

## William R. Bensch

July 31, 1943 - January 14, 2017

William "Bill" Rudolf Bensch, 73, of Indianapolis went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on January 14, 2017. He was born July 31, 1943 in New York City to the late Rudolf and Phyllis DeGuard Bensch. Bill graduated from Archbishop Malloy High School, received his BA from Manhattan College and his Masters Degree from Purdue University. At Purdue Bill met Diane Kjonaas, who would become his wife of more than 46 years. Together they had four children. Bill was employed as a Biochemist at Eli Lilly and Company for 35 years, retiring in 2008.

Bill was active in several area churches including St. Thomas Aquinas, Indianapolis 1st Church of the Nazarene and East 91st Street Christian. Passionate about theology and ancient history, Bill was the leader of dozens of Bible studies, Sunday School classes and small groups.

Bill was a very active participant in the lives of his four children, volunteering his time as a soccer coach, Bible quizzing director and science fair judge. For many years he was a volunteer with the Lawrence Central Performing Arts Association where he supported his children in both the marching band and show choir.

Though never exposed to it as a child, Bill became an active camper in his adult life, taking his family on camping trips to National parks all over the United States and Canada. He also organized a yearly camping trip that included dozens of families from Indianapolis 1st Church.

Bill became a Master Gardener through the Purdue Extension program in 2010. His other hobbies included photography, music appreciation and woodworking.

Diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease shortly after his retirement, Bill and his family were supported by many volunteers and organizations around the city. The family would especially like to thank the kind and caring staffs at the following organizations: the Alzheimer's Support Group at E91, especially it's leader, Dawn; the Still Waters Adult Day Center at Castleton United Methodist; the Reflections Unit at Hancock Regional Hospital; the Cherished Memories Unit at Copper Trace and Heart to Heart Hospice.

The family would also like to give a special thanks to Bill's daughter, Kristen, who moved home from California to assist in Bill's care and support her mother, Diane, in this journey. With Kristen's support, and Diane's service to her husband, Bill was able to remain at home until the final weeks of his life. A celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. with visitation from 11:00 a.m. at East 91st Street Christian Church, 6049 East 91st Street, Indianapolis 46250.

Bill is survived by his loving wife, Diane; sons, Nathan (Tara), Tim (Kacy), and Ben Bensch; daughter, Kristen Bensch; and grandchildren, Aidan, Maddie, Quinlyn and Alexis Bensch.

In lieu of flowers or other gifts the family requests that Memorial contributions may be made to the Still Waters Adult Day Center at Castleton United Methodist Church. Checks can be made to "Still Waters Adult Day Center," 7160 Shadeland Station, Door #3, Indianapolis, IN 46256

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 21. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

East 91st Street Christian Church  
6049 E. 91st Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46250

## Celebration of Life

JAN 21. 2:00 PM (ET)

East 91st Street Christian Church  
6049 E. 91st Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46250

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Shirley Brothers Mortuaries & Crematory** - January 23, 2017 at 09:00 AM

CG

*How beautiful! Sorry for your loss. May God bless you and keep you in everyone's prayers.*

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**Carrie Grow-Hoke** - January 23, 2017 at 07:46 PM

BF

*Dear Diane and family, We are so sorry to hear of your loss. I'm on Facebook with your dad or I would never have known. What a beautiful family you have.*

*I will always treasure the memories of our family Thanksgivings together as kids.*

*God be with you!*

*Barbara (Stirratt) and Boyd Fees*

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**Barbara Fees** - January 25, 2017 at 08:49 PM



“ *Dear Diane and family, we are so sorry for your loss. We never knew of all his accomplishments! He was so humble and always kind. We pray that the Lord's peace will be with you as you grieve the loss of such a good Christian husband and father. With love, the Preston family*❤️

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**Lori Preston** - January 20, 2017 at 10:50 AM

KV

“ We are thankful for Bill's encouragement through family camps when our children were young, through well-prepared Bible studies, and through his warm hospitality. Bill's life was focused on the World we cannot yet feel or see...now he is there! What an inspiration!

*Dave and Katrina Vickery*

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**Katrina Vickery** - January 19, 2017 at 07:30 AM

MB

“ Dear Diane,

*We got the message, that Bill went home. We are all deeply touched and saddened by this message and our thoughts are with you and your family. We will always remember him as our dear cousin. We would like to express our condolences , in loving memory the German Bensch-Family, Marieluise, Günther, Reinhard and Ulrike, all children (Birgit, Ulrike, Christine, Johannes, Maria, Emma, Noel, Laura and Julia)*

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**Marieluise Bensch** - January 18, 2017 at 02:44 PM

CF

“ To Diane and Family,  
*I am so very sorry to see that Bill has passed. Howard Creveling told me last year that Bill was not doing well as a result of dementia. My thoughts are with you. I remember those days when we were all young couples and new parents on Central Avenue.*

*Cindee Fisher*

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**Cindee Fisher** - January 18, 2017 at 10:31 AM

VM

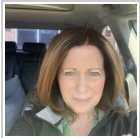
“ Our lives are filled with countless Bensch memories from our first meeting at the Shortridge Road First Church sanctuary to years of family camp and symphony concerts. We could always depend on you, our precious and loyal friends who shared the love of Jesus in tangible ways. We have lost a good and godly man, but Heaven has gained our beloved friend. We love you, Bensch, and pray for God's sweetest comfort~

Vicky McBurnie - January 17, 2017 at 07:39 PM

LK

“ Thank you for giving to the Lord. I am a life that was changed. And I thank you so very much. You invested your life in others and I can only imagine the reward of saved lives greeting you as you entered Heaven. Bill Bensch, a life well lived for eternity.

Linda Kortanek - January 17, 2017 at 07:00 PM



“ Diane, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I will keep you and your family in my prayers.  
Jan Schreibman

Jan Schreibman - January 17, 2017 at 05:49 PM

MC

Dear Diane, I just learned from Pat Holycross of Bill's passing. I know your pain, and I know God comfort and see you through this time. Bill was a long time friend that will be missed.

Michael Clouse - January 19, 2017 at 01:10 PM

JF

“ Diane, we are so sorry to hear of your loss. You are in our prayers.  
Ron and Jenny Fernsler.

Jenny Fernsler - January 17, 2017 at 02:23 PM

JS

“ *Diane, You and Bill created a beautiful family. It's wonderful that you are surrounded by your children and parents at this tough time. I'm thinking of you every day. Love, Jennifer*

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**Jennifer Sohn** - January 17, 2017 at 06:21 AM