

# Obituaries

**William Murphy**  
William Paul "Bill" Murphy, 55, of Hyrum, Utah, formerly of Tuscola, passed away on Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

Bill was born on June 25, 1964 in Tuscola, the son of Paul and Ruth Botts Murphy.

He leaves behind his wife: Yvonne, mother: Ruth Murphy of Arthur, son: Micheal (Sierra) Murphy of Urbana, daughter: Kimberly (Amy) Murphy of Montana and Dustin (Kevin) Jackson of Paris.

Two grandchildren: Calder and Elise Murphy of Champaign.

Beloved sister: Debbie Bennett of Shelbyville, brother: Tracy Murphy of Tuscola, nephew: Brandon Murphy, several aunts and cousins.

Two step-sons, two step-daughters, two step-grandchildren of Utah.

He was preceded in death by his father: Paul Murphy and brother: Stephen Paul Murphy.

Bill graduated from Tuscola Community High School in 1982.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at a later date.



**Jean C. Woods**

Jean Chesnut Woods, 93, of Tuscola, formerly of Chrisman and Westville, passed away at 11:31 a.m., Saturday, March 21, 2020 at her residence.

She was born on December 21, 1926 in Granite City, IL, the daughter of Vesta Jane Bohannon and Walter Charles Lewis. Jean was one of eight siblings. She married Floyd Dean Chesnut on August 12, 1944. Floyd died on October 31, 1973. Jean married Cecil Richard Woods on September 24, 1983. Richard died February 22, 1998.

Jean is survived by her four children: Judy (William) Milburn of Westville, IL, Joie (Fred) McDonald of Tuscola, IL, Jim (Kathy) Chesnut of Garland, TX and Rod (Susan) Chesnut of Flower Mound, TX, 15 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great-grandchildren. She is also survived by two sisters: Virginia McKinney of Dieterich, IL and Terry (Dean) Fritschle of Newton, IL and 20 nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, three sisters and two great-granddaughters.

Jean was an active member of the Church of Christ for many years. She served in a wide range of volunteer activities and committees including president of the Missionary Group, VBS Director and Sunday School teacher. Jean also worked at the Chrisman Pleasant Meadows Nursing Home as the Volunteer Coordinator and the Activity Director. In her later years, she sewed hundreds of dresses for children in Haiti.

Her main interests, in addition to her church, included being a 4-H leader, gardening, quilting, writing poems, sewing and photography.

A Celebration of Jean's Life will be held at a later date. Burial will be in the Woodlawn Cemetery, Indianola, IL. Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Memorial donations may be made to the Tuscola First Christian Church.

Online condolences may be shared via [hilligossshrader-hfh.com](http://hilligossshrader-hfh.com).



**Willie J. Turner**

Mr. Willie J. Turner, age 82, of Murray, Kentucky, died on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House.

Mr. Turner was born on February 26, 1938, in Tuscola, Illinois to the late Paul Turner and Pauline Dickerson Turner. He retired after 30 years of service as a water plant chief operator for the city of Tuscola, Illinois and was a member of the Christian Church in Tuscola, Illinois. Mr. Turner was a great family man and was very proud of his daughter and her family, especially his grandchildren to whom he was "papa". Mr. Turner loved to fish and especially enjoyed living on the lake for many years. He was also an avid lover of old classic cars.

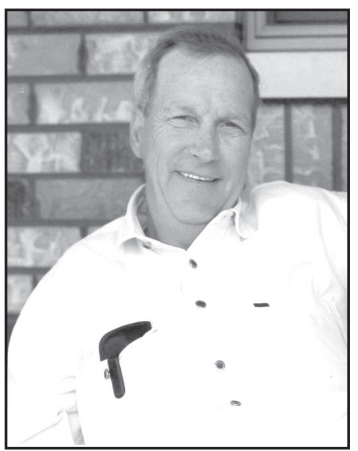
In addition to his parents he is preceded in death by one brother, Ed Turner; as well as one sister, Willa Dean Smith.

Survivors include his wife, Lydia Bassett Turner of Murray, Kentucky; they married on June 18, 1959, in Tuscola, Illinois; one daughter, Tina Cox and husband Shane of Murray, Kentucky; one sister, Phyllis Adams and husband Gordon of Tuscola, Illinois; one brother, Jim Turner and wife Judy of Vero Beach, Florida; as well as two grandchildren Skylar and Colton Cox both of Murray, Kentucky.

Due to the current events surrounding the viral pandemic of the coronavirus, the Turner family must and will have a private visitation and graveside service to respect the government guidelines.

Expressions of sympathy can be made to the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House, 803 Poplar Street, Murray, Kentucky or to the American Heart Association, Great Rivers Affiliate, PO Box 15120, Chicago, Illinois 60693.

Online condolences can be left at, hyperlink "<http://www.thejhchurchillfuneralhome.com>" [www.thejhchurchillfuneralhome.com](http://www.thejhchurchillfuneralhome.com)



*Thank you to all our friends for their phone calls, cards, flowers and other expressions of sympathy after the death of our granddaughter Kelly Burns. They were all appreciated. Dale and Martha Burns*

**Morgan Stanley**



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**Donald W. Willison**

Donald Wayne Willison, 64 of Sullivan, IL passed away at 4:55 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at his residence.

At Don's request no formal services will be held.

Don was born on August 23, 1955 in Fort Benning, GA. He is the son of Donald Eugene and Glenda Sue (Leslie) Willison. He is survived by his sister, Quenna Cobstill and her husband Ian of Argenta, IL, his uncle Delbert Willison of Mattoon, IL and many family friends including Melissa Dymond and family of Huntington, MD and Alexis Martinez of Thornton, CO.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Don graduated from Tuscola High School in 1973. He went to work at Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Co. in Tuscola right out of High School. He worked out of the Tuscola Plant for a few years and then transferred to Colorado.

He worked in the Brighton, CO area for 28 years and then Dolores, CO for 7 years before retiring in 2009. After he retired he moved to Sullivan, IL where he enjoyed fishing and spending time in the great outdoors. He also enjoyed black-powder reenactment rendezvous.

Memorials may be made to the Bethany Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry, 312 W. South Water St., Bethany, IL 61914 The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

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| <p><b>Camargo United Methodist Church</b><br/>103 E. Main Street<br/>P.O. Box 122, Camargo, IL 61919<br/>Church—832-9388<br/>e-mail: <a href="mailto:umccamargo@gmail.com">umccamargo@gmail.com</a><br/>Office Hours:<br/>Tuesday and Thursday<br/>8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.<br/>Pastor - Lenny Summar<br/>Traditional Worship - 9:00 a.m.<br/>Contemporary Worship 10:30<br/>"Come just as you are to worship"<br/>Open Communion first Sunday of each month<br/>Prayer Group - Meets after Sunday Service.</p>  | <p><b>Sacred Heart Catholic Church</b><br/>208 N. Pine Street, Villa Grove<br/>Pastor - Rev. Aloy Nideanaefo<br/>Office: 832-8352<br/>Hours: M-F 8:30am-1:30pm<br/>Email: <a href="mailto:villagrove.hume@gmail.com">villagrove.hume@gmail.com</a><br/>website: <a href="http://sacredheartandstmichael.com">sacredheartandstmichael.com</a><br/>Mass Times: Saturday: 4pm<br/>Sunday 10:00am<br/>Sunday @ St. Michaels in Hume 8:00am<br/>PSR:<br/>Sunday 9:00-9:45 am<br/><b>Tuscola United Methodist Church</b><br/>901 N. Prairie Ave.<br/>253-4232<br/>Sunday Worship Services:<br/>8:15 a.m. &amp; 10:45 a.m.<br/>Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.</p>  |
| <p><b>First Christian Church (Non-Denominational)</b><br/>701 N. Sycamore Street, Villa Grove<br/>Phone (217) 832-5231<br/>Fax (217) 832-9348<br/>Web Site: <a href="http://www.fccvrg.com">www.fccvrg.com</a><br/>E-mail: <a href="mailto:fccvrg@frontier.com">fccvrg@frontier.com</a><br/>Minister, Mike Zylstra<br/>E-mail: <a href="mailto:fccvrgmin@frontier.com">fccvrgmin@frontier.com</a><br/>Worship Gathering: 9:30 a.m.<br/>Staffed nursery available weekly<br/>Open communion observed weekly<br/>J.A.M. (age 5-5th grade) 10:15 a.m.<br/>Sunday School (all ages) 11:00 a.m.<br/>Jr &amp; Sr High Youth Group<br/>1st &amp; 3rd Sunday 5:00 p.m.<br/>Sunday Bible Study 6 p.m.<br/>Wednesday Choir 6:15 p.m.</p> | <p><b>Victory Church</b><br/>100 E. Second St. Camargo<br/>Pastor - Duane Piercy<br/>Church 832-8398,<br/>Email info: <a href="mailto:victorychurch.life">victorychurch.life</a><br/>Web Page: <a href="http://victorychurch.life">victorychurch.life</a><br/>Find us on Facebook<br/>Follow us on Instagram<br/>Service Times:<br/>Sunday<br/>Adult Sunday School - 9-9:45 a.m.<br/>Soul Cafe- 9am-9:45<br/>Worship &amp; Service - 10:00 a.m.<br/>RUSH Youth Group<br/>1st &amp; 3rd Sunday 5-7pm<br/>Celebrate Recovery 7:15pm<br/>Wednesday<br/>Men's &amp; Women's Bible Study- 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday<br/>Prayer Group - 6:00-7:00 p.m.<br/>Worship Team 7:00-8:00 p.m.<br/>American Sign Language Available •<br/>Wheelchair accessible • Nursery Care •<br/>Sports Ministries • Motorcycle Ministry</p>   |
| <p><b>First Christian Church</b><br/>100 E. Church St., Tuscola<br/>253-2394<br/>Sunday Worship services: 8:00 &amp; 10:30 a.m.<br/>Sunday school: 9:15 a.m.<br/>Youth Group 7th-12th @ 6:33 Sundays<br/>After school program<br/>5th-6th girls, Wednesdays<br/><a href="http://www.fccuscola.com">www.fccuscola.com</a></p>   | <p><b>Villa Grove United Methodist Church</b><br/>302 Second St, Villa Grove<br/>Pastor Sandi Hire<br/>Church 217-832-3971<br/>Office Hours:<br/>Monday - Friday 9 am - noon<br/>Email: <a href="mailto:secretary.vgumc@yahoo.com">secretary.vgumc@yahoo.com</a><br/>Website: <a href="http://www.vgumcweb.org">www.vgumcweb.org</a><br/>Find us on Facebook for upcoming events<br/>Sunday Services:<br/>8:30 am Chapel Communion every Sunday Morning<br/>9:15 am Sunday School For All Ages<br/>10:30 am Worship Service<br/>Open Communion first Sunday of each month<br/>Child Care available during Worship<br/>Walkers are welcome Monday - Friday<br/>during office hours in the Henson New Life Center<br/>Quilters - contact the office for opportunities to join our quilters<br/>Join us during the Lenten Season:<br/>Jazz Sunday - February 23rd - 10:30 am<br/>Everyone is welcome!<br/>Potluck Dinner afterwards!<br/>Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm<br/>Palm Sunday - April 5th - 10:30 am<br/>Maundy Thursday - April 9th at 7:00 pm<br/>Easter Sunday - April 12th at 10:30 am<br/>Come and join us for Worship!<br/>Christmas Eve Services - December 24<br/>7:00 pm Family Friendly Service<br/>11:00 pm Candlelight Service<br/>Come and join us!</p> |
| <p><b>First United Pentecostal Church</b><br/>1 South Pine Street, Villa Grove<br/>Wheelchair Accessible<br/>Where Lives are Changed!<br/>Pastor Jerry L. Conner<br/>Church 832-7071 • Residence 832-8577<br/>Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.<br/>Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.<br/>Evening Evangelistic Service - 6:30 p.m.<br/>Monday, 1st one of each month<br/>Ladies Auxiliary, 7:00 p.m.<br/>Monday - Friday<br/>Ladies Prayer Group - 9:00 a.m.<br/>Tuesday Youth Service - 7:00-8:00 p.m.<br/>Thursday Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.<br/>Free Home Bible Study<br/>We welcome you to worship with us in all of our services</p>  | <p><b>Forty Martyrs Catholic Church</b><br/>201 E. Van Allen St<br/>Tuscola, IL 61953<br/>Pastor: Rev. Angel Sierra<br/>Office Phone: 217.253.4412<br/>Sacrament of Confession:<br/>Saturdays 5:00 pm<br/>Or by appointment by calling the church office: 217.253.4412<br/>Week-day Mass Times:<br/>8:00 am Monday, Thursday &amp; Friday<br/>Weekend Masses:<br/>5:30 pm Saturday<br/>8:00 am Sunday</p>   |

## Douglas County Agriculture update March 2020

By Larry W. Dallas, Douglas County Farm Bureau President

March brought a lot of uncertainty to Douglas County farmers. An early spring doesn't appear to be in the cards. Some areas of western Illinois did limited fieldwork early in the month but the ground is pretty well soaked up around here, with the forecast of more rain. The drain tile and surface streams have good flow.

The worldwide coronavirus outbreak has become what people call a black swan event, an unexpected circumstance with tremendous effects. The perception of slowing economic activity is causing lower demand for agricultural products and prices have fallen hard. This happened just as a lot of us need money for spring supplies and obligations. Most of the market advisors tell us that the demand is there because people still have to eat and prices will recover. We have seen over and over that commodities sell-off easily and move back up with difficulty.

Some countries have gone into a near-complete shutdown to slow the virus spread. That is of huge concern to us as we get ready to plant our spring crops. We need the free movement of our inputs for planting. There is a huge amount of fertilizer and herbicide to apply across the Corn Belt. The seed has to be moved to the farmer and fuel delivered to use in our tractors. Any quarantine that limits this movement will cause an immediate problem.

On the other end, we also need the shippers and processors of our commodities to continue those activities. The livestock sector is the biggest concern at the start of this. Most dairies can't store more than a couple days of milk production. They need for the

processors to keep picking up their milk and moving it to be bottled or converted to other products. At least one state governor has decreed that large companies can only work half of their employees at a time. That would cut production drastically at a milk bottler or cheese factory.

Likewise, a finished animal needs to move to the processor. Hogs and cattle don't store like corn or beans. They continue to grow but that gain is less efficient and requires more feed. On many farms, the space that finished animal occupies is needed for the next group to be fed out. Both the Illinois Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation have made these concerns known to the Secretary of Agriculture. There are a lot of steps to turn a pig on the farm into bacon in the store and any disruption along the way hurts the farmer almost immediately.

Crude oil prices have plunged in the last couple of weeks due to world politics and to lower perceived demand since people aren't driving as much. This has hurt the profitability of ethanol plants in this country as the price of ethanol is down as well. Some plants are slowing production and some are taking breaks for maintenance or upgrades. Areas with ethanol plants are seeing big changes in the local corn market.

Corn prices have adjusted accordingly as demand is down. In the last two weeks, we have lost about thirty-five cents in the Chicago price of nearby corn. On top of that, the spread or basis between the Chicago price and the local price has widened out twelve cents. Corn that was worth 3.86 March 1 is worth 3.32 on March 19. That is a big hit to take on the unsold bushels we have in storage.

The soybean market

has performed in about the same way. The coronavirus scare has taken about sixty cents out of the bean bid. The markets for our production look at the supply of that commodity, the demand for that commodity, or the products made from that commodity. What our cost of production does not enter into that equation. Mostly we are holding our breath hoping the markets come back.

Most of the things we produce have checkoffs, deductions when we sell, to be used for research and market development. Most of the commodities have paid membership organizations for the same purpose. The groups have been having their annual meetings over that past few weeks and giving us the results of the year's activities. The corn paid membership group, Illinois Corn Growers, sent a pamphlet detailing how they used funds in the last year and what issues they tried to influence. Transportation and ethanol use were two of their priorities.

The corn checkoff group, the Illinois Corn Marketing Board, sent us a letter with strips enclosed to test tile water for nitrates. If the farmer tests a water sample from one of their drain tiles and sends that result to the ICMB, they will give the FFA of the farmer's choice a donation. Besides the concern for water quality, the ICMB works to expand exports and transportation concerns. With both groups, transportation concerns mean bridges and the locks and dams on the river system.

These groups have paid staff but they are guided by farmer boards. These men and women take time from their busy schedules to direct the commodity groups for the benefit of the farmer members and agriculture as a whole. I know sev-

eral of the board members of the commodity groups. They devote a lot of time to guiding the commodity organizations. All of them have websites if you are interested in looking at the scope of their efforts.

After a week of good weather in early March, we have settled back into the cycle we had the rest of the winter with frequent precipitation and little good drying weather. We need to move our fall equipment to the back of the shed and shuffle the spring equipment to the front to go over the things we will use this planting season. The weather and ground conditions have not been good for that. We would prefer not to cut the yard all up.

Our biggest tractor needs a new tire. That is a major investment but I guess we are glad it only needs one. We have the oil and filters changed on most of the tractors. We left the planter units off at a local farmer's shop to be run on a test stand to see that they will plant accurately and space the seed evenly. The mood is not that good in the country but a week or ten days of sunny windy weather would help with that.

When we are not doing something else we are working on a tractor my uncle bought in 1950. It needs paint, tires, and a little mechanical repair. It was his main tractor for several years and I am guessing that he paid less for it than we will for the single tire I spoke of earlier. Agriculture has changed immensely in seventy years but we still put the seed in the ground and hope for the best like they did in 1950. Thank you for reading about Douglas County Agriculture this month.