Action Summer
The Light of Christ Shines in Allendale, Evansville and Indy

Buffalo Camp
Souls on Fire

South Bend
Raining Buckets

Rome
A Spirit of Unity
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Anticipation ran high in South Bend as kids and adults awaited the arrival of the ice cream at the branch’s annual ice cream social on July 14.
BUFFALO CAMP 2017
BY CHRIS MEEHAN

NINETY-THREE CAMPERS FROM 12 BRANCHES AND THE ISLAND OF BARBADOS didn’t let a little cold and rain get in the way of their fun at this year’s Buffalo Camp. (Singing the camp theme song, “Soul on Fire,” must’ve kept them warm!) The campers enjoyed swimming, tower-climbing, zip-lining, a ropes course, riflery, boating, fishing, soccer, crafts and archery. Seven children came from Our Lady of Black Rock, a Catholic school located in the neighborhood where the branch has an outreach. Some friends of the school helped pay for their camp fees. The children from Black Rock had so much fun they all made sure to show up, families in tow, at the following week’s Black Rock prayer meeting, wearing their camp t-shirts and singing camp songs, for a special reunion sponsored by the branch.
Raining Buckets on Greenlawn’s Gym Floor

BY SEAN CONNOLLY

Trinity School at Greenlawn’s athletic center gym floor was destroyed by a flood late last summer. As planning for a new floor began, Mike Gionfriddo, the athletic director, championed the idea of using a parquet pattern. He had in mind the famous floor designed in 1946 for the old Boston Garden, where Larry Bird—a basketball legend who grew up in Indiana—once swished his shots. For Greenlawn’s new floor, Mike hoped for a unique look, for something with “a wow factor, a nice pop.”

Standing on that new floor today, you can see the colors popping. Thousands of maple boards, their hues ranging from dark to nearly blonde, catch the light and gleam like the glazed tiles of a mosaic. Each about an inch wide, the boards are arranged in 3’ by 3’ sections. The direction of the boards changes from one section to the next, creating the same kind of checkerboard look that the old Garden had. (This surely raises a question in the minds of Greenlawn sports fans: If you build it... will the next Larry come?)

This beautiful court would not have been possible without the generosity of more than 200 Greenlawn parents, alumni, friends and community members, who rallied like a championship team after a big loss. “The court is a huge gift from the Lord,” said John Lee, Greenlawn’s head of school. “I want people to know how grateful we are to everyone who participated in the fundraising effort.”

As 7.65 inches of water descended on South Bend on August 16, 2016, city streets became like swift-running rivers. Basements filled up like swimming pools and chickens drowned. No one saw what happened that night at the branch’s community center, a modest facility that is also the athletic center for Trinity Greenlawn. The most likely story is that a torrent of water formed in a neighborhood to the north, then surged through a culvert that runs below the Indiana Toll Road. The water swamped a retention pond, then swept across the center’s parking lot and through the building’s lower level like a mighty tide.

The next morning, Paul Barrett, the facilities manager, found sopping carpet on the indoor soccer field and half an inch to an inch of water on the gym floor. On the exterior walls, he noticed a waterline between six and eight inches high. Then, on a grassy area south of the building, he found thousands of small fish, even one six-inch bluegill, deposited there by the wave of water. “I was almost in shock,” he said.

A contractor arrived later that day with heaters, blowers and dehumidifiers, hoping to save the gym floor. But within a few days the floorboards had swelled, unglued themselves and buckled, forming a series of wooden waves. In the soccer arena, the carpet had to be cut up and thrown away. The contractor did manage to dry out the branch center’s first floor and keep mildew from growing.

Leaders at the school and in the South Bend branch soon learned that the building’s general insurance did not cover flood damage, and there was no flood insurance since the building does not lie in a flood plain. At Trinity, John Lee and John Kurdelak, the school’s director of advancement, had already planned a fall
fundraiser to raise $200,000 for scholarships that Greenlawn families count on to help pay for tuition. To pay for a new floor, they estimated they would need to raise an additional $150,000. “We’ve never had to raise that much money in a single year,” John Lee said.

The need for the floor became even more obvious once the basketball season began. Mike Gionfriddo had succeeded in securing four practice times each week at the gym of Stanley Clark, a local private school, and in scheduling home games at another gym owned by the Salvation Army. Between the extra driving and the lack of a home court, morale took a hit. “It was like all games were away games,” said Eli Thomas, a junior on the varsity team.

A big breakthrough came in February, when the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County announced that it would hold a Give Local Day on May 9. On that day, 67 local nonprofit organizations would run simultaneous fundraisers as well as compete for money from a pool of matching funds the foundation offered. The rules state that 25% of the money raised by each organization must remain in an endowment fund held by the Community Foundation for that organization. This meant the school needed to increase its goal from $150,000 to $200,000.

John Kurdelak began talking to his contacts, including a friend of Trinity School who offered to give $100,000 in matching funds. The donor chose to remain anonymous. “It was a very humble, a very generous gift,” John Kurdelak said. “We are extremely grateful.”

The matching gift created more momentum for the project, and John and his team worked intensely to get the word out. On May 9, the gifts came pouring in: $119,000 from Greenlawn’s families, alumni, friends and community members, plus the $100,000 from the anonymous benefactor. Later, the Community Foundation kicked in an additional $80,632 in matching funds, bringing Greenlawn’s overall total to nearly $300,000. “It was easily the most the school has ever received through a single giving event,” John Kurdelak said.

The search for a vendor to install the new floor began, and Connor Sports, one of the nation’s leading installers, was already in the area, working to install floors at Notre Dame. The company submitted a competitive bid and won the contract. Bruce Haroldson, who has put in floors for the Olympics and for the Final Four college basketball championships, came to put in the parquet floor for Greenlawn.

In addition to the floor, six new adjustable basketball goals now hang from the ceiling. Two teams can practice on the court simultaneously, and fans have more space to walk from the entryway to the bleachers.

Trinity still has some money left over, which will be used to pay for a study that will examine the best way to improve the soccer arena.

A plan is also in the works to prevent future flooding. “We’re going to make physical changes to ensure that this kind of damage doesn’t happen again,” said Mike Zusi, who leads the community’s property office. “And we now have flood insurance.”

So, when the school year starts, Greenlawn basketball players will be doing their best Larry Bird impersonations, swishing shots on their new court. In basketball lingo, that means it will be raining buckets.

It’s a good thing we have flood insurance.
AFTER SIX TRIPS, THREE SUMMER CAMPS, myriad work projects and the efforts of more than 500 people, the 2017 Action summer is in the books. Here are some numbers and stories:

**Numbers**
- More than 310 children attended the summer camps in Evansville, Allendale and Indianapolis. Allendale, our longest-running camp, led the way with 130 campers.
- 156 people from 11 branches served as staff, interns and volunteers. (In Evansville, one of the volunteers was a young man named Xavier Anderson. He grew up in Allendale, where he once attended camp.)
- Also in Evansville, the teams put in 1,500 man hours moving 100 tons of dirt to help grade the yards of community members. “Y’all are making it beautiful,” one passerby exclaimed.
- Two hundred people came to a barbecue in Evansville, which featured hamburgers and greens grown in the new start’s urban farm.

**Stories**
Addie Clark, a sophomore from Portland, recalls a story from the camp in Evansville: “After we read about Jesus’ baptism and talked about the meaning of baptism, one girl came back the next day and announced that she had asked her mom if she could be baptized. Her mom said ‘Yes!’”

Alex Rowland, a staff member in Evansville, used a comic book Bible for daily lessons with the 12-year-old boys in his camp group. One of the boys asked if he could have a Bible to keep, so Alex arranged to give him one. “The Bible was an absolute hit,” Alex said. “When the boy returned to camp, he had already read halfway through it. He said he had read as much as he could while it was still light.”

In Allendale, the camp ran very smoothly, with so few fights and problems that the boys and girls joined together on the last day for a camp-wide pizza party—“something we would not have attempted in previous years,” according to Abby Earhart (Mission, Evansville).

Three boys from the Allendale camp were playing basketball when three more boys from another neighborhood joined them. John Crimmins (Mission, Evansville) saw what happened: “The other boys were getting in the Allendale boys’ faces, yelling. The Allendale boys didn’t cuss back. They were peaceful in the face of aggression, but not backing down either. It was the Lord working through them.” John invited the three strangers to the barbecue, where one of them said that he had noticed that the Allendale boys had been playing with a calmer attitude than he was used to. “We have to be super tough when we play in our neighborhood,” the boy said.

In Allendale, the younger boys had fun pelting an 11-foot-high cardboard Goliath with water balloons, while attacking him with swords made from foam and PVC pipe. Brad Elliott (northern Virginia) reports that they used the same swords to knight some of the boys to the service of Jesus Christ.

Rachel Was, an intern in Indianapolis, remembers visiting with an older woman on her front porch who complained of extreme shoulder pain. The woman allowed Rachel and two others to pray with her. They prayed two times, and then the woman told them that she felt no pain, raising her elbow over her head. “You could tell from her face that the pain had gone away,” Rachel said.

In Indianapolis, the staff ordered sub sandwiches from Walmart for the campers. When Amy Root (Servant Branch) came to pick them up, the woman at the counter apologized because she had accidentally put extra meat on all the sandwiches. She explained that there would be no charge for the extra meat. When Amy thanked her and explained who the sandwiches were for, the woman realized that her own daughter was attending the camp and would be eating her sandwiches.

Ellen Putzier (Mission, Indianapolis South Side) reports that in Indianapolis two girls had been unable to make peace with each other. They had gone through the motions of reconciliation, but Ellen noticed a deep change when they enacted the roles of the prodigal son and his father in a skit. The girls said their lines with feeling and embraced. “It was strikingly beautiful,” Ellen said.

Top left: John Zimmel discussed a Bible story with some of the youngest boys. (Dan Schwab)
Top right: Anna (far left) and Kady Busekrus (far right), walked with the littlest girls’ group, who were on their way to spend some time with Dan Sullivan (Mission, Evansville) and learn about compasses and staying on the straight and narrow. (Sophie Tiller)
Lower left: Luke (center right) and Peter (reaching in from the right) played capture the flag with the boys in their group. (Dan Schwab)
Lower right: Kady Busekrus (facing camera, northern Virginia) and Jessica Davis chatted as they planted seedlings at the urban farm. (Dan Schwab)
Page 8, upper left: Some of the girls enjoyed a relay race involving Hula-Hoops. (Rachel Was)
Page 8, upper right, from left: Josh, Aidan and Matthew tested out a roof structure they made to cover the grill in the rain. (Celina Tragesser)
Middle right: Kateri looked on as Ben Mysliwiec (South Bend), Neil and Paul laid asphalt for a ramp that goes to a parking pad for the CIM cars. (Cathy Walters)

Bottom: At one point the boys used beanbags and a slingshot to hit a target all the way across the camp field. Action team members Joey (standing) and Isaac (far right) assisted. (Rachel Was)

Page 9, top: Neighborhood barbecues usually mark the end of an Action trip. (Andy Bowar)

Page 9, lower left: Raquel, a neighborhood girl who came on the first trip this summer. (Brigette Mysliwiec)

Page 9, lower right: Action team members Chris and Addy manage snack time for the youngest campers in the Bethlehem group. (Mary Grams)
Thirty thousand people from 128 countries came to Rome in June to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Catholic charismatic renewal, and I got to be one of them. I traveled there with Angie Hass (Mission Indianapolis), and met up with community members from Colorado Springs, Indianapolis and Servant Branch. I know there were brothers and sisters from Buffalo and Appleton there, too.

I’d heard that Pope Francis had wanted the celebration to have an ecumenical emphasis, and it was moving to see many signs of a renewed interest in unity. On Thursday, sitting on the marble floors of stunning Byzantine and Renaissance churches, I heard stories of ecumenism. Giovanni Traettino, an Italian Pentecostal, shared about washing the feet of a Catholic, after years of tense relations between Catholics and Pentecostals in Italy. Charles Whitehead, a friend of Kevin and Dorothy Ranaghan (South Bend), described a long process of regular meetings and conversations among the leaders of all of the Christian churches in his English village.

On Friday morning, I attended a panel discussion on ecumenism in a lecture hall designed to seat about 200. It started late. The emcee came to the microphone and explained that there were 2,000 people waiting outside. “We didn’t anticipate how much interest there would be in this topic,” she said.

The conference culminated in two long evenings spent outdoors at the Circus Maximus. Everywhere I looked, there was some new expression of joy—a young man standing on his chair with hands raised and tears streaming down his face, nuns in white habits forming a dance line, a row of Brazilian teenagers yelling out, “Viva Brasil!”

A highlight came on Friday night, when a video about the origins of the Catholic charismatic renewal played on the JumboTron. I looked up and suddenly Kevin and Dorothy appeared on the screen, 20 feet tall. Though the Ranaghans had been unable to come to Rome in the flesh, God found a way to bring them there that was truly larger than life.

On Saturday night, Pope Francis joined us, raising his hands in praise. “[The Catholic charismatic renewal] was born ecumenical,” he said. “It was born ecumenical because it is the Holy Spirit who creates unity, and the same Spirit who granted the inspiration for this.” He added, “Today Christian unity is more urgent than ever, Christians united by the power of the Holy Spirit, in prayer and in activity on behalf of the most vulnerable.”

Visiting Assisi after the conference, we were walking back to the hotel when I said, “Praise the Lord!” Unexpectedly, “Praise the Lord!” echoed back from a man sitting on the steps of a nearby building. We were soon in a conversation about ecumenism with a small group of Catholic Jamaicans from New York City. I explained that as a charismatic, even though I’m Catholic, I think that some of my spiritual heritage comes from Christians of other denominations. Without some of the Pentecostal revivals in the United States in the last century, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal would not exist. My new Jamaican friend shook his head and smiled. “You’re blowin’ my mind, sister!”
A Party in Rome 2

BY ANNE OSTERHOUSE

Eric and Hilary Shreves and Bishop Peter Smith (all Vancouver-Portland) had the chance of a lifetime in June when they traveled to Rome for a two-hour meeting with Pope Francis. On Thursday, June 8, they gathered at the Vatican with a group of about 50 people, mostly evangelicals and Pentecostals from the US, for a free-flowing discussion punctuated by praise and worship. Most of the participants are part of the John 17 Movement, a grassroots Christian unity organization based in Phoenix, Arizona.

For Eric and Hilary, the journey to Rome began with an out-of-the-blue phone call from Josh Butler. Josh is a friend of Eric’s and a pastor at Imago Dei Community, an evangelical church in Portland. In a joking way, Josh explained that he had tickets to a party he wanted to invite Eric and Hilary to—a special party with Pope Francis. They had two days to decide—two days to arrange childcare and reschedule their work schedules. The Vancouver-Portland branch and People of Praise headquarters agreed to pay for their trip, as well as for Peter’s.

Josh had met Pope Francis once before, at a similar meeting in 2016. There, he had offered what he called a “confession” to Pope Francis, explaining that, while he had been involved with a network of evangelical churches in Portland, he had not done much to build bridges with Catholic brothers and sisters. As Josh recounted, Pope Francis “got a large smile on his face and blessed me.”

Inspired by that experience, Josh had returned to Portland and called Eric, a Catholic, and the two had met several times for coffee and meals. Eric had introduced Josh to Peter and to Joel Kibler (also Vancouver-Portland), and Josh, in turn, had invited Peter and other Catholic leaders to a gathering at his church. All of that led up to Josh’s invitation on the phone.

At the meeting, Pope Francis sat on a cushioned metal chair like all the other participants. He had no speech prepared, but hoped for an open, candid conversation. The meeting itself was private, with no Vatican press release summarizing its contents. “Pope Francis talked a lot about Christian unity,” Eric said. “He said the first thing we need to do is pray together. Don’t underestimate the power of petitionary prayer!”

During the meeting, Josh had a chance to update Pope Francis on the steps he had taken in Portland to build unity.

Aside from meeting with Francis, the John 17 group spent several days together getting to know one another and sharing about their personal experiences of ecumenism. “I left Rome so incredibly grateful for our ecumenical life in the People of Praise and for what the Lord is doing with ecumenism on a broader scale in the world,” Hilary said. “We found ourselves sharing a lot about our practical life in the People of Praise, about how ecumenism works in women’s groups and in sharings at community meetings. People really wanted to hear about our life together.”

Josh says that he expects the ecumenical conversation in Portland to continue. “God’s movement can be unpredictable. I’m excited to see what’s coming next.”

PHOTOS: LEFT: ELIZABETH PEASE; RIGHT: JAY PATHAK.

Jay Pathak, a pastor at Mile High Vineyard Church in Denver, Colorado, and a member of the John 17 Movement, took this picture of Bishop Peter Smith, Eric Shreves, Pope Francis and Hillary Shreves.
If you think you don’t like eggplant, you may want to try this summer dish, which uses roasted eggplant.
Margaret says she first made this dish to bring to a potluck cookout. “I was living in household with Sean and Gretchen Connolly’s family at the time,” she recalls. “I love roasted eggplant, and Gretchen was growing fresh basil in the yard, so that’s what I used.” The roasted eggplant takes on a rich, smoky flavor and the balsamic vinegar and red onion add just a hint of sweetness.

Margaret suggests that this recipe could also be made with zucchini in addition to or instead of the eggplant. This would be a good accompaniment to grilled meat or fish for a simple but elegant Lord’s Day meal.

**ROASTED SUMMER VEGETABLES**

**SERVES 6**

**Ingredients**

- 1 eggplant, chopped into 1/2 to 3/4 inch cubes
- 8 oz. mushrooms, quartered
- 1 large red onion, chopped
- 2 to 3 colored bell peppers cut into inch-sized pieces
- handful of fresh basil (about 4 to 7 leaves), coarsely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 to 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 to 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- Salt and pepper to taste (kosher salt is best)

**Directions**

1. Preheat oven to 450. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Combine vegetables, garlic and basil in a large mixing bowl and toss with olive oil.
3. Put vegetable mixture in a single layer on the baking sheets.
4. Drizzle with balsamic vinegar and season with salt and pepper to taste.
5. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes, flipping the vegetables partway through cooking.

Have a recipe idea? Contact Elizabeth Grams at egrams@peopleofpraise.org.

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**OVERCOMING DISUNITY**

**BY CLEM WALTERS**

Clem gave this talk during the 1976 Unity Weekend. In it, he discusses our varying income levels as a possible obstacle to unity in the community, then presents a plan for dealing with this. He also discusses the need for the community to be able to deploy individuals in order to accomplish the mission the Lord has given us.

The plan for overcoming the disunity is a change of attitude in heart about what we consider ours, that is, jobs, houses, money, time, children and on and on and on. We’ve got to have a change of heart in attitude and discard individualism. We’ve got to set that completely aside and be rid of individualism. And I’m going to equate individualism here as “me” or “mine.” Individual. My individual family. My individual children. I’m classifying all that as individualism.

Now, as we discard individualism, we must accept the community, or a communal way. We’ll call that “community.” Community then equates to “yours,” “ours,” “together.” Scripture says, “After all, isn’t everything a free gift from God?” (I’m paraphrasing.) “Shouldn’t we return the measure that he requires of us?” And in fact, in being drawn into the People of Praise (and looking at this group, we’re saying that the fact that you’re here today would indicate that you are in the People of Praise), the fact that we’ve been drawn into the People of Praise equates to the Lord asking this of us, that is, looking at things from a communal, community point of view. “Ours.” “Yours.” “Together.” With regard to jobs, houses, money, time, children and what-have-you.

My point here is that it’s not something that we, in this group today, have to reconsider. The fact that you’re here would indicate that you’ve decided that, or you wouldn’t be here. When you consider the covenant, the agreement that we’ve made together, whether in the room here, those of us who have already made it, or those that are seriously considering making it, when you look at the covenant, it says, it indicates that all the resources we have are at the disposal of the body. I’m sure, for most of us, that was not a consideration when we bought that house on Willowbrook Drive in 1962, or on Ironwood Drive or Angela. Originally, it wasn’t a consideration as we accepted that job working for the St. Joseph County Mental Health Association or what-have-you. But whether it originally was a consideration or not is immaterial. It certainly is now, by virtue of the covenant and the commitment we’ve made. All of those areas are under the headship of the community. We’ve said in the covenant that we’ve made with one another or are seriously considering making that we’ve pledged ourselves to support each other, that is, the body, as a whole in all things.

To listen to the entire talk, visit https://peopleofpraise.org/file-library/298/ and log in. If you need assistance, email directory@peopleofpraise.org
TRIBUTES

JOHN MCLAURIN
By Tom Brophy

Somewhat of an itinerant soul, John came in contact with the community in northern Virginia, when the family moved there so he could join the Department of the Interior’s Senior Executive Service as a cartographer. Before that, he had worked as director of the Rocky Mountain Mapping Center in Denver, overseeing a staff of 400.

The McLaurins had earlier experienced an elemental form of community with two other Christian couples, so they quickly acclimated to life in the People of Praise. After he opted for early retirement, the family relocated to South Bend, where John joined the Trinity School faculty and did consulting work. There, too, he developed a reputation for quiet spirituality and friendly smiles for everyone. Many of us in three branches have shared an hour with John, and we were blessed and refreshed by the experience.

The McLaurins loved to travel, and after their sons left home John and Marlene came to Tampa. For five or six years John worked at a variety of different jobs and consultancies across central Florida. He planned his travels carefully so he could participate in the life of the branch. When his health began to fail three years ago, his spirit remained firm and his radiant smile was undimmed. He was easily coaxed into telling stories of the early years. John was a quiet, wonderful man who saw his many talents and wide experience as God’s gifts to be used in service of others.

facts

• John was born in Asheville, North Carolina, on August 4, 1938, and died in Tampa on December 13, 2016.
• He earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in civil engineering from the University of Michigan and was a doctoral candidate in forestry.
• He and Marlene D’Amico were married for 52 years and raised five sons.
• John and Marlene made the covenant of the People of Praise in northern Virginia on November 1, 1987. From 1989 to 2002 he was a member of the South Bend branch, and in 2002 he became a member of the Tampa branch.

CAROL GOVEK
By Tom Noe

Carol’s farm upbringing and her Slovenian ancestry gave her a level-headed and no-nonsense approach to life. She grew and canned her own vegetables, bought produce at the Farmer’s Market, fixed things that broke, was a great organizer and worked diligently. She didn’t avoid things because they were hard. When faced with difficulty, she brought her love, steadfast faith and sense of humor into the situation.

Jodi Engles recalls that Carol, an elementary school teacher, “cared so much about her students, prayed for them, and was happy with each one of their breakthroughs.”

Carol always prayed and sought prayers for family members in need, and she regularly drove back to Wisconsin to stay in touch. After receiving the fearsome diagnosis that she had contracted a rapidly progressing fatal disease (Creutzfeldt-Jakob), she headed back home, intent on joining her nephews on a fishing trip, but, already weakened, spent time with family instead.

Sharon Jones remembers, “When my mother died, Carol came over and stayed for a few days, sleeping on the couch. She understood my situation because of her own mother’s death, and knew I needed somebody around. She was there for me.”

Carol had a gift for companionship. She laughed easily, with a twinkle in her eye. She was just as careful about ordinary things as she was about major life decisions. Her dedication to her priorities—love for God and love for neighbor—was clear to everyone who knew her.

facts

• Carol was born September 14, 1954, in Neillsville, Wisconsin, and died February 24, 2017, in South Bend.
• She grew up on her parents’ dairy farm, learning the basic values that sustained her: faith, family, friendship, hard work, commitment, serving others.
• After graduating from UW-Eau Claire and serving in the Peace Corps in Ecuador, she served with Volunteers for Educational and Social Services in Texas, then earned a master’s degree at Franciscan University of Steubenville.
• She made the covenant of the People of Praise September 9, 1991.
LIFENOTES

Births:
Catherine Agnes, born June 26 to John and Eileen Timler (New Orleans).
Adalee Elizabeth Ann, born July 13 to Mike and Sarah Stapp (Servant Branch).
Olivia Rose, born July 27 to David and Cathy Smedberg (northern Virginia).

Weddings and Anniversaries:
Congratulations to William Bornholt and Angela Drefcinski (both Servant Branch), who were married June 16 at Incarnation Catholic Church in Minneapolis.

Best wishes to Sam Mertz and Chelsea Jones (both Vancouver-Portland), who were married July 8 at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Portland.

Congratulations to these brothers and sisters celebrating major wedding anniversaries:
Bob and Kathy Thomas (South Bend), 50 years on June 10.
Dick and Nell Thomas (South Bend), 65 years on June 22.
Ted and Melanie Kocon (Servant Branch), 20 years on July 12.
Gerry and Patti Deakin (Mission, Allendale), 45 years on August 5.

Work and Achievements:
Linda Scrofani (Tampa), a pastoral care coordinator at John Knox Retirement Community, was one of eight members of the hospital system she works for (St. Joseph’s Hospital/South Florida Baptist Hospital) to be nominated and selected as a “Team Member” of the month for May, 2017.

Congratulations to Paul Langenfeld (Servant Branch), who was selected by the Minnesota Twins Baseball Club as a Community Game Changer, for his charitable work as founder and president of The Langenfeld Foundation, which raises the quality of life for people with special needs and for disabled veterans.

Congratulations to Eury Gordon (Vancouver-Portland), who became a US citizen on April 20.

Congratulations to Egide Nimubona (Appleton), who has received the 2017 Gaylord K. Unbehaun Community Service Award from Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton, for his work in establishing the Burundi Education Fund.

Eric Bomkamp (South Bend) has a new job as a quality and continuous improvement specialist with the South Bend Medical Foundation.

Larry Bartek (Servant Branch) retired this June from full-time work after spending most of the last 45 years in various levels in education.
Tony Kuplic (Servant Branch) started a new job this summer as an engineer at Boston Scientific in Maple Grove, Minnesota.

Terri Smith (northern Virginia) was chosen to receive the Outstanding Senior Award from the Psychology Department of George Mason University. This fall she will teach Latin to eighth-grade girls and assist with drama part-time at Trinity School at Meadow View.

Jack Feeks (Indianapolis) has a new position as a design engineer at Mussett, Nicholas & Associates, a consulting company in Indianapolis.

Dan Gleason (Servant Branch) retired this spring after working 40 years as a principal at two Catholic elementary schools, Visitation and Holy Trinity. Dan and his wife Mary Kay have joined CIM in Indianapolis.

Marian DeLee (Indianapolis) has a new job working for Crossroads Education, a company developing new ways of assisting teachers and schools to achieve their goals.

 Deaths:
We’ve received word of the death of a member of the community. We pray for her family and friends in this time of loss. A tribute article will follow in an upcoming issue.

Kelly Howard (South Bend) died on June 22, 2017.

Executive Office Announcements:
Dan and Mary Kay Gleason have been transferred from Servant Branch to the new start in Indianapolis, effective upon their arrival.
The following brothers have been appointed to the position of Mission coordinator, effective July 1, 2017:
Steve Pable (Appleton)
Pat Hrbacek (Colorado Springs)
Dominic Jeremiah (Grenada)
Locksley Robinson (Kingston)
Glenn Hilton (Saskatoon)
Jack Lynch (Shreveport)
Mission coordinators have an indefinite term of office.
Colorado Springs:
Meghan Couch was released from the covenant of the People of Praise on July 18, 2017.

Servant Branch:
Dave and Peg Louiselle were released from the covenant of the People of Praise on July 17, 2017.
“Heaven, even highest heaven, cannot contain him” (2 Chr. 2:6).