

# Reflections

## “His Invisible Attributes” by Stefano Mugnaini

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. -**Romans**

### 1:18-23

This verse is often used by proponents of natural Theology as something of a proof-text. It sets forth, in no uncertain terms, the idea that God is evident in nature. Having revealed himself through the natural world, God's existence should be obvious to all who care to look.

But Paul says something more. He goes beyond simply espousing the Teleological argument for the existence of God; he points out that we can not only see His existence, we can also derive something of God's nature by considering what He has wrought.

Paul's letter to the Romans was ostensibly written to a group of Christians in Rome. Rome, being a center of idolatry, emperor worship, and immorality of all kinds, was doubtless an inhospitable climate

for Christianity in its infancy. Paul uses nature to draw a contrast between idols and God. He contends that nature reveals much about God's attributes, yet men have chosen to fashion gods in images from nature. The argument is this: God's creative work has shown that He is beyond nature, beyond man, eternal, infinite. Man has created idols in the image "man, four-footed creatures, birds and crawling creatures." So even though God is clearly greater than any of His creatures, mankind has chosen to represent Him in the form of snakes, birds, and mankind himself. The result of this, according to Paul, is that man has engaged in all sorts of wickedness.

Such is the result of a cheapening of our view of God. We lower God to our level, and we raise ourselves to His; who

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Church Office : 843-556-1792

Church Fax: 843-556-6085

Email: [evcoc@bellsouth.net](mailto:evcoc@bellsouth.net)

Website: [www.essexvillage.org](http://www.essexvillage.org)

### Schedule of Services

Sunday

Class: 9:00 am

Worship: 10:00 am

Worship: 6:00 pm

Wednesday

7:00 pm



## For the Record Week of 06-08-08

Bible Classes: 88  
AM Worship: 186  
PM Worship: 65  
Wednesday Evening: 53  
Contribution: 3,396.00

## Communion & Baptismal Garments

**Prepare Communion:**  
Christine Herman  
**Baptismal Garments:**  
Natasha Streets  
**Elder of the Month:**  
Howard Streets 766-7727

## Program of Worship

**Announcements:**  
Howard Streets  
**Song Service:**  
Keith Dee  
**Opening Prayer:**  
David Wakeland  
**Communion:**  
Andy Streets  
**Sermon:**  
Stefano Mugnaini  
**Closing Prayer:**  
George Brown

*Ava Bullard*  
*Helen Embry*  
*Mark Embry*  
*Scotty Hall*  
*Mildred Inabinett*  
*Leonard McNeill*  
*Lois Ott*



## We Are Praying For...



### Military

*Robert Bagley*  
*Kristopher Black*  
*Adam Bowles*  
*Chris Branham*  
*Adam Carlucci*  
*Russell Coble*  
*James Dalton*  
*Mark Fiorey*  
*Ellis Flenoid*  
*Steven Hilton*  
*Michael Hilton*  
*Matthew Lemieux*  
*Katie McCaskill*  
*Kevin Mitchell*  
*Shawn Reynolds*

Mike Allen, preacher for Chesapeake Church of Christ, has bone cancer. Gary Moody has requested prayers for him.

Larry Cooper, Ruby's son, was diagnosed with lung cancer.

Maxine Doll has some health problems and would like our prayers. Maxine is Pam Ragland's mother.

John Donan, Norma's cousin, has terminal bladder cancer.

Michelle & Kenny Drawdy are having some difficult times and requested prayers. Michelle is a co-worker of Terri Fagan.

Dennis Flatley, a friend of Jim Lamm, is currently undergoing chemo to treat his cancer.

Duke Gregory, Doris & Janie's brother, is in Manchester Rehab Hospital. He will probably be there for 5 or 6 weeks.

Wesley Hahn is in need of prayers for his health and employment. His mother is a close friend of Faye Spence.

Clara Haselden was diagnosed with cancer and has just finished receiving her chemo treatments.

David Hughes, a Citadel graduate from the class of 96, attended Essex Village when he was attending the Citadel. David was injured in Iraq. If you would like to cheer David up with a card or letter, please send them to this address:  
David Hughes  
150 Foxfire Place  
Southern Pines, NC 28387

Esther Lamm is having some health problems and would like us to pray for her.

Debra Langford, sister-in-law of Carl Bowles, is in therapy since her stroke. She is still not able to speak clearly or have full use of her right side.

Nell McIntire has cancer and is the sister of Lois Ott.

Lauren Parker, a friend of Ginnie Streets, has cancer and is not doing well.

Nikolas Riggs is in remission but will undergo chemo for two years and has a long road ahead. Nik is the nephew of Angela Noyes.

Candice Spence, needs our prayers for health problems and is the granddaughter of Chuck & Faye.

Marcia Steckle, a friend of Sharon Rush, had a mastectomy and is recovering at home.

John Torres, Johnny Murray's brother-in-law, has cancer and is not doing well.

## *Here's What is Happening...*

### **Baby Shower**

There will be a baby shower for Natasha Streets on June 28th from 11:00—2:00 at the home of Michelle Porter. If you plan to attend, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board. Michelle will need the names of those attending to leave at the gate for your admittance. If you need

directions, they will be on the table in the foyer. Natasha is registered at Babies R Us. If you would like to contribute to a group gift, please see Sandy. For more details please see Michelle or Sandy.



*Happy Anniversary*

6/20

Hilton & Mary Ann  
Googe

### *VBS*

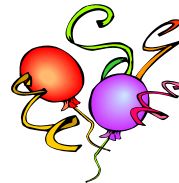
Vacation Bible School is just around the corner! This year we will have a Super Saturday format on July 19th with Bible classes and fun time for all the children. We need your help. Bring your friends' children, your neighbors' children, your co-workers' children and any other child you can grab and be here at 9:00AM until 4PM. We need adults to help work on the market, lunch, games, and Bible classes. Clear your calendar now and watch for the sign up sheet for helpers.

### *SECH*

The Southeastern Children's Home has begun the 2008 Change for Children campaign. If you would like to participate, the cans are in the foyer on the table. Please pick one up, collect your change and return by Sunday, September 28th. SECH would like to thank you for your participation in this annual campaign which is important to funding the mission and ministry of SECH.



*Happy Father's Day!*



*Happy Birthday!*

## *"His Invisible Attributes" continued*

then can denounce our actions as wrong or immoral?

Let us stand with Paul and recognize that nature cries out, not only for the presence of God, but also for a divine, eternal, all powerful and ever-present God. The greatness of the creation demands an even greater designer. One who is worthy of modeling our lives after, obeying, and

worshipping. Let us, therefore, endeavor to serve Him as He deserves.

6/15

Pat Fagan

6/19

Sue Janicki

6/21

Nancy Walden

## Bulletin Board

### **Homecoming Celebration**

Where: Church of Christ at Johns Island

When: Saturday, July 12th - Thursday, July 16th

Guest Speaker: Brother Errol Reid from Lafayette, Louisiana

Please see the bulletin board for the schedule.

### **Women's Devotion**

Topic: "The Women of the Bible"

Where: Orangeburg Church of Christ in Orangeburg, SC

Date: June 21, 2008 Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Speaker: Carolyn Goff from Oak Forest Road Church of Christ in North Carolina.

Please see the bulletin board for more info.

### **ELDERS**

Larry Casbeer	795-0429
Howard Streets	766-7727
David Wakeland	766-3601

### **MINISTER**

Stefano Mugnaini	329-3704
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### **DEACONS**

Rick Porter	556-2679
Activities	
Jim Lamm	556-6756
Benevolence	
Lloyd McLawhorn	556-6709
Worship	
Roddy Akers	559-3565
Song Service	
Larry Polutta	795-5266
World Bible School	
Bill Ragland	556-6711
Building Maintenance	
Hilton Googe	766-4670
Lynn Smallwood	766-8579
Grounds	
Eddie Haselden	767-5511
Financial	
Durwood Collins	869-4199
Youth Activities	

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**Essex Village Church of Christ**  
**736 Savage Road**  
**Charleston, SC 29414**