

Elmira
Seventh-day Adventist Church
Newsletter
August 2013



FROM THE PASTOR'S CORNER

I love to read biographies. Biographies tell me about people – generally famous – who have accomplished great things in the face of adversity. Right now I'm reading a life story of George Washington beautifully written by James Flexner. It's called *Washington: The Indispensable Man*. Intriguing title: Is any one man today or throughout the course of history really indispensable? Was Washington? Was Lincoln? I suppose a case can be made that somehow, through divine Providence, there has always been just the right man – or woman – in the right place during a time of crisis. Author James Flexner presents George Washington as the "indispensable man" during the time of the American Revolution. That suggests that, had it not been for Washington's leadership, the colonies could well have lost their bid for independence, and we might be British citizens today.

I'm interested to hear what Washington had to say on the matter. After the battle of Monmouth, in which the colonial armies stood up to the British regular army, George Washington made this comment:

"The hand of Providence has been so conspicuous in all this that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked that has not

gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligations – but it will be time enough for me to turn preacher when my present appointment ceases, and therefore I shall add no more on the Doctrine of Providence." (Washington: *The Indispensable Man*, James Flexner, p.125)

George Washington, like many another of our Founding Fathers recognized the "hand of Providence" – i.e. God – in the winning of the American Revolution. His faith, I believe, was the source of his dogged determination to keep going forward even when it seemed that the cause to which he gave so much to seemed hopeless.

Was he truly indispensable? It seems to me that the only truly indispensable Man was none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. You see, God can qualify any man or woman to accomplish His purpose in whatever circumstance they may be in. But there was One and only One Who could cross the vast distance between heaven and earth, become a Man among us, at the same time be GOD WITH US, and receive upon Himself the penalty in full for the rebellion of a lost planet. Only one Man can put one hand upon the throne of heaven and the other upon fallen humanity, reconciling a sinful world to



a holy God. That one Man – Jesus Christ – I submit to you is the only "indispensable Man" who ever lived. Washington was great, but only as he recognized the hand of Providence in his life. Lincoln too was great; He too learned to depend increasingly upon the hand of God to sustain him during the crisis of the Civil War. History is replete with the stories of men and women – sometimes even children – who, by their

faith in God were able to accomplish great and noble things.

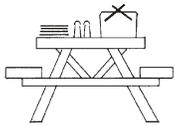
Are we, like Washington, believers in the "hand of Providence"? May God help us to strive for great things, to attempt the impossible, to believe that "all things are possible to him who believes."

God bless you.
Pastor Kevin Dunn

CHURCH NEWS



DISTRICT PICNIC



A district picnic, including churches from the Elmira, Vestal, Tioga County, Corning, Bath, and Wayland areas will be held August 4 at Harris Hill. Please bring your own table service, drink, and a dish to pass. We will plan to eat at 1:00 p.m.

MINI MISSION TRIP

Up to ten young people from "This Generation" plan to be here August 8-12 to go door to door. Church members are needed to supply time and effort to help out as follows: welcome the Mission Trip members, join in on activities during the Mission Trip, provide meal preparations. A 3ABN Rally will be at 2:00 P.M. next Sabbath afternoon – a door to door faith-based activity. A potluck evening meal will be at 6:00 P.M. with Vespers at 7:00 P.M. Members planning to join the Mission Trip efforts, please bring food to join the meal after church service and evening potluck Vespers will be by Michael Belknap highlighting his Mission Trip in to the Dominican Republic in July. For further information, contact Michael Belknap or Derek Colaw.

BIBLE STUDY



Bible Study is held Tuesday evenings, 7:00 p.m. at the church.

FELLOWSHIP PICNIC LUNCHEONS

Picnics are planned for August 17 and September 7, weather permitting, at Joan Van Galder's cottage at Mormon Lake. All are invited to join us for lunch and fellowship. Please bring a dish to pass.



CONGRATULATIONS!



. . .to Alexa Stanton who was listed on the High Honor Roll for the fourth marking period at Southside High School. Alexa just completed tenth grade at SHS.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



The next drive is scheduled for Tuesday, September 24, 1:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Donation Types: Double Red Cell and Whole Blood. Notes: Donate blood this September and receive a Monro Muffler coupon for a \$19.99 Extra Mile package. To make an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS. (1-800-733-2767)

CREATION/HEALTH SEMINAR



Creation/Health Seminar continues each month, led out by Debby Montopoli the first Sunday of the month and Melissa Conrad the third Sunday of the month, from 2:00 – 3:30 P.M. in the church fellowship hall.

THE CHILDREN'S OFFERING



The children's offering taken during the worship service sponsored six children at Camp Cherokee this summer. Thank you for your generosity in supporting our children.

Check out our Church website at: www.elmirasda.com

Downloadable sermons are available at this site.



LABELS AND BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION



Please continue to save your General Mills Boxtops and Campbell's UPC symbols for the Holbrook SDA Indian School in Arizona. Boxtops and UPC symbols can be given to Joyce Cmelko. Thank you for your help.

PRAYER LIST

Doris Burgess
Don & Alice Congdon
Ethan Curtis
Heidy Curtis
Bill Kaiser
Frances Mc Millen
Lorraine Parker
Linda Probst



Alta Raymond
Doris Stewart
Cindy Taft
Harold Washburn, Jr.
Harold Washburn, Sr.
Ongoing Bible Studies
Our Shut-ins

If you have someone to be added to our prayer list, please let us know.

SABBATH SCHOOL



Our Adult Sabbath School lessons continue this quarter as we study *Revival and Reformation*. All are encouraged to study daily and join in for our class discussion on Sabbath morning.

Please join us each Sabbath morning. Song service begins at 9:20. Classes are provided for adults and children.



Mission DVDs are shown the last Sabbath of each month, coming to us this quarter from the Euro-Africa Division.

INVESTMENT



Thank you for saving your newspapers, magazines, cans and bottles, and health food labels for Investment. See Alvin Jackson, our Investment leader, to donate magazines and newspapers. Please be sure the UPC symbol is on the food labels. Labels that are accepted are Worthington, Loma Linda, Morningstar Farms, Morningstar Farms Organic, and Natural Touch. Labels not accepted are: Cedar Lake and Vibrant Life.

NATURE'S GARDEN

STORE HOURS Thursday, 4:00-6:00 p.m., OR by appointment,
Call Larry Taft – 732-0463, Or Mac Dwyer – 739-7748.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – September 20 – CONTACT Sharon and Jim Reynolds at 734-1560 with newsletter information. You may also send your articles to: 813 Maple Avenue, Elmira, NY 14904 or e-mail us at: shareyn@gmail.com



*When the love of Christ is enshrined in the heart,
like sweet fragrance it cannot be hidden.
Its holy influence will be felt by all with whom we come in contact.
The spirit of Christ in the heart is like a spring in the desert,
flowing to refresh all and making those who are ready to perish,
eager to drink of the water of life.
Steps to Christ, page 77*

*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,
whose mind is stayed on Thee:
because he trusteth in Thee.
Trust ye in the LORD for ever:
for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.
Isaiah 26:3, 4*



**Elmira Seventh-day Adventist Church
c/o Jim & Sharon Reynolds**

**813 Maple Avenue
Elmira, NY 14904**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

