

A Celebration of  
the Life of  
Angelyn Stielstra

July 22, 1920 to July 19, 2013



Angelyn on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

August 19, 2013  
Lakeland Clubhouse  
Manistee, MI

Memorial Thanksgiving Service for  
Angelyn Stielstra

WELCOME

We are gathered here to celebrate the life of Angelyn Stielstra.

Psalm 23 (responsively)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

PRAYER (in unison)

We thank you for the gift of Angelyn, for the life she so generously shared with us, and for all that she's meant to us.

O God, speak to us once more your message of life and of death. Help us to live as those who are prepared to die. And enable us to go forth to live, so that living or dying, our life may be in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

O God, who gave us birth, you are ever more ready to hear than we are to pray. You know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Show us now your grace, that as we face the mystery of death, we may see the light of eternity.

Amen.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (read in unison)

For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
a time to rend, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

HYMN                      Amazing Grace                      (all sing)

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear.  
And Grace, my fears relieved.  
How precious did that Grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far  
and Grace will lead me home.

When we've been here ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun.  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun.

II Timothy 4:6-8 (in unison)

The time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

SHARE REFLECTIONS AND MEMORIES

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done, on earth  
As it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
The power, and the glory,  
Forever and ever. Amen

## Angelyn (Ann) Feenstra Stielstra

(Written by Ann for the University House Directory in 2005)

I was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1920. My brother Ernest is three years older. Both of us had paper routes after school to bring in extra money during the Depression years. Orphaned by the age of 8, my brother and I were raised by my mother's sister, Aunt Tena and her husband, Uncle Orie Bolt, whom my children all called Grandma and Grandpa Bolt.

After grade school and Grand Rapids Christian High school, I attended Calvin College, receiving an A.B. in Education in 1942. I met Bill Stielstra at Calvin, where he was a cheerleader and I was on the women's basketball team. We were married in 1943. My first teaching appointment was 21 first-graders joined by 20 kindergarteners in the afternoon. This was a challenge, but it was the pre-TV era, so they were not as hyper as some children are today. The first-graders had to be my helpers with the kindergarteners in the afternoon.

Bill also graduated from Calvin College in 1942, but his pursuit of graduate school was interrupted by the Army sending him to New Guinea and the Philippines. After his return, he completed his M.A. in History at the University of Michigan and a doctorate at Michigan State. He was an Assistant Dean of Men at Purdue University from 1956 to 1965. In 1965 he became Vice President for Student Affairs and Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin in Stevens Point.

### CLOSING SONG (in unison)

May the all-time sun shine on you  
All love surround you  
And the pure light within you  
Guide your way on.

### COMMENDATION (in unison)

Into your hands, O God, we commend Angelyn, into the hands of a faithful Creator and most loving God. In your infinite goodness, wisdom, and power, welcome her home through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.  
*Amen.*

### DISMISSAL

Let us go in peace and love to celebrate the life of Angelyn.

Meanwhile, I was developing my own dual career as a mother of four children and as a teacher with an M.S. in special education from Purdue. When the term “learning disabilities” was defined in the late 1960s, I found my niche and thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of working with children of average and above IQs, who had multiple and varied learning disabilities.

Bill and I traveled widely, leading student groups to England, Germany, and Taiwan, going on other tours to South America, India, Australia, and Hawaii, and Elderhosteling in Germany, Turkey, Israel, and Vietnam. In 1967-8 we hosted an Italian high school exchange student; in 1974-5 we helped a Vietnamese family relocate in Wisconsin; and twice we sponsored Ethiopian medical students doing residencies in American hospitals.

In 1985, Bill and I retired, and in 1999 we moved into University House in Seattle, where we made countless friends and continued our interest in world affairs and foreign students. After Bill died in January 2003, I have continued my hobbies of reading, travel (Costa Rica in 2004), walking, and tennis. And I enjoy spending summers on the west shore of Lake Michigan near Manistee at the cottage that Bill and I built forty years ago—not very far from the cottage of my brother Ernie and his wife Janet, who live there year-round now.

