

Bob Zeigler Interview**

March 7, 1921 – January 29, 2023

****INTERVIEW WAS DONE IN OCTOBER 2019. A FEW ADJUSTMENTS TO WORDING WERE MADE TO POSTHUMOUSLY REMEMBER HIM**



Robert “Bob” Zeigler was born on March 7, 1921 in North York. He had been a life-long member of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, baptized at the old white church that’s located on the corner of 8th Avenue and North George Street, which is currently occupied by a Vietnamese church.

Bob worked at a Naval Ordnance Plant for 6 years and then at Weaver Piano Company for a term before taking a job in printing as a graphic artist in 1946. He worked there for 37 ½ years, retiring in 1983.

One tradition he had growing up at St. Peter’s was attending oyster suppers hosted by the church. His father padded the oysters, and his mother made the oysters. He had also served on Church Council, during which he was the head of the Worship and Music Committee.

One of his enjoyments in recent years was being a part of the Live Nativity. He would help with the setting up and made sure the luminaries were lit during the event.

Before the current location of the church was built in 1929, the Zeigler family were given privileges to live in a house located on the property, as his father was serving on Church Council. Once groundbreaking occurred, he and his family had to find another place to live.

Bob and his siblings were all married at St. Peter’s. His sister was taken around on a horse and buggy after the ceremony. Bob married Mildred on July 28, 1942 and have now been married for 77 years as of this writing!¹

Bob met Mildred in 1941. He went over to her house every night for over a year. One night, Mildred told him not to come as she was going away, but he decided to head to her house anyway. He had written her a love letter, which he still had to this day. The only time he had been away from her for more than a few hours was if he was in the hospital, as he never hunted or fished or did many activities that took him away for long periods from his wife.

Bob and Mildred lived in North York until the Route 30 bypass led to their house being condemned. They moved to Pineview Drive in 1957 and lived there for 62 years before moving to SpiriTrust Lutheran on Sprengle Drive [in October 2019].

¹ Mildred passed away January 21, 2021. They were married 78 ½ years at the time of her death.

Bob was one of only two remaining living original members of St. Peter's Sunday School Orchestra. He played the drums in the orchestra from 1943 until it disbanded around 1994. He also played in the high school band and orchestra; he continued to help with the band after he was married.

Bob tried to form a band in North York, but it fell apart when all the members were drafted into World War II. The band was only able to play once, which was at a block party on 5th Avenue. The group played on the back of a truck. For the trumpets, he had purchased World War II helmets to use as mutes, which he referred to as "wah-wahs". Bob also purchased all the music himself. The music was donated to Central York High School and given to a kids' orchestra called the Jive Bombers.

Besides playing the drums, Bob also did wood carvings and paints. Many of his works could be seen all around their home. Birds seemed to be his favorite thing to carve. Notice them in the picture at the beginning of the article. Every year for many years he had done Santa carvings that are displayed around Christmastime.

Some of Bob's favorite hymns were *Amazing Grace*, *Just a Closer Walk*, and *How Great Thou Art*.

St. Peter's was a part of Bob's life and is in his heart. He had enjoyed being a member of the church all of his life and had remained loyal to St. Peter's even through many of the hard times that have occurred at the church in the many decades of his life.

If anyone wanted to hear some interesting stories about the early years of St. Peter's Lutheran Church and North York, Bob Zeigler was the one to see. He had plenty to tell in his nearly 102 years of life in the area.