



The Osbornes: Faith is a Family Affair

Ministers
*Every member
of the Church*

Pastor
Don Weatherup

Director of Music
Rich Sliter

**Administrative
Assistant**
Dave Russell

Ministry Center
11211 Dexter-
Pinckney Rd.
Pinckney, MI
48169

734 878-1928
734 878-2748 (F)
www.arisechurch.org



May 24
**First Sunday
back at
Arise Acres!!**

Jim and Gail Osborne have been part of Arise for quite a few years – almost since the beginning. Their children and grandchildren grew up attending Arise, too. Join us in getting to know them a little better.

Jim grew up in Midland, the middle child of five, having two older brothers and two younger sisters. As captain of the football team in his senior year, Jim was the MVP for the state championship team in his position of half back. Growing up in the Lutheran Church, he was fascinated by Jesus' words, printed in red text in the New Testament, and loved Sunday school and the Old Testament Bible stories. "The Bible is clear about how to live and I thought that was cool," Jim explains. "I especially enjoyed the Christmas programs because I could sing in it, but I truly can't sing." Gail nods in agreement. "His whole family is wonderful singers...but he's right. He can't sing." They share a laugh.

After high school, Jim served state-side as an army private and brigade clerk at Fort Knox, "managing to type about 17 words per minute". After the army, he worked in several paint factories and "then realized why people went to school". So, he obtained his teaching certificate from Saginaw Valley College and eventually came to work as a youth specialist at W.J. Maxey Boys Training School, a residential program that attempts to rehabilitate delinquent youth, 12 to 20 years of age, who have committed a felony. "I thought it was a regular school when I first applied," Jim said. "I soon found out differently." It was a good match for him. He worked with other staff, coming up with alternatives for the boys' therapeutic plan. "It felt good when we helped people",



he remembers. After 22 ½ years, he took early retirement and returned to E.M.U. for a masters in emotional impairment. He worked in Pinckney for a year in Special Education and has been a substitute teacher ever since.

Jim has three children; son Shane lives near Rush Lake and daughters Angela, in Chelsea and Stacey, finishing chiropractic school in Daytona Beach. "I drifted from church; I was a moral person, but Arise brought spirituality back into my life. Arise people don't go to impress others; they truly feel there are spiritual reasons for going to church. They are survivors. I am impressed with Don's sermons. He emphasizes the most important thing – living your faith." Gail nods in agreement.

Over the years, Jim has managed the Arise Softball Team, led Arise Kids, Children's Church and helped with VBS active games. "It's something I'd like to do again," he said. "I get so much from working with kids because I get such joy and peace from it."

Gail described her childhood growing up in Utica and Waterford, saying that her mother named her after Gale Storm, a movie star of

Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

I had a conversation last night with some friends at Arise about growing the church. During the course of my conversation, it became clear there might be some misunderstanding about what it is that you personally can do, and should be doing, to help grow Arise Church.

First, and most importantly, pray for the growth of the church. Pray. Pray. Pray. Be intentional about asking

God to help us grow the church so that we can share the life transforming good news of Christ with those who don't have a relationship with Christ.

Second, look for opportunities to make an invitation. Let me tell you what that does NOT mean. It does not mean asking someone point blank, "Is Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior?" It does not mean forcing your beliefs upon someone else. All it means is simply looking for every possible opportunity to give an invitation. Let me share some examples that may help explain. These are fictitious examples, but I am using names from Arise Church to help you to understand the context.

Example 1:

Wilson Wagner has a friend over to his house to play. His name is Jack. When the mother comes over to pick up her son, Jen Wagner invites her into the house. During that one or two minute casual encounter, the mother says to Jen, "I'm so glad the boys are friends. Jack has had problems making friends at school." Jen says, "You know, the one place that my kids have had an easy time fitting in is at my church. Since much of the focus is on good ways of treating others, unlike school where the focus is on school work, which of course it should be; I find the kids at church are more accepting and so my boys have felt comfortable and made good friends there. Maybe you should consider bringing Jack to our church sometime.

Example 2:

Debbie Short is talking with some co-workers after a rather brutal meeting with the boss. Her co-worker Bill, who lives off North Territorial road, says, "That's the thing about sales quotas; they never go down. They always want more out of us!" Debbie says, "I know what you mean." Bill continues, "The economy is in the stinkin' tank, and everywhere I look it's just more and

more bad news. It's driving me nuts!" And Debbie says, "Well, at least I've found one place where there's a lot more good news than bad." Bill sarcastically replies, "Where's that?" Debbie says, "Well, to be honest, my church is a pretty positive place. Friendly people, upbeat music; it's a pretty positive atmosphere. Maybe you should give it a try sometime. It sure helps me." Then Debbie pauses and walks away.

Example 3:

Laurie Glover is at local coffee shop to see her son Eric perform. While she's waiting for him to play another set, the woman seated next to her starts up a casual conversation. During that conversation Laurie mentions, "Yea, that guy playing up there is my son." The woman responds "Wow, that's cool," and shortly after asks, "Do you have other children?" Laurie says, "Yes, Ryan, Adam and Nicole." The conversation continues with Laurie asking if she has any children. Eventually the woman asks, "How long have you been married?" And Laurie responds, "Actually I'm divorced." The woman says, "I'm

going through that myself." Laurie says, "Isn't it awful?" The woman replies, "Yes it sure is." Laurie says, "I don't know how I would have gotten through it without the support of my friends at church. Plus, my church offers a divorce recovery class that helped me a lot, too. I think you might find it really helpful. I can give you our website address if you'd like to know more about it."



As you can see, we're talking about a casual invitation. **And the invitation is based on YOUR personal experience so it becomes more than just an invitation; it's an endorsement.** Plus, it's difficult to argue against. It's like sharing a recommendation for a restaurant, book or movie. It's just your opinion, and you're sharing that opinion with another person so they will consider trying it for themselves.

It doesn't have to be difficult! It doesn't have to be deeply theological. But it DOES have to be authentic. Don't recommend something you haven't experienced. But DO be intentional about it. You have to always be on the lookout for those opportunities. And they happen way more often than you think, IF you're looking for them. Why do we miss them? Frankly, because we're too worried about what their response will be. We have stop worrying about how others will respond.

continued on pg. 3

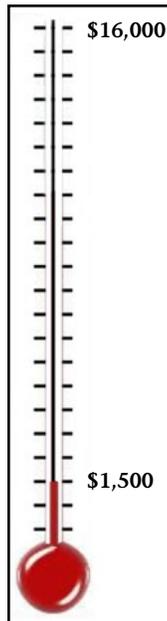
Building Project and Fund Update

With the advent of spring, we have now completed the third year of our “Build as We Give” project to create a permanent place of worship and Christian education on Arise Acres.

Over the winter months we continued to make progress toward our goal. The electrical contractor completed the rough electrical work and installed an alarm system. We have also received a green light on the rough mechanical and electrical inspections from Livingston County. Our next major work activity will be for our volunteer workers to insulate the worship space once funds are available.

Our Land and Building Fund account is used to pay mortgage payments for Arise Acres and for our building project. To ensure we have sufficient funds to make monthly mortgage payments we strive to maintain a \$10,000 reserve balance in this fund.

We have dropped below this reserve level and need to restore the balance before we move forward



with insulating the worship space. To restore this reserve and purchase insulation, we need approximately \$16,000 to complete the next step in our “Build as We Give” building project. This is in addition to the \$2,900 needed each month for mortgage payments. As of mid-April we have raised \$1,500 toward the \$16,000 goal.

It took three years for the building team to catch up with your generous giving to the Land & Building Fund. You gave faster than we could build. The pace of the project will now be determined by the pace of your giving. Please help us to take the next step and consider making a special gift to the Land and Building Fund.

Your gifts, prayers and volunteer support for God’s church are very much appreciated.

Thank you,

Matt Plachta, Building Team Chair

Pastor’s Column... continued from pg.2

If they say, “No, thank you,” that’s fine. Don’t take it personally. Anymore than if you said to a friend, “You should check out the hot dogs at the Pinckney Café, I love em’, they’re great”, and they respond, “No, thanks, I hate hot dogs.” Would you feel like a failure? Would you take it personally? Of course not! So why would we take it personally if someone turned down our recommendation of Arise Church?

If we are to grow this church, we need to ramp up two things EXPONENTIALLY. First, prayer. And, second, making the invitation. Make it a goal to pray more about this issue, and start looking for opportunities like the examples I cited. There are dozens, maybe even hundreds of other scenarios that I could come up with. All we can do is be seed planters. **God** will do the growing, which is why prayer is such a vital part of this process.

Please notice that we’re talking about making the invitation to the people with whom you already come in contact. We’re not asking you to go door-to-door, cold calling. It can be casual, simple, and non-threatening.

Friends, if this church is ever to grow, we need to start planting seeds. Literally, hundreds of them. We need to be relentlessly seeking the opportunity to invite others everywhere we go, and with everyone we meet. You’re not being asked to invite everyone (although that would be great), you’re just being asked to seek opportunities to invite wherever you are, and with whomever you’re with.

Don’t make this complicated. It really isn’t. Simply consider what you really like about Arise Church. What has God done for you? How is your life better because of your faith and your participation at Arise Church? Whatever that is, and only you know the answer, then look for casual opportunities to recommend to other people the things about your faith and Arise Church that have helped you personally.

It can’t be overstated how critical it is to bathe the whole process in prayer. Pray every single day, “God, please bless me today by giving me an opportunity to make an invitation. Help me to see those opportunities when they come, and remove any concerns I have about how that invitation will be accepted.” And then....start planting!

At an evangelism conference I recently attended, the pastor of one of the largest United Methodist Churches in the country stated, “The days of people wandering into a church on their own are over! But, they will still respond to a personal invitation.” And those personal invitations come from us.

Amen!

Pastor Don



Holy Week Events: Faith, Fellowship

Youth and Holy Week



Holy Week 2009 was made extra special by the involvement of Arise young people. The children and youth began preparing for Easter in early March by attending practice sessions for the Last Supper re-enactment, learning a song for a Palm Sunday performance, painting lots and lots of butterflies (with the help of Laura Bowen), and reading the stories of Jesus' life from the Bible. The culmination of their efforts was a moving and memorable Easter celebration.

The kids were treated to an awesome egg hunt (thank you to Karen Vaden) and a great cocoon dopiñata (thank you to Brenda Whalen) after service on Easter. Having fun traditions is a good thing, but our kids at Arise know the true reason behind Easter. We are all so proud of their devoted service to God because it adds so much to our worship experience!

Jen Wagner, Children's Coordinator



& Remembrance



The Last Supper

On Good Friday evening, the Arise God Squad and several youth from Community Congregational Church of God, presented a dramatic re-enactment of Jesus' last supper. He, his disciples and friends were portrayed by: Carly Gannon (Jesus), Wilson Wagner (John), Kayla Susalla (Nathaniel), Mitchell Susalla (James #1), Elly Sherry (James #2), Olivia Dawson (Simon), Lindsey Selvig (Thaddeus), Nathan Shilling (Judas Iscariot, Roman Guard), Myles Wagner and Jeremy Bartel (servants) and Jen Wagner and Tina Cary as Mary and Martha. Each disciple had unique characteristics that made each of them especially deserving as Jesus' chosen people. The youth performed superbly and I am so very proud of them. They exhibited confidence and bravery in standing up and acting in front of a large "crowd," much like Jesus did in his brief time in preaching and teaching. Thanks to these precious children who gave this special presentation to show their love for Christ and their faith in Him!

Vicki Dawson, Youth Coordinator



The Osbornes... *continued from pg. 1*

that era. Her dad wouldn't agree to the "boy-like" spelling, so she got the name Gail instead. The eldest child of four, she has one sister and two brothers. "I didn't grow up in the church. I'd go to Christmas and Easter with my grandparents, who were Methodist. Later, in Jr. High, I went to a Methodist church with friends and to a different church with high school friends."

Gail loved to read as a child and in high school, participated in the Drama Team off stage behind the scenes, working on publicity and the like. Later, she worked in a supermarket and raised her two children, Bryan and Casey Tankka. "I went back to church when Casey was little. Casey would go to Sunday school and I would then go to church."

In 1990 Gail started at Maxey, working in Personnel for two years, and then became an education secretary. During this time, she met Jim at work. As it turns out, it was love-at-first-sight. "We got married 43 days after our first date," Gail says with a smile. "Yes," adds Jim, "I knew exactly what I was looking for and I found it in her." Gail continues, "We got married at my parent's home and our five children stood up with us."

Later, when Casey was in Jr. High, she said to her mother, "My friends all go to church, why don't we?" Gail remembered that they had gotten a call from Arise a couple of years prior, during their telephone campaign, and she and Casey began to attend Arise services at the Jane Tasch Theater.

Jim's daughter, Stacey, started to attend Arise, too and one day Stacey said to her dad, "Why don't you go to church?" As the story goes, Jim said, "I go when it's important." Stacy replied, "Isn't Easter important, Dad?" That was what prompted Jim to become active in Arise, as well. He worked weekends at that time and later changed to night shift, being able to attend more regularly.

"Casey became a member of Arise as a youth and now lives near Orlando, working at Disney World as a Hostess at Crystal Palace Restaurant," says Gail. "Our grandson Tyler, 12, has been going to church with us since he was a baby and was baptized at Arise. He and Trever, age 5, just moved back from Texas and now live in Ypsilanti again."

Gail has been active at Arise as Council Secretary, Finance Committee member, Finance Secretary, Treasurer, Missions Committee and a helper at VBS. "I really like the contemporary music. It's easy to relate to Pastor Don's sermons. They're easy to understand and makes us feel like it's OK, since we all struggle at times."

With 7 grandchildren, ages 12 down to 1, and one on the way, Jim and Gail are busy and happy in their family life – and their spiritual life. We're very happy that they are here with us at Arise!



Relay for Life-- May 15 & 16, 2009

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!





All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother.

—Abraham Lincoln

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday _____

Worship Service at Country Elementary

9:00 am – Traditional Worship
 9:45 am – Sunday School
 10:30 am – Contemporary Worship

Sunday _____

7:00 pm
 Divorce Care

Wednesday _____

7:00 pm
 Wednesday Nighters

Worship Jamboree/ Emmaus Gathering: Everyone Welcome!

Where: Arise Acres

When: August 1st

Mark your calendars NOW! You will NOT want to miss this.

Stay tuned to bulletins, newsletter, website for more details... But **SAVE THAT DATE!**

Ron Fike and the Arise Emmaus Community

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 26 Worship at Country Elementary 10:30 God's Kids Rehearsal 4 pm God Squad | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Holy Communion Sunday Worship at Country Elementary 1 pm "One" LIFE team | 4 | 5 7 pm Church Council | 6 | 7 National Day of Prayer | 8 10 am TGIF Sisters | 9 |
| 10 Mother's Day Worship at Country Elementary 10:30 God's Kids in the Service 4 pm God Squad | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Detroit Annual Conference |
| 17 Detroit Annual Conference 10 am Friendship Brunch Worship at Country Elementary | 18 Detroit Annual Conference | 19 Detroit Annual Conference 7 pm Trustees | 20 Detroit Annual Conference | 21 5:30 pm Meat & Greet | 22 10 am TGIF Sisters | 23 |
| 24 First Service at Arise Acres 4 pm God Squad | 25 Memorial Day | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 Pentecost Worship at Arise Acres | June 1 | 2 7 pm Council | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |



VBS Dates

Vacation Bible School will be held from July 20th – 24th this year.





Arise Ministry Center
 11211 Dexter-Pinckney Rd.
 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.



May Anniversaries

- 5/5 Bob & Joyce Barnard – **Happy 30th!**
- 5/12 Mark & Barbara Wood
- 5/21 Ron & Gayle Fike
- 5/22 Kevin & Diane Griffin – **Happy 20th!**

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 Morpew |
| 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**

Editorial:
April Flanagan, Beth Plachta
 Layout/Design: *Barbara Wood*
 Photographer: *Jan Richards*
 Distribution: *Evva & her team*

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