

She was 103.
Seems like forever,
Even from my perspective;
A single person who cared for infants
As her life's work –
30 of the people at the funeral had been held by her,
As babies, cared for by her.
Her hands and voice and arms
Provided primary and primal experiences.
The hands went up
When I asked who here has been held by Mimi.
A remarkable testimony.

It was the first funeral in ten years for me;
The pastor at Hope was unavailable.
Thank God,
In ten years as a campus pastor
I did not want any funerals.
It was a delightful gift to
Once again to be part
Of the full spectrum of life,
To see all that is
In God's hands!
Even if I had never met Mildred Anderson,
I had a chance to see her.

Here at the U
We get caught up in the immediacy
Of the collegiate experience:
The dates when things are due or tested,
The relationships we are discovering or maintaining,
The unearthing of fresh knowledge and new insight,
The critical choices about life and how to live it.
This is natural.
This is what is expected.

Yet, every once in a while
We need to glimpse the larger realm
In which God is at work.
This is one of the ways –
103 year old Mildred "Mimi" Anderson –
God's hands shape us.

Worship this Sunday in that larger realm:

Grace University Lutheran Church at 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, and **6:30 PM**, or

University Lutheran Church of Hope at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM, or

Trinity Lutheran Congregation (Augsburg College Chapel) at 11 AM.

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