



Wandering For God

with Pastor Stephen Rehrig, First Presbyterian Church of Hillsboro

Something To Think About

Personal note: I hold a deep respect and great admiration for Abraham Lincoln. As such, I have read and studied much about him over the years.

Sadly, I have begun to forget so much of what I once knew. However, as we approach his 212th birthday tomorrow, I would like to share this story about him.

According to John G. Nicolay, one of Lincoln's secretaries during his presidency, Lincoln was "a constant reader of the Bible and had great faith in it."

Among the books that were kept on his desk in the White House were: The Unit-

ed States Statutes, Shakespeare's plays and the Bible.

Lincoln has the distinction, along with our second president John Adams, as the only two presidents to invoke the Third Person of the Holy Trinity in an official state document or speech.

Adams on March 6, 1799, in his call for a National Fast Day, and Lincoln on July 15, 1863, in his Thanksgiving Proclamation following the Battle of Gettysburg.

In it, he called upon the people "to invoke the influence of his Holy Spirit to subdue the anger which has produced and so long sustained a needless and

cruel rebellion, to change the hearts of the insurgents, to guide the counsels of the government with wisdom adequate to so great a national emergency, and to visit with tender care and consolation... all those who...have been brought to suffer in mind, body, or estate, and finally to lead the whole nation through paths of repentance and submission of the Divine Will back to the perfect enjoyment of union and fraternal peace."

Something to think about today.