

William "Bill" Tate Sr.

January 21, 1938 - October 27, 2017

William "Bill" Roy Tate Sr., 79, as Bill would say, "barely in his 70's", of Charlotte, died unexpectedly on Friday, October 27, 2017. He was born January 21, 1938, to Oley "Ted" and Helen (Paul) Tate. Bill earned his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in 1971 and he earned his master's degree in Theology from Huntington University in 1992. In 1955 Bill and Betty Fox became high school sweethearts and on May 18, 1957 the couple married. They spent a total of 62 years devoted to one another and created their legacy. Bill worked as a Computer Programmer for Consumers (Power) Energy as well as Tompkins Johnson. His calling however was to be a pastor. Bill served as pastor in Charlotte and surrounding communities for 46 years. He also worked for the Calhoun County Intermediate School District, and later worked as a substitute teacher with the Hastings School District. Bill did all of this and made it look easy. His hobbies included reading/studying historical theology, he loved working in his yard, and building. Bill and Betty built 4 of their homes. He loved watching the Detroit Red Wings and Michigan State Spartans football games and most importantly he loved long distance bicycle trips. Bill successfully completed 5 Dalmac trips, and numerous other distance rides with children and grandchildren. Above all Bill was most proud of his family, especially his devoted marriage with Betty.

He is survived by wife, Betty; daughters, Tamera Conley and Melissa (Mark) Hisler; son, William (Sandy) Tate Jr.; grandchildren, Caleb, Rachel, Bethany,

Timothy, Stephen, Kathryn, Patrick, Paul, Sarah, and Zachary; along with 7 great-grandchildren. Bill is predeceased by his brother James Paul Tate.

Funeral Services are Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 11 a.m. at Pray Funeral Home with Michael Fuller officiating. Visitation is Tuesday, October 31, 2017 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Pray Funeral Home. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to World Vision or Samaritan's Purse. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Bill on his Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 31. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

OCT 31. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral Ceremony

NOV 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Bill" Tate Sr.



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - October 30, 2017 at 10:39 PM

DW

Beautiful

David Wiedling - November 01, 2017 at 11:18 AM

SB

Betty and Family, Please know that I am praying for Peace for you all. Gods Grace has brought you this far and we know He will continue your journey with you. Betty you are and have always been a woman of Honor and Dignity, always standing by Bill. As we thank God for this man we call Bill, we believe he is with his Heavenly Father Until we will meet again Bill!

Stacy Johnson Badger

Stacy Johnson Badger - November 01, 2017 at 07:51 PM

SL

What a beautiful tribute to a precious man who was such an inspiration to us. Randy and Sue Leiter

Sue Leiter - November 02, 2017 at 08:29 PM



Hard to believe that he is gone. He was a great man. I will always love you uncle Bill!!!

Matthew Rupe - November 03, 2017 at 10:12 AM

LB

Bill Tate was instrumental in bringing me to Christ and changed my life greatly. He loved God with all his heart and taught me to do so also. May Betty and his family hold his memory in their hearts always. Lee Beam

Lee Beam - November 05, 2017 at 06:18 PM

DW

“ *My words are insufficient. But God's Holy Written Word is always more than enough in every situation. We have lost a man who was near and dear to us...a brother in Christ.. a warrior for the Gospel. We feel a deep loss and need comfort. Let's pray:*

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, To him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Contextually, these verses may not be a perfect fit. But what applying them to our circumstance, I am encouraged to know... Yet again... That God is in control and...

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

No matter what the future may bring without Bill in our lives, we know no weapon formed against us shall prosper... And that God is for us.

My Uncle Bill Tate impacted me far more than he realized. It wasn't so much his words, it was how he carried himself. He had a confidence and assurance I didn't see in other men. I recognized it even at a young age and I wanted what he had. Because he lead my sister to the Lord, she then lead me to the Lord in 1977. He had

planted a seed in her that was then picked up... Like a bird carrying an acorn... That was dropped on me. It took awhile before it fully took root but I am now a son of God and an heir according to the promise because of Bill Tate.

David Wiedling - November 01, 2017 at 11:04 AM

DR

“*Pastor Tate was the first pastor of the first church I ever attended, From the young age of 11 he bacame a huge part of my belief not only in God but also what a christian man should be. He was the one responsible for me going to Nepal as a missionary then Norway the next year. Trips that have made such a huge impact on me, He has officiated over my family weddings and many of our family funerals. I remember so many times going to his house in Nashville to men’s meeting where we would fellowship and run together. Even as a boy I was welcome to come and watch and learn, He really was a leader of men.*

I would like to send my condolences to the family whom 35 years later I still consider my first true christian family, knowing that the loss is so hard to accept but taking joy in knowing that he was welcomed into heaven and rewarded for a job well done.

Dave Reynolds (son of Shane and Bev McNary)

dave reynolds - October 31, 2017 at 10:13 PM

JP

I grew up in Vermontville with Tammy. I am sorry I did not know about this sooner. To your family please remember all of the fun times and wonderful memories. Tammy we spent lots of fun times with your family and some of the best were having our churches doing things together. I will have you in my thoughts and prayers.

JoDee MacDonald Pruden - November 06, 2017 at 10:59 PM

AH

“ *Bill Tate: Such a personal tribute to God! He sent him home because he was far too precious to be on earth. Dear Betty: my love and my condolences go to you dear friend and Christian sister. Thank you for sharing your precious dear Red-Socked Bill with us. He will-as will you- always have a very special place in our hearts personally and in our Congregational Church in St. Johns. Christian love always. Arlene Hoag*

Arlene Hoag - October 31, 2017 at 02:36 PM

RS

“ *Bill's beautiful heart, he shared freely and courageously. I am grateful for the time that he spent with us as Sabbatical Pastor in St Johns. To serve alongside him was to catch a whiff of the divine love that he preached; now to stand with Betty and family as we look forward is still a profound privilege and witness. To the Family, I say Thank You for sharing Bill so freely with all of us. God bless you.*

Rachael Short - October 31, 2017 at 12:13 PM



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



October 31, 2017 at 06:36 AM

GW

“ I can't pin-point when last our paths met, but it was in the past 12 months.

And before that, I really enjoyed the summer weeks that Bill stood in the pulpit during the summer at First Congregational in St. Johns. There was so much of life that Bill shared freely with the rest of us, both the joyful and the hard things, too. I have no anxiety about his well-being after death. He is back home, so to speak, where we may come to meet again when God wills. Thanks, Bill, for the example of kind words, superior powers of hearing a person truly, and quiet presence. - writing from rural west Japan - Guven Witteveen

G P Witteveen - October 31, 2017 at 06:16 AM



“ 41 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - October 30, 2017 at 09:35 PM

LB

“ I felt great sadness to learn of Mr Tates death, but also deep gratitude to have known such an extraordinary man. He always had something interesting to share about books he was studying or reading. It seemed life was a constant journey of learning for him and I deeply respected that.

We shared a love of language and our last time we saw each other he truly challenged me with two new words..".Pericope" and "Conflate". Such a simple gift but these two words will stay with me always...He shared he built a sermon once around these two words.

My deepest condolences to the family. I know he will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him...

Lori J Brown RDH
Great Lakes Family Dental

Lori Brown - October 30, 2017 at 08:56 PM

BW

“ Betty, I was so sad to hear of Bill's passing. He was a wonderful man and an inspiring minister. Tom and I were blessed to know both of you, and tickled to find out that we both had the privilege of living in the Methodist Parsonage in Maple Rapids. God Bless you and your family.

Beth Webb - October 30, 2017 at 05:24 PM

BB

“ I feel so blessed to have had our paths cross at "Two or More Christian Church".
I know you loved the Lord. You were an amazing Pastor and friend.
Betty,
Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted.

Barb Bullard

Barb Bullard - October 30, 2017 at 04:37 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Tate Sr..



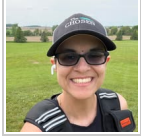
October 30, 2017 at 12:23 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Tate Sr..



October 30, 2017 at 12:16 PM



“ *Betty, i am so, so, sorry of Bills passing. And i am so so sorry i cannot be at the funeral or visitation. Turns out I moved to Arizona a few months ago. Right now, i wish i hadn't. We jad a special relationship Bill and I, i loved razzing him, and i know he loved dishing it right back! I am going to miss that so, so much.*

Rest in peace with them ole red socks Bill!

Ashleigh

Ashleigh Fox - October 30, 2017 at 11:50 AM

JB

“ *Bless you Bill. You will be great
You will be greatly missed by your church family here at “Two Or More” Church Family. Rest In Peace Bill, we’re enjoyed our time spent with you.*

Bob and Joyce

Joyce and Bob - October 30, 2017 at 10:27 AM

JD

“ *Jill and Mike Dunn purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of William "Bill" Tate Sr..*



Jill and Mike Dunn - October 30, 2017 at 09:13 AM

 Sallie
Rupe

“ This is very long and what I posted on FB, but very few Fox family members are on my friends list and I want to share my memories and thoughts with you. Family, please find me! Much love, Sallie Rupe

When you grow up in another country, important extended family members are much more legend than relation. Being with them is like being with a celebrity, and when you lose them the loss is oddly distant. I have been contemplating this a lot the last few days, how in many ways the loss of my Great Uncle Bill leads me to grieve not a relationship but a presence. The gap is not in my heart or life, but in the fullness of my heritage.

From the beginning of my memory I remember knowing two things about Uncle Bill: He and Aunt Betty were “the Christian ones,” and Uncle Bill told my mom about Jesus. It wasn’t until I got older that something struck me about this. It was the husband of my mom’s aunt that told her about Jesus, in the living room of a home of people who were horrified that she invited Jesus into her heart at VBS when she was little, smack dab in the middle of a secular Christmas holiday. It always struck me for some reason that she was led to Jesus by someone who married into the family... I really don’t know why, but in my spirit I have always known that this was significant. This was part of God’s plan, that this man should enter the family and lead my mom to the Lord. And because of that, my mom married a guy who wanted to be a pastor. And because of that, my mom and the man she married have impacted the world for Christ in an overwhelming way. And because my Aunt Betty married my Uncle Bill, I know Jesus. Such an incredible legacy! What a legend.

My first memory of Uncle Bill is a vocabulary lesson. We were at my grandparents’ house in South Bend for a holiday meal (I think, there were a lot of people there anyway). He sat at the head of the table with the French doors behind him. I must have been 5 or 6. I remember walking into the dining area to hear him say, “My legs

aren't that long, but from my CROTCH to my head I'm just really stretched out!" Ah, the words our parents try to shield us from! Really, crotch is such a weird word. And I can't hear or see it, or think about it, without thinking of Uncle Bill's... short legs.(shudder)

He is the first person I ever knew who beat cancer.

I remember visiting his house when my dad preached at his church in Charlotte, and him proudly showing off his new deck. I think I learned how to play horseshoes in his backyard, and we ran around a lot in his huge backyard. The last time I was there was after I was in California, shortly after I started reading the Harry Potter series to connect with one of the kids in the group home I was working at. He didn't judge me, but he told me to pray and guard my heart from witchcraft. I did pray more over it before I made the dive. Harry Potter has, ever since, been for me a source of joy, comfort, and therapeutic illustrations that are very effective when working with younger kids. I was frustrated at the time of that conversation but his words of wisdom led me to pray more about it, and I'm sure this is part of why this series has had such a powerful and positive impact on my life (although I highly doubt that was his actual intention). It was at this same lunchtime conversation that he confused two of his medications that started with "V" and made Aunt Betty turn bright red and almost fall out of her chair laughing!

I pray comfort, hope, and joy over my dear but distant family who mourns the loss of an incredible husband, father, grandfather, and uncle. I myself grieve the loss of the man who had such a deep impact on my life though I barely knew him. The legacy of his love for God and others will ripple through generations, impacting nations for eternity.

Sallie Rupe - October 29, 2017 at 05:45 PM

NN

“ *Such an incredibly fun and loving couple, so sorry for this passage of sorrow. Love the memories.....especially the story of your "honeymoon" visit to Sleeping Bear. :)*

Nancy Nichols - October 29, 2017 at 01:50 PM

NN

“ *2 files added to the album New Album Name*



Nancy Nichols - October 29, 2017 at 12:46 PM

MB

“ *Missy and Mark - I am very sorry - thoughts and prayers for you and your family - Matt*

Matthew Barnes - October 29, 2017 at 11:43 AM

BM

“ *Bill, Debbie, Sallie and Matthew purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William "Bill" Tate Sr..*



Bill, Debbie, Sallie and Matthew - October 29, 2017 at 10:55 AM

JG

“ So many great memories come to mind when I think of Bill and all of his family. He spoke many words of wisdom into my life during my young Christian walk with God. I attribute my strong faith to that early upbringing and the encouragement he has given me over those years. He will be greatly missed by many, love you all!

Jill Garn - October 29, 2017 at 09:01 AM

AR

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



ali rood - October 28, 2017 at 09:33 PM

KP

“ A faithful and loving shepherd. We are thankful to have shared time. You will be missed.
Kathy

kathy pouch - October 28, 2017 at 07:55 PM

MG

“ ... fought the good fight, finished the course, kept the faith. Now his eyes are on the prize, resting in peace and joy! Our sincere sympathy to his beloved family and friends. -M&G

Mike & Gail - October 28, 2017 at 07:51 PM