



Looking Forward: A Reflection on Arise 2009 & Priorities

by April Flanagan

Note: In the last issue, we reviewed the significant accomplishments and contributions of the Arise community in 2008 against agreed upon objectives. This article covers plans and priorities for Arise in 2009.

After reviewing how we did and what we learned in 2008, the Arise Council again considered our Purpose, Vision, Mission and Strategic Initiatives (see last issue), and set the overarching priority for this year to Grow the Church. In addition to Council discussions, Pastor Don formed an ad hoc task force to brainstorm possibilities and present recommendations to the Council and the congregation at large. While this is still in process, the purpose of this article is to review current thinking, until a clear proposal is available. This is expected in the March/April time frame. Members of the task force are: Pastor Don Weatherup, Steve Cary, April Flanagan, Beth Plachta, Matt Plachta, Deb Short, Pat Sliter and Rich Sliter.

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of the Church

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MARCH

Evva Funk: Living Faith in Practical Ways

Evva Funk may very well be the most recognizable face at Arise. This could be because she makes an effort to greet new people when they arrive. Or maybe it's because she seems to be everywhere, doing everything. While this may be a bit of an exaggeration, it's not far from the truth.

Evva is a Detroit girl, born and raised, and is an expert on how to find your way around the city. One of her earliest memories is seeing the flashing Channel WXYZ sign and Wayne State Campus from her house as a child. Her father was a Detroit policeman and her mother, a homemaker. Her older sister, Barb, now lives just down the road from her in Hell, Mich. And her brother Charles, a.k.a. Butch, lives in Washington State.

While living in Detroit until 1971, she split her time between the city and her grandparents' cottage on Patterson Lake on weekends, which was in her family since 1915. Her father bought the home she currently lives in for his retirement home, but passed away when

Evva was 13. At that point, her mother went to work at Ford and later moved into the home herself. Evva moved there upon her retirement in 2000 and began attending Arise a short while later.



Some of Evva's fondest memories growing up are of hunting and fishing with her father and bringing home the game to eat. Anyone who knows her, knows her love of nature and how she relishes living out in the country with the wildlife around her. She graduated from Northern Michigan University with a major in Elementary Education and a minor in Physical Education. She used those degrees to teach Phys Ed for 3 years and returned to the University of Toledo for a degree in Learning Disabilities and Behavior Development to

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Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

I'd like to invite you to take a journey. But this journey requires that you pack light. Actually, it's strongly preferred that on this journey you don't bring any baggage along. Neither current baggage nor baggage from your past. In fact, please don't take anything along on this trip.

The only thing you need for this journey—is you.

What is this journey? It is the journey of Lent.

I know what you're thinking, "I've been on this journey before and it wasn't all that great." That may be the case. But, the wonderful thing about this journey is that every year this journey holds marvelous new opportunities. Although the journey of Lent always has the same destination in mind, the foot of the cross, it's how we get there that makes this journey new, potentially exciting, and different every year.

Lent is a 40 day journey that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends the day before Easter. The 40 days is significant because that was the number of days that Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. (Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13) Our journey for Lent is supposed to represent the time Jesus spent in the desert.

There are some very significant things we need to remember about the wilderness experience of Jesus. First, his wilderness journey occurred very shortly after his baptism. Remember that his baptism was a mountaintop experience. At his baptism the voice of God from the heavens declared, "This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him." Imagine how Jesus felt. Imagine being affirmed like that. Wow! Jesus must have felt on top of the world. But his moment of glory didn't last long.

Matthew 4:1 immediately says, "The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert, so that the devil could test him." Luke 4:2 says, "For forty days Jesus was tested by the devil, and during that time he went without eating." The Bible indicates then that not only was Jesus tested to the extreme; he was awfully hungry as well, because Jesus followed the Jewish fasting ritual, too. So this time of Jesus wasn't very fun.

So is that the point of Lent? A 40 day period that is supposed to be painful? Well, to be honest, some Christians have looked at Lent that way. That's why many Christians give up something for Lent. It is supposed to help them connect with the suffering of Jesus. For some people, that understanding is meaningful and helpful to their spiritual growth.

But, I think Lent is about something even more important.

Satan tempted Jesus in an effort to diminish the relationship between Jesus and His Father. Satan tried his best to get Jesus to sin. (Remember sins are anything that gets you to act in a way contrary to the wishes of God.) Satan wanted Jesus to turn away from what Jesus' Father (God) wanted him to do. Satan was unsuccessful.

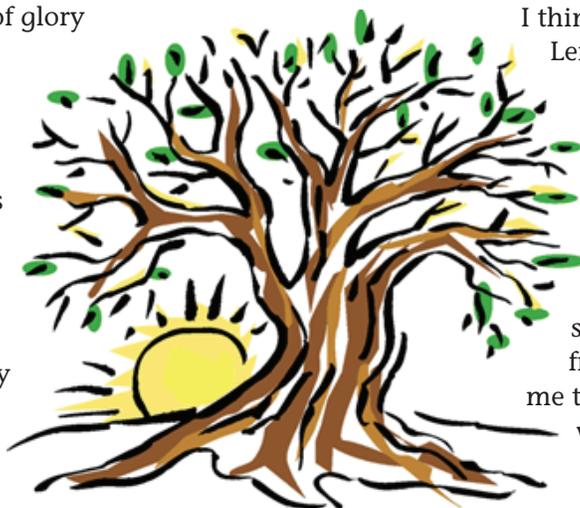
How did Jesus manage to do that? Some would say, "Wait a minute, isn't Jesus divine? Why would that have been difficult for Jesus? If Jesus is God himself, then it should have been easy for Jesus!"

Ahhhhh, but remember that Jesus was both fully God AND fully human. And as a human being yourself, you know all too well how easy it is for humans to be selfish and turn away from what God wants us to do. If you were tempted by Satan for 40 straight days in a row while fasting, how long would it take for Satan to get you to sin? I'm guessing neither you, nor I, would last very long.

So the time Jesus spent in the wilderness was all about relationship. It was about Jesus being razor sharp focused on being motivated by his love for the Father and not giving in to the temptations of Satan. The only way Jesus could have survived not sinning was by being intently focused on what God wanted him to do, and to be motivated to stay on that course driven by his intense love for the Father, and his Father's love for him.

I think that's the importance of Lent. I see Lent as a time where we look inward.

It's a time of self-examination to ask ourselves "How is my relationship with God right now? What's going well? And how can I fall even deeper in love with the God who loves me back?" What can I do to improve my relationship with God so that I can continue to turn away from the temptations that surround me that encourage me to go against the wishes of God?



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Walk to Emmaus Spiritual Renewal Weekends Offered in March

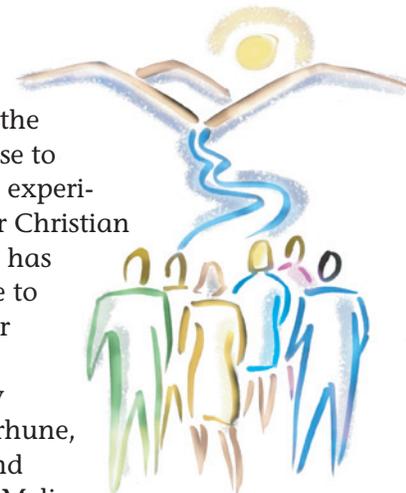
by Ron Fike

Would you like to grow your faith? Would you like to be refreshed, re-energized and empowered by the Holy Spirit? Did you know that the Upper Room of the UMC has a wonderful way for you to do just that? It is called the "Walk To Emmaus", based on Luke Chapter 24. The official Upper Room description of the Walk is as follows: "The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program which begins with a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship and daily celebration of Holy Communion. The "Emmaus community," made up of those who have attended an Emmaus weekend, support the 72-hour experience with a



prayer vigil, by preparing and serving meals, and other acts of love and self-giving. The Emmaus Walk typically begins Thursday evening and concludes Sunday evening. Men and women attend separate weekends."

Although basically accurate, the description does not come close to capturing what this beautiful experience will mean to you in your Christian life. Everyone from Arise who has attended the Walk would love to share the Walk with you. Our local Emmaus Community includes Laura Bowen, Sherry Graham, Tom and Donna Terhune, Ron and Gayle Fike, Lance and Betty Korzilius, Diane Gould, Melissa Vaden, Emily Scott, Pastor Don, Jerry Dawson, Anita Pagano, Cheryl Bollinger, and others. They would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Or, you may go to the following link: www.upperroom.org/emmaus/whats/ and read about it. (Again, keep in mind that the website gives only a cursory description of the event, those of us who have attended would tell you that it is MUCH more personal and enriching than mere words can describe).



As the disciples on the Biblical road to Emmaus said (Luke 24:32) "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" So too can you have this experience with Him. Your heart will also be burning. We urge you to check it out.

Note: The weekend for men will be March 12th through 15th, and the weekend for women will be March 26th through 29th.



Pastor's Page... continued from pg. 2

And personally, I think asking those kinds of deep soul jarring questions can be both deeply challenging and deeply rewarding. That is, if we're honest with ourselves and we really do want to know the answers to the questions, and care enough to do something about it.

You're right that this Lent can be just another 40 days on the Christian calendar. But...it could also be so much more.

So come along on the journey. But I must warn you. You'll only get out of the journey what you put into it.

The destination is the foot of the cross. The road you take to get there is up to you.

With you on the journey,

Pastor Don

Looking Forward... *continued from pg. 1*

In addition to proposals from this group, committee chairs and L.I.F.E. team leaders are working with their groups to identify specific plans and accountabilities that support the priority of growing the church, as well as the existing strategic initiatives of Growing Spiritually, Meaningful Missions, Experiencing Worship and Caring Community. See separate 2009 Arise Calendar. In addition, the building project will continue on a “build as funds are available” basis. We recently completed rough electrical work in the worship space and have passed the rough inspection. Over the next few months we will finish insulating the building in preparation for drywall.

One thing that is clear from our discussions is that we have wonderful people at Arise, who give generously of their time, talent and money. We want to focus on the most important priorities so that we do not risk burnout. The thinking, therefore, is to select a few major projects and do them well. In addition, we want to make sure that Arise is visible in the community...something we attempted but do not think we significantly improved in 2008. More attention will therefore be paid to communications, public relations, signs and inviting volunteers to wear Arise clothing when appearing at an event.

In the two meetings to date, the Arise Grow the Church Task Force has engaged in defining the “task,” collecting best practices of other churches, talking with people who formerly attended, brainstorming advertising and public relations opportunities and exploring how best to use our pastor, music program and other strengths for outreach. Growing the church has been defined as increasing the number of people who participate in Arise activities... worship, committees, L.I.F.E. teams, Bible study and other events. While we are hopeful that some new attendees may consider membership, that is not the primary focus. As our Vision/Mission states, we are interested in “Growing in God’s love and passing it on”...bringing people to Christ.

- A few of the opportunities being considered are:
- More family oriented activities and events
- Performance by Arise musicians at Arise Acres, Pinckney gatherings and other venues
- Targeted involvement in community activities, with communications and visibility
- Communications that emphasize our strengths, including a caring community, strong sermons, joyful music and a “small church” feeling.

All ideas are welcome. Please contact me (aprilflanagan@cs.com; 810-231-3875) or a Council, L.I.F.E. team, committee or task force member with comments or questions.

Arise 2009 Calendar

Month	Date(s)	Event	Contact
January	4	Human Relations Day*	Missions – G. Osborne
February	1 12 & 21	Habitat for Humanity* REACH Homeless Shelter	Missions – G. Osborne R. Fike, L. Bowen
March	1	One Great Hour of Sharing*	Missions - G. Osborne
April	5 1-30	Native Am. Ministries* Liberian Relief Kits	Missions – G. Osborne, Wed. Nighters, R. & G. Fike
May	2 3 15 - 16	Liberia Kit Shipping* Labor of Love Project Day Relay for Life	L. Bowen Missions – G. Osborne Sisters - J. Wagner, D. Gould
June	7	UM Peace w. Justice*	Missions – G. Osborne
July	5 13 – 17 (tentative) 27 - 31	Liberia Pastor Support* Mission Day Camp VBS	Missions – G. Osborne V. Dawson J. Wagner
August	2	UM Student Day*	Missions – G. Osbourne
September	6 1-30	Livingston Cty Food Bank* Livingston Cty Food Drive	Missions – G. Osborne L. Bowen
October	4 4 1-31	World Communion* Crop Walk Samaritan’s Purse Shoeboxes	Missions– G. Osborne R. Wagner Wed. Neters – R. & G. Fike
November	1	Shoobox Shipping*	Missions – G. Osborne
December	6	Love in the name of Christ* Arise Angels	Missions – G. Osborne L. Bowen

* recipient of Inside/Outreach Offering



Spotlight on Youth: Jacob Russell

(This is a new monthly series, focusing on Arise youth and helping us get to know them a little better.)



Jacob Russell is a lover of music. In fact, he says it's one of his two favorite subjects in school. That's no surprise, since he comes from a family where both of his parents, Laurie and Dave, are accomplished in the musical arts themselves. Not only that, but recently, Jacob joined his mother and maternal grandfather in leading the singing during an Arise worship service with his grandfather providing the guitar music. Jacob has also sung solos at Arise. He favors vocal music and doesn't play an instrument yet, but does enjoy both Christian and Country music genres.

An eleven year old in sixth grade at Latson Road Elementary School in Howell, Jacob's other favorite part of school is gym class. Currently, he is learning how to play volleyball and when asked how that's going, he says, "It's coming along. We have a really nice teacher who works us out quite a bit and encourages us a lot." Jacob's favorite sport is ice skating. He takes lessons in figure skating and he says he practices a lot, too. He is currently practicing for a figure skating test. His other hobby is building and playing with Legos. He says that he has been building a

large tower recently. Perhaps the Russells have a budding architect in the family?

You will often see Jacob at Arise on Sunday with his family. He says the thing he likes most about attending Arise is "being around the people there after a busy week of running around and stuff." Say 'hi' to Jacob when you see him and let him know we're glad he's at Arise!



Evva Funk... *continued from pg. 1*

teach emotionally and mentally impaired children, which she did for 19 years.

Evva grew up Methodist, stating, "I can't remember ever not going to church." She remembers always being part of a Bible group and spending some teen years active in the youth group at a Presbyterian Church, after moving to northwest Detroit where there were no Methodist churches nearby. From Middle School on up, she was on the swim team, was a lifeguard and later taught both while working in a bath house in college. As a Rainbow Girl in high school, she got a catering job and became comfortable working in the kitchen. Luckily for us, as she shares those skills with us today through Arise Hospitality.

She got married and started her family right out of college. "I said I'd never marry a policeman and my husband changed jobs a year later to become one," she said with a laugh. Now single, she has three sons; Kurt, in Hartland, Paul Gary, in Clinton and Eric, in Adrian. The family moved to Adrian when her youngest son was only 10 days old. "I remember being in a new town alone with young children and nobody to call on for help," she recalls. "So, I guess that's been my mission; to help young mothers with their kids when they didn't have family around." Evva has worked in one church nursery or another, right until the present time, since 1962, so she has taken that mission to heart. She has also acted as

a "surrogate grandma" to some of the children at Arise over the years.

Evva loves to spend time outdoors, taking her three grandchildren, Craig, 19, Marie, 16 and Callie, 12, to the U.P. camping. "I have a shirt-tail cousin who lives in St. Ignace and you can see Mackinac Island from her house. We go up and visit her - it's such a beautiful place to be," she says. Explaining why she is still able to be so active, Evva gives credit to her outdoor lifestyle and her habit of swimming three mornings a week up until she retired. She and her family used to go backpacking and wilderness camping in the Porcupine Mountains in the U.P. when her kids were growing up, as well. She and her sister, Barb, are good friends and do a lot of active things together now, too.

At Arise, Evva was on the Mission Committee for years, both as a member and as the chairperson. She has used her love of nature to decorate the worship altar and church grounds with homegrown flowers, taught Sunday School, been a member of the Worship Team, the newsletter folding crew and a member of Sisters. In addition to coordinating and working in the nursery and hospitality, she helps whenever and wherever she can. What she likes about Arise is the "camaraderie and support we give each other." Evva, we love you and are glad you are among us!

REACHing Out

Plain and simple, there are more Livingston County residents in dire need of food and shelter right now than at any other time in the county's history, officials said.

—From LivingstonDaily.com, Dec. 8, 2008

Livingston County has always been an economically growing area. Always. From rural farms and small towns to suburban sprawl, it's grown. The economic downturn in the country has brought a shift in our area, though. And along with it some serious families in dire need.

The number of meals provided by Gleaners Community Food Bank in Livingston County during the month of October was up 84.5 percent over the same month a year ago. The number of people seeking food assistance at the Family Impact Center in Fowlerville during October was up 25 percent over the month before.

The number of residents seeking help paying utility bills is up 13 percent so far this year over last year, which was up 26 percent from the year before.

According to Nancy Rosso, executive director for the Livingston County United Way, 40 percent of the calls coming into 2-1-1 regional referral systems are pleas for help with basic needs. The most calls for help are for rent payment assistance, paying gas and electric bills, legal assistance, and for food....What's really needed is a range of services including transitional housing, supportive housing and affordable housing.

—From Livingston County News, Dec. 2008

On February 12th and 21st, Arise volunteers helped by providing food, chaperones and clothing at the overnight shelter. This was done through the Responding Everyday

Against Community Homelessness (REACH) Program, which provides basic needs to area homeless that are working their way toward independence. The Salvation Army provides the organization; transportation, counseling, assistance finding work and project coordinators. Area churches provide the rest. It's a great hands-on mission experience, something you'll never forget. Participants on February 12th were: Sue Boltach, Laura Bowen, Volunteers included Joyce & Bob Barnard, Sue Boltach, Laura Bowen, Steve Cary, Vicki Dawson, Penny Dunlap, Gayle & Ron Fike, Evva Funk, Marcia Gebarowski, Kevin Germain, Ray Kazusky, Gail & Jim Osborne, Anita Pagano, Beth Plachta, David Russell, Debbie Short, Norma Topp, David & Nate Yenor. Thanks to all!

Arise Missions



Pictured (L to R) are some of the February 12th volunteers: a Community Congregational member, Sue Boltach, Ray Kazusky, Gayle Fike, Laura Bowen, Ron Fike, Anita Pagano and Amber Pagano

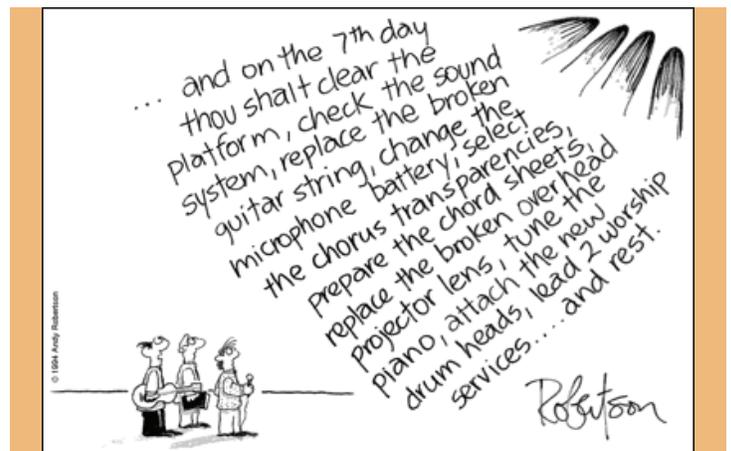
Volunteers Needed for the Tribe of Dan

Have you ever wondered who prepares the altar or where the different season clothes come from? Arise has a dedicated group of followers of the Tribe of Dan. According to the Old Testament, the Tribe of Dan was given the task of preparing and guarding the altar.

At Arise, we have a dedicated group of people who prepare the altar on Sunday mornings and for special seasons of the year. The group consists of Bob Barnard, Tina Carey, Evva Funk, Barb Haines, Bev Selvig, Debbie Short, Merilee Zane, and sometimes Pastor Don. In addition, the beautiful draping you see on the lectern is from the creative hands of Barb Haines. Thanks to all who make our services beautiful!

We are looking for a few more recruits to help break down the altar after second service, so, if you would like

to become a member of the Tribe of Dan, please contact Evva Funk at 734-878-5501 or e.m.funk@charter.net.



MARCH 2009 CALENDAR



In the rush and noise of life, as you have intervals, step home within yourselves and be still. Wait upon God, and feel His good presence; this will carry you evenly through your day's business.

—Moytura

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday _____

Worship Service at Country Elementary

9:00 am – Traditional Worship

9:45 am – Sunday School

10:30 am –

Contemporary Worship

Tuesday _____

7:00 pm

Praise Singers Rehearsal

Thursday _____

7:00 pm

Men's Huddle

RELAY FOR LIFE— May 15 & 16

Please support the Arise team in its efforts to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. We need walkers, sponsors, supply donors, and lots of prayers.

Contact Jen Wagner at 734-878-5260 or jennifer.

wagner@att.net to find out how you can help.

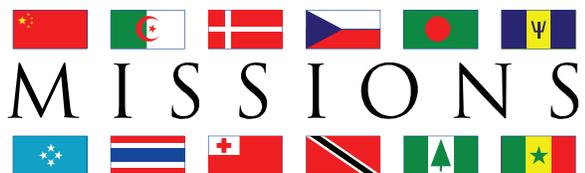
Relay for Life is a celebration of life as well as a tribute to those we have lost to cancer. It's a huge party and you're all invited!

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Holy Communion Worship at Country Elementary 10:30 God's Kids Rehearsal 1pm "One" LIFE team	2	3 7 pm Church Council	4	5	6 World Day of Prayer	7
8 Worship at Country Elementary 10:30 God's Kids Rehearsal 4 pm God Squad	9	10	11	12 Men's Walk to Emmaus	13 Men's Walk to Emmaus 10 am TGIF Sisters	14 Men's Walk to Emmaus 10 am Arise God Squad "Deer Project"
15 Men's Walk to Emmaus Worship at Country Elementary 10:30 God's Kids in Service	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 5:30 pm Meat & Greet	20 1st Day of Spring	21
22 Worship at Country Elementary 10:30 God's Kids Rehearsal 4 pm God Squad	23	24 7 pm Trustees	25	26 Women's Walk to Emmaus	27 Women's Walk to Emmaus 10 am TGIF Sisters	28 Women's Walk to Emmaus
29 Worship at Country Elementary 10:30 God's Kids Rehearsal	30	31	April 1	2	3	4

Arise Missions Moment

Have you visited the Arise Church Missions webpage to see how we are helping around the world? On the Missions page you will find information about the mission programs our church has supported in the past, a calendar of upcoming missions, links to various charities and ways you can help.

www.orgsites.com/i/arisemissions/ (or just go to the Arise Church website link)





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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.



*Apologies to Evva Funk,
whose birthday on 1/27
was missed!*

March Birthdays

3/1	Danielle Weatherup	3/17	Connor Graham
3/3	Paul Pagano (Senior)	3/29	E. J. Sherry
3/10	Nancy Swartzwelter	3/30	Al Smith
3/11	Amber Pagano	3/31	Chelsea Sherry

ARISE NEWSLETTER TEAM

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