

Arthur Through My Eyes

If you read the poem, "Peace Within His Will" from the December 21 edition of the paper, you would have gleaned a deeper understanding of why moving to Arthur has meant so much to me. It's the town my Mom grew up in and where I visited my loving grandparents, as well as the place the LORD chose to bring me to heal from a broken heart after losing my best friend and companion in this earthly life - my beloved husband, John. Not a day goes by without thoughts of him. It's difficult losing someone we love and have shared so much of our life with. A part of us is

forever gone and nothing will quite ever be the same. Moving on can feel strange... almost a betrayal... even though we know that the loved one who has gone before us would want us to be happy...it still feels strange to BE happy. Grief is a process.

But if I didn't know that God was the LORD of that process, I would be lost. I believe with all my heart that He, in His good and perfect providence, has brought me here to live in this wonderful town called Arthur to live out the purpose He still has for me to yet be on this earth. He has a purpose and

plan for ALL of us each day He gives us to live on this earth, both the good and the bad. And He has a way of "showing up" in the most unusual and unexpected ways... like the wind chimes hanging outside of the "Amish Heirloom" store.

My Johnnie LOVED wind chimes! I sooooo wanted to buy him some and often on little getaways, when we were in various shops, I would find some and want to get them for him, but he wouldn't let me because we were always so financially strapped. Well...the LORD has done something SO KIND for me re: this. As I walk downtown at least twice a day, I get to walk past the most beautifully toned wind chimes (not too high, not too low - just the tone John would have liked) and as I go by, if the wind isn't already

blowing them into "singing" I give them a swing and say, "Good morning, Johnnie!" or "Good afternoon, Johnnie!" Or on those rare occasions when I'm deep in thought and nearly forget, often times it's as if John himself moves them and I then exclaim, "I hear you, Johnnie!" Just a sweet, sweet way to bring him along with me still... a way that God "shows up" as if to say, "I see you. I know you. I'm here and I understand what this means to you. I want to encourage you." It has been such a great comfort to me.

It may not be wind chimes, but keep an eye out for the unexpected moments of God's presence all around you as we begin a new year upon this earth in Arthur. There's a reason you are here, and there are things He wants you to

see, places He wants you to go, people He wants you to meet, things He wants you to do. So in this upcoming year, look for

Him. You may be surprised where you find Him.

Carried by the Hand of God,
Trudy Feyereisen

Real Faith For Real Life

From Pastors of the Arthur Ministerial Association

Jesus and the New Year

It says in Ezekiel 36:26 "And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart."

I chose this passage because of the hope it may give to those who pray fully find Jesus in this new year.

I hope we all lead people to him in the coming year, and if so that we are honest with them.

Many assume that they will be filled with joy, never hurt again, be overcome with hope, never fear again, ride life out on a mountain top, have all of your prayers answered right away, have all your dreams come true... and the list could go on when they find Jesus. But that's not real life.

When I think about my walk with Jesus. It helps me talk to

others.

So, here's the thing I've found about following Jesus. There are those who like to trail behind, staying just close enough to keep him in sight, but not so close that they get too involved or invested.

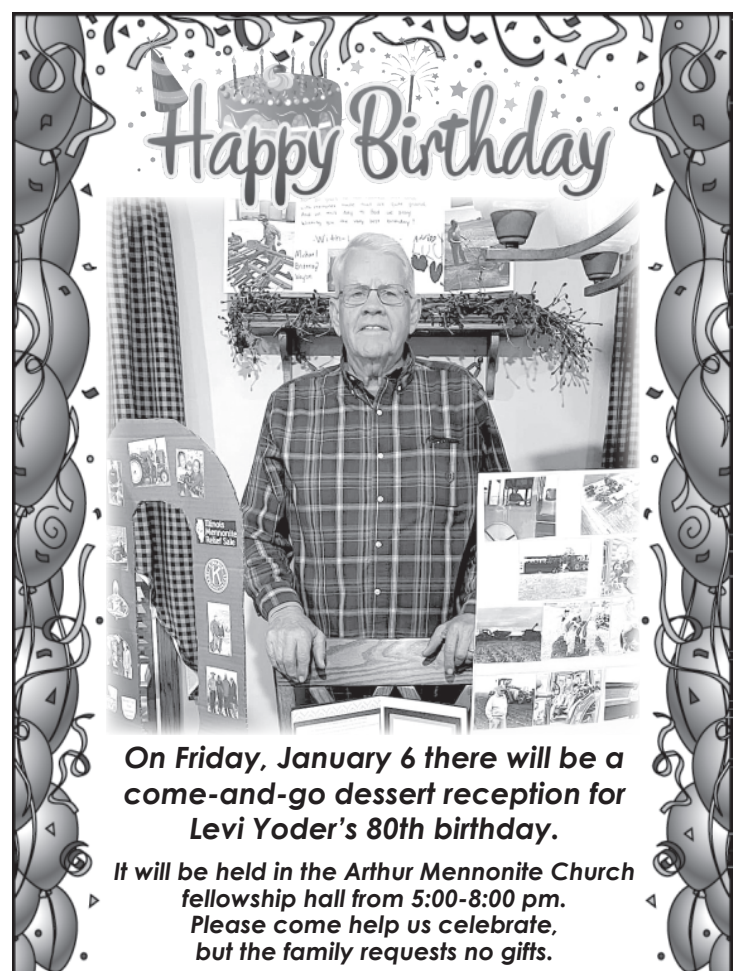
Then there are those who like to go a little closer, but still keep Him at arm's length, so they can recognize

His presence while still not diving into his world headfirst.

And then, there are those who are so close to the hem of Jesus' robe, he has to tell them to take a step back so as not to trip him up.

I hope that in this new year that we be those people who are like the latter. Watch your step!

Pastor Jill Bunker
Arthur United
Methodist Church



Happy Birthday

On Friday, January 6 there will be a come-and-go dessert reception for Levi Yoder's 80th birthday.

It will be held in the Arthur Mennonite Church fellowship hall from 5:00-8:00 pm. Please come help us celebrate, but the family requests no gifts.



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Obituaries

Virginia S. Brooks

Virginia S. Brooks, 95, of Lovington, passed away 12:16 a.m. Tuesday, December 27, 2022, at St. Mary's Hospital, Decatur.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at McMullin-Young Funeral Home, Lovington. Visitation will be held an hour prior to the service, Wednesday, at the funeral home in Lovington. Burial will be in Keller Cemetery, Lovington. Memorials may be made to the Lovington Ambulance Service or to the Lovington Church of God. McMullin-Young Funeral Home is in care of the arrangements.



Virginia was born December 10, 1927, in Farnfeld, MO; the daughter of Carmen Edward and Mabel Eva (King) Stivers. She married William "Bill" D. Brooks on June 29, 1957, in Pocahontas, MO; he preceded her in death in 2000. Virginia was a Music Teacher for the Lovington School District. She was a member of the Lovington Church of God. Virginia was a member of the Hartland Harmony musical group. She was very active in the Lovington Community, serving as Supervisor of the Township for many years. Virginia cherished her special cats, Stripty and Lucky.

She is survived by her sons, Stan Brooks of Lovington and Bob (Special friend, Wanda Miller) Brooks of Savannah, GA; daughter, Peggy King of Hilton Head, SC; granddaughter, Amanda Mitchell of Shelbyville; great-granddaughter, Madisyn Mitchell of Shelbyville.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Bill, and one sister, Joy.

Condolences may be offered to the family at www.mcmullin-young.com

Dorothy Jean Edrington

Dorothy Jean Edrington, 92, of Lovington, passed away 1:00 a.m. Sunday, January 1, 2023, at her daughter's home in Lovington.

Visitation will be from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at McMullin-Young Funeral Home in Lovington. Graveside services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, at Keller Cemetery, Lovington. Memorials may be made to Traditions Health Hospice: 332 W Marion Avenue Suite N1 Forsyth, Illinois 62535.



Dorothy was born February 18, 1930, in Esther, MO; the daughter of Arthur and Nora (Pope) Stacy. She married John Edrington on June 9, 1949, in Pocahontas, AR; he preceded her in death on September 7, 2000. Dorothy was a member of the First Southern Baptist Church in Lovington. She enjoyed reading, going out to eat, and dancing in her younger years. Dorothy loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her children, Johnetta Willis of Lovington, Phillip (Jeanene) Edrington of Decatur and David (Melinda) Edrington of Arcola. She is also survived by 5 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, 1 brother, Junior; 1 sister, Georgie and 1 great-grandson, Josh.

Condolences may be offered to the family at www.mcmullin-young.com

Gerald "Jerry" Hale

Gerald "Jerry" Hale, 93 of Arthur, IL passed away at 7:42 A.M. on January 1, 2023 at the Arthur Home. Arrangements are incomplete at the Edwards Funeral Home.

Church Directory

ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE

- ARCOLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** - USA, 311 E. Jefferson, Arcola. Church School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m. Phone 268-3212
- ARCOLA FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE** - Rev. Ivan Jess 268-4769, 276-3020; Sam Miller, SS Supt. 202-6094. Sunday School, 9:30am Morning Worship, 10:30am; (Sign Language Interpreter) Sunday Evening Service 6:00pm; Wednesday evening Bible Study 6:00pm; Missionary Meeting second Wednesday night of each month.
- ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH** - 710 E. Park St., Arthur. Worship begins at 10:30 am each Sunday. Christian Education classes for all ages begin at 9:30 am. All are welcome, come and join us! Call 543-2781 for more information. Ministry Team: Glen Rhodes, Minister of Discippling & Worship; Jeff Marner, Minister of Administration & Youth; Emily Kauffman, Minister of Outreach; Nancy Kuhns, Minister of Community Life. Website: arthurmennonite.org Email: arthurmennonite@gmail.com
- ARTHUR SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH** - 530 N. Vine St., Arthur. Pastor: Doug Davis, Worship 10:00am; Children's Church every Sunday morning at 9:30am, Nursery provided. Sunday Evening Worship 6:00pm, Wednesday: Service 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. 543-2672.
- ATWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH** - 229 S. Main, Atwood. Pastor Don Gerkin. Phone 578-2880. Sunday School 9am; Church, 10am; Bible Study 6:30pm
- BOURBON BAPTIST CHURCH** - David Babb, Pastor, Sunday Worship, 9:30am; Sunday School 10:45am; bourbon.baptistchurch@yahoo.com
- FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH** - Missouri Synod. 1 mile south of Sullivan on Highway 32. Glenn Strohschein, Pastor. Sunday Morning Service 10:00am; Sunday School 9:00am; Saturday services 5:00pm. Online services: www.worshipanew.com
- FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH** - 320 Surrey Lane, Arthur, Timothy Froese, Pastor. Sunday School 10am; Sunday Worship & The Word 11:15am; Wednesday Night Bible Study 7pm. Website: www.facarthur.org
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (ABC/USA)** - 120 E. Park, Arthur. John Stewart Pastor; Sunday School 9am, Worship 10am; American Baptist Women's Ministries meets 2nd Mon. 7pm; Prayer chain, 543-2296. For other activities and information, call church 543-2592 or Internet at www.firstbaptistarthur.com
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** - 231 N. Illinois, Atwood, 578-2555. Woody White, Pastor. Sunday School 9am; Morning worship 10am; Youth 5:00pm; Discipleship Class 6pm; Woman's Bible Study Tues. 9am; IGNITE Children's Ministry Weds. 6:30-8pm. Child care provided at all services. Website www.firstbaptistatwood.org
- FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH** - 300 Northline Rd., Tuscola, 253-2084, Sunday School 9:30am; Morning Worship 10:30am; Evening service 6pm; Wednesday Evening 6:30pm. A Ministry for Everyone: Sunday School for all ages, King's Kids, Teen Dept. Homebuilders & more! www.faithtuscola.org
- LOVINGTON FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH** - Corner of County (Route 32) and Church Streets. Worship 9:30am; Children's Church 4 yrs.-1st grade 10:15am; Sunday School 10:45am for all ages; Wednesday night Bible Study, 6:00pm. Craig Swinford, Pastor.
- LOVINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** - 241 S. Broadway, Lovington Sunday School 9:15am; Worship 10:30am Larry Bricker, Minister.
- FAITH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP** - 228 N. Broadway St., Lovington. 873-8791. "Real Faith, Real Life". Sunday Service 10am. www.lovingtonfaith.org
- EAGLE MOUNTAIN** - Assembly of God. Pastor Darin Elder, 253-4444, 401 E. Sale St., Tuscola. Sunday Services, 10am and 6:30pm and Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm Nursery and children's ministries provided during all services.
- SUNNYSIDE MENNONITE CHURCH** - Larry Rocke, Senior Pastor, Luke Goss, Assistant Pastor. Sunday School 9:30am; Services 10:30am
- COWBOYCHURCH** - Penn Station, 122 E. Progress, Arthur. 217-273-4202. Services 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings. Darrell Helmuth, Minister. Everyone welcome.
- JONATHAN CREEK CHRISTIAN CHURCH** - "Forward in Christ, United in Love, Come as You Are". 1425 Jonathan Creek Rd, Sullivan, 728-4369.

- Website: jcreek.org. Email: jonathancreekchurch@yahoo.com. Pastor Tim Henderson. **Sunday Worship:** 8:00am Traditional Service, 10:00am Contemporary Service; 10:00am FROG (Fully Rely on God) Super Kids Church (for children 4-12); 6:00pm Believers Meeting (Contemporary Service.) **Corporate Prayer:** Tuesdays at 6:30pm. **Family Night:** Wednesday Evenings @ 6:30-8 pm Summer Schedule: 5/15, 5/22, 5/29, 6/5, 7/3, 8/7. Will start back weekly in September. Lite meal at 6:30-7pm then break up into classes til 8pm. **Bus Service Available** Call 521-9576 for bus info. Jonathan Creek Christian Church a Regional Life Transformation Center; LovingPeople to Life; **Everyone Welcome.**
- NORTH VINE MENNONITE CHURCH** - 312 N. Vine, Arthur, Brian Petersheim, Sr. Pastor; Mike Helmuth, Asst. Pastor. Sunday School for all ages 9:30am; Message 10:30am; Sunday evening services 6pm. No services on last Sunday night of every month. All are welcome.
- SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH** - Washington & Pine Streets, Arcola, 268-3766. Rev. Angel Sierra, Pastor. Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m.; Weekday Mass Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Confessions Wednesday 6:15 p.m. or by appointment. Affirmations Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Email: johnbaptist@consolidated.net
- LIFEPOINTE CHURCH** - 700 E. Main, Arcola. Nondenomination/Spirit-Filled Church. Ph. 217-268-4586. Rev. Gephard and Judy Warman. Sunday Worship Service: 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Pastor Rogelio Gutierrez - Spanish Church. Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m. Friday Service: 7:00 p.m.
- ARTHUR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** - 128 E. Illinois, Arthur. Pastor Jill Bunker. Worship 8am & 10am; Sunday School 9am Nursery for Sunday School and 10am Service. www.arthurunitedmethodist.org
- VINE STREET CHRISTIAN CHURCH** - 249 S. Vine, Arthur. Pastor Bob Silvanik. Sunday School 9am; Worship 10am. Christian Women's Fellowship meets first Wednesday each month 1:30pm, September-June. Nursery and air conditioning.
- ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST** - P.O. Box 252, Arthur. 2 1/2 miles south of Garrett. Church Worship 9:00am.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m. **LOVINGTON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD (ANDERSON)** - 301 W. State St. Lovington, IL 61937. Pastor Rodney Houser. Phone 873-4749 9am Sunday School, 10am Morning Worship, Wednesday 7pm Midweek Services, adult and childrens ministries.
- PRAIRIE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH** - 2423 CR 500 E, Lake City, IL 61937. Phone 677-2464. Nursery available for all services. Sunday School for K4-Adults 9:30 a.m. Worship and Children's Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday evening services 6:30 p.m. Wednesday night Bible Study 7 p.m. with Flyer's Club (K4-1st Grade), King's Kids (2nd-6th Grade) and Teens (7th-12th Grade) every Wednesday (Sept.-May). Email: info@prairieviewbaptistchurch.com Website: www.prairieviewbaptist.com
- LOVINGTON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** - 360 W. Springfield Rd. Sunday School 9:30am, Morning Worship 10:30am, Evening Service 6pm, Wednesday Mid-Week Prayer & Bible Study, 7:00pm Church phone: 873-5116. www.fbclovington.org
- NEW LIFE CHURCH** - R.R. 1, Sullivan, Il 61951 (3 1/2 miles east of Sullivan on the Cadwell Rd.) Ph. 728-4200 Dave & Debra Dolan, Pastors; Liz Dolan, Minister of Music; Debra Dolan, Secretary. Sunday Worship 9am. Wednesday Worship Service (for all ages), 7pm. Website www.newlifesullivan.org
- CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP** -212 E. Third Street, Arthur. Sunday Worship services 10am, Sunday evening worship service 6:30 pm. Everyone warmly invited to join us for worship.
- UNITED CHURCH OF ATWOOD** - 210 N. Main St., P.O. Box 379 • Atwood, IL 61913 • 578-2832. Mike Drake, Pastor. Non-Denominational Christian Church. Service: 10:00am. Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-Noon



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