

Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



October 2008

Thank you, Kevin!



Diane and Kevin Griffin

On September 14th, the many gifts and ministries of Kevin Griffin were celebrated by the Arise community at a gathering that followed the worship service. Kevin has served as Director of Music at Arise since September, 2005, when he signed on for a three-year commitment.

Previously, he and his wife, Diane, had been missionaries in Peru and Costa Rica. His ministries at Arise have included directing the music program for both the traditional and contemporary services, coordinating the AV team, and directing the Arise Drama Team, while acting in many of the skits...to the merriment of an appreciative audience. Who could forget the image of Kevin, kid-sized swimmies on his arms, surrounded by his motley crew of swashbuckling pirates and assorted merry men, one wearing a kiddie life jacket, after all?

Juxtapose this image with the outstanding musical choices and performances that moved people to tears at Good Friday services and it is obvious that he is a man of diverse talents.

He has sung, both as a soloist and with other Arise vocalists and musicians, while playing guitar. He also plays trumpet and French horn. In addition, Kevin's gifts for planning and organization have supported Pastor Don and the overall Arise worship experience in many

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Rich Sliter Named Music Director!

He may seem quiet, when you see him in the congregation, but Rich Sliter knows how to light up a stage with music, energy and passion. He should! He's had a professional musical career, and it is the good fortune of Arise Church that he has accepted the position of Music Director, beginning September 21st.

Rich began his career at age 14 and has developed a performance style that is uniquely his own. Through his writing, arranging, strong vocals, and "Stage Gun" bass guitar technique, his audiences are quickly absorbed by his vitality and enthusiasm.

His stage experience began in 1963 with his father and two siblings in upstate New York. Performing for local



Rich and Pat Sliter

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Ministers

*Every member
of the Church*

Pastor

Don Weatherup

Director of Music

Rich Sliter

Administrative Assistant

Dave Russell

Ministry Center

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Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

There are two topics which most agree should be avoided during social situations in order to prevent arguments. Those topics are politics and religion. While these aren't the only topics we are passionate about, politics and religion are two areas about which many of us have some pretty strong opinions.

I know for a fact that at Arise Church, we have some who attend

our church who are politically very conservative. We also have some who are considered very politically liberal. Get a few people from either end of the spectrum and bring up the topic of politics and you'd better step back. In my own family we have people at both ends of the spectrum. Our conversations about politics are like two cats in a bag.

With the very long election season coming to a close soon, I've found the political bantering quite amusing. The accusations are tossed back and forth and political advertisements are quickly created to counter attacks made.

During political campaigns in the past, the marketing got so fierce that even the candidates themselves had trouble controlling the messages put out by the various national, state and local organizations on their behalf. The problem became so big that in 2002 as a part of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, Congress passed a federal law mandating that candidates provide a statement by the candidate themselves that identifies the candidate and states that the candidate has approved the communication.

Now each ad for President ends with a statement like, "I'm Barack Obama, I'm John McCain, and I approve this message." This tells the viewer that what they just heard can be attributed directly to how the candidate themselves feels. We no longer have to wonder if the candidate themselves approves or not. If you don't hear the endorsement, you have a reason to question. If you hear the endorsement, there is no question.

Let's put politics on hold for one second and ask a really good question.

Think about your life. Think about the way you live your life. Think about what the people who don't attend church around you see about your life and how it reflects on their understanding of what a Christian life is all about.

Now imagine your life stamped with the phrase, "I'm Jesus, and I approve this message."

You have a conversation with someone and you lose your temper. "I'm Jesus and I approve this message."

You run into a problem at work and decided that if you lie about the issue it would be easier than dealing with it the correct way. "I'm Jesus and I approve this message."

Over and over again, whenever people observe your life or listen to the ways you talk about your faith, afterwards they hear the phrase, "I'm Jesus and I approve this message."

It's a scary thought isn't it?

But whether you realize it or not, the unchurched people in your life who know you attend church are presuming that your life reflects the life of Jesus, the one whom, through your faith, you proclaim to follow. We might not hear the voice that says, "I'm Jesus and I approve this message," but they hear it. And they're wondering if it fits.

That's why again and again researchers tell us that the number one issue the unchurched have with Christians is the issue of hypocrisy. Because to them, there is a disconnect between what you proclaim to believe and how you live your life. They hear Jesus saying, "I'm Jesus and I approve this message" and they don't see the connection.

Unchurched people don't have a problem with God. They have a problem with us.

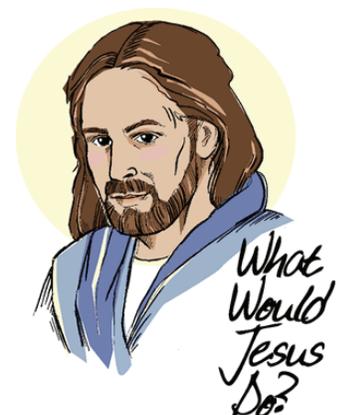
The way we resolve conflict in the church. The way we treat one another behind each other's backs. The way we respond to the needs of others. The way we are critical of other people's sin. It all matters. It all matters because the hypocrisy meter is running.

People really are watching. Which means we have a fantastic opportunity; an opportunity to show Christ's love and to really make a positive impact. Not just by what we say, but more importantly, by what we do.

I'm Don Weatherup and I approve this message.

With you on the journey,

Don



Sherry Graham: Running in Fellowship



Last month, Sherry Graham shared the joys and challenges of being a first-time marathon runner in San Diego, raising \$3,500 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. In addition to the thrill of achieving her goal and overcoming physical barriers, Sherry also found the experience to be deeply moving on a spiritual level. In this final segment, she shares some of those “God moments” that helped her know she was supposed to “run toward her

dream” of being an athlete, while ministering to others...and herself.

In the months leading up to the race, some of the racers trained together at Kensington Metro Park. “A lot of the runners were Christians,” Sherry recalls. “Something happened along the way as we started talking about our faith. Things happened that you can’t explain. It was really neat to be in a group that was like that.”

Sherry continues, “At the event, my roommate was from the Grand Rapids team. I’d never met her before. I think she was supposed to be there—something the Lord arranged—to help us both.

Other “coincidences” made Sherry feel that she wasn’t alone, that she was running under God’s guidance. “My coach led me to this guy who is a Christian and he gave me the exercises for my knees during training. He helped me build confidence and I helped him. His wife also had knee problems. As I started having success running, his wife started to train; he was seeing what he could do to help people.

On race day, during mile twenty, Sherry glanced into the huge crowd of onlookers and saw her walking coach among all those people.

Shortly after that, she saw a cancer survivor looking right at her with a big poster of encouragement saying, “Hi, Sherry, thank you!” “After that, I knew I could do it,” she said. “Seeing all the pictures along the way of children with blood cancers and the honored heroes with the disease, made me realize that, even though this run was difficult, it was nothing compared to what those people had endured.”

Those special moments of fellowship continued. A runner behind her said she’d been watching Sherry and it had helped her keep up her pace. When she caught up with Sherry, the runner said, “I’ve been watching your red hair for miles. My name is Sherry, too!” Sherry realized that the calls of “Go, Sherry!” that had filled her spirit with encouragement were actually for this other woman, but it didn’t matter—it all contributed to her knowing that she was meant to do this.

Sherry says the experience has given her more openness and more ability to trust herself—to release some fears. “I’ve thought of it as a calling. I’ve learned that I can set a goal even though it seems so difficult. I can make that goal. When you run, you hear voices; of people who care about you and love you; your own voices

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Is There Really Joy in Giving?

The recently formed 2008 Arise Stewardship Team has a new chairperson this year and... hold onto your hats...it’s Steve Cary. Known to some as the “Minister of Fun”, Steve brings laughter and enthusiasm with him wherever he goes. (Remember, this is the man who was in charge of the squirt guns at VBS this year.) Steve believes that if it’s life, it’s gotta be joyous.

The Stewardship Campaign, planned for Sunday, Nov. 9, won’t be any different, if Steve has anything to say about it. The new team is working with their fearless leader to discern what’s so fun about giving our prayers, time, money and service to God through the church. When they figure it out, they’ll let you know... probably beginning in a few weeks...so stay tuned!



Tina and Steve Cary

Thank you Kevin! *continued from pg. 1*

ways. His outstanding writing skills have contributed to Arise Connections with in-depth articles on topics such as the history of music and worship.

One of Kevin's passions is trains, and during his recognition ceremony, he was presented with a quilted wall hanging of a steam locomotive made by the Threads of Faith LIFE Team with the inscription "Blessings

on your journey from your friends at Arise". He also received cards from church members and a love offering in token of our congregation's appreciation for his talents and service to Arise. During the ceremony, Kevin spoke movingly about how the members of the congregation are the true ministers and his role was to support those efforts of ministry.

Kevin and Diane live in Pinckney, and Diane serves as the Director of Christian Education for Howell United Methodist Church. As they move forward in their Christian life journey, we wish them both the very best.



Rich Sliter... *continued from pg. 1*

churches and supper clubs, he quickly became comfortable playing and singing in front of audiences. From 1969 to 1973, Rich served in the U.S. Air Force. While stationed in Southeast Asia, he performed in Taiwan and Japan. After his discharge, Rich continued his career as a member of WWVA's prestigious Jamboree U.S.A. in Wheeling, West Virginia. For more than four years, he delighted audiences at the Saturday Night Jamboree and Jamboree in the Hills. In 1983, from among 1,200 bands, Rich placed third in the National Finals of the Seagram's 7 International Battle of the Bands with his group The Slyter Bros. Band.

Throughout his career, Rich has shared the stage with such country legends as: Merle Haggard, Hank Williams, Jr., Johnny Cash, Ronnie Milsap, Tammy Wynette, to name a few.

As a singer/songwriter, Rich has recorded several of his own compositions. His live show features his distinctively original writing ability along with popular "cover" songs by such artists as Alabama, Ronnie Milsap, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, John Anderson, Hank Williams, Jr., Brooks and Dunn, and many others.

In 1984, Rich followed his musical dream and relocated to Nashville, Tennessee. Over the next four years, he honed his craft, performing at some of the established clubs in the area. He produced several demos for Nashville artists at McCracken Studios and was successful in securing a publishing contract for three of his own songs with Hit Kit Music. He has now established StageGun Music Studios and Publishing and has recorded several groups from southeast Michigan with genres ranging from hard rock to contemporary Christian.

Rich currently resides in Pinckney, Michigan where he lives with his wife, Pat and son, Josh. Rich has been an active supporter of the music ministry at Arise by performing with the Praise Band over the years. Pat, a drummer, has joined him in that endeavor.

We're pleased to have you move into a fuller expression of your musical talents at Arise, Rich, and look forward to participating with you!

Threads of Faith: Knit, Crochet, Quilt and Sew



You've seen the handmade items they've made. You may have received a prayer shawl or filled a school bag for Liberia. You've probably met all of the members at one time or another...but who are they?

Threads of Faith is an Arise LIFE team that meets at 7 pm on the 2nd Monday of the month. Their mission is to use their talents in the needle arts to serve others. The most recent project was the pictorial locomotive quilt given to Kevin Griffin. Next month, they begin in earnest to cut and sew as many Christmas stockings as they can before December 1. The stockings are donated to the U of M's Cancer Center—just some of the 600 that are handmade by volunteers every year. They are filled with small gifts and given to oncology patients during the holidays.

Threads of Faith always welcomes new members. Interested, but can't attend meetings? You can contribute by working on projects from home or by making donations.

Contact Beth Plachta, (810) 231-7588 for details.



Ethel Ward



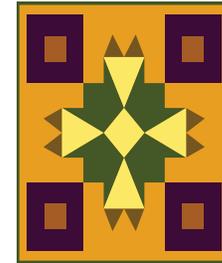
Janet Woodruff



Beth Plachta



Brenda Whalen



Carolyn Stafford



Fran Smith



Vicki Dawson



Barb Haines

Work Continues on Arise Worship Center

The latest addition to the Arise Worship Center is the glass front entryway and the board and batten trim on the gable peaks. The exterior painting of the building is also expected to be completed this fall, giving the outside of the new building a more finished appearance. Volunteers usually work on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. An e-mail goes out early in the week

to those who are interested in working on the building describing the work that is needed. Volunteers respond if they can help that week. If you want to be added to the volunteer e-mail list or have questions, contact Matt Plachta at mplachta@umich.edu or (810) 231-7588.



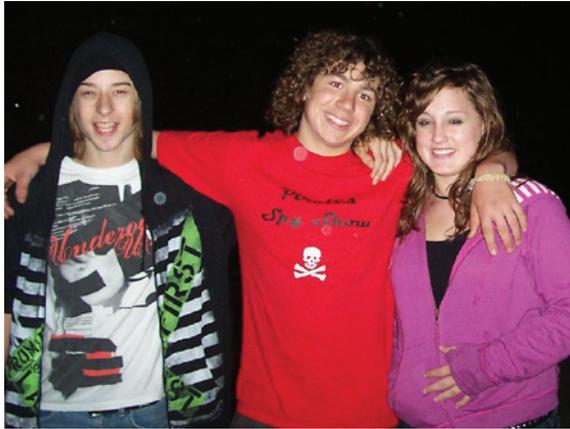
Pinckney High and Arise Team Up for 5th Quarter

For several years, Arise has hosted the 5th Quarter—a gathering for teens after Pinckney High School (PHS) home football games. The tradition continues this year. The first after-game event of 2008, complete with bonfire, music and snacks, kicked off after a 10-6 win against Westland John Glen on Friday, September 5.

Arise Lay Leader and PHS freshman football coach, Al Smith and Pastor Don Weatherup are coordinating this year's 5th Quarter events. "We

have a quarter page ad featuring 5th Quarter in the PHS fall sports program," says Al. "It's quite a value for us, because the program is sold at all the fall sporting events, not just football. There were about 20 to 30 kids at the first event and some of the football players were there, so that will encourage others to attend. The high school office announces 5th Quarter over the loud speaker on home game days, so the word gets out and all the kids know about it."

Adult volunteers from Arise staff the event as chaperones and snack bar attendants. Eric Tice's band, Boherald, which includes Arise attendees Chris Martinez and Gerald McKay, entertains the crowd. It is a unique way to welcome people to Arise Acres. Thank you to all who are helping make the 5th Quarter a memorable event this year!



News from "The God Squad"

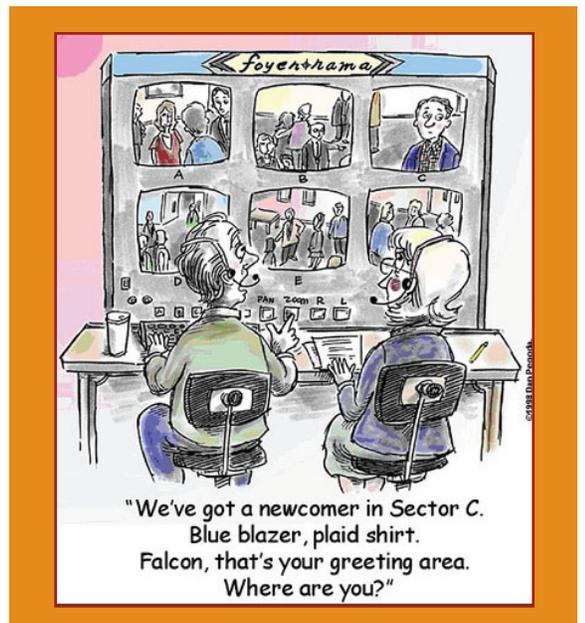
The God Squad, a group of 7th – 12th grade youth, had a fun summer of mission work, Cedar Point/Soak City trip and worked very hard with the little kids of Pinckney in Arise's Vacation Bible School. We helped kids see opportunities to serve in God's Big Backyard. We helped collect money for the "Nothing But Nets" program to keep African children safe from malaria. We enjoyed "fun in the sun" at Lindsey Selvig's house and swam and sailed on their wonderful pontoon boat. Wew! Summer flew by very fast, but it was fun while it lasted.

Now to get "down to business"! This fall, we will jump right into gatherings and activities to get us ready for the calm of winter. Our meeting dates are the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 4-6 pm at the Good News Chapel, near Main St. in Pinckney. The first fall gathering will be on Sunday, October 12.

Let's commit to getting together to learn about our lives, how we are meant to serve God and His purpose for us on this earth. We will also be helping those who need us, all while having great fun and fellowship together as only youth can do.

Looking forward to seeing you at "The God Squad"!

Vicki Dawson, Youth Leader



OCTOBER 2008 CALENDAR



Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.
—Martin Luther

WEEKLY EVENTS

(All services at Arise Acres)

Sunday _____

Worship Service at Country Elementary begins on 10/5

9:00 am – Traditional Worship
9:45 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Contemporary Praise and Worship

Monday _____

7:00 pm
Divorce Recovery

Wednesday _____

7:00 pm
Wednesday Night Bible Study

Thursday _____

7:00 pm
Men's Huddle



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
September 28 9:30 am Blended Service @ Arise Acres (Last service at Arise Acres) Crop Walk	29	30	1	2	3	4
5 9 am & 10:30 am Worship; 9:45 am Sunday School at Country Elementary Holy Communion World Communion Sunday	6	7 7 pm Church Council	8	9	10 9:30 pm Fifth Quarter	11
12 9 am & 10:30 am Worship; 9:45 am Sunday School at Country Elementary 4 – 6 pm The God Squad	13 Columbus Day 7 pm Threads of Faith	14 7 pm SPRC	15	16	17 9:30 pm Fifth Quarter	18
19 9 am & 10:30 am Worship; 9:45 am Sunday School at Country Elementary	20	21	22 7 pm Worship Committee	23	24	25
26 9 am & 10:30 am Worship; 9:45 am Sunday School at Country Elementary	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	1 All Saints Day

Sherry Graham:... continued from pg. 3

of your past...not having self confidence...negativity that comes up."

When asked if she has advice for others, she doesn't hesitate. "Don't listen to your negative and discouraging voices. If you feel you can do it, trust yourself and the calling of the Holy Spirit...jump in and try it and see where it goes. It's scary to try something new ...that maybe you didn't even think you could do. Have the faith that it's often beyond you and just let go. Keep on going forward and get better and see what you can do."

"We can all do some sort of exercise, whatever it is,"

Sherry says. "There will be resources to help you, so that you can do it. They will be given or you will find them." I was taught early in my social work career about the mind-body-spirit connection. This run has brought all of this together for me."

Would she do it again? "I want to get better; it's the competitive part of me. My husband, Peter, runs to relax. For me, it's like this part of me that grew. As I become trimmer and stronger...I'm definitely getting better."

For Sherry, it's a "health thing and a faith thing." Thank you, Sherry, for sharing your story—run on, Sister!



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October Anniversaries

Richard & Sally Guyon 10/7—**Happy 25th!**

Dave & Laura Bowen 10/14—**Happy 30th!**

Greg & Barb Stafford 10/15—**Happy 20th!**

David & Laurie Russell 10/16—**Happy 15th!**

October Birthdays

Matt Plachta 10/4

Norine Bibicoff 10/9

Jacob Russell 10/11

Steve Bollinger 10/12

Jim Morpew 10/16

Eric Tice 10/28

Debbie Short 10/31

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