

Arthur Through My Eyes

This week I got to spend time learning more about my good friends Dale and June Bissonett. Dale was one of my first new friends here in town...giving me a cheerful greeting outside his store on one of my morning walks,

and we have shared many a conversation ever since then. And then I was blessed to get to know June as we all attend church together. They have had quite a business journey here in Arthur. It is a story of hope and resilience.

As many of you may know, Dale was a prominent auctioneer in town at the Old Auction Center on 400 E. Progress St. After suffering from significant throat problems in 2010, he had to retire. He still had a lot of inventory, so decided to

open a consignment store in the building instead. Fun fact! He went to sleep one night, trying to think of a name for the store, when the thought came to him that "everyone is always looking for a deal... that lil' gold nugget"...hence, the

name of the store was born - "The Lil' Nugget" - as well as the store sign depicting a miner panning for gold. June also wanted to have a special spot in the store, so "June's Treasures" was added amidst a remodel. Due to all the stress and strain of rebuilding a business, Dale suffered from his first of 2 strokes in 2012, and he and June had to sell everything. The building was then sold to what is presently "Easy Trail" and eventually, as Dale recovered, they began looking for somewhere else to go. It didn't take long, and they were relocated to a building on Vine Street right next to Graham Vet Clinic. They were only there a year and a half when a fire broke out on New Year's Eve Day and completely destroyed all that they and every vendor had. Quite a huge blow!

Through an insurance claim, they were able to buy again, and Paul Schrock helped he and June get back on their feet by offering them the front end of "Chester Antiques Mall." They weren't there long when Paul started to have his own health struggles and needed to slowly go out of business, which is when George Fritz offered to rent them their present store on the northeast side of Vine St. right across the tracks (which was previously a gun shop). They have been there since 2017. June always dreamed of having a book store, and so "Froggy's Nook"

was added (named after June's love of frogs), which contains around 800 books for all ages and interests, some going as far back as the 1800's. It's fun to browse their store of 15 vendors as it is filled with all types of unique finds including lots of Army surplus, tools, coins, jewelry, albums, CD's, house wares, board games, puzzles, glass collectibles, used furniture, and many figurines from days gone by. They also sell a lot of used bikes and have recently added local honey and Plank's local "butter and mustards." Dale shared that his love for selling things is rooted in his upbringing, as his Mom would take him along to sell wholesale clothing, Tupperware, Amway, etc. "I just come by it natural. It's in my blood," he said. When he started setting up tables at flea markets to sell his very profitable "Shirt Graphic Sportswear" years ago, his Mom would be right along with him too.

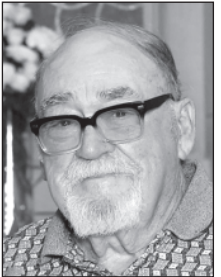
When I asked him what he appreciates most about having a store in Arthur, he commented that the people who come in and shop are friendly and mentioned you don't get that kind of interaction in a big box store. He enjoys that part of the business particularly. He says it's what, "keeps him going... I would miss the people". So, stop in for a visit sometime!

Storytelling in Arthur,
Trudy Feyereisen

Obituaries

James Edmond Binion

James Edmond Binion, 93, of Sullivan, passed away peacefully at his home at 7:11 p.m. Sunday, March 26, 2023.



Funeral services will be held 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 1, 2023, at McMullin-Young Funeral Home, Sullivan. Visitation will be held an hour prior to the service Saturday at the funeral home in Sullivan. Burial will be in Liberty Cemetery, Sullivan. Memorials may be made to the Traditions Hospice.

James was born June 11, 1929, in Holland, KY; son of Roy and Flossie (York) Binion. He married Vivian Eileen England on October 29, 1949, in Sullivan; she preceded him in death on April 21, 2022. James collected clocks and brass figurines, loved honkytonk music and spending time with his family; James respected every living creature.

He is survived by his sons, Bruce (Peggy) Binion of Cedar Rapids, IA, and Royce (Sally)

Binion of Wolcottville, IN; daughters, Joy (Ed) Voltenburg of Sullivan and Merry Woolsey of Henderson, KY; brother, Wilburn Binion of Sullivan; sister, Doris Rich of Arthur. He is also survived by 12 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, 2 children, Sharon and Terry Binion, 5 brothers and 1 sister.

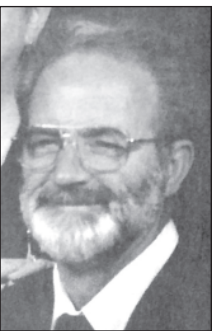
Condolences may be offered to the family at www.mcmullin-young.com

Willis F. Kauffman

Willis F. Kauffman, 75 of Arthur, IL passed away at 9:50 AM on Thursday, March 23, 2023 at Carle

Hospital in Urbana, IL with his two children by his side.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at the Arthur Mennonite Church, 710 E. Park St., Arthur, IL. Pastor Glen Rhodes will officiate.



Burial will be in the Arthur Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at the church. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Willis was born on March 25, 1947 in Arthur, IL, a son of Fred and Clara (Herschberger) Kauffman. He married Mary Garber on March 16, 1970 in Asheville, NC. Mary passed away on December 2, 2020.

Willis is survived by his two children, Kathy Kearns and her husband David, and Kevin Kauffman and wife Pege, all of Arthur, IL, two grandsons, Tyler Kearns and his wife Sarah of Arthur, IL and Scott Kauffman of Effingham IL; two step grandsons, Kolby and Nick Hubster both of Arthur, IL; one great grandson River Kearns, five siblings, Katie Ann Hostetler and husband Albert of Arthur, Ervin Kauffman of Arthur, Al Kauffman and wife Pat front Leesburg FL, Bessie Hostetler and husband Robert of Middlefield, OH, Sarah Otto of Kokomo IN, a brother-in-law Joe Hostetler of Middlefield, OH, and sister-in-law, Martha Mullet and husband Johnny from Sugar creek, OH.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Clara Kauffman, his wife Mary Kauffman, and one sister, Dora Hostetler.

Willis was a member of the Arthur Mennonite church.

Willis grew up and went to school in Arthur, IL. He moved to Ohio and worked as an orderly in a hospital. He later worked for Foremost Trucking in Sugar creek, OH; Willis hauled whey, a byproduct of the manufacturing of cheese. After moving back to Arthur, IL Willis worked for Bursa Trenching, he later drove a truck for Mike Green and then finally drove a milk truck for Larry Kauffman and Prairie Farms.

Willis enjoyed garden tractor pulling; he had a garden tractor that he used to pull for over 10 years. He also enjoyed going to Rice Lake in Canada to fish.

His favorite thing to do was spend time with his family. The holidays especially, Mary and Willis always made Christmas candy; peanut butter cups, dipped pretzels, caramels, and Mary's famous turtles, just to name a few. Their holiday connections were with love and affection making the holidays sweeter for many.



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 Discipling & Administration; Jeff Marnier, Minister of Worship and 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.worshipnew.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 (ABCUSA) - 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

COWBOY CHURCH - 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 6:00 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

Real Faith For Real Life

From Pastors of the Arthur Ministerial Association

Making the most of the limited time we have

"Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered - how fleeting my life is." - Psalm 39:4

You will never know when your time will be up. The past two weeks have been difficult for many people in our community. There have been a few deaths that hit close to home. The loss of a loved one, a friend, an acquaintance, or simply someone you know can get you thinking. Evaluating. Maybe it's because I'm getting older. Perhaps it is an awareness that anything can happen at any time. Scripture is clear that we're not promised tomorrow, nor even the next fifteen minutes, but with God's grace we might have some more time.

Life is short no matter how long we live. It is up to each of us to live a life that is worthwhile, rich and full, such that we don't arrive at our last moments feeling that we've missed something important. But we can't do everything or know everybody. So, what will we choose? Time slips away easily. If there's something you've been longing to do - perhaps now is the time to do it, to make plans, or to take steps toward realizing the dream. If there's something you've been saving, now might be the time to enjoy it rather than allowing it to collect more dust. If you have

something to tell someone, now might be the time to say it. Seek or give forgiveness. Say, "I love you," even if you have a hard time expressing your feelings. Repent and start a relationship again. Act on moving forward in life.

I know that you know that this is not a license to get a little crazy, but to focus in and concentrate on what really matters. The people in our life. Family and friends. Hopefully spending eternity together in the presence of God. Good Friday and Easter are less than two weeks away. If you need to, get things right with God through Jesus. He alone can take what is all too temporary and make it eternal.

The Psalmist goes on to remind us, "We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth, not knowing who will spend it. And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in you." Life is not about our achievements, nor the amount of stuff we can accumulate. It is the depth of the relationships we have with those closest to us and the faith we have through Jesus. Hopefully making the most of the limited time we have.

Much love and many blessings,
Pastor John Stewart
First Baptist Church
of Arthur

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