

Arthur Through My Eyes

Last week Steve Howell gave a "shout out" to Randall Electric, so thought it fitting to interview my Uncle Rod and learn more about the roots/history of this business in my family that is the oldest continuously operating business in Arthur - 76 years. He was asking me if I remember the intercoms that went between the house and the shop. My sister Angie recently commented about how fun that was to hear as a kid and Uncle Rod fondly recalled how, as a young boy he would sneak over to the shop when he heard Aunt Helen was working because he so enjoyed the back rubs she would give him with her long fingernails. Then he would hear his Mom (my Grandma) calling on the intercom to come back home and not bother Aunt Helen. That made me laugh! He was in and out of the shop a lot as a boy, but when he entered high school, he started helping Luther Wiltermoed when he went out on deliveries. Then in 1976, after attending graduate school, Rod and his wife Carol came back to Arthur where he planned to work "temporarily" in the business, but then, never left. He officially took over the business in 1982 and significantly expanded the showroom in 1985.

Growing up, I remember how neat it was to visit Grandma Grace Randall working in the shop, or sit on the stool and watch Grandpa Bob Randall work on something. Grandpa started Randall Electric back in 1947 in the back part of a building at 122 Vine St. and was busy installing some of the

first air conditioning systems in downtown Arthur including: Moses Cafe, the Ben Franklin Store, Stock's Shoe Store and Grantham Drugs. He also installed the refrigeration system for the coolers and freezers of the Harrer's Grocery Store. He and his uncle, Loren Randall wired people's homes for electricity for the first time. By 1950, the business was moved into a remodeled garage at it's present location where many purchased their first automatic washing machines, dishwashers and room air conditioners from Randall Electric. And later people came to buy their first ever TV. Truly on the exciting, cutting edge of technology! Grandpa even opened the business doors on New Year's Day to customers who wanted to watch the Rose Parade for the very first time in color. And in 1959, he installed 30-foot tall street lights in downtown Arthur which years later were replaced by Randall Electric with the aluminum ones we still use today. Grandpa and Grandma left an impressive legacy in Arthur and my Uncle Rod and Aunt Carol have carried that on to this day with the same heart and mind to serve this community well.

During the years Rod has had the business, he has introduced residents of Arthur and the surrounding communities to their first VCR, first video game systems, first cordless phones, first cellular phones, first scanners, computers, satellite TV systems, etc. In order to sell VCR's which were at first so expensive, he added renting video movies and games and

housed those for 40 years. He also operated an in-the-store Radio Shack for 20 years. In such a small town, Randall Electric has kept in step with the times in order to help the community stay with the times. They have mostly sold Whirlpool Appliances (which bought out Amana, Maytag, KitchenAid, Jena-Air) and Zenith TV's. Something distinct about Randall Electric is that they have always serviced the TV's and appliances they sell. That is rare in today's world. Uncle Rod said, "I want to make sure we take care of the customers who buy things from us." Present and longest working employee Toby Diener (36 years) has a real drive to fix whatever needs fixing and takes pride in his work. He has been a reliable and committed member of Randall Electric whom customers really like and Patti Grant has helped out at the front desk for years. Loyal workers and loyal customers make a difference. Rod appreciates both. He is grateful for the generations of families he has known since they were his Dad's customers and who's children and grandchildren are now his customers. There's a special connection there that can't be equaled. As can also be said of Arthur itself as Uncle Rod proudly stated, "Arthur is an exceptional community. No other town of it's size in the area has the companies and businesses we have. It is a community that has an awful lot to offer. The future is still good for this community."

Proud to be a Part of Arthur and It's History, Trudy Feyereisen

Real Faith For Real Life

From Pastors of the Arthur Ministerial Association

Is life stagnant or is the heart stagnant

Spring is roaring in like a lion. Hopefully soon it will go out like a lamb and we can enjoy some beautiful weather. Spring has often been symbolic of new life and the beginning of new opportunities. With new opportunities, comes making big decisions and forward motion.

I recently stood in line at a visitation behind a gentleman I had not seen in a long time. We engaged in small talk for a minute and ended up on the topic of his business. His business has been nearly a lifelong commitment. He is now passing along his skills to his son, who will hopefully continue the work in this family business. We then got on the topic of jobs and careers. We discussed how people seem to move in and out of jobs, seeking new opportunities and often never staying in the same job for more than 5-10 years, always looking for something different. Out of all of this, one comment he made has lingered on my mind for the past several weeks. He said, "I have been there so long I wonder if I am stagnant or stable?" My response was, "There is nothing wrong with being stable."

We may sometimes get caught up in feeling stagnant, like we are going nowhere. We may feel like the world is passing us by as everyone else is seeking a new career, buying a new house, or getting a fresh start moving to a different community. Maybe we seem to think these things will bring us more joy or make us feel more

fulfilled. As there is nothing wrong with these things, I feel it may be worth asking ourselves: Am I stagnant in my life, am I stagnant spiritually, or both? Being stagnant is a problem. By definition, stagnant (as used to define stagnant water) means having no current or flow and often develops an unpleasant smell as a consequence. Maybe I should ask; is my life becoming unpleasant because I am spiritually stagnant? Maybe it is not my career. Maybe it is not my house or my current situation. Maybe it is my heart. Maybe it is my thought patterns.

Growth is important, but do all of these extrinsic things that we grasp for really fill our hearts with joy and contentment? Or do they leave us searching for more? As I stated earlier, there is absolutely

nothing wrong with being stable. Synonyms for stable are: solid, steady, secure, strong, balanced. These are definitely words I would want to use in describing my life.

With Spring in the air and new opportunities ahead, maybe stability is something to work on when we are feeling discontent. I think it may be worthwhile to ask ourselves: Is life stagnant or is the heart stagnant? A heart full of love, kindness, hope and faith can create stability. With stability comes contentment. When we are content, we can then focus on how to make the best of every situation and maybe share a little light with the people around us.

Emily Kauffman
Minister of Outreach
Arthur Mennonite Church

Operation Hope Public Meeting

Operation Hope will be holding a public meeting on Wednesday, April 19 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Arcola Community Center in Arcola.

Operation Hope is a student lead group that focuses on substance abuse and awareness among you in our community. We also provide numerous volunteer opportunities for students in 9-12 grade.

At this public meeting, we allow youth from different communities to gather and par-

ticipate as one in icebreakers. These meetings are also a safe space for anyone to be themselves.

All of our meetings are open to all high schoolers in our local areas. There is no commitment when coming to these meetings. We are glad to have anyone who is able to attend.

For additional information contact Operation Hope thru Facebook: Operation Hope or Instagram: __OperationHope__

Arthur Grade School Third Quarter Honor Roll

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| High Honors | Seventh Grade: James Sanders Davison, Julia Nicole Coewn Condill, Emily Mae Keagle, Alexander Lee Olivero, Ella Mckinlea Oye, Annabelle Rose Vanausdoll |
| Seventh Grade: | James Sanders Davison, Julia Nicole Gingerich, Kolleen Janae Gingerich, Savannah Raye Pearsall, Alana Nicole Perez, |
| Eighth Grade: | Kody John Burdick, Adyson Caylee Cusick, Esmeralda Diaz, Coye Nathaniel Grant, Emeline H Greathouse, Kaley Alexis Herschberger, Brennon Carter Hutson, Marcus William Otto, Nicholas Andrew Wiley, Kathryn Anne Rafferty |
| Honors | |

Arthur History Fact #45

1897

The wood-frame building on the SW corner of Vine and Progress Streets was torn down to make room for a new brick building for the Reeves and Fleming Opera House.

Entertainments took place on the second story of the building.

On December 23, 1897, the Opera House was dedicated with a presentation of "A Texas Steer" by the Charles Hoyt Comedy Company.

This comedy/drama was a political satire that was extremely popular nationwide.

The Opera House remained popular for a number of years, providing dramas and comedies, lectures by eminent men, and interesting shows like Blind Boone, a blind pianist.

However, stiff competition with the new moving picture show caused the Opera House to close by 1910.

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.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 (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 6:00 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.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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