



Gertrude E. Wunsch

December 13, 1928 - September 7, 2015

Gertrude E. Wunsch, 86-year-old resident of Harmony House of Little Falls, MN formerly of Upsala, MN passed away Monday, September 7, 2015, at the Harmony House of Little Falls. Graveside Services will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, September 9, 2015, at the Word of Life Free Lutheran Church in Upsala, MN with Rev. Clayton Wilfer officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery. A Memorial Service for Gertrude will be held at a later date.

“Gertie” was born in Plymouth, WI. She moved to Freeport, IL when she was three years old. In school, she enjoyed music and sports. Upon graduation, Gertie attended Wheaton College in Wheaton, IL where she majored in Physical Education. Gertie developed and coordinated the women’s athletic program at Anderson University in Anderson, IN for about thirty years. She also did post-graduate work and was given an Honorary Doctorate and was one of the first persons inducted into the University’s Athletic Hall of Fame. During the summers, Gertie assisted Wheaton classmates in running a Christian Youth camp called Good News on Cape Cod. She was brought up in the Zion Reform Church in Freeport, IL and was a devoted follower of Jesus Christ as she loved and served people all of her life. Gertie was a professional woman and gave her life to her work camp and students. When she retired she was invited to live in a cottage on the Camp Good News grounds in Forestdale, MA.

As a victim of Alzheimer's, her friends notified her family that she needed to be closer to them. She thus returned to the Midwest to reside with her brother Calvin and wife Suzanne in Upsala, MN in 2006. After five years, Gertie needed more care and moved to Harmony House, a residence for people with Dementia. She was under Hospice care when she passed on.

Gertie was preceded in death by parents, Edwin and Laretta Wunsch; older brother Elwood; nephews, John and Herb Wunsch; niece Sharon Wunsch.

Gertie is survived by a brother, Calvin (Suzanne) Wunsch of Upsala, MN; niece, Margaret Wunsch of Milwaukee, WI; nephew, Dennis Wunsch of Bothell, WA.

Cemetery Details

Word of Life Free Lutheran Cemetery

Upsala, MN

Previous Events

Service

SEP **9**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Word of Life Free Lutheran Cemetery
Upsala, MN

Service

OCT **10**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Word of Life Free Lutheran
3328 1st Ave W
Upsala, MN 56384

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Gertrude E. Wunsch*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - October 05, 2015 at 04:20 PM

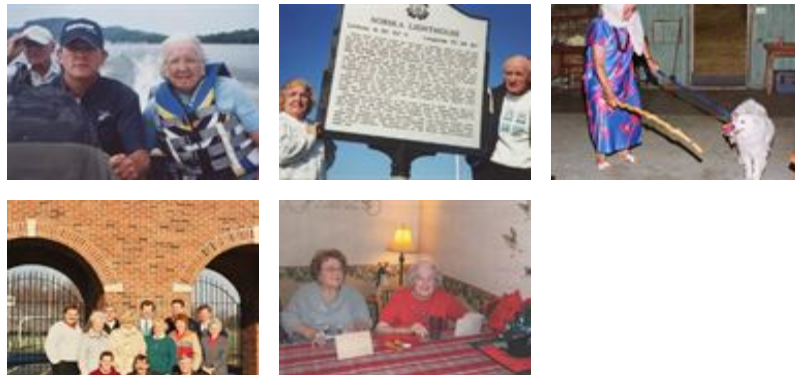


“ *Gertrude E. Wunsch*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *49 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - October 05, 2015 at 03:19 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Lemieux Funeral Homes - October 05, 2015 at 02:03 PM

KS

“ *Gert was one of the most influential people in my life. In the 70's when I first came to camp Gert showed me unconditional love and acceptance. She shared her wisdom and insight as I was with the littlest ones. In the 80's when I visited camp, Gert was delighted to meet my soon to be husband who was the son of her Wheaton classmate. Then in the 90's I came back with my 3 children as campers. My sons got to meet Gert and my daughter picked up a whistle and a little clipboard, and followed after Gert.*

I am so thankful for the life Gert lived as she modeled Christlikeness to me. May her example inspire others to live a life that brings glory to God. She was a special treasure. Deut 7:6 Gert showed me what living for the Lord looks like. 2Cor 5:15

Kristi Sunden - September 13, 2015 at 05:39 PM



“Gert was my teacher, coach and mentor at AU. I also spent many years with her at Camp Good News as a counselor. I fell in love with "Gertie's Cape Cod" and accepted a teaching and coaching job in a Cape high school. Until her retirement, Gert was always a little jealous that I was living on "her Cape", but after her retirement and move she loved supporting and following my teams. Her positive role in my professional development was enormous! She guided my professional progress in college and later became a close friend.

Gert will be remembered for her unequalled dedication to her students and campers; a dedication that was founded on unconditional love. She will be remembered for her untiring work ethic (no one could out work Gert)! She will be remembered for her love of adventure and pursuit of new challenges. Mostly, she will be remembered for her sustaining and enduring faith.

Thanks, Gertie, you helped shape my journey and I will try to honor you by passing on many of your values and lessons to my students and players.

Cheryl M. Poore, former student

Cheryl Poore - September 13, 2015 at 08:12 AM

HB

“ I was one of Gert's first Physical Education Majors at Anderson College when she arrived in 1954. She not only became a personal friend who would drop me off in Chicago when on a holiday visit to my parents, but I stayed at her home next to Morrison Hall during summer vacations when I stayed in Anderson to work at the YMCA. Our two children attended AU and worked for Gert as Life Guards. Pete and later also his wife spent several summers at Camp Good News as counselors. I had the pleasure one July 4th weekend to visit there with Gert and my children and enjoyed participating in their camp activities.

Gert was not only a great teacher and friend, she also was a most encouraging teacher and mentor. Our children and I often speak of the wonderful fun we had with Gert. I am looking forward to seeing her warm smile when I arrive in Heaven!

Hilda Jeeninga Beckman

Hilda Jeeninga Beckman - September 12, 2015 at 02:16 PM

PO


“ I will always remember Gert with great fondness and smile when I think of her. She was a wonderful friend to my two children who attended Camp Good News in the early 90's. Even when they no longer attended camp, whenever I would see her in Town, she always would ask about them. I've missed seeing her in Town and wish her eternal peace. My condolences to her entire family and the Camp Good News family.

Phyllis O'Neill - September 12, 2015 at 11:08 AM

JD

“ I had the privilege of working for many summers with Gert across the way at the Jr. boys Camp. Yes, she had a unique laugh and she used it a lot. In my years I don't think I've met anyone before or since who had such a skill for showing discipline and love at the same time - a rare combination. There's no way to measure the impact she had on countless lives in her lifetime. Goodbye Gert!

Jim DeCorso - September 10, 2015 at 02:37 AM

 Donna Sipe

“ My father, Jerry Sipe, was on faculty at Anderson University with Gertie. Gertie also knew my aunt, Martha Burns Gainey, as well as my uncle and aunt, Glenn and Fran Burns. Martha had been a PE major; and, Glenn and Fran worked at Camp Good News during college and for many years afterwards.

One of the highlights of my childhood as the daughter of a faculty member was many, many hours spent swimming at the Bennett Natatorium, where Gertie's office was. It was always a special treat when she happened in be in her office when we were there. She made an intentional effort to welcome me each and every time she saw me as a child, a teen, and, finally, a student at AU. She was part of what made AU a special community.

It probably seems silly, but I also appreciated her professional wardrobe. Because of her duties in the PE Department, Gertie was usually dressed as a coach. She was the first woman I ever met who wore true "sportswear" as part of her job. Looking back, I can see that she was teaching me with her presence in my life that it was acceptable for women to be good at sports and that we could be free to dress for a physical life.

Donna Sipe

Donna Sipe - September 09, 2015 at 11:36 PM

TD

“ I was Gert's secretary for several years while I attended college and also worked with her at Camp Good News! One thing I remember is that no matter how busy she was, she always made time for people. I loved her laugh and her love of life! She ran a great program at the camp and constantly gave of herself! I appreciate her leadership and example!

Trudy DeFelice - September 09, 2015 at 08:37 PM

MG

“ I met Gert at AU. Then, thru a mutual friend, we were invited to stay with her for a week after CGN was done for the summer. It was the summer of Hurricane Bob. It hit the area hard. My memory of Gert is seeing her go outside while the hurricane was going on. She took her camera with her. We asked her to stay in where it was safe. Nope, nothing doing! She was out to explore and have an adventure. Later, when the eye of the hurricane was over us, she was headed out again. More exploring...she was very curious. She returned to the house in time to help us as her guests find the flashlights. The electricity went out. The rain and wind sounded awful. The next day, she was ready to explore by traveling around the community. After the police gave us the go ahead...yes, the police checked the homes to make sure everyone was safe...we were off. She took us around for several days, seeing damaged trees, turned over boats, damaged homes, little pieces of leaves all over everything. We stopped to talk with people she knew and didn't know. She handled this catastrophe with energy, a positive attitude, and encouragement for she met.

Marilyn K Guidry

Marilyn K Guidry - September 09, 2015 at 06:37 PM

DF

“ *She was a remarkable woman! I was in several of her classes and she was tough, but fair and more so, very caring. She was a pioneer for women athletes at AU and I owe her a huge debt of gratitude for paving the way! She has fought the good fight, has finished the race, and has remained faithful...and now the prize awaits her, the crown of righteousness! (2 Timothy 4:7-8)*

Diana Focht (AU '85)

Diana Focht - September 09, 2015 at 04:41 PM

EW

“ *Gert was my First Aid teacher and a Stickler for doing it exactly the way the book said, PERIOD. And I am thankful for it. She was later a colleague in the department. It was there that I learned how FUN LOVING she was. Rest in peace dear lady.*

Eric Walser - September 09, 2015 at 04:28 PM



“ *I was in Professor Wunsch's swim class at Anderson University in 1983. I had taken swimming classes in elementary school and failed miserably. I was nervous I just couldn't learn how to swim. Her calm demeanor and professionalism got me through the class and I learned to swim! I owe her a great debt. - Kevin Spear*

Kevin Spear - September 09, 2015 at 04:14 PM

Jerry
Fox

“ I first met Gert when I was a fifth grader. My parents had known her in their college years in the 1950s. When we returned to Anderson for my father's seminary years I, along with the children of other faculty and students, was invited to join Gert in the O.C. Lewis gym on Saturday mornings. There she got us away from the sedentary stupor of cartoons in front of the TV and engaged us in dodgeball, trampoline, badminton, and other activities to grow us physically and socially. I was then privileged to join Gert in this service to children as a lifeguard and swimming instructor on Saturday mornings throughout my own college years. Our lifeguard group was a family that often gathered in Gert's living room for faith, food, fun and fellowship. Her love, encouragement and example of living life to the full lives on in all of us whose lives she touched. -- Jerry Fox

Jerry Fox - September 09, 2015 at 02:29 PM

JB

“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Wall



Jane Brooks - September 09, 2015 at 01:46 PM

JL

“ *Rest in peace, Gert. You touched my undergraduate years at Anderson University as a coach, teacher, and manager. I will always fondly remember your kind leadership and Christian example. I am happy in the knowledge that you are in Heaven, having received your just reward and salvation.*

*Much love and respect,
Janette Lynch (AU '89)*

Janette Lynch - September 09, 2015 at 12:46 PM

KS

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Kirsten Santos - September 09, 2015 at 11:28 AM

JA

“ *Gertrude was a faithful servant of God, the Church, and hundreds of students seeking a better life. She was a great influence to many. I did not know her personally, but knew of her presence and ministry to those she taught and influenced to prepare for life's journey. Blessings and peace, James Albrecht (AU 1956-62).*

James Albrecht - September 09, 2015 at 11:17 AM

JH

“ I remember Miss Wunsch leading a winter camping visit to a state park in 1961-62. We all had a great time exploring a state park and seeing birds. She was a fine person and knew how to enjoy God's Handiwork and to challenge students to be their best.

Jean Phillips Harbron

Jean Phillips Harbron - September 09, 2015 at 10:48 AM

TD

I worked as Gert's secretary at AU and also in the girl's camp at Camp Good News. One thing I always admired about her was that no matter how busy she was, she always made time for whoever stopped by. I loved her laugh and her enjoyment of nature and the out-of-doors. She was a great leader and ran an energetic program program at the camp! She never seemed to wear out! She touched many lives through her years of leadership and service!

Trudy DeFelice - September 09, 2015 at 08:17 PM

MB

“ Cal, I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of Gertrude. Thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. Myron Bahmer

Myron Bahmer - September 09, 2015 at 10:43 AM

LS

“ I too met Gert at Camp GoodNews. She was a woman that knew how to get things done . I remember traveling to Camp one summer to be the tutor. I had my 5 year old son and 7 year old daughter with me. I was told to take the bus from the airport in Boston to the Sandwich Rotary. No one was at the Rotary to pick us up, I called the Camp's kitchen and just by chance Gert answered the phone. (the swimmers had just finished dinner) . She came at once to pick us up, I was so happy to see that Volkswagon Van. after a day of flying. Not once did she complain about her plans being changed. She was a marvelous woman. Well done good and faithful servant.
Ladell Stewart

Ladell Stewart - September 09, 2015 at 10:11 AM

KT

“ Gertrude Wunsch was the faculty person who guided me into graduate school. I was a senior at Anderson College and very unclear about what to do after graduation. She sat with me in the cafeteria and helped me find a graduate program that would provide a combined master's degree and a teaching license; then she assisted me in the application process. I am grateful for that caring effort.

Karla Telfer - September 09, 2015 at 09:00 AM

LB

“ I cannot imagine the number of A.U. students who were impacted by Gert!! Her ministry extended beyond reason... hosting students in her home, teaching Health and PE students (and having high expectations), hiring young adults to work at the pool, recruiting summer workers for camp Good News, dedicating her summers to camp, demonstrating an uncompromising work ethic, coaching women tennis players, mentoring colleagues, paving the way for women, sharing her beloved dogs, driving her vehicles to the max (Volkswagon van and Honda sedan - both to 100's of thousands of miles!!)... she was an inspiration to many! Thank you, Gert and may you rest in peace.

Lori Ball, AU 1986

Lori Ball - September 09, 2015 at 07:06 AM

MW

“ M. Wunsch purchased the Rose Impression Cask et Spray for the family of Gertrude E. Wunsch.



M. Wunsch - September 08, 2015 at 10:57 PM

FB

“ Gertrude Wunsch was my PE teacher, gymnastics teacher and volleyball coach at Anderson University way back when... Then, she recruited my boyfriend, Glenn Burns to direct the waterfront at Camp Good News. Later, after I married Glenn, we went back to the camp with our 3 children. Gert was always there for us at camp and very organized. Oh, what happy memories! I am sorry for your loss--our loss!!! She was someone I always admired and will never forget! Blessings to the family.

Fran Burns - September 08, 2015 at 10:13 PM



Louis
Parke

“ *sorry for your loss.*

Louis Parke - September 08, 2015 at 09:55 PM

KS

“ *So many fond memories of Gert both at CGN and AU! I considered Gert my second mom while I was at AU, she picked me up at the airport (Fluffy had to sit on my lap as my luggage took up the whole backseat and trunk!) and showed me around campus when I first arrived as I never had seen the campus before my freshman year started. She welcomed me into her home many times when I couldn't fly home and the dorms were closed. We drove back and forth together from camp to college a few times, sneaking Fluffy into the hotel room when neither of us could stay awake any longer! I remember my last visit with her the summer after she had retired from AU. My mom and I drove to visit her at camp and we brought Fresh Lobster. Thought of her often and I so wish I lived closer so I could see her! Heaven will be waking up early for flag raising from now on!*

Kirsten Santos - September 08, 2015 at 09:53 PM

“ Anderson University Athletic Hall of Fame

Induction Class of 1997

Coach Gertrude E. Wunsch - 1997 Meritorius Service

Gertrude E. Wunsch might well be called the "mother" of Anderson University women's athletics. Yet, her campus interests from 1955-91 were directed to all athletes, men and women. In a very special way, she expressed her concern, encouragement and guidance to hundreds of students participating in athletic roles.

In the early years on campus, she coached women's basketball, volleyball, tennis and badminton. With the approach of the 1970s, she concentrated on basketball and tennis and then only tennis in the 1980s. She assumed direction of Bennett Natatorium, where she provided enjoyment for an even wider group of participating faculty, alumni, students, parents and children.

Some of the names she lists as the best basketball players during her tenure were Nancy Beaty Stegelmann, Juanita Wollert Reinhardt and Nancy Hines Steinke. On the tennis courts, she claims Carolyn Rains Dehority, Vicki Graber and Carole Wilson as excellent players. Another name she lists is Cheryl Poore on the volleyball court.

Gertrude Wunsch's invaluable contributions to the Anderson University athletic and academic programs at their broadest points were recognized by the University in 1997 with an honorary doctorate. It also said thank you for a lifelong investment in young people, not only on campus, but in many other sporting settings.

Anderson University is proud to name Gertrude E. Wunsch among its first inductees to the Athletic Hall of Fame.

<http://athletics.anderson.edu/hof.aspx?hof=10&path=&kiosk=>





M. Wunsch - September 08, 2015 at 09:43 PM

SS

“ *My deepest condolences to the family, and thank you for sharing her with us. Gert was an amazing woman. Her impact on CGN will ripple throughout eternity, as all the young girls she shepherded for the Lord, carry that faith forward to reach and teach others. And her influence at camp extended far just beyond the Jr. Girls camp she loved. She brought countless young students from Anderson to be counselors in all three camps, and that touched us all in many ways. Say hi to the Willards, Hope and Paul Warren for us Gert. We love you.*

Scott Smith - September 08, 2015 at 09:25 PM



“ *Gert and my Mom were best of friends. I've known Gert my whole life. She had such a powerful impact in showing me the love of Jesus. She shaped part of who I am from all those years at Camp Good News and of knowing her. She is now safe in the arms of Jesus and I'm sure my Mom and Hope and Wyeth and Grace and so many more, are so happy to see her in heaven. Thank you Cal and Suzanne for these many years of love and care for her. May God richly bless you.*

Dayle Edwards - September 08, 2015 at 09:03 PM

SF

“ Gert was one of a kind. Her generous heart won its way into the lives of so many children & college students, alike. She was a family friend, but became my friend when I was a counselor for two summers at Camp Good News. So many fond memories and cherished talks!

Sally Ferguson

Sally Ferguson - September 08, 2015 at 09:01 PM

EL

“ When I was about 20 years old I left Wheaton, Illinois to work at Camp Good News. I thought I could get away from home and do things my own way. As soon as I got to the camp Gert introduced herself saying she grew up with my dad in Freeport! Wow, was God was protecting me through this kind lady!

I am very thankful to have known Gert. May she rest in peace.

Ellen

Ellen - September 08, 2015 at 08:11 PM