



A lasting memorial has been given to
Good Samaritan Church
in memory of
Charles Robert Hillger

May 21, 1945—Redwood Falls MN
November 18, 2011—Eden Prairie MN

Charley Hillger was a floral designer, chef and hugger

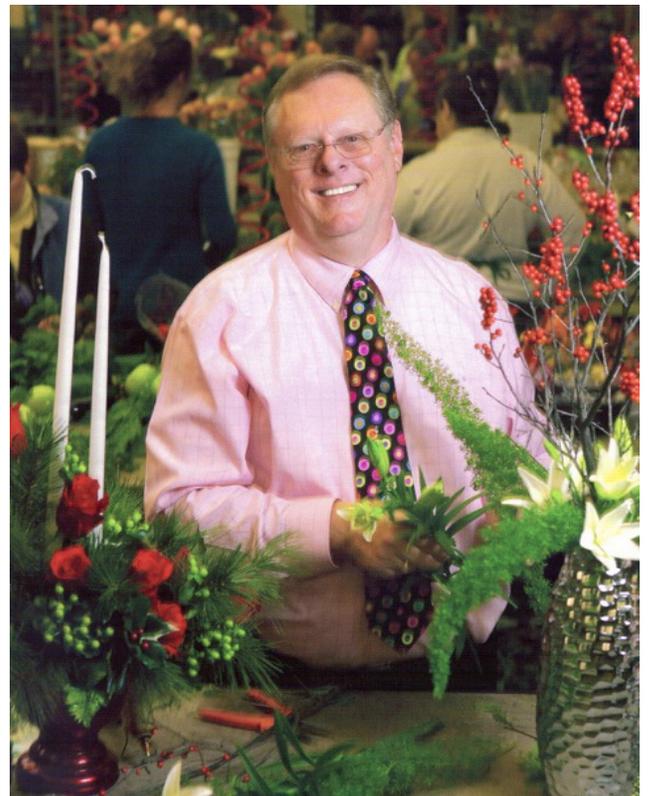


Charley was born in Redwood Falls, MN, where he learned the love of growing vegetables and flowers. When he was a boy he started working in a local nursery and learned to cook when his mother went back to teach school. The first of those things led to his life's work, the other to his avocation. While he was at Macalester, he began working at Bachman's, where he returned after a two year sojourn with the US

Army in Vietnam. During his 42+ years at Bachman's he worked in a variety of roles before taking over floral specialties which handled large events, private parties and weddings. He was an extremely talented designer, but the talent that set him apart from all the rest was his skill with people. Helping a family decide on funeral flowers was one of his favorite things to do because he felt he was doing something for the bereaved. His concern for others and his obvious joy for life was a very powerful combination. Charley loved to eat, but even more he enjoyed planning and preparing a dinner, whether for family, friends or a church event.

At church Charley gave a personal touch to the weekly floral tributes on the altar. The arrangements were full and rounded, with a little reward for the choir standing behind the altar: a butterfly on a stick, an apple with a bite out of it or a face drawn on a pumpkin in a large Thanksgiving arrangement. On Easter and Mother's Day he arranged a garden with flowers of the season.

Charley was married to Judy for 41 years. They had two sons, also married. Since he loved children it is unfortunate he didn't get to meet his grandson. He enjoyed travel and it was while he was on a trip he became ill. After a short bout with pancreatic cancer he passed away on November 18, 2011.



Charley was known for his thoughtfulness, his artistry, his gourmet tastes and creations, and his bear hugs. He was witty, a fun person to be around and extremely caring.