



## William Dennis Engle

August 8, 1948 - October 23, 2016

### REV. WILLIAM DENNIS ENGLE

Rev. William “Dennis” Engle, 68, passed away on Sunday, October 23, 2016 at The Journey Home in Bartlesville, OK. He was born on August 8, 1948 in Cincinnati, OH to Ethel and Dillard Engle.

Dennis moved to Michigan as a child. He graduated from John Glenn High School in Westland, MI in 1966, and continued on at Eastern Michigan University from 1966-1970, and then Bartlesville Wesleyan College (OWU), earning a Bachelor of Science in Theology in 1982. While he was attending BWC, he was a church planter in Bartlesville, founding Mountain View Wesleyan Church. Dennis also completed some graduate work from Wheaton College, IL.

On March 4th, 1972, he married Connie Jean Whetstine. They were married for 44 years.

After graduating, Dennis began missionary work with Wesleyan World Missions, serving for fifteen years in South Africa and Zimbabwe. He returned to the States in 1999 and pastored at Hall Wesleyan Church in Delphos, KS, was the hospice chaplain in Minneapolis, KS until 2005, and then pastored Lakin Wesleyan Church for a year. In 2009, Dennis was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer’s, and continued seeking employment -- most notably working as a job-coach with individuals with special needs.

Dennis has always connected to music by participating in local theater groups, singing tenor in the choir, and using his voice to praise his Lord Jesus Christ.

He is survived by his wife, Connie; his children, Jonathan, Jennifer, and Jessica; his grandchildren, Christian and Sebastian; his daughter-in-law, Lisa; his sister, Linda; and the rest of his family and friends.

The funeral service will be held at 10:00 AM on October 28, 2016 at First Wesleyan Church in Bartlesville, OK.

Friends who wish may sign the online guest book and leave condolences at [www.stumpff.org](http://www.stumpff.org).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Services

OCT **28**. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Wesleyan Church  
1776 Silver Lake Rd  
Bartlesville, OK 74006  
(918) 333-4760  
<http://www.fwcbartlesville.org>

# Tribute Wall



“ *William Dennis Engle*

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October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ *William Dennis Engle*

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October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of William Dennis Engle.*



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October 27, 2016 at 06:42 PM

NM

“ When my dad sent me a message about Vho (Mr) Engle's passing, I did not respond. He followed up asking if I saw the message. My response was "Yes, I saw it. I have no words. Thanks.". That was 2 days ago.

*Vho Engle was a father to me, a black Venda girl here in South Africa. We met through another missionary family based in my hometown of Thohoyandou, Limpopo Province in South Africa. The La Pointes drove me to start high school at a boarding school in Johannesburg, Gauteng Province in South Africa. We had dinner with Vho Engle's family and Vho Engle immediately adopted me as a daughter. In the next 5 years until I went to university in another province, I was a part of Vho Engle's family.*

*I'll always cherish how Vho Engle fetched me from boarding school every weekend faithfully. I would leave school to find him waiting for me. He was almost never late and never missed a weekend. Being so far from my own family, I now had a home and a family in Johannesburg. Weekends were spent reading books, watching movies with popcorn and of course church with lots of singing. Everyone sang in the family. It was great! Now and then the kids would get an allowance to buy sweets, and I would also get an allowance. He called me his daughter and the cashiers at the shops never could figure out how a white American could have a black child and 3 other white kids. Haha!*

*I remember crashing his computer and all his sermons as I learnt how to use a computer for the first time for a school project. I never knew what a problem I had caused; he never let me know through words or a facial expression. I found out from the kids that it was a HUGE problem my crashing his computer. Such was the depth of love I felt from Vho Engle always.*

*My favourite part of being in the Engles home was when Jen ("my sister in naughtiness") and I would be sent to our room for being naughty. Jen would complain about being banished to the bedroom;*

*I thought it was lovely - we could rest and read. The rural area where I came from, you'd be sent on endless errands by the elders and never had free time! I never saw being sent to my room as punishment, it was blessed rest :). I'll always remember the Engles for giving me my first taste of America and American families. The Engles home was a cosy, happy and loud (yes, Jon) home and I loved belonging there.*

*The kids never forgave me for making them eat burgers for Sunday lunch. There was a tradition at the Engles that on your birthday you chose your favourite meal and mine was burgers at that time. As a rural girl, I had discovered burgers in Johannesburg. Vho Engle was a marvelous cook (in South Africa we are used to thin base pizza, I fell in love with the deep base pizza through his cooking) and Sunday lunches were for delicious soulfood. Alas, my birthday was on a Sunday that year and everyone had burgers for Sunday lunch. Sorry Jen, Jess and Jon!*

*Vho Engle, to me, will remain an angel who walked this earth. He turned a potentially lost and lonely teenage period for me into one where I belonged and was loved. I'll always be grateful and will always have a special place in my heart for him.*

*May the family know we love them and they are in our prayers and our thoughts.*

*Aa,  
Ndivhu Khubana Makhuvha*

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**Ndivhuho Khubana Makhuvha** - October 27, 2016 at 12:03 PM



*Oh, Ndivhu, what a perfectly wonderful sentiment.*

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**Jen Engle** - October 27, 2016 at 04:26 PM



“ *Meet you on the other side uncle Dennis love you*



William Doyle - October 27, 2016 at 02:54 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of William Dennis Engle.*



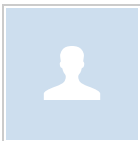
October 26, 2016 at 07:52 PM



“ *Love Diane, Mike, Ron, Jodi, Shawn, Brian purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of William Dennis Engle.*



Love Diane, Mike, Ron, Jodi, Shawn, Brian - October 26, 2016 at 07:34 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of William Dennis Engle.*



October 26, 2016 at 12:40 PM

OL

“ Dennis has been a highly valued friend and co-worker in the gospel ministry in Southern Africa. We spend many ours travelling together in South Africa Swaziland and Zimbabwe, sharing in the challenges of ministry, praying together and offering mutual encouragement to one another. Linda and I and our family spent many happy occasions, visiting with Dennis, Connie, Jonathan , Jennifer and Jessica in their home and in ours. Dennis is a man of God who's love for the Lord was always enthusiastic and contagious. His beautiful mellow singing voice often set the atmosphere of praise and worship and his life of self sacrificing love and care for God's people gave clear testimony to the Savior's love for saints and sinners alike. No eye has ever seen, no ear has ever heard nor can we ever imagine the joy that the Lord has prepared for us in Heaven which Dennis is now enjoying as he joins in with the heavenly chorus of the redeemed. Our prayers are with this precious family at this time of earthly sadness and as we look forward to that glorious day when we shall be reunited for all eternity.

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**Orai D. Lehman** - October 25, 2016 at 11:29 AM

BE

“ Loved singing in the choir with Dennis, listening to him preach the messages from the Lord and challenged to tell about others of God's forgiving Love. We raised our children together before they were called to Africa. He graduated to the Heavenly Choir and service for King of Kings. I am so sorry for loss, but so happy for him. Barbara Eck

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**Barbara Eck** - October 25, 2016 at 11:10 AM

BE

“ My condolences to Connie and the children. Dennis sang at my and Dennis Evans wedding in 1996 at the Wesleyan Church in Craighall Park Johannesburg South Africa  
I have a photo of Dennis and Jessica on our wedding. Kind regards and Gods blessing in this sad time from Beulah Evans

Beulah Evans - October 25, 2016 at 07:02 AM

SA

“ I wish I had had the opportunity to meet Dennis. I know he was much beloved as a father. I remember Jess talking about his beautiful singing voice. Anyone Jess loves that much must have been quite special. My thoughts are with you all.

Sarah - October 24, 2016 at 08:21 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of William Dennis Engle.



October 24, 2016 at 07:55 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Dennis Engle.



October 24, 2016 at 06:23 PM

DG

“ I was mentored by Dennis Engle early in my ministry. I graduated from EWBC and worked with him planting a church in Alexandra, Johannesburg, South Africa. I learned computer skills from him. We did home visits, prayed in hospitals and went to no go areas during riots in South Africa. He served in Limpopo Mamaila area and Gauteng around Johannesburg. I enjoyed his home cooked meals, music, teaching and administration. On behalf of The Wesleyan Church of Southern Africa, I hereby extend words of condolences to the family. May the Lord God comfort you and make His presence real during this time. Blessings

Doctor Galela - October 24, 2016 at 04:30 PM




Thank you for giving our family so much joy with this post. I will share your condolences during Dad's funeral on Friday.

Jen Engle - October 25, 2016 at 05:28 AM

JA

“ I remember Dennis in the Fiddler on the Roof at Neewalloh one year. His voice was wonderful. And his smile was always bright. I bet hes shining in heaven.

Jan - October 24, 2016 at 04:08 PM

 Shannon Ponder

“ So very sorry for your loss. I am so glad he agreed to perform my wedding ceremony even though he was no longer my "official" pastor. My love to all of you.

Shannon Ponder - October 24, 2016 at 02:08 PM

EW

*Dearest Connie, we are so sorry for your loss of Dennis. Our deepest sympathy to your family. Dennis held a special place in our hearts. God hold you tenderly in His arms of comfort and peace. All our love and prayers.*

Elizabeth Williams - October 24, 2016 at 03:20 PM

Jessica Engle

*I actually forgot he married you guys!*

Jessica Engle - October 24, 2016 at 07:22 PM

CJ

*Condolences to Connie and the entire family at the passing of Dennis. You were all such an inspiration to a young Christian called into ministry during the time you spent with us at Craighall Park Wesleyan Church in Johannesburg. I recall with great fondness the Thanksgiving dinner that Dennis prepared for us one year, in particular the pumpkin pie as that was the first time I had ever eaten the dish! May the God of all comfort be your portion at this time of your loss. Love and blessings  
Cheryl Jonck*

Cheryl Jonck - October 25, 2016 at 03:46 AM

Jessica Engle

“ *My mom tells me that my first day of nursery school (preschool), I was crying when I was dropped off and crying when mom and dad picked me up. Because dad was a softie like me, he spent quality time walking around the yard afterwards crying as well because he was so upset.*

Jessica Engle - October 24, 2016 at 01:55 PM



“ *Connie Jean Engle was added to the Family Tree.*

Jen Engle - October 24, 2016 at 01:53 PM



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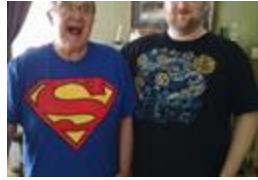


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**Jen Engle** - October 24, 2016 at 01:46 PM



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**Jen Engle** - October 24, 2016 at 01:45 PM



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**Jen Engle** - October 24, 2016 at 01:44 PM