

# **Thanksgiving Service for Dorothy “Dot” Atomanuk**

**Saturday, 9 February 2019  
The Rev Dr Scott Everett Couper  
Atamaniuk Funeral Home**

**“A Holistic Life Lived Well”**

**Saint Augustine once awkwardly stated, and I am changing the gendered nouns to suit Dot, “She cannot die badly who lives well; and scarcely shall she die well who lives badly”.**

**Reading Dot’s obituary last night on the internet, I could not help but exclaim, “Wow, did that woman live well!”**

**Dot was born in a town that I pass through twice a week, Erving, Massachusetts. It is a beautiful little town that suits Dot’s very good character. Erving is historic, quaint, beautiful and has a number of little churches decorating its main thoroughfare.**

**As I read Dot’s life, the one word that is foremost in my mind is ‘holistic’. Dot’s life was holistic. A holistic life is a life lived well. And hence, any woman who lives also dies well.**

**What rendered Dot’s life holistic?**

**Well, she received education. That’s a great start, and in her era, education for women was not the norm. It was the exception, rather than the norm. Dot developed her mind.**

**I conducted a little research on the Bay Path Institute where Dot received her post-secondary education. The school’s website states:**

***During Bay Path’s 100-year-old plus history, it has been true to its core promise —of providing innovative, career-focused educational programs that have evolved in response to the economic, cultural, and technological influences of our time.***

*For decades, it experienced both educational and financial success, becoming one of the largest and most respected co-educational business schools in the region. Bay Path's was known for its strong education programs, particularly business management, accounting, teaching, and finance.*

How else was Dot's life holistic? Well, she put her education to good use and became a business woman, an entrepreneur, and thus a successful professional in an era where opportunities for women to excel were few and far between. How incredible it is that she served Stanley Home Products for forty-three years. How much is that a testimony, to even those who did not know her, of her dedication, trustworthiness and competence!?

Dot was holistic not only with her academic and vocational acumen, but also her volunteer work. She supported a litany of worthy organizations, most importantly, from my perspective, the Centre Congregational Church in Brattleboro, VT. She was a longtime volunteer at the Senior Center, Loaves & Fishes, Meals on Wheels, The Thompson House and Pine Heights.

So, we have education, vocation, and volunteer work. What else enabled her to live holistically?

Entertainment. Dot enjoyed her life. It was not just study, work and sacrifice for others. It was also feeding herself with travel, dance, and enjoying the outdoors.

It was when meeting Dot for the first time in my home that I ever encountered a square dancing snob! I fancy myself a wine snob, and a coffee snob. I'm not a 'snob' in the sense that I think I am better than others. I am a snob in the sense that with a particular subject or activity, I can be discerning – that means I admire and I appreciate that which is good. Dot was a square dancing snob – she knew what was good and what was not and she appreciated it. I was told under no uncertain terms that which was quality dancing and that which was not. Had she not been tethered to the oxygen tubes, I am sure she would have shown me a move or two!

**Let us again recall the words of St Augustine: “She cannot die badly who lives well; and scarcely shall she die well who lives badly.”**

**Dot developed her mind, her vocation, her community and her soul. That is a life lived holistically and that is a life lived well.**

**I exclaimed to the funeral home director, which is Dot’s nephew, I believe, that I did not know Dot had been moved from her home where I visited her to a care facility.**

**It was then revealed to me that at about an hour after of her admission, Dot decided that she had lived well enough already and now she would die well.**

**I wish to alleviate any anxiety of the care facility that may harbor some angst about having one of its clients die very soon after arrival. Let me assure you, there is no need to worry. Dot’s dying an hour after arriving was her way of living well and dying well.**

**Indeed, she did both well.**

**Our scripture reading this morning describes a woman of noble character. A noble character is described in Proverbs as holistic.**

**The woman described cares for her business (verse 18, she sees her trading as profitable), her family (verse 27, she watches over the affairs of her household), and her community (verse 20, she opens her arms to the poor).**

**Friends in Christ, let us as the author of Proverbs wrote, “Give her the reward she has earned”.**

**This was the word of God, and it was proclaimed to the people of God, and the people of God responded, “Amen”.**

## **Order of Worship**

<b>Sentences</b>		<b>Scott Couper</b>
<b>Greeting</b>		<b>Scott Couper</b>
<b>Opening Prayer</b>		<b>Scott Couper</b>
<b>Hymn of Adoration</b>	<b>“Morning Has Broken” #38 PH</b>	
<b>Words of Remembrance (Obituary Summary)</b>		<b>Family or Friend</b>
<b>Reading of Scripture</b>	<b>Proverbs 31:26-31</b>	<b>Family or Friend</b>
<b>Homily</b>	<b>“To Live and Die Well”</b>	<b>Scott Couper</b>
<b>Words of Remembrance</b>		
<b>Moment of Silence</b>		
<b>Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession</b>		<b>Scott Couper</b>
<b>Commendation</b>		<b>Scott Couper</b>
<b>Benediction</b>		<b>Scott Couper</b>
<b>Food and Fellowship</b>		<b>Atomanuk Family</b>