

# Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



July/August 2010

## The Kiebs: Faith that Endures

Wayne and Mary Ellen Kieb are both natives of Detroit. Wayne, an only child, grew up attending Metropolitan United Methodist Church (UMC), while Mary Ellen attended Strathmore UMC. "I grew up living in the same house until I was married," says Mary Ellen, who had one brother, eight years older. As a youth, Wayne and some classmates started up hockey and golf teams at school. His early education included military school in Indiana from 8th–12th grade. Wayne enjoyed music as a boy, playing drums in the band and other instruments. Mary Ellen was also musical, playing the violin. In addition, she came from an artistic family, and won scholastic art awards. As an adult, she feels her calling is serving others. Her greatest satisfaction is being able to be there whenever she is needed by her friends and family.

Once Wayne was out of college at Central Michigan and Eastern Michigan Universities, he started a career in tool and die, obtaining his Journeyman's card as a toolmaker and then working as an auto mechanic. "He used to build rally and race cars—and then race them!" In 1972, he began working for American Motors as a technical writer and then secured a position as the service and parts manager in International Operations; the couple, their two young boys (Eric, 5 and Chris, 1), along with Mary Ellen's mother, were assigned to a town outside Frankfurt, Germany. According to Mary Ellen, "living abroad provided all of us with an exciting and educational opportunity... It was wonderful to experience how many differences and similarities we all share. Some of the experiences were embarrassing though. We had our refrigerator shipped over and when I went to the meat market, the butcher saw me coming and stopped everything to take my order, since I would shop for a lot



more at a time than other people, due to the fact that our frige was much larger than theirs." She taught English to non-English speaking students in Germany and their son, Eric, attended an international school. "There were 30 different nationalities represented at the school. We were the first family American Motors sent overseas to work internationally. We were kind of guinea pigs, but we loved it." Wayne adds, "The culture, the language, the economy – everything was different and very interesting." Wayne has had the opportunity to travel to many different countries over the years, as well.

Back in the States, they raised their boys in Plymouth, Mich., attending the Plymouth First United Methodist Church, where they were youth leaders for a number of years. That's where the Arise connection began. Doug McMunn was their Associate Pastor and Johnny Aho, the first Arise Youth Minister, attended Plymouth High School with Eric. During this time, Chrysler bought out American Motors and Wayne eventually retired from Chrysler after 29 years as their Senior Manager of Parts and Marketing—International Division.

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*Every member  
of the Church*

### Pastor

*Don Weatherup*

### Director of Music

*Rich Sliter*

### Administrative Assistant

*Dave Russell*

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## Pastor's Column



**Pastor Don Weatherup**

"...on behalf of the John C. Lasko Foundation, I'm pleased to tell you that you have been awarded a grant of up to \$550,000." Those words actually stopped my breathing.

There is no doubt about it, Arise Church is living in very exciting times. Activity on the building and property is changing every single day. Has it really sunk in with you

yet? Very soon we will have a building of our own, and with it, an incredible opportunity.

Newness brings curiosity. There is no doubt that when we open the doors to the brand new Arise Church facility, we will see a steady stream of people curious about the new building. They will come because we will be intentional about inviting the community to come check us out, and to ask old friends to reacquaint themselves with Arise Church once again. This building will be a new tool for ministry and it is a game changer for sure. How do we know that?

Friendship Church in Canton started the same year as Arise Church. They opened their first church building six months ago. In the past six months their worship attendance has grown by 25%. They attribute the growth to newcomers curious about their new building. They invited the community to "check out the new church in town." (No, they were not new, but the building was.)

**BUT... AND THIS IS A VERY CRITICAL BUT...**

New people may check out the church, but they will only stay if the ministries that we have to offer them meet their needs. And that's why, **perhaps, now more than ever before, Arise Church needs you!** We need you to take a serious look at yourself and ask, "How can I help Arise Church maximize this great opportunity?"

It's time that everyone who calls Arise Church home "up their game." It's time to recommit and re-ignite passion! I don't mean to make it sound melodramatic, but we are at a critical turning point. We have an unprecedented opportunity for growth. If we don't maximize this opportunity now, I am afraid that continued decline awaits us.

If you are serving the church already, please ask yourself, "Am I serving in the right area? Am I passionate about this ministry? Do I do more than what is expected of me, or do I just do the bare minimum?"

We need to be able to execute the basics every Sunday with excellence. People who are looking for churches have high expectations. They expect to be greeted warmly. They expect committed nursery workers and Sunday school teachers with great programs. They expect the coffee to be as good as Starbucks. They expect moving worship that helps them to experience God. Their standards are high, but I KNOW we can meet every one of them! It will take a renewed commitment to excellence.

The Church Growth Task Force has been working with the Church Council to make intentional plans to maximize the new opportunities that our new building brings. (See the related article in this issue of Connections).

I think Paul sums up well what I'm trying to say, in Romans chapter 15. So I will close with those words from a Bible translation called The Message.

### **Romans 15:1-2**

*Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?" That's exactly what Jesus did.*

Amen!

Pastor Don



# Continued Giving to the Arise Land and Building Fund

by Matt Plachta, Finance Committee Chair

It still seems surreal to think we will be worshipping in our own church building in a few more months. The road has been long and we will soon realize the fruits of our 13 year effort to purchase property and build our first worship facility.

When we borrowed \$460,000 from the Michigan Area Loan Fund (of the UMC) on June 10th, the purpose of these funds were to refinance the property mortgage and transfer the Deed to Arise, and have sufficient funds to complete our volunteer building project. About an hour after borrowing this money, we learned The John C. Lasko Foundation approved a \$550,000 grant to complete our project. Gives credence to the saying, "When it rains, it pours."

The grant allows us to do several things we could not do with the loan money including, hiring a construction management firm, paving the parking lot and driveway, installing exterior lighting and adding a permanent sign near the entrance.

After refinancing the property loan, we were left with approximately \$247,000 to complete our project. Since most of the project costs will now be covered by the Lasko grant, we have paid back \$170,000 of the loan money. Our loan will now be paid off in eight years, instead of 15. We kept \$77,000 of the loan money to pay for project costs not covered by the Lasko grant, unanticipated costs and the potential purchase of items not included in the project budget. Non-budgeted costs must be directly related to the Worship Center and will require Church Council approval. An example would be classroom furniture.

While our future looks bright, now is not the time to reduce our financial giving to the Land & Building Fund for four very good reasons:

1. The Lasko grant is contingent on our continued giving to the building project. If we have a marked decrease in Land & Building Fund giving over the next several months, Lasko may not give us the full \$550,000.
2. We now have a monthly mortgage payment of \$3,879.26, compared to the \$2,437.39 payment prior to the new loan.
3. Continued giving will help us move forward with our Phase II building project sooner.



(L to R) Matt, Tim Richards and Jack Dunlap, with the Lasko Foundation check

4. Our primary purpose is to grow God's kingdom. Our land and buildings will be powerful tool for our own spiritual growth and to birth new Christians.

## Committees Active, Planning for New Church Building

By April Flanagan, Council Chair

With the excitement of the Lasko grant and the resulting construction activity, there is also a flurry of planning activity for programs that were not possible in a moving church, as well as new communications and activities designed to reach out to the community and draw in prospective members. The Arise Council has established a time line, with plans for new church completion by the end of October and open houses, possibly after the first of the year. We want to make sure that our Arise family has the information and support needed to welcome and inform potential members, before official public activities. Stay tuned for more information.

The Church Growth Committee, comprised of Pastor Don, Steve Cary, April Flanagan, Rich Guyon, Beth Plachta, Deb Short, and Merilee Zane, has been meeting to propose programs, processes and activities to Council for approval. Recommended priorities were established, based on congregation input and committee discussion, and include an integrated children's program, LIFE teams and overall communications. There was a meeting on July 11th for interested people regarding Sunday School ideas and volunteering, to be followed by one planned for August 4th. These will result in a proposal to Council and actions for Sunday School programming and related children's activities.

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# Caution! Construction Ahead

by Jeff Vaden, Building Committee Chair



Hard to believe that just a couple of months ago, we were struggling with how to accomplish getting the insulation completed on the new building when today, I walked the jobsite looking at the finished earth-work to support our next expansion! Wow, what a difference a few weeks and few hundred thousand dollars can make.

Even though it is difficult (if not impossible) to move any project forward without adequate funding, having the financing alone doesn't mean the project will take care of itself. So much has to take place behind the scenes. Finances, contracts, design changes, landscaping, contingencies, schedules, vendor selections, meetings, reviews, phone calls, emails... all getting handled by someone from our congregation. If not for each of them taking an active role, nothing could get accomplished. Thanks to everyone for their time and talent to see the dream come true!

By now, I'm sure everyone has noticed the physical changes happening to the property. Sticks with writing and ribbons are everywhere, marking what goes where to those that know the 'code.' Dirt piles seem to grow and shrink from one day to the next, as the excavation for the parking lot, driveway, drainage and general leveling takes shape. As of this writing, the trailer is scheduled to be moved in a day or two and the tack barn will be gone shortly after. So watch your footing and pardon the dirt and dust as we give Arise Acres a facelift. Be mindful of the kids and grandkids to keep them away from enticing hills to climb and fascinating big equipment. Remember, this IS a construction site.

Inside, the building has been picked up, cleaned up and locked up in preparation for the new work. You won't be able to enter the building without permission any more until the project is completed. Contact anyone on the Building Committee if you need access. Electrical, plumbing, and heating/cooling contractors have all finalizing their details and are ready to go. Within a week, the grounds will be packed with pickups, trailers, delivery trucks and tradesmen. What an exciting time. By the end of July the drywall will be up and the parking lot will be in.

So with the ongoing focus of our church leaders, the continued support from the congregation and God's continued blessing, we will be in our new home before you can say, 'Trick or Treat.'



*Best wishes, Ron and Gayle!*



*Long time Arise member Ron Fike, who is studying for the ministry, has accepted a temporary position as Student Pastor at Springville United Methodist Church in Onsted, MI. In June he was presented with a Bible and best wishes from the Arise congregation. Gayle recently retired from her teaching position at South Lyon High School, where she celebrated her 30th anniversary of teaching in 2009. Among their many ministries at Arise, the Fike's led the Wednesday Night Bible study for many years, which also did significant mission work. Our prayers and best wishes go with you, Ron and Gayle!*

**The Kiebs** *continued from pg. 1*

Their oldest son, Eric, is a United Methodist pastor, now starting his third pastorate at Good Shepherd of the North UMC near Higgins Lake. He received his BS degree in Communications from EMU, and attended Asbury Seminary in Kentucky, where he received his Masters. He began his pastorate as Associate Pastor in Owosso, then pastored Mitchell UMC in Negaunee, west of Marquette in the UP. Eric's wife, Lisa graduated from EMU with a BS in biology; she has her Masters degree in Community

Counseling. Lisa has been an elementary school teacher and has also taught college. After the arrival of their new baby, expected in August, she is in hopes of returning to the teaching profession. Eric and Lisa, have 2 sons, Brennan, 8, and Calvin, 6.

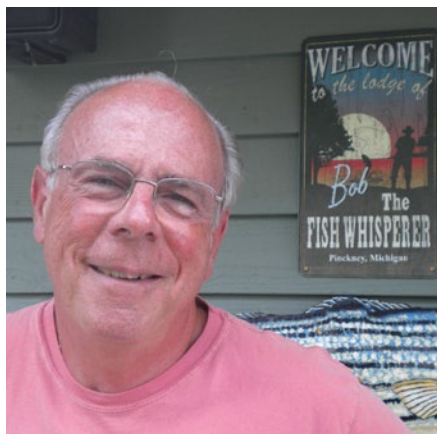
The Kieb's sadly lost their son, Chris, in 2004. "Chris had a special ministry of his own," says Mary Ellen. "It was unbelievable the number of friends he had." Chris was in sales, selling industrial supplies. Being a percussionist himself, he was always interested in music. He worked closely with the Manchester Marching Band during football season, as his fraternity brother was the band leader. After Chris's passing, the Kiebs began a golf outing every year around his birthday (July 10) at Reddeman Farms Golf Course, in Chelsea. It is advertised by word of mouth to friends, family, church friends, and the community, to raise money for the Chris Kieb Memorial Scholarship Fund. "Every year we give \$1000 to a Manchester High School student for college tuition and books. The only requirement is that they take a music class in college," Wayne explains. "We'd like it to grow so that the scholarship becomes self-supporting eventually. We gave the 7th scholarship in 6 years away this year. The first year the scholarships were \$250 apiece." Both boys and girls have been selected as recipients of the scholarships over the years, by a selection committee. This benefit is especially fitting, since Wayne enjoys golf as a hobby. Over the years, folks from Arise have joined the Kiebs for this benefit, that is so close to their hearts.

The Kiebs connected with Arise briefly while Chris was living, since they had known Pastor McMunn. "But we were at the Funeral Home for Chris and a member of Arise came to show their support of us and Doug wrote a four page note to us, as well. That really touched us, and we began to attend church at Arise. Wayne has served on the Trustees and Mary Ellen served on Staff Parish. "Now we've traded roles," he quips. "The people at Arise are warm and welcoming, non-judgmental – they're real people!" Mary Ellen joins him; "I am so excited for this church – after struggling for all these years and toiling so hard, I'm so glad they're going to get a church building!

Thank you, Wayne and Mary Ellen, for being part of it all and serving God so faithfully. We're glad you're with us at Arise!



## Welcome to New Arise Member: Bob Zane!



Bob was originally a Jersey boy, whose journey to Michigan had stopovers in Alabama (National Guard), Dallas, Australia and Belgium. He learned about sales and relationships from his mom and dad, "a Culligan man," and on the

streets of Newark where his first job was repossessing cars. Bob retired from a 34 year career with General Motors Acceptance Corp. (GMAC), in 2004, where he ran investor relations and was the "point man" for the community, including serving as Director of the European Treasury Center. "I'm proud of opening the door to GMAC for traditional investors."

Born and raised Catholic, Bob learned the value of volunteering for church needs from his father. In the aftermath of his father's long illness and death, he drifted away from God, but began talking with Pastor Don because "I felt like I wanted to find a way back." In addition, he believed his financial knowledge and contacts could help with the Arise building project; indeed they have! "It felt good. It felt like I was giving something back. I started to feel like I was doing what my Dad would have done, and what my Mom would have expected me to do. I guess I reached out and connected; the rest is history."

Bob met Merilee on a blind date, where one of her former students, who was Bob's lake neighbor, introduced them. They married in 2001. Bob has three children from a former marriage: his son is a pharmacist in Florida; one daughter manages a Home Depot store in Tulsa and his other daughter is a nanny for a former member of the Dixie Chicks, in San Antonio.

At this pivotal time for Arise, he encourages us to "get excited and pass it on. Enthusiasm is contagious; you can draw people in, face to face." We're delighted we've drawn you in, Bob. Welcome!

## Dog Park Update

by Karen Vaden, Dog Park Committee Chair



Last fall when I heard about Shelley and Pastor Don's idea of opening up a dog park on Arise acres I thought "Huh, what an interesting idea." I am not a big user of dog parks, because I have always had enough property to adequately exercise my dogs. But the reasoning made sense; open up a place where people, including those

who may not belong to a church family, can sit around and talk while their dogs play.

Now that it has been a couple of months since the opening of the park, the success is undeniable. The most important parameter is the number of new people brought to Arise Acres to experience a warm and welcoming Christian experience. This has had the direct result of new attendees to our services. When several of our park goers walked in Pinckney's 175th Anniversary parade, we were very well received with lots of hoots and applause.

The people that attend the park are also very giving people, shown in the continuous donations that we receive. Because of the generous donations, we have recently added a water line to the park (so poor Shelley doesn't have to carry those water jugs out there). Due to the new church construction we have had to "modify" the fence lines to the park, these will not be finalized until the parking lot and more of the church construction is finished. We are still offering the Dairy Queen coupon books for sale at the reduced price of \$15.00 for 8 free small Blizzards, available only in Hamburg. It's hot outside; get your coupon books for yourself, kids, grandkids, and gifts!! And visit us for updates and pictures at our new Facebook page Arise Church Community Dog Park.

### Committees Active... *continued from pg. 3*

In addition, a Communications and Public Relations Committee, consisting of Pastor Don, April Flanagan, Beth Plachta, Deb Short, Barbara Wood and Bob Zane has been formed. This group will develop specific plans for Council approval, including a new church campaign, letters to existing and former members, press coverage and open houses. In addition, the list of LIFE teams in the Bulletin has been updated, and discussion continues on inviting new LIFE teams to form.

We will continue to communicate as plans develop. Meanwhile, please feel free to offer any questions or ideas to Pastor Don, me or members of the committees.



“Expect your every need to be met. Expect the answer to every problem, expect abundance on every level.”

—Eileen Caddy

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

Sunday \_\_\_\_\_

Worship Service at Arise Acres

9:00 am – Traditional Worship

10:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Contemporary Worship

Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_

7:00 pm – (Starting 8/11)

Adult Bible Study—*The Prodigal God*

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Holy Communion Worship at Arise Acres 1:00 pm— “One” LIFE team	2	3 7 pm Church Council	4	5	6	7
8 Worship at Arise Acres	9	10	11 7 pm Bible Study— <i>The Prodigal God</i>	12	13	14
15 Worship at Arise Acres	16	17	18 7 pm Bible Study— <i>The Prodigal God</i>	19	20	21
22 Worship at Arise Acres	23	24	25 7 pm Bible Study— <i>The Prodigal God</i>	26	27	28
29 Worship at Arise Acres	30	31	1 7 pm Bible Study— <i>The Prodigal God</i>	2	3	4



# Adult Bible Study Begins in August

by Pastor Don

*The Prodigal God* is a six session bible study that looks at Jesus’ story that we know as “The Prodigal Son.” (Luke 15:11-32), one of the best known but most misunderstood parables. This study will help us to discover that the gospel is neither religion nor irreligion, but something else entirely. We will discover things about ourselves as we look at each of the characters of the parable; the irreligious younger son, the moralistic elder son, and the father who lavishes love on both of them. Whether you are a skeptic or a devout believer, *The Prodigal God* will challenge you to see Christianity in a whole new way.

This study features the DVD teaching of Rev. Timothy Keller, Senior Pastor at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in

Manhattan, New York. You can participate in this study at a variety of depths. Those who want to learn more may want to read Rev. Keller’s book “*The Prodigal God*,” or, you may simply attend the bible study and participate in discussion without reading the book. Everyone who participates will learn something valuable. The deeper your schedule allows you to participate, the more you will learn. Additional details about the study are available at [www.theprodigalgod.com](http://www.theprodigalgod.com).

We will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings beginning on August 11th. Keep an eye on the Sunday bulletin and church emails for a location to be announced.



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### *August/September Anniversaries*

- |      |                          |      |   |
|------|--------------------------|------|---|
| 8/6  | Charles & Laurel Hubbard | 9/10 | Dean & Nancy Swartzwelter<br>— <b>Happy 50th !!</b> |
| 8/7  | Rob & Jen Wagner         | 9/13 | Matt & Beth Plachta<br>— <b>Happy 35th !!</b>       |
| 8/14 | Lance & Betty Korzilius  | 9/15 | Paul & Anita Pagano                                 |
| 8/18 | Rich & Pat Sliter        |      |   |
| 8/26 | Steve & Tina Cary        |      |   |
| 8/28 | Tim & Joy Vanderpool     |      |   |
| 9/5  | Tom & Donna Terhune      |      |   |

### *August/September Birthdays*

- |      |  |      |                      |      |                                      |
|------|--|------|----------------------|------|--------------------------------------|
| 8/2  | Seth Sherry                                      | 8/21 | Fran Smith           | 9/22 | Jim Osborne                          |
| 8/4  | Anita Pagano<br>Barbara Wood                     | 8/23 | Jane Fuller          |      | Dean Swartzwelter                    |
| 8/7  | Bob Barnard<br>Mary Ellen Kieb                   | 8/29 | Kevin Atkerson       | 9/23 | Matt Concannon                       |
| 8/10 | Bob Whalen                                       | 9/6  | Marge Smith          | 9/25 | Jessica Concannon<br>Andrea Majewski |
| 8/14 | David McBrien                                    | 9/7  | Alyson<br>Gebarowski | 9/26 | Angela Young                         |
| 8/16 | Laura Bowen<br>Lance Korzilius<br>Mariana Sherry | 9/14 | Don Weatherup        |      |                                      |
|      |  | 9/16 | Joyce Barnard        |      |                                      |
|      |  | 9/20 | Tina Cary            |      |                                      |

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

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