

was not repeating it just because Lisa was my boss! Of course, they all loved that. That began my friendship with the wonderful people of Grace Lutheran Evangelical Church.

When I think of the church, I think of the people who devoted their lives to service for their church as a community of believers. Evie Brown, an ICT volunteer (who was spotlighted in the last newsletter) is an example of the caliber of people from this special church family. When I met Evie, she was involved in caring for two elderly sisters who eventually moved into the Greenwood House. Evie followed them there and over the years, was with each of them until they passed away.

Another congregation member who came into my life on a regular basis was Moreland Houck. When ICT moved into the basement office, Moreland was always there, silently helping with all the maintenance. If water was leaking, we called Moreland; the toilets overflowed, we called Moreland; if the bees were out in force, you guessed it! We called Moreland!! I'm sure there is a place in Heaven for such patient souls as Moreland and wife, Evelyn.

Gretchen Genz was actually the first person I met one-on-one from Grace when Lisa asked me to arrange a meeting to talk to Rev. Bagnall about this ministry. We met at the blue roof diner in Ewing. We chatted about the church, about ICT, about volunteers and how they could further assist. Gretchen was anxious to see how she could help as a volunteer. She immediately became a driver. She must know all the doctors' offices in the entire Trenton area!

I also had the privilege of meeting Rev. Michael Guy who became pastor in 2002. He was always encouraging us in our work. His beautiful photography has enhanced some of our newsletters, and of course, his good works were done quietly, without recognition or fanfare. His jokes and insight will be greatly missed.

Last, but not least, the member who impacted

my own life the most is Lisa Carmalt. I learned so much about volunteer management under her expert tutelage. Her amazing skills brought this program from a small group of 4 congregations to over 24, when she stepped aside. What touched me most was the special support and friendship she extended to me and my family. It has been an honor to have her, not only as my boss, but also as my friend.

We were saddened to hear the news that Grace would have to close its doors. We wish them Godspeed as they bring their unique gifts and talents to other congregations. We are also very grateful to the New Jersey Synod ELCA who has extended its support to our organization by allowing us to continue our ministry here in the basement. It is the generosity of such friends that enables ICT to provide "friendly neighbor" support to homebound elderly and disabled people in our community.

New Coalition Members as of 2/10/05 - Welcome To:

St. Anthony of Padua, Hightstown
St. Joseph's Parish, Trenton

If your congregation is interested in becoming a part of our coalition, we will be happy to do a presentation. Just give us a call for time and date.

STIRRING UP GOD'S LOVE THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM

Everyone is invited to join ICT to honor our active volunteers for an evening of dinner, awards and surprises. Wednesday, April 20th, 2005 at 6PM at Notre Dame High School in Lawrence.

The cost for attendees (other than active volunteers) will be \$12.00 per person for a buffet style dinner.

Please RSVP today and join us in our celebration of 11 years of kindness and caring to the Greater Trenton area.