



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

April 2017

Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 2 – Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Special Music – Don Brauen

Lay Reader: Carole Enneking

Greeters: The Szabo Family

Acolytes: McVetta Girls

Sunday, April 9 – Palm Sunday

Food Pantry

Choir

Lay Reader: Sarah Gillen

Greeters: Don and Cathy Carroll

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Thursday, April 13 – Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 14 – Good Friday

Sunday, April 16 – Easter Sunday

Choir

Lay Reader: Leslie Freed

Greeters: The Talavinia Family

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, April 23

Special Music – Pastor Dave

Lay Reader: TBD

Greeters: The Brauen Family

Acolyte: Owen Brauen

Sunday, April 30

Praise Team

Lay Reader: Jay McCracken

Greeters: Clair and Diane Winebar

Acolyte: Megan Sycks

Mark Your Calendars!

- April 2 – Fellowship Hosted by Choir – Following Worship
- April 2 – Youth Ministry Easter Visits – 2:00 PM – Mennonite Memorial and then on to Maple Crest
- April 2 – Youth Group Meeting – 5:00 to 7:00 PM
- April 6 – Session – 7:00 PM
- April 13 – Maundy Thursday Service – 7:00 PM
- April 14 – Good Friday Procession of Cross – English Lutheran Church – 11:30 AM
- April 14 – Community Good Friday Service – First Mennonite Church – Noon.
- April 14 – Sister Min Circle – 2:00 PM – Maple Crest Family Room
- April 15 – Deacon's Annual Easter Bake Sale – 9:00 AM to Noon on Church lawn
- April 16 – Easter Breakfast – 8:00 to 9:30 AM
- April 16 – Easter Egg Hunt – 9:30 AM
- April 19 – Deacons – 7:30 PM
- April 26 – Praise Team Rehearsal – 7:30 PM
- April 28 – Sister Min Circle – 2:00 PM – Maple Crest Family Room
- April 30 – Newsletter Deadline
CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- May 7 – Share the Spirit Fellowship – Following Worship

Announcement Procedure

If you have an announcement to present in church during the month, get it to the church office by Wednesday morning so it will be announced by our Lay Reader.

Small Groups

Claralice Circle:

Tuesday – BPC Library at 6:30 PM

Coffee Talk

Thursday – McDonalds at 8:30 AM

Easter: The Journey of Life and Death

Easter is always a challenge. After all, it is the story of life, and DEATH, and life again.

But this year I have life and death (potential) in my living room. It is as close as my 99 49/52 year old father- in- law. Death is real close this year.

But death is also change. It is the change that cannot be avoided. And this year change is as close as the moving van, and the combined bureaucracies of Social Security, Medicare, and the Board of Pensions. Change is real close this year.

And Death is an end. The close of 34 years of ministry is a significant end. Ending is real close this year.

So the Easter struggle, the journey of life and death, and change and ending, and life and purpose, and life continuing, and God's future. This year it is an in-your-face, up close and very personal journey.

So what is Easter saying in the midst of this? Easter is *presence and purpose*.

Presence is nothing less than *God actually with us*. **Christ is with us**, in the midst of the struggle, the change, the ending, the beginning. Christ is with us through the darkness and into the light.

Christ with us does not mean that change and ending and death don't happen, but it shows us God's purpose. Christ came to be with us, nothing less than **the love of God**, in a hand, a walk, a touch.

And purpose. Purpose is the heart of life and its joy. I see that in Charles. At 99 he knows his purpose and it is his joy. So he goes off to the shop to "fix things" BECAUSE it is his purpose. Fixing things. And he reads the Bible each day **because** faith has been his purpose.

Purpose is God leading us into God's future. Even through change, even through endings, even through death. God directs, calls, and sends us: into God's future.

Easter is near this year. As near as death, change, and ending. Easter is near this year as **Christ actually with us through it all**, and God's call into the future.

And in Easter, God with us and purpose, we have the victory.

May Easter, this year, be a special blessing to you in the journey of life and faith.



Opportunity

That's what it is. We will need preachers during July and August, and maybe into the fall. So here is a genuine opportunity. Last year we had several members come forward to preach. It was a rich blessing. Will you offer to preach a Sunday? Wrestle with the Word, for all of our sake. You will find God's blessing.





Holy Week Services 2017:

**Palm/Passion Sunday Worship
at 10:15 AM (April 9)**

**Procession and Telling of the Sacred Story
(The Passion)**

**Maundy Thursday ~ April 13
Service begins at 7:00 PM**

**A Celebration of Love, which we receive and to
which we are called, with the Communion of
our Lord.**

Good Friday ~ April 14

**Cross Procession will begin at 11:30 AM
at English Lutheran Church**

**First Mennonite Church hosts the community
service at 12:00 PM (noon)**

Easter Sunday ~ April 16

Breakfast 8:00-9:30 AM

Easter Egg Hunt 9:30 AM

Worship 10:15 AM

**The Celebration of the Resurrection,
“Out of the Darkness”**

New Beginnings (February 13, 2017)

- Diane W., Dick M., Lin R., Ryan B., Tenna R. in attendance
 - Exploring Facebook boost value
 - Exploring a BAMA youth program
 - Ideas being discussed on how to maximize use of lawn
 - Exploring an updated Mission statement
 - Discussed how to best engage with preschool program
 - Start-up of a Kids Choir was presented; supported by group
 - “Little Free Pantry” concept presented; supported by group
- ## **New Beginnings (March 16, 2017)**
- Diane W., Dick M., Lin R., Ryan B., Tenna R. in attendance
 - Carole Enneking is now a BPC Facebook page editor. If you have pictures to post please forward to Carole (jcenne@gmail.com) or Sarah Brauen (snbrauen@gmail.com)
 - The development of a local multi-denominational Community Youth Program was discussed – leadership is needed to move this concept forward. Notify a New Beginnings team member if interested in leading this effort.
 - Lawn liability was discussed; Dick M. has contacted our insurance provider and they reported that the church currently carries adequate insurance and no additional rider/premium is currently necessary for typical lawn functions. Ways to maximize lawn use were discussed.
 - Discussion and coordination is on-going with the Bluffton Community Preschool. Efforts are being undertaken to obtain volunteers from the preschool to assist with both the Arts & Crafts and Festival of Wheels events in exchange for shared income.
 - Planning for a BPC Children’s Choir is underway, more details to be released soon.
 - The “Little Free Pantry” concept was supported by Session, discussion included where to place the pantry, who could build it, and how it could be promoted.
 - A new Mission Statement was developed for presentation to Session. Details to be released upon Session approval.
 - A Bluffton resident has approached the church regarding the planting of flowering dogwood trees along the Family Dollar parking lot. Session has been included in this discussion.
 - A Bluffton resident has approached the church regarding the beautification of the alley to the northeast. Recommendation was to wait for input from the Village’s American Bloom evaluation to be completed before continuing this discussion.
 - There is currently one unfilled seat available on the New Beginnings team. Reach out to a team member if you are interested in joining.
 - Next meeting: April 19, 7:30pm

Highlights of March's Session Meeting

- Session approved to have Bigelow restore the original stained glass window – approx. \$500 with money to come from the Memorial Fund. Window frame is being refinished by Owen Ziessler. Bigelow will then insert the stained glass window in it. Minutes and Membership Rolls book will be reviewed by MVP in March. Approved to receive Dorothea Radabaugh as a member through Letter of Transfer from Pleasant View United Methodist Church. GA Statistical info was submitted.
- Approved Deacons' request to purchase 10x15 pop up tent with walls for approx. \$290 from Memorial Funds. Pastor Dave will order so no shipping. Session agreed to loan tent to church members with clear understanding if damaged/destroyed it would expect to be replaced.
- M+R removed the water softener at the manse - \$173. Steve Shaw will be installing the storm door/screen door at manse. Nate Ulrey removed the downed tree on church yard after storm - \$250 including stump removal. Flapper in the men's restroom was replaced. Discussed making renovations (kitchen/bathroom) in manse once Pastor Dave moves out in June. Tom Hursey and Lynda Best agreed to coordinate committee with additional members of the congregation. Asked to bring project proposals and estimate of labor/materials to session.
- Pastor Dave led four worship services, visitations, home communion at Maple Crest, participated in breakfast group, chili cook off, Claralice Circle, committee meetings, BAMA, MVP meeting in Toledo. Approved granting Continuing Education for March 20-26 – does include a Sunday, arrangements already made for pulpit supply.
- Pastor Dave's retirement celebration will be held on Sunday, May 21 following worship service.
- Approved receiving Steve Neff's gift of outside cross - to be placed in flower bed.

Share the Spirit and Connect with our Homebound!

Share the Spirit is designed to bring our church's homebound members together with caring members of the congregation. To someone who is homebound, being remembered is important. Family also is important, and isn't a church a spiritual family? *Thank you to everyone who has participated in this event in the past.*



Let's do it again! On May 7, you're invited to stay after worship for fellowship time and another opportunity to remember those who can't share in the life of the church as they once did. There will be cookies and punch for all. We encourage those who wish to take part this month to choose a slip of paper from our basket filled with the names of our homebound members. The next step is to visit the person whose name you have drawn, send an encouraging note/card, or give them a friendly phone call within a month.

This is a wonderful way to reach out to our homebound and offer a sense of connection and belonging. Share the Spirit drawings will be held every few months, so there will be plenty of chances for you (and your family!) to take part in this ministry. We hope you'll say "Yes!" and support a special someone.



Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) Update

The PNC team is led by Sarah Brauen (President) and Diane Winebar (Vice President). Members include Lori Schmidt, Sarah Gillen, George Stultz, Carole Enneking, Don Carroll, Dave Sycks, and Megan Sycks. The PNC has met three times and completed a Ministry Information Form (MIF). The MIF will be used to match our church with potential pastor candidates. The MIF will be reviewed by Session on April 6. Please reach out to any of the PNC members with questions.

New Commissioned Ruling Elder Program

The Maumee Valley Presbytery and the Commissioned Ruling Elder Committee are excited to announce the creation of a new Commissioned Ruling Elder Program (formerly Lay Pastor Program) to launch this September 2017. Do you feel a call to ministry but are not able to go to seminary? Do you know of someone in your church that has the gifts of ministry? Do you want to explore how God might use you in a new way in the local church? If so, this program may be for you!

Pastor Dave has a document entitled: Vision and Scope of the CRE Program. It explains the CRE training program that begins this fall. It is a 30-month program. It involves online classes with Union Seminary (www.upsem.edu/pathways for more information) plus a Bible Content Course, a Preaching course, and a few other locally generated courses to fill out what Union Seminary provides.

Some of the requirements to be a part of this program are: the student must be an Elder in a PCUSA church (or working toward it within a year) and the student must be endorsed by their local Session, and the student must be interviewed by the CRE committee prior to acceptance.

We are excited about launching this new training program. If you have questions contact Pastor Dave. The deadline for the completed application to be to us is June 1, 2017. Please send it to the Maumee Valley Presbytery at: 700 East Melrose Avenue, Findlay, Ohio 45840, Attention: CRE program.

With Anticipation,
The CRE Committee of Maumee Valley Presbytery



Deacons

- We set our next date for “Share the Spirit” for May 7.
- Discussed plans for our Easter Bake Sale on Saturday, April 15 from 9:00 AM to noon on our lawn. This all-church effort is always a Bluffton crowd pleaser! Sign-up forms will be in the bulletins this month, or you may call a deacon to let us know what you can donate.

Retirement Dinner

There will be a retirement dinner for Pastor Dave on May 21. We will be having monetary love gift. Donations may be given through offering, but please note for Love gift. Donations may also be given to Lori Schmidt. Look for more details in the next newsletter and the church bulletins.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Easter Sunday will be our One Great Hour of Sharing. This will be a special time to remember those who are in need throughout the world. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, the Presbyterian Church joins with a number of other denominations to work together against world hunger and poverty.

Per Capita

You are invited to help cover the per capita cost of your membership by making a special donation through our congregation as part of your discipline of stewardship. The per capita amount is \$30 per member in 2017. Thank You!

Deacons Annual Easter Bake Sale Saturday, April 15

The Deacons will be restarting their annual Easter Bake Sale on Saturday, April 15 at 9:00 AM. This year we will be selling under a tent set up on our lawn. Yep, you read that right! It's the **day before** Easter Sunday! Please help us ensure our town will have tasty goodies on their tables this Easter made with the love of Christ from your heart to theirs.

If you are willing to donate any type of baked goods, please complete the donation form and place it in the offering plate or send it into the church office. Be sure to bring your donated items to the church by 8:30 AM. that Saturday. (As set-up begins shortly after 8:00 AM.) If you're unable to bring your baked goods to the church, please contact a deacon, and we'll be happy to pick up your donations!

Easter Breakfast

The men of the church will be cooking and serving breakfast Easter Sunday from 8:00 to 9:30 AM. Join us in celebration of the joy of Easter morning.

Easter Egg Hunt

We will have our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday at 9:30 AM. Please join us for the fun!

Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!

If you wish to help decorate the sanctuary for the Easter Season, the Worship Committee requests that you use the form included in the newsletter or bulletin to make a monetary donation. Please send names and money to church office by April 9.

The money collected will be used to purchase Easter Lilies and other items needed during the Easter season. The money can be given in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. Please place your completed form in the collection plate or send it to the church office at P.O. Box 149, Bluffton OH 45817.

Mission

- Raised \$350 from giving offering and we purchased seeds, chickens, kitchen items, blankets, garden tools, and several other things through the giving catalog. A big thank you to all who supported us.
- Coming soon, information about the Bluffton Presbyterian Church relay team and how people can support or help.



Bluffton Area Food Pantry

The Bluffton Area Food Pantry thanks you for your continued support. Listed below are some items to consider for the pantry:

- Lotions and Creams
- Cereals
- Soups and Crackers
- Spaghetti and Sauces
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Paper products: TP, Paper Towels, Kleenex
- Canned Fruits
- Canned Vegetables (No corn or green beans needed at this time)
- Personal Hygiene Products: Deodorant, Shampoo, Hair Care Items (No bath soaps or toothpaste needed at this time)
- Spaghettios and similar canned foods
- Canned Meats
- Hamburger Helper
- Tuna and Tuna Helper

Thank you for your interest in Bluffton Area Food Pantry.



Family Promise

We will be hosting dinner for Family Promise guests at Emmanuel UCC on April 28. We will need to be there from 5:00 to 8:00 PM to serve the meal, clean up, and spend time in fellowship with the guests. Emmanuel UCC is also looking for volunteers to serve as overnight hosts. This would involve arriving at 8:00 PM and staying at the church until the next morning. If you are willing to prepare food, host the meal, or stay overnight please see Tenna Rhonemus.



ignite

Fellowship/Action/Service

Ignite - merging fellowship, families, and service

Bowling Party – Bites, Strikes, and Ignite!





Weekday Christian Education Walkers

Weekday Christian Education Walkers needed on April 21 – there are a few time slots open to help walk classes to the Mennonite Church and back. Open times are 10:35-11:05 AM and 1:00-2:10 PM. Contact Carole Enneking 419-348-7691 or jcenne@gmail.com if you are available.

Arts and Crafts Show

Bluffton Presbyterian Church will once again be serving a lunch during Bluffton's annual Craft Show held on Saturday, May 13. Items requested to be donated include pies, cookies, brownies, canned pop (name brands only), and bottled water. Workers are needed for various shifts: set up, kitchen crew, serving, cleaning up.

If you are able to help that day by working or donating items, please either complete a bulletin insert or contact Lori Schmidt (schmidtlbath@gmail.com) or Cindy Gillen (cegillen@marathonpetroleum.com).

We are also looking for volunteers to coordinate kids' activities on the church lawn. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Brauen (snbrauen@gmail.com).

Proceeds from this meal are designated for our general budget. Thanks in advance for your part in making this event a success. Prayers for good weather are always appreciated!



Youth Group

The youth group will have our monthly meeting on April 2 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. This meeting will be our last stop with our Backstage Pass to the Bible and we will be exploring the last book of the Bible. Come join us for food, interesting discussion of God's word and plenty of fun!

The 30 Hour Famine will serve as our meeting in May, so we will not be meeting on May 7. See Tenna if you have any questions.

30 Hour Famine

The youth group will be participating in the 30 Hour Famine on May 5-6. This event is sponsored by World Vision, the largest food distribution partner of the United Nations' World Food Program. They aid in times of disaster, offer education programs and work in community development for sustainable positive changes in the lives of those they serve. World Vision is a terrific steward of the money donated to their organization, with 85% of every dollar going directly to programs helping those in need.

During the Famine the youth will complete Bible studies, a service project and play lots of fun games. The youth will also go without food for 30 hours and spend the night in a cardboard village on the lawn. These activities help the participants get a better understanding of what it is like for those who lack basic necessities.

We want to extend an invitation for the congregation to participate with us in a few different ways. Choose the way that fits you best!

- Sign up on our prayer list. We want to have someone praying each hour of the Famine and yes that would mean prayers in the middle of the night. Any night owls up for supporting us? The sign-up sheet will be in the back of the sanctuary.
- Do a fast yourself. This could be giving up food, even just one meal. It could also be giving up technology, or any other thing that has become a "necessity" in your life.
-

- Join us for our service project. In years past we have had clean up days, completed yard work, and completed projects at BCDC. This year's project is still being finalized.
- Join us for our prayer walk Friday night or stop in Saturday during the day if you want. The prayer walk will be set up in the sanctuary.
- Join us as we break our fast with a potluck meal on Saturday.
- Sponsor the Famine with a financial donation. The Famine is one of the ways World Vision raises funds for their work around the world. All donations are tax deductible and can be given to any of the youth group members or Tenna. Last year we raised \$595. It would be awesome if we could top that this year!
- Stop in and see what we are up to during the event!

Please consider participating in the 30 Hour Famine. This event literally changes lives! More details will be shared through announcements and in the bulletins as we get closer to May 5-6.

Graduate Recognition

If you have a family member graduating high school or college this year, we would like to recognize them. Please e-mail a description of their accomplishments, future plans, and a picture if possible to Cindy Gillen at cegillen@marathonpetroleum.com for inclusion in the May Newsletter. A reception celebrating the graduates will be held on June 4 immediately after worship.

Personal Information

Don't forget to let Cathy Carroll know when you have a change in address, phone number, and/or email address.

If your birthday or you know of a birthday that does not show up in our newsletter, please let Cindy Gillen know.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be July 16-20 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM each night. English Lutheran is the host church and we are helping with the preschool area this year. We are in charge of the Bible story and games for these youngsters each night. We will need volunteers to help in these areas and 2 walkers for each night. If you are willing to help, please let Carole Enneking or Tenna Rhonemus know. More details will be shared as we move forward with planning.

Thank You!!!

A deep felt thank you to the group of carolers who came to my home before Christmas. I enjoyed them immensely. It was also nice seeing again young and old friends.

Avis

Happy Birthday!!

April	1	Megan Sycks
	2	Danielle Rhonemus
	3	Brian Edelbrock
	4	Beth Buist
	5	Helen Hawk
	8	Ashlin Gable
	13	Scott Parker Avery Talavinia
	14	Marilyn Bullock
	15	Mary Barnett
	23	Pam Weisenbarger Lynn Nowak-Sneary
	24	Will Neff
	25	Dorothy Hursey
	26	Cathy Carroll
	29	Kristi Fifer
	30	Sally Reeder
May	2	Patrick Rhonemus
	3	Paige McVetta

Prayer Requests

Prayers of Sympathy with the families of Steve Swank and Tom Clark.

Prayers of Safety with Emily Sycks and the Ashland University Choir as they travel to Germany.

Prayers for Peace in our lives and in our World.

Prayers for our members and friends serving in the armed forces: especially Kyle Begg, Austin Begg, Dave Souders, Andrew Warner, and Lucas Woodward.

Prayers of Healing for Mary Barnett, Emerson Basinger, Michael Lee Bucher, Carl Wolf, Tyler and Laura From, Anessa Samsal, Autumn Sprunger, Charles, Ermil, and Jane, Bob and Jean Braden, Helen Hawk, Ron Steiner, Stella Tomlin, Carol Begg, Bill Warner, Brittney Kemper and twins, Heidi Gallagher, and Judy Miracle.

BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Mike Rhonemus (419-358-8148 / rhonstar@juno.com), or call the church office (419-358-5806) with your prayer request, and they will pass along the information.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer chain other than yourself, please be sure to get their permission first. Names and circumstances can be kept confidential, if desired. God knows for whom we pray. If you would like to be part of the chain or would like more information, please contact Mike or another deacon.

We Lift Our Prayers



Put a prayer request in –
take a prayer request out.

Look for prayer request slips in the pews and near the prayer box. Or use your own paper. Requests can be as simple as “I’m having back pain,” or “My son is looking for a job.” The slips can be placed in the box or in the offering plates. Prayer requests can be submitted anonymously.

Allow someone in your church family to support you in private prayer.

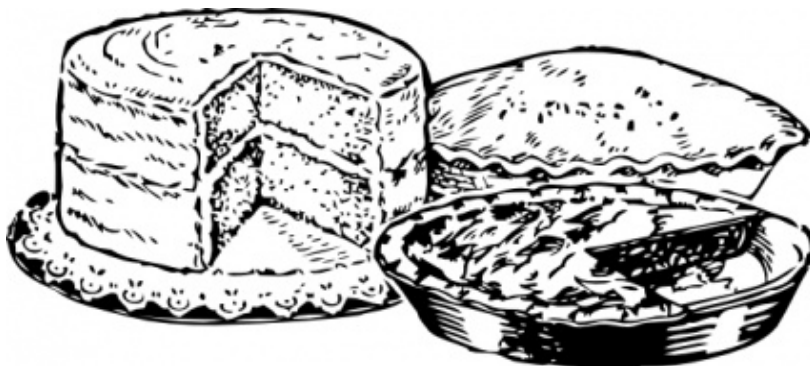
Easter Bake Sale

**Sponsored by
The Bluffton Presbyterian Church Deacons**

Do you want homemade treats for Easter Dinner?

Do you want more time with family and friends?

We can help!



We will be selling pies, cookies, cupcakes, breads
and other delicious baked goods!

Saturday, April 15th

(The day before Easter)

9:00 to 12:00

(or until we sell out)

Bluffton Presbyterian Church

(Under the tent at the corner of Main St and Cherry St)

Proceeds will be used for local mission needs.

Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!

If you wish to help decorate the sanctuary for the Easter Season, the Worship Committee requests that you use the form below to make a monetary donation.

The money collected will be used to purchase Easter Lilies and other items needed during the Easter season. Please place your completed form in the collection plate or send to the church office (P.O. Box 149, Bluffton OH 45817).
Thank you.

I/We wish to donate: \$_____

I/We would like this gift to be given in Memory of:

I/We would like this gift to be given in Honor of:

Name: _____

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I/We would like this gift to be given in Honor of:

Name: _____

Bluffton Presbyterian Church
112 N. Main St.
P.O. Box 149
Bluffton, OH 45817
419-358-5806

Pastor: Rev. David Good
Phone: 765-993-7791
Email: mangendave@frontier.com
Office Hours: Wed. 11:00-1:00 and
Thurs.-Sat. 9:00-1:00

Secretary: Cathy Carroll
Email: bpcbluff@wcoil.com
Office Hours: Tues. and Wed. 9:00-12:30
Website: blufftonpc.org

Treasurer: Darin Leugers
Email: dleugers8319@yahoo.com

Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Sunday Worship Service: 10:15 AM

2017 Church Officers

Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt
Buildings & Grounds – Tom Hursey
Christian Education – Tenna Rhonemus and
Carole Enneking
Finance & Stewardship – Dick McGarrity
Mission – Lynda Best
Nominating – Tom Edwards and Cindy Gillen
Personnel – Bob Angus
Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt
Worship – Cindy Gillen
Members at Large – Tom Edwards, Lori
Schmidt, and Phil Weisenbarger

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Laura From
Members: Marilyn Edwards, Barb Fett, Laura
From, Gayle Marshall, Mike Rhonemus, and
Donnas Stone.