

North News

January 30, 2008

Asheville North Seventh-day Adventist Church

The Sacrifice

Greetings! Happy New Year!! Last week I read an article about an earthquake that startled villagers living on a Japanese seashore over one hundred years ago. They were accustomed to earthquakes, and would soon settle back into their normal activities after one occurred. One day, after another earthquake hit, above the village on a high plain, an old farmer was watching from his house. He looked out to the sea, and saw a wall of water approaching. His one thought was to warn the people in the village. He called his grandson, "Bring me a torch! Make haste!" In the fields behind him lay his great crop of rice. Piled in stacks ready for market, it was worth a fortune. This elderly man hurried out with his torch, in a moment the dry stalks were blazing. Then the big bell rang in the village below: Fire! Everyone in the village came! They came to try to save the crops of their neighbor. As they reached the plain, the elderly man shouted at the top of his voice, "Look!" He pointed at the sea. At the edge of the horizon they saw a long, lean, dim line. This line was the sea, rising like a high wall and coming swiftly toward them. Then came a shock, heavier than thunder. The great swell of water struck the shore, sent a shudder through the hills, and destroyed the village. It struck again, and again, and yet again; then it returned to its place. On the plain no words were spoken. Then the elderly man spoke, saying gently, "That is why I set fire to the rice." While his action did not make sense to the villagers at first, in the aftermath of the tidal waves, they recognized that his sacrifice saved 400 lives.

Nearly two thousand years ago on another hillside, another man made a sacrifice that saved countless lives. The Bible says, "Jesus suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone" (Heb 2:9). Jesus tasted what everyone must taste - death. Jesus died for everyone, for you and me. But why? Jesus died so that we might live. As He looked at the tidal wave of

our sin, from the cross, He willingly experienced the tortures of death, so that we might know the splendor of life. Let me ask you a question? Has anyone ever sacrificed for you? Parents, friends, employees, employers, teachers, relatives, neighbors, and maybe many others.

The sacrifice of Jesus did for us what we could not do ourselves. "God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 15:21). The result of sin is that it separates us from God. God made Jesus a sin offering on our behalf. Jesus not only took our place, He took our sin. Jesus had to bear the weight and burden of sin alone in order for salvation to be complete. He died alone in order to save us. He identified Himself with us to make it possible for us to be forgiven and accepted by God. "The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom" (Mk. 15:38). The veil was torn to symbolize that the death of Jesus had opened the way of access to Him for every person. (Heb. 4: 15,16). Jesus made the way for us to come to Him, and as our heavenly High Priest, He applies the benefits of the cross.

What Christ has done for you and me, reminds me of the farmer on the plain who torched his rice crop so that the villagers were saved. Jesus is the Son of Man who died so that we might live. As we contemplate what Jesus has done for us, as well as what He is doing for us today, may the impact of His sacrifice, and His High Priestly ministry in heaven, challenge us to honestly evaluate our relationship with Him. And as we begin this New Year, may it be with a new resolve to be faithful to Him, who gave His all. May His example inspire us to give our all; to love Him and live for Him. Let every purpose we form, every work in which we engage, and every pleasure we enjoy, be to the glory of our Lord. As we await his glorious appearing, may the language of our hearts be: "I am thine, O Lord, to live for You, to work for You, and to sacrifice for You!"

Blessings, Pastor Ed

Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Asheville North Seventh-day Adventist Church is to be an active participant in the Global Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and to "Live Christ" in North Asheville by developing and emphasizing the concept of Family in our internal and outreach ministries, reaching out to our community with spiritual, educational, social and service activities, and nurturing an atmosphere of scripturally - based growth to prepare a people for Christ's Second Coming.

Church Business

There have been 4 meetings since the last summary was published – the December Church Board, a December Building Committee, a Church Business Meeting, and a special, brief January meeting. In the interest of space, summaries are included here that are briefer than usual. If anything of importance is left out, it will be included in the next newsletter.

Building Committee – Our Phase 1 landscaping is complete, and we have a letter from the city confirming our compliance. As we look toward completing the landscape buffer, we had a presentation by Bob Grasso of Land Planning Collaborative, regarding completing the parking area on the south end of the property. There were a lot of variables to discuss, but the biggest issue is that the city will not allow us to place that much more parking without more building, and they would need a pretty definite time table for completion of our sanctuary, a time constraint that we are not yet ready to commit to. So we will go ahead with just completing our landscape buffer as the city is requiring, and will table a decision about parking until we are closer to continuing our next phase on construction.

A self-inspection of our facility has been completed, and are we receiving a 5% discount on our insurance premium.

There was a preliminary discussion of the space needs of the children's Sabbath school. This will be discussed in detail in the near future.

Church Board – the primary business at the December board meeting was the proposed 2009 budget, which has been presented at the Business Meeting and is outlined below. There was also a proposal by the social committee that we have a joint Superbowl Party with the Asheville Vegetarian Society. Dennis Campbell will investigate the options for getting TV reception at the church. This was presented and discussed at the **special Board Meeting** on January 4. The proposal was accepted that we add cable service to our AV capabilities. We would also disconnect one of our phone lines. This would make this proposal "revenue neutral." The motion also included the need for the board to approve any programming shown at the church. There was some concern expressed about the appropriateness of a Superbowl Party, and many board members felt that the vote included cancelling the party. Since more discussion was needed, it has been recommended that we table action on the motion until after that discussion takes place.

Business Meeting – the main items of discussion are as follows:

1. Reaching people / Friendship Sabbath (see below).
2. Natural Church Development – each Board member has been given a booklet on this, and \$150 was approved for a survey to be made of our church.
3. Building Committee – official presentation that included what has been presented already in the News-

letters.

4. Budget for 2009 as follows:

Administrative	\$1,800
Community Service	2,700
Contingency	6,000
Education Fund	6,300
Facility	17,100
Flowers	1,200
Miscellaneous	480
Mortgage / Capital Improvement	54,240
Music Ministry	4,920
Nurture	1,700
Outreach/Evangelism	4,000
Pastor's Fund	300
Pathfinder/ Adventurer	600
Sabbath School	4,200
Social	2,520
Utilities	8,400

TOTAL \$116,460

5. An equity fund was established last year, and the goal is to maintain it at a level that would cover our expenses for 3 months. A proposal was made and approved that the board be allowed to access money accrued in that fund for needed expenses, without prior approval of the church in business session. The limit of this access would be money up to \$10,000, but not to deplete the equity fund below the 3-month level (currently about \$29,000).

Friendship Sabbath

Probably the most exciting decision to be made at the Business Meeting was to designate the first Sabbath in April, April 4, as Friendship Sabbath. In preparation for this day, the Pastor has asked that you give him the names of 3 friends that you will invite to World Sabbath, Worship and Fellowship Dinner on that day. He and the church family can then make these specific people part of our daily prayers.

Communication

Another avenue of church communication is being currently tested. Many of you now have cell phones as your primary phone. The automated church messaging system sometimes has difficulty leaving messages on voicemail, so if you don't answer it right away, or if the message tries to go straight to voicemail (as will happen sometimes when the cell phone circuits are busy), you miss the message. Because of this, and because you may prefer a text message over a voice, the weekly church messages are now being text-messaged (in addition to the regular voice message). If you would like to take advantage of this service, please let Dennis Campbell know. I need to know your number **and your cell service carrier.**

February 2009

Asheville North Seventh-day Adventist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 6:00 pm - Asheville Vegetarians	2 6:00 pm - PF-ADV Meeting - Dress Uniform <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3	4 6:00 pm - Building Committee 7:30 pm - Church Board Meeting	5 7:00 pm - Choir Practice	6 Sunset 6:03 MPA Closed Weekened	7 Choir Sings World Sabbath Sermon: Ed Couser Fellowship Dinner
8 Pathfinder Snow Ski MPA Closed	9 6:00 pm - PF Meeting - Field Uniform	10	11 7:30 pm - Choir Practice	12	13 Sunset 6:10	14 Sermon: Art Slagle MPA SA Talent Show <i>Valentine's Day</i>
15	16 APCS No School	17	18 7:30 pm - Choir Practice	19	20 Sunset 6:17	21 Sermon: G. Moyer 12:15 pm: Prayer Power! 7:00 pm - Make Dogwood Flowers
22	23 6:00 pm - PF/ADV Meeting - Field Uniform	24	25 7:30 pm - Choir Practice	26	27 APCS Noon Dismiss Sunset 6:24 MPA Spring Break APCS Spring Break	28 Sermon: Harold Schutte

Jan 2009						
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Mar 2009						
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North News

Asheville North Seventh-day Adventist Church
364 Broadway Street
Asheville, NC 28801

First Class Mail



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North News

Upcoming Events

First Sabbath of every month - World Sabbath and Fellowship Dinner
Third Sabbath of every month - Prayer Power after worship
First Wednesday of every month - Board Meeting (Next Meeting - February 4, 7:30 pm)
March 21, 22, 2009 - Pathfinder / Adventurer fundraiser
Heritage Sabbath - June 27, 2009
Oshkosh Camporee Trip - August 9 - 17, 2009

BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR PLANS, check the church calendar, current and future, by visiting our web site:

www.asheville-sda.com

Our Newsletter

This newsletter is YOUR newsletter. If you have something to contribute, an announcement to make, a thought, please make sure Dennis Campbell has it by the deadline date (see the calendar), which is generally near the last Sabbath of the month. You can contact him at 775-7291, or babytoothdoc@charter.net

The newsletter is distributed 4 ways:

1. If I have your email address, the newsletter has been sent to that address. If you did not get it via email and would prefer this over being mailed a hard copy, let Dennis Campbell know your email address.
2. Regular mail
3. Copies available at church - mainly for the visitors. If you are a visitor but would like to receive the newsletter, let Dennis Campbell know your address or email.
4. Web site - www.asheville-sda.com