

Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



December 2006

Arise
A United Methodist Church

Ministers

Every member of the Church

Pastor

Donald Weatherup

Director of Music

Kevin Griffin

Administrative Assistant

Dave Russell

Ministry Center

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www.arisechurch.org



"the LORD said, "It's good that you want to build a temple where I can be worshiped."
1 Kings 8:18

The trusses are up! Many thanks to Arise Building committee members and friends who have contributed to this great achievement! We are closer than ever to being able to work through the winter and to having worship space of our own!



Workers enjoy a short break and lunch prepared by Evva Funk.



Joyce & Bob Barnard: Leaders in Action



As Chair of the Church Council, Joyce Barnard's hand is visible in many activities...most recently as coordinator of the 10 Year

Anniversary. If you attend first service, you've seen Bob's warm smile as he welcomes members and visitors alike. Together, they are a team of church leaders.

As Chair, Joyce is responsible for the agenda, opening prayer and overall facilitation of Council meetings, held the first Tuesday of each month. Following subcommittee

reports, there is discussion on needs and opportunities. "I like to think of myself as just a volunteer within the subcommittees of the church; when things come up, I like to throw opportunities out to other church members for help and participation." She adds that the Council is currently looking at ways to restructure for increased effectiveness. "We have been blessed to have gifted people in place. As the church has matured, some other skills and experience are needed," she adds.

Joyce smiles when talking of the recent 10 Year Anniversary. "It was a beautiful celebration and the committee did an outstanding job. They always do...just incredible! Many



*Peace on Earth,
Good will to men.*

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Pastor's Column



**Pastor Don
Weatherup**

I see Christmas trees in the trunks of cars as people are heading home to decorate them. Christmas lights are beginning to shine on houses. The Sunday paper weighs 15 pounds. It must be time for Christmas!

I love this time of year so much. I have such fond memories from my childhood. Like the year I got a brand new bicycle. I was raised as child number 5 of 6, so most of my bicycles were hand-me-downs from

my older brothers and sisters. But that year, I got a brand new bike. It was bright yellow with a black banana seat and tall handles bars with plastic fringe on the ends of the handgrips. It was totally cool. Ok, well...back then it was cool. Today it would be totally nerdy. But I was thrilled with it!

Much of my adult life I have worried about making Christmas as special for my kids as it was for me. I have spent many years during the weeks of preparation prior to Christmas doing my best to make Christmas "perfect." In fact, I spent so much time worrying about it that almost every Christmas evening I laid in my bed worrying about all the things I could have done better to make Christmas even more special. Many people are so focused on making Christmas perfect that when it's all over, they get a little depressed.

For me, all that changed about 15 years ago. That was when I stopped focusing on making Christmas perfect and started focusing on celebrating the birth of Christ. I used

Christmas as a time to celebrate what my relationship with Jesus means to me the other 51 weeks of the year. I can tell you from experience, it was revolutionary.

I stopped worrying about putting such an emphasis on making Christmas "perfect." Whatever that means, anyways. I started enjoying it. Really enjoying it. Savoring the days before Christmas. Savoring the sweet smell of Christmas greens. Savoring the beauty of the wrapping paper and lights. Savoring the fellowship of my friends and family. Savoring the worship of Christ with hymns, carols and great music.

My prayer for you is that this year you and I both savor the joys of Christmas because Christmas is already perfect. It's perfect because God has given us the only thing that makes every Christmas perfect and that is Jesus. There is nothing you can do, there is nothing you can buy, that will make Christmas more perfect than Jesus.

Don't worry this Christmas. Savor it. Enjoy every moment. Breathe in deep the sights, the sounds and the smells. Don't allow your expectations, or your perceived expectations of others to distract you from what you really want to experience Christmas night. This Christmas night, let us drift off to sleep with joy in our hearts knowing that God has been glorified in the weeks building to Christmas because we focused not in the pomp and circumstance to make it perfect, but that we declared it to be perfect because God send his Son to live among us. Emmanuel. God with us.

Merry Christmas!

"Seekers" Adult Bible Study to Begin in January

by Jean Oxender, Adult Bible Study Leader

Come join us as we seek the mind of God together in our study of **THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW** with Ray Vanderlaan (a Grand Rapids man).

We will travel to the Holy Land with Ray to see the sites where Jesus and the disciples walked. He brings the Bible to life for us!

In these Faith Lessons, Ray provides great insight into what Jesus' message is and challenges us to seek a deeper relationship with Him.

This series will change the way you read and experience the Bible.

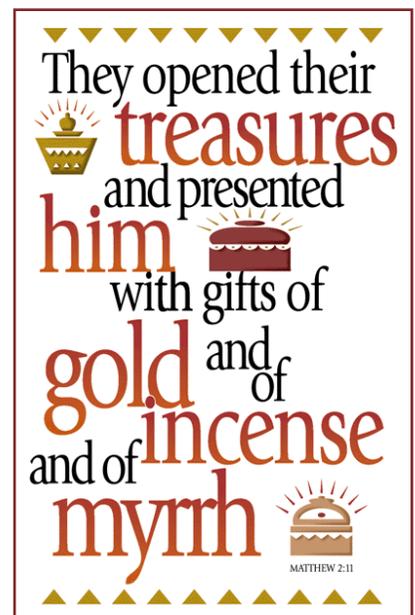
Comments of previous participants:

"I learned SO much... awesome".

"I feel as if I've actually been to Israel".

You will, too!

Watch for details.



Seeds of Faith



By Sherry Graham, T.G.I.F. Life Team Leader

This July, T.G.I.F Sisters celebrated a year of faith together. The seeds were planted and the union of our fellowship (womanship) has grown. We have been blessed by God to study and experience life together as a team that has been nurtured by the Holy Spirit, as we have

faced the happy and difficult life events shared individually, and as a group. We always have our eyes on sharing our "seeds of faith" with the community.

The prompting for starting the group began in spring of 2005, when I felt the need to begin another L.I.F.E team for women of different ages and backgrounds. By June it was clear, I needed to do it now! I thought, Lord you want me to start this now when most people are gone for the summer. I don't understand! As life events and relationships blossomed, I knew the Lord had a plan that I could not even begin to comprehend.

You see, the Lord plants in us a spirit to move and be in relationship with others so we may grow in faith and harvest our seeds. We spread our seeds out into the world. In 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 Paul writes, "Now he [she] who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." Paul uses the illustration of a seed to explain that our resources and gifts are given to us in a unique present by God, to be cultivated in order to produce more crops. In turn, we are given even more seeds in our growth.

I could not have imagined in July of last year the growth that could occur through the Lord's faith plantings. T.G.I.F. Sisters has grown to 18! I encourage all of you to join a L.I.F.E. team or Bible study. Your life in faith will never be the same!



Seeds of Faith

Small Gifts, Big Hearts

"...I kept wondering why everyone in the world didn't care about us. When we got these gifts, my mom said it showed that people in the world are thinking of us, and that Jesus cares about us all the time."

The November 12th Arise church services looked like a Nike shoe sale. And what a blessed one! The Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoe box campaign

generated a whopping 118 boxes from the Arise congregation, estimated to be worth a retail value with shipping of \$3,540!

An amazing group effort by Ron and Gayle Fike's Bible Study "Wednesday Nighters" packed 58 boxes! The group had raised donations, shopped for toys and supplies, garnered all the boxes and did an "assembly line" packing during one of the regular meetings. They set a great example of what our Life Teams can do to support mission programs.

The small gifts from your big hearts will give hope to children.

~Arise Missions Committee



Ron and Gayle Fike are shown with the shoe boxes filled by Arise people, 58 of them at the Wednesday Night Bible Study that they lead.

What's Up With the Kids?

Well, there are a few changes for Arise children heading into the New Year. One especially exciting thing is the new format and time frame for "Children's Church". For the last 10 years, Arise children have had their own worship and praise time during the regular Sunday worship service at 10:30 am. As you know, they have been excused from worship at about 10:50 after singing and a children's message, giving them about 40 minutes of time to learn about Jesus. This program has worked well and has opened our children's hearts up to Jesus, while also enjoying fellowship, crafts and mission projects. Now, Arise has decided it is time to make some changes and offer a different kind of "Children's Church". Beginning on January 7, 2007, Arise will have a whole hour on Sundays devoted to Children's Christian Education. This new hour will provide a special time in between services for Arise children to go to "Sunday School". It's a traditional term, but one that says it all - it is School on Sunday! They



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Christmas Memories

The traditions of Christmas—those special memories that make this sacred season of the year so memorable. Christmas Eve services, glowing candles, Christmas carols, snow on the ground... Some of our Arise family share their most beloved family traditions and favorite memories.



When I was a child, about 4 years old, I remember when A Christmas Carol was playing on the radio in segments. We lit a candle, set out Christmas cookies, and after listening to

the program, we blew out the candle and ate the cookies. This was great fun long before there was television. Also, I had a German grandmother. The Christmas tree was set up in her house in the corner of the big living room on Christmas Eve. The tree was blocked from view until Christmas morning. As kids, we'd sneak down the stairs trying to get a peek of it, but never could. On Christmas morning, we ate breakfast together, then got to see the beautiful tree decorated with blown glass ornaments and big icicles while we opened our gifts. It was a tradition my mother continued in our family and was very magical. ~ Evva Funk

Growing up, my mom made EVERYONE drink a glass of orange juice before we could come down the stairs into the living room. She said she knew it was the only nourishment we would get all day. ~ Carrie Engel

I grew up in a large Polish Catholic family. Every year, my grandmother, who had 12 children, gave each family a homemade coffee cake and \$1 to each of her 52 grandchildren as a gift. Some



years we would all gather at her house on Christmas Eve for a party with all of the cousins. Other years, we stayed at home and the six of us kids opened our gifts on Christmas Eve.

I think my parents let us open the gifts early so they didn't have to listen to the whining. ~ Matt Plachta

Growing up, our Christmas was always spent with family. Dad's family was large. We all used to gather at Grandma's house on Christmas Day. Grandpa was a good cook and used to make oyster stew for the Masons as a fundraiser. He made it for Christmas every year and family stopped by all day long and ate oyster stew. When our son David was growing up, we always made cut-out Christmas cookies with him. He loved it as a young child. We have continued that tradition with his daughter Shannon. ~ Barb Haines



In my family, my mother made Christmas cut-out sugar cookies with me, using her mother's cookie cutters. We have carried that tradition down through the family for four generations. My daughter Barbara and I are going to make cookies this year with my grandson Avery, who is almost four years old—he's just about old enough now. I have about 100 cookie cutters—some are old and very valuable. My mother also used to buy boxes of chocolate covered cherries and place them under the tree to give to guests when they dropped in over the holidays. Of course, that was back when the boxes only cost 25 cents each. ~ Diane Gould

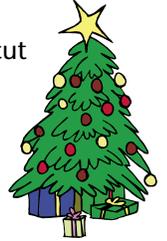
My dad was from Germany and Christmas was a very big deal. It seems like we had about a thousand presents. It was unbelievable. We had lots of family over for dinner. My parents would also buy lots of presents for all of

the other families, too. My dad would buy a live Christmas tree each year, probably about six foot tall, put it in a wash tub to decorate it and then plant it in the yard after the holiday.

~ Lance Korzilius

I remember going out to cut down the Christmas tree with my dad some years. We lived in Pinckney and went out in the woods somewhere outside of town and the two of us would cut down a tree and put it on the roof of the car to bring it home. The car got stuck in the snow one year and I guess we pushed it out. I don't remember the details, but we got home okay. My dad died when I was 11 years old and this is one of the only memories I have of him, so it is very special.

~ Laurel Hubbard



Sue and I read the Christmas story before opening gifts with our six kids—four girls and two boys. It was a fun time with all of our kids on Christmas morning. I grew up in Pittsburgh and had one set of grandparents close by and the other seemed like a long way away, but now I realize they weren't that far. We would eat at the closer grandparents and then travel to the other ones, where we would start eating all over again, even though we weren't hungry yet. I remember that both grandparents had gardens. One served turkey and mashed potatoes every year and the other one served capons and sweet potatoes.

~ George Woods

I remember having to wait to open presents until late afternoon, since my brother delivered newspapers and had to finish that first. Our family also went to church services a lot during Christmas time. ~ Sue Woods



Christmas Stockings for Cancer Center

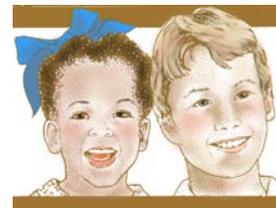
Arise Threads of Faith has been busy cutting and sewing again—this time to make 50 colorful Christmas stockings to donate to the University of Michigan Cancer Center. This is the second year we have joined forces with the Center to provide stockings for patients receiving chemotherapy during the holidays. It is a small part of a huge effort by many volunteers to make hundreds of stockings. Funds are raised throughout the year for the small gifts that are packed inside. Items are selected that make sitting for long hours getting chemotherapy a little more tolerable. More volunteers pack the stockings and distribute them to patients. We are proud to be able to be part of such a special project of caring. Threads of Faith meets the second Monday of the month at 7 pm, using the needle arts to serve others. Everyone is invited to participate, regardless of skill level. Contact Beth Plachta, (810) 231-7588 for more information or see the Arise Red Book on-line at www.arisechurch.org.



The Daily Bible is not paraphrased—the scriptural text of the New International Version remains unchanged. Since each verse is not cited individually, this version probably won't replace a conventional Bible for most people. However, it is a wonderful supplement. If you want to discipline yourself to read the Bible every day, you may find the Daily Bible is just what you've been looking for. If you would like to look at a copy, you may contact Beth Plachta.

Out of the Mouths of Babes...

Ms. Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent.



"The Flight to Egypt," was his reply. Pointing at each figure, Ms. Terri said, "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?" "Oh, that's Pontius - the pilot!"

The Daily Bible



Do you find yourself struggling with good intentions to read the Bible regularly? Maybe you started and then stalled out or have found the Bible hard to understand. The Daily Bible is a New International Version that is divided into 365 daily readings of

a few pages each day. The format is different from most Bibles, grouping verses into paragraphs under captions like "Abram's Name Changed" Genesis 17:3-7.

This Bible is written in chronological order, presented in the order in which things actually occurred. Events that are referred to in multiple books are now combined under one heading. This is most often seen in the Gospels, such as the paragraph entitled "Jesus Appears to Disciples" Mark 16:14, Luke 24: 36-44, John 20:20, combining different versions of the same event together.

Acts, the book that tells the story of the early church and Paul's mission to the Gentiles, is now interwoven with the letters he wrote to the various churches he visited, such as Thessalonians, Corinthians and Romans. The effect is that of reading a spellbinding story from beginning to end, just as the events unfolded. Each day's reading sets the stage for what you are about to read and provides the historical perspective that make the Bible stories come alive.

What's up with the kids? *continued from pg. 3*

will spend a whole hour focusing on learning about God and Jesus and the values that we as Christians live to fulfill. Is that wonderful or what? The current Educational lesson is titled, "BIG". The kids are already enjoying it and the teachers are having fun teaching it. This program will continue until the end of the "school year". One of our goals is to increase participation in the program, so we can bring more children to Christ. Remember, He loves the little children and asks us to "bring them to me." The other big news is that the leadership of the Children's Christian Education Program is changing. Judy Miller has been a wonderful leader and director of Children's Church for many years. She is moving into other children's programs that you will be hearing about soon. Jen Wagner and I will be co-directing Children's Christian Education and we are so pumped up. We want to continue in the wonderful base that Judy and the teachers have built at Arise and move onward growing "Children in God". We hope that you will be looking forward to these exciting changes just as we are. You will be hearing more about the changes on Sundays and in the Connections Newsletter. As Pastor Don says, we are on the journey together!

Jen Wagner & Vicki Dawson

Meet the Band!

by Sally Guyon, Singer

(Note: This article is part of a series begun in November by Sally Guyon, Singer)

Matthew Romans is a senior at Pinckney High School and has lived in Pinckney for 7 years. He began playing bass with the Arise Praise Band about 10 months ago through his friendship with Marsha McMunn and Marianne McMunn's encouragement.



Matthew plays tuba in the Pinckney High School Marching Band and Wind Ensemble, and has competed in annual solo & ensemble competitions. He can also play drums and acoustic guitar, and won the Pinckney High "Battle of the Bands" competition last year playing in a funk/hip hop/fusion/psychedelic band called Superfly Andre Clark & the Diggable Walri.

When asked why he enjoys playing for Arise, he replied that "it is good to play music to praise the Lord". Matthew spends his spare time acting in the Act II theatre group at the high school and playing in the pit orchestra, reading and hanging out with his friends.

Jim Morphew plays the drums for us. He and his wife Cindy have been members of Arise for 6 years, have 3 children and two grandchildren. They have been married for 28 years and moved from Canton to the Pinckney area in 1998. He has been a photographer for 28 years and has a photography studio in Livonia.



Jim grew up in Detroit where, in his words, he was always "beating and banging" on things around the house. It wasn't until the 7th grade that an area music teacher picked him up from his small school, Nativity Lutheran, and transported him to another larger school that had a music program where he had his first drum lessons. He went on to Cody High School in Detroit where he was a member of the marching and concert bands. The marching band won national honors and participated in the Thanksgiving Day parade as the pace band.

It wasn't until the last couple of years that Jim became involved again with music by joining the Praise Band, and he thanks Marianne McMunn and Kevin Griffin for their encouragement. Jim says that it was his love of music and being able to contribute to the worship service that gave him the desire to be a part of the band. In his spare time he enjoys softball, ping pong and bowling.

Joyce and Bob... continued from pg. 1

people came together, and every part was critical. My thanks to all!" Joyce is also on the Stewardship Committee, and coordinates the liturgists. She has also served in Children's ministry, as Lay Leader, and is a certified Lay Speaker.

Bob is on the building team and, as Head Usher for the first service, pays close attention to all aspects of making people feel welcome. "I think first impressions make such a big difference. As a head usher for years in other churches, I learned ways to help people feel at home. I still use them at Arise. I read people's faces and can tell if they want to sit in the front or back by watching where they focus when they walk in. I make sure to sit them in an area where they will feel comfortable. It's important to respect this. I usually sit in the back of the service so I can watch people's

body language and anticipate their needs. For example, if someone is looking for a hymnal, I'll grab one and take it to them. Some people feel uncomfortable sharing a hymnal with others, especially if they don't know the person well, although, doing small things like sharing hymnals can be the start of a relationship with another person."

You can tell by the way Bob welcomes first service attendees that he is drawing on his many years of leadership experience, including many years of supervision at the Ford Ypsilanti plant. In fact, that's where he and Joyce met. She worked briefly for him as an assembler, before using tuition aid to go to college. They have now been married for 28 years and have a blended family: Bob's 3 children, Mike, Dawn Carrol and Brad, and

their daughter, Jenell. Since Bob's retirement, he enjoys home remodeling and hunting. "I love building. I look forward to helping with the church physically."

Joyce has taught as a Montessori teacher in Lakeland, Brighton and Ann Arbor, as well as a Mary Kay cosmetics representative. She currently works for Edward Jones Investments. One major role model in her life has been her grandfather, who was a handicapped Methodist minister who served in his wheelchair.

When you talk to Joyce and Bob, the commitment and caring are evident. As Joyce says, "I know I'm supposed to do this. That's why I'm here. I serve in ways that God wants me to serve. I love God and God loves me." And, watching her, Bob beams his agreement.

DECEMBER 2006 CALENDAR



Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14 (KJV)

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday _____

9:00 am
Spirited Traditional
Worship
9:45 am
Friendship Coffee
10:30 am
Praise Celebration

Monday _____

7:00 pm
Men's Huddle

Wednesday _____

10:00 am
Worship Design
7:00 pm
Adult Bible Study
7:30 pm
Walking Team

Saturday _____

8:30 pm
Young Adult LIFE Team

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
November 26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3 Holy Communion Jammin' Kids; Youth @ Good News Chapel 6 pm	4	5 Church Council 7 pm	6 Wind Ensemble 7 pm	7	8	9
10 Blood Pressure Screening Church Conference 1 pm Youth @ Good News Chapel 6 pm	11 Threads of Faith at Plachta's 7 pm	12	13 Wind Ensemble 7 pm	14	15	16
17 Youth @ Good News Chapel 6 pm	18	19	20 Wind Ensemble Trustees – Christmas set-up at Country El. 7 pm	21	22	23
24 Morning Worship 10 am Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 5 & 7 pm	25 Merry Christmas! 	26	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve	January 1, 2007	2	3	4	5	6

Evva Funk (L) and Merilee Zane cut pies as worshippers (below) choose their favorites.

Pies were part of the sermon theme on Nov. 19—Thanksgiving is about giving thanks... not "stuffing" ourselves with other things that take up our time and attention.



Arise Red Book Goes Live On-line

For several years we have been using the "Red Book" as our central church calendar. (Yes, it really is red.) In an effort to make the calendar more accessible, we have posted it on our web page at www.arisechurch.org. We are starting the calendar from scratch to make sure we get current and accurate information on our ongoing church events. Check the calendar and see if the events you participate in are listed. If not, please take a moment to fill out the submission form or ask the leader or organizer of your group to do so. If you need help or have questions, please contact me or Pastor Don at 734-878-1928 or arise@arisechurch.org.

- Dave Russell, Arise Administrative Assistant

Arise

A United Methodist Church

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December Anniversaries

12/23 Rob & Mary Dice
Tim & Jan Richards

December Birthdays

12/2	Doug McMunn	12/7	Michael Sanborn
	Blanche Roth	12/8	Ron Fike
12/4	Laurie Watson	12/10	Josh Jackett
12/5	Jackson Buell	12/11	Rich Guyon
	Susan Striz	12/17	Tyler Donovan
12/6	Diane Gould		Alexito Saenzdeviteri

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please contact us with your
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