

Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



November 2007



Jerry and Jack: Plumber and Painter

This is the second in a series of articles profiling those who go above and beyond by working on the Arise Building Project.

Ministers

*Every member
of the Church*

Pastor

Don Weatherup

Director of Music

Kevin Griffin

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Thanksgiving

Chances are, if you visit Arise Acres, you'll often see one of these two men working around the property. Just like "the two Bobs" from last month's issue, Jerry Dawson and Jack Dunlap are continually using their talents for God, through work at Arise. The many hours they donate and the level of professional skill they bring is truly a blessing.

Jerry Dawson is well known to Arise as the Moving Team coach, a trombonist in the Praise Band and a certified lay speaker. Jerry is a professional plumber and has donated many hours to Arise over the years. He is doing the plumbing work on the worship center and also installed the restroom in the green barn this summer. When asked why he likes to work on the new church building, he sighed. "There's so much I can say. God has changed my life through the people at Arise and I owe them this. I have also had a dream to have a church building where my daughter, Olivia, can be married some day. The other thing is, I have committed to myself that we will get this done. It wasn't easy for the disciples and John Wesley, and we've got to stick it out, too. I plan to grow old in this community and I want a church building here where I can worship. Jerry's family also includes his son, Kahlin and wife, Vicki, who also serves in many different ways at Arise.

Jack Dunlap came to Arise with his wife, Penny, about a year ago. He jumped right in and helped the Trustees by painting the interior of the parsonage before the Weatherups joined us last July. Jack graduated from college with a degree in Freshwater Biology, but having supported himself in college by painting, it was a natural fallback when finding work in his



Jack Dunlap



Jerry Dawson

major was difficult. "The trades have been good to me," he says. "Why do I like to work on the barn? It's really simple. My talents are God-given. What better way to pay Him back than to work on His church? I am blessed to be able to do so." Jack has a knack for working on high ladders, so his help has been invaluable. He recently began painting the exterior of the new worship center and has been out at the worksite on many occasions, along with Penny, doing whatever needs to be done. In his spare time, Jack enjoys racing his Porsche in a local race club.

Coming next month...another set of "dynamic duos" and their work on the church building project: The Paul Paganos: Father and Son.

Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

One of the most difficult and even intimidating tasks of a pastor is deciding what to preach about each Sunday. Some pastors choose to follow the Revised Common Lectionary. It is a list that assigns four Bible passages for each Sunday of the year on a rotating three-year cycle. This helps the pastor narrow down a topic from those four scriptures. Some pastors use the lectionary, and some do not. I don't follow the lectionary every week but often refer to it as I am choosing topics. And of course, I believe very strongly that the Holy Spirit guides me in my sermon topic selection, the writing and even the delivering of my sermons. Thank God for that! If I relied on my own abilities we'd all be in trouble.

The reason that selecting sermon topics can be so intimidating for me is because I think it is very important that the Sunday sermon be relevant to everyday life. And in order to be relevant to the greatest number of people, it's important to know what the congregation as a whole needs to hear about. That's the hard part.

So...what are you struggling with? What topic has not been addressed on Sunday morning that would help you in your spiritual journey? Most Christians have a spiritual sticking point; one issue that they grapple with. What is yours? What have you wondered about?

I'd like to get your feedback on sermon topic ideas and so I am starting something new.

"God Questions" is your opportunity to share with the pastor something you've been thinking about that you wish I would address in a sermon. They can be questions

of doubts that you have about your faith or questions about an issue where you have some confusion or an everyday life issue that you struggle with. Since many "why" questions about God are the most difficult questions to answer, you might consider avoiding those types of questions. Please feel free to submit them, but I may have a difficult time with an answer.

When it comes to most written communication, I don't like anonymous communication because it discourages dialogue when you don't know who is sharing the opinion. "God Questions," however, will be an exception. They can be anonymous. I want people to be free to submit questions without worrying about what I might think of the person asking the question. Of course, if you don't mind sharing your name that is ok too. I may not be able to answer every question but it will help me in selecting topics of the greatest interest.

You can submit a "God Question" by simply writing down your question. Please clearly mark somewhere on the page or envelope "God Question." Then, place it in the offering plate, mail it to the ministry center, or email it. Soon I hope to have an addition to the Arise web page where you can submit a

question. I'll let you know when we have that up and running.

I'm hoping to do a multi-part sermon series titled "God Questions" in the near future and then incorporate "God Questions" throughout the year as they are received.

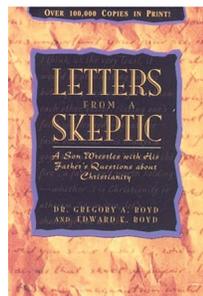
With you on the journey,

Rev. Don Weatherup



Pastor's Picks

Over the next few issues, we will feature a few 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: Letters From A Skeptic

Author: Dr. Gregory Boyd & Edward Boyd

Through conversations with his father through old fashioned letter writing, Dr. Boyd answers his father's questions that make him doubt Christianity. This book shares over two years worth of letters between a theology professor and his non-believing father. A great read!

Worship is... Relevant: and the band plays on...

By Kevin Griffin



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

Perhaps no other area of church life has created such furor within local congregations as the music used during a worship service. Why

should something so basic cause such divergent and sometimes vocal opinions?

Well, for starters, music is a great communicator as it speaks to the heart of the listener. Assuming, of course, that the music listened to is the music of the person's heart! Music is also a multi-faceted communication medium. All of the aspects that make music, music; instruments used, rhythm, loudness, melody, lyrics, etc., are what become near and dear to the listener. It's a complete package that affects the mind, heart and emotions. Which is why using relevant music in worship is important - so that it touches us at those deep levels as we express our praise and worship.

An insightful look into church music is John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement in England and his brother Charles, who put Christian words to saloon tunes and other well known songs of their day. Shocking, to be sure! But it was effective in communicating the gospel to people who found the traditional hymns of the church inaccessible or for those who never attended a worship service.

A humorous lesson of history is when the first pipe organs were introduced into worship services. The complaint heard was that the music was too loud! That kind of music accompaniment wasn't "sacred music" when chanting had been the norm. Skip forward to today and ask yourself how many times you have seen or heard the phrase "Sacred Music" in connection with organ tunes?

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Stewardship Sunday

Hopefully, thinking about our gifts of time and money that we give back to God is an ongoing process. But once a year we also dedicate a day to affirming those thanks, through prayerful consideration and a pledge to increase our financial support to our church's general and building funds, which serve so many local and global ministries.

On November 18th, we will celebrate our many gifts from God through a commitment to give back our tithes and offerings during 2008. In the weeks that lead up to Stewardship Sunday, you are invited to reflect on and pray about what portion of your income God is calling you to give. For many of us, this also means reassessing the importance of our priorities, and making conscious decisions about spending. What a wonderful opportunity to take a "time out" and think about how we spend!

In keeping with the progress of building our church, the concept for this year is again about adding another layer of "bricks." What can we give that will allow us to reach a bit higher? Stewardship Committee Chair Al Smith responds to the question of why give?

"First, it will make us feel better, knowing we have taken care of the number one priority...God...who in turn takes care of us. There will always be money problems...things I need and want. But I get great satisfaction out of tithing. That's faith. God has never let me down." He goes on to add that it is more than a duty; "I know it's right, and it's a huge achievement to know that I've taken care of this commitment."

When we pledge our financial commitment to God, it signifies our trust and faith in the future. Moreover, this year we are blessed to have an anonymous donor who will match increased giving...thereby enabling us to provide more for the needs of Arise and the communities we serve.

You are invited to search your hearts and minds, pray for guidance and think purposefully about how you will respond on November 18th. To quote World War II victim and author Anne Frank, "No one has ever become poor by giving."



Music Survey Coming!

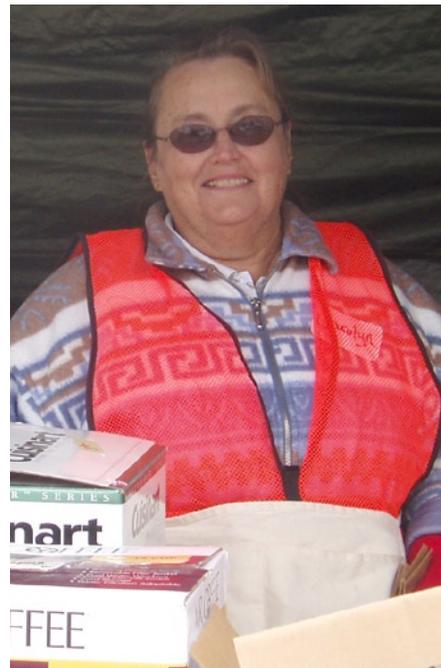


On October 28th, a music survey will be distributed at church and also made available to those who cannot attend that day. We are interested in your views on what works and what can be improved in our overall music program. Please take the time to give your honest feedback; we need it to continue to strengthen our overall worship experience! See Pastor Don with questions.



Arise: A Community of Connections





Barn Sale a Huge Success!



Now that the “new and improved, back by popular demand” Arise Barn Sale is over—how did it go? The person who should know, chairperson of the sale, Diane Gould, shared that “this year was by far the best organized of any sale we’ve had. Many people helped this year and worked so hard—it was really impressive.” Diane has been the heart and soul of the Arise Barn Sales. With her background as an antique dealer specializing in

Depression glass, and having a knack for merchandising, she was well suited to lead these fundraisers. A woman of faith and perseverance, Diane realized that she could use these gifts at Arise to make money for a new church, so a few years ago; she decided to put them to work. She has said that she didn’t think her gift was anything special. Many would disagree. “I just did what I knew how to do”, she has said. Arise has greatly benefited from her vision and leadership in other areas, also, such as the Relay for Life and the Arise Health Ministry Team.

This year’s combined barn and bake sales, to date, have earned over \$6300. More money is expected to filter in. This year’s proceeds also qualify for the matched giving challenge, raising close to \$13,000 for the Arise Building Fund.

Before beginning the sale each day, Arise workers gathered in a circle and prayed for the day—to be witnesses for Christ to all who entered, to minister to all, to demonstrate good teamwork and for God to bless their efforts. On Saturday morning, two customers who had arrived early were standing nearby and accepted the invitation to join the prayer circle.



If one word can describe the process for this huge, work-intensive effort, it’s teamwork. Many people donated numerous hours and a lot of sweat equity to make it happen—from those who attended committee meetings, put in ads, transported and set up the tents, donated and accepted goods, sorted and priced items, carried things back and forth, baked food, coordinated efforts, created signs, put signs up and took them down, purchased items, donated money, food or equipment, worked the sale, cleaned up...and on and on. There are far too many people to name, but thanks to all who contributed in any way to the success of the sale.

A special thanks goes to Dexter UMC for donating tents and tables, A-1 Engraving & Signs, Inc. for donating new signs, the Putnam Fire Department for loaning their tent and Busch’s for donating grocery bags.

Arise Youth News

The Arise Youth Group is planning some fun, God-fulfilling events in the upcoming season. It is with joy that the youth will sponsor a “Harvest Gathering at the Gazebo”, food collection day on Saturday, Nov. 10, 9am-5pm. The youth will be looking for your support, help and donations as they reach into the community to increase awareness of people that are in need of assistance in keeping their families healthy during these difficult economic times in Michigan and throughout the country. The non-perishable food items and personal products will be donated to the Gleaners Food Bank in Howell.



The Arise Youth will also be hosting an Arise Christmas Party on Sunday evening, December 9, 4pm-8pm. We will fellowship around a potluck meal, enjoy music, Christmas message and conclude the evening with Christmas Caroling around the Pinckney area. This event will be held at the Community Congregational Church fellowship hall.

Please mark these exciting events on your family calendar and enjoy the seasonal events with the Arise Youth.

Vicki Dawson, Youth Leader

Worship is... *continued from pg. 3*

The Bible, in the little it has to say about the style of music used in worship found in the Psalms, limits itself to harps, lyres, resounding and crashing symbols and the occasional trumpet. How odd it would seem for us to sing songs in the manner and style of 9th century BC Hebrews!

As I hope the above examples have shown, church tradition has changed over the years as to what style of music is used in worship. We also need to remember that no one music form is more “proper” or sacred than any other for relevant praise and worship to Jesus. And always remember that what is contemporary today will be that “old-fogey” music for your great-great grandchildren! Rock on!

NOVEMBER 2007 CALENDAR

O Lord that lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness!

-- William Shakespeare



WEEKLY EVENTS

(All services at Country Elementary)

Sunday _____

Worship Services at Arise Acres

9:00 am—Traditional Worship

10:00 am—Youth Sunday School

11:00 am—Contemporary Praise Worship

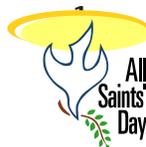
Monday _____

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
October 28 Reformation Sunday	29	30	31 7 pm Building Team	 All Saints' Day	2 10 am TGIF Sisters	3  FALL BACK
4 Holy Communion Sunday 9 am Arise Jammin' Kids practice <i>(daylight savings time ends)</i>	5 7 pm Threads of Faith at Fran Smith's home	6 7 pm Council	7 7 pm Building Team	8	9	10
11 VETERANS DAY 	12	13	14	15	16 10 am TGIF Sisters	17
18 9 am Jammin' Kids practice	19	20	21 7 pm Building Team	22 Thanksgiving 	23 7 pm Euchre Night at Morphew's	24
25	26	27 10 am Newsletter folding	28 7 pm Worship Committee	29	30 10 am TGIF Sisters	December 1

TALENTS NEEDED: Where is God calling you to serve?

Keyboardist at 9 am service;

Audio Video techs at 11 am (will train);

Lead Communion Steward

For more information and to volunteer, see Kevin Griffin.

Thanks from Dorothy Winslow

We can never really let you know how much your help meant when our ceiling fell in, or with wrapping all of the chinaware in the china cabinet and moving the heavy pieces of furniture so we could get around in the house until the repair work could get taken care of. Also for the meals that were so generously brought in for two weeks, so as to take a load off of Judy, and all the other offers of any kind of help we might need during my surgery recuperation. I developed a setback for two weeks that prevented physical therapy. However, the prayers, cards, phone calls, food, plus help from our Heavenly Father have been a big



blessing to us. We'll always be there to help others in their time of need. God bless you all and I can't wait to resume my labor of love at Arise.

*In Christian love, Dorothy Winslow
(Your grateful servant of God)*

New Welcome Display Board!

Ever have times when you can't figure out if you're coming or going? Our new Welcome Display Board will point you in the right direction...to find worship, Sunday School and other goings on within Country Elementary School on Sundays. It also contains church information, and is located on the welcome table in the east lobby.



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Arise Ministry Center
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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.



November Anniversaries

11/2 Paul & Jewell Smith
11/22 Jerry & Vicki Dawson

November Birthdays

11/3 Beth Plachta	11/20 Ben Richards
11/4 Vicki Dawson	11/21 Cindy Morphew
11/10 Austin Bollinger	11/23 Jan Richards
April Flanagan	11/25 Sean Graham

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