

Arthur Through My Eyes

One day when I was asking my neighbors, retired pastor Leroy and his wife Marilyn Alison, if they would be kind enough to give me a statement

for my column on "Our Town", Leroy mentioned the possibility of me writing about the weekly "Community Meals" at the United Methodist Church,

and I thought that was a great idea...so here goes!

Back in February of 2009, the church was providing about 30 meals for the youth group and

enjoying the blessing and fellowship it provided.

The young people started to wonder if it was possible to invite others who were hurting because of the economy, to join them.

Leadership knew it was a good idea, but wondered how they would go about identifying who to invite, as well as how to do so without embarrassing them. They also realized that there may also be people who don't necessarily have a financial need, but have a need to be with other people. The group decided they would try it for 6 weeks and then reevaluate.

As the end of that time, former head cook Steffanie Seegmiller (now ALAH principal) commented that since there were only 4-5 weeks left of school before the summer, they might as well continue (with the plan being to stop for the summer and pick back up in the fall).

But when summer ended and the team got together to discuss plans, one of the ladies in the group shared how an elderly woman had come up to her and told her, with tears coming down her cheeks, how important it was to her to have a meal with somebody else (because she lived alone and didn't get out too much).

Upon hearing that precious story, pastor at the time Leroy Alison exclaimed, "You've hooked us!" And the rest is history!

Leroy also commented that had they stopped for the summer, they probably wouldn't have picked up again in the fall. God's kind leading/providence through the honest and vulnerable sharing of an individual. In the early days, they served

about 50-75 people, but as word got out, people started coming, and by 2017 United Methodist Church served over 15,000 meals and were averaging about 300 meals a week.

Leroy remembers the excitement of needing to get a new kitchen and licensed with the health department (which inspects the facilities every year). The ministry had become well established.

Founding head cook Steffanie Seegmiller remembers how, in the early days, they would send leftovers home with the youth group and their families and how that led to touching the hearts of the youth to want to share with others. How special to know the inception was from the hearts of young people!

Present day head cook Arlone Doan shared with me how she had to pray about taking the position after Steffanie moved on. She wasn't so sure about the undertaking, but said "The LORD kept saying 'yes, yes, yes'". Her emotion and passion for this ministry was so evident as we talked together because she knows she is doing what the LORD has called her to do. She mentioned how so many people ask her how you know how much food to prepare, etc. and she simply stated, "The LORD provides what we need. People don't sign up, we just trust Him to lead and provide." And that He does!

They buy most food local at Kirby Foods and MaryBeth Massey from the U of I extension office here in town's food program has been instrumental and excellent in finding food sources via the local food auc-

tions who give her good prices, or at times, even donate items.

This past week she found nearly 400 pounds of vegetables for them! Many of the desserts come from Homestead Bakery, as they place extras in their freezer to donate, as well as regulars who make brownies or buy pies from Yoder's. Most all the food is homemade.

At present, "Community Meals" serves and average of 300 people per week with 30-50 dining in and the rest either being delivered or picked up. Around 12-15 people volunteer every week for this ministry from all different churches and all ages of life.

Even a lady from Decatur regularly comes to volunteer and 93 year old lifetime resident Barb Eckstein is one of the first ones to arrive to wash down the tables. Bless her heart!

They get started in the kitchen around noon and the meal is served every Wednesday evening between 4:30-6:00. It's truly a community effort!

When I asked Arlone what brings her the most joy in doing this, she tearfully said, "Working for the LORD and giving to other people. Many friendships have been made and lives have been touched. We're doing the LORD'S work. We're supposed to serve. It's a pleasure. That's why we have all these volunteers. They want to do the LORD'S work."

So please come and join them sometime. Everyone is welcome. Donations accepted, but not required.

My Heart OVERWHELMED and BLESSED, Trudy Feyereisen

Real Faith For Real Life

From Pastors of the Arthur Ministerial Association

Did We Forget Something Along The Way?

Many folks these days are wondering why the "American Christian Church" is not attracting more unchurched people into church ... specifically into their church.

Perhaps, somewhere along the way ... we have lost The Way. It's certainly worth asking: Have we forgotten The Way of Jesus?

1. Have we forgotten about LOVE?

Not just any kind of love, but have we forgotten about the Divine Love of Jesus ... that's the love that can change our hearts, our lives and the world. One thing we know for sure - it will not be a human style of "what's in it for me" love. Conditional love is really "false" love ... which is the opposite of Divine Love ... which is really not love at all. The love that Jesus brought to us ... and left for us ... is found in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus tells us that this power will teach us everything we will need to know ... including, most importantly ... how to love people without conditions ... how to forgive people for being human ... and how to put a new kind of love in place that will show the whole world just who Jesus is and why He is

the answer to our broken, hateful world.

2. Have we forgotten about SACRIFICE?

So many Christians want the Jesus effect in their lives, but they're not willing to make the sacrifices necessary to become a selfless servant as He was. Jesus teaches us as disciples that the world needs "foot washers" and "mat carriers." Only when we put other's lives before our own will we learn the amazing effect of letting go and trusting God. Many people become Christians for reasons that have nothing to do with Jesus. Shocking, isn't it? The church, to its credit, offers many nice perks and benefits. But without the living presence of Jesus in their midst, churches too easily become community organizations or social clubs. Which, by the way, is not in itself a bad thing. But when the church teaches people that the good life is available without sacrifices, then we've just become another "barker" in the circus of life. Jesus says to sacrifice yourself for Him, and then the true blessings of being a follower of His will emerge in your life and make you whole.

3. Have we forgotten about "THE OTHER"?

The Jesus commandment is to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself. In our society today we have been trained in the opposite - loving your self first (because you deserve it!) and then loving God to the extent that it doesn't interfere with loving yourself first. This is the main illness plaguing our American culture today. As a group, we have been trained to believe that this is the best country on earth, that we are the most powerful nation on earth, and that Americans are favored by God ... because in the end, Christian Americans are right! Of course, none of these matters to Jesus. But the church has a long history of cuddling up to patriotism and nationalism and narcissism. Why? Because it works. It brings people through the doors. And, the message affirms all of these biases. The problem for Jesus is ... that's the exact opposite way to see yourself in the world as the Way He teaches. In truth, how we treat "the other" is one of the truest indications of how well we follow Jesus.

4. Have we forgotten how to WORSHIP?

In the church today, the main See Real Faith on page 9



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: jcreek.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

LIFEPOINT 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

Last week to buy tickets

Founder's Day Dinner Tickets on Sale Now

Tickets for the Village of Arthur's main Sesquicentennial Celebration, the Founder's Day Dinner, are now available. The event will be held on Saturday, September 2, 2023 at Penn Station in downtown Arthur to commemorate the founding of the Village on September 2, 1873.

The event will feature a grilled pork and grilled chicken dinner catered by Jo's Country Diner, birthday cake and ice cream for dessert, an interview with a guest from the past - the founder of the town Michael H. Warren, entertaining Arthur history, and the opening of the time capsule from 1973.

Guests may begin gathering at 5:30 PM with dinner being served at 6:00 PM.

You are encouraged to wear clothing representative of the time of Arthur's founding or any other era of clothing that represents Arthur's past. Pull out the old outfits your parents or grandparents wore during Arthur's Centennial in 1973, work shirts from past businesses, or items you or your ances-



tors might have worn to school in the 40's, 50's, 60's, or 70's. Pictures of those attending this event will be taken and later deposited into the time capsule that will be opened in 2073!

Tickets are \$30 per person and are available at the Arthur Municipal Office, 120 East Progress Street, during the regular business hours of 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM or by calling (217) 543-2927.

Tables will be set up for eight persons per table. So if you want to sit together with family or friends, order your tickets early and ask to be seated at the same table. Seating is limited, so get your tickets right away for this once-in-a-lifetime event!

Moultrie County Court

Traffic Citations

Keegan D Collins, 16, fail to reduce speed.

Steven J Stroh, 22, driving 21-25 mph above limit.

Michael William Bergauer, 68, driving on left/prohibited.

DUI: Juston A Clark, 47, driving under influence of alcohol, driving under influence/BAC 0.08, leaving the scene.

DUI: Dustin K Rambo, 32, driving under influence of alcohol, fail to reduce speed.

Nabil R Abdelsalam, 29, driving under influence of alcohol, driving under influence/BAC 0.08, improper traffic lane usage.

Criminal Cases

Misdemeanor: Hunter, Anthony S., 36, littering, improper use of third/passing lane, filed 8/14/2023.

Domestic Violence: Wes A Baumgartner, 48, domestic battery/bodily harm, filed 8/15/2023.

Marriage Publication List

Teri Jo Stutzman, 39, Lovington; and Lester Lavon Hostetler, 42, Lovington, issue date 8/10/2023.

Jamie Lynn Miller, 35, Sullivan; and Clayton Ross Herschberger, 36, Arthur, issue date 8/14/2023.

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