



## William "Bill" Bird

May 19, 1947 - March 12, 2025

William "Bill" Bird age 77, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Wednesday, March 12, 2025.

He was the son of Gilbert and Wilhelmina Bird and was preceded in death by his brother,  
Leonard Bird.

"Bird" is survived by his wife of 54 years, Jenine; children, Josh (Jamie) Bird, Sarah (Lance) Young; 6 grandchildren, Lena Young, Kayden Bird, Hailey Young, Kyler Young, Bryce Bird, Tessa Bird; brother, Thomas (Rita) Bird; in-laws, Patrice Sysko, Norman (Char) Prins, Gerritt Zylstra; several nieces and nephews.

"I have come that you might have life, and life to the fullest," Jesus shared in John 10:10. Bill truly lived life to the fullest. Bill loved Jesus deeply, and was always fueled by his faith and passion for the Lord. Bill, like his Creator, brought beauty into everything. He exuded immense creativity in how he designed both the massive and the miniscule things of his life. Every corner of his world had vision, intentionality, and was presented to cultivate invitation and inspiration.

Bill radiated energy, color, joy, and encouragement everywhere he went. To

know Bill was to absolutely adore him. Anyone who experienced him left knowing they were seen and believed in. He cared about whomever was in his daily moments, always offering the best of himself to brighten people's days. Bill purposefully called out the great in people, sometimes the great they were not even aware of in themselves.

Bill grew up on the east coast in New Jersey and Delaware. He attended Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa where he studied vocal music and met his beautiful wife and dearest ally, Jenine. They shared immense passions for music, antiques, and flowers. Bill had truly met his creative counterpart, and together, they fashioned a lifetime of cherished family moments, rich friendships, unique experiences, vivid spaces, exquisite gardens, gorgeous landscapes, breathtaking musicality, unbreakable loyalty, and exuberant joyfulness. "Bill and Jenine" was a favorite phrase of countless people.

"Mr. Bird" is a name that those who have experienced him will carry in their hearts for a lifetime. Mr. Bird taught vocal music for 41 years. Beginning at Western Christian High School in Hull, Iowa, he taught for 22 years from 1969 - 1991. He then taught at Holland Christian High School in Holland, Michigan for 19 years from 1991 - 2010. Mr. Bird meaningfully impacted thousands of students with both his presence in their lives, as well as their experiences as members of his choirs. Mr. Bird deeply loved both the Western Christian and Holland Christian communities, and proudly valued the honor of teaching. Mr. Bird always emphasized that "Everyone can sing!"

Bill Bird, husband, dad, grandpa, delightful friend, and motivating supporter to so many, will be incredibly missed. Today, he would encourage those he loved to live life brightly today, and to hope in the solid foundation of Christ and the promise of the glorious, heavenly days to come.

And remember dear ones, "Really sing it out!"

A Celebration of Life will be at 3:00 p.m. Thursday, March 20, 2025 at Christ Memorial Church, 595 Graafschap Rd. Holland with Rev. Gary Matthews officiating. Jenine's request is that, "no one wears black." Echoing true Mr. Bird form, "bright and colorful dress would be appreciated!" A time of fellowship will follow the service. A private family burial will take place in Graafschap Cemetery.

A livestream of the service will be available at [https://youtube.com/live/e\\_hs8wrDB6o?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/e_hs8wrDB6o?feature=share)

In Mr. Bird's honor, an endowment will be set up at Holland Christian High School in Holland, Michigan to support the vocal music department. <https://hollandchristian.org/donate/>. All memorial gifts in Bill's name will go to this endowment.

# Cemetery Details

## Graafschap Cemetery

32nd Steet at Graafschap Road  
Holland, MI 49423

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

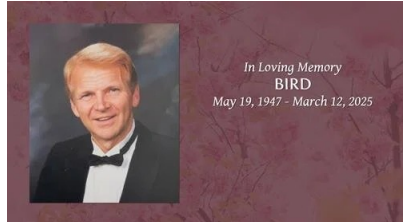
MAR 20. 3:00 PM (ET)

Christ Memorial Church  
595 Graafschap Road  
Holland, MI 49423

# Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Bill" Bird*



**Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes** - March 18, 2025 at 10:37 AM

KB

*He will be missed 😞*

**Karen bocks** - March 19, 2025 at 02:51 PM

LD

*My deepest sympathy to Jenine and family*

**larry degroot** - March 20, 2025 at 08:37 PM

JM

*We hold such wonderful memories of not only Bill's giftedness in all facets of music, his love of flowers and nature but his heart and love for his Savior Jesus Christ.*

*We send our deepest condolences at this time of grieving but also a time when we wrap our minds around God's Mercy and Grace.*

*Heidelberg Catechism Q/A-1*

*Garrett & Jean Mulder*

**Jean MULDER** - March 21, 2025 at 10:25 AM

TG

*Bill was so gifted with music, always cheerful, made you feel appreciated!*

**Terry Vande Griend** - March 25, 2025 at 12:18 AM

MV

“ Not a memory, as I did not know him. However, yesterday I was blessed by God to “pick up” a shift serving Kathye Kubica. She was delighted to be in the choir singing with everyone who loved him. I was profoundly moved by the testimony of Jesus shining through the lives of Bill and Jeanine. Each person that spoke blessed those who attended with a window into what our lives can be when completely, joyfully surrendered to Christ.

*My life will be forever changed because I attended this event.*

*Mary Van Der Aa*

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**Mary VanDerAa** - March 21, 2025 at 12:56 PM

BK

“ What a kind and very special man Mr Bird was. Two of my boys had the privilege of participating in Choir, voice lessons and Living Hope with Mr Bird. There are many memories and life lessons that he taught that I could share but one stands out above all. When my oldest son Matthew was in Living Hope they had a ‘concert’ for the parents that was preparation for the upcoming season. My dad had recently been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and had just been moved into a hospice house near Holland Christian. I went to the parents night and sat in the crowd with tears in my eyes as they sang thinking about how much my dad would love to hear this. Of course Mr Bird noticed and after the concert came to me and asked how I was doing. I told him how much my dad loved this music and his grandson and that I wished he would be able to see this. So Mr Bird arranged to have the Living Hope singers come to sing for my dad. They sang How Great Thou Art which was my dad’s favorite song. I held my dad’s hand as we both sang along with tears of joy in our eyes. That night was a blessing to us but also ended up touching so many other families that were in hospice at the at time. So, thank you Mr Bird for allowing God to shine his light through you for so many to see. And it continues to shine !!!

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**Barb Kuyper** - March 20, 2025 at 09:31 PM

LL

“ My sister and law and brother in law (Marylin and John Bright) took me over to Bills to see his amazing beautiful garden! Bill was so kind to give us a tour❤️ what a kind man!! I am so thankful I was able to meet him.

My husband and I are praying for the family🙏

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**lisa Lempke** - March 20, 2025 at 05:03 PM

SS

“ Mr. Bird from Holland's Opus: The Heartwarming HCHS Choir Alumni Reunion to Honor His Legacy



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**Sherif Shaalan** - March 20, 2025 at 02:51 PM

SS

*"Welcome to this inspiring video of the music from the Holland Christian Alumni Choir Night of Worship, held on April 16th, 2023, at Christ Memorial Church in Holland, MI. This event celebrated the life and legacy of a remarkable teacher and mentor, Mr. Bill Bird.*

*Mr. Bird served as the beloved Choir Director at Holland Christian Schools from 1991 to 2009, dedicating himself to countless students' musical and spiritual development. His tireless commitment to his craft and students left an indelible mark on the community, and it was our honor to pay tribute to him through this concert.*

*Over 150 HCHS alumni who love to sing gathered to rehearse and perform sacred choral numbers. The audience, led by former Head of Music at Christ Memorial Church John Bright, was also invited to join them in singing many favorite hymns.*

*Mr. Bird led the choir with exceptional musical skills and a deep understanding of the power of choral music to touch the soul. Throughout the performance, love and appreciation for Mr. Bird were palpable as former students shared stories of his impact and influence. It was a moving experience that left everyone feeling uplifted and inspired.*

*We hope this video captures some of the joy and gratitude that filled the room that night."*

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**Sherif Shaalan** - March 20, 2025 at 08:28 PM

TB

*“ We are forever grateful for Mr. Bird’s investment in the lives of our children. His encouragement of their musical and spiritual gifts through voice lessons, choir, oratorio, Living Hope Singers, and Europe choir tour has made a lasting impact on their lives. And who can forget these words, “To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is unacceptable.” Thank you, Mr. Bird, for you your Godly example, unconditional love, and boundless energy to make a difference in the lives of those who were blessed to know you. You will be deeply missed. ❤️*

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**Trudy Bulthuis** - March 19, 2025 at 08:19 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Bird.*



March 19, 2025 at 03:04 PM



“ *Denny, Colleen Hop. Mike, Jean Madden purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William "Bill" Bird.*



**Denny, Colleen Hop. Mike, Jean Madden** - March 19, 2025 at 10:55 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Hailey Young** - March 17, 2025 at 03:21 PM

TH

“ Jenine, Josh, and Sarah- I am so , so sorry to get the news of your devastating loss. Your dad/ husband was such a good and Godly man who had a huge impact on everyone with whom he came in contact. His ability to connect with young people was incredible and his always positive personality was such an encouragement to everyone . I often told him he was on my all time teacher All Star team ! He was a one in a million personality and was so much fun to be around .... if you could keep up with him and match his energy and enthusiasm! My fondest memories were of our choir trip to Europe with him and Jenine - to watch him in action with his choir students was inspirational! My prayers for all of you as you grieve your loss and walk this difficult path.

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**Tim Hoeksema** - March 17, 2025 at 02:05 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Bird.



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March 17, 2025 at 12:28 PM

PB

“ I was fortunate to have Mr. Bird as my choir director from 6th-12 grade. He saw the gift of music in me, cultivated it so well, and he was the first to encourage me to consider being a choir director and music educator (which I did!). I have so many fond memories. I remember when I was in middle school and he gave me the solo "I'm just a flag waving American" in a patriotic concert at Christ Memorial. He put me in a vest covered in American flags, because of course he did, he's Mr. Bird! I also remember a choir tour to the Netherlands and Germany in 1999 - the framed poster of this tour still hangs at my house. Much love and many blessings to the Bird family and to the greater HCHS and Holland community on the loss of an incredible, inspirational man!

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**Patrick Baker** - March 17, 2025 at 12:27 PM

WS

“ Western Christian High School planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Bird.

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**Western Christian High School** - March 17, 2025 at 11:44 AM

WS

“ Western Christian High School purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of William "Bill" Bird.



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**Western Christian High School** - March 17, 2025 at 11:44 AM

AP

“ Janine dear....oh what wonderful memories I have of us with our dear husbands....in Florida and in your beautiful little outside house and all our musical stuff. You and your dear Bill...my love and prayers are with you sweet one...love you, ann

ann plas - March 17, 2025 at 08:47 AM

KS

“ I had the privilege of serving on the living. Hope committee with Bill Bird for three years. Every day for him was joy filled. I am so grateful for the impact he had on my son, and numerous other HCHS students. My sympathies to his entire family

Kris Swieringa - March 16, 2025 at 10:44 AM

AP

“ My sympathy goes out to the family of Mr. Bird. Choir was always the highlight of my day. He was always at the door greeting you with a smile. He will truly be missed

Amanda(Timmer) Prins - March 16, 2025 at 08:27 AM

DK

“ What an amazing man and fabulous teacher! One of the most significant influences on my life. Thank you, Mr Bird. 💜

Dave Van Kley - March 15, 2025 at 09:54 PM



*“ Bill and I started teaching at Holland Christian the same year and we retired the same year also, He was in the music department and I was in the athletic department, Our teaching settings were across the hall from each other. We shared good mornings and good evenings each day for 21 years, He was a special teacher and friend. We all will miss Bill. Our sympathy to his wife, kids, and grandkids. Mike and Sharon Phelps*

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**Mike Phelps** - March 15, 2025 at 12:58 PM



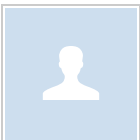
*“ Dear Tom and Rita, our sincere sympathy on the loss of your brother Bill. Prayers that you feel the Lords comfort. Bob & Chris Brown*

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**Christine Brown** - March 15, 2025 at 11:39 AM



*“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" Bird.*

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 March 15, 2025 at 11:23 AM



*“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Bird.*



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 March 15, 2025 at 11:23 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Bird.*



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March 14, 2025 at 03:06 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" Bird.

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March 14, 2025 at 03:06 PM



“ *Mr Bird was an inspiration as a vocal teacher. I always enjoyed his class!*

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**Lena Vollink** - March 14, 2025 at 09:43 AM



“ *Mr. Bird was a true treasure in my life. He was the teacher of a lifetime but he was also a trusted counselor. I think half of our voice lessons were spent talking about life while also challenging me through music. I will always treasure our messages after graduation. I always looked forward to seeing that Facebook Messenger notification from Mr. Bird. Well done good and faithful servant. Heaven has a new choir director.*

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**Justine Taylor** - March 14, 2025 at 09:08 AM

JJ

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Mr Bird earlier this year. I was his tile guy on the project at his home. It was a joy coming to work each day because he always had a kind word for me. His enthusiasm and dedication was very obvious and was infectious. I feel like I'm lucky to have known him. My heart goes out to his family and friends.

James Jansma - March 14, 2025 at 08:30 AM

JR

“ I had the pleasure of serving him lunch, when ever he substituted at Holland Christian. He was always so kind. He always remembered my husband. Who was a graduate of HC in '96. He always was dressed to the 9's💜. It was a joy to get to know him

Jill Raak - March 14, 2025 at 08:12 AM



“ I love you.



Lena Young - March 14, 2025 at 06:45 AM



“ Grandpa was light, sunshine and beauty. He was a true representation of Jesus Christ. I know he's in Heaven directing the choir of angels. Grandpa, I love you to the moon and back. Thank you for making the world beautiful.

Lena Young - March 14, 2025 at 06:38 AM

GZ

“ This obituary of Mr. Bird describes him so well. He was truly a man sent from God! Thank you for your positive encouragement and energy invested in me and so many other students at Western Christian, unforgettable! Gretchen Zomermaand '86

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**Gretchen Zomermaand** - March 14, 2025 at 03:20 AM

VK

“ I have great memories of a teacher who played a significant role in my spiritual formation! I still have the record we recorded in 1973 or 1974 entitled “My Soul, My Life, My All”. Blessings to your family!

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**Veryl Kooi** - March 14, 2025 at 03:20 AM

JD

“ Bill was a great colleague for so many years, and was such a strong man of faith, a lover of people and music, and creative in his classroom and in his love of color and gardening. A true professional artist in so many ways. He'll be greatly missed by thousands who knew and loved him. Rest in Peace now singing with the angels! Likely directing too!

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**Jim DeBoer** - March 13, 2025 at 03:35 PM

RE

We loved Mr Bird. Our sons had the privilege and joy of singing under his direction in both middle school and high school and in Living Hope singers. He often sent personal notes of encouragement to his students. We've always said, “ Bill Bird was God's gift to us and Holland Christian!”

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**Ruth Evenhouse** - March 14, 2025 at 01:30 PM

MI

“ *What an absolute treasure to know and love as a colleague, church member, nature and flower specialist, and of course glorious musician. His positive attitude was contagious to all. Loved seeing him busy with flowers at Family Fare. Sincere sympathy to all. We will certainly be better humans because he shared all of God’s gifts and talents.*

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**MaryJo Iverson** - March 13, 2025 at 03:11 PM