

Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



January/February 2012

Generous Living Through Generous Mission Work

by Steve Cary



Back in the fall, during the Stewardship Campaign, our theme was “Generous Living through Generous Giving”, with the scripture reference; “2 Corinthians 9:8 8” ‘And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work’. Five people (or groups) in the congregation accepted a challenge to take \$50.00 each and create a mini-mission to help the community or the world in general. The only criteria were to ‘use your heart to move your money’. I am excited to share the following results with all of you:



Kim Sherry and all the Sherry kids donated their money, along with some of their own, to Kiva Microloans, also known as Kiva.org. This is an organization that allows people to lend money via the Internet to microfinance institutions in developing countries around the world and in the United States, which in turn lend the money to small businesses and students. The Sherry’s money, along with 20 other lenders, helped to provide two individuals with loans to start businesses in Columbia. One loan was given to Lina Patricia Ortiz Arias and used for the purpose of buying merchandise to stock her business and ingredients to prepare fast food. The other one was given to Rut Maria Ruiz Vásquez who used the loan for sewing supplies and to have her sewing machine fixed. Kim actually has photos available online of the two ladies.

Jen Wagner, Jan Richards, Lyzelle Barabas and the Arise Kids



Utilizing Jan’s contacts with Pinckney Elementary’s social workers, the group’s plan is to have rubber wristbands made, (like the Livestrong ones) and have Pinckney School social workers sell them at school to create a fund for the underprivileged right here in Pinckney. I also want to give praise to Lyzelle who created a mission of her own, utilizing her own money to make greeting cards, the proceeds of which were given to The Lost Boys of Sudan, a group of 20,000+ children who were orphaned or displaced during the second Sudanese Civil War.



Bob Whalen on behalf of the Arise Men’s Group



The men’s group is working to give our Arise trailer a new look, even though we are starting to realize it might need a lot more than a face lift. We would then use the trailer to help the community by making it available for moving things. We could also bring it to various events to promote Arise church.



Ministers
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

As you look back on your life, there are certain turning points that easily come to mind that changed the trajectory of your life. For each person these are different, but many of us share some of the same types of experiences. I think of things like births, marriages, deaths, new job, moving, and traumatic incidents, just to name a few possibilities.

This doesn't mean that the rest of your life isn't significant. It's just that some moments rise above all others in changing the way your life collectively got to where it is today. Some of these moments we regret, others we celebrate. Yet the undeniable fact is that each incident altered our life.

These moments are the types of things we often think of as we consider the impression we've made on this world and the people around us. And yet, I would propose that one specific incident in your life rises so far above all the other choices you've made, that this one moment in time actually dwarfs them by comparison. This ONE decision that you made makes all the other choices seem insignificant.

Do you know what that moment was? If you consider yourself a devoted follower of Jesus Christ, then that day is clear! It was the day you said yes to Jesus. The day you resigned to running your life based on your own personal desires and agenda, and began living your life for God. That day, whenever it was, whether you can pinpoint it on a calendar or whether it just seemed to slowly creep up on you and you can't really point to the actual date; whenever it was, THAT is the biggest turning point in your life. You will never have another day on this earth more important than that one.

Lent is a period of time the church has set aside to help Christians do some internal reflection on what things in life really are the most important. Unfortunately, we live in a culture that seems to do a pretty good job of moving us in the opposite direction and away from God's desire. During Lent, our goal is to rediscover and reprioritize our lives so that we focus on issues that are the most important to our souls.

To that end, I would like to invite you to consider joining me for a Bible study during Lent that will help you and I understand why our relationship with God really is the best thing we have going. The study begins Wednesday, March 7th at 7:00 p.m. and is called "24 Hours That Changed The World." It is a book study by Adam Hamilton. Together we'll look at the final 24 hours of the

life of Jesus. In just those 24 hours, there are plenty of lessons to learn. Each one of those lessons leads us to the joy of the empty tomb.

During the recent church survey, many of you suggested that Bible study is one of the most important and needed activities of the church. Well friends, **here is your opportunity!** I hope you'll take me up on it. I think you will be blessed by what you learn, and more importantly, your life will be better because of it.

Pastor Don

High Five, Arise!

Our United Methodist Church (UMC) District Superintendent, Rev. Mark Spaw, challenged the Ann Arbor District churches to grow 5% in 2011 in the areas of general fund giving, worship attendance, membership, and prayer life/spiritual growth. He labeled the program "High Five" and asked all 72 district churches to report their progress quarterly.

Arise Church ended 2011 with a 2% growth in membership, 9% growth in general fund giving, and a 25% increase in worship attendance.

Arise Lay Leader, Rich Guyon, recently accepted the High Five award on behalf of our congregation at the Ann Arbor District Leadership Training Day. Arise was recognized with this award for achieving the third highest worship attendance growth among all UMC district churches. Way to go, Arise Church!

Photographers and Youth Writers Wanted!

We are looking for a couple more shutterbugs that would enjoy taking digital photos of special services and events at Arise and forwarding them via email for the newsletter.

We could also use a couple of youth who enjoy writing and would like to cover the "kid happenings" at Arise. Contact Beth Plachta or Steve Cary if you are interested!

Arise New Members

Arise has been blessed to have received 16 new members in 2011.

We have received the following people into the membership of our church.

Please be sure to greet them and make them feel welcome!

Joined 1/16/11:

Mike and Pat Roesner



Joined 5/15/11:

(from left) Rich Sliter, Tyler Tankka (shown here with his younger brother, Trevor) Ann Royce, Dale and Bernie Tarrant, Connie Urso, and (not shown) Rick and Carol Gorham



Joined 12/18/11:

(from left) Patti Weatherup, Dave and Cindi Abner, Jessica Roberts, Rob Dunn and Lyzelle Barabas



Generous Living... continued from pg. 1

Shelley Weatherup



Shelley had a unique idea and decided to set up a personal tithing fund for herself that she would be able to use when she felt the spirit compel her. So far, she has been able to be very generous to the Christmas shoeboxes and the soldier/college student gifts. She has given to three families from the University of Michigan Cancer Center at Christmas time. She told me that each month there seems to be a perfect opportunity to give and that this has been an extremely spiritually rewarding endeavor. In March she will be donating to help buy nets to prevent malaria in Africa.

Evva Funk and Merilee Zane



Wanting to support churches that are mobile like Arise once was, Evva and Merilee donated their funds to a mobile church in Midland, Mich. called Faithway UMC. They currently hold services at the Midland Resort, but have dreams of someday having their own building. The church's website is www.thefathway.com.

Generous Giving is about far more than a few dollars. It is about our thoughts, our prayers, our time, and our attention. We are fortunate to have such loving and giving people as members of our church family.

God is Good... All the time!

Christmas 2011 at Arise

The second Christmas celebration on Arise Acres was, again, a very special event for our congregation and a reminder of just how wonderful it is to have our own church home and how generous the Lord has been to us. A big thank you goes to everyone who helped to make it special by decorating the building and the tree, providing food, planning services, working with children, running the audio-visuals, providing music, ushering, preaching, greeting, attending, counting the donations, clearing sidewalks, cleaning up... whatever you did, it made it possible to have three lovely services in which to worship and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you, everyone!



Arise Kid's Lock-In (Nope, It's Not a New Type of Punishment)

By Shannon Haines with introduction by Steve Cary



The first ever 'Arise Kid's Lock-In' was held on Friday, February 17th at Arise Acres. It was hosted by Merilee Zane, Lyzelle Barabas, and Rob Dunn. The event started at 7:00 pm and the whole group stayed until breakfast the following morning. Although the name of the event sounds a bit like some type of punishment, it was in fact, a wonderful opportunity for our young people to have fun and fellowship with other Christian youth at the same time.

The participants in the event were: Wilson Wagner, Tyler Tankka, Brittany McMinn, Zeke Sherry, Austin Bollinger, Jake Osborne, and Shannon Haines, who wrote the following description of the night's events:

When we first arrived at Arise on Friday evening, my friend and I were unaware of what to expect of the first ever youth lock-in. After introductions were made, we were split into groups and were sent to complete a scavenger hunt. First, we had 35 minutes to go out and take pictures of, or bring back, certain items on a list. These things included: a used shoelace, a cup of birdseed, a penny from the 1990's and a fast food coupon. These are some of the things we were asked to take pictures of: Pumping a stranger's gas, singing Happy Birthday to someone whose birthday is in the month of February, or someone 85 and older with their driver's license.

After we returned back to Arise, we were given part two of the scavenger hunt. On this half of the quest, we were asked to go to a business or restaurant and each person had to choose to wash a table, take out the trash or wash the floor. We then had to find someone whom we believed was in need and give them five dollars. We also needed to pray for someone whom we thought was sad or confused. Lastly, we had to create a cross somehow and sing Christian songs on the way back to the church.

After eating pizza, we had a group discussion and took communion. Upon conclusion of our meeting, we

decided to start playing some games. We played board games like Apples to Apples, and other games like Minute to Win It, in which we were racing against the clock and each other to complete certain tasks like wrapping our partner in tissue paper, popping the most balloons with our feet, and stretching out a marshmallow the longest distance. As our time at Arise came to a close, some went to bed and others held strong and stayed up the whole time until we were served a very delicious breakfast and left for home. In my opinion it was a great experience and I can't wait for the next one.

We are all pleased and proud of our Arise Youth and look forward to seeing them joining together for more activities in the future.



Thank you, Arise Leaders!

As 2011 ended, so did some of the leadership roles for our committee chairs.

Thank you to everyone for your time and commitment.



Barb Haines (Missions), Bev Selvig (Staff Parish), Carrie Germain (Children's Ministry), Beth Plachta (Membership).

Please welcome our new leaders. Thank you, as well, to all who continue to serve in so many special ways at Arise.



April Flanagan, (Co-Chair Staff Parish), Stacy Olesko (Children's Ministry), Norma Topp (Co-Chair Missions), TBD (Membership).

Financial Update

News from the finance front:

We finished 2011 on a strong note and 2012 looks like that trend should continue. Here are the numbers (rounded off) for this year:



Total pledges:

General Fund	\$105,500 (\$81,300 in 2011)
Capital Fund	\$42,200 (\$29,500 in 2011)

Projected income – pledges plus non-pledge receipts

General Fund	\$143,400
Capital Fun	\$48,900

2012 expense budget:

General Fund	\$136,200 (\$138,500 in 2011)
Capital Fund	\$37,800 (\$46,500 in 2011)

Recap:

General Fund	\$7,200 in excess
Capital Fund	\$11,100 in excess

As we work to meet expenses and project income there are two things that will help your Finance team do its job more efficiently.

Please consider signing up for the grocery loyalty programs at Busch's and Kroger's. This is a painless way

to increase our cash flow without having to do anything more than buying groceries. Arise receives a percentage of what you spend. We currently only have about 10 – 12 people participating in these very productive programs.



Additionally, please consider signing up for electronic giving. This helps immensely as we plan our expenses versus our cash flow. Currently there are only 7 people signed up for this important program. Your donations are automatically deducted from your checking/savings account and the amount and timing can be changed quickly should the need arise.

Let's shoot to double the number of participants in both programs this year!

His work is never done; there is always more to the story. By working together we have shown that we have been able to support what He has blessed us with.

In closing, many thanks from your Finance Team for your support and prayers last year. We look forward to those blessings again in 2012.

Your fellow traveler on the road to Jesus,
Bob Zane

Arise Women's 2012 Spring Retreat, Soulful Living



Looking toward spring, it'll soon be time for the women and teen girls of Arise to gather for a fun and inspiring time together on the morning of **Saturday, April 21 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm**. As our guest speaker, we've invited Deb Mantel to join us. Deb

shared her story and musical talent with us a few years ago during an Arise worship service. Since then, she has recorded two CD's, performed at the Ark in Ann Arbor to sell out crowds and has her own business, Spaces with Soul, where, as a professional organizer, she assists people in cleaning up their clutter and making their

living spaces feel more peaceful. Deb attends Knox Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor and is a much sought after speaker for women's events, both locally and nationally. Following the program, the women and teen girls will be treated to lunch prepared and served by the Arise Men's Group. It will be a great chance for Arise women to get together and celebrate springtime in our beautiful sanctuary. Save the date! Watch the Sunday bulletins for more details.



Arise Barn Sale Coming in May

When is the Barn Sale this year?

The sale is on **Friday, May 4, 9 am – 5 pm** and **Saturday, May 5, 9 am – 3 pm.**

How does the money raised by the Barn Sale get used?

Proceeds go to support the Arise Capital Fund (formerly called the Arise Land and Building Fund.) In the past, Barn Sale proceeds were used for building our new worship center. Now that our beautiful Phase IA is completed, the goal is to pay off our property mortgage and loans within five years, so that Phase IB can begin! Work is also needed on the parsonage, so, just like in the past, our hard work and proceeds from the Barn Sale will greatly benefit our church. Thousands of dollars have been raised from the Barn Sale over the years!

Does the Barn Sale help others outside of Arise?

Yes! Usually a few individuals or families with low income and specific needs are offered the opportunity to select items they need at no charge prior to the sale. In addition, leftover goods are donated to agencies that will donate or re-sell the items to help low-income people.

What types of donations are needed?



Most household items in good repair and gently used clothing in all sizes are welcome. **Please sort your items by type, labeled in bags or boxes.** This saves hours of volunteer time sorting and carrying things back and forth during set up. Labeled stickers are available in the church foyer to use for sorting your boxes and bags—thank you!

What should I NOT donate?

- Construction items
- Baby cribs and car seats
- Large appliances or freezers
- Computers and peripherals
- Large exercise equipment
- Air conditioners
- Luggage

These are hard to sell items and Salvation Army won't accept them from us after the sale.



If in doubt, contact Karen Vaden at (734) 878-5268 or karenvaden@hotmail.com.



What other supplies are needed?

- Kroger grocery bags with handles
- Plastic grocery bags
- Hangers
- Lunch food for workers (sign up circulated closer to sale)
- Possible bake sale items (to be determined)
- The loan of one or two electric golf carts

When is the sale being set up?

This is usually done within a couple of weeks before the sale. Watch the Sunday bulletin for details.

When can I drop off my donations at the pole barn?

This is usually done a couple of weeks before the sale. Watch for specific dates and times in the Sunday bulletins.

What else is needed?

Hand pull wagons or garden carts

Bake sale items and garden plants/perennials (for simultaneous Arise Memorial Garden fundraiser)

The biggest need, outside of household donations, is lots of helping hands!

We need volunteers in all areas, but particularly during the week before for pricing and sorting, workers on the days of the sale, especially Friday, and for cleanup.

Please donate your time generously. Even if you only have a few hours to donate, it will be appreciated.

Signup sheets are circulating on Sundays or call Volunteer Coordinator, Bev Selvig, (734) 649-1505 or bselvig@a2gov.org. Karen Vaden is leading the Barn Sale and can be contacted at (734) 878-5268 or karenvaden@hotmail.com with questions.



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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.

Anticipating Easter

Maunder Thursday Service

April 5 at 7 pm at Arise.

Good Friday Service, April 6

*Anticipate combined service with
Community Congregational Church—details
to be announced closer to date.*

Easter Sunday on April 8

Traditional Service at 9:00 am
Contemporary Service at 10:30 am.

Watch the Sunday bulletins and emails for additional details.



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

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Check out the Missions link on the website!