

Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



April 2007

Arise
A United
Methodist
Church

Ministers
Every member
of the Church

Pastor
Donald Weatherup

Director of Music
Kevin Griffin

**Administrative
Assistant**
Dave Russell

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Bishop's Day a Big Success

"Very inspiring."
"Just wonderful."
"Really loved it!"
These are praises from some of the nine Arise attendees who attended the Bishop's Day of Evangelism and Stewardship on Saturday, March 3 at Saline UMC. Evva Funk shared her enthusiasm about the bell and vocal choirs who performed. "They were just out of this world. And the speakers were very good. They were so inspirational."



Michael Slaughter,
pastor, author and
keynote speaker

Michael Slaughter, Lead Pastor at Ginghamburg Church in Tipp City, Ohio was the keynote speaker, and shared a wealth of information about being good stewards of our blessings from God. "What I got out of it," said Evva, "was that we are the

hands and feet of Christ. If we don't do the work of God on Earth, no one will." She also said that Pastor Slaughter shared one of his ideas about 10-10-80. "This means that God gets 10% through tithing, we save 10% and we use the other 80% for our daily needs." Many other concepts were mentioned and our Arise team kept busy taking notes for future reference.

"It reminded me so much of The Walk to Emmaus" (a spiritual retreat weekend), said Ron Fike. "The whole church was full of people from many other churches. Arise had the most attendees of any church there. I hadn't expected two worship services, but they were very nice." The first worship was contemporary and the closing worship was more traditional. His wife, Gayle, echoed Ron's sentiment. "I can sum it up in a few words," she said. "It was just great!"

Pastor Don was an integral part of the planning team for this big event. "There were five of us who planned this event. I was very pleased with the way it turned out

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Calling Arise Women: Retreat Scheduled for May 5th

What is one thing that you'd just love to do with your God given gifts? We are all blessed with them. Sometimes we recognize, develop and use them. Sometimes it's easier to see the talents of others, rather than our own. Barriers can impede us in the pursuit of our dreams.

At this year's Arise Women's Retreat on Saturday, May 5, we are going to discover ways to use our unique talents and interests to benefit ourselves and others. Our title this year is Women of Purpose: Women of Action. Join us for this rich day of reflection, fellowship, food and fun, as we become inspired to follow our passion more deeply in the faith community.

All women and teen-aged girls are welcome to attend. Invite friends and family, too! Sign-

ups begin April 4. The retreat is located at the Morphew's home in Hamburg/Pinckney and the cost is \$20, which includes breakfast, lunch, beverages and snacks.

Watch for flyers and bulletin announcements with more details soon. We'd love to have you join us!



Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

In just a matter of days, Arise Church will gather together to celebrate the most important event in human history and the most important annual observance on the Christian calendar. Easter Sunday - a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus! Why is Easter so important? Because ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING we believe hinges on the truth of the resurrection.

A missionary named Sam Boyle was preaching in Japan and needed a translator to help him as he preached to the people of Japan. He eventually hired a Japanese man that taught English at a Junior High school. And although the interpreter was not Christian, he agreed to interpret Boyle's sermons. The relationship worked well through the first few sermons, but hit a snag when the missionary preached on the Resurrection. He proclaimed, "And on the third day Jesus arose from the dead." The translator stopped in mid sentence, looked at Boyle and said, "They're never going to believe this."

It is true that many of your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers have problems with the resurrection of Jesus. Why? Because it isn't logical. People don't live after they die. So how can we convince people about the truth of the resurrection of Jesus? How does one determine "the truth?" One method is to do the same thing that the legal system does everyday. Look at the all the evidence, and make a decision based on the preponderance of that evidence.

The Guinness Book of World Records lists the most successful attorney in the world as Sir Lionel Luckhoo, with 245 murder acquittals in a row. His skills are called airtight, incredibly analytical, a bright man. Some asked, wouldn't it be interesting to get Luckoo's razor sharp analysis to look at the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. He took the challenge. His conclusion? "I say unequivocally that the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt." Thoroughly convinced that Jesus rose from the dead in an irrefutable demonstration of his deity, Luckhoo did the only logical thing - he gave his life to Christ and became a Christian. Luckhoo said, "It changed my life 180 degrees."

Because Christ rose from the dead, you too have an opportunity to live after you die. Your hope for heaven, your hope for eternal life, your faith, all of Christianity hinges on the truth of the resurrection. Let me encourage you to look into the evidence yourself. There are many great books that methodically and systematically look at the evidence. Lee Strobel's book *The Case For Easter* (2004) is one very good resource.

Jesus Christ did in fact rise from the dead. It's not a fairy tale, or wishful thinking. It is a matter of historical fact. And because he did, you have an opportunity to live beyond this earthly life. Jesus said, "and whosoever believes in me shall not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

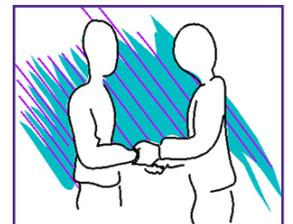
I urge you to carefully consider the evidence for yourself. Jesus said, you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free. If there are things you still doubt, that's ok. But vow right now to investigate them for yourself.

Easter Sunday at Arise Church is looking like it will be both memorable and exciting! I am making my personal promise to you that if you make the effort to invite folks to come to church on Easter Sunday, what they experience will impact them in a very positive way and you will be proud to have recommended they attend with you. Trust me. You're not going to want anyone to miss this!

I'm looking forward to an incredible celebration together! With you on the journey,

Friendship Meals Returning in May

They're back...the Friendship Meals that people enjoyed last year. We are in the process of identifying individuals/ families who would like to host a meal in their home for a few Arise friends and friends-to-be. You will soon see sign up sheets on Sundays that will help you choose a location, time and date that work best for you. Meals are potluck. You will be contacted by your host, regarding what food to bring.



Last year was the first time these were offered and enjoyed by hosts and attendees alike. Consider signing up and getting to know some Arise folks a little better while breaking bread together. If you would like to be a host, please contact Beth Plachta at (810) 231-7588.

WORSHIP AND US

Worship...is a Sacrifice

By Kevin Griffin

(This is the second in a series of articles by Kevin about the worship experience.)



In the Old Testament, worship often included sacrifice; animal sacrifice or food/grain sacrifice. As the worshippers came to the tabernacle and, later, the temple for various feasts and festivals, they brought their sacrifice with them. Often times, the sacrifice offered was to be the best of the flock or the first fruits of the harvest. The offering was of great value, and reflected the livelihood of the giver.

As time went by, one of the complaints that God had against the Israelites was their use of inferior offerings. (Malachi 1: 6-14) Instead of bringing the best, they brought the sick and deformed lamb to the altar. As if God couldn't tell the difference. Rather than their offering being a true sacrifice it became a disposal for the defective lamb and the dregs of the harvest rather than the best. What do you think that says about the giver's relationship with God and the importance of God in the



life of the worshipper?

Today we don't have, as part of our worship, the inclusion of these kinds of sacrifices listed above. Is there something we can still offer to God as a sacrifice? I believe that our praise and worship is a sacrifice offered to God. (Hebrews 13: 15) Being so, it should be our best. Whether you are in the congregation or part of the worship team, we bring our sacrifice of praise and, like the Israelite shepherd,

it should be of value. That value may be reflected in time spent in preparation as a praise team or wind ensemble member or liturgist. Or, as a part of the congregation, it may be coming with an attitude ready to worship God.

The effort put into worship on our part, whether that be time, concentration, preparation or other gifts, is a measure of how valuable we believe our relationship is with God. What sacrifice did we make the last time we came to worship God? And what did it say about the value of our relationship with Him?

So, the next time you enter Country Elementary to be a part of corporate Sunday worship, what sacrifice will you bring? How valuable will it be to you as you come before God? Let us enter worship with a sacrifice of praise and with the offerings of thanksgiving!

Friends, Food and Fellowship

The Friendship Brunch. It's been happening at Arise for over six years and it's still going strong. Primarily, it is an opportunity to invite friends and family to visit Arise, experience our hospitality and join us in worship. It's also a great time for worshippers at both services to get a chance to mingle. And we can't forget about just enjoying a good old fashioned United Methodist potluck.

Brunch used to occur during the contemporary worship service. Now, it takes place between services at 10 am. This was the case on February 18th, when we gathered around small tables and had another memorable meal together. We were greatly blessed to have the exceptional vocal talents of professional



**Beth Stalker,
Guest Musician**

singer Beth Stalker, as well as the company of her husband, Noel and daughter, Chloe. Thanks, Beth! (For more information on Beth and her CD's, visit: <http://www.bethstalker.com/>).

Next time a Friendship Brunch is planned, think about whom you'd like to invite to join us! Thanks to Dorothy Winslow and her team of helpers for coordinating this fun event!



Building for the Future: Where are we?



BUILDING THE CHURCH...STEP BY STEP...

Arise Building Project Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

By Matt Plachta, Chair, Arise Finance Committee

1. When do you think phases one and two of the building project will be completed?

Our limiting factor in completing the Phase 1a building project is financial resources. At our 2006 rate of giving, it will take another three years of giving before we have sufficient funds to complete the "build as we give" building project and begin worshiping in our own church facility, estimated to be

sometime in the summer of 2010.

We will then still have about \$200,000 of site work to complete the parking lot, paved drive, outdoor lighting, storm draining, etc. Once the site work is completed, our focus will then turn to paying off the mortgage balance on the property loan, currently just over \$250,000.

We then plan to borrow funds and hire a contractor to build Phase 1b. This phase will include about 7,000 sq. ft. of new space for offices, additional classrooms, a small kitchen and a large multipurpose fellow-

ship hall that will seat 250 people for worship. We hope to begin this phase by 2014 and should take less than one year to build.

2. Understanding that we are paying as we go, what options do we have if we run out of money?

We have worked with several banks and borrowing money is not possible, based on current levels of income and mortgage debt. Our options are to:

- a. Give more
- b. Grow our congregation...God

calls us to do this anyway and for better reasons than raising funds
c. Hold fundraisers that result in others helping us to fund our project

3. What do we need to understand about the matching gift program, to get the most benefit from it?

The matching gift is pretty simple. For every dollar we give this year above what we gave in 2006, we will receive a dollar for dollar match up to \$50,000. To make this happen we need to give more or have more givers, preferably both.

4. What is the most important thing that I can do to move the project forward?

Three things. One, support the project with your financial gifts. Two, become involved as a volunteer. Volunteers are needed for leadership roles, getting materials, building, painting, hospitality, just to name a few. More information about volunteering will be made available this spring. Three, pray for our project and what it will do to advance God's kingdom.

What Else Can We Do?

(This is a series of suggestions for Creative Giving to the Arise Land & Building Fund, for your consideration. All ideas are welcome!)

- Consider making a first time pledge, increasing your current pledge or making a lump sum gift
- Designate memorial or honorary gifts
- Help your kids think of ways they can earn money to donate.

Bishop's Day... continued from pg. 1

and was glad that the people from Arise enjoyed it." He was responsible for the posters, nametags and way finding signs and felt that everything flowed smoothly. "There were a lot of people who needed to find their way around the building. Another one of the challenges was that we had 300 attendees and could only feed 150 at one time, so we had to plan for that."

"The content on welcoming was presented from the perspective of a first time guest," Pastor Don continues. "There were video vignettes of a woman and her young child who visited two churches. The first church was somewhat cold and unfriendly. People said "hi", but that was about it. They stared at her child when he

made noise in church and generally didn't make her feel welcome. At the second church, people stooped down to speak to her child, found her a seat next to a mother with a child of a similar age, gave her crayons to occupy herself and generally made her feel more comfortable." He added that a lot of these welcoming ideas can be found online at www.ignitingministry.org.

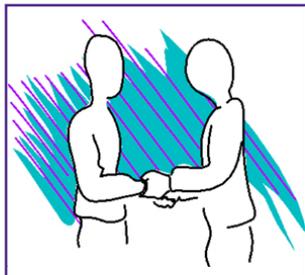
In regard to the stewardship content, Pastor Don relates that a lot of Michael Slaughter's content comes from his recent book Money Matters (2006). "He didn't talk about the typical stewardship campaign. He spoke about the idea of churches teaching folks how to handle their God-given resources through budgeting and avoiding debt—things in which people often don't get training. The goal is to provide people with financial freedom. When they no longer have debt, they are freed up to give more back to God."

In all, it was an inspiring day of fellowship and learning. A good example of how our District funds are put to work, as Pastor Don mentioned in worship the following day. We look forward to hearing more about how the ideas generated at this event can be implemented here at Arise. "Fortunately," he said, "we're already doing a lot of them already."

Mission Support: How you can help

✓ Remember to pray for the monthly mission projects and all of the people Arise helps to support.

✓ Provide what you can to the Holy Communion offerings. These special Sunday offerings help families locally, nationally and internationally.



✓ Throughout the year, watch for health and school supply sales for Liberia Relief Kits in May and Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes in October.

✓ In August, look for food items to go on sale for the Gleaners Food Pantry collection in September.

Our "mission" this year is to provide more hands-on projects. Along with our mission to build the Arise Church, we have contacted a local Habitat for Humanity home project in Hamburg Township. Arise members will be doing the insulation for the home in April. We're also looking at some "one day wonder", day trips to provide help to organizations nearby. You can be a part of any of the upcoming projects through prayer, financial donations and your time. Bless you all,

Arise Missions

Red Balloon to Close in June

The Red Balloon, located at 132 Brighton Lake Rd., Brighton, has been a unique hospitality outreach ministry of the Brighton First United Methodist Church (UMC). This familiar landmark will be closing its doors in mid-June, for much needed repairs.

Inspired by a church in Washington D.C. that began a coffee house ministry in an economically declining neighborhood, a group of talented people worked to turn an old green farmhouse into the Red Balloon Tea Room. In 1985 this vision became a reality, when the Tea Room opened its doors as a restaurant, serving lunch three days a week, 9 months a year. As an outreach ministry, proceeds from the entirely volunteer staffed operation have been donated to several Livingston County charities over the years.

The name of the Tea Room was inspired by a celebration on Pentecost Sunday, where each person in the Brighton UMC congregation was given a red balloon to carry out into the community after worship to remind them of God's love. Thus, the red balloon became a contemporary symbol of the Holy Spirit for their congregation.

Going strong since 1985, the Red Balloon has had a faithful clientele who cherish the unique atmosphere and delicious food. The volunteers have made great friends and had some great experiences working together. Our own Evva Funk is one of those volunteers who helps prepare lunch one day a month at the restaurant. There is still time to enjoy this cozy lunch haven for awhile longer.



Days and Hours of Operations

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday till mid-June

HOURS: 11:30am-1:30pm

PHONE: (810) 227-2300.

Reservations Accepted.

Limited Handicap parking available in driveway.

The Luncheon Menu includes:

Chicken, Tuna and Garden Salads. Bran Muffins, Quiche, Soups, Sandwiches, Desserts and Friendship Tea. All luncheon selections are homemade at the Red Balloon Kitchen. More information is available at: <http://www.brightonfumc.org/outreach/redballoon.html>

Meet Tom, Guest Layout Editor



We are privileged to have Tom Beatty, Barbara Wood's brother, serving as guest layout editor for March and April. Tom is a graphic designer who attended the Cleveland Institute of Art, and currently works for the Detroit Free Press, in their marketing division. Tom is single, plays

tennis and does freelance graphic design work — especially for his sister [he adds] when she gets behind on projects! Thanks, Tom!!

Kidz Quotes:

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

"Pray, Pray, Pray While We Jam!!"

Prayer is a powerful way to connect with God and let Him know what we think, how we feel, to ask for blessings, forgiveness, grace and sometimes, mercy. Prayer can be a time for reflection and a place for restful stillness. Prayer can also be a time to give thanks, praise and express the joys and wonders of life. Prayer is priceless to us all.

Do you know that the Arise Jammin' Kids pray every time we gather to worship God with our music? While we learn to sing and ring bells, fellowship and have fun, we also pray faithfully. We pray for each other, for you, our pets, grannies, grandpas, sisters, brothers, moms, dads, for teachers, classmates, and neighbors, as well as for the lonely, the needy and those that are sick or hurt.

To genuinely feel the sincerity and power of prayer, come join the Arise Jammin' Kids at 9:00am on the first and third Sundays at Arise and you will experience how our Arise kids talk to God through prayer.

They can teach you, as they have taught me, about how to connect with God through the eyes of His most precious people! Thanks to all the Arise Jammin' Kids for the blessings that they bring to us in the name of God!

Vicki Dawson, Arise Jammin' Kids Ringleader

MARCH 2007 CALENDAR

"Christ the Lord is risen today, Sons of men and angels say. Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply." —Charles Wesley

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday _____

9:00 am
Traditional Worship
10:00 am
Sunday School

11:00 am
Contemporary Praise
Worship

Monday _____

7:00 pm
Men's Huddle
(contact Lance Korzilius)

Wednesday _____

7:00 pm
Wednesday Night Bible
Study
(contact Ron or Gayle Fike)



Easter Service

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Palm Sunday; Holy Communion; 9 am - Jammin' Kids Practice	2	3 7 pm - Church Council	4 12 noon; Lenten Brunch, Community Congregational Church (Arise Sponsors)	5 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service, Country Elementary, Pinckney	6 Good Friday 7 pm Service, Community Congregational, Pinckney	7
8 Easter Sunday; 9 am Continental Breakfast; 9:30 - one service; no Sunday School/Youth Group	9	10	11	12	13 TGIF Sisters	14
15 9 am - Jammin' Kids Practice	16 Threads of Faith - 7 pm, Smith's	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 10 am - Newsletter folding/ mailing	25 Administrative Professionals Day; 7 pm Worship Committee	26	27 TGIF Sisters	28
29	30	1	2	3 National Day of Prayer	4	5 8:30 am - 4 pm; Arise Women's Retreat

2007 Relay for Life Team Captain Needed

It's safe to say that we all know someone whose life has been affected by cancer. The Relay for Life raises thousands of dollars annually that is used locally for cancer research. Arise doesn't have a Team Captain yet to take lead on this year's Relay for Life, scheduled for May 18-19 at the Brighton High School Track. Our church has been an active participant in this important fundraiser for cancer research over the last few years and has contributed greatly to this worthy cause.

If you are interested in being a Captain or Co-Captain for this year's Arise Relay for Life Team, please contact Diane Gould at (734) 665-8997.

Hospitality Helpers Needed

A welcoming environment often includes refreshments and beverages. The church is no exception. Visitors and members alike enjoy a cup of coffee or a cookie while they meet and greet others.

Evva Funk has offered to team up with Dorothy Winslow on the Hospitality Team to help recruit helpers for this important ministry. Often, people don't know their schedules weeks in advance in order to sign up to help. Evva will be making calls during the week to ask for help in making coffee, punch and bringing refreshments.

If you can help on a more regular basis with this ministry of hospitality, please contact Dorothy Winslow at (810) 231-2683 or Evva Funk at (734) 878-5501.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

To every person in the home of:

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



EASTER



April Birthdays

4/3	Daphnehy Weatherup	4/22	Victoria Saenz de Viteri
4/6	Cheryl Bollinger		Matt McMunn
4/10	Don Fuller	4/27	Carrie Campbell
4/20	Daniel Guyon	4/29	Tom Terhune

April Anniversaries

4/13 Michael & Carol Sanborn
4/30 Tom & Debbie Short
Happy 30th Anniversary!

ARISE NEWSLETTER TEAM

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Dorothy Winslow
& the Primetimers

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