

Arthur Through My Eyes

I have the immense privilege of working at two public service agencies here in Arthur - The Arthur Graphic Clarion and The Arthur Public Library. Working for both has been deeply edifying and encouraging. I wanted to take some time to highlight these two worthy establishments.

Have you ever stopped and thought about how much time, thought, effort, intentionality and organization goes into running a newspaper which so effectively covers community events? It's an ongoing, never-ending process of staying alert, aware and on your toes. The

manner in which school events alone like games, spelling bees, athletic signings, awards and accomplishments are covered is amazing. It's truly remarkable how much coverage is given and photos taken of the students in our district. Stephanie Wierman and her staff do an incredible job! It's a labor of love...love for our community and for our young people. It's a rare and precious gift. I well remember growing up, how much it meant to see my picture in the local paper when I had worked hard to accomplish something. It's an encouragement for a young person to ex-

cel still more, and is an important part of coming alongside our youth in a positive way. I greatly applaud and appreciate the efforts made to do so. It really warms my heart.

Something else that greatly warms my heart is working under director Kelsey Pruitt at the Arthur Public Library. Kelsey has a way of making the library a very pleasant place to both work and visit. She is very thoughtful about how she engages with both her staff and the public and finds great joy in making the library a lovely and vibrant part of serving the needs of our community. She herself really enjoys helping others. I've observed her on many occasions helping a student find a book for a specific report or project, or helping someone accomplish a task on the computer or a printing job with such happiness. It's quite admirable. She also has a great working knowledge of books and how to run the daily operations of the library well. Librarian Dawn Robinson also takes great pride in her work and does so many behind the scenes things that help the library run smoothly. You will often find her placing protective covering on books for better shelf life, organizing books on the shelves with helpful labeling, and making her very popular children's activity packets that kids just love! Her heart to serve is evident. Both she and children's librarian Meranda Stutzman take great delight in also planning and organizing special events at the

library for both adults and children. I have listened to them talk of their excitement about upcoming programs, and have also observed the effort that goes into setting them up. This is a labor of love for our community.

I, personally, have the joy of working closely with Meranda as we do the children's story time together. Meranda has a lot of creativity and it's fun to brainstorm ideas with her. She has brought doing crafts into the story time, and that has been a great addition. I also have greatly appreciated her way with people, as she is so good at greeting people with a warm welcome when they enter, as well as giving them a fond farewell as they leave. Her presence at the library brings a real sense of home. You can tell how comfortable the patrons that come in regularly are with her, and she with them. It makes me smile. You will also be blessed to be served by clerks Grace Garrett and Joselyn Garza who both exhibit such a humble willingness to serve in whatever capacity they are asked. I have been very impressed by their work ethics as young people and am honored to learn from and work alongside them.

Once again finding true treasures here in Arthur that we all are blessed as a community to have. May we appreciate and make the most of these treasures and keep looking for more!

Still Treasure Hunting,
Trudy Feyereisen

Real Faith For Real Life

From Pastors of the Arthur Ministerial Association

Lessons From ... Dex

It always catches me by surprise ... even though I should know by now. Whenever you reach out and delve into the place of God's Spirit, good things are bound to follow.

But then, good things were already happening. Last Tuesday, I had just finished a really great day and a half in Lexington celebrating the true wonder of having a 2 year old grandson, and celebrating the 90th birthday of my mother-in-law, Phyllis, Amy's mom. Yes, the time was short. And no, it is never easy to leave ... but it sure was a good feeling in my bones when I pulled out to return home to Arthur.

But the most important joy of the day hadn't happened yet. The trip from Lexington to Arthur begins by getting on Interstate 64 West to Louisville. It is a bit of a tricky entrance ramp from Paris Pike to I-64, so I am always a little extra careful to get in the correct lane. And I did!

As soon as I made the turn for the ramp, there was he was ... Dex. He was sitting on the thin concrete median that divided the entrance ramp from the exit ramp. He was leaning on a thin metal post that held a sign helping drivers navigate this ramp correctly. I could only see his back because he was facing the exit ramp, not the entrance ramp. Though it was a pleasant day, he seemed to be bundled up in a coat and blanket, and he was sitting with a "military green" large duffle bag -- the same kind of bag that so many homeless veterans carry with them.

I knew immediately what to do. I pulled over as far as I could to be close to him, and I rolled down my window and explained to him that I had something for him. I reached behind my driver's seat to grab the Blessing Bag I always carry in my car ... but I grabbed air instead. The bag was somewhere back there out of my reach and my sight. In the meantime, the homeless vet is standing at my window and cars are beginning to back up on the entrance ramp.

It was at the very moment that I first looked up to see the face of this man. Only ... he was more like a boy. Baby-faced. Nice head of hair. No sign of whiskers. This was no older homeless vet from Viet Nam or Korea. This was a homeless vet from Iraq. So young. So innocent. Somebody's young son. Someone's grandson.

Since I could not reach the Blessing Bag, and cars were all around us, I did what I normally do not do. I reached for my wallet in the console. I pulled out a wad of cash and handed it to him, telling him this is all I've

got. He looked at me and took the cash and with a bright-eyed baby face of joy he said, "This will be really good since there is a storm coming up." Now, the weather at this time was lovely. High blue sky. Intermittent sun and clouds. No sign of a storm, or even rain in the forecast. But my friend knew the harsh realities of life. He was living those harsh realities. And he knew that another storm was just around the corner.

I was touched by his pleasantness and gratefulness, and his innocence. I knew I had to get that bag for him. So right there, on the entrance ramp, I put my flashers on and got out to look for that bag somewhere in the wilderness land of the back of my car. As I got out, I did what I was trained to do. "My name is Bob," I said. "I'm Dex," he replied. I found the bag and opened it just to be sure it was a Blessing Bag and not a dirty socks bag. He looked into it and his face spread out in wonder ... like Christmas morning. He had never seen anything like this. And I had never seen anyone like him.

I wonder how a young vet like Dex has the floor drop completely out of his life? How does this kid end up here, that day, sitting by the highway, talking with me? I wish I had more time to get to know Dex, but the cars were coming more quickly and it was time for me to go. Dex stayed. Took his seat. And waited there all day for folks to offer some help to him.

I am glad I stopped. I am glad he was there for me. I am glad I was there for him. I'm not sure which of us was more blessed by that chance encounter ... but I smiled the whole way home. And now I've decided to share his story with you. Five minutes of our lives together. That is all we will ever have ... me and Dex.

We're all just seed throwers in this crazy mixed-up world of ours, where our vets struggle with suicide (an average of 20 vets a day commit suicide) and homelessness. And find themselves on the entrance ramps of our country's highways. Throwing their seeds of desperation and depression at anyone willing to stop and help. Funny thing about those seeds they throw - they land on me, and others, as seeds of the gospel. Seeds of inspiration and hope. Seeds of love and caring for each other. And yes, seeds of Jesus.

I saw Jesus last week. His name was Dex. He blessed me and then sent me on my way. He stayed there. He had others to bless.

Journeying to the Cross Together ... Pastor Bob <<<

Arthur Woman's Club Scholarship Applications

The Arthur Woman's Club will award educational scholarships to Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond (ALAH) High School graduating Seniors who are continuing their education. Applications are available at the ALAH High School Guidance Counselor's office and on the Arthur CUSD #305 website. Applications must be re-

turned to the ALAH High School Guidance Counselor's office no later than Monday, April 3, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact the Guidance Counselor office at 217-543-2146 or Arthur Woman's Club Education Committee chair Sandy Smith at sandy-smith52365@gmail.com

Arthur History Fact #40 Businesses Flourished

Arthur had barely been named and the railroad siding established before there sprang up three different people buying grain and livestock and selling coal.

They were John and Asa Warren, R.P. Burlingame, and Pugh & Son.

Soon afterward, Tom McCord started a grain and coal office north of the railroad.

Paul Kuhn of Terre Haute built an elevator on the east side of Vine Street and put James Wright in charge.

Another elevator was built on the west side of Vine and Frank Powell managed it.

In 1894 Foster Cahill and Harry Baker put up a big grain dump on the C. & E.I. railroad east of Vine.

In the late 1930's, a group of men bought both elevators and ran them as a corporation.



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: jrcreek.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.fblovington.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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