



**Susan J. Karcher**

October 30, 1951 - January 13, 2017

**James G. Mullen**

September 17, 1933 – January 23, 2017

Relationship to St. Andrew United Methodist Church:

Both Susan and Jim were members of St. Andrew.

Family:

**Susan:**

Husband was Jim Mullen

Sister: Barb Karcher

Children: Matthew, Brandon, and Sarah Gelvin.

**Jim:**

Wife was Susan Karcher

Children: Jim Jr., Barbara, Laura, Carol, Erin, Liz and Kevin

Grandchildren: Laura, KatieJane, Jessica, Riley, Sasha, Xavier, Landon

Great Grandchildren: Natalia and Alexis, sisters Nancy Schnurr and Marilyn Desenburg.

Recognitions, Activities, Special Interests:

**Susan:** Susan was a Tenured Assistant Professor of Biology at Purdue University and loved to teach. She was involved for many years with ABLE (Association for Biology Laboratory Education).

In her free time she enjoyed gardening, card making, travel, and cats. She was involved in many community groups, including WALLA, St. Andrew's book group, and St. Andrew's card making group. She volunteered regularly at Friends of the WL Public Library book sales and at Food Finders pantries.

**Jim:** Jim graduated from the University of Missouri at Rolla and received his masters and PhD from University of Illinois. He worked as a Tenured Physics Professor at Purdue University and retired in 2001.

He was a member of Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association (WALLA), Parkwest Fitness, and the United States Bowling Congress (USBC). He enjoyed working out regularly, golf, bowling, woodworking, speaking at events on physics topics and spending time with his family.

Throughout his life, he wrote journals and documented his journey. One of these journal entries stated, "Now I have come to see how even though I gave up on God; He did not give up on me...One thing that helped me get deeper faith was finding out...that I had been diagnosed with cancer...My faith has healed as my body has healed...Is it not necessary to prove this faith to the skeptic, only to accept and follow it. The results that I have seen are quite remarkable."

Use of Funds:

**Susan:** Funds applied to the improvement of the sound system in the Great Room. A new soundboard was purchased.



**Jim:** Memorial Funds used for purchasing additional plates, bowls, and glasses for church kitchen. 300 people can now be served on dinnerware.



Obituaries:

## Susan J. Karcher



Susan J. Karcher

Susan J. Karcher, 65, of West Lafayette, passed away on Friday, January 13, 2017 at St. Elizabeth East.

She was born October 30, 1951, in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, to the late Franklin and Hilda Bailey Karcher.

Susan received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Wisconsin and her Masters and PhD from UCSD, all three in chemistry. On December 16, 2007 she married James Mullen in West Lafayette, who survives her.

Susan was an Assistant Professor in the Biology Department at [Purdue University](#) from 1981 until retiring in 2016 due to failing health. She was a member of St. Andrew United Methodist Church, Phi Beta Kappa, and other honor societies.

Susan enjoyed traveling, spending time with animals, teaching, knitting, and photography.

She has three children who survive her: Matthew, Brandon, and Sarah Gelvin, who reside in Turkey, Rhode Island, and Oregon, respectively. Their father, Susan's friend and former husband, Stanton Gelvin, also survives her. She has a beloved sister, Barbara Karcher of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and two sisters-in-law, Marilyn Desenberg and Nancy Schnerr. She has seven step-children, ten step-grandchildren, and two step-great grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday at Soller-Baker West Lafayette Chapel, 1184 Sagamore Parkway West. A service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, Reverend Christopher Danielson officiating. The burial will be in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Memorial Contributions may be made to: St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Susan's memory. You may sign the guest book and leave memories and photos at [www.soller-baker.com](http://www.soller-baker.com)

Published in the Journal & Courier on Jan. 15, 2017

## James G. Mullen



James G. Mullen, 83

James G. Mullen, 83, of Lafayette, passed away on Monday, January 23, 2017 at Franciscan Health Lafayette East (formerly St. Elizabeth).

He was born September 17, 1933, in St Louis, MO, to the late James Mullen and Lillian Nelms Mullen. Jim graduated from University of Missouri at Rolla and received his masters and PhD from [University of Illinois](#). On December 16, 2007, he married Susan Karcher in West Lafayette, who preceded him in death on January 13, 2017. James was as a tenured Physics Professor at [Purdue University](#), and retired in 2001.

He was a member of St. Andrew United Methodist Church, Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association (WALLA), Parkwest Fitness, and the United States Bowling Congress (USBC).

James believed that you could accomplish anything you put your mind to. He also

believed that you should never stop learning or being physically active. He grew up around the end of the Great Depression and overcame many hardships. He decided at the age of 13 that he wanted to be a physicist. He enjoyed working out regularly, golf, bowling, speaking at events on physics topics and spending time with his family.

Throughout his life, he wrote journals and documented his journey. One of these journal entries stated: "Now I have come to see how even though I gave up on God; He did not give up on me...One thing that helped me get deeper faith was finding out... that I had been diagnosed with cancer... My faith has healed as my body has healed... It is not necessary to prove this faith to the skeptic, only to accept and follow it. The results that I have seen are quite remarkable."

Surviving are his children Barbara Blum of Indianapolis, Erin Mullen of Lafayette, Carol Mullen of Lafayette, James Mullen, Jr. of Indianapolis, Elizabeth Mullen of West Lafayette, Laura Mesa of St. George, SC, Kevin Mullen of Battle Ground. There are also 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren who survive him. Also surviving are three step -children and sisters Nancy (Gerry) Schnurr of Des Moines, IA, and Marilyn Desenberg of Sarasota, FL.

Viewing will be from 5 to 8 p.m. on Sunday at Soller-Baker West Lafayette Chapel, 1184 Sagamore Parkway West. Memorial Service will be at 6 p.m. on Monday, January 30, 2017 at St. Andrew United Methodist Church. Rev. Christopher Danielson officiating. Private interment (burial) will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at Grand View Cemetery. You may sign the guest book, leave memories and photos at [Soller-Baker.Com](http://Soller-Baker.Com).