

ARISE CONNECTIONS



Discovering together what Faith can do.



Ministers

Every member of the Church

Pastor

Douglas J. McMunn

Music Minister

Kevin Griffin

Administrative Assistant

Dave Russell

Ministry Center

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Pinckney, MI 48169

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We've Got a New Name!

Arise Connections is our new newspaper name, chosen to signify our connection with God, as well as each other. Arise is a caring community, known for our hospitality. It is our goal, as the editorial team, to communicate these connections through a representative variety of articles and photos. Thanks to all who offered their opinions! Also, we are working to improve our printing quality. Please let us know what you think!

Building on Faith: An Interview with Mark Wood

Mark Wood is very visible at Arise. In fact, for those of us who saw him dress as Jesus last Palm Sunday, he bears a remarkable resemblance to many popular paintings of Christ. Coincidence?



Mark Wood

He certainly IS a "savior" to the Arise community, having stepped forward to coordinate and oversee the construction of our new church.

Mark is a member of the Arise Building Committee (ABC), and has accepted the role of construction superintendent. "My responsibility will be to have work lined up appropriately... make sure the work is organized and the materials are there. Depending on the task, I will supervise. What we promised the congregation is to try to do a fiscally responsible job for them. That's why it's essential that we minimize our use of contractors. We will use both volunteers and contractors. I know a lot of guys in the neighborhood."

The work ahead is in good hands. A carpenter by trade, Mark has years of experience as a large scale construction superintendent, managing skilled trades for major projects that have included Saline, Dexter and Chelsea High Schools, along with some retail and hospital work. He is

currently working on the new high school in South Lyon.

In addition, Mark recently returned from Mexico, where he and John Holden joined members of other churches to build three "casitas" for needy families... in one week! "I enjoy sort of getting together as a bunch and making something happen. It's about the relationships that you develop over time."

He and his wife, Barbara, have also done work over the years with Habitat for Humanity. Recounting one story of a miracle they've experienced, he told how volunteers had been lined up and materials packed for what promised to be a sunny next day of work, only to awaken to pouring rain. He and Barbara drove to the site and found, to their surprise, that precisely at 7:50 am the rain stopped, the sun came out, the framing



Pastor Doug McMunn lays cinderblock for Arise Church foundation, as Mark Donovan looks on.



April 16

Pastor's Column



Pastor Doug McMunn

The Bible in A Word

Recently as I sat down to read my Bible, I wondered how I would summarize the whole book. How would you summarize it? Here's what I wrote:

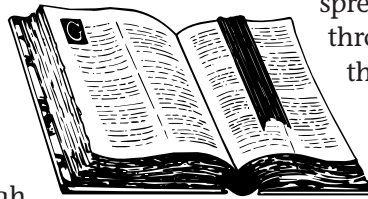
In a Word: God

In a Sentence: God saves us.

In a Page:

The Bible is a collection of 66 books written from about 1500 B.C. until

about 100 A.D. Early books report the ancestral roots of Jewish monotheism. Later books report the roots of Christian faith. God promises one man, Abraham, a great legacy, a blessed nation of his descendants. His grandson, Jacob, takes the growing family to Egypt, where they multiply and are forced into slavery for 400 years. God rescues them from oppression and they migrate (The Exodus) north. God commands them to worship only one God and to live holy lives. In time they conquer the land God promised to Abraham's descendants. Jacob's sons become 12 tribes and set-up a kingdom, ruled in turn by Saul, David, and Solomon. The kingdom divides into Israel in the north and Judah



in the south. Prophets speak God's word to confront evil and injustice in society. They fight many wars with their neighbors. The prophets warn the people that disobedience will lead to their destruction and exile, which happens, and yet the prophets promise a great future restoration. The temple in Jerusalem, destroyed in 586 B.C, was restored in 515 B.C. The nation is occupied by various foreign powers, and Jewish hope is centered in a great deliverer, the Messiah.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem when the Jews were under Roman rule. He fulfills ancient prophecies about the Messiah. He performs miracles, teaches, heals, and preaches the good news of the Kingdom of God. In Jesus, God offers a new covenant relationship, not just to a chosen nation, but to all people. Jesus became popular in Judea, but Jewish authorities perceived him as a threat to the status quo. They accused him of blasphemy, and the Roman governor crucified him for claiming to be king of the Jews. On the third day the resurrected Christ appeared to his disciples. The Holy Spirit empowered them to proclaim God's salvation in Jesus Christ and spread the good news of God's kingdom throughout the world. Those who receive the message are invited to become the living body of Christ, the hands and feet of Jesus, continuing God's saving work today in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Building on Faith: An Interview with Mark Wood (continued from pg.1)

crew arrived and they got the house up, with trusses and plywood. At 6:00 pm, while packing up, it started to pour again, and rained all night. "Lesson One: you get what you need when you're doing the right stuff. The rain just sort of stopped for us! There was a picture of us raising the front wall of the house with the sun shining on the framing. The sun made a perfect cross...just perfect! You just get these subtle little messages in your life. We started noticing that as we went through the process."

Mark's faith journey began as a Methodist and took him to a Presbyterian congregation, where he was active in youth groups. It was there that he earned and still retains the nickname of "Monk." Following a tour in the Army and an unsuccessful marriage, he fell away from the church in his twenties and thirties, before returning to his Methodist heritage. What brought him back? "A lot of it has to do with raising children...spending time with your family and sending the right messages...You wind up being the good example and you end up getting what you need. Now it's just the two of us. It's a special time together; you can count on it!"

Ahead lies the Arise construction, which will take place in four stages, moving from the youth center to the multi-purpose facility to the larger sanctuary, to site development. There are needs for all kinds of skills and abilities, including: electrician; heating and cooling; and materials procurement (from specifications). If you have the skills and interest, please contact Mark now!

"I think that the best thing that will come out of this building project will be the relationships. Where people actually come together through the doing and have learned to enjoy each others company, there will be stronger bonds. This is a giant advantage for Arise. I built my own house and get great satisfaction from it!"

Of course, this will also take continued financial commitment. "What I'd like to see happen is that the path we're on financially will take 5-7 years to pay off, and I'd like us to find a way to make that easier so we don't wind up in a bunch of debt. The only way to avoid that is to crank it up a little bit. I'd like people to find a reason to do that. The relationship will cause that to

continued on pg.4

United Methodist Special Sunday

Human Relations, Native American Ministries

Rural Life and Golden Cross—April 2nd

On April second there will be a special collection for four United Methodist missions: **Human Relations, Native American Ministries, Rural Life and Golden Cross.** Previously we have spread four collections among four Special Sunday offerings. This year we have combined these mission projects into one “Special Sunday” offering to help consolidate, and we will divide the collection equally between the programs, except when a giver designates a gift to a particular mission.

Our **Human Relations** offering provides basic supplies for those in need. From Milwaukee’s inner city, Susan Passi-Klaus described how your mission dollars are at work. “How far will a dollar go? Not very far when it comes to acquiring high-tech gadgets and designer clothing. But a dollar in the hands of volunteers buying tennis shoes and school supplies for jail-bound teenagers can literally change lives....We can give them deodorant and toothpaste so they’re not embarrassed in school.”

The **Native American Ministries** offering provides Native people with “a worship style that fits the needs of the community they represent... The ultimate goal is to seek a closer relationship with the Creator.” United Methodists support churches and worship services on Native American reservations, in rural communities and in urban areas.



Rural Life creates opportunities for work teams from all over the country to serve together in rural areas. We support rural ministries through grants to rural churches. Many agricultural communities are in economic transition and their churches need the support of our connection.

Golden Cross provides medical care for people who cannot otherwise afford it. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, believed that the biblical concept of stewardship meant proper care for the body as well as the Spirit. Locally, Golden Cross assists the Chelsea United Methodist Retirement Community and The Methodist Children’s Home Society in Redford.

Please consider this Special Collection with an open heart. The money you give will give back so very much.

Laura Bowen, Missions Chair

Relief Kits for Liberia

“Even before the war, Liberia was one of the poorest countries in the world.”

The civil war in Liberia, which broke-out in 1989, marked the beginning of the unrest in the region of West Africa. Over 200,000 people died, and as many as 2.5 million were displaced by the situation. The seven-year war has created a complex humanitarian crisis that today. Many families are still living in squalor, relying on missions groups for their food, water and overall care. Without their basic needs being met, conflict will surely return.

What can we do? Arise Church members can provide basic necessities for health and education: soap, toothpaste, Band-Aids, pencils, paper and crayons. In April the Arise Missions committee is collecting relief kits for Liberia. These kits will be taken to the Detroit Annual Conference in May, where we fill a large shipping container for those in need.

We can do so much when we all work together!

Laura Bowen, Missions Chair



Mission Moment

School Bags for Liberia

Threads of Faith has been busy cutting fabric and sewing school bags for the children of Liberia again this year. It’s always a fun project for us, as we imagine the excitement of the kids standing in line, waiting for their chance to get a bag

that is full of school supplies. When Rev. Nellie Wright, a Liberian pastor, visited Arise in 2004, she indicated that the kids start lining up hours before the bags are distributed, going oldest to youngest. Sometimes the bags run out before all the children receive one, and she described their disappointment. That thought, plus the joy of creating things for these kids, has kept us motivated during our third year on this project.

We are happy to support the efforts of the Arise Mission Committee, as they encourage us all to become active participants in meeting the needs of others. We’d like to thank Judy Miller who recently donated fabric that will be used for future school bags and Dorothy Winslow, who is helping us embroider squares for baby quilts. This L.I.F.E. Team is open to anyone at Arise who is interested in the needle arts. No experience is necessary. We meet the 2nd Monday of the month from 7 – 9 pm at different members’ homes. We’d love to have you join us! Watch the bulletin and newsletter or call Beth Plachta (810) 231-7588.

Relay for Life on May 19-20

By Jen Wagner

There are many experiences that give me an emotional rush and lift my spirits. For example: spotting two huge raccoons lumbering through our woods, listening to my six year old reading bedtime stories to my five year old, or running across a 90% off sale on ANYTHING. One experience that tops those for me is the Relay for Life.

Simply arriving at the Brighton High School track to participate in the event gives me goose bumps. There is a sea of vehicles in the parking area and a lot of hustle and bustle in anticipation for the night to come and the day to follow. I've always been privileged enough to be there for the survivor's lap.

Watching hundreds of people of all ages make that first walk around the track will cause your hair to stand on end, while you cry a river. It especially touches my heart to see toddlers and young children among the survivors. Then I see my friends from Arise all walking side by side in a line almost long enough to fill the width of the track and the floodgates open.

This year I believe Arise people will fill every lane of the track on May 19. I know I will make our line a little longer. Even if you miss us walking shoulder to shoulder, I hope you can make it out to walk a lap or two of your own before the closing ceremony Saturday afternoon. If you're not able to be there, at least consider supporting the American Cancer Society through one of our walkers.

Mary Read, Diane Gould and Rick Beaudin are the people to contact to sign up for Relay for Life. You may also visit www.acsevents.org/relay/mi/brighton for more details. Candy bars and luminary bags are now on sale. Food and beverage donations will be accepted for our walkers.

I think walking on a church team at an American Cancer Society event makes for a great opportunity to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Come join us!



The Spirit's Moving at Arise!



Sherry Graham

The power of the Holy Spirit is available to all of us. The only requirement is to accept an invitation. So it is with the 50 Day Adventure and the Women's Retreat. We all were invited to study and reflect, rejoice, and renew. Take the invitation. You will not be sorry, because our God is faithful and will provide a tree to lean on with branches that ascend into the heavens.

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Ephesians 3:16-19

Visioning the Possible

Church-wide "Town Meetings" are being held after each service on March 26th and April 9th, to communicate and involve the congregation in the work being done by the Visioning Group that has been meeting since November. This includes some proposed revisions to the Core Values, Purpose, Vision and Mission, as well as Strategic Priorities for the next 3-5 years. This effort is tied to our ten year anniversary and ongoing reflections on how to best serve God, each other and our communities.

Building on Faith: An Interview with Mark Wood (continued from pg.2)

happen. I think we'll get going and start enjoying doing it together, and that will spill over onto fundraising."

Asked what message he would like to share with the Arise family, Mark said, "Everyone needs to participate; if you don't think you know a way to participate, come and talk to Brad or Norma (Topp) or Sally (Guyon). There are lots of tasks and some have nothing to do with construction. We could also use a couple of more Building Committee members. It's about the importance of excellence, like the Momentum for Life book that many of us are reading.

Thanks, Mark... for your personal commitment to excellence!

Arise Women’s Retreat: May 6th

Mark your calendars and invite your friends, ladies! This year’s retreat will take place on Saturday, May 6th, at the Morphew home. The day promises to be inspirational as well as full of fun and learning. The event, sponsored by the TGIF Sisters L.I.F.E. Team, will run from 9 am to 4 pm, and include the following programs:

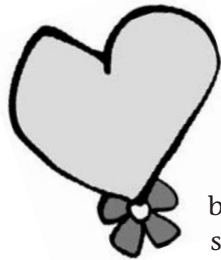
God’s Gifts and Grace: A Celebration of Women

- Discovering Our Gifts: “True Colors” self assessment and conversation
- Cultivating Our Gifts: Presentations and conversation with guest speakers, including: Diane Griffin, missionary to Peru; Susie Treber, mother of quadruplets; and Marianne McMunn, a Certified Lay Speaker in the United Methodist Church.
- Lunch: The Gifts of Food, Sacred Space & Sharing
- Sharing our Gifts: Micki Baumgart’s story, with a signing song
- Acknowledging our Gifts: Program of sharing and our gifts
- Connecting Our Gifts: Creating a symbolic gift for the Arise Community
- Celebrating Our Gifts: Prayer, reflection and a special closing ceremony



Please ask design team members if you have questions (April Flanagan, Sherry Graham, Marianne McMunn & Beth Plachta). To register, see Carrie Engel. The fee before 4/23 is \$15; thereafter, it’s \$20.

Thanks, Arise!



Thank you to my dear friends at Arise. I’m not even sure I can express how grateful I am to our church family. In the last few years, they have been there for us in ways that were beyond anything I would ever expect. Doug has been at the hospital with each hospital stay we’ve had. (I count 5!) We’ve received countless calls and cards of support. In my recovery, we’ve had meals spanning over 2 weeks, with more people calling to check if there is more we need. This may be a small church without a building (yet!), but I truly believe it is what Christ wants in a church. A group of loving people who reach out to each other in whatever way is needed. Thanks again!

Yours in Christ,
Becky Fahmie

The Wit & Wisdom of Youth...

On Easter

When asked what her favorite part was about Easter, Faith Hillaker said, “It seems like everything comes alive right after Easter...all of the squirrels, chipmunks and flowers... just like Jesus came alive.”



On Jesus’s Dad’s Name

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, “What was Jesus’ mother’s name?” One child answered, “Mary.” The teacher then asked, “Who knows what Jesus’ father’s name was?” Another child said “Verge.” Confused, the teacher asked, “Where did you get that?” The child replied, “You know, they’re always talking about Verge n’ Mary.”

(Thanks to Jan Richards!)

On Adam’s Rib

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny, a child in the kindergarten class, seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam’s ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying as though he were ill, and said. “Johnny what is the matter?” Little Johnny responded, “I have a pain in my side. I think I’m going to have a wife.”



A big THANK YOU to the Primetimers, who fold our newsletter for mailing each month! From left to right: Evva Funk, Gene Smith, Ethel Ward, Fran Smith and Dorothy Winslow.

EASTER, GLORIOUS EASTER!

Editor's Note: Easter is a glorious time of celebration! This page is devoted to ways in which Christians have celebrated around the world!

In Celebration...

The custom of greeting the rising sun with hallelujahs began in early Christian times. The word was taken from the Hebrew Hallelu Yah, an Exclamation of praise or joy meaning "Praise His Holy Name." The Resurrection of Christ is, therefore, an optimum setting for this lovely custom. Because hallelujahs are generally omitted from church music during Lent, this is a welcome return to the triumphant rejoicing of the Easter season.

Egg rolling is a favorite American custom that began centuries ago in Europe. The unique celebration and egg rolling at the White House lawn on Easter Monday originated directly from the Monday celebrations of the Europeans. The custom is thought to be symbolic of the rolling away of the stone from Christ's tomb.

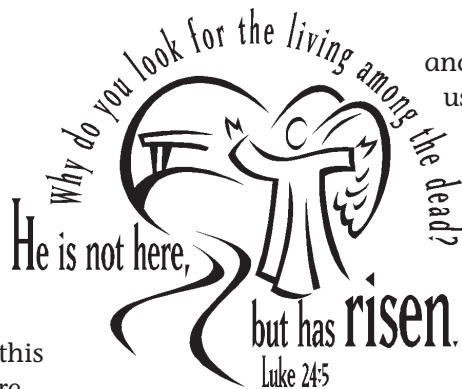
In England, one old custom called "lifting" occurred on the two days following Easter. On Easter Monday, men lifted their wives in chairs covered with white fabric and decorated with colorful ribbons. The following day, the ladies lifted the gentlemen in the same way. The custom was said to be a memorial of Christ being raised from the grave. In olden days, the king or queen customarily washed the feet of the poor on the Thursday before Easter.

In France, the church bells hang silent from Good Friday until Easter morning. When the bells ring on Easter, the children go outside to collect Easter eggs and candy that have "fallen from the sky."

In Tradition...

The Polish people have perhaps the most elaborate Easter festivities of any country. One of their unique contributions is the pisanki egg. The name derives from the Polish verb pisac, meaning "to write". You may have seen these brightly colored eggs, laboriously covered with geometrical or abstract patterns. Christian symbols such as the fish and the cross are also used. To produce such superbly decorated eggs requires not only patience and skill, but also native ability and technical know-how. Hours upon hours go into making a single design.

To the blown egg, wax is applied by means of a needle or a tiny metal tube. Sometimes the tip of a shoelace is used. Parts of the egg are coated with the wax, so that they will not absorb color when the eggs are dipped into dye. To achieve the multicolored effect, the egg is waxed



and dipped repeatedly. Multiple colors are often used from natural ingredients, such as moss for green, crocuses for orange and alder bark for black. These eggs are presented as gifts and are always kept for a long time.

Legends surrounding these eggs vary. In one story, Mary Magdalene and her companions took cooked eggs with them to eat after their work at the sepulcher was completed. On arrival at the tomb, they found that the eggs had miraculously taken on all the colors of the rainbow. In another, Jesus' mother Mary boiled eggs and painted them bright colors to amuse her young son. The pisanki are thought to protect the home from evil and are kept in the house and planted in the vineyards to protect the harvest. This rich tradition of taking a simple egg, the symbol of life, and decorating it with symbols of health, love and prosperity is one that is universally admired for its beauty. (From Peasants to Kings: Pisanki Eggs)

In Scandinavia, it is customary to bring budding branches from flowering trees into the house. In the warmth of the home, the buds burst open just in time for Easter. Sometimes the branches are made into Easter trees and hung with colored eggs or feathers.

In Food...

In Italy, a visitor to the house never refuses the Easter eggs that have been blessed by the priest for this event. Usually the eggs are placed in the middle of a sweet bread that has been shaped into a chick, bunny, or doll. Making these special breads is a favorite family activity.

The Polish also take their Easter foods to the priest on Saturday for a blessing. They arrange food on green leaves in a large basket. Could this be the source of our American custom of Easter baskets?

Russians celebrate Shrovetide (the week before Ash Wednesday) with pancakes called blini, which is where we got our dish called blintz.

In Greece, people carry lighted candles at midnight services Easter Eve. The worshippers leave the church with their candles lit. On Easter Day, special bread is eaten, called the Bread of Christ. A Greek cross representing the Crucifixion is marked on its top crust and the bread loaf is decorated with Easter eggs.

Happy Easter to you and your family!



Aleluia!
He is alive!

MARCH 2006 CALENDAR

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday _____

7:30 a.m.
Move into school

9:00 a.m.
Spirited Traditional
Worship

9:45 a.m.
Friendship Coffee

10:30 a.m.
Praise Celebration

4:00 p.m.
Arise Bowling League
700 Bowl, South Lyon

Monday _____

11:00 a.m.
Prayer Team

7:00 p.m.
Men's Huddle

Tuesday _____

7 p.m.
Disciple Bible Study

Wednesday _____

6:30 p.m.
Sr. High Youth

7:00 p.m.
Adult Bible Study

Thursday _____

10:00 a.m.
Worship Design

Saturday _____

8:30 p.m.
Young Adult LIFE Team

Coming Events

May 6
Arise Women's Retreat
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

May 19 & 20
Relay for Life.

May 19 – 21
Annual Conference

May 31
PHS Baccalaureate
7:00 p.m.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
March 26 Arise Town Meetings 10 & 11:30 a.m.	27	28	29	30	31 TGIF Sisters 10 a.m.	April 1 Visioning Session 9 a.m.
2 Holy Communion	3 Worship Design 6:30 p.m.	4 County UM Clergy at Arise 11:30 a.m. Discovery Class 5:30 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m.	5 Lenten Breakfast 10 a.m.	6	7 Teen Mania Fri/Sat at The Palace	8 Dad's at McMunn's 8 a.m.
9 Palm Sunday Youth worship night at Good News Chapel 6 p.m.	10 Threads of Faith at Beth Plachta's 7 p.m.	11 Discovery Class 5:30 p.m.	12 Lenten Luncheon, hosted by Arise at CCC* 12 noon	13 Maunday Thursday Service at CCC 7 p.m.	14 Good Friday TGIF Sisters 10 a.m. Worship Service at CCC 7 p.m.	15
16 Easter Sunday Outdoor service at Arise Acres, 8 a.m. Breakfast at Country El, 9 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Worship service 10:30 a.m.	17	18 Collate Newsletter 10 a.m.	19 Trustees 7 p.m.	20	21	22 Earth Day
23 District Board of Missions 4 p.m.	24	25	26 Administrative Professionals Day SPRC 6:30 p.m.	27	28 TGIF Sisters 10 a.m.	29 Dad's at Bollinger's; Huron River Cleanup Day
30 Camp Promotion Sunday (wear camp shirts!)	May 1	2	3	4	5	6 Arise Women's Retreat 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

* Community Congregational Church, located at 125 Unidilla Street, Pinckney

*"Easter says
you can put
truth in a grave,
but it won't
stay there".*

Clarence W. Hall

April 30th Camp Promotion Sunday

Be sure to wear your camp shirts! United Methodist camps are filling up quickly, but there are still several camps to choose from. What are your interests? There's a camp for you! Be sure to see Cheryl Bollinger for more details. (517) 545-9153



May 13th Workshop on Discipleship

The Board of Discipleship of the Detroit Annual Conference is offering a workshop entitled: "Hearts Strangely Warmed: Rekindling the Call to Make Disciples for Christ." It will be held on Saturday, May 13th at the Calvary United Methodist Church in Flint, Michigan, from 9-5. For further details, please contact Marianne McMunn or visit <http://www.umc-detconf.org>.

Arise

A United Methodist Church

Arise Ministry Center
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APRIL ANNIVERSARIES



April 13
Mike & Carol Sanborn
April 30
Tom & Debbie Short

*"The stone was rolled away from the door, not to permit Christ to come out, but to enable the disciples to go in."
—Peter Marshall*

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



6 Cheryl Bollinger	10 Don Fuller	20 Dan Guyon
22 Matthew McMunn Victoria Saenzdeviteri	24 Kathy Coudriet	29 Ken Skrent Donna Terhune

We would like to share your celebrations and apologize if we missed any special dates. To have a birthday or anniversary included in future newsletters, please give the information, in writing, to Dorothy Winslow. Thank you!

ARISE NEWSLETTER TEAM

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