Pagano, and Beth Plachta.

Strategic steps to increasing the energy level at the 11 am service:

- Find and/or hire a keyboardist.
- Ensure slide lyrics are correct.
- Work on sound system quality issues.
- Be sure singer are comfortable with the music.
- Play upbeat music on CD as people enter.
- Have more people sing on stage.
- Ensure that the person doing the welcome is energetic.
- Reduce the amount of repeated lyrics.
- Occasional use of blended worship styles.
- Strategic Steps for Increasing Familiarity of the Music and Ease of Sing-ability
- Identify Arise favorites and increase their use.
- Introduce new music to the congregation ahead of time by:
 - Playing a CD of a new song prior to worship.
 - Introduce new songs during offering time.
 - Introduce new songs as special music
 - Limit the number of new song introductions to one per month.
 - Choose songs in the key range of the available singers.
 - Maintain a regular practice time and day for the singers and the band.

Relay for Life

May 16 and 17 was the Brighton Relay for Life. The Arise Team turned out in force for this memorable occasion, walking to raise awareness and money for cancer. Special thanks go to Jen Wagner, for organizing the Arise participation in this important event!





Arise has been awarded a United Methodist Church certificate of appreciation by the Detroit Annual Conference, for giving 100% of our apportionment covenant in 2007, signed by Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton.

Thanks to all who supported this important commitment to the many ministries, through your tithes and offerings, to make this a better world for all.

Don and Jane Fuller... continued from pg. 1

Don and Jane have two children, Deborah (married to Chris Thomas, with sons Tony, 17, and Nick, 16), and Don (married to Nanci, with daughter Brooke, 15, and twin boys Ryan and Austin, 14). They go to all of the games of the multitalented grandchildren, including track, baseball, hockey and soccer. "Having grandkids has been terrific!" And it's clear that athletic talent runs in the family. Don played defensive end in football and "left out" in basketball, and also pole vaulted. Jane played intramural sports and did synchronized swimming (along with marching band – oboe and cymbals - and the yearbook staff). Son Donnie took after Dad as a pole vaulter who went to State finals, and daughter Debbie earned nine varsity letters in high school, especially in softball.

It is clear that the Fullers enjoy giving. In addition to being doting grandparents, they are ushers at Arise and help out with those who need errands run, including driving Matt McMunn to summer camp one year. Jane is a member of the Arise Health Ministry Team and Sister's LIFE team, where "I feel that I could go and share anything. I think that's very important. The bigger

churches don't have that; this is a lot more personal. And it's nice that we meet at people's homes." And she is also known for the gift of welcoming everyone, and making them feel at home at Arise.

They were attracted to Arise when they moved here in 2002. Don sent Jane out to scout for churches, and she was impressed by the warmth and caring. Not knowing that worship was in the barn she was dressed in light clothing. Dave Russell came up, asked if she was warm enough, and went out to his car to get a blanket. "Arise church has been a blessing. I don't think I've ever been in a church that's more friendly; if you ever need anything, you could call anyone," Jane says.

Asked what wisdom they have for young marrieds, they offer, "you have to feel like you're giving 100%; you can't each give 50%; you both have to give 100%." Don added, "The time has gone really fast, and it must be good if it's gone that fast!" Sure looks that way! Happy anniversary, Don and Jane!

New Worship Center Progress

The Floor Is In!

Another milestone was reached during the week of June 9th, when the cement floor was poured in phase one of the new church.

Contractors and volunteers are now working on enclosing the building and installing interior framing.

Thank you for your continued support of this *Build as We Give* project to create our own worship facility on Arise Acres.



John Holden... continued from pg. 1

could live in it before she died. "She did, from December 2001 to May 2002, and she loved it."

John owned Armor Protective Packaging, a specialty chemical treatment produced for metal parts with locations in Howell and Canada. He took a leave from there to be her constant caretaker, and has since turned over the reins of the company to his partners. After Shari died, John has continued to serve as a caretaker for others through the Stephen Ministry. "I had only lost a dog. My parents were alive, my brothers and sisters were alive. I never had that connection with a caregiver, but I went back to caretaking after Shari died. I said I know what a caregiver is and what grieving is. I can now be a better volunteer because I've been through it. I learned it from being a caregiver to her and from losing her." He has taken training and been a hospice volunteer, as well as sitting with terminally ill people to provide some relief to family members.

John has two children, Scott (37), who is single in California and sells motorcycles, and Kelly (35), and artist and interior decorator in Florida. Kelly learned how to paint frescos in Italy, and had John's first granddaughter, Caressa, on February 13th of this year. In John's free time he flies his own plane and rides his Harley Fat Boy motorcycle. He has also recently become engaged to Karen Carty, a nutritionist and caterer with the Chelsea school system. They have begun talking about opening that bed and breakfast together.

John says of his faith journey, "I'm a seeker," starting as an Episcopal before becoming a Methodist. "It's about

right and wrong, the Golden Rule, how to treat someone else. Love your neighbor. Do right to them. Use forgiveness in your life." He has practiced those values in many ways, including mission trips to Mexico in 2006 and 2007, together with Mark Wood, to build cinder block "casitas" for the local poor. He says of Arise people "they're very down to earth, humble people. I like that; I really do. No false pretenses about anyone I've met there, and I'm so excited that we will be in a church soon. Pastor Don says we need to be doing stuff for the community, and I thoroughly agree... someone who lost a job or is down on their luck. Life is a journey and I'm still on my journey." And it's a pleasure to be journeying with you, John!



John Holden and Cody



We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

— The Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776

WEEKLY EVENTS

(All services at Arise Acres)

Sunday _____

Worship Service at Arise Acres

9:30 am Blended Service

Monday _____

7:00 pm Divorce Recovery

Wednesday _____

7:00 pm Wednesday Night Bible Study

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
June 29 9:30 am Blended Service @ Arise Acres (summer schedule)	30	1	2 7 pm Building Team	3	4 Independence Day 	5
6 9:30 am Blended Service @ Arise Acres Holy Communion (no Sunday School this week)	7	8 7pm SPRC	9	10	11	12
13 9:30 am Blended Service @ Arise Acres Sunday School—Middle School	14	15 7pm Trustees 7pm Council	16 7 pm Building Team	17	18	19
20 9:30 am Blended Service @ Arise Acres 4 pm The God Squad	21 Mission Day Camp	22 Mission Day Camp	23 Mission Day Camp 7pm Worship Committee	24 Mission Day Camp	25 Mission Day Camp	26
27 9:30 am Blended Service @ Arise Acres	28	29	30	31	1	2



Solar Stove Donations Sought

Donna Terhune is encouraging the donation of solar stoves for Liberia, in response to a request from Rev. Nellie. More information on the usefulness of this basic family item can be found at: <http://solarcooking.org/Solar-Ovens-for-Developing-Countries.htm>, or by contacting Donna at 734-426-3055.

Kids' Quotes

Johnny's Mother looked out the window and noticed him 'playing church' with their cat. He had the cat sitting quietly and he was preaching to it. She smiled and went about her work.

A while later she heard loud meowing and hissing and ran back to the open window to see Johnny baptizing the cat in a tub

of water. She called out, 'Johnny, stop that! The cat is afraid of water!'

Johnny looked up at her and said, 'He should have thought about that before he joined my church.'





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July & August Anniversaries

- 7/23 Gary & Judy Miller – **Happy 20th!**
- 7/29 Brad & Norma Topp
- 8/7 Rob & Jen Wagner
- 8/18 Rich & Pat Sliter

July & August Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 7/2 Brenda Whalen | 8/7 Bob Barnard |
| 7/4 Wilson Wagner | 8/10 Bob Whalen |
| 7/5 Janet Woodruff | 8/14 David McBrien |
| 7/6 Carol Sanborn | 8/16 Laura Bowen |
| 7/16 Anne Marie Germain | Mariana Sherry |
| 8/2 Seth Sherry | 8/21 Fran Smith |
| 8/4 Anita Pagano | 8/23 Jane Fuller |
| Barbara Wood | 8/27 Tucker Russell |
| | 8/29 Kevin Atkerson |

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*Thanks to all who contribute;
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feedback and suggestions!*