Joe Gleason films a crowd of students and faculty at Trinity School at Greenlawn for the “What’s in Store” music video. Elizabeth Grams (left) conducts as the crowd sings a tune from the musical Les Miserables.

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Elizabeth Grams

Kati Ritchie has spent her life helping others to see what she sees—as an archeologist, a photojournalist and an art teacher. Now she’s an icon writer who helps people see the new creation.
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During a three-week span in 1962, two men were ordained to the clergy—one in Ridgeway, North Carolina, the other in Yakima, Washington. One became a Lutheran pastor. The other became a Roman Catholic priest. Their careers unfolded in opposite parts of the country, and they have never met.

But the lives of Lutheran pastor Ron Seitz (Shreveport) and Catholic priest Perron Auve (Vancouver-Portland) reveal a theme: the strengths that we all share because of Christ. Ron and Perron share baptism in the Spirit, covenant love in an ecumenical community and, of course, a living connection to the risen Christ.

Kati Ritchie (Servant Branch) is relying on these same strengths as she learns the ancient art of creating icons—an attempt, as she puts it, “to provide a window into the kingdom where we all will be transfigured like Christ and united with him.”

Finally, in the new video series The Story of the Bible, we see another area we have in common. We are all part of the larger story that stretches from before the days of the biblical patriarchs until now, the story of God gathering a people willing to live for the praise of his glory.

I hope you enjoy tracing a few of these threads through this issue of V&B.

In Christ,
SEAN CONNOLLY, Editor
Greenlawn Films is a team of three: Joe Gleason, Elizabeth Grams and Sean Connolly. You’ve probably seen their work. Their YouTube video of the musical prayer “Revive this Land” has been played more than 14,000 times. Their most recent creation, “What’s in Store,” was viewed over 3,300 times during the first 24 hours. It features students from Trinity School at Greenlawn singing new lyrics for a tune from the musical Les Miserables. They have created more than 40 marketing videos for Trinity Schools and they also produced The Roots of the People of Praise documentary for the community’s 40th anniversary. Their videos have led to an appearance on an internationally broadcast TV program (The Harvest Show), and they have been publicized by bloggers and on social networks such as Facebook.

“Our main rationale for this change is to help the community grow,” says Joe, the director of many Greenlawn Films projects. “We want to expand our surface area and our network of friends. We hope to bring in more income to help with community growth. We’re especially excited about making videos for other Christians who share our understanding of the importance of education and of building the kingdom of God.”

In May, 2012, Greenlawn Films produced a video for The Wilberforce School in Princeton, New Jersey. The video shows four- and five-year-olds chasing insects, chanting as they learn basic phonics, and listening to their music teacher play snippets from Peter and the Wolf. “The people at Greenlawn Films understand how video can convey the intangibles of a school’s culture—the joy on a student’s face or a squeal of delight in a moment of discovery,” notes Wilberforce head of school Howe Whitman.

Howe sees persuasive power in small moments like these. “When you compare this kind of video with an open house, the power of the video is obvious—not only in the number of people who can see it, but also in the intimate glimpse of the school that videography can provide.” He says the school had their best-ever kindergarten recruiting year after releasing the video.

Paul Kane, vice-president of finance for Trinity Schools, agrees. He notes that in the last couple of years prospective students and parents have begun going to Trinity’s...
Almost every new family says the web site was helpful in the decision-making process,” he says.

Gina Busk, director of admissions for Trinity School at Greenlawn, notes that in the week after the release of “What’s in Store” the school received many positive responses from students, parents and alumni. “Everyone who sees our videos comments on their quality,” she says. “Our message is clearer because of the work Greenlawn Films has done for us, and more people are listening to it.”

Every Greenlawn Films production is a team effort. Joe is a cinematographer at heart. He not only has a degree in film but also has a gift for capturing beauty with his camera. He is well-versed in the language of film: color, composition and camerawork. Elizabeth is a trained actress with a knack for documentary and reporting. In interviews and on-site filming, she finds what is at the heart of her subject and brings it to light. Sean is a story crafter and draws on his background in reporting, writing and editing to help viewers see the larger story.

“The team is kind, flexible, professional and easy to work with,” says Howe. “The fact that they are Christian believers was important to us, and enabled them to understand and sympathize with our mission.”

Elizabeth says, “When it comes down to it, we’re trying to attract people to the Lord and his cause. The disciples sang and shouted and waved palm branches so people would know that Jesus was entering Jerusalem. We make catchy videos and we use e-mail blasts, blogs and Facebook to send our message out as widely as we can. If we don’t do it, then, as our Lord said, the stones will have to do the shouting.”

Four ways you can help:
By Elizabeth Grams

1. View the videos and give us your feedback.
2. Spread the word about Greenlawn Films, especially to anyone who might benefit from our services. Send around the link to www.Greenlawnfilms.com. Our work is displayed there.
3. When we produce something new, please share it with your friends via e-mail, Facebook or Twitter so more people can hear about us.
4. Please pray for us at this crucial time in our work.

From top: An image from The Roots of the People of Praise documentary. A scene from a promotional video for The Wilberforce School. Brothers and sisters sing and pray as part of the “Revive This Land” music video. Nano Farabaugh’s (South Bend) airplane appears in a scene filmed by Joe Gleason. All videos can be seen at Greenlawnfilms.com.
This summer, project manager Paul Hommes will lead three crews of Action volunteers in completing the renovation of 1644 Union Street, a 2,500-square-foot home that Action volunteers began working on last summer. Crews will lay pipe, stuff in insulation, tack down trim and brush on paint, with professional contractors handling other pieces of the job. August 3 is the target date for completion.

Moving will begin in earnest once the work is done. Ellen Putzier (Servant Branch) and Mary Dohrman (Oahu) will join five other single women living in the newly renovated home. J-T and Hannah Kelly and their one-year-old daughter, Esther, will move over from the Triangle neighborhood. Michael Coney and Naomi Caniff, who are to be married on August 17, will also be moving into a house on Union Street. When all the trucks are unloaded, 18 community members will occupy six houses in the same section of the neighborhood.

Everyone on the CIM team is rooting for the Action volunteers and contractors to finish the job on 1644. “There’s no way we could meet our deadline without Action’s help,” says Michael, who leads the CIM team. Paul adds that they could still use more help, especially skilled laborers and adult men. Jen Torma, head of the single women’s household, says the newly renovated space will provide ample room for her household of seven and for hosting neighborhood women’s groups, dinners and guests.

In Allendale, the situation is much the same: the team is living in crowded conditions, with a need for more living space. Twenty-two people (plus one dog) currently reside in seven contiguous houses on Yale Avenue. With the Action teams arriving this summer, their numbers will swell. Pat and Edna Malone will host anywhere from five to nine guests in their home. As many as six guests will be staying with Ron and Ruthanne Seitz. “Every house that has a bed is going to have that bed occupied,” says Ben Reinhardt, who is managing the Allendale Action work this summer.

In June, Bridgette Mysliwiec will arrive from Colorado Springs. And in October, Thomas Duddy and Jeanette Zimmel will be married, meaning one more house will

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**Action Needed to Solve Indianapolis Housing Crunch**

BY SEAN CONNOLLY

Four community members are ready to join the Christians in Mission team of 14 brothers and sisters on the South Side of Indianapolis. But a housing crunch has to be solved first, says Mission Program coordinator Nick Holovaty.

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Allenwood Christians in Mission

HOUSEHOLDS (The numbers are their house numbers on Yale Avenue.)

LEFT (clockwise):
1430: Gerry and Patti Deakin
1450: Ron and Ruthanne Seitz
1442: Pat and Edna Malone with Zoe, their Shih Tzu.
1446: Women’s Household: Kathleen Mehaffey, Joan Pingel, Laura Brummer, Jeanette Zimmel, and Colleen Murray

RIGHT (clockwise):
1434: Men’s Household: Ben Reinhardt, Nick Raway, Thomas Duddy, John Bowar.
1422: Mary Claire and Josh Caniff
1426: Genevieve and Nathan Barrett with their children.

be needed. To ease the crunch in Allendale, Bud Rose (South Bend) is spearheading a plan to build the community’s seventh house on Yale Avenue. He hopes to break ground in early fall, but many details are still to be worked out.

Also happening this summer in Action:

• The South Side CIM team is hosting a six-week-long summer camp for neighborhood children. Michael says he hopes 25 to 40 local children will attend the camp each day.

• In Allendale, Ed Konczeski (Tampa) is turning an empty lot owned by a former neighbor into a community garden. Ed has been working on a plan that involves building raised beds and irrigating them with a sprinkler system. Local children in the Allendale summer camp will help with the planting and weeding, and then enjoy the produce: vegetables.

• Fifteen high school students have signed on to spend the summer working as interns in either Allendale or Indianapolis. They will join the Action teams and gradually take on the responsibilities of staff members, says Walt Seale (Campus Division, Indianapolis), who is overseeing the effort.

• In total, six Action trips are scheduled this summer, involving about 100 volunteers, 15 staff members (mostly college students) and 15 high school interns. Also participating will be 34 CIM team members and the members of the Indianapolis and Shreveport branches, who are helping with hospitality and in other ways.
INDIANAPOLIS CHRISTIANS
IN MISSION HOUSEHOLDS

TOP:
1629 Union: Ray and Robin Gonzalez.
30 Karcher: Justin and Cathy Walters.
1641 Union: Naomi Caneff, Rachel Osterhouse, Angie Hass, Cathy Feehly, Jen Torma, Bethy Brophy.
1640 Union: David Frank, Eric Yost, Michael Coney, Charles Chow.

SUMMER HOUSEHOLDS IN
THE INDIANAPOLIS TRIANGLE

BELOW:
1117 West 15th: Walt and Pam Seale.
New Video Series Tells the Story of the Bible

By Elizabeth Pease

Picture a Hebrew father spreading lamb’s blood over his doorposts just hours before fleeing with his family from Egypt’s ruthless pharaoh. Imagine Saul, the soon-to-be-anointed king, looking for his father’s missing donkeys and finding the prophet Samuel instead.

Consider Simeon, an old man with achy joints, waiting at the Temple to see the promised messiah. These and many more scenes and characters come to life in a new series of videos called *The Story of the Bible*.

The series was developed by Craig Lent (South Bend), Joel Kibler (Servant Branch), Bill Wacker (Servant Branch) and Kerry Koller (South Bend). It is now available in video and audio formats on the People of Praise web site. The talks from the series made their debut at the Leaders’ Conference for Men in 2012. Then, in March of 2013, attendees at the Leaders’ Conference for Women heard an updated and somewhat expanded version.

The videos are each 20 to 30 minutes in length, and there are 18 videos in the series. Joe Gleason, who produced the videos for Greenlawn Films (see p. 4), says his crew aimed to make the talks easy to hear and pleasant to watch at home. The videos can be viewed on desktop computers, laptops, smartphones and tablets like the iPad.

The talks are all about the Bible, but they aren’t an academic study. Instead, the speakers—Craig, Joel and Kerry—present a series of stories meant to draw the listener in to the times and places of the Bible.

Each talk looks for answers to the question, “What was God doing with his people in this particular moment?” Over the course of the series, the various answers to that question build into a bigger view of what God is doing with humanity in the whole of history. Like a symphony, where musical themes are introduced and then altered, only to appear again in a new form as the piece reaches its climax, the talks point out themes in the Old Testament (God’s love for the people of Israel, God’s judgment, God’s interest in specific people and in historical moments), and then point them out again in the New Testament, as the story comes to its climax in Jesus.

In April, Servant Branch women used the talks as part of their annual retreat. “I knew most of the individual Bible stories,” says Tom Bowar, “but the talks have done a great deal to give me the flow of the story of the Lord’s work over time.”

“It’s really just one story,” adds Jim Bulger, “from creation until now.”

Reactions like these are what Craig was hoping for as he prepared the talks. “Particularly at the present moment in the life of the People of Praise, I think it’s important that we have a solid grounding in the biblical story of what God’s doing in his rescue of our world,” he says. “Scripture has always been formative for the life of the community. These talks are about the overarching narrative of the Bible, a story which reveals the character of God through his relationship with the people of Israel. Our own story is embedded in that remarkable story.”

To watch or listen to the talks, go to www.peopleofpraise.org, and select “LCW 2013” from the “Resources” dropdown menu located at the top right of the page. Log in using your People of Praise password. (This is the same password you use to log in to the People of Praise online directory.)

The video of each talk can be played right in your browser window. You will also see three links: one that will let you download the audio version of the talk you have selected, one that will let you download the audio files for the entire series of talks, and one that will take you to instructions about how to burn the audio files to a CD. Links to the maps and visual aids that go with some talks are on the same page as the talk.
Editor’s Note: Pastors Ron Seitz (Shreveport) and Perron Auve (Vancouver-Portland) come from different denominations and serve in opposite parts of the country. They were ordained in 1962, just three weeks apart, and both recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of their ordination. We hope you enjoy our twin biographical articles on these tireless men of God—one Lutheran (Ron), the other, Roman Catholic (Perron), both full of the Holy Spirit.

Ron and Ruthanne Seitz were watching Jeopardy! last summer when Ron glanced out his window and spotted two young kids in Ruthanne’s garden. They were pulling her tomato plants straight out of the ground—cages and all!

“It had been going on all summer,” says Ruthanne. “Watering cans were missing, two chairs off the back porch, dirty gardening gloves, little items from under the house.”

Ron and Ruthanne hurried out their front door, and Ron kept up the pursuit down one of the narrow streets of Shreveport’s Allendale neighborhood.

“Ron was hollering at them,” Ruthanne says, “but I couldn’t hear what he said.” Eventually, one of the kids stopped and threw a tomato plant back at Ron, then disappeared around a corner.

Later Ruthanne found out what Ron had been shouting: “We forgive you! We forgive you! Just give us back our tomato plants!”

Ron, a 79-year-old Lutheran pastor, has retired two times . . . sort of. When he isn’t flying down the street after local kids, he is out in Ruthanne’s garden, hauling around hoses. He rises for morning prayer with the Christians in Mission team members, visits prisoners as a part of Kairos Ministry and shares the gospel door to door.

His approach to a stranger’s door is direct but very friendly—definitely not threatening. In more than 30 years of door-knocking, Ron says he has only encountered one or two people who weren’t willing to talk with him, at least a little bit. He opens each conversation by asking about a person’s background, work and family, and he listens closely to the answers. Then, artfully, he brings up his main subject, leaning into it with a question.

“May I tell you why I expect to go to heaven?”

If the answer is yes—and it usually is—Ron describes his own experience of God’s mercy. “I go to church on Sunday, but sometimes I sin, and sin separates me from God. I am sorry for my sin, but I also know that Jesus Christ suffered and died on a cross and paid for my sin. . . . What do you think about that?”

Ron was born in 1933 and grew up an only child in Maryland and North Carolina. He served two years in the Army and was discharged in 1955. “I felt like the Lord wanted me to serve him somehow,” he remembers. “My mother said, ‘You’ve always thought that way. Why don’t you go over and talk to our pastor?’” He spent the summer
In more than 30 years of door-knocking, Ron says he has only encountered one or two people who weren’t willing to talk with him, at least a little bit.

those days. “As soon as he arrived, he started promoting the evangelism committee and promoting evangelistic efforts, a very new thing to this little congregation. We went out door to door, talking to people about the Lord.”

Eventually, in the mid-1970s, Elinor invited Ron to go to prayer meetings sponsored by the People of Praise in the basement of Christ the King Church. Ron will never forget his first prayer meeting. “Several hundred people were singing and praising God, and one man was dancing all the way around the outside of the circle. It was my first exposure to what praising God is really like. I heard people talking openly and frankly about loving Jesus and following the Lord.”

Ron’s ministry changed as he encountered more and more people at prayer meetings and in his congregation willing to talk openly about the Lord. In 1977, Ron and other local pastors served on a committee that helped prepare for a Billy Graham crusade held at the Notre Dame stadium. The crusade was a significant ecumenical milestone—a renowned evangelical minister bringing his gospel message to one of the most hallowed fields of American Catholic culture.

After the crusade, Ron remained enthusiastic about bringing his congregation at Emmaus into a new level of direct evangelism and engagement with the neighborhood. This evangelistic emphasis was fine with some members, but others wanted no part of it, and the congregation split.

Elinor recalls, “About 30 or 40 of us left and formed Alleluia Christian Lutheran Church. We called Ron as our pastor. Alleluia was a little storefront church on 4th Street in Mishawaka, Indiana. We didn’t have a ton of money to put into it, but we continued an evangelistic outreach. Of course, Ron continued to canvass the neighborhood and share with people. He drove a cab to make a little money. Sometimes he would cook hot dogs in front of the church and share Jesus with the people who passed by.” Alleluia lasted until 1998—Ron’s first retirement.

Ron and Ruthanne were married 21 years ago, when both were members of the South Bend branch. Together they have seven adult children from previous marriages. The Seitzes settled in the Allendale neighborhood in 2005 and are members of the Shreveport branch. Ron expected a retirement lifestyle, but, as Ruthanne explains, “About six months after we arrived, Ron was asked to minister as interim pastor at First Lutheran Church in Shreveport. They asked him to fill in for two weeks, but it expanded into two and a half years.”

His preaching is straightforward and focused on the gospel, says Gerry Deakin (Mission Division, Shreveport), who has gotten to know Ron well as his neighbor living in Shreveport. “Ron will have a scriptural text and a title and he doesn’t stray from them,” Gerry says.

Ron is currently a member at Faith Lutheran Church, a predominantly African American congregation in the Missouri Synod. Last year, First Lutheran celebrated his 50th anniversary with sharings and a reception that branch members and members of the CIM team attended.

Gerry says his friendship and admiration for Ron have grown since they became neighbors. “Every Tuesday, I can see Ron walking down the street arm and arm with Miss Dorothy, one of our Allendale neighbors, escorting her to Bible study. The other day, he was over at First Lutheran, where we have our community meetings. There’s a way the chairs and tables are supposed to be set up, and he was making sure things were just that way. To me that’s very simple, but also very impressive. Here’s this retired pastor who has gathered some credentials over the course of his life, but he’s willing to set up chairs, carry tables to a barbecue, whatever needs to be done. He focuses on the simple presentation of the gospel and on the overwhelming love of God.”

Ron feels that love. Sometimes he’ll be talking about God and he’s overcome with emotion. Gerry says, “Ron told me one time, ‘It’s all good with God. It’s not always easy, but it’s always good. No matter how tough it gets, the Lord is there.’”

“I’m not really a goody-goody type of person,” Ron says. “But I want to be what it is that the Lord wants me to be.”
“Surrender yourself again to whatever plan the Holy Spirit may have for you; pray for renewed zeal and obedience to the Lord. Ask yourself, ‘Am I doing the part of Christ’s work assigned to me? What needs to change?’”

This was the message that Fr. Perron Auve (Vancouver/Portland), 76, left with the crowd of parishioners, friends, family, community members and fellow Catholic priests who traveled to Kennewick, Washington, to celebrate his 50 years of work as a priest.

Fifty years as a priest . . . that’s 50 years of piled-up phone messages and, lately, piled up e-mails, 50 years of having hundreds of people’s names bouncing around in your mind. It’s 50 years of sprinting through the weekends: funerals on Saturday mornings, weddings on Saturday afternoons, ordinary church services on Saturday evenings, then one or two more on Sundays. It’s 50 years of living on call for brothers and sisters, 50 years of frequent emotional and mental gear shifts.

Peter Smith, a member of the Brotherhood of the People of Praise and a priest in Portland, Oregon, looks up to Perron, but admits that this constant gear shifting can take some getting used to. “You never know what’s going to come up,” he explains. “After mass, someone says, ‘Can I talk to you for a minute?’ The next thing you know you’re walking the person through a crisis—could be a faith crisis, a relational crisis, a family crisis. There is a lot of variety.”

The neverending variety is just what Perron could have put behind him when, at age 70, a call came in from his bishop with a request that he take over as pastor of the Parish of the Holy Spirit in Kennewick, Washington. He had been teaching for five years at Mt. Angel Seminary in Oregon, a job he loved and thrived in. “Perron could have said, ‘I’m of retirement age,’” says Peter. But he didn’t.

“I’ve always thought that I’d work as a priest until my health wasn’t good enough anymore,” Perron says. “Since God is still blessing me with good health at 76, I’m happy to serve him in whatever way I can. In fact, I think I’d be terribly bored otherwise.”

. . . Fifty years of surrendering to “whatever plan the Holy Spirit may have.”

Perron was 25 when he was ordained at St. Paul’s Cathedral in Yakima, a few blocks from the house he grew up in. “I was nervous beyond belief,” he remembers. It had taken him a whole year to learn the Latin prayers and the rubrics to celebrate his first mass. (He had to learn the prayers again in English just a few years later.)

After ordination, he split time between high school teaching and parish work. He taught for three years at a seminary high school before becoming the principal of a Catholic high school in Yakima. When he was the pastor of a small parish in Cowiche, Washington, a parishioner invited him to his first charismatic prayer meeting. Perron kept going back. In 1975 he attended a Life in the Spirit Seminar and was baptized in the Spirit.

He remembers that day well. “Just as the meeting was breaking up, a man slipped an envelope into my hand, with a ticket to Rome for the 1975 worldwide Catholic charismatic conference. My housing, meals—everything was paid for!” The conference in Rome ended the Monday after Pentecost with mass in St. Peter’s Basilica. “There were about 1,000 priests present, and I got to concelebrate Mass at the high altar. It was very moving, but what really struck me—as we were processing out—was that I realized it was the anniversary of my ordination!”

Fr. Perron Auve in 1962, around the time of his ordination.
After the conference, Perron grew interested in community, reading articles about covenant communities in *New Covenant* magazine. “I talked to people like Fr. Charlie Harris and Paul DeCelles,” he recalls. Eventually, he helped form a community in Yakima called Christ the King Covenant Community, consciously modeling it on the People of Praise. In 1986, members of that community became the Yakima mission branch of the People of Praise. “Perron led the group in Yakima into the People of Praise,” recalls Joel Kibler (Servant Branch).

The Holy Spirit and community brought changes to Perron’s life. “I had been working very hard in the late ’60s and ’70s, but I was neglecting prayer and the spiritual life. Then the Lord jolted me, got my attention, put me into relationships that really worked, held me to account and supported me in a better way of ministry. I might not be a priest today if it weren’t for baptism in the Holy Spirit and the People of Praise.”

His role in the Diocese of Yakima grew. Over a period of almost 20 years, he served as chancellor, chief of staff and vicar general under three bishops, including Bishop Francis George, now Cardinal George of Chicago. In the early 1990s, when the Brotherhood was investigating the possibility of ordination for some of their members, Perron put them in contact with Bishop George. Joel, who leads the Brotherhood, worked with Perron throughout a very long—and ultimately successful—process of consultation. As a result, since 1996 four members of the Brotherhood have received ordination as Catholic priests, and the Brotherhood has gained official status within the Catholic Church as a private association of the faithful.

In 1995, Perron got a request from a priest teaching at Mount Angel Seminary to take over his classes for a year. He taught classes on preaching as well as ministry to the sick and dying. He stayed on for five years, until his bishop called and asked him to go to the Parish of the Holy Spirit in Kennewick.

Kennewick is about a four-hour drive from the Vancouver-Portland branch. Despite the distance, Perron’s relationships with community brothers and sisters are deep and remain strong, refreshed by the visits he makes to the Portland area a few times each year.

Fred Dang (Vancouver-Portland) has seen Perron in action for many years. “When my wife Jeanne and I first met him, he was chancellor for the diocese. He said, ‘I love my work. I love administration. I love accounting.’ Then he was teaching at Mount Angel and we visited him. He said, ‘I love teaching. I love young people. I love the seminarians.’ Now he’s a parish pastor again and he says, ‘I love parish work.’ He’s grateful and happy, whatever he’s doing.”

Jeanne describes Perron’s impact during retreats that he gave to community members in the Northwest and elsewhere. “He’s usually soft-spoken and kind of quiet, but he has a big booming voice when he preaches or gives a talk. You come away with a hunger to embrace the gospel and live it more deeply. You’re hooked just like a fish.”

Perron is an avid reader and traveler. For years he took vacations in a Winnebago motor home, rolling across the American West.

“You come away from his sermons with a hunger to embrace the gospel and live it more deeply. You’re hooked just like a fish.” – Jeanne Dang

Perron is simply one of the most enthusiastic Christians I’ve ever met, says Charlie Fraga (Vancouver-Portland). “He exudes enthusiasm for the gospel, particularly when he’s preaching. He speaks with a tremendous amount of passion.”

He told those gathered to celebrate his anniversary, “The body of Christ must not be weak and inactive. We have the work of Jesus to do! We must heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to captives and release to prisoners, comfort those who mourn, share glad tidings with the lowly, and announce a year of favor from the Lord.”
Kati Ritchie (Servant Branch) has spent most of her life looking attentively at the world, and then helping other people to see what she sees. Hundreds of Trinity School at River Ridge alumni know her as a masterful art teacher who taught them new ways of seeing. She’s still at it, but nowadays she’s looking at the world of the new creation and—through her icons—laboring to help other people see resurrected life.

Above: Kati in her Burnsville, Minnesota, studio. She also has a studio in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, where she spends part of the winter.

Right: Kati has produced dozens of icons on commission, such as
Kati has worked as an archeologist, translator and photojournalist. She encountered the charismatic renewal on a reporting assignment in 1971 and soon joined the group that formed Servants of the Lord community. In 1987 she left graduate studies in art to answer the call to teach at the new Trinity School in the Twin Cities, where she established the art program and became the stuff of legend. (Her students remember her weeping at the beauty of a curved line and demanding that they identify reds, blues and yellows in a clove of garlic.) As an artist, she has produced hundreds of paintings and drawings, more than 100 Polish paper cuttings and now more than 100 icons.

In 2001, when Kati’s allergies and the symptoms of multiple sclerosis brought on the need for a new job, she went to Joel Kibler (Servant Branch) to ask his advice about what to do next. “Would it give you joy to make icons?” he asked. Kati realized in a flash that it would, and she’s been learning how to create them ever since.

The tradition of iconography dates back to the third and fourth centuries. An icon is an image that owes its distinctive style to a unique use of light and perspective. Icons always contain the golden-haloed figures of one or more saints, angels or the Lord himself.

“An icon is not meant to be a photograph,” Kati explains. “It’s a window into heaven, a vision of a spiritual truth, the uncreated light of Christ shining through a transfigured body. It’s visible proof of the incarnation, God dwelling among us, his people.” She also calls it “an embodied prayer.”

Icon painters are said to “write” an icon rather than paint it because they do not view their work as art, but as a pictographic form of Christian teaching similar to a sermon.

Over the last 12 years, Kati has traveled across the US and to eastern Europe and Russia in order to study icons and learn from other iconographers. She found a mentor in world-renowned master iconographer Ksenia Pokrovsky. Ksenia, a native of Russia who now lives in Massachusetts, taught herself iconography in the 1960s when iconography was banned in Russia. Kati has made several extended visits to Ksenia’s home and workshop in Massachusetts to continue to study her craft.

The language of traditional iconography takes years to learn and master, even for a trained artist like Kati. Anytime she sets out to paint, Kati always begins with research. “I look at a lot of pictures of similar icons—examining them as an archeologist does,” Kati explains. (She once worked as a field archeologist in Mexico and in Israel.) Kati looks past the variations she finds in traditional sources and tries to identify the essential form or prototype of the figure. She then copies stroke for stroke what earlier iconographers did so she can figure out how they did it. (She has a highly trained hand due to her graduate studies in the atelier method of fine

these icons created for a dual-rite church in Denver, Colorado. The parish holds both Roman rite and Byzantine rite liturgies. Kati sees hope for ecumenism in the use of icons in Western as well as Eastern churches.
The following pages contain several examples of Kati’s work. Usually she paints with the traditional medium of egg tempera (egg yolks mixed with ground natural pigments and vinegar).

Since the figures are always either holy men and women or angels, the uncreated light of Christ’s transfiguration illuminates them. This light comes from within them, shining out through their eyes and casting no shadows. The perspective is also a heavenly one. To our eyes, trained in realism, the figures seem somewhat distorted. This is due to the use of inverse perspective: the figures are painted as though seen from heaven, from the side of the figure opposite the viewer. As Kati says, “An icon is not meant to be a photograph. It is a vision of a spiritual truth.”

Left: Saint Peter. Right: Saint Paul. Kati’s icons bear obvious resemblance to the earliest images of Peter and Paul from the fourth century. They show...
Peter with the same short, curly white hair and beard, and Paul with a long brown beard and balding head. It is possible that these features bear some resemblance to the two men as their Christian brothers and sisters knew them, but in any case these features have become part of traditional representations of each one.

The four icons pictured here are a set recently installed at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. They are painted with acrylics on canvas.

In the sanctuary of the church, these four six-foot icons hang under a crucifix. In addition to the names added to the portraits, clues from the visual language of iconography help to identify the figures for the viewer.
Mary and John traditionally stand at the foot of the cross, Mary on Jesus’ right and John on his left. John is always beardless to signify his youth.

Here Mary’s heart is depicted—a specifically Western tradition. The small stars on Mary’s garments symbolize the indwelling of the Trinity. “She’s wearing red shoes,” Kati says, “because [in iconography] . . . she always wears red shoes.”

In Eastern traditions, the Archangel Michael usually carries a rod, since he leads the heavenly armies in battle against the devil, and an orb, since he protects the entire earth. Here he holds a sword instead of a rod of authority; the sword became more traditional in Western art over time.

“The icon of Pope John Paul II was chosen because he is the patron of the parish,” Kati explains. “It’s not a physical portrait of him. I first painted a portrait from photographs of him as a younger man, and some of my old Polish friends who had known him approved the portrait. Then I stylized the portrait. He carries the keys of Peter and wears his red traveling cape, white cassock, papal cape and cross.”
Kati’s icons have a clean and simple appearance. She strives for “the simplest way to convey truth.” Jesus is always shown wearing a red robe with a golden band on one arm and a blue outer garment. The red symbolizes his humanity, the blue his divinity, the gold his kingship. Kati painted this icon.
it. It’s a job, occupation, vocation and ministry, so it’s important to know what you’re doing! I think that’s what’s important about Kati and her work: she’s part of a larger process of ecumenism. Kati and I are part of the same process, and so are thousands of other people of all denominations. It’s a collective effort, and a lot of it is the work of the Holy Spirit.”

Kati has received commissions from a variety of churches and individuals, including a dual-rite parish in Denver which holds both Roman and Byzantine liturgies. For her latest project, one of her largest, she painted four six-foot icons (pictured on pages 18–19) for Pope John Paul II Catholic Church in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, where Kati spends her winters. It took her over a year. This April, the local Catholic bishop presided over a ceremony for the installation of the four icons.

The pastor of the church, Fr. Don Malin, explains that his reason for asking Kati to make the icons was to honor the church’s namesake, Pope John Paul II, who came from eastern Europe and worked for ecumenical outreach to the Eastern churches. In that same spirit, Fr. Malin invited the Methodist and Episcopal pastors in town to attend the installation ceremony. “We’re very happy with the icons,” he says.

Kati sees more hope for ecumenism in the use of icons in Western as well as Eastern churches: “Icons can provide a window into the kingdom where we all will be transfigured like Christ and united with him.”

on a small piece of cardboard that now hangs in her car to remind her of the Lord. (She refers to this icon by the name “Driving Jesus.”)

Mary is always shown in blue or maroon. Kati says that the blue may have become the tradition for Mary’s garments because the pigment is made with ground lapis lazuli, a very precious and costly stone. It is a way to show her special honor.

Kati offers this advice, once given to her, for someone new to icons: just sit quietly in front of one and let Jesus love you.
In Jamaica, Sunday night means fricasseed chicken with rice and beans. This tasty orange ginger chicken recipe builds on that tradition. It is mild enough that even children love it.
“My family is a little different in that we don’t always have the fricassee chicken on Sundays—we just cook whatever is easiest,” says Dawn, laughing. The Keavneys use this recipe for special occasions and for visitors. Dawn also offers this tip for those who enjoy spicier food: just sprinkle in some hot pepper. (Jamaicans use a red pepper known as Scotch Bonnet.)

**ORANGE GINGER CHICKEN**  
(SERVES 4 – 6)

**ingredients**

- 1 chicken, cut up
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- ¾ cup orange juice
- 2 tablespoons honey
- ½ cup ginger root, peeled and chopped
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- ½ green pepper, chopped

**directions**

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.
2. Put the chicken in a shallow baking dish and sprinkle the chicken with salt, pepper, garlic and onion.
3. Combine all the remaining ingredients in a bowl and mix well to make a sauce. Pour the sauce over the chicken.
4. Bake for one hour, basting regularly.

**Note:** The Keavneys serve this dish with jasmine rice, which absorbs the juice and brings out the flavors of the chicken. White rice makes a fine substitute. Dawn complements the dish with a vegetable or green salad.

What is actually happening when God our Father loves you? He’s moved by you. You call forth a response in him. You call forth love in him. He’s captivated by you. He’s moved by you in all your unique splendor. Does he love you because you have specific good qualities?

No. Does he love you because of what you do? No. He loves you. You are not your work or your service, your laughter or your fear. There’s a “you” there, in all your acts and qualities. You act and you have qualities, but You exist before those things. Our Father loves and rejoices in the fullness and splendor of your personal reality.

You are unique, one of a kind, unrepeatable. There is no one like you. You can touch God as only you can. You can bring his love to life in a way that only you can. You add something to the fullness of his life that no other person can. You make him feel more fully alive. He encounters you, his love flashes forth and he experiences an increased fullness of being. There is a love in him that only you can fully bring out. Our Father does not love you on account of your good qualities, but they are pleasing to him. He doesn’t love you for your work, but your work is pleasing to him. God is not a Stoic. He is not indifferent to the pleasures we bring him or the benefits we bring him. He loves you. It’s unthinkable that he wouldn’t delight in, take pleasure in, enjoy all the things you do for him and are for him.”

Love of God: Thirteen Talks on Love and Friendship by Paul DeCelles is available in PDF and as .mp3 audio files on the People of Praise web site. To download the talks, go to www.Peopleofpraise.org, hover over the “Resources” menu in the top right corner and select “File Library” from the dropdown menu. Enter your user name and password (the same one you use for the Directory). The PDFs and audio files can be found in the “Life Together” folder of the File Library.
Correction
In our last issue, we spelled Bette Tychsen’s last name incorrectly. We sincerely apologize for the error.

Making the Covenant
Congratulations to Elizabeth (Libby) Grondin, who made the covenant of the People of Praise in Shreveport on April 5, 2013.

Births
Pete and Christine Gaffney (South Bend) are announcing the birth of Owen Thomas on May 18.

Rob and Laura Brickweg (Servant Branch) celebrated the birth of Robert James III on May 13.

Chris and Rose Marquis (Servant Branch) welcomed their daughter Briseis Phyllis on April 26.

Bob and Beth Mueller (Appleton) have announced the birth of their son Peter John on March 1.

Congratulations to Jamey and Sandi Ware (Rockford) on the birth of Martin Christopher on April 24.

Graduations
Congratulations to these community brothers and sisters, who recently received degrees:

David Bowar, B.A. in English, University of Minnesota.

Work & Achievements
Congratulations to Steve Walker (northern Virginia), who received the Clarence L.
Natalie Clairmont (Vancouver-Portland) celebrates her nursing degree. George Kane (left) and Sean Couch graduated this spring with degrees in medical humanities (George) and management (Sean).

“Kelly” Johnson Skunk Works Award from the Engineers’ Council on February 28. The award recognizes “a top reputation for engineering accomplishments and leadership.”

Dave Hazelton (northern Virginia) has written The Simplified Guide: Paul’s Letters to the Churches, published by Deep River Books. The book draws on his 30 years of experience leading Bible studies in his home and in his church’s Sunday school classes.

Congratulations to Joan Pingel (Mission Division, Shreveport), who was voted teacher of the year by the faculty and staff at Sun City Elementary School in Bossier City, Louisiana.

Sam Clairmont, 17, son of Toby and Susie Clairmont (Oahu), achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on March 25. For his Eagle project, Sam designed and installed a photovoltaic power system on a disaster relief trailer.

Kevin Weibacher (Tampa), an information technology consultant, has been honored as a Most Valuable Professional by Microsoft for the 10th consecutive year.

Nadia Busekrus (Oahu) was one of 12 students nationwide to win the National Spanish Exam Junior Travel Award. She received a travel scholarship to Costa Rica.

Peter Walters (Muncie) gave a talk on the parable of the Prodigal Son at the Northside Church of God on March 13 as part of a series sponsored by Christian Ministries of Delaware County.

Fr. Peter Smith (Vancouver-Portland), a member of the Brotherhood of the People of Praise, has been appointed vicar general and moderator of the curia for the Catholic Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon. Beginning July 1 he will become executive officer of the archdiocese, assisting Archbishop Alexander Sample.

Congratulations to James Goman, son of Kandace Goman (Servant Branch), who took fifth place in Class A of the Minnesota state wrestling tournament, in the 120-pound weight class.

Bernie Schwab (Servant Branch) and his small business Spruce Valley Payroll and Services were featured in an article in the business section of the St. Paul Pioneer Press on May 4.

Deaths

Since our last issue, in addition to the members to whom we pay tribute in this issue, we’ve received word of the deaths of these members of the People of Praise. We pray for their families and friends in this time of loss. Tribute articles will follow in an upcoming issue.


Gini Chaput, Tampa branch, died February 18, 2013.
Kay Keller, Appleton branch, died March 7, 2013.
Bill Sweeney, northern Virginia branch, died March 26, 2013.
Kay Amenda, Rockford branch, died June 9, 2013.

Executive Office Announcements:

Buffalo:
Robin Hammer has been appointed to a three-year term of office as an area coordinator, effective March 10, 2013.

Muncie:
Larry Spangler has been appointed to a second three-year term of office as an area coordinator, effective March 1, 2013.

Northern Virginia:
Joe Maguire has been appointed to a three-year term of office as an area coordinator, effective May 11, 2013.

Rick Ridenour has been appointed to a second three-year term of office as an area coordinator, effective June 19, 2013.

Servant Branch:
Claire Holovaty was released from the covenant of the People of Praise on May 31, 2013.
TRIBUTES

ROSIE CEDERGREN

by Therese McNichol

My mother Rosalie Glennon met Don Cedergren in 1950, when he was stationed in San Francisco as a Marine. They only dated a few times before Dad was sent to Korea, where he was seriously wounded in the chest and had to be returned stateside. During the year he was hospitalized, Mom took public transportation almost every day to visit him.

Mom lived what she taught. She always took the burnt piece of toast at breakfast. At dinnertime, with one chicken to share among seven family members, she placed the chicken neck on her plate.

In 1978 they moved with John the Baptist Charismatic Renewal Community to South Bend to become members of the People of Praise. In South Bend, she worked in the People of Praise bookstore in the LaSalle Building, greeting everyone with an enthusiastic smile and a warm Irish heart.

In 1994 my parents moved again, this time to northern Virginia, where they bought a house next to Tom and me and our children. This last move also required faith on Mom’s part, especially after she saw the condition of the house that they ended up buying. We assured her they would have plenty of help, and, after countless hours of service by brothers and sisters in the branch, the house was transformed into a beautiful home.

Sometimes she would take runs with my father and even accomplished a 5K when she was in her 50s. My dad says, “Seeing other couples, it felt to me that no others could match our love. It is impossible to put that love into words.”

facts

• Married Don Cedergren (northern Virginia) in 1952 and they raised five children together, including Brian (South Bend) and Therese (northern Virginia).
• Made the covenant of the People of Praise January 28, 1979.
• Long-time member of both the South Bend branch and the northern Virginia branch.

DIANNE O’CONNELL

by Bernarda Zenker

I want to share how I came to know Dianne’s fiery determination and her love of life.

Bob and Diane had a profound conversion experience a couple of years after their marriage. As Bob explains, “What was remarkable was that the moment of surrendering ourselves to the Lord occurred on the same day in 1973, with me in Texas and Dianne back home in the Twin Cities. After I returned a couple days later, we discovered what had happened to each other. We were prayed over to be baptized in the Spirit a few months later, and later that year joined Servants of the Light community.”

Dianne was an artist who created works of art, of color and of form. She appreciated style and structure, and shared these gifts freely with others. Dozens of Dianne’s friends have enjoyed her cards, drawings and paintings. Many people never knew this, but Dianne was the designing creator of many cherished wedding invitations, retreat programs, Christmas ornaments and prayer cards and, yes, even beautiful and elegant gowns.

I saw Dianne frequently in her last 17 months, during her illness with cancer. She was an elegant and strikingly beautiful woman. She taught endurance by her own example, even when circumstances were uncertain. To give you one illustration, she went directly from her first cancer chemotherapy treatment to her daughter Molly’s bedside, where she prayed through the night until the birth of her first grandchild.

By her constantly saying yes to the Lord, Dianne’s life has been a brilliant multicolored stained-glass window, with the light of Christ shining, radiant, through her to others.

facts

• Dianne and Bob (Servant Branch), her husband of 42 years, married in June, 1970, and raised four daughters.
• Created works of art and shared her artistic gifts freely with others.
• Made the covenant of the People of Praise March 31, 1991.
Mary enjoyed being a farmer’s wife, and was known for growing an abundance of vegetables and tending her colorful flower gardens. As their family grew, Mary supplemented their farming income by cutting out wooden jigsaw pieces for children’s puzzles. In addition, she worked many years as a waitress in local restaurants, and, even later, doing grocery store demos.

Mary loved the community, her women’s group and the activities of the People of Praise, especially the singing and the potlucks. Mary and Syl both also enjoyed square-dancing, and were members of a square dance club for many years. One year they took the Lake Michigan ferry across to lower Michigan and brought back a truckload of Michigan peaches, which they shared liberally with People of Praise members. Mary canned many quarts of those peaches—not to mention all the tomatoes, pickles and other vegetables that she grew in her own garden.

Mary passed away in June, 1999, and Mary struggled to maintain the home place for two years. She wanted so much to keep it in the family, and was blessed to have Ken and Carolyne take it over. Mary made the move to a senior apartment in Kimberly, where she was soon inviting new friends to attend the People of Praise prayer meetings with her.

Having passed along her legacy of loving service to her five children, 19 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren, Mary surrendered her life again to her beloved Jesus, and looked forward to enjoying once again the company of Syl, her beloved husband.
**Tributes**

**Harold Meeks**

In 1941, at the age of 13, Harold gave his heart to the Lord Jesus in the Pentecostal church he was raised in. In 2009, at the age of 81, he and his wife Joan moved to Florida, where they ran a Life in the Spirit Seminar at their new parish for about 75 people and were leading a weekly charismatic prayer meeting.

That’s how Harold did things—with determination, intensity and a world of faith. Early in their marriage, Harold and Joan worked to promote racial harmony in the largely segregated areas around Gary, Indiana. They also spent their two-week vacations evangelizing door to door with the Glenmary Home Missioners. After they moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1973, they got involved with three charismatic prayer meetings, then moved into a large house and ran it as a center for charismatic activities.

Their thirst for more community life led them to the South Bend branch in 1977. Harold got a job in nearby Elkhart, and they joined the community team putting on prayer meetings at Queen of Peace Parish. Harold was a teacher and leader at those meetings for the next 10 years.

He applied the same drive in his service of brothers and sisters. On roofing projects, he was the one who calculated all the materials needed and then organized the workers step by step to ensure excellence. When several families in his area installed woodburning stoves, Harold came up with detailed drawings for every stage of the project.

As Jim Kaiser, a long-time member of his men’s group, put it, “Harold was utterly convinced that God works in the circumstances of our lives all the time.”

**Dorothy Finneran**

Our sister Dorothy was a soft-spoken but determined disciple of Jesus. When she suddenly found herself the sole support of her four youngest children (four out of eight were still living at home), her strength and her reliance on God grew in direct proportion to her need. She took classes at Ivy Tech. She got a driver’s license. She did whatever she had to do. “Love does the work,” she said.

One time when she was in the hospital, receiving advice about dealing with pain, Dorothy heard about the South Bend branch’s public prayer meetings. She started attending regularly and eventually joined the community. She liked to share her simple poems about life and faith at her area meetings. Barbara Sahut remembers one time Dorothy wrote about how she moved from “pain to praise.” In fact, as Dorothy explained, she could even be grateful for her pain, because it was what led her to praise.

Even though Dorothy was often in a lot of pain, she was never grouchy. She always made light of her own troubles and could even be a little silly. One time, when she was getting out of a car and struggling to stand up so she could use her walker, she lost her balance and fell back into the car seat. “I haven’t had anything to drink at all,” she commented wryly.

When she moved into Milton Home, the branch’s intercessory prayer group held their meetings there so Dorothy could still participate. Her favorite song was “Amazing Grace.”

**Facts**

- Born Dorothy Johnsen in South Bend September 16, 1926. Died March 5, 2013.
- Raised eight children and rejoiced in 17 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.
- Worked at First Source Bank, Real Services, the Boys and Girls Club, the LaSalle Restaurant.
- She made the covenant of the People of Praise in South Bend September 16, 1990.
- For many years she was a member of the branch’s intercessory prayer group.

- Born Dorothy Johnsen in South Bend September 16, 1926. Died March 5, 2013.
- Raised eight children and rejoiced in 17 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.
- Worked at First Source Bank, Real Services, the Boys and Girls Club, the LaSalle Restaurant.
- She made the covenant of the People of Praise in South Bend September 16, 1990.
- For many years she was a member of the branch’s intercessory prayer group.

- Married Joan McDonald in 1949 and they raised seven children.
- Worked as a structural steel estimator for bridge construction.
- Made the covenant of the People of Praise April 6, 1980.
by Phyllis Varevice

Leone's top priority was always to be a wife, mother and homemaker. While raising two sons and two daughters, she enjoyed cooking, sewing, knitting and gardening. Her heart's desire was to build a strong family life.

In the early 1970s, she heard of a prayer group in Hastings, where members were praying with people to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. She drove to Hastings all by herself during a thunderstorm just so that she could be baptized in the Holy Spirit! In 1975 the Eichtens moved their family from Burnsville into Richfield, a suburb of Minneapolis, so that they could live community life more fully.

When her youngest daughter was in grade school, Leone completed her degree in elementary education. For the next 20 years, she taught at two nearby Catholic schools. Many People of Praise families experienced Leone's gentleness and kindness indirectly by way of their child's experience in the first year of school.

Every day she led her kindergarten classes in prayer and told them Bible stories, after she committed each child to the Lord in her own daily prayer time.

In her last year, as her mobility and her ability to speak were diminished, her desire to participate in her women's group never wavered, so they met in her home. Leone demonstrated her love for her sisters by listening attentively to their stories and by praying faithfully for their needs. Her infectious smile continued to radiate Christ's joy, patience and kind acceptance to everyone she encountered.

Karin attended the original Duquesne Weekend in 1967 that ushered in the Catholic charismatic renewal. On the 40th anniversary of that weekend, in an interview in *The Catholic Spirit*, she described it as "an understanding that the Holy Spirit was present to (us) the same way the Spirit was present to Jesus’ disciples at Pentecost.”

Karin and Bob Treiber were married May 13, 1978. As Bob said recently, “I married a gem.” And Karin told me, “Bob’s love gave me confidence to accomplish things, and he makes me laugh.”

Karin, just under five feet tall and less than 100 pounds, had boundless energy. Bob jokes, “Most people have 16 hours in their 24-hour day. My wife had 48 hours in her 24.” She was an educator who mentored Ph.D. candidates, an excellent cook and seamstress as well as a voracious reader.

She and Bob have hosted people from 82 different countries in their home. Among them was a woman named Akhila from India, whom Karin referred to as her “adopted daughter.” Akhila praised Karin: “She selflessly cared for people around her and across national boundaries. (All those she mentored) will vouch for the fact that it was because of her encouragement that they are where they are today. . . . However, she valued service to the Lord above everything else.”

Karin thought about people and how to bring the love of Christ to them. Wherever she went, she had a special gift for connecting with people. She was a global networker for Christ, bringing his love to everyone she met.
For most of the last five years, as a member of the Christians in Mission team in Indianapolis, Charles Chow kept in regular touch with Eddie, a tough South Sider whose regular uniform is a black t-shirt sporting the logo of a heavy metal band. A few months ago, on Palm Sunday evening, Charles stopped in at Eddie’s apartment, hoping to help him move forward in the Lord.

Eddie was hanging out watching television—a rerun from the zombie series *The Walking Dead*. Eddie’s friend Daniel held the remote, and Daniel’s girlfriend sat nearby, tapping out text messages on her cell phone. Charles sat down on the couch next to Eddie, and soon he suggested that they switch over to the History Channel’s series on the Bible. His suggestion didn’t go anywhere. “I started thinking I was wasting my time,” Charles recalls.

As the horror movie music ebbed and flowed from the TV, they were chatting about Daniel’s job situation. Then somebody knocked on the door. Eddie made no move to get up, and then Daniel muted the TV and went to open the door. Charles assumed that Daniel sent the visitor away, because he returned and sat back down again.

Then Eddie told Charles he really needed to get some cash to pay his rent. He’d been out of work for a month. He also said he knew the man who had knocked on the door. The two of them had made plans to meet up and go rob a woman who had $500 in cash. But Eddie had decided to stay in his chair and let Daniel get the door, so he could avoid seeing the other man.

“I’m not going to do that,” Eddie said, “because I know God is here.”

Charles was so stunned he hardly knew what to say. Then he and Eddie started talking about jobs he could check into, and after the zombie show ended Charles walked home.

“I was worried that I was wasting my time,” Charles says.

Charles didn’t know everything that was going on inside Eddie during their visit, but later that night he marveled that he had played a role in God’s efforts to save Eddie from robbing the woman. “It’s amazing, the Lord’s timing,” he says.

God wasn’t done with Eddie, either. Since Easter, the CIM team members have seen Eddie a few more times. They helped him get some part-time work, and one of the brothers was able to pray with him as he repented of the sin in his life. Then Eddie got a full-time job in a hardware store. When Charles asked him recently why he thought things in his life were going better, he said it’s because he’s praying frequently. Charles has also noticed something else. “Every time I see Eddie, he’s really grateful I’m there.”

**Photo Collage: CAPTIONS**

Clockwise, from upper right:

In Buffalo, George Robert Meyerhofer (right), son of George and Arlene Meyerhofer (Buffalo), kicked his way to a black belt in Krav Maga, a form of self-defense developed in Israel.

Colin Whelpley, a Trinity School at Meadow View junior and son of John and Patty Whelpley (northern Virginia), whipped up this model of the Rialto Bridge in Venice, Italy, during an Odyssey of the Mind creativity competition.

Gabe Coleman, son of Neal and Susan Coleman (Muncie), enjoys driving the tractor on his family’s farm.

Tess Pingel (far left), daughter of Patrick and Beth Pingel (South Bend), joined Jonathan Kim, director of Trinity School at Greenlawn’s chamber choir, and fellow students Genna Olsen, Claudia Linczer, Alyson Delle Donne and Catherine Gibson in singing in a production of *Les Dialogues des Carmelites*, an opera put on by the University of Notre Dame Department of Music and Opera Notre Dame.

James Goman (in blue), the son of Kandace Goman (Servant Branch), finished fifth in Class A of the Minnesota state wrestling tournament.

The Trinity School at River Ridge robotics club, including Nathan Bittner (far right), son of Norbert and Barbara Bittner (Servant Branch), helped make Phoebe, a robot that can hit a target with a Frisbee and climb a tower.

Nathan Bolka, son of Bill and Nancy Bolka (Muncie), who recently graduated from Delta High School, played in this year’s Ball State University jazz festival.

Center: Sam Clairmont, son of Toby and Susie Clairmont (Oahu), worked on the photovoltaic power system he designed for a disaster relief trailer as part of his Eagle Scout project.
High School Talent

Captions on opposite page.
“My heart overflows with a goodly theme . . . my tongue as nimble as a writer’s pen” (Ps. 45:1).