

A Neighbor's Story - Mark Anderson - 3133 Elliot Avenue

As of May 30th of this year, I will have been a neighbor to those living on the 3100 blocks of Tenth and Elliot avenues for 51 years. I believe it is time that I share my story with you.

My wife Jan, a cellist, and I, a violinist/violist, met in the Roosevelt High School and University of Minnesota orchestras. We were drawn together by our faith in Jesus Christ and our desire to serve Him in the city. In 1968, we graduated from the University of Minnesota, embarked on teaching careers, and married. In 1973, we were looking to buy a house in South Minneapolis. We felt called to open our home to other people.

When we moved into 3133 Elliot on May 30, 1973, a single mother and her three children, along with another single woman, joined us. Within a couple of weeks, the single mother left to get treatment for severe alcohol abuse. On January 11, 1974, Jan lost her eight-year battle with cancer, two days after her 28th birthday. She had a strong faith and had written many of her thoughts on a Christian view of sickness and dying, which we later published in a booklet. Prayers and support from friends and family were critical for me during this devastating time in my life.

Less than a year after moving into 3133, I found myself a single parent of three foster children. Some time later, God brought me together with Nancy, a woman from my church. We have celebrated over 50 years of marriage and have raised three sons, Peter (born 1976), Tom (born 1980), and Stephen (born 1987), in our home. The foster children stayed with us until 1981 when their mother assumed responsibility for them. Now we are empty nesters with eight grandchildren coming over to visit from time to time.

I taught math for seven years after college, was a staff member of Augustana Lutheran Church for 21 years, and finished up teaching at Roosevelt High School for 14 years before retiring in 2011. In 2012, I was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. It was a relief to put a name to the symptoms I was experiencing. Parkinson's is not curable, but it is treatable. Exercise is therapy. I am staying active and am holding my own.

In my yard, more than 50 vegetable gardens have been planted, harvested, and plowed under. Arbor Day saplings have been planted, matured, and died. Our children were born, grew up, and moved on to lives of their own.

This has been a great community to raise our family in, with good neighbors, quiet streets, and a wonderful natural and recreational resource in Powderhorn Park. I have no specific timetable for leaving Elliot Avenue, but it is inevitable that I will be moving on someday to some nice senior community or to my Heavenly home.

John 14:1-4

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

I would like to invite you to be my neighbor in Heaven too.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life

I am still relying on Jesus Christ and his promises to determine my future.

"Therefore since we are receiving a kingdom that can not be shaken, Let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe for our God is a consuming fire!" Hebrews 12:25

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6.

"Have no anxiety about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4

Mark Anderson

Please contact me, I would like to pray with/for you.