



## Nellie S. Birdsall

March 21, 1931 - January 16, 2023

Nellie S. Birdsall, 91, of Huntington, passed away at 2:42 pm Monday, January 16, 2023, at her Daughter's residence.

Nellie was born on March 21, 1931, in Chambersburg, PA, the daughter of Robert Elser and Dora (Saunders) Elser. She graduated from Chambersburg High School with the class of 1949 and then went on to receive her Bachelor of Science in Education at Huntington College and later earned her Master's Degree in Education and a Master's Degree in Counseling both at Indiana University Fort Wayne. While at Huntington College she fell in love and married Russell H. Birdsall on September 3, 1951, in Chambersburg, PA. They shared sixty-nine years of marriage before he preceded her in death on February 3, 2021. Nellie retired from Huntington Community School Corporation after 22 years of service. She was a faithful member of the College Park Church in Huntington, IN.

Nellie and her husband were missionaries from 1957-1968 for the Church of the United Brethren in Christ in Sierra Leone, West Africa. After retirement they continued their missionary work in Jamacia and Macau. She was a believer in giving back to the community as a volunteer teacher in the Huntington Jail and serving on the alumni board for Huntington University. Nellie enjoyed cooking for others and planning dinners. She always welcomed anyone to stay at their home for a night or an extended period. Nellie was a

true servant of the Lord and truly had a giving heart. She had a special bond with her Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren and looked forward to their time spent together making treasured memories.

Survivors include her Daughter, Sharon K. (Kevin) Cherry of Huntington, IN; Two Granddaughters, Amy Marie (Andy) Wiebe of Bornheim, Germany, Allison Cherry of Huntington, IN; Three Grandsons, Ryan (Katie) Cherry of Chicago, IL, Jason (Michelle) Cherry of Lakeside, MT, Andrew (Kayla) Cherry of Newport, MI; Eleven Great Grandchildren, Andy Matthew Wiebe, Alec Wiebe, Austin Wiebe, Aaron Wiebe, Adele Wiebe, Benjamin Cherry, Isabella Cherry, Brielle Cherry, Adalyn Cherry, Nora Cherry, Eliza Cherry; Brother, Theodore (Barbara) Elser of Dagsboro, DE. She is preceded in death by her Husband, Russell Henry Birdsall, Father, Robert H. Elser, Mother, Dora E. Elser, Brothers, Robert Elser, Jack Elser, Walter Elser, Sisters, Louise Elser, Dorothy Ramsey, Mary Gamble and Martha Misner.

Visitation will be from 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm Friday, January 20, 2023, at Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, IN. Funeral services will be held at 12:00 pm Saturday, January 21, 2023, at College Park United Brethren Church. There will be one hour of visitation prior to the service. She will be buried next to her husband at Marion National Cemetery in Marion Monday, January 23, 2023

Preferred memorials to Huntington University or United Brethren Global, in care of Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, IN, 46750.

Please sign the online guest book at [www.baileylove.com](http://www.baileylove.com).

Bailey-Love Mortuary is honored to serve the family of Nellie S. Birdsall.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **20**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary  
35 West Park Drive  
Huntington, IN 46750  
(260) 356-1710  
wecare@baileylove.com  
<https://www.baileylove.com>

## Service

JAN **21**. 12:00 PM (ET)

College Park Church  
1945 College Ave.  
Huntington, IN

## Burial

JAN **23** (ET)

Marion National Cemetery  
1700 E. 38th St.  
Marion, IN 46953

# Tribute Wall

BL

“ *Bailey-Love Mortuary has created this video tribute in memory of Nellie Birdsall.*



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**Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary** - January 19, 2023 at 12:21 PM

LB

“ *Ms. Birdsall was my fifth grade teacher! She was amazing, caring, and challenged us to always give 110%. She taught us how to play Mancala and always made us laugh. Prayers for her family.*

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**LAURA M BURGESS** - February 06, 2023 at 10:21 AM

JB

“ *I'm grateful for the opportunity to get to know and work with Nellie and Russ in Macau. They were mentors and teachers to many friends here. Nellie's hospitality and desire to make everyone feel welcomed spoke of God's love through action in ways that words could not express. You have run the race well, Nellie! Till we meet again... love, Jen B*

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**Jen B** - January 21, 2023 at 11:41 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Nellie S. Birdsall.



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January 20, 2023 at 12:33 PM



“ To Sharon, Kevin & Family,

*I cannot remember a time when Nellie didn't have an impact on my life. From the time I was a young girl, she and Russ were totally invested in my life and the lives of my friends through Children of Faith. I think maybe even Bible Quizzing & Alpha Teens. I have so many wonderful memories of Nellie through our families' friendship over the years, and in the many ways they served Huntington College/University, and College Park United Brethren Church together. As recently as the last couple of years, Nellie & I enjoyed fellowship in the S.A.L.T. ministry. In all of these instances, she exemplified for me what it meant to have a daily and lasting relationship with our Lord and Savior. Nellie, you will be missed so much. Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Sharon, Kevin & family, you will be forever in my thoughts and prayers. Just imagine the reunions we will have with our parents.*

*Carla Zurcher*

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Carla Zurcher - January 20, 2023 at 11:05 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nellie S. Birdsall.*



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January 19, 2023 at 08:49 PM



“ *She was my elementary teacher. She was one of the best teachers I had:) my condolences to the family*

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**Sean Little** - January 19, 2023 at 06:46 AM



“ *Thank you where one of my favorite teachers u went the extra mile to help me get through with my vision problems I will never forget how u helped me and I have so much respect for all the people who u touch there lives in Huntington County*

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**Roger Parker** - January 19, 2023 at 03:30 AM



“ *I will always remember Nellie as a warm, caring and loving encourager.  
I especially appreciated Russ and Nellie's support when I was a student pastor at New Hope.*

*I regret that I am unable to be in Huntington for the celebration of her life.*

*Duane Walter*

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**Duane Walter** - January 19, 2023 at 12:41 AM

PF

“ Patti Kuntz and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Nellie S. Birdsall.



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**Patti Kuntz and family** - January 18, 2023 at 11:17 PM

PK

“ I've known Nellie for over 45 years...what a funny, loving, contagious, mentor, confidant, precious soul and friend she was. We traveled together to Jamaica a few times on mission trips. She is one of the reasons I fell in love with missions within the UB Church. I'm so thankful we communicated via Christmas cards this year. She's where she has always desired to be, in the arms of Jesus, and now with Russ. Nellie, I love you and I miss you already!  
Patti Kuntz

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**Patti Kuntz** - January 18, 2023 at 11:08 PM

TD

“ Sending love Sharon and Kevin I will be praying  
Sincerely,  
Taimi and Mark Demeuse

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**Taimi Demeuse** - January 18, 2023 at 07:31 PM

HC

“ Heart O' The Lakes UB Church purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Nellie S. Birdsall.



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**Heart O' The Lakes UB Church** - January 18, 2023 at 06:59 PM

KF

“ Growing up I always enjoyed our time visiting Russ, Nellie and Sharon. Special people!! 😊❤️🙏 Kim Oden Fusselman

Kim Fusselman - January 18, 2023 at 05:58 PM

JB

“ Joe Jannie Bickel lit a candle in memory of Nellie Birdsall



Joe and Jannie Bickel - January 18, 2023 at 04:16 PM

CH

“ Mrs. Birdsall was the the greatest 5 th grade teacher she had three of the five Hoffman Kids. But more importantly she was a part of my Christian walk. She always gave me a hug every time she saw me and always asked how I was. This woman Nellie Birdsall meant so much to me she will be deeply missed

Christy Hoffman - January 18, 2023 at 03:54 PM

PB

“ Nellie was such a sweet, quiet lady who shared her home with the Women's Missionary group, shared booklets on grief after a loved one passed through Stephen Ministers, and just generally always helpful to others. She's now in the arms of Jesus & joins her husband now.



Patricia Brown - January 18, 2023 at 03:46 PM

BM

“ *My kids had her for a teacher. Always a joy to talk to and a great listener. A special lady who was always there for others.*

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**Bev Moon** - January 18, 2023 at 02:45 PM

GI

“ *One of the sweetest people I have ever met. Always a smile and a hug. Every time. She will be missed.*



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**Ginger** - January 18, 2023 at 12:36 PM

JC

“ *Nellie was one of the most tender, cheerful, fun-loving, practical, adventurous, devout Christ-follower that I have ever known. When I became a full-time Children’s Pastor, she was a regular volunteer each Wednesday. What an encourager! I love that lady!*

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**janet clark** - January 18, 2023 at 12:22 PM

DS

*It didn’t take long to be around Nellie to see that her heart was captured by her Lord, Jesus Christ. I met her when she became a literacy tutor. I will never forget this kind and sweet woman. Truly a woman to admire and emulate, now in the arms of her Savior.*

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**Dawn Schmidt** - January 19, 2023 at 08:34 AM

LC

*I met Nellie and Russ in Macau during my 6 years there teaching with UB Missions ESL, and teaching missionary children. When I returned to the States, and found my husband, Russ was the pastor who married us. It was such a blessing that he was willing to play that role, since I had been out of the States so long, and didn't have a local pastor. As Tim and I started out our marriage, Russ and Nellie were our mentors and we visited them in Huntington at least yearly. Nellie was a perfect hostess and would entertain our children, which they remember fondly. We typically would take our family Christmas photo in their living room, since it was such a beautiful place and they could help us. I talked to Nellie on the phone about a year ago, and we intended to go visit her again sometime, but it did not happen. To the family: We are sorry for your loss, but are so thankful for the hope that is in Jesus that Nellie exemplified in her life. She truly touched our lives for God's glory.*

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**Linda L Chipman** - January 19, 2023 at 07:02 PM