

# Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



May 2008

## Steve & Tina Cary: It's got to be fun!



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*Every member  
of the Church*

### Pastor

*Don Weatherup*

### Director of Music

*Kevin Griffin*

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Anyone who has seen Steve Cary working the AV, acting in skits or kidding around knows that faith, for him, has got to be fun. "Tina and I both believe in joyful worship. If it's not fun and laughing and happy, we're missing the point. (Although they both admitted that the week of Easter Services was a humbling experience.)" Of the two, Tina is clearly the less extroverted of the couple. They married 19 years ago, six months and one day following their first date. "I asked her to marry me after three weeks and we spent our honeymoon at Cedar Point because we wanted to start our life together with fun and laughs; that and the fact we were so poor we couldn't afford to pay attention." Tina adds, "I'm his anchor and he's my wings." Their family consists of two children from Steve's previous marriage, Steve (23) and Angela (22). Both are seniors at Central Michigan University, where he is studying entrepreneurial business and she is pursuing secondary teaching.

Steve and Tina began attending worship last year and joined Arise UMC in December 2007. They have lived in Pinckney since 1997

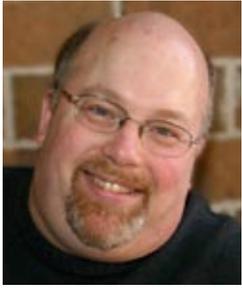
and attended St. Mary's Catholic Church, as their children were being raised Catholic and attended school at Lansing Catholic Central. "We didn't want to confuse the kids by any discrepancies between the two faiths." Prior to that, they tried several churches. Steve felt immediately at home the first time he attended Arise; "I walked into the barn in August, sat down, heard Don and have been back ever since. It was about comfort; I just belonged...like putting on an old sweater or pair of jeans; it just fit." He asked Tina, who wasn't baptized at the time, to join him. "It was just great! Everyone was so nice and welcoming." When she decided to become a Christian, she was baptized and joined the church on the same day, much to the surprise of some family members who do not attend church. She explained that there had been a tragedy where she lost a sibling when she was 3; therefore the family was angry at God. "When I spoke to Pastor Don about this he became thoughtful and said, "God was grieving along with my family and that He, too, shed tears over such a terrible loss". Of all the things he could have said, those words have given me more comfort than anything else in over 40 years". She knew about Jesus, believed and prayed, but was very apprehensive when she told her family about joining Arise. "They were shocked because we hadn't talked about going to church, but they supported me."

Both Steve and Tina commented at length about the welcoming environment and lack of judgment that they experienced at Arise. Tina, especially, felt "ignorant" of church

*continued on pg. 5*



## Pastor's Column



**Pastor Don Weatherup**

One of my jobs as your pastor is head cheerleader. What I had hoped to accomplish in last month's pastor's page is to hold before the congregation our successes because it is so easy to get discouraged. In life, sometimes even when things are going well, we seem to focus on the negative.

Last night I read an internet article about a cell phone manufacturer

and the headline read, "Profit Plummets on Disappointing Earnings." Being curious, I wanted to find out more about this terrible news. In reading the article I learned that the profit for this company was 25% higher than the year before. 25 percent! Pretty good right? Profits for the quarter were 1.2 Billion. Not million, but billion! I thought to myself, only in America can we turn that into bad news.

Sometimes I feel like we work awfully hard at taking things for granted. Maybe it's why we get reminders in the Psalms like this; "Human life is but a breath."

In this kind of culture, its no wonder that we find ourselves feeling disappointed more than we find ourselves content.

I know I risk sounding like a broken record, but the Holy Spirit won't let go of this topic in my mind. The Holy Spirit reminds me frequently about the importance of being thankful for what we do have. Every time I look from my office window in the Ministry Center and see our building, I am reminded at what a great accomplishment it is! Countless hours of personal sacrifice and hard work have gone into our new building. Many of you have sacrificed your time and your money to make it a reality. And then to realize that when it is done it will be ours, all ours! Not a bank, but ours! Well, that's just very tasty icing on the cake!

The people working on the building have indicated that we're coming around the last curve and will soon be on the homestretch. Granted, it's a long homestretch but soon we'll be on the homestretch.

In the classroom section we are finishing up the insulation and that means we are not too far from drywall going up. In the sanctuary we'll soon be pouring the cement floor, which will be followed by interior walls, insulation and then drywall. Of course, there are still other big tasks ahead like the septic system, finishing the exterior, installing doorways and the glass enclosed main entrance, just to name a few.

We're not ready to order the invitations to the grand opening just yet, but we're a whole lot closer than we were last year at this time. And, we are at least 2 years ahead of the original schedule. It really is an exciting time. I hope you're excited. And, I hope you are proud of what we are accomplishing together.

Without a doubt, one of the best parts about this project is the camaraderie and the fun that accompanies every workday on the project. Every single time I've been able to help, I have left saying to myself, "that was very enjoyable!"

We're at a point in the project where we're making decisions about things and realizing that those decisions will need to be lived with for years and years to come. The reality of the decades of positive impact this building will have on Arise Church is starting to hit home.

The building is only a tool for ministry. The people are, and always will be, the church. And yet, it will be a wonderful tool to have. The most exciting part about our building is what will happen IN the building. People will meet Christ. Children and youth will learn about God's love. Needs will be met. Hope will be found. Light will shine in the darkness and Christ will be praised!

It will all happen because you are giving of your time, your treasure and your talents. The more we give, the more we will be blessed, and we will be a blessing to others.

With you on the journey,

Rev. Don Weatherup



# Church Music: The Gospel Song

By Kevin Griffin (Second in a series)



This month we will continue our look into church music history by covering a uniquely American product; the Gospel song. The setting is America in the early 1800's as the U.S. frontier went west. And with it, rapid church expansion with few resources for hymn books and a lack of classically trained musicians, all of which required a different style of "church" music.

What came about were songs that almost always included a repeated chorus or refrain with every verse. Thus, songs could be sung in a responsive style where the music leader would sing out the verse and the congregation would sing the refrain. This allowed people to sing along without having to memorize the whole song nor did they need hymn books. (Remember, no video projection existed in the 1800's).

Another aspect of a gospel song is its uncomplicated music. Simple harmonies and few chord changes were trademarks of American folk and gospel music. This meant that songs could be accompanied by a guitar or fiddle in place of an organ, or easily sung a cappella if necessary. After all, there were far more informally trained amateur pickers and fiddlers than classically trained professional organists in the wildwood of 19th century America.

The lyrical content focused on personal experience, and was especially evangelistic in nature. That is, in calling the singer to be saved. Gospel songs were often written by "music directors" for Sunday Schools, which at this time included adults as much as children, and for camp meetings; both of which were also unique American phenomena.

A quick, general overview of the distinctions between hymns and gospel tunes might go like this:

1. Poetically, gospel tunes almost always include a repeated refrain with each verse while a hymn doesn't have repeated choruses or refrains.
2. Musically, hymns are far more complex in their harmonies and chord patterns. It's common for a hymn tune to change chords three or more times in a measure of music. Gospel songs are far simpler in their harmonies and chord patterns with changes only happening once per measure or even less frequently.
3. Regarding content, a hymn declares some aspect of God, Jesus, and His nature while a gospel song relates the personal relationship between God and humanity.

Compare the songs "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" with "Nothing but the Blood" as an example of these three differences.

## Liberia Relief Kits: A Worthy Mission



*"UMCOR's mission is to alleviate human suffering—whether caused by war, conflict, or natural disaster—with open minds and hearts to all people."*

We shop the white sales in

January and school supply sales in August to fill as many mission relief kits as possible, but who really gets those supplies? I did a little "web surfing" to find out...

Liberia is a desperately poor country on the Atlantic coast of the African continent. Years of political unrest have left many without the basics of shelter, water and food. Health, hygiene and education are in desperate need. Liberia is one of the places Sager Brown, the United Methodist Committee on Relief's disaster response center, provides relief supplies.

Priority is given to programs that have an in-kind obligation. Within each program, beneficiaries are identified

based on vulnerability and need. UMCOR selects beneficiaries within the refugees, returnees, Internally Displaced People (IDPs), asylums, orphans, children from institutions/boarding schools, and the elderly and disabled communities.

So, Liberia is desperate, how do I know that my supplies really reach those in need?

Once donated goods are received overseas, UMCOR staff clear the shipment from customs and transport it to UMCOR warehouses. From the warehouses, commodities are transported to institutions and facilities for distribution to selected beneficiaries based on a distribution plan. (UMCOR Sager Brown website)

The Arise Church family has provided hundreds of kits to people in Liberia and Haiti; a worthy effort that has meant so much. Thank you.

*Laura Bowen,  
Arise Missions Co-chairperson*

Alleluia!

*'Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done.*

*Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts. Glory in His Holy Name. Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.'*

Psalm 105: 1-3 NIV



*We also give thanks to the musicians, singers, pastor and many ministers at Arise who contributed their talents to the Easter week celebrations!*





**Steve & Tina Cary... continued from pg. 1**

traditions and teachings, a feeling that had caused her to feel excluded in other churches. But not at Arise! "To this day, Sunday mornings are the best time of the week!"

Steve is part owner of two companies. He is the Operations Manager at a medical equipment and financial consultant for a supply chain management (Jefferson Diversified Group and EM Services). His degree is in accounting. Tina works full time at Busch's as General Merchandise/Health & Beauty Care Manager and is also part of the accounting team. They are big supporters of the Humane Society and have adopted or rescued all of the pets they've ever had. They currently have two large dogs and a "fat cat, who thinks he's a dog, too!"

Although they are new to Arise they are already actively involved. Steve sings tenor in the choir ("although I'm normally a baritone") and is on the AV and drama teams. "Singing makes me feel the Holy Spirit; I feel as close to God as I ever do in my life." Steve is also very pleased to be involved as a chaperone for the homeless. Although he did not think he had any preconceived notions about the homeless, he realized that he must have, because the first time he served, he found out quickly that they are no more or less than our neighbors, family, and friends. Tina helps with the Kid's Club and the Barn Sale. They both participated in the recent marriage classes led by Pastor Don and Shelley. "We learned so much about the other couples...just how similar we all are. It helped us to relax and open up to others." They also bowl with the Morpheus's league, and have been active members of the American Legion. "At Arise it's not the church, it's the Holy Spirit. People say thank you, we appreciate it!"

Not surprisingly, Steve's message to all of us at Arise is "lighten up! Humor applies to everything. I've had problems, but I refuse to stop laughing." And laughter is contagious, as anyone who knows Steve can attest.



# The Music That Connects Us

By Beth Plachta

It's safe to say that people of faith find sacred music to be alternately uplifting, energizing, inspirational and, at times, comforting. As someone who strongly connects with contemporary Christian praise music, there are still times when I realize just how much I truly love the old, traditional hymns, too.

One of these moments occurred when I recently accompanied my mother, a resident of Towsley Village, the Alzheimer's unit at Chelsea Retirement Center, to a hymn sing in a small chapel down the hall. There was something very poignant about being in an intimate group of seniors, many in wheelchairs, some with their children present, like me, singing songs that I've enjoyed since childhood: Blessed Assurance, Shall We Gather at the River, Leaning on the Everlasting Arms. I must admit, I got misty-eyed as memories of my grandmother and her love of these old-timey gospel songs flooded my mind. But was it a coincidence that there were more than a few songs that evoked images of death and dying? The last song was Nearer My God, To Thee. Of course, some of these residents aren't that far away from being very near, indeed.

But, to me, there was something more to the experience than just feeling sentimental. It was downright inspiring. These elders are truly survivors. They live in a locked memory unit. Some don't know their children's names any longer or see them very often. Their health is waning; both physical and mental. They've lost spouses, their homes, their ability to drive and make their own decisions—to be independent human beings—all things we take for granted. And yet here they were, enthusiastically clapping hands, tapping feet and singing praises to God, often not

needing to look at the music (which, in my mother's case is a blessing, since who knows where her glasses are anymore), knowing the words and tunes by heart—and we sang at least 20 songs. Some, who couldn't sing, mouthed the words silently or nodded their heads to keep time.

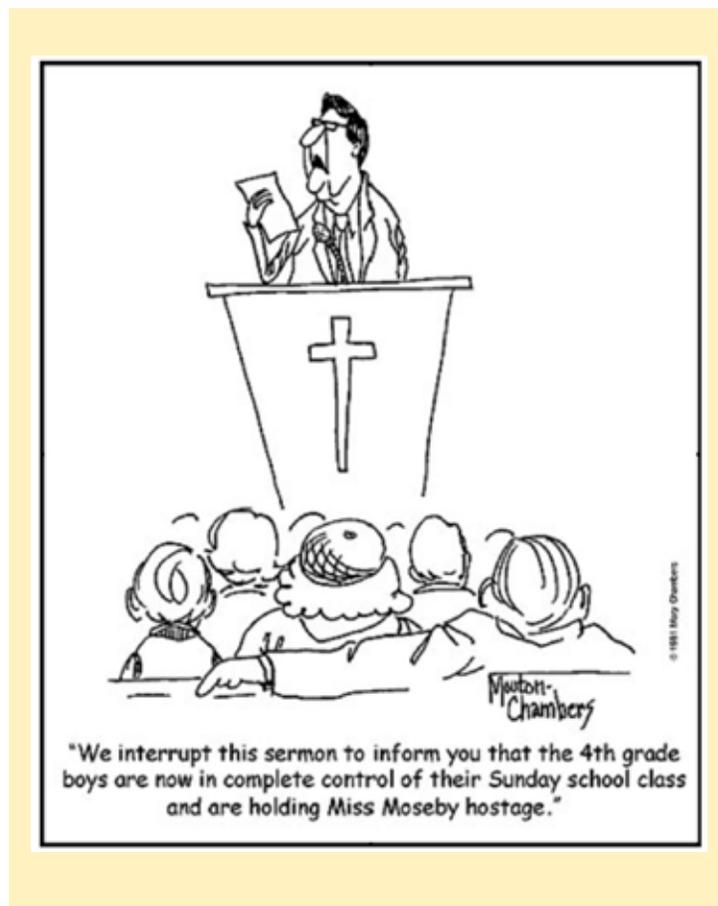


How do they remember songs, but not their loved ones? It's an amazing thing to witness.

One lady in the front row ahead of me would forget to turn the page, and her friend, who sat to my right, kept prompting her in a loud stage whisper, "Rose, we're on page 6 now", but to no avail. Finally, the song leader kept an eye on her and often traded his songbook, turned to the correct page, for hers—never missing a beat.

Another thing I found quite refreshing, was that no one seemed to mind mistakes. They sang for the fun of it. If someone started a verse a little early or lagged behind, no one seemed to notice. It was a pretty fun way to sing church music, I've got to say. Nobody cared what your voice sounded like. But as a group, in that small chapel, somehow we sounded amazing and I'm sure, listening, God agreed.

Now that my mother's memory is in decline, she often greets me with "I went to church today and had a lovely time," regardless of the day of the week. To her, every day is Sunday. And, seeing her sing those hymns with such joy, what's so bad about that? So, I've decided—I'm going to go to the hymn sing more often—and make more of my days Sunday, too. And I'll enjoy the music—God's special gift that can be enjoyed for a lifetime.



# MAY 2008 CALENDAR



*God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers.*

—Jewish Proverb



## 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's (contact Lance Korzilius)  
 7:00 pm  
 Divorce Recovery

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

7:00 pm  
 Wednesday Night Bible Study

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
April 27	28	29	30 7 pm Building Team	1 National Day of Prayer	2 10 am TGIF Sisters	3
4 Holy Communion 11 am God's Kids Rehearsal	5	6 7 pm Church Council	7	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day Pentecost 4 pm The God Squad	12 7 pm Threads of Faith	13 7pm SPRC	14 7 pm Building Team	15 Detroit Annual Conference	16 Detroit Annual Conference 10 am TGIF Sisters 7pm Relay for Life Begins	17 Detroit Annual Conference 7pm Relay for Life Begins
18 Detroit Annual Conference	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 11 am God's Kids Rehearsal 4 pm The God Squad	26 Memorial Day	27 Primetimers Newsletter Folding	28 7 pm Worship Committee	29 National Day of Prayer	30 10 am TGIF Sisters	31

## Hold the dates!

Vacation Bible School will be August 11-15. This year's theme is serving in "God's Big Backyard."



## YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!

We are in the process of improving our identification of gifts, talent and experience of individuals in the Arise family. If you would like to be considered for needs in one of the Arise ministries, contact—

Pastor Don: 734-878-1928,  
 arise@arisechurch.org

or

April Flanagan: 810-231-3875,  
 aprilflanagan@cs.com



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### May Anniversaries

5/5 Bob & Joyce Barnard  
5/12 Mark & Barbara Wood  
5/21 Ron & Gayle Fike  
5/22 Kevin & Diane Griffin

### May Birthdays

5/2 Emily Scott	5/19 Diane Griffin
5/3 Leah Sherry	5/20 Dave Russell
5/10 Dorothy Winslow	5/21 Joe Morphey
5/11 Paul Smith	5/25 Kahlin Dawson Kevin Griffin
5/15 Pat Sliter	5/26 Jared Bollinger
5/17 Ben Germain	
5/18 Rob Wagner	

#### ARISE NEWSLETTER TEAM

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*Thanks to all who contribute;  
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feedback and suggestions!*

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