



## Diane M. Row

December 16, 1955 - August 9, 2016

Diane Marie (Tullberg) Row died peacefully on August 9, 2016 in Grand Island, Nebraska following a long battle with metastatic breast cancer; she was 60.

Diane was born on December 16, 1955 in Sioux City, Iowa to Myron and Gwendonna (Murfin) Tullberg. She spent her childhood on dairy farms in northeast Nebraska, creating in Diane a deep connection with the land that lasted all her life. She was the second of five children and she was a devoted sister who adored (and occasionally sassied) her siblings. Diane was always bright and insatiably curious. She encountered a number of early influential teachers who recognized and developed her intelligence, creativity, and work ethic. Diane graduated from Wakefield Public High School in 1974; she became the first person in her family to pursue a Bachelor's degree, studying first at Doane College before completing a Fine Arts in Education degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1978.

In college, Diane met Mike Row, her best friend for the rest of her life. They were married on July 15, 1979 and spent the next 37 years laughing together, pestering each other, supporting one another, learning together, and loving one another in the model of Jesus. They raised three children: Lindsey, David, and Daniel. Diane jokingly awarded them "Perfect Child Points" when they did things that pleased her (like fetching her more M&Ms or boasting about their Swedish heritage), but she shone with pride when they stood up for one another and pursued their passions.

After two years teaching at Stromsburg High School, Mike and Diane left Nebraska for Texas, attending Christ for the Nations Institute in Dallas; both received associate degrees in Practical Theology there in 1982 and went on to be ordained by the Church of the Brethren, Mike in 1982 and Diane in 1984. Diane was a gifted preacher, and she and Mike served congregations of many denominations who were between pastors or whose pastors were temporarily absent. For the last decades of her life, she was a vital member of Salem Mennonite Church in Shickley. The Saturday morning women's Bible Study became a special source of faith and friendship for Diane. In 2009, she became the first woman to be elected to the Salem's board of Elders, and she served the church faithfully

in that role for several years.

Diane's greatest ministry was always in the classroom. She was an exceptional educator and she cared for her students fiercely. She taught first at Stromsburg, then Fillmore Central, and finally, for 15 years, at Deshler Public Schools. Hundreds of students can testify to her tremendous gifts as a teacher. She invested mountains of time and energy into developing the best art program she could muster and her dedication was evident in her students' work. (Of course, as much as she cared about teaching, she also enjoyed a day off, and Diane delighted in leading her students in "snow dances" designed to encourage blizzards.) Most of all, Diane loved her students; she wanted them to learn and love art, but she wanted them to be better people first. Because of her, they were.

While cancer troubled the last years of Diane's life, they were still years rich with joy. She still loved making new friends with random people in convenience stores, loved going on "adventures" where the itinerary was determined by whim, loved watching silly TV shows, loved teasing everyone around her (especially Mike), loved insisting that we stop and read every historical marker we passed on the road. Most of all, she loved spending time with her family. The birth of her grandson Silas in 2014 made these last years particularly blessed; Diane was so proud to be his Grammy. She fought her illness with relentless determination and courage, and through Mike's deep care of her, the assistance of her wonderful doctors, the support of her community, and the grace of God, she enjoyed a full and joyful life until the end. She died confident of even greater joy in the life to come, at peace in the love of Jesus.

Diane is survived by her husband of 37 years, Michael Row; daughter and son-in-law Lindsey and Zachary Row-Heyveld of Decorah, Iowa; sons David Row of Lansing, Michigan and Daniel Row of Madison, Wisconsin; and her beloved grandson Silas Row-Heyveld of Decorah. She is also survived by her four siblings and their spouses: Linda (Monty) Granfield of Randolph, NE, Dennis (Melia) Tullberg of Wakefield, NE, Connie (David) Herbster of Sabetha, KS, and Gary (Michelle) Tullberg of Lenox, IA; her parents-in-law, Doug and JoAnn Row of Bruning; brothers- and sisters-in-law: Mark (Eileen) Row of Lincoln, Jeff (Sally) Row of Bruning, Valerie (Dan) Papik of Crete, and Michelle (Steve) Vogt of Wichita, KS; many nieces and nephews; and many cousins. She was preceded in death by her mother, Gwendonna Tullberg; her father, Myron Tullberg; and her niece, Brenna Herbster.

Funeral services for Diane were held on Saturday, August 13, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Salem Mennonite Church, rural Shickley, Nebraska. Pastors Shawn Nolt & Matthew Troyer-Miller officiated the services. Judy Lichti accompanied the congregation and Roxie

Schlegel led in the singing of "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," "My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less," and "When Peace Like A River."

Pallbearers for the service included Spencer Tullberg, Dawson Tullberg, Kevan Herbster, Brad Petersen, Jeremy Row, and Ben Row. Interment was held in the Bethel Cemetery following the funeral service. Memorials are directed to the Royal Family Kid's Camp, PO Box 83995, Lincoln, NE 68501. Donations can also be made through <http://gi-york.royalfamilykids.org/donations/>

Farmer & Son Funeral Home conducted the services. Online condolences may be left at [www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com).

# Tribute Wall

JR

“ I just saw that she passed away! I'm so very sorry. Mrs. Row was my art teacher in Stromsburg my sophomore year. She really encouraged me, but I really was NOT good at art! Our class was kind of crazy, a couple of senior boys kept her on her toes. I was thankful to have our love for Jesus as our bond. May you all be comforted in knowing she is whole, in the presence of our Savior and you will see her again!

Julie (McWhirt) Rosenquist

Julie Rosenquist - February 10, 2017 at 11:50 PM

EE

“ Mike and family,  
I had the pleasure of working along with and becoming friends with Diane during her tenure at Deshler Public School. I can honestly say she was a delight to be around and was a fantastic teacher. She was an outstanding inspiration to all who knew her and especially all those she was involved with at school. God's richest blessings to you all. Edith Effenbeck

Edith Effenbeck - August 17, 2016 at 05:16 PM



“ 71 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - August 13, 2016 at 01:06 PM



“ Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of Diane M. Row.



August 13, 2016 at 11:59 AM

JP

“ My deepest sympathy to the family of one of the nicest persons I have ever known. Diane always had a smile for everyone. She will be so well remembered. Danny, you had a wonderful mother who was so proud of you. Please share with your dad that he is to be commended for all the help he did for Diane. I saw what he did getting her to school and helping her there, and I am sure he did 100 times that much for her at home. Diane's gracious and loving spirit will live long in my memory.  
May God's peace and comfort be with you all.  
Julia Pohlmann, substitute at DPS.

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**Julia Pohlmann** - August 12, 2016 at 03:51 PM

LC

“ Wow, so many memories, it's tough to put them on paper. Remembering our years at Doane College, living in Frees Hall and joining Phi Sigma Tau. We'll remember Diane through all the fun and laughter she shared with us.

*Mike and Diane made the perfect couple from the very beginning, a match to last a lifetime. Her family, friends and faith were always so important to her. We loved reading about your children and can see your positive influence through them.*

*It goes without saying (but I'll say it anyway), Diane loved life, she dearly loved Mike and her ever-growing family, and we're all better people for having known her.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you and she'll be forever in our hearts. Much love and deepest sympathy.*

*Laura, Marcia, and Jan*

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**Laura Cavallo** - August 12, 2016 at 11:55 AM

LS

“ Laura, Jan & Marcia (Phi Sigma Tau sisters) purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Diane M. Row.



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**Laura, Jan & Marcia (Phi Sigma Tau sisters)** - August 12, 2016 at 11:48 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Diane M. Row.*



August 12, 2016 at 11:10 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Diane M. Row.*



August 11, 2016 at 10:25 PM

JA

“ *I was young when I was asked to be a sponsor for her baptism. I didn't get to know her much as she got older, but I know she grew up to be a good person.*

Janice - August 11, 2016 at 10:01 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Diane M. Row.*



August 11, 2016 at 02:56 PM

“ Steve and I visited with Diane and Mike one evening at school, after a musical performance, I believe. She had just been newly diagnosed with cancer, and from what we had been told, the outcome wasn't going to be bright. I remember them standing there together, with huge & adoring smiles on their faces, like a couple of high school sweethearts. We asked them how things were going, how they were handling the devastating diagnosis... and they both said they were going to do more things that ordinarily they'd be too busy for - things they felt they had to restrain from. The main thing that sticks out in my mind was them both saying they were going to eat more steak, and not feel guilty about it :) There were many things they said that evening that have stuck in my mind and have been an ongoing inspiration to me. Diane's faith in God and her indelible adoration for her family were written all over her being. She was the very essence of faith and commitment. We've only had the pleasure of watching Danny in his high school years, admiring his incredible talent and magnetic, hilarious personality, but Gage and Lane got to know David too, through RFKC. What amazing family, the Row's. Being part of the Lichti tribe now gets us an even closer seat in knowing and following the Row's as they continue to grow and flourish. We will miss Diane tremendously - but knowing we get to see her through all of you is our gain. God's richest blessings to each of you as you travel along the road of grief and healing. With warmest sincerity, Steve & Jill Baker

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**Jill Baker** - August 11, 2016 at 08:58 AM