

Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



September 2008

Sherry Graham: Running on Faith

On June 1, 2008 Sherry Graham ran 26 miles in a San Diego marathon to raise money for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Not bad for a woman who was overweight with bad knees only three years ago. If you'd asked her then if she could have done it, she would have said "No way!" But first she lost 52 pounds; then she began training, started a focused program to overcome previous knee injuries, and raised the funds to do it!

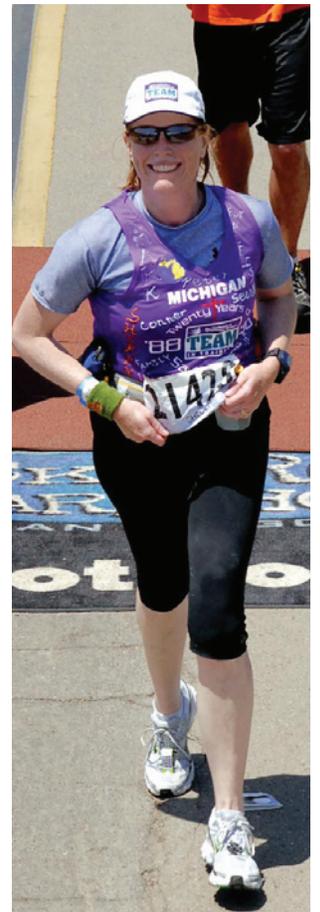
"When I first started, I had a realization that I could do it, was called to do it, although I didn't realize what that meant... releasing myself so much more to the Holy Spirit and God and praying, and not getting caught up in my own mind. I wasn't sure about my knees or that I could raise the \$3500 required. The money went largely to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. At a certain point I said, 'I can do this; it's going to work out; this is what God wants me to do.' There was a peace that came in all of that." Sherry didn't know how she would do it, but moved forward nonetheless. "I had faith and pictured putting it at Jesus' feet. I pictured that a lot...putting it at his feet. And I had to use my feet. It was a total release!"

After seeing her dad have a stroke and realizing it was getting harder for her to climb stairs, she decided to go to Weight Watchers three years ago. Then Jan Richards asked if she had ever considered running and doing a marathon, and the training began. "I didn't know with my knees...didn't know I could do anything like this...run at all... and then to be doing this and have a coach looking at me to see how I was doing it. He noticed I ran weird. My feet turned on the outside. He hooked me up with another one of the team's coaches who was an exercise physiologist in Brighton, who's in a Christian

running group." He looked at her gait and worked with her to do exercises that changed her knees' physiology, so she could run without pain. "I prayed, 'Lord, if you want me to do this I'll do this, but it's in your hands. I'll listen to my body and do what I need to do.'" Slowly, she built up her muscles.

Running in a marathon was a dream Sherry had had all of her life. "It was about overcoming fear...fulfilling the dream of wanting to be an athlete. There was a real 'ah ha' moment when I realized that things were aligned. I was always open to the Holy Spirit, but I was overwhelmed at first, trying to understand all that was involved. Then I began to see that things were moving, and I knew it was going to work out."

When she started, Sherry didn't think of this as a ministry. But she had to raise money through bucket drives and personal contacts. "People would come to talk to me. We talked about the physical side of it... how God wants us to take care of our bodies. People shared their stories about dealing with cancer. We talked about faith. It became a one minute ministry."



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*Every member
of the Church*

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September

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Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

Any parent who has taken a long car ride has certainly heard the infamous four-word question a thousand times – “ARE WE THERE YET?” And any pastor whose church has been involved in a building project has heard the same question. Although, not quite a thousand times. And the question varies a little. It becomes—“When are we getting into the new building?”

And the short answer of course is, “When it’s done.”

I know... I know. WHEN will it be done?

As of mid-August here is my understanding of where we are.

- All of the rough carpentry work is done. Yea!!
- The electricians have some conduit to run in what will be our temporary sanctuary. I say temporary to remind us all that this is just phase 1 of a 3-phase plan. The temporary sanctuary will some day become our youth facility.
- The heating and cooling folks have a little bit of ductwork to finish and the last of three furnaces needs to be fully installed.
- The temporary sanctuary needs insulation installed in the walls and ceiling. This will be one of the largest and most time consuming jobs left for Arise volunteers to help with.
- The large glass windows and doors of the main entrance (like a store front) need to be installed, as well as four other doors.
- The six wood columns on the south side of the building need a stone facing put on them.
- Four exterior gables need to be sided. This was started by our Arise volunteers and will be finished by contractors.
- The water well needs to be drilled and is connected to the building.

- The septic system needs to be installed.
- The drywall needs to be hung, mudded and taped.
- The flooring needs to be finished.
- The counters, cabinetry, sinks, toilets and mirrors need to be installed.
- The interior painting and finish work needs to be completed.
- Sidewalk, porches and steps need to be poured.

While that is not an all-inclusive list by any means, this is the status of the basic items. So... NOW... WHEN will we be in the new building?

That depends on if anything unforeseen comes up with the items above that would cause a delay. And it also depends on whether we have enough money on hand to complete the project.

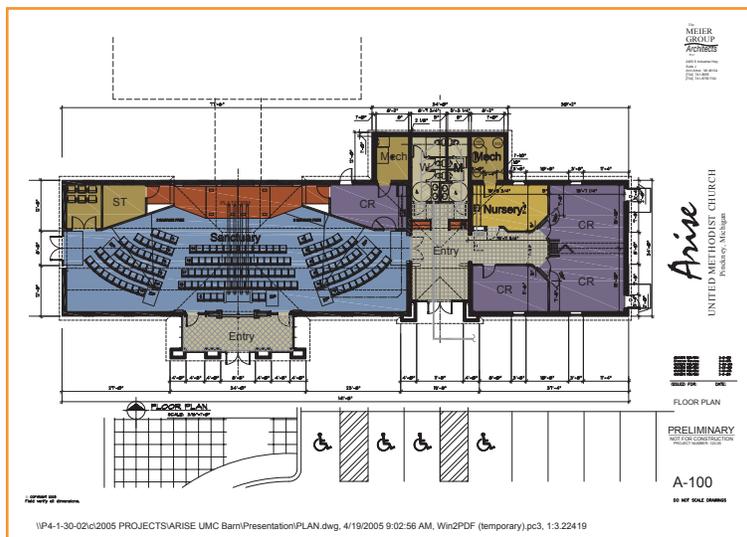
So... WHEN will we be in the new building?

It is the great desire and goal of the Building Team to be in the new building during the year 2009. They believe the building could be completed by the end of 2008, if enough funds are available. The Building Team is working now to determine how much more money will be needed before it can be completed.

Those of us who are getting impatient need to remember that when the Building Committee started talking about building Phase 1, it was estimated that it would take 6-7 years to raise the funds and complete Phase 1. The plan was finalized in the end of 2004, the ground breaking ceremony was June 12, 2005 and work began in March 2006. The original timeline was that the new building would be

completed at the earliest in 2010 and likely it would be 2011. That means by the grace of God we are at a minimum TWO YEARS ahead of schedule. That is worth remembering and celebrating!!

The Bible tells us to look for telltale signs that a person has a mature faith. They are referred to as “the fruit of the Spirit”. (Ch. 5, Galatians). This is evidence that a person has the Spirit of God working in them



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Learning to Serve

Take ten adults, twelve youth, three days of community service work and a fun two day trip and what do you have? The 2008 Arise Mission Day Camp, of course! Led by Youth Leader Vicki Dawson, the Arise contingent participated in a variety of interesting activities in service to others and ended with an overnight campout at Cedar Point.

Day one was a trip to the local Howell Nature Center, where the team cleaned up the ponds and waterfalls, scrubbed the rocks, cleaned out animal cages and planted flowers.

Some of the boys cleaned out the vulture cages, too. Lindsey Selvig and



Elly Sherry confirmed that this was their favorite work activity of the week. Both girls admit to being big animal lovers, so it was a natural fit for them. Penny Dunlap was one of the



adults who worked side by side with the youth at this event. "I worked a lot with Carly (Gannon), who was especially helpful," she said. "Despite all the work, the kids still got to have some fun that day. I was so impressed with Vicki and how this whole thing came together." At the end of the day, back at Arise Acres, the kids had an impromptu game of volleyball, despite the pouring rain.

On Tuesday, the team worked hard around the parsonage grounds, planted new flowers, cleaned up brush and generally spruced things up a bit. "We want to encourage the congregation to stop by and look at how nice it looks," Vicki said

proudly. "The kids worked so hard last week—it was amazing!"

On Wednesday, the group traveled to Flint, where they had the opportunity to work at a homeless shelter. Austin Bollinger said that was the only work day he could attend, but commented, "It was a lot nicer than I thought it would be. They do a good job there." His brother C.J. attended all of the work days and shared, "I loved it all, especially being together with all of the youth. At the shelter, we made 60 beds!" Other youth made up bags of personal hygiene items for residents, vacuumed and cleaned bathrooms. Don and Mary Ann Mathis were chaperones for this trip and Mary Ann commented, "The shelter was very well organized and clean and is run by donations. The kids were great—very helpful. There was a speaker who talked to the kids about avoiding drugs and making Christ a part of your life." No doubt, this was an experience both youth and adults will remember for a long time.

After the busy work week, the Arise team headed to Cedar Point for a time of fun and recreation. At



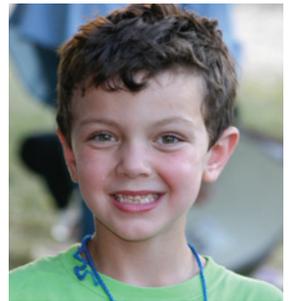
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2008 VBS Smash Success!

Almost 60 kids attended Vacation Bible School at Arise Church, enjoying the activities of God's Big Back Yard. Highlights included: Steve and Tina Carey getting soaked in the water balloon contest (Monday & Friday); Nelson and his animal pals... a tortoise, wallaby, tarantula, scorpion, flying squirrel, chinchilla and milk snake (Tuesday); Micki Baumgart's presentation on the American sign language for the hearing impaired (Wednesday); Karen Vaden and Cindy Loo, the therapy dog (Thursday); and handmade piñatas by Brenda Whalen, back by popular demand (Friday). Thanks to co-chairs Vicki Dawson and Jen Wagner and the many helpers throughout the week, among them Duane and Barb Haines and their crafts activities, Bev Selvig for time and financial support, and Barb Stafford, resident Arise storyteller. Well done, everyone!!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2008



... Running on Faith *continued from pg. 1*

Sherry ran the 26 mile marathon in 6 hours and 6 minutes, cheered on by the crowd and assisted by Coach Rick from Pinckney, who “ran each of us up the hill” as a companion and cheerleader when energy flagged. Afterward there was a big celebration, with music and dancing. “I was jumping and dancing; shin splint and all.”

Reflecting on the experience, Sherry added, “I got to go to San Diego, which was kind of cool because I was born there. I got there and went on this trolley to the expo center where the functions were, and saw the avenue with the hospital where I was born. Things are coming full circle. The value is my independence...knowing I can achieve almost anything, with faith, if I put my mind to it. It’s really just knowing that I can.”

There’s no question you can, Sherry. Congratulations!

(Note: Along the way, Sherry shared a number of Christian connections. Read about them in the next issue of Connections.)

Pastor’s Column *continued from pg. 2*

as a believer in Christ. The Bible tells us one of those evidences is – are you ready? – patience. Awwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwww! I know. I fight it too.

My best advice is to persevere. Keep doing what you are doing. Give. Volunteer. Pray. And especially encourage those on the front line of this project. (Mark Wood, Matt Plachta, Brad Topp, Bob Whalen, Jerry Dawson, Jack Dunlap, just to name a few). Take heart. We are cresting the hill to the long awaited promise land. And the moving team is licking their chops!

We are already beginning to think about what we will put into our new building. New chairs? New tables? New altar? Wall hangings? And of course, just like the building, that too will happen through your continued faithful giving to the Building Fund.

Stay the course, friends. We are almost there! God is faithful. All the time!

With you on the journey,

Learning to Serve *continued from pg. 3*

“base camp” in their camper were Duane and Barb Haines. “We stayed there while everyone was in the park, in case anyone needed to come back for some reason,” said Barb. “Our granddaughter Shannon and her friend Alley (Antonian) had a marvelous experience at the Mission Day Camp. They really performed work that was helpful to people and one cool part was that some of the kids became good friends with others who they hadn’t known too well before that. I heard Alley say, “I’d come to this church and be very happy here.” The next Sunday she was in worship with her mother and brother. Vicki summed it up enthusiastically, “The week was fabulous and we had a blast at Cedar Point!”

The other adults who helped during the week were Kahlin Dawson, Casey Tankka, Donna Terhune, and Pastor Don Weatherup. Additional youth who attended were Nathan Shilling, Shreya Gable,

Olivia Dawson, Tyler Tankka, Mary Teachout, Chris Gannon and Ellen Russell. Thanks to everyone who participated or helped in any way to make this a memorable experience for all involved!





You can teach students a lesson for a day; but if you can get them to learn by creating curiosity, they will continue the learning process as long as they live.

—Clay P. Bedford

WEEKLY EVENTS

(All services at Arise Acres)

Sunday _____

Worship Service at Arise Acres

9:30 am Blended Service

Monday _____

7:00 pm Divorce Recovery

Wednesday _____

7:00 pm Wednesday Night Bible Study

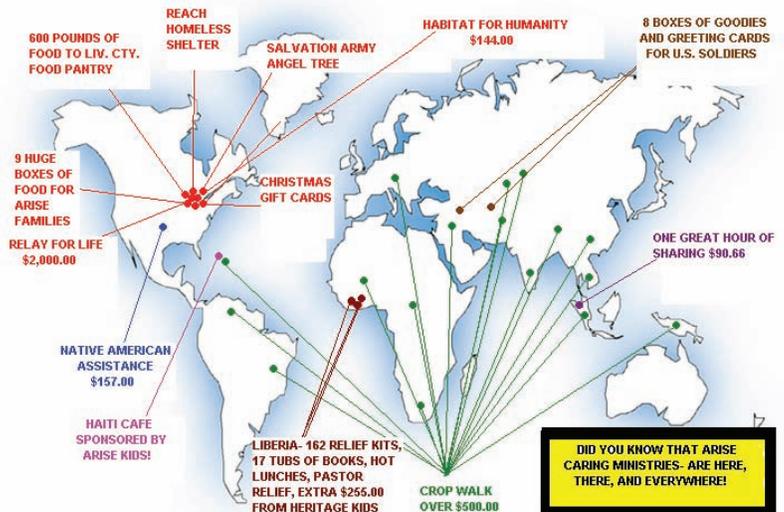
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
August 31 9:30 am Blended Service @ Arise Acres (summer schedule)	1 Labor Day	2 7 pm Church Council	3 7 pm Building Team	4	5 9:30 pm Fifth Quarter	6
7 9:30 am Blended Service @ Arise Acres Holy Communion	8 7 pm Threads of Faith	9 7 pm SPRC	10	11 Patriot Day	12	13
14 9:30 am Blended Service @ Arise Acres Sunday School—Middle School	15	16 7 pm Trustees 7 pm Council	17 7 pm Building Team	18	19	20
21 9:30 am Blended Service @ Arise Acres 4 pm The God Squad	22	23	24 7 pm Worship Committee	25	26 9:30 pm Fifth Quarter	27
28 9:30 am Blended Service @ Arise Acres	29	30	1 7 pm Building Team	2	3	4



Wear your Arise logo proudly! Order your shirt today, at church or through the Ministry Center. Prices range begin at \$11.50 and most are in the \$20 range, depending on style (T-shirt, polo or denim long sleeve) and size (XS - 4XL; some through 6 XL). Colors include charcoal, light blue, white, light brown, hibiscus, mint green, navy, black, sand and faded blue, depending on style.

Here, There and Everywhere: A Look at Arise Ministries

with thanks to Ron Fike





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September Anniversaries

9/8	Tom & Donna Terhune —Happy 50th!	9/26	Steve & Cheryl Bollinger
9/10	Dean & Nancy Swartzwelter	9/29	Gene & Fran Smith
9/13	Matt & Beth Plachta	9/30	Jim & Cindy Morpew —Happy 30th!
9/15	Paul & Anita Pagano		

September Birthdays

9/6	Marge Smith	9/22	Dean Swartzwelter
9/12	Olivia Dawson Sherry Graham	9/23	Matt Concannon
9/14	Shelley Weatherup	9/25	Jessica Concannon Andrea Majewski
9/16	Joyce Barnard	9/26	Sara Duke
9/20	Tina Carey		

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