

Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



April 2008



Ministers

*Every member
of the Church*

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Don Weatherup

Director of Music

Kevin Griffin

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The Wagners: Rock Solid Faith

It's been quite a faith journey for the Wagners and those who know them recognize that it's no accident that God chose them for this work. As youth leaders at Brighton UMC, Rob and Jen Wagner heard that a new church was being planned for the Hamburg/Pinckney area and they joined SNAX—Saturday Nights Around Christ, a brainstorming group who met in the Hamburg parsonage and developed the concept and the name for Arise Church. Since then, they've seen Arise grow and change into the congregation it is today.

"I want to be sure to say that my parents are phenomenal role models for how to lead a Christian life and be marriage partners and parents," Jen said. "My dad is the most Christ-like person I've ever met and they set the bar pretty high for us kids. In 61 years of marriage, I've never heard them raise their voices to each other or to us." Jen's father was a Middle School principal turned pastor when Jen was in high school. She had three older brothers and was active in church life, teaching Sunday School. Later, as an adult, Jen taught 5th and 6th grades in Dexter Public Schools for 13 years, stopping to become a full-time mom at home with her boys. She's actively involved daily as a school volunteer, but would love to return to teaching if the opportunity arose. Jen is also a self-acclaimed bargain hunter, and thoroughly enjoys shopping for the best deal she can find.

Shortly after leaving her job as a teacher, Jen's faith, strength and endurance, and that of her husband Rob and other family members, was tested to the limit as she battled cancer.

"Seeing all the love and support that was directed to our family with help moving,



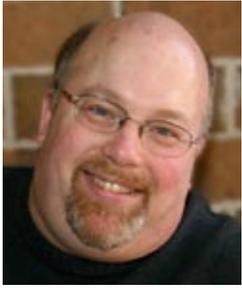
The Wagner family (from left), Wilson, Rob, Myles and Jen

meals, babysitting, cards, transportation to chemo—everything everyone did—it was overwhelming and made me feel so peaceful. Even if the worst happens and the cancer comes back, I know my family will be well taken care of at Arise." It is that faith that has visibly affected those who have heard Jen talk of her ordeal. "People may not have realized it, but those who helped us move were a witness to some of our unchurched family members that day. They've commented that they should find a church like this one. Arise means so much to me—our children feel so at home here. It gives me peace to see Arise coming to fruition like it has." Jen has served as office helper, Nominations Committee member, Membership Secretary, Relay for Life coordinator and co-leader for both VBS and Children's Church.

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Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

Contrary to how you might feel about the Christian faith, the statistics are clear. Christianity around the world is doing quite well. In Africa, South America and in parts of Asia, the Christian faith is growing.

In other parts of the world however, Christianity is declining, including Europe and the United States. The reasons for the decline are many. I

thought it might be helpful to share with you the story of a church that I have heard about that impresses me. I am hoping that the story of this church might motivate all of us.

This church I have heard about is a relatively new church. In spite of the fact that between 70 and 80 percent of new churches fail in the first two years, this church beat the odds and survived. Christians have discovered that starting new churches is far, far more difficult than it might appear. In spite of the many obstacles, this church did it!

Although this church is associated with one of the mainline denominations, it has managed to do something few mainline churches have accomplished and that is to attract attendees of a younger demographic. While the denomination of this church has an average age of 59, this church's average age is 47.

The latest statistics show that the average church in America has 21% of its active membership participating in some kind of small group study, class or gathering for Christian discipleship. This church, however, has nearly doubled that number with 38% of its active membership involved in some kind of small group. This church has a strong sense of the importance of being in community with one another.

This church has also done something that at first may not sound extraordinary, and yet the statistics would prove otherwise. Less than 13% of all churches conduct a building program through self-financing; 87% of churches that build do so by borrowing money. Statistics show that churches that choose not to borrow money to build spend a greater percentage of their annual operating budget on providing ministry in the years that follow. While this church has not completed its building, it is on its way to doing so without going into debt.

While most churches consider themselves friendly and accepting of new people, I think this church is really

accomplishing it. Time and time again when this church asks its attendees what attracted them to this church, the overwhelming response is that it is due to the way the people made them feel welcome. While it is hard to quantify, there is a sense that this church has produced an atmosphere that is inviting and welcoming. It is something not many churches in America are accomplishing week in and week out.

Another thing that has struck me about this particular church is that it has a hunger for helping people who are struggling. Its outreach efforts range from helping local homeless people to ensuring that needy children have school supplies and presents to open at Christmas. This church understands that Christianity is not about us.

Although it was a great sacrifice to accomplish, this church has secured a prime piece of real estate on which to build its new church building. This church looked far enough into the future and had the vision to secure a large piece of property that will provide the church with plenty of room to expand and grow its ministries for decades to come.

This church also has a very solid group of lay leadership. This church has an abundance of very dedicated, intelligent, energetic, talented and very passionate leaders who readily volunteer their time with one goal in mind, to help others meet Christ.

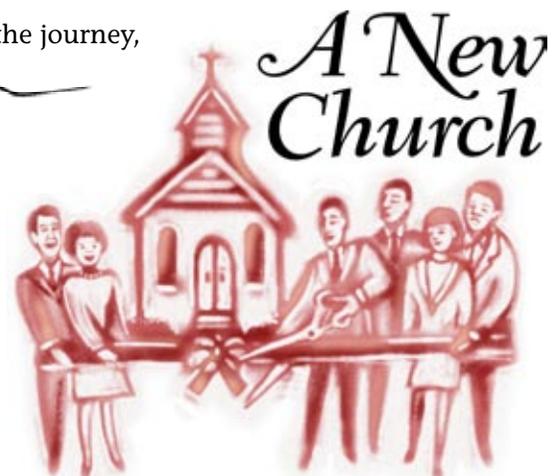
If your dream is that Arise Church would be a church like this one, then your prayers have been answered, my friend! Because the church I am referring to is Arise United Methodist Church.

Sometimes we want so much for things to be even better than they are that we forget what we are accomplishing today.

Praise God!

With you on the journey,

Don



Church Music: Where Did It Come From?

By Kevin Griffin

As the congregation takes its seat after singing an old favorite out of the United Methodist Hymnal, someone pauses to think about the song sung and the other 600 or so songs in the hymnal. When was it written? Why does the music and melody sound the way it does? It doesn't sound like some of the older hymns... Does any other church sing the same song?

To start with, many of the songs contained within the United Methodist Hymnal can be classified into two musical categories; hymns and gospel songs. Ah, but what makes a song a hymn or a gospel song? I'm glad you asked.

Hymns, as we've come to know them, were written starting with the Reformation in the 1500's and found their heyday of composition in the 1700's and 1800's. Some early hymns were based on the psalms and a whole music genre called "Psalmody" was created. As the years went by, original hymns were written by pastors who were seminary trained, and these songs contained doctrinal themes to fit the message of the sermon. Hymns of this era can be categorized as containing lofty thoughts about the nature of God and salvation with equally grandiose music to convey the message. An early example would be "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God". As hymn writing progressed into the early 1800's, the Romantic Movement was an influence and

hymn tunes, such as used for "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee", were written with a warmer music feel and with texts pertaining to God's relationship with us.

The literary style of a hymn is that of poetry, and not just any poetry, but that which follows strict lines of rhyme and meter. (Meter is the number of syllables in a phrase or line of poetry.) The first hymn tunes, the actual music we sing to, were also set to certain meters of poetry. Thus, one song's words could be sung to a variety of tunes if the meter was a match. An example of this is the ability to sing "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" to any of 25 different tunes found in our hymnal. One commonly known alternate melody would be "Amazing Grace". Try it sometime and see!

Next time, we'll look at the history of Gospel songs and also how the two styles are distinct from each other.



Worship Center Update



While the exterior of our new in-progress Worship Center hasn't changed this winter, work has continued on the inside. The latest news is that we passed our rough inspection on the classroom addition. We've started to install insulation in this area and then

the next big project will be pouring the cement for the sanctuary floor. Anyone who can help install insulation in the ceiling or prep the floor for cement, contact Brad Topp or Beth Plachta, volunteer coordinators.

Correction

In the March Issue of Connections, the Church News article on the music survey (p. 3) referenced the Worship Committee members as Rev. Don Weatherup, Beth Plachta, Evva Funk, Laurie Russell and Anita Pagano. As Director of Music, Kevin Griffin is, of course, an important member of this committee. Our apologies for this omission, Kevin!

—Don

The Wagners... continued from pg. 1

Rob, by his own admission, is a quiet guy. Quiet, maybe, but not shy and retiring. He and buddy Steve Bollinger are mountain biking enthusiasts and enjoy that sport together. Rob also coaches his sons' baseball teams, runs to keep in shape, likes to play with his boys and spend time with his family. Growing up, Rob was the sole male in a family of girls—he has numerous sisters. Churches of his youth include both the United Brethren and Baptist. "Then I met Jen in high school when I was 16 and started attending the United Methodist Church with her—with her father as the pastor. It's at that point that I turned to Christ." As a civil engineer, Rob performed the land development and site work for the new Arise Worship Center. In addition, he has helped with construction of the building, served on the Arise Moving Team since the beginning, led the C.R.O.P. Walk effort for 10 years and just completed a term as

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Feeding Our Bodies, Feeding Our Souls

On March 8th Arise UMC and Community Congregational UCC held a joint women's retreat at John Holden's beautiful log home in Lakeland. As is apparent in the photos, it was a rich and fulfilling day for all 40 women who attended. Pastor Lynn Martin spoke about feeding our souls through spiritual growth and balance. Carol Tribble discussed women's retreats through the ages. Guest chef JoAnna DeCamp directed the group in preparing a tasty lunch of Italian dishes. JoAnna then spoke about the sense of community and communion that women create through food, surroundings and care. Sherry Graham closed the day with Bible-based reflections on the roles women play. Beth Plachta summed up the day by commenting that the Holy Spirit was evident throughout, as the theme of "Seek and ye shall find" played out throughout the planning and participation, including John's gracious willingness to host. Thanks to all who created a special and memorable day of growth and fellowship!



FOCUS ON PEOPLE



ASK &
it will be given to you;
SEEK &
you will find;
KNOCK &
the door will be opened to you.
Matthew 7:7



REACH-ing Out!

By Ron Fike

The February REACH program mission was a great success. 13 persons were assisted, including 11 men and 2 women. Most of the homeless took advantage of the free coats, hats, and gloves provided. Although the Community Congregational kitchen was being remodeled, the food bringers were able to use crock pots and slow cookers to get the food prepared. The Arise team rubbed elbows with the participants during the meal, and lots of friendly conversations occurred during the night. The participants were very appreciative. Duane Haines went above and beyond the call and drove home to get some equipment so that he could help one of the participants who needed a flat tire changed. After dinner, we all enjoyed ice cream sundaes together, courtesy of Evva Funk. The Missions team sincerely thanks everyone who volunteered their time and efforts to make this good work possible.



Relay for Life: May 16th & 17th

By Jen Wagner

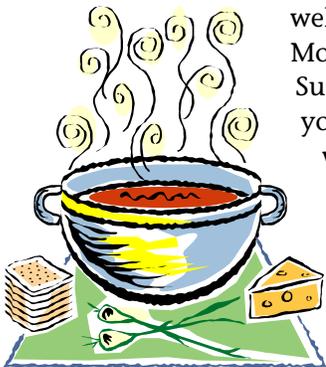
The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life will be held May 16 and 17 at the Brighton High School track. Arise has a team and needs walkers/sponsors and refreshment donations. At our January Relay kick-off meeting we were encouraged to dedicate this relay to someone special who has been affected by cancer. For me, this relay is for my friend, Kerry Vitick. Kerry was taken from her husband, Jason, and sons, Joey (6) and Jack (2), last Memorial Day weekend after just a few months of battling non-smoker lung cancer. I think about her boys every day when I volunteer in my boys' classrooms, make them dinner, take them to their games, give them their baths, and read them bedtime stories. It's not fair! Please, please support the American Cancer Society.



God Squad sponsors Haiti Café, April 27th

The Arise Youth Group "The God Squad" will be sponsoring a "Haiti Luncheon Cafe" on Sunday, April 27th between and after worship services until 12:30pm. The youth will be selling homemade soup, bread, desserts and beverages to raise money for the UMC Global Ministries Haiti Hot-Lunch Program. This program serves primary school children by providing a hot meal while at school. For some children, this is their most fulfilling, nutritious meal of the day.

Please plan on enjoying a healthy, tasty meal while supporting this important ministry. We will have soup available by the pint/quart as well as bread and desserts to go. More details will follow in the Sunday bulletins. Thank you for your support of the Arise youth who are growing in God and committed to a life in Christ by serving others.



The Wagner's... continued from pg. 3

Church Treasurer. When asked what he loves most about Arise, he answered, "Well, there are the people, of course. Other than that, all I can say is that the Spirit moves me to be at Arise. There is no question that I'm supposed to be here and serve."

The Wagner's oldest son, Wilson, is 8, and in 3rd grade. His favorite thing about Arise is Kids' Club. He also likes VBS and is active in the Relay for Life effort; he has done laps with his family and also walked the 6 mile C.R.O.P Walk adult route with his dad. Wilson also enjoys basketball, baseball and soccer.

Myles, 7, attends 1st grade in a 1st and 2nd grade split classroom, doing work at both grade levels. In addition to walking the 1 mile C.R.O.P Walk route with his mom, soccer is his game. He also subbed for his big brother in basketball and scored points in a free throw shoot out. Myles is very social and enjoys bringing church friends home with him to play on Sunday. VBS is his favorite Arise activity.

Thank you, Wagner family, for everything you do for God through Arise Church! You are an inspiration to many.

APRIL 2008 CALENDAR



Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything that is beautiful, for beauty is God's handwriting — a wayside sacrament. Welcome it in every fair face, in every fair sky, in every flower, and thank God for it as a cup of blessing.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

WEEKLY EVENTS

(All services at Country Elementary)

Sunday

Worship Services at Arise Acres
 9:00 am
 Traditional Worship
 10:00 am
 Youth Sunday School
 10:00 am
 Youth Life Team
 11:00 am
 Contemporary Praise Worship

Monday

7:00 – 9:00 pm
 Men's Huddle at Morpheus' (contact Lance Korzilius)
 7:00 pm
 Divorce Recovery

Wednesday

7:00 pm
 Wednesday Night Bible Study

Special thanks to Pinckney Chrysler and Zukey Lake Tavern

Special thanks from TGIF Sisters to Pinckney Chrysler, for making a 4-wheel drive van available for our Women's Retreat on March 8th, and to Zukey Lake Tavern, for allowing us to park there for van shuttle service. We appreciate the special consideration of these fine local establishments.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
March 30 4 PM The God Squad	31	April 1 7 pm Church Council	2 7 pm Building Team	3	4 10 am TGIF Sisters	5
6 Holy Communion Sunday	7	8 8 pm SPRC	9	10	11	12
13 4 pm The God Squad	14 7 pm Threads of Faith	15	16 7 pm Building Team	17	18 10 am TGIF Sisters	19
20	21	22	23 Administrative Professionals Day	24	25	26
27 4 pm The God Squad	28	29 Primitimers Newsletter Folding	30 7 pm Worship Committee	1 World Day of Prayer	2 10 am TGIF Sisters	3

VBS 2008: God's Big Backyard

By Jen Wagner

Please mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School on **August 11-15**.

This year's theme is serving in "God's Big Backyard."

We will focus on serving family, friends, neighbors, community, and Jesus. The neat thing is you can cover all of these service areas by volunteering for VBS! Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."





UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Arise Ministry Center
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If you wish to be removed from our newsletter mailing list, please return this mailing panel to us. Thank you.



April Anniversaries

4/30 Tom & Debbie Short

April Birthdays

4/3 Daphney Weatherup
4/6 Cheryl Bollinger
4/10 Don Fuller

4/20 Dan Guyon
4/27 Ron Fike
4/29 Tom Terhune

ARISE NEWSLETTER TEAM

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

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