



Duane and Barb Haines: Partners in Life and Faith

Ministers

Every member
of the Church

Pastor

Don Weatherup

Director of Music

Rich Sliter

Administrative

Assistant

Dave Russell

Ministry Center

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Duane and Barb Haines have known each other most of their lives and both are native Pinckney residents, born and raised. Coming from a family who knew a thing or two about farming, Barb grew up as a country girl on a farm out on Swarthout Rd. that had been in her family for 100 years. "That house was built as a multi-generational home and with a little renovation, both our family and my aunt, uncle and cousins shared it," she explained. When her mother would say 'go play', she'd go to the outdoors – the woods, the river, the barn – and to her mother's huge garden that provided food for the family.

Barb also enjoyed reading and played girl's basketball for a time, although she said "there were no organized girl's sports at that time." Barb's mother, who is still living in the area, was Catholic, so she and her brother were raised in her mother's faith, but her extended family were all Congregational, and she changed her affiliation to this denomination as an adult. Her favorite memories of church were of Christmas Midnight Mass, finding it to be "magical every year" and she sang in the choir, with songs in Latin.

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Music: "It's What I Was Meant To Do."

An interview with Rich Sliter, Director of Music Ministries

Whether he's leading the praise band of singers and musicians, singing alone to his own guitar accompaniment or offering personal words of praise, belief and encouragement, Rich Sliter is a visible presence at Arise Church. He was appointed to head Music Ministries last September, after former Director, Kevin Griffin, stepped down. Since then, Rich has been working with Pastor Don to assure consistent excellence in the way we experience worship. This includes aligning music with the worship theme, creating high energy and participation, supporting prayer and reflection, maintaining highly skilled and consistent musicians and trying

to grow the program. Whenever he gets compliments (which is frequently), Rich is quick to say "It's not me; it's the singers and musicians." Modesty aside and despite the high quality of his colleagues, Rich is the driver behind Arise musical programs.

Rich grew up in a musical family, with a father who played into his eighties and two



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Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

Easter is just days away. I love Easter. In fact, I love Easter more than any other day! More than Christmas? Absolutely!

The joy that bursts forth from my soul on Easter Sunday is like no other day. Easter Sunday is, in a word – V I C T O R Y ! Victory from everything; victory over evil, and victory over death. As a believer in Christ, His resurrection means MY resurrection.

So what does the resurrection of Christ mean to you?

Let's do a little digging in preparation for Easter. Go grab a Bible. Yes, right now. Go get one, I'll wait.

<whistling patiently>

Did you find one? I hope you didn't have to look too hard. :)

In their book *Immortality - The Other Side of Death*, Gary R. Habermas & J. P. Moreland share a list of just a portion of the well over three hundred verses in the Bible that are concerned with the subject of Jesus' resurrection in the New Testament. Take some time right now to look up a few listed below. If you're short on time right now, just look up a few. But you'd be doing yourself a huge favor if you read all of them sometime between now and Easter. Why? Because I want you to remind yourself of the reasons you have to celebrate on Easter Sunday like you've never celebrated before! Yes...despite all of the troubles you face, the economy, your retirement portfolio, your health issues, despite all of it!! Read these and see if you agree that we all have reason to celebrate.

- ✦ We are told that the resurrection of Jesus is a sign for unbelievers (Matthew 12:38-40 and John 20:24-29).
- ✦ It's an 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 Corinthians 15:12-20).
- ✦ It is the center of the gospel itself (Romans 4:24-25, Romans 10:9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
- ✦ The resurrection is the impetus for evangelism (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 10:39-43).
- ✦ It's the key indication of the believer's daily power to live the Christian life (Romans 6:4-14, Romans 8:9-11; Philippians 3:10).
- ✦ The resurrection is the reason for the total commitment of our lives (Romans 7:4, 1 Corinthians 15:57-58).
- ✦ It addresses the fear of death (John 11:25, Hebrews 2:14-15).
- ✦ The resurrection of Christ is related to the second coming of Jesus (Acts 1:11, Revelation 1:7).
- ✦ The resurrection of Jesus is a model of the Christian's resurrection from the dead (Acts 4:2; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
- ✦ The resurrection of Jesus provides a foretaste of heaven for the believer (1 Peter 1:3-5).

There you have it! You just looked up just a very small portion of the verses in the Bible that talk about the resurrection of Jesus and what it means to us.

What does Easter mean to you?

The good news of the resurrection of Christ is so wonderful that we should have a difficult time even getting our bodies to express that much joy! But, we're sure going to try. We have a wonderful day of celebration planned. I hope you plan on joining us at 10:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday ready to celebrate!

With you on the journey,





Holy Week Events: Plan on Joining Our Preparation and Celebration!

Maunder Thursday House Church
(times and locations vary)

Worship services will be held in the homes of Arise Church members. Sign up at the Arise Church information table at Country Elementary School.

Good Friday Service
(7 pm at Community Congregational)

A joint service with Community Congregational United Church of Christ held at their church. This service will feature a dramatic reenactment of the Last Supper by the youth of both churches plus a remembrance of the crucifixion of Christ. There will also be special music featuring Rich Sliter and the Arise Church singers.

Easter Sunday
(10 am Worship Service – one service)

Breakfast Potluck
(9 am and Easter Egg Hunt)

One L.I.F.E. Team Going Strong



ONE is Arise's newest L.I.F.E. Team. The name makes it simple to remember the vital information: we meet on the FIRST Sunday of the month at 1:00 P.M. to learn more about the ONE. We meet at the Wagner's and begin with a potluck meal. The meal usually has a theme (for April 5, we are serving green foods for Spring). We

then proceed to watch Rob Bell's Nooma series on DVD and answer discussion questions. It has been really great to share our thoughts and fellowship together. We have had ten adults and four children (they have their own fellowship in the basement or outside) for each of the first two meetings. The neat thing about Rob Bell's Nooma is each DVD is a stand alone lesson, so anyone can join in at anytime. Please contact me at 517-545-9153, or Jen Wagner for more information or feel free to drop in on the first Sunday! Hope to see you soon.

—Cheryl Bollinger

Monday Night Lenten Classes: A Participant's Perspective

By Sue Boltach



Ray and I both enjoy the Monday night series because we appreciate the Christian fellowship and study time with about 10 others. Our first 6 week course, led by Pastor Don, studied the book *A Case for Faith: A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity* (2000), by Lee Strobel. We

delved into the faith issues surrounding Christianity and what that means to us, individually, as Christians. In this current 6 week series, we are studying the book, *The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus* (1998), also by Strobel. This examines the evidence that supports historical Biblical stories about the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Our discussions are in an open and honest forum, and it give us a chance to strongly examine what we believe, and why. Our questions are dealt with from a Biblical standpoint. I certainly appreciate the learning environment and the wonderfully friendly Christian contacts. We appreciate the fact that Kara Lewis (Samantha DeyArmond's Mom) has so graciously offered her home to us for these meetings!

Later, at home, we use these sessions on our own, to springboard into topics of interest, and pursue Bible study individually. I enjoy these Christian group get together and hope they will continue for our Arise Church members!

Pastor Don Chosen to Represent Detroit Conference

On March 16-20, Pastor Don and Shelley attended the World Methodist Evangelism Young Leaders Conference at St. Simons Island, Georgia. He was chosen by Bishop Keaton to represent the Detroit Annual Conference., and the District is paying for conference costs. Congratulations!



Duane and Barb Haines... *continued from pg. 1*

After high school, Barb went to EMU for two years, planning to be a teacher. But as it turned out, Barb's brother Don was best friends with Duane...and the rest is history. She and Duane were married in 1964 – they will be celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary this June 20! They have one adopted son, David, who lives in Whitmore Lake and now, a granddaughter, Shannon, a 9th grader, living in Hartland, who has attended Arise with her grandparents while growing up. Although Barb didn't teach school, she went on to become an experienced seamstress and taught classes for years at The Stitchery quilt shop in Howell. Now retired, she still teaches on occasion and leads quilting retreats at the Howell Nature Center, too. Her sewing expertise and mentoring has been invaluable to the Threads of Faith LI.F.E. Team. She has also served at Arise in the Fall Festival, Choir, Sunday School teacher, Missions Committee member, Altar Committee and VBS leading crafts.

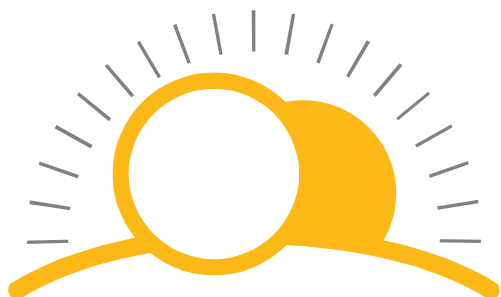
Duane said he grew up just west of Pinckney, being “one of four sons - the oldest, smartest and best looking of the bunch” – a line delivered with his characteristic humor. His father worked as a Conservation Officer and then moved the family to Arizona for a year when Duane was about seven or eight, to do a short stint as a welder. Later, he finished his career at the Chrysler Proving Grounds. His mother was a telephone operator “in the days when we had crank phones” and was also a Putnam Township Treasurer. Duane's family belonged to the Congregational Church, where Duane sang in the Junior Choir, led, coincidentally, by Barb's “Grandma Baughn” who, according to Duane, “didn't take any sass”. Graduating Salutatorian (“I helped that girl who graduated as the Valedictorian with her homework – a bad move”), he enlisted in the Navy, attending boot camp in San Diego, taking electronics classes, then later, submarine classes. He worked on a submarine, went to “nuclear power school” and taught nuclear physics, electronics and reactor control systems in upstate New York, after being married to Barb. He served on a nuclear submarine in Charleston and “when my enlistment expired, I was 1000 miles from home and 600 feet under the water.” Duane went on to work at

the U-M as a nuclear reactor operator, and continued to take classes in electrical and computer engineering. He and Barb moved to the U.P. where he and a friend had their own business installing computers at Michigan Tech, Northern Michigan University and other companies. Moving to Pinckney, he began a career at GM as an engineer and “when PC's came along, my friend and I installed all the computers there.” Duane retired in May, 2006 and enjoys trips up north with Barb to her family cottage on Little Bear Lake near Lewiston, where they and other family members have honeymooned.

In addition to all of his professional accomplishments, Duane has been an all around jack-of-all-trades at Arise, in addition to being on the Moving Team, AV/Tech Team, and helping with VBS and the Fall Festival. In addition, Duane and Barb have loaned Arise their 5th wheel camper numerous times as shelter for the Relay for Life Cancer Walk and last summer used it as “base camp” for the Arise Youth Mission Day Camp trip to Cedar Point.

When asked what they like about Arise, they both agree. In Barb's words: “When we started coming in 2001, we waited two years to join, because we wanted to be sure it was the right move. The church itself, the people themselves...they are so warm and welcoming...it has a real community feel. What makes it work so well is that Arise is doing what we should be doing to help affect people's lives for the better.”

Duane and Barb, we are blessed to have you both among us at Arise!





An Easter Carol

By Philip Brooks

Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;
 Death is strong, but Life is stronger;
 Stronger than the dark, the light;
 Stronger than the wrong, the right;
 Faith and Hope triumphant say
 Christ will rise on Easter Day.



Music... continued from pg. 1

brothers, one older and one younger than he, representing different generations, playing together. "We had a house on a hill and we would practice on the porch; people would drive by honking and smiling. It was great!" His dad was a member of the Henderson Methodist church in upstate New York where he grew up, and Rich played and sang in the choir. He began playing at the age of 9, when his brother bought him a bass guitar because the band needed a bass player. He was playing professionally with his family at age 14, in local supper clubs. "At first I hated it, playing every Friday and Saturday night while the other kids were at dances and things. By the time I was 15 I started to enjoy it. I always had summer jobs, making good money, while others were trying to find work." That was the beginning of a love for music that took him to Nashville, on the road for many years and, ultimately, to Arise Church. (See more about his musical background in the October 2008 issue of Connections, available online.)

Rich is married to Pat, who (among other talents, including marketing and strategic planning) is the drummer in our Arise Praise Band. He has three sons. Jeremiah used to play guitar but now owns a business in Georgia. Jason is a music minister for a church in upstate New York, and plays guitar. And Josh is a student at Lawrence Tech, who also plays guitar. The tradition of a musical family continues!

Rich and Pat have been attending Arise Church and playing in the musical program on and off since the days when worship was held at the Jane Tasch Auditorium. "We liked the contemporary worship, felt really comfortable and there were always good people at Arise. It's a cool place and we kept coming back. It was kind of home for me. It always felt good." "When the opportunity arose to direct the music program, Pastor Don took me to a coffee shop. We talked, and he asked if I was interested. I thought about it, Pat and I talked, we prayed about it, but I was scared. What if I didn't do well? But I decided

to put my money where my mouth was, so to speak. We had good people in place. I knew Laurie and Sally and Eric. So it felt kind of a natural to do it. Now I'm in."

Rich's gifts are greater than the music he so loves. He has a visible talent for putting people at ease, inviting them to try new things and having it all connect. "Relationship and harmony are really important. It's the way I was raised by my dad. When you have good people (as we do), you let them be and let them sing. And the spirituality of it has been really good for me. The Praise Band is a good L.I.F.E. team for me, with people playing and singing. You step out of your envelop and just go. People need to be inspired. It's fun to get people stirred up. And I want to work with Pastor Don as a team. I don't want to ever have the music become separate."

Asked what playing does for him, personally, Rich responds, "I feel like that's what I was meant to do. There's something about it that is like a switch that comes on...especially when I'm playing with good people. It's something I've always wanted to be, and I've really started owning it. Thanks for the opportunity to do this, Arise!" No, Rich...thank you!!!



(L to R) Praise Band Members: Matt Concannon, Steve Cary, Sally Guyon, Laurie Russell, Pat Sliter, Rich Sliter and Dan Guyon.

Spotlight on Youth: Taylor Cole

(This is a new monthly series, focusing on Arise youth and helping us get to know them a little better.)



Taylor says she has been coming to Arise with her great aunt, Debbie Short, since she was in kindergarten. Now 12 years old, Taylor is in 6th grade at Stockbridge Middle School. An only child, she lives with her grandmother, Cindy Hollister, who is active in the Arise Drama Team, and Taylor still likes to come to Arise for worship

services and has recently joined the Arise Youth Group.

In school, Taylor says she's "a big fan of science". She's not sure why, but she does enjoy that subject. Her second favorite thing about school is her friends...or maybe it's her favorite part! Taylor is very outgoing and smiles a lot, so it's easy to see why she enjoys being around people.

For hobbies, she likes to make beaded jewelry, which she often makes for her friends, and purple and blue are her favorite colors. She also enjoys reading and favors mythical and fairy-themed stories. She has had fun in the youth group making pies and apple butter recently and selling them to benefit the Howell Nature Center and the Red Cross for flood victims.

She also considers herself an animal lover and has enjoyed working at the Howell Nature Center and taking care of the animals once a month. Her favorite animals are horses and dolphins. She has ridden a horse, but has yet to swim with a dolphin, although she "would like to do that in the future".

Asked why she likes Arise, the answer comes easily. "I like the friendliness of the people – they care about anybody there and they are the friendliest group of people I've ever met." When you see Taylor, say "hi" and let her know we're glad she's at Arise!

Gene's Doing Better!



The Wednesday Nighters had a pot luck out at the Smith home on Sunday. Gene is doing pretty well, is in great spirits and a good time was had by all. Please join us in continuing prayers for his recovery.

Ron Fike & The Wednesday Nighters

Correction

Apologies to Jacob Russell, who is in the 5th grade (not the 6th, as incorrectly stated in last month's issue.) We didn't mean to make you grow up so fast, Jacob!

Secret Pals Revealed

Congratulations to the Secret Pals and the kids they sponsored over the past several months, and to Cheryl Bollinger for her fine coordination of the program, again this year!

Secret Pal:

- Steve Bollinger
- Steve Cary
- Tina Cary
- Vicki Dawson
- Penny Dunlap
- Carrie Germain
- Rich & Sally Guyon
- Anita Pagano
- Jen Wagner
- Brenda Whalen

Sponsored Child:

- Jacob Russell
- C.J. Bollinger
- Ellen Russell
- Carly Gannon
- Lindsey Selvig
- Olivia Dawson
- Nathan Schilling
- Austin Bollinger
- Daphney Weatherup
- Elly Sherry





The story of Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise.
 – Carl Knudsen

APRIL

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday _____
Worship Service at Country Elementary
 9:00 am – Traditional Worship
 9:45 am – Sunday School
 10:30 am – Contemporary Worship

Tuesday _____
 7:00 pm
 Praise Singers Rehearsal

Thursday _____
 7:00 pm
 Men's Huddle

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|--------------------------|-----|---|---|--|
| 29 Women's Walk to Emmaus Worship at Country Elementary 10:30 God's Kids Rehearsal | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 TGIF Sisters Lunch | 4 |
| 5 Holy Communion Palm Sunday at Country Elementary 10:30 God's Kids Rehearsal 1 pm "One" LIFE team | 6 | 7 7 pm Church Council | 8 | 9 Maunday Thursday Services in homes | 10 Good Friday 7 pm Joint Worship Service at Community Congregational Church | 11 10 am Arise God Squad "Deer Project" |
| 12 Easter Sunday at Country Elementary 9 am Easter Brunch 10 am One Service; Easter Egg Hunt 4 pm God Squad | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Worship at Country Elementary | 20 | 21 7 pm Trustees | 22 | 23 | 24 10 am TGIF Sisters | 25 |
| 26 Worship at Country Elementary 10:30 God's Kids Rehearsal 4 pm God Squad | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | May 1 |

VBS Dates

Vacation Bible School will be held from July 20th – 24th this year.

Please note that the calendar published in the March issue was incorrect.



Relay for Life--May 15 & 16, 2009

Please support the Arise team in its efforts to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. We need walkers, sponsors, supply donors, and lots of prayers. Contact Jen Wagner at 734-878-5260 or jennifer.wagner@att.net to find out how you can help. Relay for Life is a celebration of life as well as a tribute to those we have lost to cancer. It's a huge party and you're all invited!



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If you wish to be removed from our newsletter mailing list, please return this mailing panel to us. Thank you.



April Anniversaries

4/13 Mike & Carol Sanborn
4/30 Tom & Debbie Short

April Birthdays

4/3 Daphney Weatherup 4/20 Dan Guyon
4/6 Cheryl Bollinger 4/29 Tom Terhune
4/10 Don Fuller

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