

North News

February 28, 2009

Asheville North Seventh-day Adventist Church

Jesus' Prayer for Us

Greetings Church Family!

John 17 is the longest of Jesus' recorded prayers. It is called "the high-priestly prayer" because in it, Jesus consecrates Himself before offering His life as the sacrifice for the sins of the world. With the Cross just hours away, Jesus lifts up His head and heart to our Heavenly Father in meditation and prayer. This prayer contains no indication of doubt. Instead, it is full of gratitude, glory, and intercession, as He prays for three entities: Himself, His disciples, and His church. As He prays for Himself, the event planned before the foundation of the world looms ahead. Gethsemane is just around the corner. What should Jesus do? Flee the pain and suffering? Call an angel to crush the enemy? No. The Cross is a chance to glorify the Father and thereby glorify the Son. Eight times in His prayer, Jesus refers to glory. In the darkest hour, blest is the individual, the church, that glorifies God! Jesus makes two petitions: First, that He may meet the appointed hour in such a way that the Father's name may be vindicated and glorified. Second, that through Him eternal life may be available to all who come to Him. Amen!!

Next, He prays for His disciples. To be a disciple is a gift of God! Without the call and the power of God, no one can be a disciple. In praying for them, Jesus pleads with the Father to "keep them in thy name" (John 17:11). Watch over them for Thy name sake, for I am leaving them with severe battles to be fought, with the enemy ready to crush them. I am leaving Thy Word with them, and they have a responsibility to it. He prays four things for His disciples: First, "keep them...that they may be one, even as we are one" (John 17:11). Discipleship does not guarantee that there will not be differences of opinion among believers, but that the Cross demands that such differences do not lead to disunity and bring shame upon His gospel. Unity

among the disciples is as precious and real, as the unity that exists between the Father and Son (John 17:11). Second, "that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves" (John 17:13). One of the marks of discipleship is joy – not the fleeting happiness of this world based on outward circumstances-but the abiding joy of Christ. Third, "thou shouldst keep them from the evil one" (John 17:15). What precedes is remarkable for its an explanation of the Christian life: "I do not pray that thou shouldst take them out of the world" (John 17:15). The world is our home, but we do not belong to it. While it is the object of our mission, it is not the master of our being. We must live in the world, but the world must not live in us. This distinction marks us as "strangers and pilgrims on earth," bound for the Promised Land (Heb 11: 13, 14). Fourth, "sanctify them in the truth" (John 17:17). To be set apart for God, includes more than separation from this world. It is to be equipped for His ministry and to abide in Him.

Finally, Christ prays for His church. That Jesus Christ should intercede for His church of all ages, including our own, is a sobering thought. Again, the most significant aspect of His prayer is the oneness of His church. So essential is Christian unity that Christ links it to the abiding purpose of the Incarnation-"that the world may know that thou hast sent me" (John 17:23). To harm this unity, or to bring about divisiveness within a community of faith is to deny the Incarnation and the Cross!! "Christ brings His disciples into a living union with Himself and with the Father. Through the working of the Holy Spirit upon the human mind, a person is complete in Christ. Unity with Christ establishes a bond of unity with one another. This unity is the most convincing proof to the world of the majesty and virtue of Christ, and His power to take away sin." The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, p. 1148.

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.

Jesus' prayer in John 17 "is a lesson regarding the intercession that the Saviour would carry on within the veil, when His great sacrifice in behalf of men, the offering of Himself, should have been completed. Our mediator gave His disciples this illustration of His ministration in the heavenly sanctuary in behalf of all who will come to Him in meekness and humility, emptied of all selfishness, and believing in His power to save (MS 29, 1906)." -Ellen G. White Comments, The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, p. 1145, "Illustration of Jesus' Intercession in the Heavenly Sanctuary."

Just before Jesus went forth to die, He consecrated His disciples, then and now, to His Father through prayer. It is the bonds of God's love that motivate us to draw closer to Him and each other. Let us continue to pray daily for the outpouring of His Holy Spirit. May we, as Spirit filled believers, glorify God, by the way we love and communicate with to one another.

His Blessings, Pastor Ed

Church Business

There was a building committee and a board meeting on February 9. (rescheduled from February 4 due to weather!). Below is a summary of discussions.

Phase II landscaping - going well, will be done this week.

Classrooms for Sabbath School - various options were discussed, and they will be explored with the city.

Children story offering - proposal will be made to use this for children Sabbath School needs

Church workbee - date to be determined.

Church Board

Approved secretary and treasurer reports.

Evangelism Committee - met this past Sabbath; on March 21 we will have a church meeting to talk about evangelism with a potluck dinner.

Friendship Day - April 4 - various issues discussed; formed a planning committee: Ned, Genie, Chan, 1 members of evang. Committee; pastor

Church school request - wants to send representative to board in March to present starting a tuition assistance fund to help families so their children can stay at school.

A request was made for the rental of our facility every Sunday. The request was denied.

Children's church proposal - once a month after children's story; in Sabbath School room; pastor will present this to the parents

Adjourned 9:11 pm

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.**

Evangelism

Following worship on Sabbath, March 21, we will have a poluck lunch and a meeting for those who would like to discuss our church's outreach. Plan to attend.

Pathfinder Fundraiser

On Saturday evening, March 21, and Sunday, March 22, we will meet to have fun and make the Easter Eggs for the fundraiser. The kids thank each of you who have supported this project in the past, and invite the rest of you to join in the fun!

March 2009

Asheville North Seventh-day Adventist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																													
1 6:00 pm - Asheville Vegetarians	2	3	4 6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting	5 7:00 pm - Choir Practice	6 Sunset 6:30	7 Sermon: Ed Couser World Sabbath Fellowship Dinner																																																																													
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8 Daylight Saving Time Begins MPA Spring Break APCS Spring Break	9	10	11 6:00 pm - Building Committee 7:30 pm - Church Board Meeting	12 7:00 pm - Choir Practice	13 Sunset 7:36	14 Sermon: Priscilla Holbrook-Frazier																																																																													
15	16 6:00 pm - PF-ADV Meeting - Dress Uniform	17 <u>St. Patrick's Day</u>	18 6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting	19 7:00 pm - Choir Practice Mix Egg Dough	20 Sunset 7:42	21 Sermon: Ed Couser Choir Sings Potluck lunch and evangelism discussion Prayer Power - following the meeting 8:15 pm - Weigh and Shape Eggs																																																																													
22 8:00 a.m. - Dip and Decorate Eggs	23 6:00 pm - PF/ADV Meeting - Field Uniform	24	25 6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting	26 7:00 pm - Choir Practice	27 Sunset 7:48	28 Sermon: Dennis Uffindell																																																																													
29	30 6:00 pm - PF Meeting - Field Uniform APCS No School p/t conf	31	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>Feb 2009</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>Apr 2009</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
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364 Broadway Street
Asheville, NC 28801

First Class Mail



Address Service Requested



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 - March 11, 7:30 pm)
March 21, 22, 2009 - Pathfinder / Adventurer fundraiser
April 4, 2009 – Friendship Sabbath
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