



## Janet F. Gabrielse

September 15, 1944 - June 11, 2018

Janet Florence (Schutt) Gabrielse went to be with her Lord and Savior on June 11, 2018. She was born in Worth, Illinois, in September, 1944, to the late Herman Schutt and Martha (Ridderhof) Schutt. Her parents instilled in Janet and her siblings' hearts for ministry and missions, by ministering as a family in depressed areas of Southside Chicago. Janet attended Trinity Christian College and went on to graduate from Calvin College with a bachelor's degree in education. While at Calvin, she met and married her loving husband of 52 years, Leonard Gabrielse.

After graduating from college, Janet taught for two years before she and Len moved to Mkar, Nigeria, with Christian Reformed World Missions. For the next eight years, Janet lived as a missionary in Nigeria. She taught Bible and English to the hospital's nursing and laboratory students, taught at Mkar Teachers' College, had two children, organized preschool education with other missionary mothers, improved conditions at the local orphanage, and welcomed travelers and new missionaries.

After leaving Nigeria, Jan & Len lived in Illinois for two years where their two youngest children were born. In 1978, the cold, northern winters drove the family to Bradenton, Florida.

Jan became an active member of Bradenton Christian Reformed Church; singing in the choir, leading Children's Worship, and organizing Vacation Bible Schools. She also was a Coffee Break leader and ladies' Bible study leader. In addition to her roles at the church, Jan served on the BCS admissions committee and on the school board for several years.

An empty nest prompted Jan to return to school. She earned a master's degree in special education and eventually became head of the Special Education program at Bradenton Christian School. She served at BCS for 17 years, retiring in 2012.

Jan enjoyed being surrounded by her family, traveling, camping, gardening, raising butterflies, and keeping up with world events and political news, but her true passion in life

was to glorify her Lord and Savior through loving, educating, mentoring, and humbly serving others and their children.

Janet is survived by her husband, Leonard; her children, Stephen and Rachel (Meiste) Gabrielse, Margeri (Gabrielse) and Greg Talbot, Julie (Gabrielse) and Jon Hollaar, Michelle Gabrielse; and 8 grandchildren, Jordan Patterson, Jacob Patterson, Kyle Rice, Cameron Talbot, Jaxson Talbot, Grace Hollaar, Alena Hollaar, and Bethany Hollaar; her brother Herman and Gayle Schutt, and Raymond and Beverly Leerar. Janet is preceded in death by her parents, her sister Marlene, and her brother Richard.

A memorial service will be held at 7:00 PM, Friday, June 15, 2018, at Bradenton Christian Reformed Church located at 4208 26th St W, Bradenton, FL 34205 (941-753-6465 / BradentonCRC.org). There will be a second memorial service at 11:00 AM on June 23, 2018, at Munster Christian Reformed Church, 214 Ridge Road, Munster, IN, 46321 (219-836-1400 / munsterchurch.org).

Memorial donations can be sent to Bradenton Christian School.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN **15**. 7:00 PM (ET)

Bradenton Christian Reformed Church  
4208 26th Street West  
Bradenton, FL 34205  
<http://www.bradentoncrc.org>

# Tribute Wall

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“ *Memorial Service in Bradenton: June 15*

*<https://www.facebook.com/813303608/posts/10156400987863609/>*

*Memorial Service in Munster, IN: June 23*

*<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CgHdMf-IGCbHjqVJFpHkaZ9XaSNdNGwx/view?usp=sharing>*

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**Leonard Gabrielse** - July 08, 2018 at 07:19 PM

“ At June 15 service - Margeri (Gabrielse) Talbot

*Steve and Rachel planned to be here today and speak, but due to traffic complications could not be here on time.*

*Steve told us what he wanted to say is ...that our focus should not be on mourning, but on celebrating a new life for Mom and focus on gratitude for the blessing she was and still is in our lives.*

*How great is the economy of God and his kingdom ... that a timid, small woman like mom could end up on the mission field abroad, growing his kingdom and spreading his word.*

*Following God can be such an adventure ... because each day we do not know what the day will bring, but we know who is in charge of that day.*

*Reflecting back on her life we can see that it was not just her life that we were witnessing, but Jesus life lived in and through her.*

*In reflecting on her life, it was clear that her stature could not be measured in height, ... her power could not be measured in her own strength, ... Her wealth was not in her possessions, ... her value was not in all her accomplishments, ... and her happiness was not a product of her circumstances. Her wealth was in her family, her church, and in the kingdom of God*

*Ephesians 5:22 tells us 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

*The fruits of the spirit were the true measure by which we could see that it was Jesus living in her.*

*Margeri added she was a woman of prayer: the first thing she did in the morning was, (after she got a cup of coffee), was sit on her couch with her feet curled beside her, ad read her bible and pray..*

*So we celebrate the life of Jesus in our mom in this service.*

*Luke 18:15-17*

*15 Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them.*

*16 But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.*

*17 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."*



“ *A Grandmother’s Prayer*  
By Jan Gabrielse

*Almighty God, loving Father,*

*Thank you for trusting your precious children and grandchildren to our care.*

*We are grateful for the privilege of influencing young lives for your glory.*

*Thank you for your promises to give us all things we need for life and godliness.*

*Equip us with all the love, wisdom, and patience needed to raise them in the fear and love of the Lord.*

*Use us to exemplify trust in you as our provider.*

*May we encourage and support them to discover the talents and gifts you have hidden within them, and to develop them for your glory.*

*Give them eyes to see your creative power in the beauty of the butterflies and flowers, ears to hear your power in the storms and the still small voice to guide us.*

*Give us the courage to speak the truth in love, to correct and discipline them, and train them in godly conduct and self-control.*

*As we nurture these seedling and saplings, may we see evidence of the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

*May we tell them of your marvelous deeds and declare your power to the next generation.*

*Psalm 45:17 I will perpetuate your memory through all generations; therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.*

*Psalm 71: 16-18 I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, Sovereign Lord; I will proclaim your righteous deeds, yours alone Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.*

*Psalm 78:2-4 I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old— things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.*

*When they stray from the narrow path and chase trivial pursuits, remind us of your covenant promises to be a God to us and our children. Good Shepherd, when your children become entangled in false teachings or worldly lifestyles, lift them up, free them from addictions, and carry them tenderly back to the security of your presence and the support of your family.*

*May we pass on to future generations a legacy of knowing, loving, and serving you.*

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**Amanda Shields** - June 19, 2018 at 11:23 AM

“ In Memory of Janet Florence Gabrielse June 15,2018

*Lately I have been hearing a lot, through sermons and Bible Study about the importance of living for Christ every day. Showing Him in everything we do, and sharing Him, and His love with others. Not just for while we are here, but for a legacy we can leave for Him to pass on to others when we leave this earth. I now know what Paul meant when he told his followers that he was not afraid to die, because he knew, what he had .implanted in them about Christ, would be passed on for generations to come. And through Jan's passing, and reflecting on what she had done with her life, I now know why that is so important. Jan will be remembered for many things, but she will always be remembered for what she did for Christ.*

*Especially her work with children. I remember when my grandson, Efrain, was only 4, and attended the Children's Worship. Sometimes I would leave the sermon early just to see what was going on. I would peek through the window, on the door, and see the children sitting in a circle on the floor. Jan would be telling them a story about Jesus. Every eye was focused on her, and listening to what she had to say. Then she would have the children line up, and give each one of them a hug goodbye, letting them know she loved them. Even many years after when Efrain would see Jan in the hall, he would remark "that was my Sunday School teacher." He would then go up to her, and give her a hug. Just as she always did to him ..... No one ever forgets love.*

*Jan not only had that special love for her church children, but for her own as well. When Margeri gave one of her kidneys to her son, so he could have a better life, I thought that gift was priceless. And when Steven use to come over MANY times to help fix my car, I was so very grateful he took the time to do so. The car is 1ong gone, but the kindness he showed will always be with me. These acts of kindness, and compassion, we are not born with. They are learned and taught. Jan taught her children well.*

*So to Jan's family I would like to say: that when you find yourself missing her, you have no further to look than the mirror. Because everything she taught you, everything she gave you, is implanted in you forever. And it will be passed on to your children, and to their children, and go on for many years to come ..... And that is what a legacy is all about.*

*Hold on to what is good even If it is a handful of earth.  
Hold on to what you believe even  
If it is a tree which stands by itself.  
Hold on to what you must do even If it is a long way from here.  
Hold on to life even when it is easier letting go.  
Hold on to my hand even when  
I have gone away from you.*

*Karen Kirk-Falk*

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**Amanda Shields** - June 19, 2018 at 11:17 AM



“ *I have no specific story or experience to share, but want to state the love and respect I had for her. She lived a life of selflessness and worked to help others and take care of her family. She was always sweet and fun to talk to in the limited occasions our families saw each other. She will be missed by many and have a place in heaven.*

*Curtis Gabrielse*

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**Curtis Gabrielse** - June 15, 2018 at 10:39 PM