



## William Paul Wenzler

June 29, 2016

Wenzler, William Paul

Born February 9, 1929, Bill fought the good fight, kept the faith, and finished the race on June 29, 2016.

Wenzler is most recognized for his trailblazing architecture of the 60's and his risk-taking use of thin-shelled concrete that paved the way for other American architects. Wenzler's St. Edmund's church in Elm Grove, Wisconsin—designed at 27 years of age—was the first hyperbolic paraboloid thin-shelled concrete roof in the United States. If you had asked him how many churches he designed throughout his career, he would have said, "I have no idea!", but according to his job list, there are 23. Wenzler designed and structurally engineered four thin-shell concrete churches and one school which were included in an exhibit in Paris in 1963. He received two national, nine state, one regional, and one local design award between 1958 and 1990. His designs made use of the natural surrounding habitat and the needs of those he was serving which he carefully researched by spending time with them in their environment. The buildings created were structures of balance, flow and light that brought focus to God's Glory, Love and Grace. He never marketed his work because he was too busy working on the next design. He gave credit to his Creator from whom, he said, his designs flowed.

He was elected to the American Institute of Architects (AIA) College of

Fellows at age 42. In 2009, he received the AIA Golden Award, Wisconsin Chapter. He explored creating more human urban environments, urban housing and sustainable design from 1958-2010. Other accomplishments: he served as founding director of Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity in 1984; his firm designed the Carter Work Week houses in Milwaukee in 1987; he and his wife Dolores were founding members of Eastbrook Church and established ministries together; he went on short term missions to Somalia in 1984 and Jamaica in 1987 to assist with architectural needs.

He was married to his beloved Dolores (preceded in death 2011) for 61 incredible, adventure packed years filled with travel, sailing, flying and raising four children: eldest son Edward (preceded in death 2008, Georgine Wenzler-Johnson); and is survived by daughter Deborah (Todd) Farris; son John (Karrie) Wenzler, and daughter Joan (Arthur) Slocum. Grandfather of Christopher (Lisa) Wenzler; Michael (Lauren) Wenzler; Charles (Lauren Angwyn) Grimes; Kelsey, Taylor, Shelby and Kira Slocum; and Melanie and Natalie North. He is further survived by five great grandchildren: Edward and Isla Wenzler, Jace Strawderman, William and Samuel Wenzler as well as many additional family and friends.

The family invites you to join with them in a celebration of his life which will be held Saturday, July, 16, at EASTBROOK CHURCH, 5385, N. Green Bay Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53209 [www.eastbrookchurch.org](http://www.eastbrookchurch.org). Visitation 10:00-11:30am, Memorial Service 11:30-1:00pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Eastbrook Church. Please see [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com) for online guestbook.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL **16**. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Eastbrook Church  
5385 N. Green Bay Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53209

## Memorial Service

JUL **16**. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Eastbrook Church  
5385 N. Green Bay Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53209

# Tribute Wall

SD

“ *Bill was a gentle man, and a gentleman ~ a smile, an inquiry and interested eyes ~  
So frail at the end, but ever upbeat ~  
The love between he and Dee ~ so visible ~ so strong ~ so right for both of them ~  
It was a pleasure and a privilege to have them as neighbors ~ To know Bill ~*

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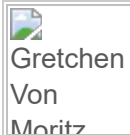
**Sandy Duffy** - July 12, 2016 at 07:52 AM

PK

“ *I was happy to be able to talk to Bill shortly before his death; he sat next to me at church. It was like saying "good bye for now." He was such a loving man and his wife Dolores both had a big impact on my life. Delores helped me at one of the hardest times in my life. Now they are together along with their son Ed. They will always be remembered and loved.*

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**Pamela Ksionsk** - July 09, 2016 at 12:20 PM



Gretchen  
Von  
Moritz

“ *I remember the first time I met Bill at the Shepard house. What a blessing he was.*

*May God enfold you in His loving arms and hold you as you mourn, laugh, and remember...*

*Gretchen von Moritz*

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**Gretchen Von Moritz** - July 09, 2016 at 07:39 AM

HB

“ Dear Wenzler Family,

*We will miss Bill's dear presence among us. We loved him. He was a kind and nurturing person who showed interest in our family over many years. We appreciated Bill's humility. I worked with Bill on some Habitat Houses many years ago. He lived his faith and let his life speak the joy and hope he had in Jesus.*

*I pray, friends, that God will provide comfort to you who remain. May the Lord be lifted up in your memory of your dad and grandfather whose joy was Christ. There will be rejoicing in Heaven over the safe arrival of this dear saint. I imagine Dee and Ed, not to mention Fred Schneider and so many more brothers and sisters in Christ who will welcome Bill, Beloved of the Lord.*

*Oh, God, bring comfort and lots of shared memories and even joy to the Wenzlers as they mourn.*

*We are praying for you.*

*Love,*

*Dana and Heather Bott*

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**Heather Bott** - July 06, 2016 at 06:09 PM

JO

“ *Weds night church dinners at Eastbrook, Bill, the ambassador for Jesus, Always welcoming and always with a kind word for even the smallest of children.*

*I will miss him, I have learned from him, May Jesus be glorified and find rest after answering all of his questions!*

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**Jolee** - July 06, 2016 at 06:01 PM

ME

“ Growing up with the Wenzler family has been an honour. Too many memories to share all of them but Bill has touched my own family. I just told Calder (my son) how one time at the house on Shepard, Bill showed him how to use a scissors for the first time. His steady hand and patience did the trick! Bill will be missed. My heart goes out to everyone. Love you!

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**Mary Eggert** - July 06, 2016 at 05:54 PM