

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!



Behind the Scenes: The Arise Moving Team

This is the first in a series that profiles those who serve "behind the scenes," making our Sunday worship experience possible.



Arise will celebrate its 10th anniversary this September. Since the beginning, our church has been mobile—moving everything for Sunday mornings back and forth weekly. Worship sites have been as varied as a theater, a professional building, a tent, an elementary school and a barn. Jerry Dawson, the current coach of the Moving Team, reflected on this group's history and the dedication of its members over the years.

"I'm not sure we're considered an actual L.I.F.E. team", he said, "but we really bond with each other. While we're driving together or loading equipment, we share what's going on in our lives. We pray together, we joke about which weekly team can load up fastest and things like that. It's a really great bunch of guys."

Two to three people make up a weekly team, one of whom is the driver, who uses his towing vehicle to transport the loaded trailer. Sundays start around 7:15 a.m., hooking up the trailer and driving to Country Elementary, where supplies are unloaded and set up. Team members usually don't get home until 1 p.m. Unless "things happen," that is.

"Recently, we traded trailers with the Dexter UMC for use during their Gulf Coast mission trip. Their much larger trailer was heavier and got stuck in the soft ground behind the barn. My truck tires got buried in the pouring rain and I got soaked shoveling them out," Jerry chuckled. "It was cool, though, because

the Arise trailer was seen on the road all the way down to Louisiana and back!"

Jerry is the first to say that he's a relative newcomer to the team. "Some of these guys have been on the Moving Team since the beginning," he recalls. "Rob Wagner, Alex Saenz de Viteri and Jim Gannon have been doing this for a long time and Bob Richardson was the team coach for years." According to Jerry, Lance Korzilius is the official early bird of the group. Bob Whalen helps out two weeks a month and Jerry himself covers the 2nd Sunday, along with Steve Bollinger and Duane Haines. Jerry also covers the 5th Sundays four times a year.

When asked what his greatest need is, he was quick to say, "An extra driver with a large truck who can cover if someone can't make it some Sunday." They could also use one more person on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month. "Since some of us attend first service, getting things loaded up as soon as possible after 2nd service is very helpful," said Jerry. "Some people are great about lending a hand after church, and more are always appreciated. Having the hospitality table cleaned up and ready to go at 11:30 a.m. has helped save time, too," he said.

"I don't think of myself as a coach," Jerry admits. "I can't teach any of these guys anything they don't already know. I just coordinate things. But I can give them a pat on the back and thank them for a job well done." Thank you, Jerry, for your leadership and to everyone who has been on the Arise Moving Team over the years. Great job!





**Pastor's Column:
What a Difference!**

Many houses in New Orleans and throughout the region struck by Hurricane Katrina are still lacking electrical power!

What a difference it makes in each neighborhood when the power comes back on! Do you ever feel like a hurricane blew through your life and left you out of power?

At some point, and maybe right now, you've been "all tired-out." Maybe at work you run out of zip before the day is done. Probably you have reached for a candy bar or a "cup of Joe" in the early afternoon. Instead, we can do things that make a difference, like good habits of rest, exercise, and nutrition. For example, Marianne recently started drinking 8 glasses of water per day. Such healthy habits DO make a difference in our energy level through the day, but I'm not just talking about physical habits.

How is your spiritual energy level through the year... or in this season of your life? Do you need a little boost in the afternoon of your life? Do you think there are spiritual resources that make a difference? I do. David Mains calls them "Spectacular Energy Sources for the Body of Christ." Mostly we need the power of the Living Christ. His personal presence strengthens us to walk joyfully and feel empowered.

Please take advantage of the 50-Day Spiritual Adventure series in March and April. Each Sunday we introduce a source of spiritual energy... a way to get connected to the Power... and I don't mean Detroit Edison. After a storm, you might have to wait for them to get your lights back on. But for all the storms of life, wait upon the Lord. The Bible says, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint!" (Isaiah 40:31)

Doug McMunn, pastor

Preparing for Lent

Here at Arise we value the annual Christian seasons of Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2006. It continues 40 days, not counting Sundays. It ends on Easter Sunday, April 16th. The Christian endeavors to be transformed into the life and holiness of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is not a private endeavor. It is a communal experience: encounter with Christ, instruction, initiation, and growth together in love and ministry.

Join us on Ash Wednesday as we recall our mortality and wait upon the Lord for renewal in the Holy Spirit. Lent is a time for putting aside the sins and failures of the past, expecting God to transform us by grace. We anticipate the Resurrection, when we can say with St. Paul, "Old things are passed away; behold, the new has come!"

Let us be diligent in prayer and spiritual formation, praying that the Spirit of Christ be formed in us!



**A Lenten Season Opportunity
"Bread for the World" Prayer Brunch**

Saturday, April 8th, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Erie United Methodist Church (a one hour drive in the SE corner of Michigan)

I have had the blessing of working with the Ann Arbor District United Methodist Women Mission Team for over a year now. I serve as the Spiritual Growth Coordinator. One of my projects for this year has been to design and help plan a Prayer Breakfast for the Lenten season. This is a special time to remember where our sustenance truly comes from—our Savior Jesus Christ.

All women of the church are invited to attend—teenagers and older. You really won't want to miss this opportunity. Micheal Lee, a professional mime, who has performed in churches and theatres nationwide will be the featured program. He has worked with many of our Arise teens at PCHS. Drama in mime is a powerful tool in the hands of the Holy Spirit, and "Bread for the World" promises to be a moving experience that will bless us, as well as compel us, to share the great gifts we have received through Christ with the rest of the world.

Informational fliers will be available in the Friendship Notebooks and on the information table at Sunday worship.

Please contact me at 734-878-3851 for more information and reservations. Deadline is March 22, 2006. I will send in the reservations and perhaps we could car pool.

Marianne McMunn

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Laying a Good Foundation

In January, after several years of planning, work began on the first phase of our building project. After some minor grading and excavation work, the foundation was poured for the addition to the traditional barn. After a few days to allow the concrete to set, two courses of cinder block were added.

This Phase I project of our Master Plan includes the renovation and expansion of the existing traditional barn. The completed 5,200 square foot facility will include a multi-purpose space for worship, youth activities and a variety of other functions. In addition, the facility will include a nursery, four classrooms, restrooms, storage and mechanical space. Substantial site work is also required.

Planning is underway to remove the roof of the existing barn, frame the addition, and add trusses and a new roof. Dismantling of the loft and interior support beams is also planned.

The project is expected to cost \$716,000, including site work. We have just over \$100,000 available as we begin our "Build as We Give" project.

A Networking subcommittee has been formed to work with other churches and organizations to identify opportunities for others to help with our project. Over the next few months, volunteers will be sought for construction, volunteer coordination, materials procurement and project administration.

If you have not been by Arise Acres recently, stop by to see the work in progress. It's exciting that we have begun!

Secret Pals

Thanks to all of the adults and youth who took part in the Secret Pal Program. What a blast it is to sit back and see the adults sneaking around, and the looks on the youths' faces, when they see they have something in the secret pal box! This year we had about 30 pairs of youth and adults who took part. From fall until February, adults provided notes of encouragement, prayers, and gifts to their assigned secret pal.

Along with the fun, adults are also helping to develop our youth. Studies from the Search Institute, "an independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide leadership, knowledge, and resources to

promote healthy children, youth, and communities," point to 40 "assets" that a person can have, including caring neighbors, family support and a sense of purpose in life. The adults who participated in our Secret Pal Program are an "asset" to help our youth develop into caring, responsible adults. Kids with fewer "assets," are more likely to become involved in "at risk" behavior. For more information on Asset Building in youth, see Pastor Doug, Cheryl Bollinger or go online at www.search-institute.org

Thank you, Arise, for letting our youth know they are very important to you and to our church!

Cheryl Bollinger, Youth Coordinator

Visioning the Possible

Beginning last November 15 Arise leaders have been meeting once a month to envision and discuss the future we want to create here at Arise. Sessions have included facilitated dialogues, exercises, and presentations about current plans as well as the resources needed to achieve them. On February 11th the group met to reflect more deeply on the existing Core Values, Vision, Mission, Purpose and Goals of Arise. Some modifications are being considered, and will be presented with relevant information to the broader church community in the months ahead. The spirit and dedication of this group is very representative of the Arise family, and we appreciate their guidance in considering the plans that will help us all to grow in and share more fully in God's love. For more information see Pastor Doug or April Flanagan.

Mission Moment

What a year Missions has had, thanks to the generosity of the Arise Family! Following are some of the organizations to which we were able to contribute: Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, Gleaners Food Bank, The Potato Project, Haiti Relief Fund, Katrina Relief Fund, Crop Walk, Haiti School Fund, Jessica Concannon youth mission and many more, too numerous to list. In addition, three withdrawals were made from the Needy Family Emergency Fund, to assist families from our community.

The last four plus years on the Mission Committee have been one of the most satisfying experiences in my life, and now I have the privilege to turn the chair over to Laura Bowen. I know she can depend on the Arise family for ongoing success! Thank you for all of your support!

Evva Funk, Missions Committee



March is National Kidney Month



What is Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)?

Chronic kidney disease includes conditions that damage your kidneys and decrease their ability to keep you healthy. If kidney disease gets worse, wastes can build to high levels in your blood and make you feel sick. Early detection and treatment can often keep chronic kidney disease from getting worse. When kidney

disease progresses, it may eventually lead to kidney failure, which requires dialysis or a kidney transplant to maintain life. One in nine Americans has chronic kidney disease.

What causes CKD?

The two main causes of chronic kidney disease are diabetes and high blood pressure, which are responsible for up to two-thirds of the cases. Diabetes happens when your blood sugar is too high, causing damage to many organs in your body, including the kidneys and heart, as well as blood vessels, nerves and eyes. High blood pressure, or hypertension, occurs when the pressure of your blood against the walls of your blood vessels increases. If uncontrolled, or poorly controlled, high blood pressure can be a leading cause of heart attacks, strokes and chronic kidney disease. Also, chronic kidney disease can cause high blood pressure.

What are the symptoms of CKD?

Most people may not have any severe symptoms until their kidney disease is advanced. However, you may notice that you:

- feel more tired and have less energy
- have trouble concentrating
- have a poor appetite
- have trouble sleeping
- have muscle cramping at night
- have swollen feet and ankles
- have puffiness around your eyes, especially in the morning
- have dry, itchy skin
- need to urinate more often, especially at night.

Anyone can get chronic kidney disease at any age. However, some people are more likely than others to develop kidney disease. Regular medical check ups can monitor the function of your kidneys and help you maintain overall good health.

Adapted from the National Kidney Foundation website, www.kidney.org

Submitted by the Arise Health Ministry Team

Relay for Life



Spring must be right around the corner, as the Relay for Life has just held its first meeting of the year. The Brighton 2006 Relay for Life will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 19 and 20. Arise has been an active participant in this community-based fundraiser for a number of years. The Relay for Life 24 Hour Walk-a-Thon raises thousands of dollars that stay in the local area for cancer research. We will be selling candy bars and luminary bags again this year, as well as sponsoring an around-the-clock walking relay team. Mark the date on your calendars and watch for more details in the coming months. Hope for a cure is kept alive through the Relay for Life. It could help save the life of someone you love!

For more details, call Diane Gould, (734) 665-8997 or Mary Read Gannon, (734) 878-6332.

Thanks

Dear Arise,

In God we trust, for comfort and peace.

Thank you all for the prayers, for the prayer shawl, and for the food. Your assistance with us is so very thoughtful and much appreciated.

*Thanks to all of you,
Sue Boltach, Heather and Geoff*

Peanut Allergy Reminder

Please take care that any food products you bring into Country Elementary School do not contain peanuts or peanut ingredients. Some people have a severe allergic reaction by even slight exposure to peanuts. We want everyone to feel safe here! Thank you.

Free Lectures

March 6 Divorce: Surviving and Thriving

April 4 Step-Parenting: Making it Work

Free parking and free lectures at University of Michigan Center for the Child and the Family, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Registration is required, 734-764-9466 or <http://www.umuccf.org/>

Arise Cookbook Sale

The Church Council reduced the price of our remaining cookbooks to \$5 each. Proceeds benefit the Building Fund.

This is the second in a series of interviews with members of the Arise family.

Micki Baumgart: Words for the Deaf; Testimony for Everyone

Even if you haven't had the pleasure of meeting Micki, you've probably seen her signing during Arise worship services or read the Argus article about her last October 13th. Her graceful signing motions bring meaning to the deaf community, as well as those who simply enjoy watching. Of course she's had education and training, but asked to describe how she does what she does, she credits God; "He is in my hands and I just go."



The seed was planted when she was four years old and saw her first Seeing Eye Dog. From the moment her mother described the dog as being trained to be the blind man's eyes, Micki knew what she wanted to do... become a Seeing Eye Dog! "I was captivated by the concept of loyalty and commitment that the dog symbolized," she remembers. Well, a Sign Language Interpreter was as close to that childhood ambition as she could come. With the support of a Chicago family, for whom she served as nanny, Micki attended an interpreter training program at a local college and began her lifelong calling.

"God Set Everything Up Right"

Despite the encouragement of a Christian roommate, Micki avoided learning any religious signing because of a bad childhood experience with a clergyman that had caused her to separate from the church. Years later, a series of incidents brought her together with May, an elderly deaf woman, seeking salvation before she died. Micki's friend kept asking her to interpret for May... an offer that Micki avoided until "one day it all worked out. God set everything up right... So I signed [for May] and said, OK. All right, God." To her amazement, Micki found that she was able to use signs she had never learned! "I was tingling... that's when I knew. The whole time he had given it to me as a gift, as a tool, I just needed to know how." Three months after Micki began interpreting church services for her, May raised her hand in response to an altar call, and accepted Christ in her life shortly before she died.

Learning About Fear

Reflecting upon her life journey and profession, Micki says her biggest lesson comes from running away, denying and hiding. It is about the power of forgiving.

Had I forgiven that clergyman sooner ...I would have been serving a lot longer. What held me up

was fear, and hanging on to the pain it had caused me, and letting it block my spiritual gifts. Things behind me are in the past. Things ahead are in the future. What we have is right now. Here, now, forward. I have from here forward to do whatever God has in store for me. My favorite quote comes from Nelson Mandela, who quoted Marianne Williamson:

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who a.m. I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world.

Leading Others

Today Micki works for Sorenson Communications at an Ann Arbor video relay center that allows deaf people to make visual telephone calls. Through federal funding, deaf clients use signing to communicate through operators like Micki, free of charge. Calls vary from ordering a pizza to learning that a loved one has died. In addition, she is a member of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), a national board with state affiliate chapters. Last fall Micki assumed the position of President for the Michigan chapter, MIRID. In addition to interpreting, she also presents workshops to help other interpreters hone their skills.

When the article came out in the Argus, I thought, OK. This will bring people out... I don't consider myself ready to head a ministry. I'm there as the tool. I want people to be able to worship, "see" the Word in their language. There are churches in this state with signing pastors. They're far away. I know there are deaf people in Livingston County. I'm hoping God will bring them.

If you know of a deaf child or adult, please invite them to join us at Arise. And, if you have any questions, Micki is always happy to respond! Her email is: micksignsup@aol.com and her number is 734-878-5905. Thanks, Micki!



The Wit & Wisdom of Youth...

PJ's Reminder

When a telephone call interrupted their nightly ritual of bedtime prayers, Carrie Engel did what she usually doesn't...she took the call. Upon returning to son PJ's bedroom to pray, he looked at her and said, "Mom...why did you take that call? I thought talking to God came first!"



Jessica Concannon: Missionary Perspective

It has been nearly a month since I returned from Iquitos, Peru. Looking back on the trip it feels like it was just yesterday. God certainly worked in amazing ways through my team and me; he used us as teenagers to impact and change the lives of many! While in Iquitos, the heart of the Amazon Jungle, my team and I camped in tents in a small fishing village. In order to get to the village we had to take a boat down the river. What an adventure that was! While in the Amazon we conducted Bible School for the children each day. During Vacation Bible School we taught the children about some of the heroes of the Bible, David, Moses, Abraham and the most important, Jesus. Throughout the week the children eagerly came to learn more about God's promises and, by the end of the week, nearly every single child that came to Bible School decided to commit their life to Christ. What an exciting and life changing decision for God's precious children to make!

In addition to Bible School we also did hut-to-hut ministry. We literally trekked through the jungle hut-to-hut to share the Gospel with many who had never heard it before. One of the days we were out doing ministry some of my teammates and I were at a hut that was floating in the water. There were some teenagers out in front to whom we began to talk. We introduced ourselves and told the teenagers that God sent us all the way from the United States because Jesus had changed our lives so much that we wanted others to hear as well. The four were surprised by what we said, and they were eager to hear what else we had to say. God used us that day to share his glory with those four teenagers. But there were more that made a decision to follow Jesus at that hut as well.

As we were talking to the teenagers some of my other teammates started talking to an old man who was fixing a boat. They shared the Gospel with him and he, in turn, committed his life to Christ. It didn't end there

either; God just kept drawing people to us at that hut, because he knew we would be faithful in sharing his truth. Moments later a boat pulled up with two more people inside. The people didn't even live there, they just happened to be stopping by to visit friends. It was as if God had sent them to us, and we were able to also share our faith with the two visitors who made the choice to walk with Jesus that day. I continue to be encouraged by how God used us in Peru; there are people that now have an eternal home in heaven that had never even heard the name of Jesus before.

Personally, through the many mission trips I have been on, I have been stretched to my physical and spiritual limits as well as experienced immense growth. God has used each trip in a unique way to impact and change my life.

God has helped me to see others through his eyes, to see their hurt and pain and have the ability to love them just as God does. I have also learned more and more about the nature of God, who He is and how He interacts with us. As a result the Lord has taken me into a deeper and closer walk with Him, building my character and witness, bringing me closer to living as the person He created me to be.

—Jessica Concannon

March 19 Potato Feast and "The Potato Project"

Each year, near St. Patrick's Day, we invite you to share in a "noisy offering" to support "The Potato Project," an outreach of The United Methodist Men. They collect potatoes and other foods that would otherwise be wasted. It is a gleaning ministry, and our pennies deliver tons of food that is distributed to hungry people in the U.S. through food banks and soup kitchens. Join us for lunch and share in this offering that is also known as "Meals for Millions."



The United Methodist Church in Liberia



The following websites contain information about our partnership with the United Methodist Church in Liberia, West Africa:
<http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/aaliberiataskforce/>
 and http://gb-gm-umc.org/home_page/

MARCH 2006 CALENDAR

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday _____

7:30 a.m.
Move into school

8:25 a.m.
Spirited Traditional
Worship

9:45 a.m.
Friendship Coffee

10:30 a.m.
Praise Celebration

Monday _____

7:00 p.m.
Men's Huddle

Tuesday _____

7 p.m.
Disciple Bible Study

Wednesday _____

6:30 p.m.
Sr. High Youth

7:00 p.m.
Adult Bible Study

Thursday _____

10:00 a.m.
Worship Design

Saturday _____

8:30 p.m.
Young Adult LIFE Team

Coming Events

April 16

Easter Sunday
8 a.m. – Outdoor worship
at Arise Acres
9 a.m. – Easter breakfast
at Country Elementary
10:30 a.m. – Worship
at Country Elementary

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
| February 26 | 27 | 28 | March 1 Ash Wednesday at UCC dinner 6:30 p.m., worship 7 p.m. | 2 | 3 TGIF Sisters 10 a.m. | 4 AWE 9 a.m. |
| 5 Holy Communion Inside Outreach: OGHS | 6 Worship Design 6:30 p.m. | 7 Church Council 7 p.m. Disciple Bible Study at Marge Smith's 7 p.m. (weekly) | 8 Bible Study at Fike's 7 p.m. (weekly) | 9 Empty Bowls Dinner at PCHS | 10 Newsletter articles due | 11 |
| 12 Visioning Session noon – 3 p.m. Youth worship night 6 p.m. | 13 Threads of Faith at Janet Woodruff's 7 p.m. | 14 Finance Committee at Matt Plachta's 7 p.m. | 15 Trustees 7 p.m. | 16 | 17 Pinckney St. Patrick's Day Parade TGIF Sisters 10 a.m. EMU Youth Lock-In | 18 |
| 19 Potato Feast 12 noon | 20 | 21 Bulk Mail Newsletter 10 a.m. | 22 Arise hosts Lenten breakfast 10 a.m. | 23 | 24 | 25 Middle School Youth 3 p.m. |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 TGIF Sisters 10 a.m. | April 1 Leadership Community 9 a.m. |

"Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith."

—Henry Ward Beecher

OGHS: One Great Hour of Sharing

Join in this foundational, church-wide offering that supports the world-wide ministry of UMCOR, The United Methodist Committee on Relief! UMCOR provides disaster relief, hunger relief, and refugee assistance in the U.S. and around the world. The annual offering is received at Arise during Holy Communion on March 5.



Wednesday Night Bible Study



Ron and Gayle Fike open their home every Wednesday evening from 7 – 8:30 p.m. for an adult Bible Study. Their group has been ranging from 6 – 12 members to date. On March 8, the group

will begin to use one of Max Lucado's books. The study will focus on Jesus' last week (And the Angels Were Silent) or the Beatitudes (The Applause of Heaven), depending on the choice of the group. Everyone is welcome to attend at any time, even on a "walk in" basis.

Arise

A United Methodist Church

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

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES



Doug &
Marianne
McMunn
- March 10

Name the Newsletter Contest!!

Got a catchy name for the Arise newsletter?
If so, please contact Beth Plachta or April Flanagan.
We'd love to hear your ideas!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 3 Paul Pagano | 10 Nancy Swartzwelter | 11 Amber Pagano |
| 12 Ken Watson | 13 Kelley Boyes | 14 Chris Seering |
| 17 Rob Dice | 23 Mary Dice | 26 Clare Dice |
| 28 Rachel Beaudin | 29 Ezekiel Sherry | 31 Chelsea Sherry |

We would like to share in your special celebrations and apologize if we missed any special dates. To have a birthday or anniversary included in future newsletters, please give the information, in writing, to Dorothy Winslow. Thank you!

ARISE NEWSLETTER TEAM

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