

Agnes Gerken Barr, age 85, of Newell, Iowa died on March 11, 2008 at the Newell Good Samaritan Center.

Agnes was born on August 1, 1922 in Newell, Iowa, the daughter of George and Anna (Bodholdt) Haahr. She spent her youth in the Newell and Sulphur Springs (Iowa) area, attending grade school and then graduating from high school with the Class of 1939 from Providence Consolidated School in Sulphur Springs.

On October 9, 1941, Agnes was united in marriage to Eldor L. Gerken in the Nain Lutheran Church parsonage in Newell. The couple was blessed with five children: Judith Ellen, Robert, Roberta, John Allen and Janice Elaine. Agnes and Eldor raised their family on their farm northwest of Newell. After many happy years of marriage, Eldor died in 1979. Agnes was married to Arthur O. Barr on September 11, 1982 in Nain Lutheran Church in Newell.

Agnes was a very capable woman who loved a challenge. She could fly a plane, drive a tractor, make delicious 21-day pickles, and bake wonderful Haahr kringsles and yardstick pastries. She took five-minute power naps, and rumor has it that she drove with a lead foot. Agnes loved the Lord and served him in many capacities as an active member of Nain Lutheran Church in Newell, including teaching Sunday School and serving several terms on the Church Council. She was a 4-H Leader and a member of Toastmasters Club and The 99's Flying Club. Agnes was also an entrepreneur and operated Gerken's Candle Cottage for many years, and then later, a Shaklee business.

Above all, her family was always her priority. She treasured each individual and made everyone feel special. Despite her busy and varied life, she shunned the limelight and wanted no fuss made over her. She will be remembered by family and friends alike as a kind and caring person, and will be deeply missed by all those who loved her.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Arthur Barr of Newell; daughter Judy (Roger) Anderson of Storm Lake, Iowa; son John (Nancy) Gerken of Jefferson, Iowa; daughter Jan (Gary) Worthan of Storm Lake; daughter-in-law Linda Barr of Renton, Washington; grandchildren: David (Norma) Anderson, Susan (Steve) Webster, Steve (Amy) Anderson, Matt Gerken, Melissa (Matt) Janssen, Emily (Ryan) Helming, Mandy (Tanner) Stoner, Ryan (Amy) Worthan, Gabe (Emily) Worthan, and Shannon (Natalie) Worthan; step-grandchildren: Kurt Barr, T.J. Barr and Tamera Barr; great-grandchildren: Danielle, Malea, A. J., Sydney, Jillian, Addison, Ava, Tegan, Owen and Savannah; extended family and many friends.

Agnes was preceded in death by her parents; her first husband, Eldor Gerken; infant son and daughter Robert and Roberta Gerken; sisters Alma Wilson, Dorothy GeMeiner and LeVerne Buffington; and step-son, Tom Barr.



**A candle's but a simple thing;
It starts with just a bit of string,
Yet dipped and dipped with patient hand,
It gathers wax upon the strand
Until complete and snowy white,
It gives at last a lovely light.**

**Life seems so like that bit of string;
Each deed we do a simple thing.
Yet day by day if on life's strand
We work with patient heart and hand,
It gathers joy, makes dark days bright,
And gives at last a lovely light.**

— Author Unknown

We wish to express our gratitude for the kindness evidenced in thought and deed, and for your attendance at this service. Please join us for lunch and a time of fellowship at the church immediately after the burial.



Agnes' Family

Remembering *A Special Life*



Agnes R. Barr

1922



2008

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside still waters.
He restoreth my soul;
He leadeth me in the paths of
righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me;
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies;
Thou anointest my head with oil,
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the
house of the Lord forever.

—Psalm 23



The family suggests any memorials be directed to:

Nain Lutheran Church
441 West Jensen St, Newell, IA 50568
OR The Newell Historical Society
PO Box 5, Newell, IA 50568

Agnes and Art, ready for flight.

IN MEMORY OF

Agnes R. Barr

August 1, 1922 — March 11, 2008

FUNERAL SERVICE

Saturday, March 15, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Nain Lutheran Church — Newell, Iowa

CLERGY

Reverend Tom Dettmer

ORGANIST

Carol Hansen

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

"I Love To Tell The Story"

"I'll Fly Away"

"How Great Thou Art"

"Amazing Grace"

CASKET BEARERS

Gabe Worthan, Ryan Helming, Matt Janssen

Tanner Stoner, Roger Buffington, Bill GeMeiner,

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Dorothe Cavanaugh, Esther Haahr, Ruby Haahr

Harriet Laursen, Inez Thomsen

INTERMENT

Newell Cemetery — Newell, Iowa

Arrangements by

FRATZKE & JENSEN FUNERAL HOMES

www.fratzkejensen.com

Newell · Storm Lake · Schaller