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of the Church

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OCTOBER

## Building Together: Faith, Hope and Hard Work

*(This is the first in a series of articles highlighting Arise people and their work on the Arise building project.)*

When our congregation voted to renovate the traditional barn on Arise Acres into a Worship Center and do most of the work ourselves to make it affordable, that implied lots of work, hours, and sacrifice—sacrifice of time, energy and money. Sacrifice can be viewed as a negative—difficult, annoying, and unnecessary. It can also be viewed as a blessing—a gift, a wonderful opportunity to give back to God.

Many people are contributing to the Building Project. Everyone's work is needed and appreciated. There are some, though, whose donation of time and service on this project far exceeds the norm. Without them, it is safe to say, we would not have a church building being built today. They are on-site working in the morning, mid-day, evening and weekends. They give up family time, leisure time and professional time and they all actively serve Arise in other ways, as well. Is it a coincidence that we find these gifted and willing servants in our congregation at a time when a church home is needed? Their stories speak for themselves. Meet two of them now—affectionately known by the Building Team as "The Two Bobs".

Bob Barnard is one of two Team Leaders, the senior member of our "Bob" duo. Retired



Architectural rendering of our new worship space



### The two Bobs taking a break from their labors

years ago from Ford, he began a home renovation business and considers himself to be an all around handyman. He also built a gazebo in Whitmore Lake that he feels is an example of his finest work. We're not telling, but suffice it to say, Bob does not look his chronological age, and has far more energy than that age might imply. When asked why he likes to work on the church building, Bob says, "I just enjoy building things. I moved to this area in 1972 and I've always had a dream to have a Methodist Church nearby. Being able to help build it is really great." A lot of folks from Arise know Bob as the lead usher and greeter at first service. He and his wife, Joyce, keep busy with their children and grandchildren, who live in the area. Bob is also quite busy helping his family and friends with their own renovation projects this year.

Bob Whalen, our other Team Leader, is the second half of "The Bobs" team. Bob is a Journeyman carpenter and has been working around Arise Acres doing projects for the last few years. His flexible work schedule has

*continued on pg. 3*

## Pastor's Column



**Pastor Don Weatherup**

There has been much said in the media about a sickness that some believe is increasing in our culture today. The sickness is a fear of commitment. It's not a new concept. The term "commitment-phobia" was coined 20 years ago by Steven Carter in his book *Men Who Can't Love*. Carter's term for fear of commitment refers to the avoidance of long-term partnership

and/or marriage, but it is often much more pervasive. For the past two decades many non-profit organizations have reported a decline of participation citing an overall decrease in the level of commitment of its members. Webster's Dictionary defines commitment this way, "the state or an instance of being obligated or emotionally impelled, a commitment to a cause."

Whenever I feel compelled to ignore something I said I would do, I think about commitment. Whenever I attend a committee meeting of the church where I am the only one who shows up, I think about commitment. Whenever I watch the Detroit Lions lose, and then lose again, and then lose again, yet I still watch them on television the next week, I think about commitment...my steadfast commitment to watch, and their seeming lack of commitment to win.

The fact is, we all have many commitments in our lives. Marriages. Our jobs. Friendships. Loans. Our lives contain many commitments. So what about our commitment to God? How does one balance the commitments of everyday living with our commitment to Christ? When Jesus was asked "what is the most important commandment?" He simply said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and most important commandment."

Wow. Love God will **ALL** your heart, soul and mind. That sounds like quite a commitment. How are we to possibly fulfill it? Doesn't that sound like it might mean that every one of us should quit our jobs and volunteer full time at the church? Is that what it means to be fully committed to God? Wouldn't that be giving God our whole heart, soul and mind? Meeting this commitment seems impossible, but read on.

Paul writes to the Christians at Colosse (Colossians 3:23-24) "Do your work willingly, as though you were serving the Lord himself, and not just your earthly master. In fact, the Lord Christ is the one you are really serving,

and you know that he will reward you." Paul's advice is to consider that **everything** you do – you do for God. In the same chapter, in verse 17, Paul writes, "Whatever you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks to God the Father because of him." Interesting isn't it? Paul quite literally would like us to consider **every** action we make to be done as if we were doing it for Jesus. So the next time you take on a heaping sink of dishes at home, don't wash them because you need to reuse them again, wash them for Jesus! The next time you have a Church Council or committee meeting, don't go for the church....go for Jesus!

This approach will help you to really look at your life with a whole new meaning. When we look at life through that lens, it helps us to evaluate our commitments and to prioritize. And it helps us transform our attitude.

In this approach, there is no such thing as mundane. Everything is done with a whole new purpose. Living for Jesus. Every moment. Every task. Every action. It's all for Him.

God really does want all of you. Not part of you, all of you. You exist for one reason alone - to bring glory to God. How do you love the Lord your God will all hour heart, mind and soul? It's a matter of commitment. Fortunately, God never asks us to do anything without help. God will help us with that. That's His promise. John 15:26, "I will send you the Spirit who comes from the Father and shows what is true. The Spirit will help you and will tell you about me."

God proved His commitment to you. He sent Christ. Now what about your commitment to God? Colossians 3:23-24, "Do your work willingly, as though you were serving the Lord himself, and not just your earthly master. In fact, the Lord Christ is the one you are really serving, and you know that he will reward you."

Now if only the Detroit Lions would play like they were playing for Jesus. Lord have mercy!

With you on the journey,

Rev. Don Weatherup



# Worship is... *Relevant: form and meaning*

By Kevin Griffin

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



Imagine, for a moment, a lit candle on a table with china dishes, linen napkins and soft music in the background. Now move to a bunch of candles lit on a piano with a flamboyant pianist playing. Next, you see a candle lit on a table with a bible, cross and flowers. What meanings and images come to your mind in each of these forms

of a lit candle? (As we delve into this month's relevant worship by examining forms and their meanings, we will consider a *form* to be anything that is an action, rite, symbol, or image.)

Turning towards our worship experience, what meanings do we give to the forms that we use during our worship services? Why do we use certain symbols and engage in specific activities? For example, why do we have candles, a bible and cross on a table at the front of the worship space? Why is there a bigger cross at the back of the stage? Why do we participate in communion once a month, and always on the first Sunday? What exactly are the meanings given to the elements of bread and wine (or grape juice), their purpose and why do we consume them? What does it mean to get people wet with water and call it baptism? What about some other forms that are commonly practiced during a worship service, like closing our eyes and folding our hands when we pray. Why do we sometimes stand to do certain things and remain seated for others? What about where we focus our attention during certain activities?

Although there is nothing wrong or intrinsically sacred with any of the aforementioned forms, do we know why we use them? Or what meanings/significance we attach to them? some symbols and rites passed on by rote tradition? And are they really central to our faith in Jesus and being His disciples?

Our experience and culture is always undergoing change.

Will we be able to change the forms we use so that the symbols, actions, images and rites relevantly express our beliefs? The next time we meet for worship, take note of the forms that we use and their meanings to us rather



than simply going through the motions, so to speak. Let's rediscover the richness of some of our forms and the deep meanings that they can convey to us as we try to relevantly express our faith in worship.

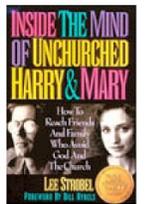
## Pastor's Picks

Over the next few issues, we will feature some of Pastor Don's favorite books and why he thinks they're a good read. There are also many good books and videos in the Arise Library collection. Contact Gene Smith for details.

**Title:** *Inside The Mind of the Unchurched Harry & Mary*

**Author:** Lee Strobel

I like this book because it does a very good job helping people understand the mindset of people who don't attend church and talks about what the church can do to attract such people.



**Title:** *Sex God*, **Author:** Rob Bell

A wonderfully written, thoroughly thought out look at the connections between sexuality and spirituality. The book helps us understand why God demands fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness. These are not old fashioned ideas, they are practical. Rob Bell explains it all in an entertaining way.



## Building Together:... continued from pg. 1

benefited Arise in many ways. Bob says he enjoys working together with others. "Having a place of our own that we can call home is really special. It will be nice to reduce the work of the Arise moving team, too." He elaborates by saying, "One thing in life leads to another. There is a reason I'm doing this work. I do think it's my mission and calling to be doing it." He is also active in the Wednesday Night Bible Study group and the Barn Sale Committee. Bob and his wife Brenda have a son, Tony, who joins his dad in some of the barn work. In their spare time, Bob and Tony take Tae Kwon Do (a Korean form of martial arts) together; Bob has earned a second degree and Tony a third degree black belt, respectively.

Coming next month...another set of "dynamic duos" and their work on the church building project: Jerry and Jack: Plumber and Painter.

# Arise: A Community of Connections

## Highlights from Church Conference

By Sherry Graham



This last May Pastor Don and I were blessed with the opportunity to join in a spirit of unity with others as we attended the Detroit Annual Conference at Adrian College. The Annual Conference is a time when all the congregations from our Detroit Conference send representatives from local churches to vote on issues of importance to the larger church body. These will later be brought to the General Conference in 2008 for consideration.

I have several highlights from this conference that were memorable. I was so delighted to see the diversity of people in our conference and the many faces I have gotten to know as lay leader at Arise. You really feel the connection of the body of Christ throughout all of the conference activities.

I felt like we accomplished much in a short time. Not even the lights going out due to a storm stopped the proceedings. We were taking a final vote and right as we were getting ready to finalize the vote on the representatives (which is a major task at conference), the lights went out. As smoothly as everything else was handled, we burst into a hymn, took a 15 minute break, and were directed to the chapel. The computer was set up and we cast our ballots. It was done!

The theme of the conference was "Abundance Given to Give." There was plenty of giving at the conference. Conference members spontaneously reached into their pockets and donated over \$3,000 to the United Methodist Global Aids Fund and Conference churches sent \$55,000 for the opening offering for missions with covenant churches in Haiti and Liberia. There were also over 603 tubs of school and health kits for the United Methodist church of Haiti.



### Annual Conference

If you want to know more about the happenings at Annual Church Conference, please contact me or pastor Don. We would enjoy sharing about this wonderful experience with you. Also you can learn more by going on line at the Michigan Christian Advocates web-site ([www.MCAadvocate.org](http://www.MCAadvocate.org)).

## Arise Barn Sale Coming Soon

If you saw the skit Kevin Griffin and Laurie Russell did in worship on Sept. 16, you would remember that the "New and Improved, Back by Popular Demand" Arise Barn Sale is coming soon! See the schedule below for drop off times. Many, many helpers are needed for drop offs, sorting, pricing, setting up tents, day of the sale and clean up. This year's funds will be matched by an anonymous giver, so we can earn twice as much for the Arise Building Fund! Call Diane Gould (734) 665-8997 for details.

### Arise Barn Sale Drop Off Schedule

Sun. Sept. 30: 12 noon – 6 pm  
Mon. Oct. 1: 4 pm – 8 pm  
Wed. Oct. 3: 1 pm – 8 pm  
Sun. Oct. 7: 10 am – 4 pm



*We are in need of general household items, furniture and clothing in good condition.*

### Items we cannot accept:

- Large appliances
- Refrigerators and freezers
- Air conditioners
- Large exercise equipment
- Computers and hardware
- Luggage
- Construction materials
- Used mattresses
- Old baby cribs

## Bake Sale

A new attraction this year is the addition of a Bake Sale to the Barn Sale.

Everyone is encouraged to bake up a storm. Bring the baked goods the day before the sale or contact Jean Oxender or Gail Osborne, who have room to freeze them ahead of time, if desired.

Some of these can be wrapped separately for instant enjoyment!

Contact Jean for details.



**Building  
Our New  
Worship  
Space—  
Taking out  
the loft and  
bringing in  
the sand**



Special thanks to Arise neighbor John Gray, who has given so generously of his time to help Arise...most recently using his bulldozer to move sand into the barn. You saved a lot of aching backs! Thanks, John!



# Arise Youth: Awesome Autumn Action!

By Vicki Dawson

Well, we have had a great start to the new season of growing youth in Christ. The Arise middle and high school youth, after a great summer of missions, fun and fellowship, have begun meeting for Sunday School. What a task for the new leaders, Vicki Dawson and Sherry Graham and...what an opportunity for our youth!



It is the goal of this year's youth group to grow together (Christians) to learn leadership skills (prophets), to learn how to follow (disciples), to learn how to share the Word (apostles), to learn how to have fun while being and living as Christians (being kids!).

The Arise youth will also be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings for fun and fellowship, while still focusing on living a Christian life. The group (yet to be named), will begin on Sunday, Sept. 23, 6 – 8 pm at the Good News Chapel in Pinckney. The first mission work the youth will be planning and leading is "Harvest Gathering", a community food collection for the Gleaners Food Bank on November 10 at the Pinckney Gazebo. Please mark your calendars for this important event. The youth will be sponsoring an Arise Christmas party with caroling, too! It should be fun. You will hear more about that later.



## Alyson Christine Gebarowski

was born at 3:15 p.m. on Friday, September 7th to proud parents Jon and Marcia (Short).

She weighed 7 lbs 15 oz and was 22 inches long. Alyson's grandparents Tom and Debbie Short and Aunt Jessica are pretty excited, too.

Welcome, Alyson!



# Fall Line-up for Sunday School

By Jen Wagner

Are you ready for some Christian Education? Our All-star team is ready for another exciting season with your most valuable players (kids). Please report to the field (classroom) every Sunday at 10 A.M.

**Preschool-1st grade--Coach Anita Pagano**

**2nd-4th grade--Coach Jen Wagner**

**5th-8th grade--Coach Vicki Dawson**

**9th-12th grade--Coach Sherry Graham**

Go long for God!



# Buy Groceries and Earn \$\$ for Arise

By Gail Osborne

Have you heard about the new program Arise is participating in? It's really simple. Buy groceries at Kroger or Busch's and earn 5% for the Arise Land and Building Fund. So far, SIXTY families have signed up to participate. You get a \$5 rechargeable gift card from Gail Osborne and then take it to the store and add more money to it. Then, when you purchase your groceries, use the gift card to pay for them. VOILÀ—

5% of your purchase will be donated to Arise. And if you get your friends and family to participate, they pay \$5 for the gift card and Arise receives 5% back on their purchases—easy as that! Just think—if every family that has already signed up spends \$200 a week on groceries, that's over \$30,000 a year in proceeds!!! And from now until the end of the year, our Matching Funds donor will also match what we earn on these programs which will make it 10%. Let's all participate and **BUILD OUR CHURCH!**



# OCTOBER 2007 CALENDAR



*You are to be as stones in the building God is making. You are religious leaders giving yourselves to God through Jesus Christ. This kind of gift pleases God.*

— 1 Peter 2:5

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Sunday \_\_\_\_\_

Worship Services at Arise Acres  
 9:00 am—Traditional Service  
 10:00 am—Youth Sunday School  
 11:00 am—Praise Celebration

### Monday \_\_\_\_\_

7:00 - 9:00 pm  
 Men's Huddle at Morphew's (contact Lance Korzilius)

7:00 pm  
 Divorce Recovery

### Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_

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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
September 30 Last Sunday at Arise Acres Blue-Jean Sunday	October 1	2 7 pm Council	3 7 pm Building Team	4	5 10 am TGIF Sisters	6
7 World Communion Sunday 9 am Arise Jammin' Kids practice First Sunday back at Country Elementary	8 Columbus Day  7 pm Threads of Faith	9 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	10	11	12 9 am - 5 pm Arise Barn Sale 5th Quarter (after football game) 	13 9 am - 3 pm Arise Barn Sale
14	15	16	17 7 pm Building Team	18	19 10 am TGIF Sisters	20
21 9 am Jammin' Kids practice	22	23 10 am Newsletter folding 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	24 7 pm Worship Committee	25	26 7 pm Euchre Night at Morphew's	27
28 Reformation Sunday	29	30	31 Reformation Day 	November 1 All Saints Day	2 10 am TGIF Sisters	3



## Moving Team Drivers and Helpers Needed



The Arise Moving Team is in critical need of a couple of drivers each month who can tow the trailer from Arise Acres to Country El on Sunday morning. They can use their vehicle or Pastor Don's. The Moving Team also really needs extra helping hands for loading and unloading the trailer. Please see Jerry Dawson if you can help out. Many hands make light work.

Stay Tuned for Consecration Sunday... and an opportunity for stewardship on November 18th!

Information to come in next month's newsletter...





UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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### October Anniversaries

10/7 Rich & Sally Guyon  
10/14 Dave & Laura Bowen  
10/15 Greg & Barb Stafford  
10/16 Dave & Laurie Russell

### October Birthdays

10/4 Matt Plachta	10/14 Kimberly Boyne
10/9 Norine Bibicoff	10/16 Jim Morphew
10/11 Jacob Russell	10/28 Eric Tice
10/12 Steve Bollinger	10/31 Debbie Short

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