

# Arthur Through My Eyes

This week it was suggested to me to get students and teachers thoughts on how they are feeling about the upcoming school year. I so loved the beginning of a new school year...my favorite season...fall on the way with that snap of crisp in the air and getting to be with my friends again on a more regular basis.

A theme of excitement emerged with many of the responses I received. I hope you enjoy reading them.

High School Science Teacher and Jr. High Boys Basketball

Coach Chris Stinebring said, "I'm looking forward to a new year with the kids and coaching basketball. It's gonna be exciting. Gonna be a great year!"

Freshman Ashby Coblentz commented, "Mixed emotions... excited to have something to have to do, yet not excited because I'll actually have to do homework now."

Freshman Dustin Hodge added, "A little bit nervous cuz' it's a whole new atmosphere - bigger building, a lot of new people - but other than that, I'm excited!"

Senior Lucy Wilber shared that she is "excited to experience all my 'lasts'" to which Kaylee Thompson then noted, "I'm excited about meeting the incoming class of freshmen." (those freshman earlier need to meet her!).

Junior Addison Yeakel told me, "I'm excited to be a role model for the underclassmen both in the classroom and on the court." (another upper-classman that freshman need to seek out!)

And senior Kendall Burdick shared, "I'm excited to see what

this last year of High School brings me."

High School Math Teacher and Assistant Volleyball Coach Morgan Wendt is in her second year at ALAH and is "excited to get back and get even more established in my curriculum since I now understand the students better and their needs. I also look forward to getting more acquainted with the community, as everyone has been so welcoming to me, and really excited to have the opportunity to work with the volleyball team."

Junior Kayla Johnson shared, "It's going to be a really hard year (as she has tough classes and the SAT's this year), but gonna have to push through and get homework done."

Her friend, senior Chloe Schable, has a bit of the opposite work load ahead of her..."I think I'll have a pretty easy year as I only have six classes to take, so I'm excited and ready to get through my senior year and off to new things in college." I also had the opportunity to connect with teachers and staff at Arthur Grade School.

Third year principal Andrew Peralta shared, "I'm incredibly excited to welcome our students back and proud of the efforts our staff has put together to give a great start to the year."

Administrative assistant Lynnette Wilson commented, "I'm encouraged by the new teachers joining our staff this year who are really going to be a great addition to our school. We also have quite a few new

students coming in this year. I'm looking forward to working with them, as well as all the returning students and teachers. We have a great group of people working here."

First year teacher Mikhala Sumption said, "I'm really excited to get started and learn with my 3rd graders."

And fellow first year teacher Whitney Wynkoop, taking up 5th grade (as well as assistant coaching for both H.S. girls basketball and junior high girls softball) stated, "I'm very excited to get going and meet my students and involve myself in the community too. Arthur reminds me of my hometown of Fulton, IL, so I feel very comfortable here. Everyone has made me feel so welcome."

Second grade teacher Vanessa Floyd shared that she has "the only 2nd grade class in Arthur this year, so there's going to be a small little community in my room. We have new

math curriculum this year that is more 'hands-on', which I am grateful to the district for providing for us."

And Michaela Ponstein (for the past 7 years, a 3rd grade teacher) is embarking on her first year as a 1st grade teacher and says, "I'm excited to get to know my new students, build a classroom community and learn and grow with one another."

High School History teacher Doug Davis summed it all up well when he joyfully shared, "I can't wait for school to start this year. The beginning of the school year combines the excitement of a fresh start with the blessing of being reunited with people you care about. It's wonderful!"

I'm grateful to each who took the time to interact with me. It was a real joy, and I wish you all a fabulous school year!

Cheering You On,  
Trudy Feyerisen

## Real Faith For Real Life

From Pastors of the Arthur Ministerial Association

### God is in Control

In Jeremiah 29:11 we read these words. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." I began with this because I have been asked a few times recently the age-old question, "why do bad things happen to good people." We've seen examples of this from time to time and the bible is the only place I know of to look for an answer.

This question is sometimes asked in innocence by people with a genuine desire to understand what seems almost impossible to understand. Other times it's asked by people who have suffered or whose loved ones have known grief and loss. They honestly want to

know: How could God let this happen to me and to mine? Why wouldn't God stop this pain and help me? After all, sometimes we experience devastating suffering. Just consider the Holocaust, the abduction and murder of a child, or the long and painful death of a kind and gentle person. The critic of Christianity would respond that God is not all-knowing, not all-powerful, or not all-good. I would say that the question—and even the problem—are actually more of a conundrum for the nonbeliever than for the Christian.

The materialist and the atheist, those who would deny God, believe that at death, all is over. Life is finished, it is done and complete, and that suffering

happens with no redeeming purpose. To them we are all body and flesh with no soul and spirit. Christians, on the other hand, believe that these years on earth, while important and to be used wisely and to be enjoyed, are preparation for a far greater life to come that is eternity and life in heaven with God. The Bible actually makes it quite clear that faith in Jesus Christ does not guarantee a good life, but a perfect eternity. His plans for us often are different than ours and we have to realize that it is his plans that are perfect. So, yes bad things do certainly happen to good people.

Blessings,  
Pastor Ken Bunker  
Arcola Christian Church

### Town Talk

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This information comes from Cheri Burcham, Family Life Educator for the University of Illinois Extension. "There is increasing evidence that brain health is directly related to body health. However, most people think more about keeping their bodies fit or their hearts healthy than working at maintaining a healthy brain. Cheri Burcham has been facilitating "Wits Fitness: Brain Exercise Classes" in Arthur for several years now, and has decided to change the location for the class to be held at Eberhardt Village, 431 W. Palmer in Arthur. Classes are free and are still held every third Monday of the month at 3 p.m. except for July and December. The next class will be held on August 21. Cheri will lead participants through interactive activities designed to exercise the brain to maintain and enhance cognitive function and memory. You are never too young or old to get started training your brain, so join Cheri in this fun and informative class! University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, please call 217-543-3755." I have gone to a few of these classes and they are a lot of fun. Good socialization too!

#### ALAH ATHLETICS

There have been several junior high baseball and softball games played so far but I am not sure of the outcome of all the games so will just say that you will have plenty of opportunities to watch games (especially softball) next week. Junior high girls will play at home Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday

and have an away game at Villa Grove on Thursday. Junior high boys will have games Monday and Friday at home and Tuesday away. Golf is at Kaskaskia on Thursday and the Red & Gold scrimmage for football is Friday night on Wilson Field. Go Knights!

#### COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICE

Quick note that there will be a community church service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, September 3 at Penn Station. A good way to celebrate Arthur's 150th anniversary as a community. More to come on that and other cheese festival and sesquicentennial events later.

#### REDBIRD LEGACY

Started the column with a family story and will end it that way. As we were visiting on Friday we were talking about the fact that we had connections to Eastern Illinois and Illinois State. Cousin Peggy Loggan Cope has LOTS of ISU connections. Her late mother-in-law, Peggy herself, her sons Paul and John and daughter Beth, and daughter-in-law Rebecca have all earned one degree or another or sometimes more than one from the university. Their family story made it into the latest edition of the ISU alumni magazine. But it all started because of grandson Grayson's (Paul's son) bond that he formed with one of the players on the Redbird Hockey Club. Grayson and Wil Kelly hit it off at a 'Skate with the Redbirds' event where the two spent the whole evening on the ice together. Since then the family and Kelly have kept in touch and Grayson has not missed a single hockey game.

And that's -30- for the start of a new and exciting school year!



## 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 Con-

temporary 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

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