Technology:
Building Unity, Defeating Distance

Live Internet Broadcasts, p. 2
Computer Programming at Trinity Schools, p. 8
An experiment in community communications

Internet Broadcasts Defeat Distance

By Sean Connolly and Josh Caneff

Early this summer Nick Holovaty achieved a milestone in community communications. He gave a talk that was heard in six different branches of the community simultaneously. His words were picked up by two videocameras and a tiny lapel microphone in Allendale, sent to a computer for compression, shot out over the Internet, and picked up again in less than a minute by home computers of brothers and sisters in Colorado Springs, Portland, Servant Branch, South Bend and Tampa. Nick’s talk was a small part of an ambitious summerlong communications experiment called the Allendale Video Project (AVP).

The AVP aimed to expand the audience for talks that had previously been delivered only to a small audience of Action members crammed into an Allendale living room. The new audience would include all Action members, regardless of their location (as long as they had a computer with a high-speed Internet connection), and interested community members as well. The result was a series of eight 90-minute live broadcasts, held on Wednesday nights throughout the summer.

“Ever since we started in Allendale,” Nick notes, “we’ve wanted to fit more people in the room for our evening talks. The Internet allowed us to build a bigger living room.”

More than 70 people fit comfortably into that virtual space when Nick gave his talk, and 48 computers tapped into the most popular of the eight broadcasts. Exact audience sizes are hard to estimate because each computer might attract a single individual, a women’s group of four, or 40 Action members.

One:Ten Communications, a new division of the LaSalle Company, ran the live broadcasts and built a web site, www.citybuilder.org, that served as a gateway for them. Citybuilder.org also allowed users to view any broadcasts they’d missed, contribute to a discussion forum about the talks and other city-building topics, and catch regular reports on the progress of summer work in Allendale, such as three-minute video updates (called video-logs or vlogs) and longer National Public Radio-style audio stories.

“The concept of giving one talk to so many people in different locations was very exciting, very cutting-edge,” said Pat Murphy, Action division coordinator for Servant Branch. “The talks were clearly People of Praise, but it’s People of Praise in the year 2006.”

Topics included the new gadgetland of cell phones, web cameras and high-speed Internet access as well as friendship with Jesus and the history of the People of Praise.

One AVP objective was to provide new ways for community members in different branches to connect with one another, says David Salmon,
The LaSalle Company is pleased to announce the formation of its newest division, One:Ten Communications (www.onetencommunications.com). One:Ten takes its name and its mission from Ephesians 1:10: “In Christ and under Christ God wanted to unite... everything in heaven and on earth.” One:Ten will invent new applications for modern communications technologies, creating ways for individuals, organizations and businesses to connect, collaborate and grow in unity.

Currently One:Ten is developing web sites for small- and medium-sized businesses. If you or your business is interested in learning how One:Ten can create or overhaul your online presence, contact Division President David Salmon: David@onetencommunications.com.

Nathan Barrett (Allendale) discusses an upcoming broadcast with technician Kevin Daly (Servant Branch).

casts from NOVA after returning from Allendale, said, “I was able to discuss what was going on in Allendale with my very good friends Patti Deakin (Colorado Springs) and Anne Brewer (South Bend), even though none of us was present at the talk.”

Remote viewers could also use...
The summer of 2006 brought 130 Action volunteers to Allendale. They worked on neighborhood home-repair projects and built this house, the community’s sixth on Yale Avenue.

This year community members everywhere were able to witness the sights and sounds of progress in Allendale through the frequent video logs (vlogs) that were posted on citybuilder.org. Here staff member Joe Gleason (left) interviews Mike Stapp (Oahu) while Kevin Daly records.

much of the equipment, lowering costs significantly, David says.

When the video feed went down, the chat proved to be a useful outlet for technological frustration. Viewers traded jokes with producers and chuckled their way through the outages.

The AVP triggered some encouraging reflections about the roles technology might play in the community’s future: “I’m excited about the possibilities,” Carolyn says. “The Internet provides us with the opportunity to be closer to one another.”

Dorothy Ranaghan is thinking along similar lines. “When we had our 25th anniversary as the People of Praise, it became clear that, as much as we wanted to, we could not get the whole community together in one place. But with technology like this, well, maybe we can for our 50th!”

Craig says the board of governors has been talking about the roles videoconferencing and live broadcasts might play in the community in coming years. “I think this summer’s success points to even more possibilities for us to keep in contact with one another,” he says. “Technology gives us new ways to fulfill a big part of our mission—being a single, unified community with branches in many different places. I’m excited to see what’s next.”

* * *

All eight of this summer’s talks are available at www.citybuilder.org, along with video and audio updates from our work in Allendale. To access them, you will need to log on to the site, create a user account and pay a $10 fee that helps cover the costs.
A member of our board of governors

Mike Coney: Determined To Serve

By Debbie Mixell and Jennifer Kenning

Seventeen-year-old Mike Coney’s life changed instantly and dramatically when he came home to find his mother collapsed, after a fatal heart attack. As he struggled to understand her death, he focused on a verse in the book of Job, “The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.” Yet tragedy brought forth new life, as Mike found strength in the Lord. “From that point on,” he says, “I determined to try to order my life well, to make the Lord part of everything.”

Mike’s determination met reality, when as a young attorney working for Shell Oil Company he had to choose between a prestigious and lucrative promotion in Houston and the life he loved in New Orleans. Mike recalls standing in the driveway with Linda, his wife, after returning from the airport. He had just learned of his promotion and transfer. “This is awful,” he told her. “A move to Houston means life for our family will never be the same.”

For a few months Mike tried living with the promotion, commuting between the two cities, until it became clear that either the Coneys had to move to Houston or Mike had to quit the job. Ninety days after starting, Mike resigned, turning down the promotion even though it had bumped him up several levels on the pay scale. “Our life was in a covenant community in New Orleans. For the sake of our children and ourselves, we needed committed relationships with other Christians who were serious about their faith.” Mike took a position with a private law firm in New Orleans, and eventually went back to work for Shell in New Orleans, when they assured him that he could stay in the city as long as they had offices there.

“When Scripture talks about who should be a presbyter, one of the criteria is that he be able to run his own household, to lead that smaller community of faith well,” says Phil Slattery (New Orleans). “We all see abundant evidence of that particular fruit in Mike’s life.” Five of Mike and Linda’s seven children are members of the People of Praise, and Mike and Linda—married now 36 years—are the post-Katrina hub of New Orleans branch life. “It’s as if they have a revolving door at their house,” says branch administrator Tom Evans. “It’s an ongoing bed and breakfast that you don’t pay for. And you get more than a comfortable place and good food. You get wonderful relationships with the two of them. They always have room for one more.”

Chris Vieck (South Bend) visited the branch and witnessed Coney household hospitality firsthand, as unexpected guests arrived during dinner. “They just kept getting out more plates,” Chris remembers, “and there was plenty of gumbo to go around. It was amazing hospitality and life in common.”

In addition to his demanding job at Shell, Mike serves the People of Praise as the principal branch coordinator of the New Orleans branch and as a member of the board of governors. He also preaches, prepares couples for marriage and presides over baptisms and weddings as a deacon in the Catholic Church. “He really has a pastor’s heart,” says Tom. He’s a “charge-ahead guy,” always arriving at coordinator meetings with a ready plan, but “he isn’t just moving an agenda forward; he’s loving the people.”

“It’s amazing that someone can have so many responsibilities and still be guided always by love,” says Carolyn Reinhardt, a branch member and former Coney household member. With characteristic humility, Mike defers such accolades and offers 2 Corinthians 12:10 as an explanation, “I am content with weakness, hardships and constraints for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Mike’s life experiences have taught him about hardships, and this year hardships have new meaning for him, as he battles recently diagnosed prostate cancer. “I know the Lord is with me,” he says. “Sickness and death are the work of Satan. I want to ram it down his throat for the glory of God.” When he shared this with the New Orleans branch, he read from Habakkuk 3:17-18. “Though the fig tree blossom not, nor fruit be on the vines, . . . though the flocks disappear from the fold, [though my body is afflicted with cancer], yet will I rejoice in the Lord. God, my Lord, is my strength.”

It’s an ongoing bed and breakfast that you don’t pay for. And you get more than a comfortable place and good food. You get wonderful relationships with the two of them. They always have room for one more.”
It’s not about chocolate bunnies

Trinity Schools Hires Fundraising Consultant

By Elizabeth Grams

Picture Trinity School campuses more beautiful and teeming with life than ever. Imagine students in unprecedented numbers who are able to attend Trinity Schools because of better financial aid. Start seeing Trinity Schools sprouting up in new cities. Now think about the cost! That’s what the board of trustees of Trinity Schools did, and that’s why they’re spending money to hire an expert in the fundraising field, Thomas C. Dunworth.

“Fundraising is a real art,” Kerry Koller (South Bend), the president of Trinity Schools, explains. “This isn’t selling chocolate bunnies!”

The Trinity Schools Development Office, started by Fred Crowe and Stephen Busk (South Bend), directed for almost nine years by Clem Walters (South Bend), and now led by Dan Brewer (South Bend), has been working hard to raise monies through annual mailing campaigns, auctions and gala events. (No chocolate bunnies here, either.) Through their efforts and the generosity of Trinity School families and People of Praise families, a tiny community of students and faculty has already grown into three successful campuses with an endowment worth around $4 million.

“But we’ve been unable to go much further,” Kerry admits. “We don’t know the rules of the road, and we need to raise a lot more money.”

Kerry envisions better financial aid, improved buildings, new schools—all wonderful, and all expensive. He says the time is ripe for a new push forward to support these enterprises.

Charlie Fraga (Vancouver/Portland), a member of the board of trustees of Trinity Schools, says he is a firm believer in the idea that if Trinity Schools are going to raise the “big bucks” they’re going to need the help of a professional. It was Charlie who flew to San Francisco as a representative of the board to meet with Tom, the managing partner of California-based Dunworth & Associates. They didn’t intend to meet for the better part of the day, but Tom was so intrigued by what he heard that he missed his next appointment.

“We sat around talking about Trinity Schools for hours,” Tom recalls. “I ended up taking Charlie to the airport.” Soon after that meeting, Tom took on a new client: he is now the professional fundraising consultant to the Trinity Schools, Inc., board of trustees.

With his 25 years of experience in nonprofit development, Tom is now working very closely with Charlie, the board and the development offices at all three Trinity Schools. One of his goals is to introduce Trinity Schools to planned giving. Fundraising, he explains, can be very expensive and time-consuming; it pays to seek out those who have a lot of resources and encourage them to make very large gifts. Tom hopes to draw in more funds from outside the community and share his expertise with those in the community.

Tom was moved by the mission of Trinity Schools and the People of Praise. He had seen many educational institutions offering solid curriculums, but he marveled at Trinity Schools’ outreach “not just to the 15% at the top, but to a wide demographic. Also, the ethical/spiritual element at Trinity Schools is very needed.” He has no doubt that Trinity Schools can find others who will be as inspired as he has been and willing to invest in it. We just need to know how to find them. “We’re off to a good start,” he says confidently, “a surprisingly good start.”

Trinity School faculty, board members and development staff are looking forward to growing by leaps and bounds. Peg Louiselle (Servant Branch), director of development for Trinity School at River Ridge, is excited about the new face around the office (though he is based in San Francisco, Tom will be making regular visits to all three Trinity School locations): “I think he’s done a phenomenal job of coming to understand the things that make us us. He’s kind of a roll-up-your-sleeves guy; he really works with us.” Peg’s conclusion matches the board’s: “Tom has set us on a course for success.”

“We’re off to a good start,” Tom says confidently, “a surprisingly good start.”

Thomas C. Dunworth
Editor’s Note: Our coverage of People of Praise camps concludes with these facts and photos from the last of this summer’s five camps.

Location: Camp Phillipo, a 400-acre Boy Scout camp near Cannon Falls, MN
Dates: August 6-11, 2006
Camp started in: 1978
Camp leaders: Ginny Annala, Carmen Lee (director) Gail Lee, Jeanne Oberg and Mike Oberg (each of whom has served 20+ years at Servant Camp)
Number of campers: 263
Age range: first grade through twelfth grade
Number of staff members: 76
Branches in attendance: Northern Virginia, Rockford, Saskatoon, Servant Branch, South Bend
Theme: “The person who trusts in me will not only do what I do but even greater things” (Jn. 14:12).
Activities: sailing, overnight canoe trips, 40-mile bike rides, high adventure rope course, wall-climbing, Frisbee golf, bocce ball, archery, ice cream-making, hemp necklaces, tie-dying
Fascinating fact: Over 29 years, more than 5,500 campers have attended Servant Camp. Carmen Lee noted, “During our staff party after camp there were more than 50 staff and junior staff members who had attended as youths.”
Technology for math and physics

Trinity School Students Tackle Computer Programming

By Jennifer Kenning

The students arrive with the bell, filling the classroom and dotting it with white and forest green polos. It’s the first Tuesday of the fall semester and the air is filled less with the expected low chatter of girls finding their places than with the clicking of plastic and the chiming of Microsoft’s Windows XP as students open and power-on their laptops. At Trinity School at Greentown, class begins as usual, with the Lord’s Prayer.

The junior girls settle behind their computers, amid the tangle of power cords, computer cases and 23 haphazardly strewn backpacks. Craig Lent (South Bend), with a projector screen behind him and chalk in hand, usually teaches at an altogether different location—the University of Notre Dame—but for four hours a week he leaves his electrical engineering students four miles away and leads Trinity School juniors in a pioneering integration of modern technology and their physics and math curriculum.

The subject matter is MATLAB (short for Matrix Laboratory), a computer program commonly used by engineers to represent data graphically, and the goal in this classroom is twofold: give Trinity School students a deeper understanding of physics, and teach them computer programming in the process. Greentown piloted the course last year, tying it in with the purchase of laptops for upperclass students and the restructuring of the physics program. A year ahead of schedule, the course debuts at the River Ridge and Meadow View campuses this fall.

These long tables packed with computers, the text-editing windows and the polished nails striking the keys—this isn’t just a big step for Trinity Schools, it’s unheard of. The MathWorks, the company that develops and sells MATLAB, told Craig that they don’t know of any other high school with MATLAB in its curriculum. They were so supportive of the endeavor that they sold product licenses to Trinity Schools for a fraction of their normal cost.
“This is a great opportunity for us to improve,” said Tom Finke, who oversees Trinity Schools’ math and science program. “MATLAB will do some things that nothing else we have will do.”

MATLAB is a powerful tool for learning and doing math and physics, though using it requires a certain amount of programming knowledge. Students program MATLAB to compute the solutions to problems that are difficult or impossible for them to solve using simpler tools. For example, MATLAB can quickly show the effects of friction and drag in a physics problem, or graph threedimensional data.

“MATLAB gives you another window into physics,” Ellen Reed, Greenlawn physics teacher, noted. “You can usually calculate what happens, but with MATLAB you can visualize what happens.”

On day two at Greenlawn, programming looks something like `>> disp([str1, str2])` typed in two dozen identical white windows, as Craig paces the room saying, “Every round bracket, every square bracket, every piece of punctuation is significant.”

As the class quickly realizes, lines of computer code are unforgiving. Since one misplaced character can ruin a program and take hours to find, MATLAB forces students to think carefully. It also demands that they think logically, breaking down problems into steps, which are then written as a series of commands that the computer can execute.

“It was sort of like a puzzle,” said Annie Feeks, Greenlawn senior and student in last year’s pilot class. “It was really hard at first, because you have to learn a whole new way of thinking.”

After fixing error after error, it makes sense. At least that’s how it happened for Annie. She spent hours troubleshooting with four classmates, wondering why their Rock, Paper, Scissors program was spitting out error messages. “Then the whole program started to make sense to me,” Annie said. “It all of a sudden clicked and we all got

“MATLAB gives you another window into physics.”
—Dr. Ellen Reed
Epiphanies are common in programming. Even here, during the second MATLAB class of the semester, the room echoes with “ohhhhhh’s” of understanding.

By the end of this school year, using MATLAB to compute the roots of a quadratic equation will be elementary for the girls, and they’ll be able to tackle more complicated and entertaining programs. Last year’s final projects ranged from writing programs to model the effects of mass on a spring to those simulating kicking a soccer goal or firing a cannon. During some free time, Dan Barrett, a Greenlawn senior, dreamed up a program to solve Sudoku puzzles. Now he can complete a difficult puzzle in a moment, rather than the half hour it might take an avid player to solve it by hand.

For this year’s seniors, MATLAB is not part of the curriculum but a useful, already mastered tool. In the first week of classes, Tom used MATLAB in his senior math class for three-dimensional demonstrations of multivariable calculus, for which the chalkboard would have been impractical. “We’re excited to see where we can go with this and what MATLAB can do.”

And, homework in hand and laptops in tow, after 55 minutes the junior girls head off to see what they can do.
Last year’s Action team in Tampa had just three high-school-aged members, but when it came time for fundraising there were plenty of extras waiting in the wings. With help from the 37-member branch, Tampa’s Action team grossed $9,400 with their first fundraiser ever, a silent auction held last spring. Topping things off, they landed a supply of splashy interior paint for the newest community-built house in Allendale—a donation worth an additional $3,000.

“What impressed me most was having high-school students work with the adults at the auction,” said Nancy Bergman. “I felt like we were doing something of significance together.”

“As small as our branch is, we were all working together to get it accomplished,” Jimmy Greco added.

A committee of branch members, led by Action leader Brian Jeffrey, spent eight months planning the event. They sent out more than 400 invitations and secured deals and donations that kept overhead low: free printing for invitations and programs (valued at $1,800), free use of a brand new church hall, and, at reduced cost, catered food and a four-piece jazz band.

The rest of the branch donated goods and services and tapped their personal contacts in a round-up that brought in more than 75 auction items, including a home-cooked six-course French dinner, a football autographed by 1955 Heisman Trophy winner Howard “Hopalong” Cassady, and a one-week island beach house stay, to name a few.

When all was said and done, all the items had sold and some of the 48 guests had called the classy evening the best auction they’d ever attended. One guest, a paint distributor, was so moved by Brian Jeffrey’s 15-minute PowerPoint presentation on Allendale (and the rest of the evening’s activities) that he offered to donate enough interior paint for the community’s newest Allendale home. His company had just purchased a store in Shreveport, which made it easy for Allendale residents David Zimmel and Gretchen Rolland to pick up his 100-gallon gift personally.

David says the paint meant more than just cost savings. “We got to pick colors that will bring a lot of life to the house.” David, Gretchen and other members of their household chose three colors for the living room, a peppy combination of orange clay, sage green and plum. They wouldn’t have thought so creatively without the donation, David says.

“The colors are going to make our neighbors feel more at home on Yale Avenue. That room is going to be a really exciting place for people to hang out in.”

Action program coordinator Mike Zusi says he loves the creative, all-hands-on-deck approach some smaller branches are using to help their Action teams raise funds. He calls the Tampa auction “a great example of a small branch participating in the common work of the community.”

Maybe at next year’s auction someone will donate a house.
Faithful and feisty
Clara Thibeau
By Tom Noe

On July 12 the South Bend branch gathered with the Thibeau family to honor our sister Clara. Area Coordinator Paul Barrett encouraged us to celebrate not only the life she had lived, but also “her continued life now in the presence of God.” Clara was often in God’s presence. She sought out numerous opportunities to pray: at church, at home, and with our older women’s intercessory group. In the Catholic Mass of the Resurrection, her pastor Rev. John DeRiso praised Clara for her years of unwavering faith and her dedication to the parish.

Clara died suddenly on July 5 as she was helping someone in need. A woman began banging on her door just after midnight, screaming for her to call the police because she had been beaten. Clara dialed 911 and was on the line when she apparently had a heart attack and died.

She was born November 29, 1930, in St. Louis. Her father died when she was nine, and Clara and her mother Mary always lived together after that. In Boston, Clara was a member of the Legion of Mary. She and other volunteers would talk to prostitutes on the street, inviting them to move into the Legion of Mary’s refuge for women, where they could start a new life. She also worked for six years at the chancery office of the Archdiocese of Boston, and was proud to display a photo of herself shaking hands with Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, a well-known preacher with a national television show, *Life Is Worth Living*, in the 1950s.

Her niece Mary Gurlacz recalls visiting Boston in the summertime. “Aunt Clara knew all the places to go around Boston and loved to take her nieces and nephews out. She was lively and energetic, had lots of friends, was fun to be around. She was very influential on me, especially as a woman of faith. When I accepted Jesus as my Savior 12 years ago, her example was very important for me.”

Clara and her mom moved to South Bend in 1981. She came under way March 12, 1985, and made the covenant of the People of Praise September 27, 1992. At the wake, her longtime friend Celia Monges recalled, “Mary Lou Bradley (now Mary Lou Carey, Corvallis) and I met Clara through the parish, and we invited her to come to a community prayer meeting. She really felt at home. She loved worshiping and praising the Lord, both in the parish and in the People of Praise.”

Clara always referred to God as “the Good Lord,” and the Lord had indeed been very good to her. In her later years, she gave her brothers and sisters in the branch to help with fix-it projects around the house, drive her to meetings, and help her to live independently in her home after her mother died. Even her beloved dog Zach was a gift: Larry and Geri Bartek gave him to Clara when they moved from South Bend to Servant Branch in 1998.

About nine months ago, it happened that Clara’s women’s group wasn’t able to meet as regularly as it had in the past, and Clara really missed that fellowship with her sisters in the community. The best option seemed to be for her to join another group in addition to her regular group, but it was a group of much younger women. That might have required a big adjustment for some women, but not for Clara. She fit right in. Linda King remembers, “I suppose I expected Clara to be pretty sedate, something like a cartoon version of a sweet little old lady baking cookies or something, but that wasn’t Clara. I started finding out how feisty she was.”

Susan Busk shared: “Faithful prayer was a large part of her life, and she herself was faithful, humble and forgiving. She valued her spirit of independence and self-reliance, and often found it hard to contact others when she needed little things done, but she was humble enough to ask.”

We can see God’s compassionate hand in the circumstances of her death. Just as she had stepped forward in the past to help women in need, the Good Lord gave Clara a great opportunity of grace. When a battered woman came to her door in need, in the middle of the night, Clara was generously able to help her with her final breath.
John Asselin

By Sue Coulter

John Asselin was a man of faith, humility and patience who loved God and his family very dearly. A man of frequent prayer, he had a terrific sense of humor and a servant’s heart.

John was born in Minneapolis, where he went to Annunciation Elementary School and DeLaSalle High School. He graduated from the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul with a B.S. in chemistry and earned a Master’s degree in chemistry from the University of Detroit. John held a number of jobs related to chemistry, including a teaching job at the College of St. Thomas. He experienced God’s provision throughout his career—when one job ended, God soon provided a new one for him to start.

He was married to his wife Mary for almost 59 years. Together they had five children, with the added blessing of eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. John and Mary met the community through their family. In 1978, one of their daughters, Pat Pawlosky (northern Virginia), began attending prayer meetings with Servants of the Lord Community (which later became Servant Branch). Pat asked her parents to come along to the meetings. They did, and wound up attending a number of courses and teaching series, eventually coming under the auspices in 1983. John and Mary each made the covenant of the People of Praise on April 14, 1985.

John very much enjoyed his men’s group, and his most recent group had some funny features. Of the five men in the group, three were named John and each had a chemistry degree. The non-Johns in the group found it amusing to call out “John” and watch all three heads turn. John Ryan, one of the three Johns, remembers another funny moment. “As John [Asselin]’s hearing declined a little, he often asked the rest of us to speak up, that is, until he got his hearing aids, and then the rest of us found ourselves asking him to speak up!” In their meetings, John Asselin was constantly encouraging his brothers to pray for their families.

After his retirement, John volunteered to do maintenance at the community office. He served the branch by writing letters to people who were on assignment. John assisted his Catholic parish in many ways, including serving at mass, training altar servers, and counting the Sunday morning collections. He had a strong interest in guiding youth to live a moral lifestyle. He served as a Boy Scout leader so that he could try to pay back some of the kindnesses that were shown to him in his youth when he was a Boy Scout.

John had a great time playing card games, watching sports, participating in sports (he lettered in track) and collecting stamps. He had a large stamp collection and enjoyed trading stamps, learning about various parts of the world through his trades.

John Asselin

1918 — 2005

He gave us himself

In their men’s group meetings, John was constantly encouraging his brothers to pray for their families.

John was both flexible and practical. Once, he got into a minor traffic accident. Someone suggested that he think about giving up his driver’s license. John was quite willing to do so, especially after he talked to his insurance agent, who told him his rates would rise as a result of the accident. John asked the agent what would happen if he gave up driving. The agent said he would not have to pay for insurance, so John turned in his license.

Over the last few years, increasing health problems did not keep John from his busy life for very long. During the last year of his life, even as his health grew worse, he still attended exercise classes and played card games with people in his apartment building. He also continued to pray for his friends and family.

On June 22, 2005, God called John to be with him forever in a new way. He is deeply missed by his family, friends and all who had the privilege of knowing him.
Making things happen

**Buffalo Students Travel and Work**

*By Joe Gleason*

‘It was about building community through work and friendship.’ That’s how Patti Meyerhofer (Buffalo), 16, described her August trip to the northern Virginia branch, which she and eight other Buffalo sophomores and juniors organized and funded.

Patti and friends planned the trip to work on the Meadow View property along with NOVA Action members. They also hoped to build up the friendships they had formed with NOVA students at Buffalo camp.

“The first thing I said when they told me their idea was, ‘If you want to make this happen, you need to make it happen,’” says Mike Shriver, the leader of Buffalo’s youth program for eighth- through eleventh-grade students. “I told them they would need to organize the trip, fund it, and make everything work logistically.”

“We spent about five weekends last summer working to raise all the money we needed,” says Patti. “We did yardwork and landscaping, and stripped and repainted the biggest deck I’ve ever seen.”

By August 10, the day they left for NOVA, they had raised $1,100—over $100 more than they needed for the three-day trip.

“We were at Trinity School every morning by 8:00 a.m., and we spent most of the time building a brand new storage shed. We also painted lines on their basketball court and lines on the parking lot, and did some more landscaping. We had gotten good at landscaping by doing it all summer to raise money.”

The highlight of the trip was an enormous Lord’s Day celebration. Paul and Andrea Kane hosted 56 people for the evening, 49 of them students. After the crew of workers had gotten enough to eat, Kathryn Elliott, Bethy Brophy and John Ganther spoke about their recent trip to Allendale.

The group dedicated the rest of the evening to improving their community growth skills, by delivering LifeLines to one another.

“We were trying to act out situations where we could talk about the community, like at school and in our families,” says Patti. “It was a little uncomfortable at first, but as soon as we started we didn’t want to stop. We practiced LifeLines for over three hours!”

Patti says the trip was worth all the effort. “I’d do it again in a heartbeat. The trip fulfilled every purpose we hoped it would, and it was really fun to come up with something so exciting and actually do it—to carry out the plan from start to finish.”

With one trip successfully under their belts, everybody wants to do another trip, and this time to a different branch. John Broxup (Buffalo) is already brainstorming: “Wouldn’t it be great if next year we could team up with NOVA Action members and go to Muncie? Or Indianapolis? What about Hawaii?”
From the Executive Office

Corvallis:
Terry Aman has been appointed to a three-year term as an area coordinator, effective October 1, 2006.

Northern Virginia:
The following women were elected to serve for three-year terms as handmaids, effective September 1, 2006: Carolyn Bassett, Barbette Brophy, Sandra Forbes, Andrea Kane (in training), Margerite Mysiwiec, Nanci Panos, Diane Ridenour, Susan Rinaldi (in training) and Kathy Temeles.

Oahu:
Bob Badham has been appointed to a third three-year term as an area coordinator, effective October 1, 2006. The board of governors has also granted Bob tenure as a coordinator. Tenured coordinators have the position of coordinator for life and are eligible to serve as a head coordinator or to be elected to the board of governors.

Ron Gouveia has been appointed to a three-year term as an area coordinator, effective October 1, 2006.

Mark and Tina Stevens were released from the covenant of the People of Praise on September 12, 2006.

David Trepanier was released from the covenant of the People of Praise on September 12, 2006.

Portland/Vancouver:
Tom Gray was released from the covenant of the People of Praise on September 12, 2006.

Servant Branch:
The following women were elected to serve for three-year terms as handmaids, effective May 21, 2006: Ginny Annala, Penny Arndt, Christine Brickweg and Fran Willard.

South Bend:
The following women were elected to serve for three-year terms as handmaids, effective August 15, 2006: Anne Brewer, Jodi Engles, Jennifer Havard, Karen Heintzelman and Cyndi Smith.
“Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth” (Ps. 50:2).