Educational Excellence

Trinity River Ridge Wins Third Blue Ribbon
This year’s Mission Fund appeal talk (p. 4) spoke of Jesus’ desire for us to cast our nets into the deep waters.
Editor’s Note: Suzanne (Saskatoon) told this story at the Leaders’ Conference for Women in March, 2019.

I met God in 1974 at the ripe old age of 21 at a charismatic prayer meeting in Saskatoon. It was love at first sight.

A year or so later, some people in Saskatoon felt called to start a community. My husband Phil and I joined right away. The group took the name People of Praise (though at the time we didn’t have any affiliation with the People of Praise in South Bend). In 1978, our community became affiliated with Servants of the Light community based in Minneapolis.

Those were the most wonderful years of growth in numbers, in faith, in formation and in friendships. I called it a time of grace. Some time later, though, we had a split in our community. There were differences of vision, with some wanting to be an ecumenical community, others wanting us to be exclusively Catholic, others wanting us to start our own church. Staying together was no longer possible, so the leaders decided to allow everyone to be released from our original covenant so we could become part of the ecumenical group or a Catholic group or step away to something else.

I was crushed. I didn’t understand why this had to happen. I mourned the loss of what we had. Those had been the best years of my life. Phil and I prayed and we decided to step away, although, truth be told, I simply followed my husband, trusting his discernment at the time. I didn’t know what to think.

I spent the next 18 years searching for something to replace community, but I never found it. I felt like I was in a spiritual desert, dry and struggling to stay alive. Yet God was with me. I’d be doing something ordinary, like driving down the freeway marveling at the beauty of the sunshine, and God would tap me on the shoulder and say, I’m here, I’m here. I made this for you.

But I remember one day—I had just gotten home from doing grocery shopping, and I was unloading the car—and a thought entered my head. If I died today, I’m not sure where I’d end up. I talked with Phil and I said, “We need to do something. I don’t know how much longer I can hang on.”

We decided to approach the People of Praise in Saskatoon, which had by that time become a branch of the People of Praise as we know it today, and ask if we could come back. Of course, they welcomed us with open arms and hugs.

A short time later, in my prayer time, I saw a picture in my heart and mind of a soldier. She was thin, disheveled and exhausted. Her clothes were ragged, torn and dirty. She had become separated from her troop and she was lost. She had spent a long time searching, trying to get back to the unit, but in the meantime she had kept up the good fight to the best of her abilities, laboring alone.

Then the picture changed, and she had found her troop. She had her arms flung up in the air, her head back and she was shouting: “I’m alive! I’m alive! I made it home alive!” I knew that soldier was me. I was home.

A few years later, it was time to decide whether to make the covenant of the People of Praise. I took the decision seriously, much more so than the first time. I wanted to hear God say that this was where he wanted me. I spent weeks praying and discerning. I wrote down the pros of being in community, and the cons of being in community, and the pros of not being in community, and the cons of not being in community. But I wasn’t hearing God.

Finally, I had to say to myself, if God had not wanted me to be here, he would not have given me this image of the soldier finding her troop and coming home. So I rested on that image, and I made the covenant, along with Phil, in December, 2007.

Our branch is much smaller now and wiser with age. But we are the People of Praise, built on our covenant, on our love for God and our love for one another, built on respect, faith, friendship and commitment. I’m home and I’ll be growing old with my brothers and sisters.
Editor's Note: This talk on our Mission work was given throughout the People of Praise in November as part of the 2020 Mission Fund appeal. Sean Connolly wrote it.

At 5:00 p.m. on a clear September Saturday, the field at the corner of Linwood and Madison in Evansville stood empty. Shortly after that, a few neighbors arrived. One began raking walnuts off the field. Another carried a pan of baked beans. Another manned the charcoal grills.

By 6:15, a large crowd had gathered for a barbecue, a mix of African Americans and whites, as well as other races. A line formed for food, eventually stretching far down the block. Neighbors standing in the long line greeted one another. Two moms whose kids play together met for the first time. The missionaries organizing the barbecue began to realize that the crowd was bigger than they had anticipated. There were prayers that the hamburgers and pulled pork would not run out. The line kept going, steady and strong, for more than an hour. Someone saw one man—he looked homeless—go through the line three times. Once he took four burgers! But the food did not run out, lasting through to the end. Missionaries later estimated that 250 people had come. There were families from the camp the missionaries run, people from the farm stand where they sell vegetables, friends from door-knocking expeditions and friends of friends.

Many stayed into the dark evening to watch a video projected on a giant screen that featured one of the neighbors. Their heads nodded along as an elderly African American woman spoke of how God does not forsake us, no matter what troubles we face.

In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 5, Jesus tells a group of fishermen to put out into the deep waters and let down their nets for a catch. In many different ways these last few years, Jesus has been saying the same thing to us as a community: “Put out into the deep waters and let down your nets.”

In Jewish tradition, the deep waters are where the demons and great sea monsters live—a place most people don’t want to go. The field where the barbecue took place stands at an intersection that used to be called the devil’s corner. A place so dangerous that pizza delivery drivers refused to go there and city bus drivers altered their routes. Drug dealers would walk up to passing cars and tap on the windows, offering their wares.

That’s where Jesus told us to go. It’s where we can expect a miraculous catch. And that’s just what happened at the barbecue.

We’ve had a few miraculous catches this past year. Last month, the entire city of Shreveport woke up to find our work in Allendale on the front page of their local newspaper. (You can find that story on the home page of peopleofpraise.org.) The man who wrote it, Scott Ferrell, is the editor of The Shreveport Times. While working on the story, he wanted to know why we had chosen Allendale. How, of all places, did we wind up there? He heard the story of how God led us there, and how we sent missionaries to live in the neighborhood, and he said that it all reminded him of Acts of the Apostles. The article he wrote is one of the best summaries of God’s work in Allendale that anyone has ever produced. Many thousands of people got to read it.

God’s plans for Allendale and Lakeside
are bigger than we can know or imagine. Recently, Evan Lent, one of the missionaries, met a young pediatrician, Dr. Virginia Carter, who heard a call from God to open a medical clinic close to Allendale. She convinced her employer, one of the largest health care providers in Shreveport, to allow her to open the clinic, even though it’s in a poor area where many customers can’t pay in full. She told them God wanted her to open the clinic! Dr. Carter has already come to Praise Academy to meet all the moms and talk about the benefits of having a regular doctor. She visited one family at their home and hopes to bring a mobile clinic by the school. Many of the students at Praise Academy badly need medical care. Dr. Carter is the answer to our prayers. More than a woman who is generous and kind, she’s a woman on a mission from God!

We’re involved in a great fishing expedition in deep waters, and we all have a role to play, whether it’s as a missionary, Christians in Mission team member, Action volunteer, parent, grandparent or prayer warrior. Maybe the thing God wants you to do is to help spread the word, to be the one who forwards the news blasts, shares posts on Facebook, or talks to strangers about our mission.

Regardless of your particular role, God has called us as a body to make sacrifices to shoulder the financial costs of this work. Since 2016, when we began the Mission Fund appeal, community members have contributed $1.75 million to support the Mission Fund! This has been a mighty outpouring of generosity and missionary zeal on the part of the whole community.

Last year, in 2018, we set a target of raising $500,000 for the Mission Fund. The pledges that came in totaled $495,000, but by the end of the year we had contributed $519,000. Thank you, Lord!

For 2019, we set a goal of raising $525,000. So far, we’ve received $481,000 in pledges. As of September 30, the end of the third quarter, we’ve contributed $388,000, about 75% of the money. That means we are on track to hit our goal—assuming we receive generous year-end contributions as we usually do.

Last summer, we sent 162 people on Action trips to serve in our new starts: 104 young adults and 58 adults. The number of adults represents a jump over the previous year, when 40 adults came. According to Mike Wacker, Action’s program coordinator, adult participation is crucial to our success, particularly when it comes to cooking, construction projects and supplying leadership for our summer camps.

In Allendale alone, we completed 15 home-repair projects for neighbors.
In addition to this, volunteers finished major renovations of Praise Academy. They remodeled two bathrooms, knocked down a wall to join two classrooms into a single large room, replaced flooring and painted 3,000 square feet of walls and ceilings.

Ninety-three children came to our summer camp in Allendale. One Action staffer, a young woman, reported that after a block party one of the campers, a young girl, came and asked her if she would clean her shoes. The Action staffer was on her way to do something else and fired back, “How about you wash them at home?” “No one at home cares,” the girl replied. Cut to the heart, the young woman sat down on the porch. She and the girl sang songs together while they washed the mud off the girl’s shoes.

In Evansville, the Action team worked on our urban farm in the mornings. They spent their afternoons staffing a summer camp which 60 local children attended.

One of the volunteers helping with camp was a young woman who lives in the neighborhood. At the end of the summer she stood up in front of all the volunteers and, with tears in her eyes, shared that she’d never been around such a kind group of people—not at home and not at school.

In Indianapolis, 70 local children attended our summer camp, and Action volunteers removed eight large bags of poison ivy from the yards of two neighbors. One of the first-time campers was a very active five-year-old girl. Her group of campers learned a song written by the missionaries. It’s called “My Soul Cries Glory.” They performed it at a neighborhood festival sponsored by the CIM team. The girl’s mom recorded the performance on video and later reported that her daughter had been walking around their house for a week playing the video and singing “My Soul Cries Glory” at the top of her lungs.

I also want to mention that there is service work that happens throughout the year. For several years, a group from northern Virginia has been traveling in the wintertime to Indianapolis and Evansville. This year 25 people came, including four from Saskatoon and one from South Bend.

In total, we spent $84,289 to run our Action projects during the most recent fiscal year. That includes food, housing and staff costs, the costs of running camps and some of the home-repair projects we performed for neighbors.

That money also helped pay for our first-ever Action trip to the West Side of St. Paul, where Servant Branch has an outreach. The volunteers there helped run a summer camp for neighborhood children.

As you may know, People of Praise missionaries embrace a call to simplicity and poverty. Most of them work one day per week to cover their personal expenses such as food and clothing.

Through the Mission Fund, we support their Mission-related expenses, including housing, communication, transportation and health insurance.

The cost to us of keeping one missionary in the field for a year is about $9,900. It’s a great bargain. In total, we spent $147,000 to keep 14.85 missionaries in the field. (One was not there for a full year.)

Our missionary movement includes not only missionaries but a second group, CIM. These are retirees and stay-at-home mothers, as well as brothers and sisters who work regular jobs but dedicate much of their spare time to our work. Currently, there are 57 adults and 28 children in CIM, in Allendale, Evansville and Indianapolis.

We are in need of more people who want to move, especially retirees. As Patti Deakin, a member of the CIM team in
Allendale, put it once, you don’t have to be a front-line evangelist to contribute. Your best asset may just be your accumulated life experience.

At Praise Academy, CIM team members serve in a wide variety of ways, as do members of the Shreveport branch. Some come to read to children during reading time, some clean the school, one person teaches physical education, another conducts science experiments, one bakes bread, one couple does all the menu planning and shopping, one person taught students how to use chopsticks, another processes receipts, another organized the school library, another does laundry.

As we’ve said before, the Mission Fund does not support Praise Academy directly. If you want to give to Praise Academy, you can find out how on their website, praiselakeside.org.

In the spring of 2018, Praise Academy celebrated their first-ever graduate, Latisha, who completed eighth grade. She now attends Loyola College Prep and hopes one day to go to college and become a surgeon.

Our Mission property office, located in South Bend, has helped the People of Praise or individual community members acquire 104 pieces of property in our three new starts as well as in the Triangle neighborhood of Indianapolis.

This total includes 53 homes (some of which have since been demolished), 47 vacant lots and four commercial properties.

In Allendale this past year, we completed the purchase of a property on Dove Street that had been five years in the making. The renters living in the home, who have supported us and cooked for our barbecues, begged us to purchase the house after seeing how well we’ve taken care of other properties in the area.

It would be impossible for us to run camps, build houses, host block parties or run our urban farm without the land we acquired through the work of the property office. It’s worth noting that Mission Fund dollars don’t go to pay for property itself—we have a separate fund for that—but they do support our property office. In total we spent $76,120 to do that.

Speaking of the urban farm in Evansville, in 2019 it produced 6,480 pounds of vegetables. That’s up from 4,500 pounds in 2018. At the request of our neighbors, more than half of the vegetables were various varieties of greens.
Last spring, the Evansville team sponsored a greens cooking contest. It included five local judges and a point system to pick the winner. People are already talking about next year’s contest.

Let me add that none of our mission work would be possible without the leadership and training provided by the Mission center in South Bend. Paul DeCelles leads the planning team that coordinates all the programs and projects associated with our Mission work.

In addition to the impact we’ve had on the neighborhoods and cities where our new starts are located, this work will also have a major impact on the future of the community. Since Action began, 262 young people have come underway in the People of Praise, forming a new generation of community members. Praise God! This is something all our branches can take pride in, for many of these members are our own children.

For 2018, the last year for which we have final numbers, 46% of our members, 790 people, pledged or gave to the Mission Fund. This number was down slightly from the previous year.

However, the average pledge was $1,150 annually, which was an increase. The most frequent pledge was $600 per year or $50 per month.

For 2020, our fundraising goal will once again be $525,000. If you can continue your pledge at the same level as last year, please do so. If you are in a position to increase your pledge, that would be a big help also. And if you weren’t in a position to give last year, but find yourself in a better place financially this year, we would love to have your pledge as well.

For a single person, $25 a month is a suggested starting point.

For a married couple, $50 per month is our suggestion. But donations smaller than that are just fine. We would love for as many people as possible to participate, even if that is just giving a few dollars each month.

Regardless of how or whether you can contribute financially, consider making a commitment to pray for this work. We need all the prayer we can get!

In his Spiritual Exercises, Ignatius of Loyola says that when we give alms we should be sure that the love that moves us to give really does come from God. It’s a good idea to talk with the Lord about your giving, as well as with your spouse if you are married, and with your head.

If you have any questions about the details of pledging or payment methods, don’t hesitate to contact Joe Bowar at the Mission Fund office. The e-mail address is missionfund@peopleofpraise.org.

Here’s a look at our plan for allocating Mission Fund dollars during the 2020 calendar year. Note: some of these percentages could shift once the new fiscal year begins in July, 2020.

- 36% is for keeping missionaries in the field.
- 23.5% goes for Action efforts.
- 20% is for leadership and training.
- 16% is for the Mission property office.
- 4.5% is for communications, to help get the word out about everything the Lord is doing.

Let’s thank God for all that he is doing through us in the People of Praise, for the joy and privilege of helping him as he pulls many fish out of those deep dark waters and brings them into the light. Let’s pray for more miraculous catches in Evansville, Allendale and Indianapolis, and all across the community in the year to come!
Postscript

The following is a list of those whom we as a community have sent to live in our new starts, from the time our mission work in Allendale began in 2002 until now. The branch in parentheses indicates the branch that each brother or sister was sent out from.

Genevieve (DeCelles) Barrett (Servant Branch)
Nathan Barrett (South Bend)
Mary Beckley (South Bend)
Liz (Brewer) Bomkamp (South Bend)
Colleen (Murray) Bowar (Servant Branch)
John Bowar (Servant Branch)
Andy Bowar (Servant Branch)
Laura Brummer (Servant Branch)
Abby Brummer (Servant Branch)
Dikka Brummer (Servant Branch)
Jeff Brummer (Servant Branch)
Joe Bulger (South Bend)
Gianna (Priolo) Bulger (Colorado Springs)
Margaret Bulger (Servant Branch)
Annie Bulger (South Bend)
Josh Caneff (Vancouver-Portland)
Mary Claire (Busk) Caneff (South Bend)
Joe Cassell (northern Virginia)
Claire (Holovaty) Childs (South Bend)
Charles Chow
Peter Coleman (Muncie)
Michael Coney (Servant Branch)
Naomi (Caneff) Coney (Vancouver-Portland)
Gretchen (Rolland) Connolly (South Bend)
Sean Connolly (South Bend)
Sean Couch (South Bend)
John Crimmins (northern Virginia)
Gerry Deakin (Colorado Springs)
Patti Deakin (Colorado Springs)
Mary Dohrman (Oahu)
Jeanette (Zimmel) Duddy (Vancouver-Portland)
Thomas Duddy (Servant Branch)
Abby Earhart (Servant Branch)
Ellen (Putzier) Earhart (Servant Branch)
John Earhart
Brad Elliott (northern Virginia)
Bethy (Brophy) Faulkner (South Bend)
Cathy Feehly (South Bend)
Catherine Ficker (Servant Branch)
Jeff Fournier (Servant Branch)
David Frank (Servant Branch)
Jon Gapp (Servant Branch)
Joe Gleason (South Bend)
Dan Gleason (Servant Branch)
Mary Kay Gleason (Servant Branch)
Jared Gonzalez (Indianapolis)
Ray Gonzalez (Indianapolis)
Robin Gonzalez (Indianapolis)
Mary Grams (Servant Branch and South Bend)
Mary Hagens (Servant Branch)
Peter Hammer (Buffalo)
Angie Hass (Servant Branch)
Nick Holovaty (South Bend)
Members of the People of Praise on the South Side of Indianapolis.

Orest Holovaty (South Bend)
Susan Holovaty (South Bend)
Paul Hommes (South Bend)
Annie (Putzier) Kane (Servant Branch)
George Kane (South Bend)
David Katcher
Hannah (Brummer) Kelly (Servant Branch)
J-T Kelly (South Bend)
Kathryn Kelly (South Bend)
Terry Kelly (South Bend)
Evan Lent (South Bend)
Liz Loughran (South Bend)
Jack Lynch (Servant Branch)
Rus Lyons (Servant Branch)
Joe Maguire (northern Virginia)
Edna Malone (South Bend)
Pat Malone (South Bend)
Elizabeth (Grondin) McShane (Shreveport)
Kevin McShane (South Bend)
Shannon Mehaffey (northern Virginia)
Joe Murphy (Servant Branch)
Kevin Murray (Servant Branch)
Maggie Murray (Servant Branch)
Claire Mysliwiec (South Bend)
Brigette Mysliwiec (Colorado Springs)
Ben Mysliwiec (northern Virginia)
Abe Olson (Vancouver-Portland)
Luke Olson (Servant Branch)
Patricia (Brewer) Olson (South Bend)
Rachel Osterhouse (Servant Branch)
Andrew Pingel (South Bend)
Joan Pingel (South Bend)
Peter Putzier (Servant Branch)
Kaitlyn Raway (Servant Branch)
Anne Raway (Servant Branch)
Nick Raway (Servant Branch)
Ellen Reed (South Bend)
Dan Reinbold (Servant Branch)
Ben Reinhardt (Servant Branch)
Kathleen (Mehaffey) Reinhardt (Servant Branch)
Cathy Schwab (Servant Branch)
Dan Schwab (Servant Branch)
Pam Seale (northern Virginia)
Walt Seale (northern Virginia)
Ron Seitz (South Bend)
Ruthanne Seitz (South Bend)
Ricky Thomas (South Bend)
Mary Timler (South Bend)
Eileen (Coney) Timler (New Orleans)
Jen Torma (Servant Branch)
Lori Twining (South Bend)
Chris Vieck (South Bend)
Cathy (Grill) Walters (South Bend)
Justin Walters (South Bend)
Colin Whelpley (northern Virginia)
Isaac Willard (Servant Branch)
Gabe Yohe (northern Virginia)
Eric Yost (South Bend)
David Zimmel (Vancouver-Portland)
John Zimmel (Servant Branch)
Jo Zimmel (Servant Branch)
Lily Zusi (South Bend)
On November 15, at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Department of Education recognized Trinity School at River Ridge as a National Blue Ribbon school for the third time. River Ridge was the only private high school in Minnesota to win the award in 2019. It’s also the only high school in the state to have earned three Blue Ribbons, and it was one of only 50 private schools in the United States to win the award in 2019.

This is the ninth time a campus of Trinity Schools has won the Blue Ribbon.

“The award is not just a recognition of the school and educational outcomes, but also a recognition of the hard work and dedication of the administration, staff, parents, students, alumni and many generous benefactors who form the River Ridge community,” said Jon Balsbaugh, the president of Trinity Schools.

The Blue Ribbon helps spread the word about the school to prospective parents. About 5,500 people viewed the school’s Facebook post announcing the award. That’s ten times the views any other post has ever received, according to Head of School Beth Schmitz.

“One of our goals as the People of Praise is to educate as many young people as we can in a ‘true and integral Christian humanism,’ as The Spirit and Purpose of the People of Praise says,” noted Craig Lent, the overall coordinator of the community and chair of Trinity’s board of trustees. “We hope that the Lord will use news of this award to help us attract more students to Trinity. We are so grateful to God who called us to open Trinity nearly 40 years ago and continues to sustain us and bless us.”

“Part of the reason we considered sending our kids to Trinity, when we’d never heard of Trinity, never heard of the People of Praise, was because it had just won its second Blue Ribbon,” said parent Christin Croll Carlson.

Christin hopes that the award can be a tool that will allow more parents to experience the blessing that Trinity School is. She says, “Parents need to know that this is out there, that you can graduate from high school without alcohol or sex. That you can learn to think for yourself. That you can hold your own in an argument. That you can develop manners, and intelligence, and still be a teenager. People don’t believe that this is possible. But it is.”

When the award was announced in September, Beth told the students during an assembly, “This award is an acknowledgment of excellence that for us is ordinary life. It’s appropriate that it’s ordinary because that’s what we’re created to do, but it does cumulatively add up to something that is extraordinary.”

And so the students and faculty ate cupcakes, celebrated their recognition, and then went back to their math problems and recorder playing and drama productions and spirited discussions and MATLAB programming—back to their ordinary work of learning together.
TRIBUTES

BILL ARGUS, JR.
By John Barnitz

Bill stirred into flame many gifts of the Holy Spirit. Over many decades he also shared his musical gifts with a lively voice, expressive banjo and enthusiastic guitar in branch gatherings, church outreaches, prayer meetings, conferences and retreats. Bill carried songs in his heart and soul—always ready to celebrate with family and the community.

In his demanding career as a professional architect, Bill held himself to the highest standards. He often shared how the Holy Spirit helped him to meet project deadlines and free up cash flow for his employees, family and the community.

He would surprise people with his generosity: giving a huge tip to a restaurant server to pay for four car tires; helping a branch brother pay for a wedding rehearsal dinner.

Bill was devoted to Tucky, his wife for 56 years, and to his five children and 12 grandchildren. He also loved community children. Bill welcomed our young boys’ group to Argus Architects to show them drawings and models, then led them to imagine and design a People of Praise theme park!

Above all, our brother Bill loved the Lord, seeking him first, his bibles stuffed with notes about passages he cherished. Bill’s love of Scripture enhanced his faith to keep designing, keep praying, keep building God’s kingdom.

facts
- Bill was born August 3, 1940, and met the Lord face to face November 27, 2018, dying in the post-Katrina home he’d designed. (See V&B, summer, 2010.)
- He earned a Master of Architecture degree from Tulane University. He then served as a Navy lieutenant and as an architect in the Civil Engineer Corps.
- He and Tucky Moss were married June 12, 1962, and in 1981 made the covenant of the Community of Jesus the King (later the New Orleans branch). They made the People of Praise covenant September 26, 1986. Their eldest daughter, Liz Argus Meehan, is also covenanted.
- Bill ran his own architectural firm, specializing in churches and religious schools, in New Orleans and throughout the Gulf Coast.

MARLENE MCLAURIN
By Kevin Weilbacher

Marlene grew up in a loud, boisterous Italian family, which was apparent as soon as she walked into a room. Her enthusiasm was infectious. She added laughter to parties and was often the last to leave. She always gave children her special attention at our gatherings.

She showed hospitality to everyone. In northern Virginia, the McLaurins often hosted families from other branches who were visiting Washington, D.C. Susan Weilbacher recalls, “Before we went off to explore the Smithsonian, Marlene packed snacks and drinks for our children and gave us the best navigation advice for our adventures.”

Marlene loved to have fun and she always invited others to join her. She wore a moose hat at one picnic and a cap with Mickey Mouse ears at one branch Christmas party. She was happiest when family visited her at Orlando (and Disney World!).

Marlene possessed a sharp mind and had planned to study law. With her spirited determination, she attended branch gatherings as often as possible, sometimes just after being released from the hospital. When walking became more difficult, she stashed a little scooter in her trunk to get around.

After John died, she grew in her realization that community was like family. Two weeks before her death, she emailed a branch leader: “You are a great example of what service should look like as we reach out for help from one another. You are an inspiration to me.” And Marlene was an inspiration to us.

facts
- Marlene D’Amico was born February 10, 1941, and grew up in Detroit. She died peacefully in Orlando, FL, March 29, 2019.
- She earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in business administration from the University of Michigan.
- She and her husband John, a covenanted member who died in 2016, raised five sons, and their family now includes ten grandchildren.
- She made the covenant of the People of Praise in northern Virginia November 11, 1987. The McLaurins were also members in South Bend (1989-2002) as well as here in Tampa (since 2002).
Joe and Peggy attended prayer meetings and were baptized in the Spirit in Manasquan, New Jersey, where Joe sold pharmaceuticals for Squibb. They wanted to move to the Southwest because of their son Joey’s allergies, and Joe says the Lord gave them very clear guidance about going to Las Cruces. There they went to prayer meetings in Jim and Nancy Zwerneman’s home. The Zwernemans moved to South Bend to join the community, and in 1978, when Joe’s business failed, the Yoreys moved too.

After the kids started college, Peggy worked at the community’s LaSalle Company, retiring in 2002. She was always very active in church. She had a wonderful, outgoing sense of humor and a big, winning smile. A gracious hostess, she had a great capacity for kindness. She was also a movie buff—especially for Bette Davis classics.

Mary Pingel said that in their women’s group “You could bring up a problem that seemed insurmountable, but after talking with Peggy it didn’t seem insurmountable anymore. She loved the Lord and always gave good advice. She picked up on things very quickly . . . and she loved to laugh.”

Peggy experienced failing health for several years, but her sense of humor prevailed. Nell Thomas recalled, “Peggy was upbeat all the time. If you got together, you knew you would have fun and there’d be plenty of laughter. My husband Dick said after he heard me and Peggy on the phone—and after she got sick we were on the phone a lot—‘You’d never know there was anything wrong with either of you.’ She was a wonderful friend.”

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<td>• Peggy Palacios was born in Manhattan November 5, 1933, and died in South Bend January 14, 2019.</td>
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<td>• She and Joe Yorey first met at a Berkshire Mountains resort and they were married in Brooklyn July 29, 1961. Peggy continued working for the vice-president of AT&amp;T for about a year, when she quit so she could devote herself full-time to family life. They raised three children together.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Joe and Peggy made the covenant of the People of Praise September 14, 1980.</td>
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Barbara always wanted to do what was right in God’s eyes. In crowds, she was observant and often quiet—always smiling—and sometimes she’d surprise me with witty remarks that only she could come up with.

Early in life, Barbara went through a rough time, but friends invited her to John the Baptist prayer group in San Francisco. She met Christians who helped her, and Jesus became Lord of her life.

In South Bend, Barbara bought a home. She called it “Shalom House,” and several branch single women joined her. The Lord used this household to start our intercessory prayer team. Once a month, these women and several others gathered to pray for three hours for the needs of all the branches, followed by a dinner opening the Lord’s Day. Barbara met with us faithfully and loyally for intercessory prayer, even in the nursing home on the last Saturday of her life.

Nothing kept her from daily mass, not ice or snow, certainly not weather warnings. She was always there. She also served in the parish hospitality ministry and as Eucharistic Minister to the homebound.

Barbara loved her Irish heritage and traveled to Ireland several times to meet family. She retired in 1996 after 20 years at Key Bank.

In her eyes, it wasn’t right to destroy anything God created, for instance, a weed in her flower garden—especially if it had a pretty flower. She simply insisted it wasn’t a weed.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Barbara was born in San Francisco May 3, 1938, and died December 10, 2018, in South Bend.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• In 1977 she moved with John the Baptist Charismatic Renewal Community to join the People of Praise in South Bend. She made the covenant September 24, 1977.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Barbara loved her Irish heritage and traveled to Ireland several times to meet family. She retired in 1996 after 20 years at Key Bank.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• In her eyes, it wasn’t right to destroy anything God created, for instance, a weed in her flower garden—especially if it had a pretty flower. She simply insisted it wasn’t a weed.</td>
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LIFENOTES

Births
Welcome to our newest little brothers and sisters!
Isabella Grace Maureen, born to Mike and Sarah Stapp (Servant Branch) October 8.
Juliette Lucille, born to Geoff and Kaitlin Bornhoft (Servant Branch) October 14.
Caleb Gregory, born to Ben and Kathleen Reinhardt (Mission, Allendale) November 3.
Ignatius Paul, born to George and Annie Kane (Mission, Indianapolis) December 10.

Weddings and Anniversaries
Congratulations to Rob Bolka (Muncie) and Teresa Schwab (Servant Branch), who were married October 12 at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Farmington, MN.
Congratulations to Matt Rubio (Indianapolis) and Elizabeth Annemarie McClamrock, who were married in Dayton, OH, October 26.
Congratulations to Joe Bulger and Gianna Priolo (both Mission, Allendale), who were married at the Cathedral of St. John Berchmans in Shreveport November 30.
Ken and Carolyn Quella (Appleton) celebrated their 30th anniversary April 22.
Tom and Mary Duddy (Oahu) celebrated their 40th anniversary May 19.
Bob and Jeanice Armstrong (Appleton) celebrated their 60th anniversary August 22.
Linda Trepanier (Oahu) and her husband Dave celebrated their 25th anniversary September 10.
Rod and Fran Macalintal (Oahu) celebrated their 20th anniversary October 30.

Covenant
Kaitlyn Raway (South Bend) made the covenant of the People of Praise on October 6, 2019.
Toby Clairmont (Vancouver-Portland) made the covenant of the People of Praise on October 13, 2019.

Work and Achievements
On October 12, the Catholic Foundation of the Catholic Diocese of Yakima honored Fr. Perron Auve (Vancouver-Portland) for his many years of service to the diocese, especially in the field of education.
On December 31, Bill Brophy (northern Virginia) retired from the community’s LaSalle Company in South Bend, where he had worked since January 2, 1978. Starting in September, 1982, he was a sales representative for the company’s Communication Center while based in Falls Church, VA.

Immunization Practices. Lynn is a public-health nurse who received her master’s degree in public health last May. She has worked as the Minnesota Department of Health’s vaccine manager and a consultant on lead poisoning prevention for 18 years. For over 20 years, Lynn has also served as a nurse on the esteemed medical team in residence at Servant Camp!
In early October, Tom White (Vancouver-Portland) retired after a career of 44 years working in the fields of clinical, environmental, food safety and regulatory compliance.
On October 2, South Bend branch members working at Greenlawn honored Dick Thomas, who retired in July after working for the community for 44 years. Dick started as the first custodian at the LaSalle Building in 1975, then moved to the South Bend branch center, then to the Greenlawn property. Dick is now 89 and looking forward to a long retirement.
The Colorado League of Charter Schools named Mary Faith Hall (Colorado Springs) the Charter School Leader of the Year at their annual conference March 1. Mary Faith is the executive director of Thomas MacLaren School. She cofounded the charter public school in 2009 when it opened in rented space at a local church with a student body of 77, and has guided its expansion to its own 18-acre campus currently serving 860 students in grades K-12.
On February 15 Beth Sanford (South Bend)
LIFENOTES

Left: At this year’s Servant Branch community anniversary celebration, branch members displayed and sold items that they’d made. Here, Kathy Korkowski peruses photos by Andy Bowar. Right: Charlie Fraga (left) congratulates Toby Clairmont as he makes the covenant in Vancouver-Portland this fall.

was surprised and honored to receive the Renelda Robinson Award at the Robinson Community Learning Center’s 18th anniversary celebration. This past August she was invited to join the board of the Venues, Parks & Arts Foundation of the City of South Bend. (See V&B summer, 2018, for a related story.)

Congratulations to Anderson Sunda-Meya (New Orleans), who has been promoted to full professor in the Physics and Computer Science Department at Xavier University of Louisiana.

A book by Dorothy Ranaghan (South Bend), Blindspot: War and Christian Identity, has been republished in a second edition by New City Press and is now also available in a Kindle edition from Amazon.

Mary Duddy (Oahu) is writing a column on marriage and family issues for the Hawaii Catholic Herald newspaper. Her first column, an introductory piece titled “The Married Life,” appeared August 7.

The Hastings Prescott Area Arts Council has chosen Monica Laust (Servant Branch) as the 2019 Prescott Arts Hero for her contributions to the arts in the local Prescott community and at St. Joseph Church, where she directs the choir and has taught music at the parish school for 35 years.

Stephen Koller (South Bend) joined LaSalle Company March 25 as director of sales. On April 28, Kevin Ranaghan (South Bend) marked his retirement from active ministry as a permanent deacon in the Catholic Church with a homily at his parish, St. Bavo’s, in Mishawaka, IN. He was ordained in 1973 and had served at St. Bavo’s since 1984.

Melinda Davis (Campus, South Bend) was one of four 2019 summer interns chosen to work for the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the U.N. in New York City. She was selected through a global and competitive search process.

Mary Ann Smerud (Servant Branch) was one of the recipients of the 2019 Outstanding Property Award, given by the City of West St. Paul to “recognize property owners, both commercial and residential, that have maintained their property in a well-kept manner or that have made significant, positive improvements.”

Hana Shin (northern Virginia) has a new job at New World Pharmacy in Annandale, VA.

Deaths

Since our last issue, we have received word that several members of the community have died. We pray for their family and friends in this time of loss.

Pat Mandel (Appleton) died October 9.

Leigh Wachel (Appleton) died October 16.

Dot Rowe (Appleton) died November 29.

Dan Robinson (South Bend) died December 1.

Anastasia Evans (Servant Branch) died December 14

Executive Office Announcements

Rob and Teresa Bolka have moved to the Indianapolis branch from the Muncie branch (Rob) and from Servant Branch (Teresa).

Servant Branch:

Mike Hass has been appointed to a three-year term as area coordinator effective January 26, 2020.

Buffalo:

Peter Hammer was appointed to a three-year term as area coordinator effective December 18, 2019.

South Bend:

John and Mary Behrens were released from the covenant of the People of Praise November 22, 2019.
“For God alone my soul waits in silence” (Ps. 62:1).