

Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



November/December 2010

Divine Design: Arise Church— Phase IA

by Beth Plachta

What do you get when you combine over fourteen years of vision, prayer, donations, hard work, teamwork, sleepless nights, tears, laughter, frustration and joy? A new church building, of course! Arise Church was consecrated and dedicated to God on November 21st, with a sanctuary full of people who have been connected in some way to Arise Church. Some were there from the very beginning when, as one speaker said it, “Arise was a twinkle in someone’s eye.” This lent the event an air of a big family reunion, seeing old friends who shared so many special memories together. It was a one of a kind service, full of praise and worship, recognitions and thank you’s for the combined efforts of those who helped to birth this church and its new worship space on Arise Acres.

For me, personally, this was a dream come true. When my husband, Matt, and I started attending Arise in the summer of 1999, the church was in between buildings, having left Jane Tasch Theater and having not yet moved into Country Elementary School. Meanwhile, worship was held under a tent on the lawn of the Hamburg Professional Center. I had never encountered a church like this before. From that moment, I literally fell in love with Arise Church. The tent experience demonstrated for me the bare essentials of Christianity – people who loved the Lord enough to go without a church building in order to continue meeting together. Wonderful! Amazing! I never dreamed that eleven years later, I would be working with such talented people in the design and decoration of the church that I loved so much.

Two years ago, a Design Team was formed

as a subcommittee of the Arise Building Team, with the task of creating a warm and welcoming environment. At the time, we were in the “build as we give” mode, so we knew it would be awhile before we could purchase anything, but we started planning. In addition to me, the members at that time were Pastor Don, Sally Guyon, Norma Topp, Laura Bowen, and Cindy Morphew. We made some initial plans and choices based on our available budget. It was bare bones at best with a stained concrete floor planned for the sanctuary, but it would be ours and we were excited with the possibilities. Then with the economic downturn, all plans were put on hold as donations slowed. Our work came to a standstill and then we quit meeting. When the news came this June that we had received the loan and then the grant, we were warned to hold onto our hats, as we were going into warp speed with everything. Merilee Zane joined the group, as Cindy had moved, and we went from a speed of 0 to 100 overnight. It sounded easy enough—Dan Parkinson, the

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*Every member
of the Church*

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Don Weatherup

Director of Music

Rich Sliter

Administrative Assistant

Dave Russell

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See page 6 to learn more about the
artistry of Katherine Larson, whose two
murals adorn the walls of Arise Church

Pastor's Column



Pastor Don Weatherup

As they say, time flies when you're having fun. Then I must be having a whole lot of fun because I can hardly believe that it is already Advent time. I'm glad it is here, though. I do love this time of year. Somehow, it seems, Christmas time brings to our crazy, hurried, and often selfish culture, a focus that we seem to miss the rest of the year. Christmas forces us to focus on giving.

When I was a child, I thought it was crazy when I would hear people say that it is better to give than to receive. I guess that's what happens when you have little control over your resources.

Not many children have paying jobs, and so when you're a child, you rely solely on what people give you. All you have is what you get. Maybe that's why we're so focused on receiving.

Now as an adult, I love giving FAR more than I love receiving. I love Christmas because it gives me an opportunity to give to the people I love. I really like to shop for something that I know they will be grateful for. Of course I do appreciate it when I get presents, but it's so much easier for me to give now than it is to receive. In truth, some of us need to learn to be gracious receivers. I think it's difficult to receive. Why? Because when we receive, we feel indebted.

In Acts 20:35, Jesus is recorded as saying "it is better to give than to receive." So it must be true! And it is, because that is exactly what God did for us. God gave us God's self in the form of a human when he sent his Son Jesus into the world.

Matthew 1:23 says, "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). Maybe some people choose not to acknowledge the fact that the God of the universe came down and touched humanity, because to believe so means that they are indebted to the creator. So for some people, it's just easier to ignore this gift of Christ.

When you really think about it, God is all about giving. God could have decided to not even create the universe. God could have been happy without us. And yet, we worship a giving God; a God who choose to create. Not because God needed to, but because of God's endless love.

May this God of grace and love touch your heart this Christmas and into the New Year.

I am excited about what God has planned for the people of Arise Church.

I love you all very much! Have a wonderful Christmas!

Pastor Don



We Are So Blessed!

Banners

These worship banners were made and donated by Barb Haines.

She is making more banners for worship, holidays and sacraments. Barb is an accomplished quilter, who teaches and leads workshops on quilting.



Quilts

The wall quilts were appliquéd by Beth Plachta, leader of Threads of Faith LIFE Team and quilted by both Beth and Barb Haines. More quilts are in process to represent the seasons and church holidays. A majority of the quilts will reflect a nature theme, embellished with scripture, to reflect the beauty of God's gift of Arise Acres.



Cross

The beautiful wood cross in the sanctuary was made and donated by Bob Whalen from a black walnut tree that fell on the property of Arise friend, Jean Oxender. Bob also made the cross which can be seen outdoors on Arise Acres. He has put in many hours as a handyman on our property.



Altar Table, Benches, Coat Racks, Coat Hooks and Modified Lectern

The wood furnishings were made by Rick Mynarcik, a gifted woodworker and friend of the Zanes. Rick will be making more furnishings for Arise in the near future.

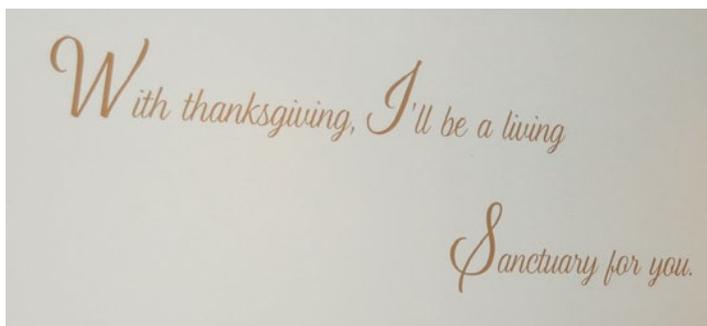
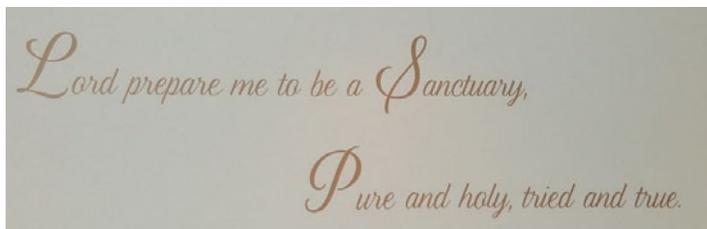


Coffee Nook and Altar

Tina Cary created the decorative touches above the coffee nooks and the altar that will rotate with the seasons. She is talented and experienced in working with color and design.

Words to Inspire

These adhesive vinyl words were made by Geoff Boltach, who has been a good friend to Arise through his business, A1 Engraving and Signs. The words are from the first verse of the praise song, Sanctuary, and reflect the sentiment of making ourselves a living sanctuary for God.



Divine Design... continued from pg. 1

Project Manager from Hicks Construction would forward us choices and we'd just point and say, "We want that one." Well...sort of. Getting six people to agree on every single choice of color, fabric, tile, paint, stone, chair, carpet, counter top, appliance, design element, and who-knows-what for a building that size in just a few weeks seemed like Mission Impossible. After a past experience with "decorating by committee" that didn't go so well, I think Pastor Don feared that name calling and hair pulling would be involved, but it wasn't. Not at all. I think God knew whom to put together, not only for our Team, but for the new Building Team; things went very smoothly, with respect and consideration for others' ideas being the norm. When we couldn't reach consensus, we voted, but only a couple of times. I nicknamed this group The Dream Team in their willingness to be flexible, compromise and put the good of the whole church before their own opinions. Truly, the words "birthing a church" are very applicable to this process. It was a tremendous amount of hard work on many people's parts, but in the end, we are so proud of the results!

One design concept we followed was to repeat shapes and elements around the building that would echo each other and provide balance. We accomplished this primarily with paint colors, coat racks, chair colors, interior and exterior stone, cupboard color and style, colors of the wood trim and doors and the two murals. The cross stands alone in the darker wood tone as the focal point of the sanctuary. Sometimes things balanced out without our even trying. We noticed that the shape of the leaves on a plant donated by KellyRae and Ed Postal echoed the design in the window valance. And that the scriptural source of the hallway mural was from Isaiah, just like the one in the main foyer. We didn't know that when we chose the design. Little surprises like that made the work fun and gave us some "Aha" moments.

Many thanks go to everyone who helped us in any way, big or small, to finish the work of decorating our new church home. Particular thanks go to Bob Zane, who was our on-site contact person from Arise. His positive, "can do" responses to all of our many questions were true blessings. It has been an honor to be entrusted with this task. In the end, we learned a lot by trial and error. As for our team, we are just grateful that the daily phone calls and e-mails are behind us. And to those who will plan and decorate the next two phases...we will begin praying for you now!

What a Night!!!

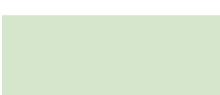
by Bob Zane

- ♦ We found out that both Pinckney and Flushing are 12 miles from nowhere—but only Pinckney is really close to Hell.
- ♦ We learned that humor crosses all denominations.
- ♦ We saw those various denominations come together to help us celebrate our new home.
- ♦ We heard words of praise and admiration for what we have accomplished.
- ♦ We listened to the marvelous sounds of music directors and singers, past and present.
- ♦ We rediscovered the energy that had been slipping away.
- ♦ We met lots of old friends and made some new ones.
- ♦ We experienced our new church filled to capacity!!
- ♦ We had more food available than Caesar's legions could eat!!!
- ♦ We recognized the scores of people that were responsible in order for us to realize our dream.
- ♦ We figured out that when we fill the church we will need a bigger parking lot.
- ♦ We thanked "Moses" and "Joshua" for leading us to this place.
- ♦ We marveled at the words written under our feet.
- ♦ We formally crossed over, from "mobile" to "stable", and it felt wonderful.
- ♦ We realized the many benefits that our new home provides – like indoor plumbing!
- ♦ We witnessed that "There can be miracles when you believe"!
- ♦ We felt Him smiling down on us and blessing all our efforts.

As for me, I wanted to express my profound admiration and thanks to the scores of people that worked tirelessly over the years to make our Arise church building a reality. Several folks thanked me for my role and I wanted to say, publicly, that I received much more than I gave – many times over. My personal thanks go to Pastor Don for helping me find my way Home; to Matt, Brad and Jeff for putting up with an endless barrage of emails; to Dan and Mike from Hicks for their patience and guidance; to Beth and her crew for their insights and thoughtfulness; to Gail for all those last minute checks; to Evva for those pounds I was trying to lose; to countless others for their support; to my wonderful wife for her tireless assistance and for putting up with me these last few months and last, but certainly not least, to the good Lord for giving me the faculties that enabled me to be a small part of making this such a huge success.



ARISE CHURCH



Muralist Katherine Larson: An Artist's Perspective

When entering the new Arise Worship Center from the main foyer, you are greeted by a stunning mural that depicts a sunrise over a pastoral landscape, reflecting elements of Arise Acres, and including the words from Isaiah 60:1, (NIV) "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you." If you enter the building from the Sunday School entrance and peak around the corner to the right, you'll see the other exquisite mural depicting her rendering of The Peaceable Kingdom, an image first depicted by Edward Hicks, a Quaker minister and folk artist (1780 –1849), based on Isaiah 11: 6-9. In this version, the scripture is subtly incorporated into the image within the branches of the tree.

The creator of these two beautiful works of art is Katherine Larson of Hamburg Township. Katherine is known locally and beyond as a gifted muralist, graphic designer, book illustrator, opera singer and founder of her own company, Diva Designs. You can see more of her work and learn more about her on her website at www.katherinelarson.com. While brainstorming ways to create a one-of-a-kind look for our new church building, Katherine's name was mentioned at a Design Team meeting. Several of the members were familiar with her murals at Chelsea Retirement Center, Stockbridge Schools and the mural she just completed for Putnam Township, so Katherine came out to see Arise Acres and the rest is history. While talking with her about elements from Arise Acres the team wanted her to include in the foyer mural, three honking Sandhill Cranes flew overhead. Looking up, Katherine said, "Well, I guess I have my inspiration now." These birds are prominently displayed in the mural, along with the cross and the pond on the church property. She shared that she has a strong connection to nature and has been quoted to say that she "loves to show people and animals in movement". "I am drawn to the name of your church, Arise," Katherine said. "I often use sunlight in different ways in my paintings."

When asked how she finds inspiration for her work, she doesn't hesitate with an answer. "I'm always in dialogue, but not always verbally. I have found, since I was a young child, that thinking is the biggest block to creativity. If I get out of the way by not thinking, and just put an intention

out there, that inspiration comes. My talents aren't mine. It's not Katherine who makes these murals or sings opera; it comes through me, not by me. If it was me doing it, I'd mess it up," she said, laughing. "One time I was asked to speak to a church group on the subject of finding inspiration and after I was done, I got this image in my head of a river that was always flowing in front of me – like a stream of consciousness. It's the first time that I had that image, but I've always known how to do it since I was a young child. Like with the murals, I don't spend hours planning and sketching them. I come up with an idea, I put it out there and then inspiration comes. I keep myself out of it. Sometimes people are amazed when I'm done with a mural because I'll stand back and say, "Wow, that's cool!" and they probably think I'm being conceited, but it's like it wasn't me who painted it and I've seen it for the first time. I can't remember painting them when I'm done. I've done well over 100 murals and I can't remember doing

them. I remember things that were going on in my life at that time, but not the act of painting. Mostly, I want people to know that my gifts and inspiration come to me not by "brain-storming" in the traditional sense, but by asking for an answer and then listening through my heart for the reply. It's, in a way, thinking with the heart instead of with the brain. The brain tends to filter and question things; the heart just accepts what is given to it if you can think with an open heart."

Katherine was accompanied during her work by her constant companion, Jacque, her 9 year old Weimaraner, "I tell people that I work for that the dog comes with the package. I travel a lot and taking Jacque with me gives me a sense of home when I'm away from home. In addition to patiently waiting while the murals were being completed,

Jacque got to experience the Arise Dog Park and meet new friends, too. When considering having Katherine paint a second mural for Arise, she said that she'd always wanted to paint her version of The Peaceable Kingdom and the Design Team loved the idea. When asked if she had any particular thoughts while painting the murals for Arise, she replied, "I guess I'd have to say that I'm the child in this mural. I've always been very

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*I will honor Christmas in my heart,
and try to keep it all the year. ~Charles Dickens*

SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

DECEMBER 5

—Worship at Arise Acres

Holy Communion Sunday

- 9:00 am Traditional Service
- 10:30 am Sunday School
Contemporary Service
- 1:00 pm "One" LIFE Team

DECEMBER 12

—Worship at Arise Acres

- 9:00 am Traditional Service
- 10:30 am Sunday School
Contemporary Service

DECEMBER 19

—First Service in the new
Worship Center at Arise Acres!

- 9:00 am Traditional Service
- 10:30 am Sunday School
Contemporary Service

DECEMBER 26

—Worship at Arise

- 9:00 am Traditional Service
- 10:30 am Sunday School
Contemporary Service

EVENTS IN DECEMBER

DECEMBER 1

7:00 pm Council

DECEMBER 15

7:00 pm Arise Prayer Team

DECEMBER 16

6:00 pm Meat & Greet

DECEMBER 24

—Christmas Eve

- 5:00 pm Children's Service
- 8:00 pm Contemporary Service
- 11:00 pm Traditional Candlelight
Service



**Warm Wishes from our Friends at
Community Congregational**



Pastor Don thanks Pastor Lynn Martin for the kind wishes and blessings of the Community Congregational Church members, shown in a framed photograph with their signatures.



Muralist... continued from pg. 6

connected to nature and animals. It's through nature, music and art that I feel the most connected to people."

Thank you, Katherine, for helping to make our new church home a place of beauty and inspiration. We are blessed to have you (and Jacque) among us!

**Christmas Stockings for
Cancer Center**



Threads of Faith, one of the Arise LIFE Teams, has taken a break for a couple of years, but not so one of its members, Ethel Ward. Ethel said her daughter, Marilyn, ran across a box of unfinished

Christmas stockings and mittens that Threads of Faith used to make annually for the U of M Cancer Center. The staff does fundraising throughout the year and fills hundreds of these during the holidays for patients receiving chemotherapy. Last year they didn't have the event, but this year they started it up again, hoping for volunteers to make 600 stockings and mittens to give away. Ethel to the rescue! She donated 51 stockings and mittens combined. They will be greatly appreciated by the patients who receive them. Thank you, Ethel, for your quiet good works behind the scenes!





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December/January Anniversaries

12/23 Tim & Jan Richards
 1/5 Vlad & Norine Bibicoff
 1/18 Jim & Gail Osborne

December/January Birthdays

12/4 Laurie Glover	1/2 Wes Richards	1/23 Duane Haines
12/6 Diane Gould	1/4 Carolyn Stafford	Ellen Russell
12/8 Ron Fike	1/5 Ray Kazusky	1/25 Jeremy Bartel
Kim Sherry	1/8 Chris Gannon	1/26 E. J. Sherry
12/11 Rich Guyon	1/10 Max Yamakado	Gene Smith
12/23 Casey Tankka	Joy Vanderpool	1/27 Evva Funk
12/27 Taylor Cole	1/12 Norma Topp	
Kathy Fick	1/17 Merilee Zane	
12/28 Ross Richards	1/20 Ethel Ward	
12/31 Cindy Hollister	1/22 Jerry Dawson	

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

• Arise *Connections* is available online and in color at www.arisechurch.org
 Check out the Missions link on the website!