



Arthur Church of Christ

415 West 4th St., Arthur, IL 61911-1303



The "Sower"

June 14, 2009



Ron Bartanen, Minister

Times of Worship

Bible Classes-----9:30 am

Morning Worship-10:30 am

Evening Worship—6:00 pm

Wed. Bible Study---6:00 p.m.

WELCOME to today's Bible class and/or worship assembly. If you are a **VISITOR**, we especially appreciate your decision to meet with us. It is our hope that you will return at every opportunity.

Have you checked our web site lately?

www.arthurchurchofchrist.com

Be sure to visit the "Apologetics Press" link, now in both English and Spanish. Also newly added: Sermon Outlines and "Family Minutes" (Dale Smith).

"THAT OLD TIME RELIGION" will be this morning's message, with Jeremiah 6:16 as the reading. This evening's lesson will be, "Judge Not," and Matthew 7;1 will be the text.

BE IN PRAYER: Woody had to be in the hospital (DMH) this past week, but was to be transferred to Arthur Nursing Home yesterday. *** Juanita Fleener is doing well following her cataract surgery. *** Wayne Miller, an elder at the Highway church in Sullivan, is to have hip-replacement surgery the 23rd. *** Continue in prayer for Paul, Linda, Inez, Dean, Rodger, Lester, Mary's mother, Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis & Mary Carter (Ind.), our service men and women, and the rulers of our nation and other nations as a way for peace is sought.

ARTHUR NURSING HOME service will be the 23rd., at 6:45 p.m.

• **GUEST SPEAKER WEDNESDAY:** Bill Williams, from Manchester, TN, will speak here this

Wednesday. The time is changed for this week only, to **7:00 p.m.**

- **OPEN HOUSES:** There will be an open house celebration of Lester's 89th birthday at his and his daughter's home, 312 N. Elm, this afternoon from 4 to 6. *** An open house is planned for Wayne Seeley at Charleston this Saturday, the 20th. He will be celebrating his 90th birthday. See bulletin board for details.

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT FOLLOWING JESUS?

Jesus gives a life of genuine peace and happiness. Jesus promised, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). In Jesus there truly is rest for the weary. Take, for instance, the example of a man from Ethiopia that rejoiced after he was baptized into the Christ (Acts 8:36-39).

One who serves the Savior has the satisfaction of knowing that he is doing the Lord's will, that he is showing reverence for his Creator, and that he is keeping his commands, which is the whole of man (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

With peace of mind and joy comes the confidence that the Lord will be with us and bless us. If we remain faithful to Him, then His promises hold true "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5), and as we walk in the light "we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). "Come and see" (John 1:39).

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Roger Campbell, Cleveland, Tenn..

PLEASE PROTECT US FROM THE BIBLE!!!

I was recently told, and later confirmed, that a shipment of Bibles to Afghanistan was seized by the U.S. military and burned.. this was to prevent offending the Muslims and, more importantly, to prevent U.S. military personnel from “proselytizing” the Afghan people. This attitude is nothing new. As far back as 1983 an Appeals Court ruled that it was unconstitutional for the Gideons International to hand out Bibles in public schools in Indianapolis. How strange! It’s perfectly acceptable to give out free birth control to 13-year-old students in some locations. It is all right to graphically illustrate to junior high school kids how to have “safe sex.” Offering free abortion counseling to 14-year-olds, without parental knowledge or consent, is encouraged in some places. But, oh my, don’t you dare wear a “What Would Jesus Do?” shirt or you’ll get suspended. Don’t hand out flyers inviting your fellow students to your Vacation Bible School. Yes, the First Amendment protects free speech—just not that kind of speech. I have known of students who were rebuked and threatened with detention or suspension for quietly reading their Bibles during free time. And, under no circumstances may you offer a free Bible to anyone on school grounds. Bear in mind, we are not talking about disrupting class time to hand them out. We’re not talking about students being required to go to an assembly in order to receive them. Nor are we talking about people pushing them into the hands of these poor students. We’re talking about a couple of people standing behind a table outside the school building (on the property, but not in the building) with Bibles on display and a sign offering a free Bible to students, teachers and/or parents as they enter.

Even though our own Supreme Court has said that academic freedom allows a teacher on his or her own volition to teach such things as scientific creationism and even the Bible (Aquillard v. Edwards, 765 Fed. 1251, 1257 [5th Cir. 1985]; Edwards v. Aguillard, 107 S. Ct. 2573, 2579 [1987]), no teachers are likely to do so out of fear of losing their jobs. However, in many school systems they are required as part of the state approved curriculum to teach our children about Buddhism, Hinduism, and even Islam and the Koran.

Now, to an extent, I can understand why our children need to be protected from the dangerous doctrines of the Holy Bible. Have you read it late-

ly? It has such terrible concepts as “love thy neighbor,” “do good unto all men,” “do not covet your neighbor’s wife,” “be not drunk with wine,” “thou shalt not kill,” “thou shalt not steal,” “do not tell lies,” “work for a living,” “honor your father and mother, and the most dangerous of all, “Jesus loves you and died to save you.” Please, someone protect our most precious resource from such dangerous and abominable things as these. Just suppose that some unscrupulous person were to leave a Bible on school grounds. Some poor unsuspecting student might find it, read it, pass it on to a fellow student and so on. If that happened, the world as we know it would come to an end. It would be devastating if school children started respecting parents, teachers, and each other. Hatred and bigotry would disappear. Teenage pregnancy would no longer be a problem, and the need to hand out “safe-sex” materials would die. Again, I beg someone, protect us from such a terrible fate! --Robert N. Lambert, *Main Street Harbinger*, Milan, Tenn.

THE CROSS AND RECONCILIATION

Among the truths that the New Testament teaches us about the death of Christ, here is one that says he died to bring about a realignment of the life’s purpose and direction. We were going in one direction with one consuming passion—we lived for ourselves. This was the source of our problem. This was our sin. This is why we were God’s enemies. This is what it means when it says that we were alienated from him. We were not alienated from him because he didn’t love us, but because we didn’t love him. He didn’t want to give us gifts—he wanted to give us himself. He didn’t want our sacrifices—he wanted us. He wanted us back in relationship with him, so he died to deal with our hatred and lovelessness, he bore our callousness and self-service on his own heart and in Christ’s body. For what? That we might accept his gracious provision and cease to be his enemies. And what does that mean? It means the realignment of the heart, the reorientation of our lives and the re-identification of ourselves with the Holy Father. That is reconciliation. That is what he died to bring about. Faith in Jesus Christ, who is our atoning sacrifice (Rom. 3: 25) is more than believing that what we heard is factually/theologically true. It is the glad embracing of, and commitment to, what all that means.

--Ty Nichol, Kemp church bulletin

GAY PRIDE MONTH! That's right. June is now "Gay Pride Month." On June 1 (Doris and my anniversary, of all things!) President Obama proclaimed June "Gay Pride Month. The National Day of Prayer went out the window, while a month celebrating what the Bible calls an abomination (Lev.18:22) has been brought in. The proclamation calls for: "Outlawing discrimination in the workplace," which, at first, sounds only fair. After all, none of us like to hear of anybody being discriminated against. This should be a land of equal opportunity for all. We can certainly appreciate it with reference to race, ethnicity and sex.

The proposed Employment Nondiscrimination Act, however, would empower the federal government to force employers with 15 or more employees to add "sexual orientation". Churches, religious organizations and Christian schools would not be exempt. Nor would our armed forces, as homosexuals would serve in the military, including sleeping in the same facilities, along with heterosexuals. It is another bold step toward imposing the acceptance of homosexuality, lesbianism, and transgenderism in every segment of society, including schools and churches.

It is sad to see our nation going down this road. I feel for any that are caught up in this lifestyle, as I feel for those who are entrapped by any sinful device. However, to treat it as something worthy of celebration is unthinkable. Pedophilia is also a sexual orientation. Is the pedophile to no longer be discriminated against when he/she applies for a teaching position in a school or children's home? Polygamy is the orientation, it seems, of some. Is it now to also become a thing of which to be proud? In this day of "toleration," we have become a nation that, like Israel of old, has turned away from God, and it will be said of us as it was said of Israel, "every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25). -Ron

"There is scarcely a word in the constitution of any of our States or of our nation that was not written there for the purpose of protecting the liberties of the people from some servitude which a despotic government had at some time imposed upon them." --"Silent Cal" Coolidge, *Silent Cal's Almanac*