

Thinking about life and death

Tom Corrigan

With the passing of Tom Bodle I have been doing some reflecting.

It was 50 plus years ago we, the Viking community, experienced a very difficult death. Amy Sambula was killed on the way home from work, one house away from home. She was heavily involved in both VA and SJH. She was president of her class, was in the Vikings' swing band,

One of Amy's best friends, of which there were many, said during the chaos of those days following her murder, that she couldn't ask God "why did this happen?" All she could pray was thank you for bringing Amy into her life.

Gratitude was much stronger than any doubts.

My thinking has moved along like this: life is about relationships.

Developing skills to strengthen them are vital for our human development. The building up of communities is what religion is about. The problem we have is our need to fit the people thing into a limited time frame. Life is about beginnings and endings. Our time is short. Learning to embrace and learning to let go are important life lessons that we resist to learn because of fear, doubt, and our own insecurities.

Having learned from Amy's and Tom's deaths, I thank the Lord for their blessing in my life and I ask that I may be open to the continuing blessings that await me in days ahead.

Thank you Lord for Tom, my student, my fellow teacher, my peer, and my friend.

