

Connections

Arise—a United Methodist Church



January/February 2011

Meet the Newest Arise Members



Ministers

Every member
of the Church

Pastor

Don Weatherup

Director of Music

Rich Sliter

Administrative Assistant

Dave Russell

Ministry Center

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Pinckney, MI
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www.arisechurch.org

*For if you forgive
others their trespasses,
your heavenly Father will
also forgive you...*

Matthew 6:14



Kathy Fick is one of our newest members at Arise, joining the church on November 28th. She grew up in Ypsilanti with her parents and two brothers until she was in 3rd grade, attending the Lutheran church there until her family moved to Saline, where she graduated from high school and attended Trinity Lutheran.



She married in 1987 in her grandparent's church—People's Presbyterian in Milan—and attended as an adult for a time, being active as an elder. Her husband was not a church-goer, so her church attendance dropped off for various reasons, but her faith remained strong. "I was still a Christian and prayed, but it was just easier not to go at that time,"

she says. When her marriage ended, she was looking for a Divorce Recovery sign that she had seen in front of a church in another community in the past, but it wasn't there any longer. Kathy's parents live on Portage Lake and while driving down Dexter-Pinckney Rd, she saw the Arise Divorce Recovery sign, attended the class led by Pastor Don and Shelley, and shares that, "I really liked them both and the class was small, which I liked. The church seemed the same way. I met some Arise people in that class and one of them invited me to attend a worship service. I've been coming ever since."

Kathy has been a Certified Dental Assistant since 1980, working both the front and back of the office, but ultimately preferring the billing and insurance work in the front, while occasionally helping with the dental proce-

continued on pg. 6

Pollyann Walker and her son, **Karl Burr**, began attending Arise at the end of last spring, just before services ended at Country Elementary School. "We started to take our dog to the dog park and began coming to church after that," says Pollyann. A native of Pinckney, she grew up in a home with her parents and one brother, a year younger than her, who now lives in Howell. "My dad was a cook at Maxey Boys and my mom and I both drove school buses at the same time in the Pinckney District for 9 years."

Pollyann grew up Baptist. "If the church doors were open, we were there," she quips. "I was active in the youth group at the time. As an adult, I've attended a few churches on and off, including Cornerstone Presbyterian in Brighton. My ex-husband was going to be a preacher, but that didn't work out. I

hadn't gone to church after my divorce until we noticed Arise."

"Growing up, I was a pitcher for softball, although I don't play now. Lately, I like archery and target shooting. I'm the secretary for my league." She is also an avid motorcycle enthusiast. "I used to be in a women's motorcycle group, but now I just ride locally for fun and to get to work in the warm weather. I did take one road trip once to Gatlinburg, Tenn. with my brother. That was really beautiful!" she says with enthusiasm. "Karl isn't able to drive right now, but we may try to get a sidecar for



continued on pg. 7

Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

Shelley and I finally purchased a high-definition flat screen television as a Christmas present to each other. That will make Costco shopping trips a little faster. Shelley won't have to drag me the first 50 feet which, is where Costco displays all the flat screen TV's. Now I just walk briskly past them and smile. But, the next aisle over.....(never mind).

Like most newer televisions, my new TV has the capability to attach a

flash drive so that you can view pictures on the television. So I decided I would put all our digital pictures on a large flash drive so that we can have the Weatherup/Russell channel and view pictures anytime we want.

We had more digital photos than I would imagine. We had around 1,100 digital photos. Someday I'll scan the box of photo prints in the basement. There are probably at least 1,000 of those. Did you know that the web site Facebook has 100,000,000 million photos uploaded to it—e v e r y d a y! Over the New Year's weekend, 750,000,000 photos were uploaded to Facebook.

Why do we like photos so much? I presume it's because we are able to capture and freeze moments in time that we might otherwise forget. We obviously value photos. Whenever people discuss home fires and are asked what possessions they would take out of a burning home first, photographs score the highest.

I can understand that. I must admit that going through the old photos was wonderful! It was great seeing the kids in the various stages of ages and all the activities we've done. It really isn't the photos that we value so much, it's the people in them.

One of the reasons why Facebook has quickly become the world's number one website for photos is because they were able to connect people with photos. There are a ton of websites where I can go to see pretty pictures. The pictures I want to see feature the people I care about the most. Facebook has helped people connect with other people through photographs.

The job of the church is to connect people with God. Some would suggest that it would be a whole lot easier to connect people with God if we had a picture we could post online. ___(insert name)___, meet God.

While it's true we don't have a photograph to show God, we have something close. We have Jesus. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the closest thing we'll ever come to seeing

God. The Bible tells us that if we want to know God, get to know Jesus.

I haven't checked to see if Jesus has a Facebook page. He doesn't need one, though. All we really need to know about Jesus can be found in the New Testament. According to the Bible, the Holy Spirit of God is constantly sending us Facebook status updates from Christ. I guess the real question is, are we hearing them?

As I look back at old photos, I am reminded just how deep my love is for my wife and my children. It makes me smile to know that God loves me even more, and God doesn't need old photos to remind God of what I am like. God can recall my entire life instantly whenever God wants to. The bad moments that have been forgiven, God has forgotten forever; all God sees when God looks at me, or you—is possibility.

For that, I am forever grateful.

Pastor Don



On December 18th, the first wedding in the new Arise Church building took place. Congratulations to Paul and Kayla Pagano! Paul is the son of Paul and Anita Pagano.

Arise 2011 Programs Underway!

by April Flanagan, Council Chair

The year 2010 at Arise was spectacular! Stage one of the building project, our beautiful new church building, was completed. The Arise family, past and present, gathered for our building consecration and dedication on November 21st, and the church was filled with the love, praise and thanksgiving of friends near and far. On Christmas Eve, three services were held for the first time, with record-breaking attendance of 211 people. Praise God!

As we begin 2011, plans are underway for programs, services and events that address the needs of the present Arise family and also attract prospective members. These include:

- Pastor Don's January sermon series on *Four Things Worth Losing in 2011, to Make it a Better Year*
- A six-week adult study, led by Pastor Don, and based on John Ortberg's book, *God is Closer Than You Think*
- Engaging parents of high school kids, and others interested, in planning programs and events for them; Merilee Zane will coordinate these conversations and propose recommendations to Council
- Easter services that will celebrate this joyous Christian holiday
- The public grand opening of our Dog Park in the spring, featuring a memorial service for former pets, and a blessing for current pets
- Guided tours of our church building for visitors
- Regular potluck dinners and family nights
- A barn sale this spring, under the direction of Karen Vaden (see separate article)
- Vacation Bible School

We are also working to increase our community communications and outreach, starting with 5,000 brochures that were delivered in early January. The External Growth Committee is meeting to consider and propose subsequent communications, programs and activities geared toward inviting newcomers to join us for worship and other activities.

It is our intention in 2011 to focus on programs, activities and events that support the mission and strategic priorities of Arise Church, namely:

Mission: Growing in God's Love and Passing it On

Strategic Objectives: Growing Spiritually, Experiencing Worship, Caring Community and Meaningful Missions.

The new year is a wonderful time for reflection, prioritization and commitment. We appreciate the involvement and prayers of so many, and encourage everyone to consider and offer your talents of leadership, skills and support, as we move forward.

Happy New Year!

New Chairperson for the Finance Committee

by Bob Zane

Over the past few months, Matt Plachta found that he was being pulled in too many directions at the same time and needed to cut back on some activities. Consequently, he decided it was time to relinquish his role as Chair of the Finance Committee.

Pastor Don approached me about accepting this role and, after spending time meeting with Matt, I felt comfortable accepting this challenge. A good part of my reasoning is based on the fact that Matt will stay on as bookkeeper for the time being—a role I cannot fill. Thank you, Matt, for your leadership in this critical role over the past many years!

For those of you that do not know me, I have experience in finance, although not in accounting, and I believe I can fill this role, otherwise I would not have accepted it.

As time goes by, I hope to be able to meet all of you that I have not met, provide you with an ongoing update of the state of finances here at Arise and help the leadership team at Arise capitalize on the wondrous gift that God has given us.

For the near term, I have provided in the following tables a quick snapshot of the preliminary numbers for Arise as of 12/31/2010. Please feel free to contact me with any questions/comments or suggestions you may have about the state of our finances or ways to improve them. Again, these are preliminary numbers, so please allow us time to close the books formally, for 2010, before expecting numbers that are more precise.

<u>Income comparison</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>% change</u>
General Fund	\$124,000	\$125,000	+1%
Capital/building fund	\$60,000	\$48,000	-20%
Total	\$184,000	\$173,000	-6%

continued on pg. 4

2011 Arise Committees

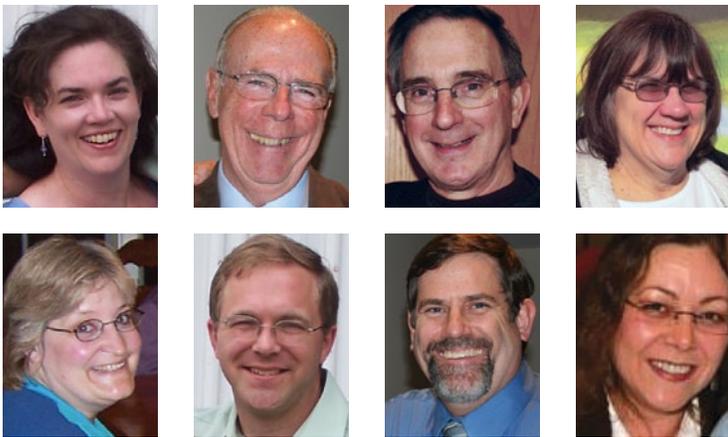
We wish to begin 2011 by thanking our church leaders, who give so generously of their time and talents, as part of their Christian stewardship.

A big thank you to those who finished their leadership terms in 2010:



L to R: Debbie Short (Finance), Matt Plachta (Finance), Ron Fike (SPRC), Barbara Wood (Membership Secretary), Jen Wagner (Church Council Secretary, Children's Ministry); Micki Baumgart (Membership)

An equally big welcome to those taking on new leadership roles (with names in bold on the following list) at Arise, and thanks to all of those who continue to serve!



L to R: Laurie Russell, Bob Zane, Brad Topp, Kathy Fick, Brenda Whalen, Dave Russell, Jeff Vaden, Tina Cary.



Audit: **Laurie Russell**

Children's Ministry Co-Coordinators—
Merilee Zane, Carrie Germain

Church Council: April Flanagan (Chair)

Finance: **Bob Zane** (Chair), Jane Fuller,
Diane Gould, **Brad Topp**

Financial Secretary: Jane Fuller

Lay Leader: Rich Guyon

Lay Leadership: Rev. Don Weatherup
(Chair), Rich Guyon (Vice-chair), Cheryl
Bollinger, Barbara Wood

Membership: Beth Plachta (Chair), Cheryl
Bollinger, Steve Cary, Karen Vaden,
Brenda Whalen

Membership Secretary: **Dave Russell**

Missions: Barb Haines (Co-chair), Laurel
Hubbard (Co-chair), **Kathy Fick**, Norma
Topp

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC):
Wayne Kieb (Co-chair), Bev Selvig
(Co-chair), Sue Boltach, Don Fuller

Treasurer: Gail Osborne

Trustees: Tim Richards (Chair), Carolyn
Stafford, Jack Dunlap, Bob Zane, Mary
Ellen Kieb, **Jeff Vaden**

Worship: Rev. Don Weatherup (Chair), Sue
Boltach, **Tina Cary**, Evva Funk, Cyndi
Hollister, Laurie Russell

New Chairperson... *continued from pg. 3*

Pledges to actual receipt comparison

	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Percent</u>
General fund:	\$88,000	\$81,000	92%
Capital/ Building Fund:	\$40,000	\$32,000	81%

We also managed to pay approximately 91% of our Conference Apportionments—roughly \$14,000 of the little over \$15,000 due (thanks to everyone that attended the Christmas Eve services and made an effort to push us over the top here). This is the best performance we have achieved in this important metric in years.

CHRISTMAS EVE



SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT...

Arise Missions: It's All About Others

The Arise Missions Committee has been busily planning their year. Co-chairs Laurel Hubbard and Barb Haines are joined by enthusiastic members Betty Korzilius, Norma Topp and newest member, Kathy Fick.

The majority of funding for missions projects, both local and abroad, are generated from Inside Outreach donations, a special offering on the first Sunday of every month during communion. "The Conference of the United Methodist Church determines where about half of the offerings go," says Laurel. In addition, the committee has selected some local and international projects that Arise will support.

The February Inside Outreach will support REACH (Responding Everyday Against Community Homelessness), hosted by Arise at the Community Congregational Church (CCC) in Pinckney. The dates are Friday, Feb. 18 from dinnertime until 8:30 a.m. on Saturday and on Sunday, Feb. 27, from dinnertime until 8:30 a.m. Monday. Arise volunteers provide food and servers for dinner, chaperones for overnight and servers for breakfast at each session. The February Inside Outreach will go to pay for the clients' L.E.T.S. bus transportation costs from the Salvation Army in Howell to the CCC. "We always need chaperones for the night time," says Laurel, "and there needs to be a man on each night

shift. It may be a little easier this year, since one of the night shifts is on Friday. We can split the shifts up, too, if that is easier for people." Interested in helping? Sign up at church on the circulating clipboard or call Laurel or Barb to volunteer.

The March Inside Outreach goes for medicine boxes to go to Haiti, which was devastated by last year's earthquake. "Donations will be used to purchase boxes of medicine containing 18 different drugs that can treat 1000 people for 3 months," says Laurel. Each box costs \$455.

"We also designated two additional projects for this year that will involve some sort of special fundraising, to be determined," Laurel says. These are Habitat for Humanity and Love, In The Name of Christ—both organizations that benefit local folks in our community.

The Missions Committee is open to anyone interested in helping. "We'd love to have more people join us with their ideas and helping hands," says Laurel. Their next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7 pm at the church. Thank you, Missions Committee—both to the current team and to all those who have done this work in the past—planning and working so hard on the behalf of those who aren't so fortunate. And to the congregation at large—thank you for supporting missions so generously!

Barn Sale Set for May 13-14

As people spend all winter inside their homes, many take the time to do some sorting and preparing to get rid of things they no longer need. As a result, this time of year Arise Church inevitably gets many people asking, "Are we having a barn sale this year?" Karen Vaden, who led our Barn Sale last year, has graciously agreed to head up another Barn Sale this year, on Friday and Saturday, May 13th and 14th! She even takes a week's vacation to do it! Start spreading the word to hang on to those closet, garage and basement treasures! Also, anyone interested in volunteering should contact her at karenvaden@hotmail.com or 313-613-5643.

Christmas Child Shoebox Operation: A Huge Success!

The Samaritan Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection on November 4th was a huge success! We collected almost 100 boxes, and 28 people attended the assembly night and potluck dinner. Thanks to all who donated and assembled!

Kathy Fick... *continued from pg. 1*

dures. She now works at the U of M Dental School at the reception desk where she registers patients, answers their questions, and says she really liked it there. She is very active in the Michigan Dental Assisting Association, having been a delegate to their conventions and volunteering for that organization in various ways. Other than this, her 8-year-old cocker spaniel, Dari (rhymes with sorry) and her parent's 2-year-old dachshund, Babe, keep her pretty occupied. Dari has paid a visit to the Arise Dog Park and seemed to like it pretty well, says her owner.

Kathy lives in Ann Arbor currently, but plans to sell her house in the next couple of months and move into her parent's home nearby. "I was over there all the time, anyway, and I'll feel better knowing that someone is close by for them," she says.

At Arise, she has been serving in the nursery two Sundays a month, tries to attend all the special functions when she can and plans to go the newest Bible Study lead by Pastor Don. "I've also had a feeling that I am supposed to take sign language classes now through the Ann Arbor

continued on pg. 7



Faith is not believing that God can. It is knowing that God will.

~ Ben Stein

SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 6

—Worship at Arise Acres

Holy Communion Sunday

- 9:00 am Traditional Service
- 10:30 am Sunday School
Contemporary Service
- 1:00 pm "One" LIFE Team
(Wagner's)

FEBRUARY 13

—Worship at Arise Acres

- 9:00 am Traditional Service
- 10:30 am Sunday School
Contemporary Service
- 5:00 pm Divorce Care

FEBRUARY 20

—Worship at Arise

- 9:00 am Traditional Service
- 10:30 am Sunday School
Contemporary Service
- 5:00 pm Divorce Care

FEBRUARY 27

—Worship at Arise

- 9:00 am Traditional Service
- 10:30 am Sunday School
Contemporary Service
- 5:00 pm Divorce Care

EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 1

7:00 pm Council

FEBRUARY 3

7:00 pm Missions Committee

FEBRUARY 17

6:00 pm Meat & Greet (Selvig's)

FEBRUARY 18 & 27

—REACH Homeless Shelter at
Community Congregational

Kathy Fick... continued from pg. 6

Rec Department, so I just signed up. I talked with the lady at church who does signing (Micki Baumgart). I had taken a few classes years ago and now I realize I can use this in my work, since we have a lot of patients who are hard of hearing and know sign language."

When asked what she especially likes about Arise, she doesn't hesitate to answer. "Everybody from day one of my first visit was so friendly. I'd never been to a contemporary service before and didn't know what to expect, but I like it. The people here make you feel like you've been there forever. I like a smaller church, so this is a good fit for me. I love it here!"

We're very glad you found us, too, Kathy! Welcome to Arise!

Pollyann and Karl... continued from pg. 1

my motorcycle, so I can drive him around, too."

After the Pinckney Schools were planning to privatize their bus drivers, Pollyann went back to school to complete her nursing degree, something she had started years before. "I graduated from Eastern Michigan University with my Bachelors of Science in Nursing in 1997. I worked for McLaren Hospital in Flint for 6 months, and then worked for McPherson Hospital. For the last 11 years, I've worked at University of Michigan Hospital on the cardiology telemetry floor as a float nurse. I really love it!"

Pollyann says she's the kind of person who likes to get involved. She has started to attend the "One" group at

Arise, is coordinating communion and helps take blood pressures for the Health Ministry Team. In the past, she has worked with the sound systems, been involved in Bible activities and has been an accompanist on the piano. "I really like the fact that people at Arise are interested in my son and me. We've gone to churches where you attend, but nobody talks to you. I think it's how the leadership of the church leads and then people will follow that lead. I really like it at Arise!"

Karl concurs. "I really like the friendly people at Arise. They talk to me, even though I have a disability and shake my head a lot." Karl is a 2005 graduate of Pinckney High and attended Washtenaw Community College for 1 ½ years, pursuing a degree as a motorcycle mechanic. "I would like to continue back to school to become a Dyno Technician (doing mechanical work on motorcycles). I work on motorcycles now and someday, I'd like to build a custom made one."

Karl has two younger sisters. Emily lives with his mom and him right now and plans to marry in September. Shelby lives close by in Brighton. "Right now, I enjoy shooting archery with mom on Fridays. I used to play bass guitar in a band, but I haven't done that for a while." The family dog, Busa, a two-year-old male pug, has made a lot of friends at the Arise Dog Park. "We haven't brought him as much in the winter, but will come more once it warms up," Karl says.

Thanks for letting us get to know you a little better, Pollyann and Karl, and we are so glad you are here with us at Arise!



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February/ March Anniversaries

2/3	E.J. & Kim Sherry	2/17	Bob & Merilee Zane — Happy 10th !!
2/13	Steve & Bev Selvig	3/12	Jon & Marcia Gebarowski

February/ March Birthdays

2/1	Tony Whalen	2/27	Barb Stafford	3/11	Amber Pagano
2/7	Noah Sherry	2/28	Steve Cary	3/12	Donna Terhune
2/12	Anjalie Sherry	3/1	Danielle Weatherup	3/13	Carrie Germain
	Natalie Sherry			3/17	Connor Graham
	Shelley Weatherup	3/3	Paul Pagano, Sr.	3/21	Sue Boltach
2/16	Jessica Short	3/7	Betty Korzilius	3/29	E.J. Sherry
2/19	Katherine Russell	3/10	Nancy Swartzwelter	3/31	Chelsea Sherry
	Myles Wagner				

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*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!