

*Hope*  
of Edwardsburg

*Invite. Connect. Grow. Serve.*

*We invite YOU to experience HOPE in Christ. There is a place for you here, to connect with people and God. Together we will grow in faith. Together we will serve as the hands and feet of Christ for the Glory of God!*



**HOPE**— below I have listed some of the major changes that happened at the General conference. These are most of the topics we will be talking about in the month of September on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM, Thursday mornings at 10 AM, and Sunday, September 15 at 12:30 PM. Please Take the time to read these changes and we will be able to talk and discern from God what they mean to each of us. As we gather together we must be in a place of caring for each other.

#### **Marriage is Redefined in United Methodism**

A revised set of social principles were approved that broaden the definition of marriage to include two consenting adults. The new language is, “Within the church, we affirm marriage as a sacred lifelong covenant that brings two people of faith, an adult man and woman of consenting age, or two adult persons of consenting age into union with one another.”

#### **Restrictions on LGBTQ Clergy Are Removed**

The following language was stricken from the Book of Discipline: “The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.”

#### **Language Forbidding Same-sex Weddings in UMC Sanctuaries is Removed**

Language barring same-sex weddings from being hosted in UM sanctuaries was removed. Although the Judicial Council ruled during General Conference that local church boards of trustees can set policies forbidding same-sex weddings, the ruling was vague on whether clergy are required to honor such policies.

#### **Specific Language Related to Adultery Is Removed from Clergy Chargeable Offenses**

General Conference edited the list of offenses for which a clergy could be charged by removing: “(a) immorality including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual marriage; (b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies.” While “sexual misconduct” remains a chargeable offense, this definition of misconduct is less defined and subject to the discretion of bishops. There are concerns this change could open the door to permitting sex outside of marriage if consensual.

#### **Abortion Stance Changed**

Conference approved a petition affirming a right to abortion and pledging “solidarity with those who seek reproductive health care.” The petition, “upholds a person’s right to an abortion after informed consideration with their family, medical practitioners, pastor, and other pertinent counsel.” It also denounces abortion bans. The Revised Social Principles are more nuanced on the topic of abortion, but the overall position of the UMC on abortion is pro-choice. The following words were deleted, “we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child.”

#### **Church Funds Can Be Used to Promote Homosexuality**

Annual conference and general church monies are no longer prohibited from being used to promote the acceptance of homosexuality. The policy was not only removed, but reversed. The provision now says the general finance agency should ensure that church funds do not go to anything that rejects LGBTQ people. The General Commission on Archives and History has already announced the formation of a new “Center for LGBTQ+ United Methodist Heritage” using apportionment dollars.

Continued on Page 2 

***Pastor continued—*****Sexual Orientation Now a Mandated Diversity Category on Church Boards**

The category of “sexual orientation” was added as a required category for mandated diversity on church commissions and agencies. Alongside race and gender diversity, people of various sexual orientations are now to be included in governing bodies.

**Protections Previously Developed for Traditional United Methodists Mostly Omitted**

The 2019 One Church Plan produced by the Commission on a Way Forward provided a raft of protections for traditionalists in the UMC that would accompany liberalization of the human sexuality position. These protections were mostly omitted from the changes approved at General Conference. While General Conference made clear that no clergy can be coerced into conducting same-sex weddings, the following One Church Plan protections were omitted: (1) Language to “affirm those who continue to maintain that the Scriptural witness does not condone the practice of homosexuality. We believe that their conscience should be protected in the church and throughout society under basic principles of religious liberty.” (2) Language stating that marriage has been “traditionally understood as a union of one man and one woman,” (3) Language stating that same-sex weddings would only be allowed in churches that specifically voted to host them, (4) Language allowing annual conferences to develop their own policies on human sexuality, and (5) Allowances for bishops to decline to ordain practicing gay clergy (the jurisdiction would have provided another bishop to ordain gay candidates in such an instance.)

**Annual Conferences Required to Prepare Local Churches to Accept Gay Clergy**

The definition of Open Itineracy was expanded to include accepting clergy regardless of sexual orientation. The revised ¶ 425.1 directs annual conferences to train Pastor Parish Relations Committees to receive pastors regardless of sexual orientation.

**The UMC Divests from Israel**

In the first such action by a major Christian denomination, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church voted to divest from Israel bonds. Approved Petition 20554-CCR6111-G calls on the UMC to lobby the U.S. government to end military aid to Israel.

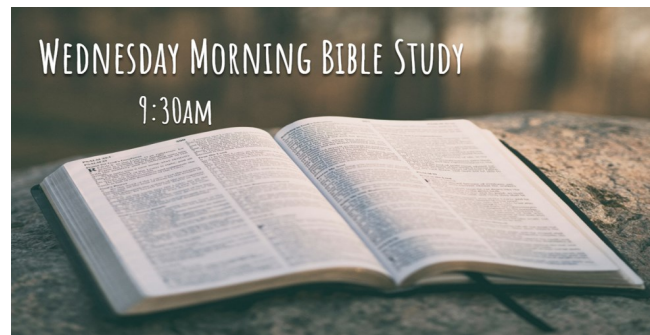
**The General Board of Global Ministries Tasked with Furthering Intersectional Ideology**

General Conference added a new ¶ 1302.16 requiring that the UMC mission board “provide training, resources, and consultation for and with all levels of the global church to actively resist intersecting structures of white supremacy, heterosexism, sexism, patriarchy, transphobia, xenophobia, ableism, colonialism and classism.

***My prayer is for God to lead us. Pastor Rob*****MUSIC SERVICE**

We are in the early planning stages of having a fall music service. We would like you to submit your favorite hymn or Sunday School song so we can share together the gospel message in song.

More details to come, but if you have a title ready, please share with David Girton so we can compile a list of musical selections for that day.



**SEPTEMBER 2, 2024**

## PRAYER CHAIN MAINTENANCE

To keep the prayer chain current, it is important that you please contact the HUMC office when the person or concern you have lifted up has been addressed. Thank you.



AMY HARRIS	9/03
SANDIE WEILER	9/03
ADALEIGH BLUNIER	9/04
SADIE BENTZER	9/05
KEVIN ROUCH	9/09
CAROL D. BOWMAN	9/10
DEANA MOLER	9/10
JIM RALPH	9/11
DALE WESTFALL	9/11
DON WESTFALL	9/11
RYAN ACKELS	9/12
LINCOLN ADAMS	9/12
SHIRLEY ANDREWS	9/12
RHODA WESTFALL	9/13
ED GARDNER	9/16
ELIZABETH GIRTON	9/16
LAURA BLOUGH	9/17
HARRY STEMPLER	9/18
MARK WERNER	9/19
NATE STARKEY	9/20
KATHY DEW	9/20
BILL FAHEY	9/21
DON SOALES	9/21
SHARON BURGER	9/23
JILL BLOUGH	9/24
CADEN MANFRED	9/25
PETER EMMETT	9/28
ROBIN ENGLISH	9/28
KATIE HENDRICKS	9/29



KIM & DON MANSELL	9/01
CAROL & PHIL PETERS	9/04
HEATHER & CHRIS MORGAN	9/07
LISA & JAMES KRILL	9/10
LYDIA & JACK GOULD	9/12
RHODA & DON WESTFALL	9/13
LURENA & DAVID WILFERT	9/15
JILL & RUSTY KAYNER	9/15
NATALIE & CHRIS FRENTZ	9/16
JANICE & WENDELL LEIST	9/18
SANDY & LARRY ACKELS	9/26
SANDIE & JACK WEILER	9/29
CHRISTIE & SCOTT ERWIN	9/29
SARA & STEPHAN CLAIRDAY	9/30

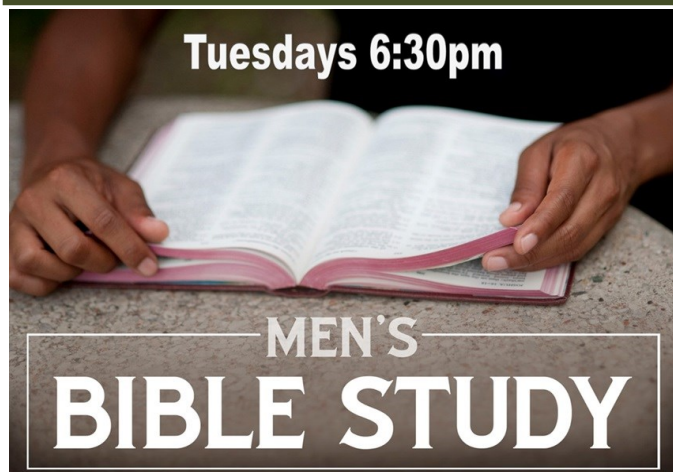
From: Carin Reese  
To: Hope United Methodist Church of Edwardsburg

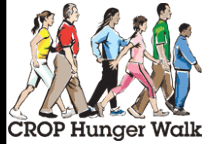
Lydia and Jack Gould (Carin Reese and Vicki Anders parents, and Sandi Turpel's brother and sister-in-law) will mark 65 years of marriage on September 12.

If you would, please help them celebrate this milestone by sending a card.

Their address is 31164 M-152 Dowagiac, MI 49047

Thank you kindly! Carin





## BUILD A WORLD WHERE THERE IS ENOUGH FOR ALL

Cass County Christians Plan Their Annual Cass County **CROP Walk**

“We have only one goal: building a world where there is enough for all” is the opening mission statement of Church World Service (CWS), an organization that has been serving people in the U.S. and around the world for 78 years. For the past 36 years, Christians in Cass County have joined in a “CROP Walk” in solidarity with this mission and to raise funds for CWS programs. Here in the U.S. the funds are dispersed to over 1,000 hunger fighting agencies (including five in Cass County), as well as to provide services for immigrants and refugees at 58 centers across the country.

The lead organizer of the CROP Walk, Pastor Scott Scheel of the Edwardsburg Presbyterian Church, says of CWS, “They meet people’s basic needs by supporting local food pantries, but they also do an incredible job of responding to natural disasters. By supporting the Crop Walk, we know that when a hurricane or an earthquake strikes, they will be there immediately helping people with the recovery.” Churches and other groups pack kits that contain hygiene supplies, menstrual kits, cleanup buckets, school supplies, and blankets that can be distributed to those who lost homes.

Working with local villages and governments, CWS programs in impoverished areas look for sustainable solutions to hunger and poverty. For example, they provide materials and classes to help families in Guatemala build gardens and greenhouses, solar powered desalination technology in Kenya for clean water, and materials to construct latrines for sanitation in Cambodia.

Another important CWS mission is serving immigrants and refugees who have had to leave their homes due to violence and persecution. Their programs look out for unaccompanied children to prevent human trafficking and women who need life skills. Leigh Goyings, who has participated in Cass County’s CROP Walk for 30 years, added, “Even if my family and friends have enough, the Bible tells us to help others who are suffering.”

This year’s **CROP Walk** will be held Sunday, October 6 at the Council on Aging track in Cassopolis, with walkers registering at 1:30 and the walk beginning at 2:00. All are welcome to join, including dogs, to meet other Christians across the county and to know that your walking and fundraising will help neighbors and people across the globe. For more information or to obtain sponsorship forms, call Leigh Goyings at (269)591-1334 or contact Leigh at [leighlay@aol.com](mailto:leighlay@aol.com).



The Women's Monday Evening Bible Study will start a new study on Monday, September 9 at 6:30 pm. We will be using the video/book study "He Speaks to Me, Preparing to Hear from God" by Priscilla Shirer. It is a six week study.

**The first meeting will be in the Community room in building one.** Other sessions will be in Reese Hall. Contact Bonnie Morgan or Laura Proctor for more information.



### Month of July Ministry Fund Summary

Ministry Fund Donations: \$ 14,807  
 Ministry Fund Expenses: \$ -14,944  
 Shortfall for the Month: \$ -137

Year to date shortfall = \$ -6,030

Monthly Budget amount: \$ 20,053

All July bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund balance is \$117,482. Thank you for your continued support!

### July Mortgage & Mission Fund Allocation

\$222.73 Missions  
 \$998.58 Parsonage Mortgage  
\$1,105.97 Capital Improvements  
 \$2,327.28 Total Donations

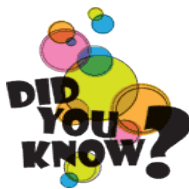
### Parsonage Mortgage Update

\$998.58 Regular Mortgage Payment - Mortgage Fund  
 \$400.00 Extra Principal Payment – Ministry Fund  
 Current Parsonage Mortgage Balance = \$109,219 after the August 2024 Payment. Our projected payoff date is December 2035, which is **53 months earlier** than the original payoff date!

**HOW DO YOU CREATE COMMUNITY?**

I don't know.  
 A hundred ways.  
 A thousand ways.  
 But  
 how do you kill community?  
 I can tell you one thing sure to do the  
 job.  
 Be self-sufficient,  
 Always have enough.  
 Always have it together.  
 Always be a giver.  
 Always have all the tools you need.  
 Never need to borrow a sewing needle.  
 Never need to borrow a cup of sugar.  
 Never tell anyone you're breaking down,  
 Never need anyone.  
 Your pride,  
 Your insistence on competency,  
 Your unwillingness to be a burden on us,  
 when it is the proper time for you to  
 collapse  
 may be the end of us all.  
 Knowing what time it truly is,  
 or knowing how to know the time at all,  
 You,  
 not knowing  
 how to do everything  
 creates the occasion  
 for the village to reconstitute itself  
 and know itself again.

—Tad Hargrave



The Village Hybrid home schooling program will begin on September 3rd. They will be using Reese Hall on Monday/Tuesday/Wednesdays from 8-4.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE**

**WHERE?** At **Sunday morning coffee** hour following the early worship service



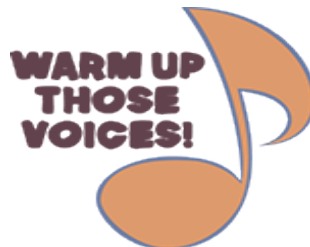
**WHY?** To provide an opportunity to meet and connect with friends and visitors while enjoying snacks and drinks

**HOW?** Contact Diana Graham (574-208-2259)

**OR**

Sign up on the bulletin board in Reese Hall

SHIP SHAPE 4 CHRIST  
 MONDAY AND THURSDAY MORNINGS  
 9-10AM

**SINGERS WANTED!!**

If you would be interested in participating in a musical ensemble or small group choir, please contact David Girton.

We are planning to do an

easy rehearsal schedule and would like to sing at least once a quarter for the first service.

We would like to get a group together soon and set up rehearsal times and song selections. Come and share your love of music and spreading the joy of God's word through song.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Sept 6—6:30PM Craft Night**
- Sept 8—3:00PM Youth Group**
- Sept 10-3:00PM Mobile Food Pantry**
- Sept 15-12:30PM Gen'l Conference Discussion**
- Sept 22-5-7PM Messy Church**



**General Conference discussions**  
**Wednesdays — 6:30PM**  
**Thursdays — 10:00AM**

**A seed grows into love**

I plant a seed in darkness today.  
 Tomorrow it pushes the earth to emerge.  
 It springs forth with beauty and fullness  
 at the sight of the first daylight so it  
 will grow up strong and beautifully bright.



Only to discover:  
 That its life struggles have just begun.  
 A bug comes by to eat its precious leaves.  
 A drought lingers to sap all its strength.  
 A weed develops to share its nourishment.  
 A cloud appears full of quenching relief.

A rain drop falls and touches its leaves  
 with lifesaving water to help it grow.  
 A fertilizer is spread to give it food.  
 Maturity is coming with all this help.  
 A crop is harvested to provide new seeds  
 and spread its love to all who partake  
 that Jesus our Lord is alive and well.  
 His wish is that we all can be a seed  
 that will flourish and nourish other seeds.  
*John 6:35 "I am the bread of life."*  
 Jesus told them, "No one who comes to me will  
 ever be hungry and no one who believes  
 in me will ever be thirsty again."

My hope is that we will all be the seed of  
 eternal life and be willing to spread the  
 good news so others will join us in Heaven.

Share His Love, *Deb and Tony Lang*

**LT IN BRIEF**

These subjects were discussed at the August  
 LT meeting:

- \*A dedication service for the prayer chapel  
 will be planned soon
- \*Quotes are being gathered for roof maintenance  
 of Building 1
- \*Awareness of the mobile food pantry needs  
 to be expanded
- \*HUMC will host our area  
 Charge Conference on October  
 20
- \*A hymn sing service will take  
 place during the pastor's vaca-  
 tion



**SEED**  
*impressions*

Create autumn-themed artwork  
 using items from plants.



**What you need:**

- Seed pods, nuts,  
 pine cones
- Mixing bowl
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup warm water
- Adult help

**What you do:**

1. Go on a nature walk  
 and collect seeds with  
 interesting textures.
2. In the bowl, mix flour and  
 salt. Gradually add water.  
 On a table, knead the  
 dough. (If too dry, add  
 more water; if too sticky,  
 add more flour.)
3. Flatten a ball of dough  
 and stamp impressions  
 in it with the seeds.
4. If desired, bake for several  
 hours at 150 degrees until  
 dry and hard. Or, to reuse  
 dough, store in an airtight  
 container up to 6 months.

## September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:30am & 10:30am Service	<b>2</b> Labor Day Office Closed 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise	<b>3</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Band Practice 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	<b>4</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 9:30am Wednesday morning Bible Study 6:30pm General Conference Discussion 6:30	<b>5</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 10:00am General Conference Discussion 10am 5:00pm Music Practice	<b>6</b> Office closed 6:00pm Craft Night	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:30am & 10:30am Service 11:30am Messy Church Volunteer Meeting 3:00pm Youth Group 3pm	<b>9</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 5:00pm Reservation 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>10</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 3:00pm Mobile Food Pantry 5:30pm Band Practice 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	<b>11</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 9:30am Wednesday morning Bible Study 6:30pm General Conference Discussion 6:30 6:30pm Leadership Team Meeting	<b>12</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 10:00am General Conference Discussion 10am 5:00pm Music Practice	<b>13</b> Office closed	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30am & 10:30am Service 12:30pm General Conference Discussion 12:30	<b>16</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>17</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 5:30pm Band Practice 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	<b>18</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 9:30am Wednesday morning Bible Study 6:30pm General Conference Discussion 6:30	<b>19</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 10:00am General Conference Discussion 10am 5:00pm Music Practice	<b>20</b> Office closed	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30am & 10:30am Service 5:00pm Messy Church 5-7pm	<b>23</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>24</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 5:30pm Band Practice 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	<b>25</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 9:30am Wednesday morning Bible Study 6:30pm General Conference Discussion 6:30	<b>26</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 10:00am General Conference Discussion 10am 5:00pm Music Practice	<b>27</b> Office closed	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:30am & 10:30am Service	<b>30</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 6:30pm Women's Bible Study					

## SEPTEMBER 2024

### LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Ben Morgan – Trustees  
Bonnie Morgan - Chair  
Clarence Miller – At Large  
Heidi Meadows – At Large  
Mark Werner – At Large  
Mike Morgan – Vice Chair  
Pastor Rob Snodgrass  
Sabrina English – Secretary & Finance Liaison  
Sharon Tafunai – At Large  
Shirley Andrews – At Large

### SPRC TEAM:

Bonnie Morgan, Diane Siefert, Jack Weiler,  
Sue Rinehart

### NOMINATIONS TEAM:

Dawn Weingart, Marti Bartels, Sue Reinhart

### LIVING WITH CANCER:

Brad Yoder; Brenda Miller; Brian Clark; Brother Rick; Betty April; Cindy Helvey, in Rehab; Cindy Workman; Crystal Maskwinski; David Leist, metastatic; David, colon; Don Burnette, & dementia; Ellen Evans; Eric Seifert (Diane Seifert's brother); Jaycee Wendt; Jesse Binn, chrohns; Jessica Duis, thyroid; Jessica Hartwick, diabetic & on dialysis; Jody Buzalski, spine; John & Betty Westlake, Kaufman's mom; Kenzie Summers, terminal brain cancer (Nick Folkers); Kronk family's mother, lymphoma; Leslie Orth Ishmael, colon (Chuck Orth's daughter); Linda McClain; Macie Carlsen, leukemia; Mark Howell; Marilyn White; Melana Horner, leukemia; Mike Moelbash, spine; Mike Hartline; Mike Morgan; Mike Walton; Nancy Mysliwec, kidney; Pam Knapp, liver, & kidney; Paula S.; Rene (not DeYoung) pancreatic cancer; Rick Trosper; Roger Yarbrough (Mackenzie Morgan); Scott Dougall; Rudy, bone; Tom Kelly, prostate; Tony and Ted Braun; Trevor Claire; Vivian McClellan, PXA; William Moore Jr.; Yung Fajardo, leukemia

### LONGSTANDING HEALTH:

Alyssa, brain damage; Becky Kelly, Bev Proctor; Bill Griffin; Bob Griffin, heart; Bob Straka; Cathy Jones; Chad, heart; Connie & Jeff Smith; Dennis Sanders, knee and heart; Donna Kooy; Duis family; Edith English; Elizabeth V. Mui; Ethan Hart, diabetes; Gary Atwater, back & knee; Gary Owens; George Gibbs; Graham family; Granny & Pops; Ivan Bowman; Ivins family; Jake Dibble; James, seizures; Jessica Hartwick, diabetic & needs transplant; John Madsen, heart surgery; Ken Proctor; Kevin Duis, an autistic boy; Kevin English; Larry Crandall; Leigh Goyings; Linda Morgan; Lori Durbin; Marge Nurton; Martin Lyles; Nancy Love; Nate Hamilton, diabetic surgeries; Pauline Atwater, Parkinson's; Pat Hogan, heart; Ruth, burns; Stephanie Harris; Terry Otis; Tracee Reiter; Teresa Neucks-Mills, MS & fibromyalgia; Tina Trosper's dad, heart

### PASTORS & FAMILIES:

Brenda Gordon    Evan Lash & Barbara Jackson  
Matt & Cara Weiler            Nate & Amy Starkey  
Rob & Kathe Snodgrass       Scott & Carrie Otis  
Tom & Lisa Maxwell

### SERVING/SERVED IN MILITARY SERVICES:

Joshua Adams, Charles Berry, Andrew Brower, Phil Bryden, Sam Chaput, Jonathan Ditson, James Galloway, Justin Gerou, Shane Karkiewicz, Dakota Kizer, Andrea Long, Alyssa Malott, Jay Moore, Brandon Morgan, Jessica Ramus, Jason Salter, Dylan Smallwood, Jeff Starr, Tyler Wilson

### HOME BOUND:

Merian Ackles, Sally Blunier, Tony & Deb Lang, Sherry Leininger, Sharon & Bob Morgan, Jan Read, Donna Taelman, Bev Torgeson, Cynthia Wade, Ray White