



## Kenneth Allen Bade

January 26, 1926 - September 19, 2018

Kenneth Allen Bade, 92, of Kankakee passed away Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at Presence Merkle Knipprath. Kenneth was born on January 26, 1926 in Union, Missouri to Steve Quintin Bade and Irma Eads Bade.

Kenneth had an interest in music at an early age. His mother and father were both members of choruses and his mother was also a pianist. He began taking piano lessons from his neighbor at the age of 11. Kenneth also played the violin and the clarinet in High School.

In 1945 Kenneth began his college education at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais. He began his career in music by having a double major in piano and organ. In 1949 Kenneth graduated from Olivet with a bachelor's degree in music and was recognized with Cum Laude honors. After graduation, Kenneth was offered the position of Head of Organ Department where he taught piano, theory, and the Apollo Choir. While teaching full time, Kenneth attended the University of Illinois to begin working on his master's degree in Organ. In 1954, Kenneth received his Master of Music degree and was the first organist to appear with the University of Illinois Symphony Orchestra. While on the music staff at Olivet, Kenneth served as organist at the College Church of the Nazarene, the organist-choir director at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and really enjoyed his time at Central Christian Church for 22 years and Asbury United Methodist Church for 37 years. Kenneth's numerous activities and friendships may be attributed to the fact that he speaks to people in a language they all understand, the language of music. His time served

teaching and inspiring students will be forever remembered. A special thank you to Pete and Nancy Peterson for all the loving care over the years for Kenneth.

Kenneth is survived by 1 niece; Dana (Eugene) Ramirez-Maze of California, 2 nephews; Michael and Douglas Crites.

He is preceded in death by his parents, 1 sister; Gene Tucker and his friend Daniel Liddel.

Visitation will be from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Monday, September 24, 2018 at Asbury United Methodist Church, Kankakee, IL. Funeral services will be at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, following the visitation at Asbury United Methodist Church. Burial will take place at Kankakee Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Olivet Music Department and the Organ Fund at Asbury United Methodist Church. Please sign his guestbook at [schrefflerfuneralhomes.com](http://schrefflerfuneralhomes.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 South 3000 E. Rd.  
Kankakee, IL 60901

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 24. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Asbury United Methodist Church  
196 S. Harrison  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 933-4408

## Funeral Service

SEP 24. 1:00 PM (CT)

Asbury United Methodist Church  
196 S. Harrison  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 933-4408

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kenneth Allen Bade*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *I was so sorry to learn of Mr. Bade's passing. He was my first piano teacher and my choir director...both vocal and bells. He instilled in me an absolute love of music. Music calms my soul in a storm, it soothes my mind in today's busy world, and it gives joy to my life. I am forever grateful for his kindness and for his sharing of his love of music. I now have the great joy of passing that love along to my own children.*

**Heather Sontag** - March 26, 2019 at 08:53 PM



*(Heather Cramer Sontag)*

**Heather Sontag** - March 26, 2019 at 08:54 PM



“ *I have many fond memories of Ken Bade during his 30+ years as music director at Asbury UMC. He had a wonderful way of working with the youth and training our voices to sing our best. He was a good man! May he Rest In Peace ! My sympathies to the family. God Bless!*

**Carol Ruch Wylie** - September 30, 2018 at 07:18 PM

CF

“ When we moved to Kankakee in 1985, Ken and Dan were our neat door neighbors. They were family! Ken impacted our lives by his faith, his talent, his work ethic, and most of all, his unconditional love for our family. You will always be remembered and missed.  
*Cathy Fischer*

**Catherine A. Fischer** - September 28, 2018 at 07:13 AM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



**Kat Seiber** - September 24, 2018 at 07:19 PM

K(

“ I was in Mr. Bade's Jr High, High school choirs and Bell choir in the 70's at Asbury UMC . He was a great teacher and I learned many music skills from him. I fondly remember him saying "Are you writing and Epistle?" when we took over long to write notes in our music. He had a way of connecting with all of us, young and old alike, both as a person and a musician.

**Kari Wetter (Dude)** - September 24, 2018 at 01:35 PM

FB

“ The the Family and friends of Kenneth Bade,  
In memory of Kenneth's life, having enriched so many through his example and extraordinary talents, I send my deepest sympathy.  
Grace and Peace,  
*Bishop Frank J. Beard*

**Frank J. Beard** - September 24, 2018 at 12:38 PM

JJ

“ Ken was my mentor. His caring, sharing, positive, loving ways encouraged me to use and share my love of music...He was God's special gift ...and a gift that will live on .

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**Judith Johnston** - September 24, 2018 at 10:21 AM

LP

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Lisa Gahwiler Perez** - September 23, 2018 at 08:38 PM

RM

“ Ken was a special person. My son Joshua's first organ teacher when he was in high school. He was quite a character and blessed with music in his soul. I will remember our many trips with you and Dan to Wheaton College and St Charles to see "our boy" perform. Joshua was blessed to have a great teacher like you to give him his start. I will miss your smile and words of encouragement. Rest In Peace Ken, until we meet again. Rita and Jim

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**Rita McClure** - September 23, 2018 at 07:23 PM

JG

“ On behalf of our Kankakee Kiwanis Club, we are saddened by the loss of this very dear man. He always brought light, laughter and music to our club. He will be greatly missed.

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**Janet Glazar** - September 23, 2018 at 06:33 PM

CH

“ My time in junior high choir with Mr. Bade has exerted a profound influence on my life over several decades. I am deeply grateful for his ministry. Without those formative experiences, I might not have entered the ministry myself.

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**Craig C. Hill** - September 23, 2018 at 03:55 PM

JW

“ Primary choir...junior choir...you made me love music at an early age! Fast forward a few years and the pupil has returned with a music degree and a temporary job filling in as choir director at St. Mark while Dan was ill. I will never forget walking into Asbury after years of being away to fill in for Dan at a cantata rehearsal. I was scared because I didn't know how I would be treated. Would everyone still think of me as the kid and wonder what I was doing there? You welcomed me back and treated me like a colleague and let me conduct YOUR choir. A choir member told me after the rehearsal that I should feel honored because you never let anyone conduct your choir! I was honored and humbled! You later welcomed me back as a Chancel Choir member and even had confidence in me to re-start the bell choir. I'm so glad that I came back home to Asbury while you were still there! Even after your retirement you always enjoyed seeing us, particularly when we went Christmas caroling! Thank you for your part in making me the musician that I am today! Rest in peace! With love and gratitude,  
JewelAnn Wiltfang

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**Jewel Ann Wiltfang** - September 22, 2018 at 09:56 PM

MR

“ 3 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Marilyn Keller Rittmeyer** - September 22, 2018 at 09:53 PM

LP

“ *Mr. Bade was more than my piano teacher; he was my mentor! I spent many Tues. afternoons taking piano lessons with him and loved every minute of it. For one of our annual piano recitals I wrote a song that I dedicated to him... "Bade's Inspiration." He was my choir director, bell choir director and a dear friend. I will always think fondly of my memories of him. I truly loved him and always will.*

*Lisa Gahwiler Perez*

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**Lisa Perez** - September 21, 2018 at 10:37 PM

DW

“ *I was sorry to read of Ken's passing. He was a fine musician, and it was a privilege and joy to have known him. He and I served on committees in the Central IL Conference of the United Methodist Church and we both served as organist for the Annual Conference. He was a Diaconal Minister in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church. We first met when we attended the meeting of the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts in Oberlin, Ohio in the 60's. He was always delightful to be with. Sincere condolences to his family. Blessings Duane Werner*

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**Duane Werner** - September 21, 2018 at 09:32 PM

KA

“ When Mr. Bade retired from Asbury, our daughter sang a song by Ray Boltz titled, "Thank You" The words were very appropriate....."Thank you for giving to the Lord, I am a life that was changed. Thank you for giving to the Lord, I am so glad you gave." He touched so many lives in a very special way. We will miss you. Thank You! The Arthur Family, Lonnie, Kris, Andrea, Melissa, Stacy and Lindsey

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**Kris Arthur** - September 21, 2018 at 09:08 PM

BC

“ In 1986 when we first came to Kankakee, I was looking for a church with a choir. Two years before Asbury Chancel Choir had done a musical production and formal dinner as a gift to the congregation which was shared with others who wanted to participate....thus the beginning of the Madrigal. However, Ken had a dream of a Madrigal with the pointed hats and flowing costumes. I made the first two costumes and with Ken and the rest of the choir's approval began the elegant costume Madrigals at Asbury. There was never a time that I saw Ken that he did not mention the Madrigal costumes and that it was his original dream. He also thanked me for a lap quilt that I made to adorn the rocking chair that Chancel Choir gave to him when he retired from Asbury. Ken gave Asbury many wonderful years of music. We did love him so! Goodbye to fond memories and much love.....Barbara Clark

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**Barbara Clark** - September 21, 2018 at 08:10 PM

JC

“ Any one else remember this one: "in-egg-shell-sees-dayo"? Truly a wonderful human being that I remember to this day.

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**John Carlson** - September 21, 2018 at 07:30 PM

SM

“ So many memories of growing up at Asbury United Methodist Church and being involved in the many choirs as well as in the Bell Choir. Mr Bade had touched not only mine and my mother Ginger's lives but so many in our community.

*Your talents are truly gonna be missed by many!*

*Shawn "Shade" Marcotte*

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**shawn marcotte** - September 21, 2018 at 05:27 PM

AW

“ Rest In Paradise Mr. Bade💕



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**Amy Williams** - September 21, 2018 at 05:17 PM

CM

“ Rest in peace.

*Cathie & Clarence Miedema*



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**cathie miedema** - September 21, 2018 at 04:06 PM

MB

“ I first met Mr. Bade when I was a high school student. He was as kind and humble as he was talented. And he was Very talented. Our community has lost a bright light.

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**Max Brigham** - September 21, 2018 at 03:39 PM

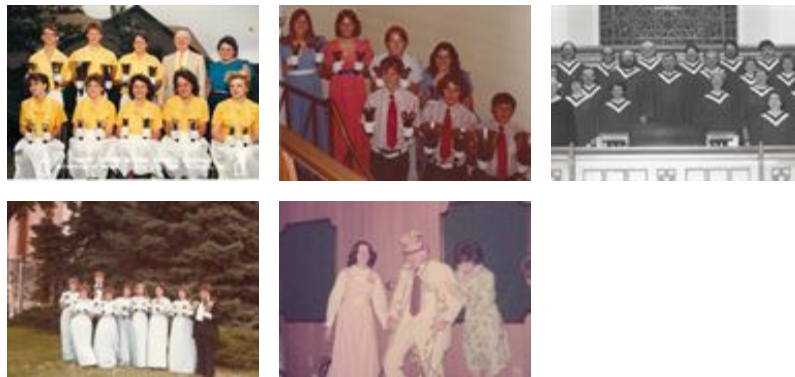
JD

“ I considered Ken a wonderful friend both to me and my three children. We all enjoyed his leadership and long-time director at Asbury United Methodist Church during the 1970s and 1980s. I hope that his contribution there can be added to his biographical information included in this website. Jane (Gard) Dunn

Jane Dunn - September 21, 2018 at 02:27 PM



“ 26 files added to the album Life Tributes



Schreffler Funeral Home - September 21, 2018 at 01:57 PM

JS

“ Great man and we all have even great memories of his kindness and spirit. To know Kenny was to love him. Rest In Peace and thank you for being in our lives.

God bless,  
Jeff Schley

Jeff Schley - September 21, 2018 at 01:20 PM

DM

“ Condolences to the family. Arlene and I deeply appreciated Ken's friendship and frequent prayers for Arlene's health. We shared many visits at Blue's and experiences at Olivet events, the most impactful one being his playing at the Olivet organ dedication.

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**Dr. Sam Mayhugh** - September 21, 2018 at 01:15 PM

DR

“ Mr. Bade will be dearly missed. He was such a gifted person and I truly enjoyed being able to share in his lifelong stories.

*Deborah Regnier CNA/CPT*

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**Deborah Regnier** - September 21, 2018 at 12:48 PM

CS

“ Carla Scheppler lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Allen Bade



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**Carla Scheppler** - September 21, 2018 at 11:41 AM

RA

“ Ken was one of the sweetest people I've ever met, and I am proud to call him a friend. As a guest at his and Dan's home, I was always amazed at how many phone calls he got from former students who just called to say hi after many years. I thought, "these people really loved this guy!" Many of us did. Rest in peace, my friend. You've earned it.

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**Robert Anderson** - September 21, 2018 at 09:18 AM

MH

“ Ken Bade enriched so very many lives with his music, his wit, his kindness, his gentle style with firmness, that cannot be matched. The friendship we had with him and Dan will never be forgotten. He taught our son piano, and touched our hearts when we were in his choir years ago. He was the indelible ink of Asbury Church and left a marvelous legacy...and footprints..or "finger" prints on many hearts.

Heaven will be enriched with his addition, and Dan will be waiting with open heart and arms to greet him!

*Marsha and Lee Hill*

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**Marsha Hill** - September 20, 2018 at 09:36 PM

BH

“ I had the great pleasure of knowing Ken and Dan Liddell. Ken was such a great person. Loved hearing his wonderful jokes, and he was so tickled to tell them. Heaven has gained quite a musical angel.



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**Beth Hays** - September 20, 2018 at 05:26 PM

SM

“ Ken was a wonderful gift to music. Ken Bade was a great mentor as I served on the Board of Directors for the Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra. His direct contributions and support of music in our community was instrumental in making Kankakee County a premier destination for music and fine arts. Ken will be greatly missed but his contributions to our community will live forever.

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**Shannon Moore** - September 20, 2018 at 04:00 PM



“ 74 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Schreffler Funeral Home** - September 20, 2018 at 03:57 PM



“ *Sapranos on looo*

*Altos on loo*

*Tenors on loo*

*Basses on loo*

*Choir practice warm up excersize. We all remember our chairs in the choir room. He made it fun and rewarding. I will never forget this gentle man who loved giving the gift of freedom through music. God rest his soul and bless his family. God's speed Mr.Bade*

**Dave Johnson** - September 20, 2018 at 03:52 PM



“ *A wonderful man has passed on. He enriched our lives and taught us much more than music. RIP, Mr. Bade. Our lives are better and richer because you were in them.*

**Bob Schneider** - September 20, 2018 at 03:43 PM

SE

“ I was a member of Junior Choir, Wesley Choir, bell choir and a piano student and have numerous memories of this incredible man and music icon! His contribution to the community should never be forgotten. The patience and compassion he showed set a wonderful example for all who were lucky enough to have him touch their lives. My fondest memories were the bell choir conventions we attended in Washington D.C. at the National Cathedral and in Dallas TX.

Sandra Call Elliot - September 20, 2018 at 03:12 PM



I too was a member of Junior Choir, Wesley Choir, bell choir and a piano student and attended the bell choir conventions in Washington D.C. at the National Cathedral and in Dallas TX. Ken turned me into an accomplished pianist which I have shared and used all my life. I've been in a church choir all my life.....and started two bell choirs....one lasting 8 years and the other I started 30 years ago and still going strong. A great, generous, and kind man. the last time I saw him was at my father's memorial service 9 years ago. I regret that I only had a few minutes with him at the time. He had a profound affect on my life. The world just became a little more empty with his passing. David Tolly

David Tolly - September 20, 2018 at 04:12 PM

JR

Rest in Peace dear Ken. My fondest memories were of my late husband, Don, and I as Bell Choir Parents for Ken when our son, Matt, was in Bell Choir in the 80's. Ken was a man of love, patience (especially with teens in that group 😊) and the kindest person I've ever known. We enjoyed travelling with Ken from Herscher to Florida for concerts and conventions. He was responsible for many wonderful things our son learned as a youth at Asbury. Peace and God's grace are with you now Ken 🙏

Judy Reiniche - September 20, 2018 at 04:21 PM

C(

*There are people that are sent as gifts to enrich your life. Mr. Bade was such a gift. He loved us all as his kids, taught us to love music and intertwined it all with his infectious laugh. As long as I live, I'll be grateful that he was in my life. He was a gift to so many. Rest In Peace, Mr. Bade.*

**Chris Orenbas (Bowsher)** - September 20, 2018 at 04:37 PM

MB

*Oh, Mr. Bade...  
You were such a formative influence on my church and spiritual upbringing. You taught us to be reverent, to understand what we sang, and to love being in church to worship through music. We all knew/know you loved us. The trips to Schaffer Lake, your infectious giggle, the knitted brow and slight head shake when we weren't as attentive as we should be in the choir loft. So many memories. I hope you know how much we all loved you, too. Rest in peace, Ken Bade. May you share all your gifts in heaven.*

**Marcia Badger Buell** - September 20, 2018 at 05:25 PM



*Goodbye to a dear and talented man who enriched so many lives. He was a true gentleman.*

**Lolly Schneider Ward** - September 20, 2018 at 05:44 PM

PL

*So long Mr. Bade. May you rest in peace. I have so many memories growing up in Asbury Church. Junior and Wesley Choirs. Piano lessons. And the times when I was helping mom with the cleaning and would sit in the balcony and listen to Mr. Bade practice the organ. A true icon. God Bless.*

**Peggy S Lafeber** - September 20, 2018 at 06:09 PM

KT

*Kenny, thank you for my lifetime passion for music. From junior and Wesley Choirs, summer Chancel Choir, and many social visits throughout the years. I loved Asbury and you were a huge part of that. Your talents and infinite patience were recognized by all who knew you. Goodbye, dear one.*

**Kathy Tribbey** - September 20, 2018 at 07:04 PM

KC

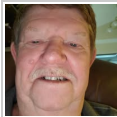
*Mr. Bade - you were such a quiet and gentle spirit. Such a talented and loving man.....thank you for the care you gave to Mr. Liddell and the respect and love you showed my parents. You had such a marvelous influence on so many people - especially children and young adults. I know the angels are rejoicing at having you part of the heavenly choir and your family that has gone before you and certainly Mr. Liddell are waiting to help you fit into your wings. Thank you for loving us all!*

**Kathy Chefas** - September 20, 2018 at 09:02 PM

LO

*Remember his greetings to me and my family in Blues Restaurant. Will always remember Mr. Bade playing the piano for my Dad's funeral. Remember forever the way he waved to me daily in the dining room this past year in a Hawaiian style wave as I was sitting with my Mom at the lunch table in Miller Care Rehab Center. Today it's my turn to wave first as I wave to someone who is entering Heaven to be with the Lord and accept his eternal Rewards! Prayers for the family and friends of Mr. Kenneth Bade.*

**Leila Owen** - September 20, 2018 at 10:22 PM



*We at Central Christian Church were privileged and grateful for the years of uplifting spiritual organ music that Mr. Bade played for us. Ken was the the kindest most caring person and will surely be missed.*

**Larry Bushey** - September 21, 2018 at 08:30 PM

LB

*We were so privileged to have Ken be such an inspirational part of our lives ! His spiritual guidance was such an important part of the growth of our faith. He made certain we understood the meaning of the songs we sang and that we sang properly...(remember "Back bone up and chest held high....") You taught us to love the Lord and rejoice in His house! We loved you even when the top of your head would turn beet red because, sometimes, no everyone was paying attention! Loved the laugh and the quiet determination to make all of us better people and better Christians. I know there is beautiful music in heaven now. Rest in peace my dear friend.*

*Linda Tyson Boecker*

**Linda Boecker** - September 24, 2018 at 05:27 PM