

VANTAGE

A PUBLICATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BOCA RATON, FLORIDA



June/July 2013

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From Pastor Tom Lacey

Tracy Martin has been the Children's Ministry Director since 2002. For eleven years, the children and youth of our church have been the focus of her countless hours of service and ministry. Our Sunday School program has continued to be the most vital large ministry in our church under Tracy's hard work and leadership. We have all been blessed Sunday morning when the children would walk (and run) up to the steps, sit down and participate in Children's Time. The children look forward to Sunday School each week, and that is the best testimony to what Tracy has achieved during her eleven years.

I have many memories of my time with my friend and colleague. I will share just some of them with you.

- Tracy's bi-annual restrained panic as she worked to bring children and youth into form for the children's Christmas Sunday worship and Youth Sunday worship.
- The wide variety of Christmas pageants, dramas, and plays she researched, organized and ran over the last eleven years that have drawn the strongest compliments from people of all ages in church.
- Tracy's faithful, willing, creative, and fun partner in children's ministry, Gary.
- Her family, including Samantha and Jack, stuffing 600 or more Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt.
- Trying to guess the correct number of Easter butterflies to order each year and always having to call back at least twice to increase them.
- Worrying and wondering whether a magician, a barbecue, a bounce house, a slide, an animal show, or whatever else might be possible would be the best way to go for each summer's kick-off specials.



- Some of the Mission programs Tracy and Gary have organized:
 - * Super Bowl Soup luncheons
 - * Lynn University Walks for the Cure
 - * Haiti trip
 - * Food for the Poor
 - * Tomorrow's Rainbow
- Trying to pick the best Sunday school curriculum keeping into consideration our theology, the children and the adults who volunteered their time teaching.
- Dealing with the changing downstairs dynamics because of the emergence of Sea Star school.
- Shopping and cooking for Wednesdays Kids' Klubs, and always making the meals delicious and nutritious, and enough to permit me to eat!
- Development of First Communion program.
- A wonderful pet blessing program when she doubled the number of people we expected to attend.
- Bowling parties with families and pizza and laughter.
- Being able to go away on vacation each summer and trust in Tracy to take care of the upcoming August activities.

God bless you, Tracy and Gary, and thank you so much—again and again, THANK YOU. We wouldn't be the wonderful family church we are without your love, effort, care, and spirit!

Tom

Congratulations Confirmands!

It was a privilege to witness the confirming and joining in church membership of three lovely teenage young women on May 19. They all wore white, and were all participants in the Youth Sunday worship service that day. We welcome them all into active membership of our church! They are all exemplary people and set a fine example for our younger youth and children to follow. Congratulations to (l to r) Sophia, Molly, and Tobi.



In God's Continuing Service

Giving Levels Discussed

In phone calls and other interactions, the Long Range Planning Team has become aware that the Giving Levels page in the packet of material is a source of some people's concern. It appears only extraordinarily large gifts are the target of *In God's Continuing Service*. It is felt the vast majority of members and friends who cannot contribute at such a level is being overlooked. We understand why the Giving Levels page is perceived this way and regret having done anything to promote this (mis) perception.

Fellowship of Love contributions include any and all gifts up to \$100,000. We know this is where the vast majority of giving will fall, which is why it was named the Fellowship of Love—because God's love is for everyone! Please be aware the campaign calls for all contributions without regard to amount to be recognized on a Tree of Giving or a donor wall. Remaining anonymous is of course always an option.

We believe in the importance of *In God's Continuing Service*. We believe this campaign is the best and most important ministry we have among us, beyond what we already do together for God and good. We believe in the importance of our church to one another, to God, and to those whom God seeks to bring to a life in Christ among us and our faith.

We are steadfast in asking all members and friends to pray and consider what contribution you can make over the coming five years. Please pledge what you, your heart and God have agreed will express your love, hope, and faith in God's continuing service through our church.

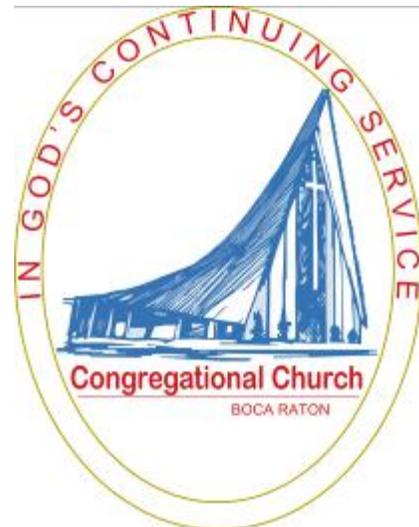
Commitments Update

The *In God's Continuing Service* five year program for building our church's future is fully underway. We look to:

- Complete critical licensing work required to house a preschool.
- Renovate the Rosser room in order to build an adult education room.
- Begin a wedding ministry, with potential to draw young people to our beautiful church and generate a new income source.
- Launch a new top of the line website in August.

Our church is working aggressively *In God's Continuing Service*, accepting its responsibility to support and spread Christian values to the community it has served for fifty years. It is adapting to the new world, new technology, and new opportunities to spread God's word and feed His flock.

This is an exciting time for Congregational Church of Boca Raton. The Long Range Planning Team and the Vision Ministry, our church's lay and volunteer leaders, ask for your prayers and support as we join hands, hearts, and resources *In God's Continuing Service*.



Church Events

Singles, Couples, Men, Ladies...



Lunch Bunch

Are you bored eating lunch by yourselves? You can join the Lunch Bunch every Wednesday at noon. Bring a sandwich, we serve beverage and dessert. Right now we have games of Mahjonn (free lessons) and Skip-Bo going, but we are open to your suggestions of fun stuff to do for those who want to remain after the meal for some fellowship. No need to even sign up—just show up!

Prayer Fellowship



Friday Prayer Fellowship and Bible Study meets at 10:00 am in the Rosser room. Please come and join us; it is a wonderful time for fellowship and sharing our faith. We use the Upper Room daily devotional as our study guide. If you have any questions, please call John Bird at (561) 400-5604.

Called To Serve



I stand at the crossroad,
The ever-present intersection
Between happiness and sadness,
Between importance and worthlessness,
Between peace and unrest,
Between my dreams and reality.

Are dreams destined to become realities?
Or are my realities but dreams?
Where do I go from here?
Which path do I choose?

B. Gartney

Facebook



Be sure to like us on Facebook to get the latest news and pictures! And while you're online, be sure to check out our website: www.churchofboca.org.

Boca Christians Eating Out



Boca Christians Eating Out

The B.C.E.O. meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and conversation.

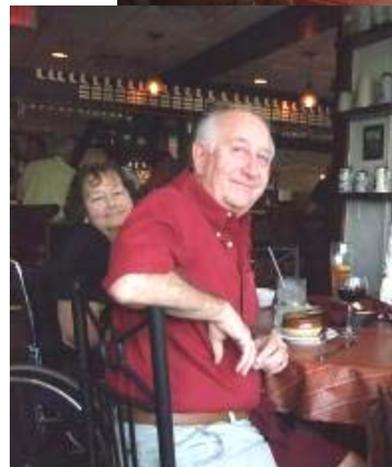
Please sign up in the Rosser Room if you are planning to join us so that we may reserve a table for the appropriate number of friends. Call the church office anytime before Thursday if you decide you would like to join us.



Janet and John Milshaw



Scott and Sarah Hugus, Sue Moser, and Larry Williams



Bonnie and Bob Tust

Conference News

2013 United Church of Christ Florida Annual Gathering

Submitted by Jennifer Schmuhl

This year the Annual Gathering of the United Church of Christ UCC Florida was held May 3-4 in Orlando. Jennifer Schmuhl, Sophia Monzani, and John Fenner represented Congregational Church of Boca Raton at the function and they came away from the conference with some valuable ideas for our church and useful contacts at other churches in the state. The title of the conference was, "IGNITE: Vitality for a New Day." Indeed, the conference focused on United Church of Christ growth (and survival) in Florida. Jennifer, John, and Sophia thank the CCBR-UCC for their support. If you would like to know more about the conference just ask them!



Who is the UCC?

Keynote speaker Rev. Cameron Trimble emphasized the UCC has become a "niche" denomination, at least in Florida. Churches need to determine the very specific, perhaps small, groups of people they would be most likely to attract to their church community. She described the UCC denomination as, "a diverse, socially-progressive, welcoming church, which has gotten past issues that now divide other mainline denominations." At the same time however, she urged deep reflection in each church on their values and on who the UCC is in order to best serve and reach out to their local community.

Rev. Cameron also talked about recent changes in religion as a whole that are significant the growth and survival of UCC churches. The UCC (and other mainline Churches) have become more theologically *forward-looking* over time, but have remained traditional in worship. By contrast, Evangelical mega-Churches have become more theologically *conservative* over time, but their services have exploded into the future with contemporary "7-11 Music" (seven words, repeated eleven times) and video screens.

In other words, while the UCC message has moved forward theologically, our services have remained generally traditional. Rev. Cameron suggested local churches consider some "non-explosive" tweaks to worship that may renew the service in ways that appeal to the whole congregation.

From Welcoming a Guest to Embracing a Congregant

Many people would rather sleep in Sunday morning. It may be the only day they can sleep in, or the only day they don't have to get all the kids out the door by 9:00am. It may be a beautiful day to go to the beach—early before it gets too hot. The competition for that Sunday slot is fierce.

All speakers emphasized social media as an important and useful way to reach out to potential worshipers, particularly younger ones. Speakers also agreed however, that the most reliable way to get someone to try us is still for a friend to recommend us to a friend, and invite that new person to church.

Rev. Cameron reminded us that many visitors may be coming to a church for the first time and may be unaware of the practicalities of visiting a church. They may not know the prayers or the hymns, or where the bathrooms are. They may not know to take a bulletin or that there is coffee after the service. She noted many un-churched people are looking for a place to encounter God, and to know that God cares about them. If they find this in our service, they will stay for coffee after the service. By the same token, a friendly, welcoming congregation is essential to ensuring a new person to returns to the church.

If the church offers an opportunity for visitors to connect with another human being when they first enter the church, someone who can help them find their way around, chances are they will return to the church. Rev. Cameron reminded us that in order to make guests comfortable in our churches we ought to consider receiving them as we would receive guests to our own homes: with joy that they have come and a smile that says come walk with us, you are welcome in the House of God.



THANK YOU, CHANCEL CHOIR
FOR A WONDERFUL MUSICAL SEASON!



June Birthdays

- 2 Natalie Hogan
Taylor Hogan
Alexandra Willard
- 5 Mary Dorst
John Miller
- 7 William Collins
Amy Shaw
- 8 Josias Emilcar
- 12 Lynn Buttner
Beth Diprato
Jack Martin
- 15 Valerie Ary
Eleanor Butler
Frederick Test
- 16 Carolyn Ehlers
Diego Ortiz
- 20 Robert Tust
- 23 Barbara Hichar
Miranda Jeffers
- 27 Elizabeth Ehlers
Faye Flemister
- 28 Janet Bales
John Mishaw
- 29 Gordon Hawkins
Gail Hogan
Mary Rivollier
- 30 Rebecca Singer
Jennifer Harper

Anniversaries

- 5 Nancy & John Miller
- 7 Carla & Tony Borchers
- 8 Judy & Steven
Kronenberg
- 16 Carla & James Robb
- 17 Mary Jane & Alan
Christman
- 19 Crystal & Robert
Gruenberg
Nancy & Ed Hindle
- 21 Rose & Larry Breakell
- 23 Tracy & Gary Martin
- 27 Wanda & Edward
Kollar
- 28 Roberta & John
Stetson
- 29 Donna & John Bird

June 2013 Calendar of Events



| | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--|---|-----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 9th Sunday of Ordinary Time 10:00 am Worship Service Communion by Intinction 10:15 am Church School 11:00 am Fellowship Time | 3 | 4 6:30 pm AA | 5 12 noon Lunch Bunch | 6 6:30 pm BCEO 6:30 pm AA | 7 10:00 am Prayer Group Bible Study | 8 |
| 10th Sunday of Ordinary Time 10:00 am Worship Service Baptism Comfort Dolls dedication 10:15 am Church School 11:00 am Fellowship Time | 10 7:00 pm Vision Ministry | 11 6:30 pm AA | 12 12 noon Lunch Bunch | 13 6:30 pm BCEO 6:30 pm AA | 14 10:00 am Prayer Group Bible Study | 15 |
| 11th Sunday of Ordinary Time 10:00 am Worship Service Rev. Roy Nyren 10:15 am Church School 11:00 am Fellowship Time Father's Day | 17 | 18 6:30 pm AA | 19 12 noon Lunch Bunch | 20 6:30 pm B.C.E.O. 6:30 pm AA | 21 10:00 am Prayer Group Bible Study | 22 |
| 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time 10:00 am Worship Service Rev. Roger Richardson 10:15 am Church School 11:00 am Fellowship Time | 24 | 25 6:30 pm AA | 26 12 noon Lunch Bunch | 27 6:30 pm B.C.E.O. 6:30 pm AA | 28 10:00 am Prayer Group Bible Study | 29 |
| 13th Sunday of Ordinary Time 10:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Church School 11:00 am Fellowship Time | | | | | | |

July 2013 Calendar of Events



July Birthdays

- 1 Steven Kronenberg
- 3 Jeanne Baur
Peter Guilfu
- 7 Alex Diprato
Elsie Rice
- 8 Mary Jane Christman
Anthony Witkiewicz
- 10 Grayce Esposito
Valerie Stanesco
- 13 Norman Coco
- 14 Mary Jo Henderson
Robert Wilson
- 17 Neal Dorst
- 19 Denise Dickison
Anita Miller
- 21 Leilani Van Eps
- 23 Arnie Miller
- 26 Elena Teixeira
Sarah Van Eps
- 27 Mayra Filmer
- 29 Aidan Seeds
Solos Teixeira
- 30 Chloe Borchers

Anniversaries

- 4 Helen & Jack
Goldberg
- 10 Ruth & Gordon
Hawkins
Barbara & Larry
Lacey
- 17 Sarah & Scott Hugus
- 19 Faye & Carl
Flemister
- 23 Sylvia & John Shaw
- 30 Katherine & Charles
Ramos

| | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---------------|------------------------|--|---|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | | 6:30 pm AA | 12 noon Lunch Bunch | Independence Day Office Closed | 10:00 am Prayer Group Bible Study | |
| 14th Sunday of Ordinary Time 10:00 am Worship Service Communion 10:15 am Church School 11:00 am Fellowship Time | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| | | 6:30 pm AA | 12 noon Lunch Bunch | 6:30 pm BCEO 6:30 pm AA | 10:00 am Prayer Group Bible Study | |
| 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time 10:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Church School 11:00 am Fellowship Time | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| | 7:00 pm Vision Ministry VANTAGE DEADLINE | 6:30 pm AA | 12 noon Lunch Bunch | 6:30 pm BCEO 6:30 pm AA | 10:00 am Prayer Group Bible Study | |
| 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time 10:00 am Worship Service Rev. Roy Nyren 10:15 am Church School 11:00 am Fellowship Time 11:15 am Volunteer Appreciation | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| | | 6:30 pm AA | 12 noon Lunch Bunch | 6:30 pm B.C.E.O. 6:30 pm AA | 10:00 am Prayer Group Bible Study | |
| 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time 10:00 am Worship Service Rev. Roger Richardson 10:15 am Church School 11:00 am Fellowship Time | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| | | 6:30 pm AA | 12 noon Lunch Bunch | | | |

Youth Sunday



Seth greeted Mary, welcoming her to the Youth Sunday worship service.



Julia handed out bulletins.



Justin was one of the ushers.



Liam shopped at McGod's as part of the skit, "Spiritual Fast Food."



Chloe read the Gospel.



The middle school/high school youth performed "One of the Crowd." The group included (r to l) Tobi, Sophia, Molly, Jack, and Henry.

Youth Sunday



Alexandra led the Invocation.



The Litany for Children was led by Amber and Haley.



Depressed Christian, Anna, and Seeker, Derek, talk at the bus stop in the skit, "Hearing Voices."



Nyna, Sloan, and Emmy provided a puppet show, "The Lord's Prayer," for Children's Time. Gary Martin made a special guest appearance as Scenery Holder.



The Benediction was offered by Randall.



After the Youth Service, there was a potluck luncheon to thank all the Youth volunteers, family, and friends.

Our Children

Summer One-Room Sunday School



During the summer months, we want to continue programs for our children.

It is our tradition to offer a "one room schoolhouse" with an informal and relaxed atmosphere. Art projects, games and wholesome videos will be a fun way for our youth to keep connected during the summer break. Having "antsy" children occupied will allow parents to also keep connected and attend worship regularly.

Thank you to all who volunteered to work with the children this summer!

Schedule:

June 9 Danielle Peterson
June 16 Carla Borchers
June 23 Debbie Garland
June 30 Teresa Van Eps
July 7 Marit Lacey
July 14 Teresa Van Eps
July 21 Jenny Damas
July 28 Juliet Carl
August 4 Jennifer Scott
August 11 Carla Borchers
August 18 Sarah Hugus

Please see Tracy Martin or Sarah Hugus to offer your additional help.



The Youth Choir



The Children's Choir



Our graduates, Brooke, Christina, and Wyatt, were celebrated at our Baccalaureate Service May 26.

Announcements and Articles



If you would like to have an article in the Vantage, please submit your article or announcement by the 15th of every month. **Items for the August Vantage are due by July 15th.** Sunday Bulletin announcements are due by Tuesday each week. Please email your articles, announcements and pictures for church events to office@churchofboca.org anytime before that date.

Boca Helping Hands



Good news! In May our Congregational Church of Boca Raton UCC donated 50 pounds of food to Boca Helping Hands. Now that we are beginning monthly records of food donations we can build on our success each month. Onward and upward is our goal!

With summer ahead you may not attend church as often due to vacation or other weekend activities. Please remember you can drop food off at church during the week, too. Let's keep our giving going!

(contributed by Team Leader Jennifer Schmuhl)



50th Anniversary

Planning continues for fulfilling 50 Good Deeds as the motto for our year-long celebration in 2014 of our church's 50th anniversary. A small planning meeting was held in mid-May, and several events are "in the works." Please share your talents as we continue to plan. If you feel called to help, please tell Pastor Tom, Sarah Hugus, or Sandi Kilbride. Your assistance will be well-appreciated!



We Respond to Disasters

Before disasters happen, we meet with our disaster ministry partners and we decide on unique tasks for each of us. The United Church of Christ has declared itself to be dedicated to doing long-term recovery. Other partners do the thing they declared to be what they do best. So some partners are best at doing immediate debris removal, some are best at moving a mobile kitchen into the disaster area and preparing meals, and all of the other partners have their unique tasks.



This being the case, we will wait until the people of Moore, Oklahoma, are organized and ready for our volunteers to come and help them to rebuild. It will probably take six to ten months for this to happen.

It has taken eleven months for the people of Columbia and Suwannee Counties to organize and prepare for volunteers to come to them to help repair flood damaged homes. We need volunteers now to help more than 400 families recover from the damage done by Tropical Storm Debbie. In the future, when they are ready for us, we will be seeking volunteers to go to Moore, Oklahoma. Now, during the week of June 22-29, we need fifteen to twenty volunteers who can help repair roofs, help replace damaged dry wall, and other similar projects.

Through Church World Service, which we support, many cleanup bucket kits, hygiene kits and baby kits have already been sent to Oklahoma. We now need your help to replace the kits which were sent so that when the next disaster occurs we have a new supply of kits to send to those people.

Bill Wealand
Disaster Ministry Coordinator
Florida Conference United Church of Christ
BWealand@uccfla.org or CWWealand@aol.com
352-406-4484

Church Fellowship

Our final regular monthly meeting of the Fellowship for the 2012-2013 season was on May 8th. Fourteen women and two men joined us for lunch at the Olive Garden in Boca Raton. We were having such a good time, several people returned to the church for a game of Mahjong. We will miss our snowbird friends as they head north, but we wish them all a safe journey and a happy summer.



Church Fellowship

Those of us who stay here will continue our **Wednesday Lunch Bunch** get togethers. Everyone is welcome to join us. There is no need to sign up—just show up. We usually have about a dozen people and it has been fun getting to know each other better. The Fellowship serves dessert and beverages; everyone is responsible for bringing their own lunch entree. While we continue to play Mahjong and SkipBo after lunch, we would welcome suggestions for other fun games to enjoy.

We will use these summer months to begin planning for next season's programs. Please see the suggestion form on page 15 in this issue of Vantage. We have enjoyed including the men in our Fellowship, and we hope more of our male friends and younger members will decide to join us in the fall. Your input is important so I hope you will take a few minutes to complete the suggestion form and either give it to me or turn it in to Sandi. We are looking for EVERYONE'S ideas, so please fill it out even if you have never attended a meeting of the Fellowship.

We are also continuing our **Comfort Doll** project. We have distributed approximately 60 dolls to children in stressful situations. Look at the thank you note from Tomorrow's Rainbows on the bulletin board. We have had a few additional people helping to create these adorable stuffed dolls, but we can always use more help. If you can cut, stuff or sew contact me. We plan to dedicate our next group of dolls at the worship service on June 9th.

I believe we have had a successful season. Our numbers have increased. Several men have attended the regular second-Wednesday meetings. We would like to continue the "Get to Know Your Neighbor" programs and hope you will tell us who you would like to get to know better. We had several special events such as the Indoor Picnic, the Cake Walk and the Birthday Bash. These have all been inter-generational and we would like to do more. Also, several of us have attended the meetings sponsored by the Long Range Planning Committee and we have started having conversations about participating by having some fund raisers—particularly to support the upgrades to the church kitchen.

So please let us hear from you, and we hope you will join us when you can.



Audrey Michele, President

Email: audom4494@comcast.net

Telephone: (561) 218 4927

Cell: (772) 215 0078

Suggestions for the 2013/2014 Fellowship meetings

We are including men in our group. Your suggestion for our official name:

Do you wish to continue ordering lunches for the regular meetings? If yes, do you have any comments/suggestions?

Some people cannot meet on the 2nd Wednesday as they have other important commitments. Would you be open to a different Wednesday for those meetings? Yes No
If yes, your preference:

Program ideas/suggestions, especially topics that will be of interest to all regardless of age or sex: If you want me to follow up please include contact information, etc.

Are you in favor of planning fund raisers to benefit the *In God's Continuing Service* fund drive with particular focus on the kitchen? Yes No
If yes, ideas/suggestions:

Other comments:

Congregational Church of Boca Raton

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Boca Raton, Florida 33432
Phone: (561) 395-9255

e-mail: office@churchofboca.org
Fax: (561) 395-6409
Web site: www.churchofboca.org

Pastor: Tom Lacey *Home: (561) 381-5222 *Cell: (561) 306-5208

Church Moderator: Sarah Hugus *Home: (561) 338-4207

Staff

Administrator:

Sandi Kilbride

Children's Ministry Director:

Tracy Martin

Youth Ministry Director:

Teresa Van Eps

Music Ministry Director:

Lindsey Novitske

Organist:

Nicholas R. Wurster

Section Leaders:

Bree Gordon, Soprano

Juan Mansilla, Bass

Linda Siers, Soprano

Jorge Valls, Tenor

Sexton:

Dan Morrison

Sound:

Wendell Jackson

Music Volunteers

Chancel Choir Members

Marit Lacey, Children's Choir

Nest Jones-Teixeira, Youth Choir

Volunteers

Flower Coordinator: Bonnie Tust

Office Helpers: Rose Breakell, Lucille Bruno, Audrey Eisnor,

Grayce Esposito, Eleanor Magee, Audrey Michele, and

George Sinclair

Newsletter: Mary Dorst, Grayce Esposito, Ruth Hawkins,

Barbara Lacey, Audey Michele, Catherine Swalchick,

Jeanette Stevens

Photographer: Marit Lacey

Sunday School Teachers

Carla Borchers, Tony Borchers, Jenny Damas, Debbie Garland,

Leanne Guilfu, Sarah Hugus, Nilu Jimenez-Ross, Nest Jones,

Patti Jourdin, Juliet Heynen, Marit Lacey, Gary Martin, Tracy

Martin, Danielle Peterson, Katherine Ramos, Teresa Van Eps