

William High Fineout

March 24, 1947 - June 14, 2016

The Venerable William H. Fineout, age 69, died on June 14, 2016. He was born March 24, 1947, to Jane Ann High and Donald S. Fineout in Lansing, MI. After graduating from Haslett High School in 1965, he earned a B.A. in library science with a teaching certificate in 1969 and an M.A. in education leadership in 1974. During his 30 years with Fowlerville Community Schools, he worked as a librarian, athletic director, football coach, state champion cheerleading coach, and English teacher.

Bill married Shannon Drotar on June 14, 1985. Together they raised their daughter Kathleen (Kassy) and helped raise his daughter Jill.

After retiring, Bill began the Education for Ministry Program through the University of the South School of Theology in 2004. In 2006, he continued his education with the Ministry Studies Program through the Whitaker Institute, Episcopal Diocese of Michigan. He was a lifetime member of St. Katherine's Episcopal Church, Williamston, which was the church of his diaconal formation. He was ordained to the permanent diaconate on June 21, 2008, and served at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Lansing from 2007-2013. He also served as chaplain for the local chapter of the International Order of St. Luke the Physician, national chaplain for the Doane Family Association of America, and was an instructor/ facilitator for the Whitaker Institute. He was appointed Archdeacon, Episcopal Diocese of

Michigan, on February 25, 2013.

Bill enjoyed sailing, golfing, deer camp, following Michigan State athletics, and had a love of anything Pure Michigan. He was passionate about everything he did, whether it was teaching, building decks, playing card games, telling jokes, fighting cancer, or serving God. He loved nothing better than presiding over backyard family celebrations in East Lansing. His pride and joy were always his children and grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, James. He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Shannon (Drotar) Fineout; his two daughters, Jill (Clif) Schneider, and Kassy (Colter) Sweeney; three grandchildren, Randolph, Dexter, and Kora Schneider; two sisters, Mary Jane (William) McGrath, and Ann Fineout; and several cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 9, beginning 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 218 W. Ottawa St., Lansing MI 48933. The Rt. Rev. Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr. will preside. Visitation one hour prior to service; a reception will follow. Please be advised of the 5K The Color Run Downtown Lansing, alternative routes to the church may be required please click link for map route and street closures (<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/embed?mid=143sYg7qaHrRIGRef3xyTA3-qJ0k>)

Contributions in Bill's memory may be given to the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, 4800 Woodward Ave., Detroit MI 48201-1399, or Ele's Place, 1145 W Oakland Ave., Lansing MI 48905. Arrangements by the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
218 Ottawa Street
Lansing, MI 48933

Service

JUL 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
218 Ottawa Street
Lansing, MI 48933

Tribute Wall

DM

“ To me William Fineout will always be Mr. Fineout. I knew him from my freshman English class in 1981-1982 at Fowlerville High School. I had not seen him since but his smile, friendly manner and infectious good nature have come to mind often throughout the years. He was the perfect teacher to introduce the class to Shakespeare. Some people surely groaned about reading Julius Caesar but I loved it. I still remember Mr. Fineout describing the meaning of certain passages to us in such a way that 9th graders could understand and relate to it. I'd love to be his student again and listen to him talk about Shakespeare, or anything else for that matter. He was very approachable and we shared numerous laughs and good conversation. He was kind and good-hearted and I'm sure he was a delight as a father and grandfather. His family was truly blessed to have such a wonderful person in their lives.

Dennis McGeen - July 08, 2016 at 05:53 PM

DM

“ In 1981, my twin brother Dennis and I were students in Mr. Fineout's 9th grade English class. We have thought of him highly ever since. He was always kind and good natured, and told great stories. I still remember him telling our class about learning to play an early, hand-held video game called Air Traffic Controller, and it was such an entertaining tale, he had us all laughing out loud. He told our class about his adventures with N scale trains, which was great fun for my brother and I, as we were life long model railroad fans.

He inspired my brother and I to pursue our love of creative writing, and read my brother's first short science fiction story to the class, because he liked it so much. My brother then wrote a novella length story, and he liked that so much, he read the first chapter aloud to the class. I had never realized, until then, how written words, even those written by someone young, can reach out and connect people. My brother continued to write for fun throughout high school, and now, many years later, is working on self-publishing his first novel. He also introduced our class to the works of William Shakespeare, and my brother and I were captivated. He was always so positive and encouraging, that we have never forgotten our time in his class. Our hearts and prayers go out to all his family and friends.

Dan McGeen - July 08, 2016 at 05:11 PM

PK


“ I knew Bill when he was a volunteer with Ele's Place, where I worked. He was an excellent support group facilitator and leader, providing compassionate support to the grieving children in his group, and setting a wonderful example for newer facilitators. His passion for helping others was also evident in his calling to become a Deacon. His kind heart and concern for others will be missed greatly

Patrice Klein - July 05, 2016 at 07:50 PM

NA

“ Bill was a teacher, mentor, and friend beginning in my high school years when he was a young teacher and continuing on when he married Shannon, a friend and colleague. He was intelligent, passionate, and caring with a great sense of humor. Not sure if he realized what a huge impact he had on me. Wishing Shannon and their family peace and love.

Norma Jean Acker - July 01, 2016 at 10:42 AM

 Lori
Schaibly

“ I have many memories of Bill which started with him "initiating" me into the infamous Fowlerville teacher's carpool in the mid 1980's. What a joy it was to not only have Bill as a colleague but also to begin and end each day with him. There were always good stories and laughs. What a great sense of humor Bill had! Even after being diagnosed with kidney cancer several years ago, he still made the most of each day and managed to make sure he brightened someone else's. He will forever be remembered by many who enjoyed his friendship, but mostly by Shannon and the rest of his family. His presence will surely be missed. Rest in peace Bill.

Lori Schaibly - June 25, 2016 at 10:37 PM

DD

“ Bill was a tremendous asset to the Doane Family Association as our Chaplain and Board Member. His contributions were always welcome and thought provoking. His humor was what we looked forward to. And his prayers usually made us all smile. He certainly suffered for a long time, but you never heard about it from him. We will miss him. Our love to Shannon, Kassy & Jill.

Dick Doane, Past Pres. DFA

Dick Doane - June 24, 2016 at 11:43 AM

JG

“ *Bill has been a friend of ours all the way back from his sailing days at Tawas Bay Yacht Club. We have spent many happy times together with Bill and Shannon and the kids. We will keep him in our hearts and memories for ever.*

Jan Gallop - June 23, 2016 at 06:33 PM