

# Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



March/April 2012



## Ministers

Every member  
of the Church

## Pastor

Don Weatherup

## Director of Music

Mark Nilan

## Administrative Assistant

Dave Russell

## Ministry Center

11211 Dexter-  
Pinckney Rd.  
Pinckney, MI  
48169

734 878-1928  
734 878-2748 (F)  
www.arisechurch.org



## Farewell, Rich Sliter!

by Sally Guyon



Sally Guyon

Good Morning  
Arrriiiiiise  
Church!!.....Let's  
worship!

It's hard to think of  
Sundays without  
that resounding  
phrase welcoming  
us, inviting us to sing  
and praise God, then  
relax and listen to  
His word. Because

that was Rich Sliter's style, to be happy to see  
you and make you feel comfortable.

Rich clearly loved God and Jesus, and  
it would not be uncommon to conclude  
practice and sit around talking for as long  
or longer than we had practiced, about  
faith or whatever was on our minds. Some  
of our fondest memories as a band were  
around Rich and Pat's kitchen table on a  
Saturday morning, drinking coffee, talking  
about everything but the music that we were

continued on pg. 5



## Meet the Piano Man: Mark Nilan

by April Flanagan



April Flanagan

A big welcome to  
Mark Nilan, our  
new Music Director,  
who has brought  
live music to first  
service and keyboard  
melodies to the  
second service Praise  
Band worship! Mark  
started at Arise on  
Easter Sunday, and  
was able to work with

Rich Sliter for two weeks before Rich headed  
west to Colorado. Mark offers, "I want to  
thank everyone for the wonderful welcome  
I have received. I could feel it from day one,  
before anyone knew who I was. That's part of  
what's missing in so many churches."

Mark is a professional pianist who has played  
with Aretha Franklin, Smokey Robinson,  
Gladys Knight, Earl Klugh and others. "It was  
amazing, to be that close to living legends,  
and also see the quality and professionalism

continued on pg. 7

## Pastor's Column



**Pastor Don Weatherup**

By the time you read this article, Shelley and I will have already returned from our trip to France to visit our daughter Daphney who is studying abroad. But, as I write this, we are just days away from leaving. As I have mentioned in church, all except for quick trips into Canada, neither Shelley nor I have left the United States. Let me tell you, we are both quite excited and yet also very nervous.

We are nervous about lots of things, but nothing terribly important. Mostly hoping that we adapt to the change of culture without doing something that make us look ridiculous. Of course, the language barrier will be quite a challenge, however, most of the time we will be with either Daphney or her boyfriend Claude. They both speak very good French.

Many of you have met Claude, as he was in Pinckney the last two summers and attend Arise Church quite a few times. Daphney and Claude met while Daphney was at Pinckney High School. Daphney's French class hooked each student up with an internet pen pal in France. Claude was Daphney's pen pal. That friendship developed into a dating relationship.

So it's not as if Shelley and I will be wandering the country without any help. So what are we worried about? In a word, change. We are creatures of habit. Placing ourselves in a culture unlike our own simply forces us to change our habits. Daphney has shared many stories about how, in many ways, things in France are just different. Changes range from the fact that some public bathrooms are just a hole in the tile floor to the fact that you'd be hard pressed to find a jar of peanut butter.

Claude works in a McDonald's in Grenoble. I was thinking, "Great, there is nothing more American than McDonald's!" And yet, even there, things are different. Claude said that nearly every sandwich they make in France is just a little different than in the USA. They serve a sandwich called the McBaguette for crying out loud!

We have been warned that there are very, very few obese people in France and that Shelley and I might be quite a spectacle on the streets. We've been told to expect people staring at us as if we are a circus side show. That should be fun!

We are nervous because we will be going to a place we have never been, participating in a culture that we don't

know or understand. We will be hearing language that is brand new to us. We will be meeting people that we don't know. Even though we know that the experience should be a positive one, all of this makes us very nervous.

Now please STOP. Go back and re-read the paragraph above one more time.

This paragraph was written by your pastor who is going to France, but it could have just as easily been written by someone going to a church for the very first time. It is so very important that we remind ourselves just how uncomfortable it can be walking into a church for the first time. We sometimes wonder how that can be since when we walk into our church and it is extremely comfortable for us. But put yourself in their shoes.

Whether we realize it or not the church can seem like a bit of a different culture. Where am I supposed to sit? How do I know when to sit or stand? Are the clothes I am wearing appropriate for this place? Am I overdressed or underdressed? What are these words they are using mean that I don't understand? (grace, alleluia, trinity, Habakkuk) They are serving communion. What am I supposed to do? What do I say? Why do they have a band? I went to church with my grandma and this isn't at all what it was like. I could go on for a very long time with examples.

It doesn't take long to realize that something we take for granted every Sunday can actually be quite scary for some. Add on top all of those church specific unknowns, add to it all the interpersonal issues that happen whenever we meet new people. How will I be accepted here? How will I be treated? Can I make friends here?

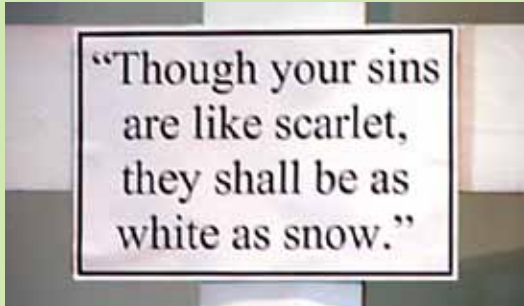
It's not difficult to understand why someone would be anxious walking into Arise Church for the first time. If they haven't ever been to a worship service, imagine how much scarier that would be! Can you see why I often make such a big deal about NEVER forgetting that we need to be vigilant in looking for first time guests to Arise Church? We need to do everything we can to make people feel welcome and to assist people. We need to anticipate questions they might have, and assure them that we are here to help them have a positive experience.

Barna Research group has been researching this topic for the better part of 20 years. Their data repeatedly shows that the main thing on people's minds when they walk into a new church is – "will I fit in here?" Research shows most people make that decision in the first 5 minutes. That's before the service even starts!! Every church thinks they are friendly. Sadly, many fail to succeed.

I imagine that almost every Sunday, sitting in the parking

*continued on pg. 6*

## EASTER AT ARISE A day to celebrate our Risen Lord!



## Ladies Retreat Has Soul

The women of Arise and a number of guests, totaling 56 attendees, enjoyed the lovely music of Deb Mantel and her inspiring presentation at the Spring Women's Retreat, Soulful Living, on April 21. Deb shared some poignant stories of her life and faith journey, in addition to giving tips on organizing both our physical and spiritual lives. Lunch was prepared and served by the Arise Men's Group and a good time was had by all. Thanks to everyone who helped make the morning such a special experience for the ladies!



## Barn Sale News

The 10<sup>th</sup> "almost annual" Arise Barn Sale was again a great success! Thanks to all who helped create the two best shopping days in Pinckney once more! Proceeds will benefit the Arise Church Capital Fund. The bake sale and perennial sale will benefit the Arise Memorial Garden. Watch the bulletin for totals raised as money continues to come in.

**Karen Vaden, Barn Sale coordinator (L) and Sue Boltach, Drop Off Coordinator (R), "horse around" a little while getting the barn sale set up with the help of a lot of volunteers.**



**In Memorium:  
Remembering Tom Terhune**

Tom Terhune was known for his friendly smile and warm personality. One of his granddaughters shared after his funeral that her grandpa was very easy going and just liked people. When Tom and his wife, Donna, first came to Arise, he wasn't all that enamored by attending church. However, he became active in the Men's Huddle



and after going on a Walk to Emmaus retreat, Tom began wearing a cross around his neck and really blossomed as a Christian. In his professional life, Tom was a financial analyst at Ford and then later on, he taught chemistry and physics at the high school level. At Arise, Tom served on Staff Parish, Trustees and as an usher. He and Donna enjoyed sailboat racing together and he used to be a state champion wrestler. On the day he left this life to be with the Lord, Tom had a lovely afternoon at their Portage Lake home with family, telling nurses later that it couldn't have been better. He later verbalized knowing that this was his last day. He died peacefully that evening – as gently as he lived his life. Tom will always be remembered at Arise as a good friend. God bless you, Tom Terhune, until we meet again.

**Hailee and Blake Paskievitch: A Journey of Faith Earns Scout Badges**



Hailee and Blake Paskievitch

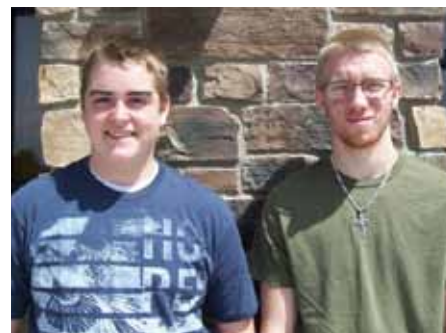
You may recognize Hailee and Blake Paskievitch, who attend Arise with their parents, Dave and Stacy. Hailee is an avid girl scout. One of the mothers of a scouting friend asked Hailee's mom if anyone in her troop wanted to work on earning a religious education award through their Catholic Church and scouting. Since the Paskievitch family isn't

Catholic, they weren't sure if Hailee would be eligible to participate. But she was very welcomed into the group. It turned out to be three girls and two of their 2nd grade

brothers that worked together on their badges. The cub scouts offer the same religious education award. They met in small groups once a month for the past five months. They learned about church symbols and traditions, wrote their own prayers, worked on projects that showed how they can honor Jesus and live by his principles and share his stories. The kids had great questions and were very focused. They were invited to the Lansing Catholic Church with other cub scouts and girl scouts recently to be recognized for their work and receive their awards. Hailee earned an "I Live My Faith" award and both she and her brother Blake earned an International Religion award. The brother and sister team were honored during an Arise worship service on April 22 by Pastor Don. Great work, Hailee and Blake!

**Arise Youth Acquire the Fire**

Tyler Tankka and Austin Bollinger both agree – the Christian Rock Music Event, Acquire the Fire, is awesome. They both enjoyed the music, the special effects and the energy from the large crowd at the Breslin Center on MSU's



Austin Bollinger (L) and Tyler Tankka (R)

East Lansing campus. The event lasted two days – Austin's mom, Cheryl Bollinger, accompanied them to the event. Cheryl has taken youth to Acquire the Fire several times in the past to experience the unique combination of Christian music



Acquire the Fire Logo

and faith testimony aimed at teens in this large venue. Both Austin and Tyler want to go again next year and bring more kids with them. Each of them also agreed on another point – the event made them think about their faith and their lives and have inspired them to evaluate ways they may be able to make their lives better reflect their faith even more. Till next year, guys...rock on!



## FAREWELL, RICH SLITER!, CONT.

supposed to be practicing in his basement. We would eventually make our way down there, and when Pat wasn't playing drums, she would be upstairs going about her morning, listening as the sound drifted through the heating ducts, then commenting when we came upstairs as practice had ended, "I really liked the harmonies on that one song" or "You guys sounded great down there!".

Dave Russell comments, "Rich gave of himself by putting himself into the music. Every time we sang, there was a touch of Rich discernible in there someplace. Not because he was trying to make the music about him, but because he was giving a part of himself as a gift every time he lead worship. It is clear that he loves music, loves God and loves Arise Church."

*When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come. Longing just to bring something that's of worth that will bless your heart. I'll bring you more than a song.... We will forever think of Rich when we hear that song.*

Band was our LIFE team. We enjoyed the fellowship immensely, but grew as singers and musicians, too. We laughed so much at times that the endorphins would be coursing through our veins at such a high level, we could hardly talk to each other without someone breaking out into a song whose lyrics were the same as what had been spoken.

Over the years I often wondered "How does he have the patience for us amateurs?", having rubbed elbows with many big-name country music performers, playing and

singing with the Sliter Brothers (Rich, his younger brother and older brother) in countless venues and possessing so much talent as a musician and singer. But I didn't wonder for very long each time, because it became clear over the years that Rich accepted us where we were, with all our musical limitations, and quietly encouraged us to go with whatever we could bring to a particular song. For myself, it was a privilege to sing alongside that warm, soulful voice.

"One day while I was setting up equipment on the tech team, Rich happened to say to me, 'Hey, do you want to sing?'" , Steve Cary recalls. "I was nervous, but I did it anyway. He nurtured me, encouraged me, and taught me how to praise God with my voice. It has changed me in ways that I would never have imagined and too numerous to count. I will forever be grateful to Rich for that and extremely proud to call him my friend."



ARISE PRAISE BAND

While we are all going through something similar to a grieving process in our own ways, life and music continues on at Arise Church. I'm confident that I can speak for all of us in the band that we are looking forward to working with and supporting Mark Nilan in whatever way we are able, to make this transition smooth and continue to give the congregation music that enhances their worship. Farewell, our friend. May all your dreams come true out there under that big, blue Colorado sky, and don't forget that you will always have a home here at Arise!

## Pastor Don Surprised with Gift

What do you say when you get surprised with a new shirt and pair of slacks in celebration of losing 70#? You say, "Wow, thanks!" Or at least something like it. That's what happened this spring when the Health Ministry and Caring Ministry Teams put their heads together and came up with a plan to give Pastor Don a gift of clothing to celebrate his success with his weight loss plan. Pastor Don says he was very pleased and touched by the gift and wants to thank everyone involved for their thoughtfulness. Way to go, Pastor, and congratulations on becoming a healthier you!



**Pastor's Column, cont.**

lot of Arise Church are people who feel the way Shelley and I feel right now, excited about the possibility of experiencing something new and wonderful, hoping that it will be great, but also very nervous about the unknowns.

It is so easy on Sunday morning for us to walk into our building and begin conversations with friends. We can easily and quickly get lost in our own comfort and let a nervous first time guest walk in unnoticed. We can't let that happen.

Please put yourself in their shoes. Be proactive, welcoming and genuine. Do more than introduce yourself. Ask questions. Take an interest in their needs. Get to know who they are.

I'm hoping that will happen to Shelley and me in France.

Au revoir!



Pastor Don

**Trustees Update Barn**

by Jeff Vaden

Those Trustees – you see them doing all kinds of work around Arise Acres in all kinds of weather. Most recently, a new Trustee, Dave Abner, greatly improved the visibility in the barn by increasing the amount of lighting, especially in the stage area. And it appears that we now have a weather tight roof on the pole barn, thanks to Jack Dunlap, Bob Whalen, and Bob Zane. And all just in time for the barn sale! Kudos go to all involved for their hard work to update the barn.



**Relay for Life Returns to Brighton**

Arise has been supporting the American Cancer Society's Livingston County Relay for Life for about as long as Arise has been a church. And it's that time of year again when we support our cancer survivors at Arise and elsewhere in the local community by again participating in the Relay for Life event. There are many ways to help – see the sign up sheets at church.

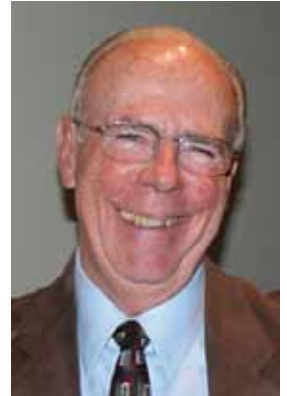


This year, the event returns to its former home at the Brighton High School track, beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 19. A special thank you goes to Jen Wagner for coordinating this event at Arise and to Duane and Barb Haines for donating their 5th wheel for the team to use. Go.....Team!

**Did you buy groceries this week?**

by Bob Zane

When we think about ways to support our church, our thoughts usually turn to our time, our talents and our monetary donations. All of these things are what one might consider “outside” our “normal” daily life events.



However, grocery shopping happens frequently and remains a staple of everyday living. We don't typically think about God – OK, maybe “God, the price of this or that has gone up again” – or what we can do to help Arise when we are pushing the cart with the bad wheel around the grocery store.

Grocery shopping is something we must do – even when we're on a diet. The loyalty plans at Busch's and Kroger's allow us to turn this shopping excursion into a fund raiser for Arise - and it doesn't cost us anything extra!

For every dollar that you spend at Busch's, Arise receives between 3% and 5% of the total, depending on how you pay for the groceries. If you use cash, a debit card or a check, Arise receives 5%; use a credit card and it's 3%. Kroger's formula is somewhat different and a little less lucrative for Arise, but it is meaningful nevertheless. Meijer also has a loyalty program and it currently pays about half of one percent. Busch's cards are available on the welcome table in the sanctuary.

You will need to have a loyalty card at both stores, plus a rechargeable gift card at Busch's. Swipe the loyalty card (plus the gift card at Busch's) and the credit to Arise is automatic. Nothing could be easier or less “painful” and yet produce great results.

We currently have over 100 members of Arise church but only about 10% have signed up for these programs. Please consider taking this extra step and helping Arise without reaching any further into your pocket than you currently do when you buy your groceries.

Remember, if you are currently a Kroger loyalty customer you need to re-register now to continue to receive your benefits. It's quick and easy to re-register on-line.

God showed us the way by multiplying the loaves and fishes, now we can multiply our giving simply by going grocery shopping!

Your fellow traveler on the road to Jesus,

Bob Zane

**Meet the Piano Man, cont.**

that comes with music at that level,” Mark shared. He has scored the Academy Award-winning film, *Young At Heart*, as well as Tim Allen’s early *Showtime* comedy specials. His writing and producing credits span the network gamut, from NBC’s “Must See TV” campaign to station identification pieces for Turner Classic Movies, MTV, ESPN, and Comedy Central. Mark plays most genres of music, especially jazz.

“I’ve always played music—I can’t imagine not playing,” he says. He started with accordion and learned piano when he was sixteen. These days, Mark spends most of his time mixing music, business, and pleasure by running his own recording studio, LiveWire Music, where he pulls projects together with people of diverse talents and backgrounds. “I think it’s a ‘pieces of the puzzle’ thing,” he reflects. “It helps a lot to have a sense of how everything works together.” He has also worked with adult and children’s choirs and taught music at Wayne State and in private lessons.

Mark lives with wife Barbe and youngest son, Luke (14), in Livonia. He has another son, Mark Jr. (28), who is a professional musician in California and a daughter, Dana (24), who teaches third grade in Tampa, Florida. Mark has a track on Mark Jr.’s CD, “Hands On,” available on Amazon. Son Luke plays guitar. In addition, both

sons were on traveling baseball teams, and they are all big Tigers fans.

His Christian journey includes sixteen years of playing piano at St. Aidan’s Catholic Church in Livonia. Of his journey to Arise, he says, “I believe you need to be open to where faith takes you; you might just be surprised.” Mark has come to Arise because he is excited about the prospects for growing the church. “I am excited about what we can do in the future. So if you haven’t picked up your instrument for awhile or used your voice, start limbering up.”

Welcome, Mark! We are delighted that the Holy Spirit has guided you to Arise UMC!



Mark joins the Arise Praise Band in prayer

**Thank You, Barbara Wood and Tom Beatty!**

by Beth Plachta, Editor’s Note

How time flies. I’ll never forget the evening in late 2005 as I casually mentioned the idea of a new church newsletter to Barbara Wood at a Threads of Faith meeting. April Flanagan was going to be the editor and I would help with the writing, but there was nobody to do the layout. Barbara said that she’d been thinking of working on a newsletter, but didn’t want to write; her interest and experience was in graphic design. It was a true “God moment” and from then on, the three of us, who had only just recently met at Arise, became not only co-creators of the newsletter, but very good friends. We developed our own little LIFE Team while working on the printed page.



Currently, Barbara is very busy working and is looking for ways to spend time with her husband, Mark, who is now retired. Barbara is stepping down as graphic designer after six years of working on Connections. My very big thank you is extended to her for all of her volunteer hours doing what she does so well – making the newsletter look great. For this issue, Barbara’s brother, Tom Beatty,

who is also a skilled graphic designer and who helped us in the past, has assisted us once again. Thanks, Tom, and to you, Barbara - great job, lady. It’s been a pleasure working with you.



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

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### **Missions and Caring Ministry Teams Provide Worship Experience**

While Pastor Don and his wife, Shelley, enjoyed a visit abroad with their daughter, Daphney, in France, two very capable Arise ministry teams directed the worship service, relating their own positive experiences with volunteer work and encouraging everyone to find their passion in helping others. Members set up tables with resource materials and sign-up sheets to assist the congregation in selecting what interested them. Guest speaker, Sue Pethoud, from Brighton UMC, shared her enthusiasm as volunteer coordinator for Appalachian Service Project trips and Cass Community Social Services volunteer opportunities in Detroit. Information was also shared about Faith Medical Clinic in

Pinckney and opportunities to volunteer in assisting our own church family in various ways. Thank you to all who helped to create such a special and informative worship experience.



**Missions and Caring Ministry Teams with guest speaker, Sue Pethoud (far L). Not pictured: Laurel Hubbard**

### **ARISE NEWSLETTER TEAM**

Writers:

*Beth Plachta*

Layout/Design:

*Barbara Wood, Tom Beatty*

Photography:

*Beth Plachta, April Flanagan,  
Steve and Tina Cary,  
Stacy Paskievitch*

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](http://www.arisechurch.org)  
Check out the Missions link on the website!