

Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



November 2008



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Every member
of the Church

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“Meat and Greet” Welcomes You

A catchy name, great food and good fellowship – the new Arise L.I.F.E. Team, Meat and Greet, is just that – a monthly potluck dinner on the third Thursday of each month in the cozy environment of people’s homes. Sisters Sue Boltach and Beverly Selvig brainstormed the concept...and the name.

“The Meat & Greet came about because my friend Ray and I wanted to have more Christian fellowship. We already spend time with my sister Bev and her husband Steve, but we wanted to expand it. So, Bev and I came up with the idea for a monthly dinner get together...the name “Meat & Greet” was just a nickname Bev and I used to describe this adventure in Christian fellowship,” says Sue.

September was their first get together at Bev and Steve’s house and it was attended by 7 or 8 folks, both from Arise and outside of Arise. The next get together is at Sue’s home in October and others are already saying they will be coming. The host provides the main course and drinks, and everyone brings a dish to pass. Bev and Sue will continue to host the



Sue Boltach



Beverly Selvig

events if no one else volunteers their homes, but anyone is welcome to be a host.

Sue continues, “If the group gets too big, then it can divide on its own and spawn off into other groups, if they so desire. All are welcome to attend! This effort is being done out of the desire and longing for Christian fellowship.”

Beverly adds, “There is one other thing we ask folks to bring to the “Meat & Greet”, and that’s a \$1/person donation that the host

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Focus on the Military: Scott Swartzwelter

(Ed: November 11th is Veterans Day, a time to honor those who have served, as well as those on active duty. This is the first in a series of spotlights on our military men and women, whom we honor and hold in our prayers.)

Scott Swartzwelter, son of Dean and Nancy, is a Major in the Army Reserve, serving in Iraq in the 763rd Engineer Detachment Facility at COB Adder. The fifteen soldiers in his unit plan, design and manage construction projects. Scott says the best part of his job is that the end result of their work is a better quality of life for the military personnel who serve and civilians who live there.

One of the major projects that is currently under construction is a new perimeter fence and road that will afford the units located there greater security in the future. In addition, new entry control points (ECPs) and a power and fiber-optic loop are being installed around the base. The new ECPs will allow the base to function more efficiently



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thanksgiving

Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

Once a year, each United Methodist pastor living in a parsonage (a home owned by the church) has the home inspected by the church. A representative from the Board of Trustees (who are responsible for all church property) and a representative from the Staff Parish Relations Committee (who are responsible for staff issues) inspect the house together.

By the time this newsletter hits your mailbox the inspection will be over. But right now as I write this column, my family and I are preparing for that inspection in just five days. The idea behind the inspection is to take a critical look at two things. First, what part of the house, if any, needs maintenance and repair. And second, how is the pastor's family taking care of your parsonage.

For parsonage families, it's a stressful time. It's a time where the places in the house that sometimes (ok – most of the time) get neglected are no longer neglected. Places like the basement, the garage, and closets finally get badly needed attention. Fifty-one weeks of the year they are places that we can get away with ignoring. Parsonage inspection time forces us to take a critical look at places and things that we'd rather not deal with, otherwise.

But I will also admit that parsonage inspection time is a good thing for the Weatherup-Russell family. It virtually guarantees that at least once a year we purge unwanted things taking up space and visit the cluttered areas that need our attention. It also calls our attention to places like corners and crevices that collect dirt and dust. It makes for a hard week, but when it's all over, we're glad for the end result.

In many ways, Sunday morning worship and regular Bible study are like the annual parsonage inspection. The scriptures, whether preached or studied, always challenge us. They shine a bright light into the corners of our lives, the parts of our character that sometimes are easily put off, and help us to see things as they really are.

The Bible calls us to accountability, asking us to live our lives like Jesus did. Lets face it, Jesus raised the bar pretty high as a standard for us. Sometimes those challenges can be painful as we realize that we've fallen short of the standard to which we are being compared; the same way that it's painful for us to look into our garages or base-

ments through a new lens, because visitors are coming. For many of us, there is nothing like a special event being held at our house to motivate us to start cleaning.

Lots of us have little problems at our home that probably should be fixed, but as time goes on and we don't take care of it, we get so used to the problem being there that we don't even notice that something is wrong. It often takes a third party to point them out to us, to wake us up and see the reality of the situation. Sometimes it's only when someone points out the flaw that we are called to attention and, in the words of Larry the Cable Guy, "get er' done!"

Weekly worship and Bible study are, for Christians, that third party. The gospel message becomes that gentle nudge of accountability...calling us to a higher purpose...reminding us how we want to be and how we want to live. The Holy Spirit continues that job when we're away from church, nudging us to see the places where we fall short.

Some people take those reminders from God as negative, and focus on the guilt. Others are thankful for those reminders and call them God's love. Let me challenge you to take the more productive and positive route and to see those nudges as helpful.

God calls us to be better because God loves us, not because God takes delight in punishing us. It is out of love for our long term well-being. So the next time Sunday morning worship points out that flaw that needs fixing, try and be thankful for that call to action.

And I'll do my best to remember that tonight, as I'm cleaning and sorting. I'm going to be thankful for the parsonage inspection!

Gentle nudges. Aren't they great!?

With you on the journey,

Pastor Don



2008 CROP Walk

By Jen Wagner

Over \$8,000 was raised during Pinckney's John R. Aho Memorial CROP Walk this year. Arise, Shalom, and Community Congregational Churches worked together once again to help those in need. \$1,000 of the money raised goes to Gleaner's Food Bank here in Livingston County, and \$1,000 goes to our local Salvation Army. Arise had 15 walkers (20 if you count Johnny and Michelle Aho and their three daughters). Nancy and Jeremy Bartel ran the Arise refreshment table in the town square. We had beautiful weather and a great time walking and talking. Thanks to all for your support!



Arise CROP Walkers pause for a moment of prayer.



Meat and Greet... *continued from pg. 1*

then puts into the church collection plate the following Sunday for the Arise Building Fund. The person(s) who will be hosting the next dinner is responsible for placing the notice in the bulletin."

Their intent is to keep the format casual, to make it easy for people to attend.

"It's always your choice if you want to attend," she says, "and the decision can even be made at the last minute. No RSVP's are necessary. Part of the reason we started this is because we tend to stay in our own comfortable worlds and Sue, Steve and I just love Arise Church! We thought, "There are people we really would like to get to know better; some really great folks! It was time to come out of our shells and get off the fence and learn more about our friends at Arise by strengthening those friendships."

"Through last year's VBS we met the Osbornes who are so fun and wonderful and Steve & Tina Cary through their service to VBS this year. Through the Arise God Squad (among other things) we met Vicki Dawson, who I hold responsible for getting Lindsey interested in church! We just wanted to feel more like family to some members and this informal setting with food seemed like just the way. Plus, we all know those church women can cook!", she says with enthusiasm.

"Yes," Sue interjects, "We're waiting to taste Evva's secret potato salad recipe!"

"These are the type of things our folks did when we were growing up," Beverly adds. "There were regular get-togethers with their church friends who also became their best friends, cementing that their (and our) lives revolved around the church."

With all of this passion for their new venture, Sue and Beverly couldn't be more welcoming. Stop by and give the new "Meat and Greet" a try – new friends await you! Watch the bulletin for details.

Scott Swartzwelter... *continued from pg. 1*

by cutting down on traffic congestion at the current ECP and will provide different entry points for different functions.

They are also working to increase the base's capacity for personnel with a series of inter-related projects that will allow COB Adder to be a major base for Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces long after they redeploy.

Lastly, the Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) projects have a more direct impact on the local Iraqi population. These include: repaving of a major bridge, building new electrical substations and improving schools. Several of these projects have now been funded for construction and will be starting soon.

These are not the only things that occupy his time, and sometimes, he has time for running and playing sports, as well. Scott says that it really does make a world of difference to those serving overseas to know that so many Americans, despite their personal opinions, still support those who have been called to duty.

Scott's e-mail address is: scott.swartzwelter@iraq.cencom.mil and his postal address is:

MAJ Scott R. Swartzwelter
763rd Engineer Detachment (Facility)
COB Adder, Iraq
APO AE 09331

Consecration Sunday—November 9th

As you know, each year we are asked as Christians and members of the Arise United Methodist Church to prayerfully consider our stewardship responsibilities and increase our tithes and offering pledges. This year we have an exciting variety of communications planned, to support us in these reflections. On November 9th you will be invited to make your pledge and join your friends in a celebration lunch.

We recognize that these are difficult financial times...for us as individuals, families and a church community. We also recognize that there is great joy and satisfaction in

returning a portion of our finances and gifts to God. It is our hope that the information provided in these articles and other communications will support you in your understanding, prayers and consideration as we move toward Consecration Sunday and you make your commitment.

Thank you.

The 2008 Stewardship Committee

Steve Cary, Chairman	Beth Plachta
Don Weatherup, Pastor	Matt Plachta
April Flanagan	Debbie Short
Don Mathis	Al Smith

'The Joy of Passing It On Through Gifts and Service'

By Steve Cary, Chairman, 2008 Stewardship Campaign

I believe that most of us are afraid of "not having enough" at some point in our lives: Not enough money, not enough time, not enough 'stuff'. I have been guilty of it myself. I think people worry that if they contribute too much, they might not have what they need when the time comes; and if they serve too much there won't be enough time to work or raise the family, let alone having time for friends and recreation. To me, the gifts we share and the service we perform for God should be the most joyful and fun things we do in our life.

When it comes right down to it, we are *stewards* of the gifts that God has given to us. Our heritage and upbringing, our education, the social, economic and political status that are ours by virtue of our race, ethnicity, and class, our individual gifts and abilities, even our desire and determination to succeed—it *all* comes from God and belongs to God. We are *stewards* of God's gifts, not owners.

Did you know that when you make contributions to Arise Church that you are 'passing it on' to hundreds of charities both here and abroad? It is amazing what a small group of people with a whole lot of heart can do.

Gifting should never be scary, or intimidating, fill us with a sense of guilt if we fall short, and **certainly** shouldn't impoverish us in order to prosper others. Furthermore, the gifts we give and the services we perform should always remind us of how fortunate we are with the blessings we have received in our own lives.

"And I have been a perfect example of how you can help the world by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'"

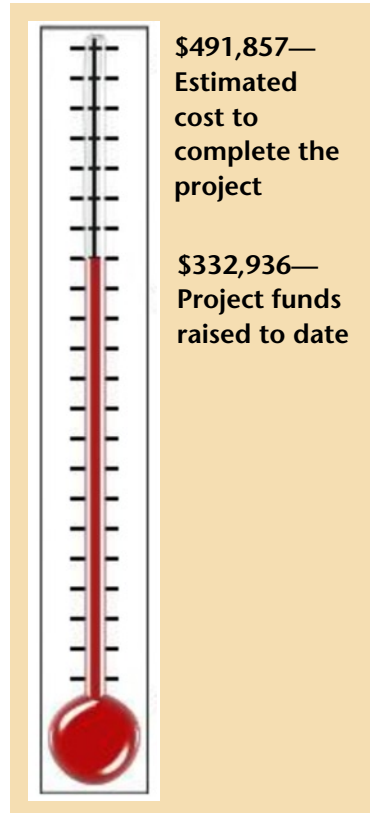
Acts 20:35

Building the Future: Contributions at Work

By Matt Plachta

Arise church has seen many changes in its worship since it began over a decade ago. For the first few years, Arise worshiped at the Jane Tasch Theatre. The Ministry Center was located in the Hamburg Professional Building on M-36 and the parsonage was in a new subdivision off of Winans Lake Rd. In the summer of 1999 the congregation held services in a tent on the lawn at the Hamburg Professional Building and after that, Country Elementary where we hold fall and winter worship to this day.

In the late fall of 2000 we purchased Arise Acres with the help of donations from the congregation, a bank loan, as well as smaller loans from the Ann Arbor District and Detroit Conference of the United Methodist Church. Once the sale was complete, the Ministry Center moved to what is now the family room of the church parsonage and later to the rented trailer on the property. Once the Hamburg parsonage was sold, Pastor McMunn and his family moved into the current parsonage. For the first summer or two we worshiped in the horse



barn and then we began holding summer worship in the pole.

After several options for creating worship facilities on Arise Acres were considered, a Building Committee was chartered in 2002 and charged with developing a master plan for Arise Acres. For the next three years, the committee worked diligently to come up with a three phase master plan for the future church building. Detailed design and construction plans were developed with the help of an architect and the committee worked with the county and township to obtain site plan approval.

Finally, in the summer of 2005, a ground breaking ceremony was held at Arise Acres for the first phase of the master plan and in the spring of 2006, the construction started. Phase I included renovating the horse barn and building an addition to create a 5,200 square foot worship center with a multi-purpose worship space,

four classrooms and a nursery. When future phases are completed, it is the church's intent to convert the multi-purpose space to a youth center.

The initial construction and site work estimates for Phase I were over \$716,000. With considerable volunteer labor, and donated materials and services from congregation members and others, we estimate we will spend just under \$500,000 — savings of more than \$200,000. The "Build as We Give" path that we have chosen to use for the construction of Arise Church has benefited us by keeping our debt low, but we are not quite there yet. Through your generosity and a \$50,000 matching gift we received in 2007, we have come a long way toward our goal, but we still have a ways to go. With current estimates we need to raise another \$109,000 to \$159,000 to finish Phase I. Unfortunately, our gifts in 2008 have declined consid-

erably and we will soon be forced into a holding pattern until we have sufficient funds to take the next major step, hanging drywall, which is estimated to cost \$46,000.

As we get close to depleting our funds for our "Build as We Give" project, please prayerfully consider your giving to the Land and Building Fund for the remainder of 2008 and the pledge you make for 2009. Through your gifts, we have made considerable progress on our permanent home and with your gifts we will complete it.



The Top Ten Reasons You Should Tithe

(With credit to David Letterman, a humorous view and some serious tips on tithing...)

HUMOROUS

10. Your church started a new stewardship drive -- every time you give, your chances of winning increase!
9. The choir has started wearing their bathrobes during the service.
8. The last few Sundays the Treasurer has gotten up half way through the service and turned the heat off.
7. The Preacher has worn the same suit every Sunday for the past three years.
6. The offering stewards are starting to drool and growl as they collect the offering!
5. The offering plates have been sold and replaced with ice cream buckets.
4. The Treasurer has started wearing sackcloth and ashes!
3. You tried to call the Church Office last week but found that the phone's been disconnected!
2. Parking meters are going to be installed in the church parking lot.
1. As a Christian you understand what a privilege it is to have a partnership in the Gospel!

SERIOUS

1. Tithe first. Then put some money in a SAVINGS ACCOUNT! The dollar amount does not matter as much as getting in the habit of saving money.
2. EXCHANGE SERVICES with friends and save money! (Babysitting, car repairs, painting, haircuts, etc.) What you do or know can help someone else, while what they do or know can help you!

3. Use COUPONS whenever possible and save money! There aren't just coupons for markets (food). You can find coupons for restaurants, dry cleaning, oil changes, hair cuts, etc., in newspapers or on the Internet!
4. Give up drinking overpriced coffee at STARBUCKS and Coffee Houses! It can save you a bundle!
5. Buy and sell at consignment stores and garage sales. It is amazing the bargains you can find and the nice things that others cannot use. Pare down your closets and you feel better knowing you have only what you need and what you use.
6. Stay out of the mall and stores except when you have a plan and need to be there. Shopping shouldn't be a hobby. It's much easier to not waste money when you aren't bombarded with all the stuff you think you "need"!
7. Don't go grocery shopping when you're hungry, and always use a list. Consider skipping prepared food for less expensive ingredients you can prepare yourself.
8. Pay cash for as much as you're able (especially random shopping, grocery shopping, and other entertainment like bowling, movies, golf, etc). It's much easier psychologically to part with a piece of paper (check) or plastic (credit card), than to actual relinquish cold hard cash. It will make you more cost conscious and help you to budget better as you see funds dwindle.
9. Sell those items on www.craigslist.com that are sitting in storage, which you never use. They take up space, which ultimately costs money. On craigslist you can either charge a flat fee or give it away to the first person willing and able to come pick it up.
10. Eat out less... yes, it's convenient, but eating out is about 20 times more expensive than home cooking.

Youth Take On Deer Project

By Vicki Dawson, Youth Leader

For 2 summers, the Arise God Squad has done mission work at the Howell Nature Center. Last year we spread ground cover in the "ropes course," while this year we had the pleasure of cleaning birds of prey cages which was very stinky, hard work. Still, these projects were so fulfilling to the youth that they have committed to "adopting" an animal habitat at the nature center. We have been assigned the deer pen. The deer pen "houses" white tail deer that are either receiving medical care to be release into the wild or live there permanently due to injury that prevents them from living safely in their own community. "The Deer Project" entails the youth maintaining the pen monthly with heavy duty cleaning and management of the habitat. This is a huge commitment that the youth have made to help God's furry creatures. Stop by the Howell Nature Center and see the work that the Arise God Squad is doing on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10 am-1 pm. Bring a rake and/or pooper scooper if you would like to pitch in!

Boy Scouts Honored with God and Me Award

By Jan Richards

At the worship service on September 28th three members of Webelo Scout Den 2, Pack 390, led by Arise's own Nancy Bartel, received their God and Me awards from Pastor Don. The boys took a series of classes facilitated by Pastor Don, exploring their faith and its place in their lives. The scouts wanted to thank Pastor Don for taking the time to work with them on this achievement. They also wanted to thank Mrs. Bartel for gifts and talents she shares with them on a weekly basis.



Pictured left to right: Jack Campbell, Ross Richards, Jeremy Bartel



'Tis the Season... for Football, that is, as our Arise youth show their moves.

From the Mouths of Babes...

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work.

As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

Arise God Squad hosts the "Jesus Celebration"

Sunday, December 14, 2008, 4:00-8:00 pm
Community Congregational Church

Potluck dinner and fun in traditional United Methodist style!

The youth are planning a fun evening for us all with games for young and the wise, the "Jesus Tree" decorating, singing and crafting for kids, concluding with Christmas caroling in downtown Pinckney. Please bring a potluck dish to pass, an ornament for the Jesus Tree and your joyful voices for singing. We will carol, snow or no snow, so come prepared with warm clothes, boots, etc. We are looking forward to celebrating Jesus with you all!

Vicki Dawson, Youth Leader



NOVEMBER 2008 CALENDAR



I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.

— Maya Angelou

WEEKLY EVENTS

(All services at Arise Acres)

Sunday _____

Worship Service at Country Elementary

9:00 am – Traditional Worship

9:45 am – Children's Sunday School

10:00 am – Adult NOOMA Series

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

Sunday Morning Christian Conversations

Cheryl Bollinger is again leading conversations about topics relevant to contemporary Christian life, using the very well done NOOMA video series by Rob Bell. Bring your coffee and snack with you, and join adults and teens in 9th–12th grade each Sunday, from 10–10:30 am in the Great Lakes Pod at Country Elementary.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
October 26 Worship at Country Elementary 4 – 6 pm The God Squad	27	28	29 7 pm Worship Committee	30	31 Reformation Day	November 1 All Saints Day
2 Worship at Country Elementary Holy Communion	3	4 Election Day 7 pm Church Council	5	6	7 10 am TGIF Sisters	8 10 am God Squad "Deer Project"
9 Worship at Country Elementary 4 – 6 pm The God Squad	10 7 pm Threads of Faith	11 Veteran's Day 7 pm SPRC	12	13	14 9:30 pm Fifth Quarter	15
16 Worship at Country Elementary	17	18 7 pm Trustees	19	20	21 10 am TGIF Sisters	22
23 Worship at Country Elementary 4 – 6 pm The God Squad	24	25	26 7 pm Worship Committee	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29
30 1st Sunday of Advent Worship at Country Elementary	December 1	2 7 pm Church Council	3	4	5 10 am TGIF Sisters	6

Grocery Dollars Support Arise

As you may know we participate in programs at both Busch's and Kroger's, where for each dollar we spend at their stores, they send a percentage back to the Arise Building Fund.

At Kroger's we receive a 5% on all amounts we accumulate over \$5000. During 2007 we received \$277.17 and so far in 2008 we have collected \$264.80.

At Busch's we receive 5% with no minimum spent on all cash, check and debit card transactions and 3% on credit card reloads. In 2007 we received \$264.80 and so far in 2008 we have collected \$980.94.

If you are currently not a participant in this program and would like to be, see Gail Osborne to sign up.





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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.



November Anniversaries

11/2 Paul & Jewell Smith
11/22 Jerry & Vicki Dawson

November Birthdays

11/3 Beth Plachta	11/19 Gail Osborne
11/4 Vicki Dawson	11/20 Ben Richards
11/5 Elly Sherry	11/21 Cindy Morphew
11/10 Austin Bollinger	11/23 Jan Richards
April Flanagan	11/25 Sean Graham

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