

Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



September/October 2010

The Pagano's: Paul and Anita



Speaking of Paul, Jr., he is now working as a project engineer for a construction management company, Miller Davis, and is engaged to his fiancée, Kayla. They are planning to be married on December 18 and hope to use the new Arise Worship Center as their wedding venue! Amber is well known to Arise, as she was part of the Praise Band and has shared the gift of her lovely voice during worship. She is currently interning at Mt. Clemens Hospital, specializing in the area of ultrasound testing.

Paul and Anita transferred their membership to Arise this spring. We've always thought of them as part of the Arise family anyway, but their membership is now official. So, we're glad to have you formally on board at Arise, Pagano's, and look forward to continuing our spiritual journey along with you and your family for a long time to come!

Paul and Anita Pagano have been coming to Arise since they moved to Pinckney in 2003. They started their life together after getting married in a Lutheran church, Anita's denomination, while growing up. Paul was raised Catholic and, after marriage, they found a United Methodist church that they liked in Sister Lakes, on the west side of Michigan, so they've been United Methodists ever since. After 8 years they moved with their young children, Paul, Jr. and Amber, to Paw Paw, where they were members for 13 years. Some of the roles they have held at their other churches have been Director of Sunday School and Youth, as well as teaching (Anita) and Trustees (Paul).

They have been actively involved at Arise, too, with Anita attending the Wednesday Nighters Bible Study, as well as helping with Sunday School and VBS. She is a customer service representative at the 1st National Bank in Howell. For the last 3 years, Paul has been working in Kalamazoo and commuting home on the weekends, working for Micromyx in Infectious Disease Research. Despite this exhausting schedule, he still found time to volunteer many weekends during the early phases of the new worship center, often working side by side with Paul, Jr. in that effort, since they share that skill and interest.

Remembering Jim Morphey

by Beth Plachta

Sadly, Jim Morphey, a friend to many at Arise, passed away unexpectedly on August 30, 2010 at the age of 53. Jim and his wife, Cindy, were long time members of Arise and together they were a great team, donating many hours in service and hospitality to our church over the years. Jim was a lover of sports, including playing softball and running marathons. One year he ran a marathon relay event with fellow Arise



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Ministers

Every member
of the Church

Pastor

Don Weatherup

Director of Music

Rich Sliter

Administrative Assistant

Dave Russell

Ministry Center

11211 Dexter-
Pinckney Rd.
Pinckney, MI
48169

734 878-1928

734 878-2748 (F)

www.arisechurch.org



Autumn

Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

By the time you read this newsletter, we should be just a few short weeks away from occupying the first permanent building of Arise Church. This goal is being realized after NINE years of hard work, sacrifice and lots of prayer! I have a rather thick folder in my desk that contains hundreds of pages of notes, meeting minutes, data, and memos. That does not include the hundreds of emails that have been sent during the course of the project.

When our building project was being done by volunteers, thousands of hours of labor were put forth. There are so many memories that stand out, including one that happened shortly after I arrived at Arise Church. We were using a rented ditch digging machine to dig a trench from a telephone pole to the electrical transformer for the new building. It got so late into the evening that we had to light up the work area, using the headlights from our cars. I was impressed right from the start by the dedication of the volunteers. I noticed that they were not only hard workers, but they worked with such great attitudes!

Another memory is the months that we moved sand into the worship area because it needed to be built up 18-inches. Once the sand was in place it needed to be watered so that the final compaction was effective. So there I was, sitting inside, while the sprinkler watered the ground. It felt so strange looking up and seeing a roof while running a sprinkler. I thought to myself, "I am sitting in what will be the worship space—watering!"

In just the past three months alone, the Building Team and the Design Team have managed literally hundreds of details about finishing the new building and parking lot. You don't realize all of the decisions that need to be made, until you get involved personally in a project of this magnitude. These decisions impact everything from function to aesthetics.

Some of the most enjoyable and deeply spiritual time I've had lately is just sitting in the new worship space and thinking. Thinking about all the work that has gone into this building. Thinking about how faithful you all have been, and thinking about how faithful God has been in getting us to completion. I've thought about Pastor Doug, how he must have dreamed about seeing this plan come to fruition, and how lucky I am to be the pastor at Arise Church at such an exciting time. I've thought about the people who also prayed for this moment but didn't

live long enough to see it come to pass. Today they're enjoying the best sanctuary—heaven.

There is so much to think about. And I guess that is the point I want to make in this month's Pastors Page. I hope that, as you contemplate your first experience in this new building, you take some time to reflect. I hope for all of us this new building means so much more than just personal convenience.

As I was looking at the old documents in my Building Committee file, I noticed that Pastor Doug placed on the top of many documents a scripture from Exodus 25:8. That scripture says, "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them." That was a great choice, Doug! Because when we think about this new building, theologically speaking, what we should hope and pray for most of all is that this new building will help people experience God. Let our prayer be that within these walls, people experience hope, healing, grace, and forgiveness.

This place is so much more than just a building! It is a temple for the Lord. It is a sacred place where amazing things will happen because God is the one who makes them happen. And since we know that *the people* are the church, then the church goes wherever the people go. And although God will dwell among us in this new building, God also dwells in each of us.

In John 7:37-39 we read that Jesus stood up and shouted, "If you are thirsty, come to me and drink! Have faith in me, and you will have life-giving water flowing from deep inside you, just as the Scriptures say." Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit, who would be given to everyone that had faith in him.

In this way, Arise Church will *always* be a mobile church. Because everywhere we go, the church goes.

I am excited about the day that we will formally dedicate this new building to God. Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 21st at 4:00 p.m. Formal invitations will be sent out to all current and past members with addresses in our database, as well as some guests. On that day, we at Arise Church will declare to the world why this building was built. It was built for God's purposes!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Don



Planning for New Church Building Continues

by April Flanagan, Council Chair

In the flurry of current activity, plans continue for how to begin life in our new Arise church building. This includes the following events:

- **First Service in the New Church**—Depending on how long it takes for final construction, furniture delivery, certificate of occupancy and practice with music, AV and computers, we are hopeful that this will be earlier than expected, in mid-October. The overall message for this service will be one of praise, praise, praise... through music and the sermon. We will begin service in the barn, and walk together to the new sanctuary, to complete this leg of our journey together.
- **Building Consecration and Dedication**—All present and past members of Arise church, past and present music directors, past and present district superintendents and some special guests will be invited to join us for this significant celebration, recognition and fellowship at 4 pm on Sunday, November 21st.
- **Community Outreach Campaign**—Plans are being developed for an open house, series of talks or other activities that will be targeted at the external community, with the objective of inviting them to join us for worship and potential membership. This will include community advertising, communications and training for the Arise community to be at our welcoming best, and information on worship, programs and activities. In light of current schedules, the Christmas season and winter weather, we expect this to take place in early 2011.

The Church Growth Committee is also working on priorities for new building use, to propose to Council this year. In addition to regular church activities such as Sunday School, music/AV rehearsals, church meetings and Bible study, we know that many groups will have meetings, classes and events that they would like to schedule in our new church building. It is our intention to plan for this in an orderly way, giving priority to those things that will further our Arise Mission, **Growing in God's Love and Passing It On**, our overriding objective for the past two years, **Church Growth**, and our **Strategic Objectives: Growing Spiritually, Experiencing Worship, Caring Community and Meaningful Missions**. So, while other activities may be worthwhile, they will be considered after initial priorities are addressed. We recognize that it is important to walk

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Stewardship and New Shoes

by Steve Cary

Just look at us. 13 years down the road from the first meetings of what would become *Arise Church*. People have met in homes, a theater, schools, and this barn; most of it, before my time. But for most of the three years that I have been here, all I've thought is that I had simply found a wonderful place with wonderful people who have helped me on my personal journey with Jesus Christ.



Now here we are in our 2010 Stewardship Campaign, getting ready to move into our new building. I have wondered if we will change or will we be the Arise that I have come to love? After all, the church is the people, and not the building. I prayed a lot about what we might use as our stewardship theme this year. I happened to be reading 2 Timothy and I came across a scripture in chapter 4 verse 2. In it Timothy states to Peter, "I have fought the good fight, I have stayed my course, and I have remained faithful."

My understanding of the scripture is that Paul believed his life was coming to an end. He believed that he was going to die in prison. Now here was a man who went through beatings and stonings and whippings and shipwrecks and all kinds of difficult things, yet he never gave up on spreading the word of Christ. And then, at the close of his life, he said to Timothy "I have fought a good fight, I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE, I have kept the faith." He gave the charge of continuing the fight not only to Timothy, but to all of us, as well. Simply put, it reminded me that even though we are about to get this beautiful, brand new building, we are still running the same race.

So now, I look at our new building at Arise as if it were a new pair of shoes in this race we are running. Our race is not finished; in fact, all we are getting is a new pair of shoes to run our race. The race ahead of us is long and this building will simply help us to more easily accomplish the ministries we do that change lives. It's important that we continue to give faithfully of our time, treasures, and talents because we're still in the race.

Fight the good fight, be faithful, and let's stay the course of stewardship.

Transitioning from an Era of Moving to

Note: As we celebrate the completion of phase one of our Arise Church building plan, it seems appropriate to pause and appreciate the history and beauty of Arise Acres. We offer this with thanks to Rev. Doug McMunn, who gave his permission to use it again.

A Brief History of Arise Acres

Written by Rev. Doug McMunn for the consecration of Arise Acres in September, 2003.



Pastor Doug McMunn passing the baton to Pastor Don Weatherup, in June, 2006.

Creation:

Genesis 1:9-13

Native Americans lived in the land and worshipped the Great Spirit. One can imagine a Native American tribe traveling through the area and stopping here for the night. Perhaps they make camp and stay because a baby is about to be born among them. We don't know. Maybe the child was born here.

Then European settlers ventured into Michigan's wilderness to claim low-priced land. The first settler in Livingston County was Colonel Solomon Peterson. In 1828 he purchased land on the trail that became Dexter-Pinckney Road. He came from Buffalo, New York by steamship to Detroit. There he bought a pony and travelled through the forest and muddy swamps to the little village of Ann Arbor, which was a few log cabins.

Next Peterson followed an Indian trail to a pioneer home at Dexter and followed that same trail north. That trail became Dexter-Pinckney Road. He went right past Arise Acres and found his property just north of us, along Honey Creek, where the new subdivision is just up the road.

The settlers increased and Pinckney Village began with plans for a mill, hotel, store, shops, and a public square for a gathering place. Notice they started with plans. There has to be a dream and plans and desire before things happen. In time, they built a town hall, schools, and churches.

In the 1840's a Methodist preacher preached in the schoolhouse once every two weeks. They had 8 ministers before they built the first building. When the school

burned they started meeting in a large tavern by the mill. I find it interesting they built a large tavern before they built the Methodist Episcopal Church!

When a new school was built, they met there for worship. After over ten years of worship they built a church in 1854 on Unadilla Street, beside the Congregational Church. Four years later they built a parsonage. The Methodist Church served for about 75 years and consolidated with the Congregationalist Church in 1925.

The merged congregation met in the former Methodist building, which was the larger of the two. The other church was sold to the Swarthout family, who tore it down and used the materials to build a house. The Methodist Church building stood for 131 years, until 1985, when Community Congregational Church re-built.

But that is not the end of the Methodists in Putnam Township!

Jan Ware and Nick Mihut purchased this land in 1966 for a horse farm. They paid \$325 an acre. There were two swamps near the road. They dug one deeper and filled the other in. That left the small pond we have today.

In 1966 they built the tack barn, the small green structure, and in 1968, the house. The stable was designed by Greg Fenerly, an engineer and owner of Rubiat, a restaurant in Ann Arbor. In 1970 they sold the place to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Johns, who sold it to Aaron and Rowana Reavis.

The Reavis's lived here about 25 years and operated a horse ranch they called Chessman Arabians. They won many awards with their horses through the years and their farm included peacocks and goats, ducks, chickens, and ponies. They have many wonderful memories here with their children and grandchildren. They sold it to Arise in 2000 and moved to a new ranch home on North Territorial Road.

Arise Church was founded in 1996. We began to worship, pray, love each other, and serve God together. In 1997 we formed a Property Search Task Force and visited dozens of sites until God brought us to this beautiful horse farm in the year 2000.

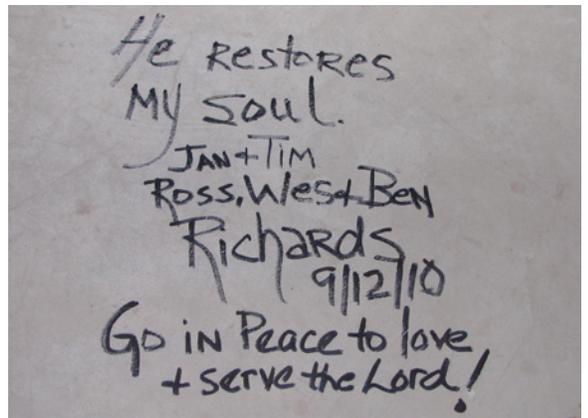
We are excited about the future of ministry here at Arise Acres. We're just up the road from Hell, and let's let the Devil know that the Methodists are back!

an Era of Stability and Growth...

Doing it ourselves in the pre-grant days. Thanks volunteers and thanks Mr. Lasko!



Standing on the Word of God: Arise community members inscribe Bible verses and personal sentiments on the concrete floor, now covered by carpet.



I Won't Miss That *by Jeff Vaden, Arise Building Project Manager*

With luck (and an unimaginable amount of hard work by countless folks), we should just about be in our new church by the time you're reading this. I couldn't help but think back on all the things I won't miss, once the dust settles and we finally move in.

I know I won't miss having to get up two hours before 'my' service to get the trailer hooked up and over to the school on time, as the sun is just starting to come up over Arise Acres. I won't miss that. I won't miss trying to open the frozen pole barn door, how cold my hands felt and how quickly they warmed up, holding onto my McCafé morning coffee. I won't miss that. I won't miss knowing that I was one icy road and one wayward deer away from sending the entire contents of my church equipment all over Dexter-Pinckney road, or knowing that my towing partner and friend was following right behind me, just in case I did. I really won't miss that.

I won't miss getting my fingers pinched in the video screen frame (again), or noticing the frayed edges and missing snaps on the screen itself, from the countless times of being set up and taken back down. Or thinking how many song lyrics it must have already guided us through. I'm sure I won't miss that.

I won't miss the dust, smell and sounds of having service in the pole barn, although the birds in the trees, sand hill cranes and cool breezes have been a nice reminder of God's bounty. I won't miss how the florescent light right above the congregation mysteriously kept coming on right at the main point of a sermon, with everyone looking up and then at each other. I won't miss that. I won't miss the hissing sound the right speaker made (or maybe it was the left) just before it got drowned out by a perfect harmony or a powerful solo from Rich and the crew, as they led us to worship.

I won't miss meeting up with the other volunteers early on Saturdays, or after work on weekdays, to get just one more thing completed on the building, knowing that half the time would be wasted fixing world hunger, solving peace on earth or pondering the Lion's quarterback problems. I won't miss that knowing there would still be many, many more days until we were done, although Pastor Don always came in with a smile and a word of encouragement. I won't miss that ugly green tack barn inhabited by swallows or the rundown Ministry Center trailer that greeted our newcomers for years, held our meetings, comforted our troubled marriages and produced our sermons.

One day, in hopefully the not too distant future, I anticipate walking down the hallway from our sanctuary to

the youth center, to enjoy yet another play being put on by one of our Sunday school classes. After all phases of the building are completed, it wouldn't surprise me at all to overhear people I don't even know yet say to a newcomer, walking beside them, "I sure don't miss the days when we used to worship in this wing of the church. It only held 150 people, you know. All those poor kids only had four classrooms to study and do projects in! I don't know how we ever managed."

I'll just smile and think to myself, "Yep, I won't miss that."

Jim Morphew *continued from pg. 1*

running enthusiasts—Doug McMunn, Matt Plachta, Rob Wagner and Jim's son-in-law, Karl. Their families went to watch, travelling from point to point around downtown Detroit, to catch a glimpse of their Arise team member.

Jim and Cindy often hosted church parties at their home in Moon Shadows for the Super Bowl and other events, where spirited games of group ping pong—a game where many people walk around the table taking turns hitting the ball and being eliminated when they missed, leaving only two winded people running around the table to hit the ball until one missed was almost always a standard party favorite. They also hosted Arise Women's Retreats for several years.

The couple coordinated and participated in the Arise Bowling League on Sunday evenings for many years. Jim hosted the Men's Huddle LIFE Team, meeting weekly in their home and played drums during the contemporary service, as well.

Jim was a photographer by profession, owning and operating LaMoore Photography in Livonia for over 32 years. He took several all-church group photographs, was the photographer at the Arise Silent Auction Fundraiser and many people from our church own pictures taken by Jim. He was gifted in the art of photography.

Quiet, but with a good sense of humor, Jim had many friends and his family adored him. He leaves behind his wife Cindy, his children; Laura Smathers, Jennifer Counihan and Joe Morphew and granddaughters; Chelsea and Haley Smathers.

Even though the Morphews moved from the Pinckney area, they maintained friendships at Arise. Many will miss Jim and we not only send our condolences to his family, but we know we'll see our friend again in the Lord's House. Rest in peace, Jim, we love you.



“ARISE, SHINE, FOR YOUR LIGHT HAS COME, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD RISES UPON YOU.”

—ISAIAH 60:1

SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

OCTOBER 3

—Worship at Arise Acres

Holy Communion Sunday

- 9:00 am Traditional Service
- 10:30 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Contemporary Service
- 1:00 pm “One” LIFE team

OCTOBER 10

—Worship at Arise Acres

- 9:00 am Traditional Service
- 10:30 am Sunday School
- Contemporary Service

OCTOBER 17

—First Service in the new
Worship Center at Arise Acres!

- 9:00 am Traditional Service
- 10:30 am Sunday School
- Contemporary Service

OCTOBER 24

—Worship at Arise

- 9:00 am Traditional Service
- 10:30 am Sunday School
- Contemporary Service

OCTOBER 31

—Worship at Arise

Reformation Sunday

- 9:00 am Traditional Service
- 10:30 am Sunday School
- Contemporary Service

Halloween

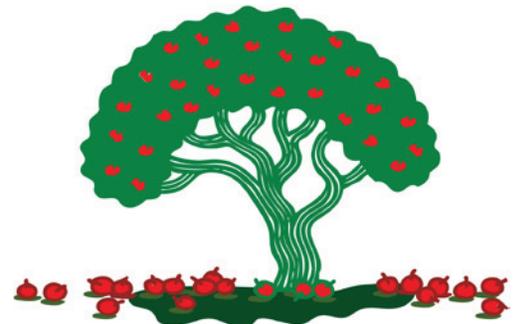
EVENTS IN OCTOBER

OCTOBER 5

7:00 pm Council

OCTOBER 21

6:00 pm Meat & Greet



Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Night and Potluck: Thursday, November 4th

Everyone is invited to a Potluck dinner on Thursday, November 4 at 6:30 pm at our new church. There will be good food (bring your favorite dish to pass), fellowship and a little work assembling shoe boxes for Samaritan Purse Operation Christmas Child. What a wonderful way to start the Christmas season!

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is “to demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with a local church (Arise) to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. This year there are several ways you can help. You can make up your own shoebox, you can purchase supplies, or you can help with shipping expenses.

If you prefer to make your own shoe box, please see gift suggestions and instructions at: www.samaritanpurse.org/index.php/OCC/Pack_A_Shoe_Box (hard copies are available on the information desk, for those who do not have Internet access.) What a wonderful family project that would be!

If you would rather not have to purchase a variety of gifts, you can participate by purchasing multiples of an item such as ten balls and fifteen toothbrushes and donating them to the pool of gifts we will use to fill the shoeboxes. If shopping does not interest you, we need

donations of money to help cover the cost of shipping. Each shoe box costs about \$7.00 to ship. All checks should be made to Arise.

We also need standard size shoe boxes or plastic shoeboxes. There are many ways to help and we hope to see everyone on Nov. 4th.

The shoe boxes are given to children unconditionally, along with a booklet titled *The Greatest Gift of All*, written in their native language. Sometimes it is the only gift they receive at Christmas. Last year Arise sent 62 boxes and touched 62 young hearts.

Hope to see everyone on Thursday, November 4 at 6:30. Bring your appetite, a dish to pass and lots of toys and goodies to pack in the shoe boxes.

Thank you, Missions

Planning... continued from pg. 3

before we run, so that we can offer excellent programs while balancing time, budget and people.

On behalf of Council, I would like to thank all those who are giving so generously of their time and talent. We appreciate your stewardship, prayers and patience.



Arise Ministry Center
 11211 Dexter-Pinckney Rd.
 Pinckney, MI 48169

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



October/November Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|-------|----------------------|-------|--|
| 10/7 | Rich & Sally Guyon | 10/18 | Chris & Angela Young
— Happy 5th !! |
| 10/14 | Dave & Laura Bowen | 11/7 | Don & Mary Ann Mathis
— Happy 40th !! |
| 10/15 | Greg & Barb Stafford | | |

October/November Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| 10/4 | Dorothy Aschenbrenner
Matt Plachta | 11/11 | Carly Gannon |
| 10/11 | Jacob Russell | 11/15 | Faith Young |
| 10/31 | Deb Short | 11/19 | Gail Osborne |
| 11/3 | Beth Plachta | 11/20 | Ben Richards |
| 11/6 | Wayne Kieb | 11/21 | Cindy Morphew |
| 11/10 | Austin Bollinger
April Flanagan | 11/23 | Jan Richards |
| | | 11/29 | David Bowen
Marcia Gebarowski |

ARISE NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editorial:
 April Flanagan, Beth Plachta

Layout/Design:
 Barbara Wood

Photography:
 Don Weatherup
 Steve & Tina Cary

Distribution:
 Evva Funk & her team

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

- Arise *Connections* is available online and in color at www.arisechurch.org
 Check out the Missions link on the website!