



VINE STREET looking north from Illinois circa 1905. The banner advertises a church revival.

Arthur Mennonite Church

The work of the Mennonite Church was started by J.A. Heiser, who visited Arthur in 1926 to investigate the spiritual needs of the community. He found that this was an Amish area and that there were no Mennonites living here at the time.

In the summer of 1929, the Mose Troyer family of the Arthur community began attending services at the East Bend Mennonite Church in Fisher. By 1935, others from the Arthur community went to East Bend. They eventually hoped that services could be supplied for them at Arthur, realizing that a church 50 miles away could not minister to their spiritual needs adequately.

In 1936, services were being held in the Obie Bontrager home on Sunday afternoons by workers from the East Bend church. In October of 1939, the former Pentecostal church building, located at the corner of East Progress and South Poplar streets was purchased for \$600. Then in 1940, the group was granted the privilege of organizing as a separate congregation.

During 1946, there was a gain of 46 members, bringing total membership to 178. At a 1947 business meeting, a motion to build a new church building on a plot of ground already owned by the church passed by a 30 to 21 vote.

On Aug. 1, 1948, ground was broken for the basement of the new church and the first services in the new building were held on Easter Sunday, April 17, 1949.

The parsonage that is east of the church was built in 1955, and much remodeling was done to the house. This house served as a parsonage for over 30 years until it became the Youth House, dedicated to youth activities, Sunday School and weekly gatherings of the Arthur Mennonite youth group.

On Sept. 9, 1973, a groundbreaking service was held for the new fellowship hall and education wing to be built east

of the church auditorium. This addition was completed in the spring of 1974.

Although many updates and improvements have been made since 1974, the church building remains today at 710 East Park Street in Arthur.

First Apostolic Church of Arthur

The United Pentecostal Church was organized on July 4, 1947. A church building was erected on East Illinois Street and Lucille Sparks served as the church's pastor for several years.

In 1973, Gawain Bevis was pastor and served the church for 44 years. During the early years he was pastor, the name was changed to the First Apostolic Church of Arthur, but the church remains affiliated with the United Pentecostal Church International.

In 1998 a new church building was completed at 320 Surrey Ln. in Arthur.

Arthur Southern Baptist Church

The Arthur Southern Baptist Church began as a Mission of the Sullivan Baptist Church, Sullivan, on Oct. 8, 1960.

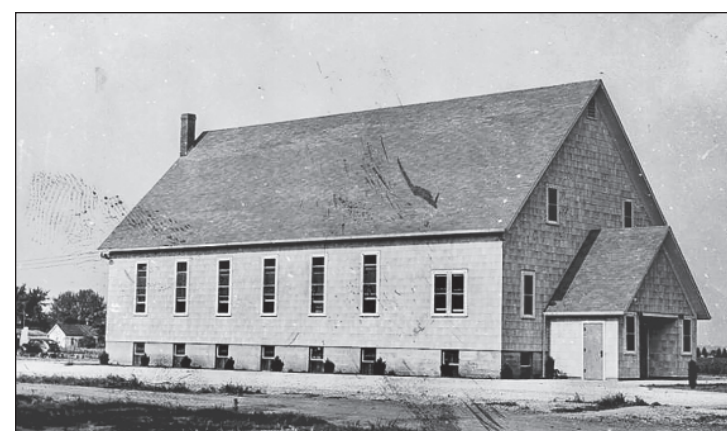
As a mission, church meetings were held in a building at 110 N. Vine St. Then in March of 1961, the Mission was organized into a church.

The congregation moved into a permanent building at 115 N. Oak St. in May of 1962 and made an addition to the building. The house on the north side of the church was purchased for a parsonage.

In 2002, the congregation moved into their new building at 530 N. Vine St.

North Vine Mennonite Church

North Vine Mennonite Church was first known as Quinn Chapel, which was located in Cooks Mills, nine miles southeast of Arthur. A group of members purchased the former Methodist Church building in 1954 and used it for Sunday



United Methodist Church

North Vine Mennonite Church

Arthur Mennonite Church

Arthur Southern Baptist Church

First Apostolic Church of Arthur

school, summer Bible school and other church activities.

The group applied to the Conservative Mennonite Conference in 1955 and was accepted as a congregation. The following year, Henry Plank began his long service as pastor to the congregation.

The church changed its name in 1988 when it moved to its present location at 312 N. Vine St. in Arthur.

The church was a member of the Conservative Mennonite Conference until it joined the Biblical Mennonite Alliance in August 2008.



BAPTISM IN KASKASKIA RIVER at Gill bridge, June 8, 1913, by the Rev. Bradbury, who was conducting revival services in Arthur.