

May 6, 2007

Essex Village Church of Christ

Schedule of Services

Sunday
Class 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am
Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday
7:00 pm



ELDERS

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

MINISTER

Stefano Mugnaini 329-3704

DEACONS

Rick Porter 556-2679
Activities
Jim Lamm 556-6756
Benevolence
Lloyd McLawhorn 556-6709
Worship
Roddy Akers 559-3565
Song Service
Bill Noyes 278-1808
Technical
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

Suffering

In the eyes of the non-believer, there is no surer condemnation of Christian beliefs than the existence of Human suffering in the creation of a benevolent God. The oft-repeated refrain goes something like this: "If God exists, and loves us, then why does He let us suffer?" Indeed, many believers struggle with this same question, especially in times of hardship, bereavement or sickness. There are numerous explanations for the presence of suffering and evil in our world, all essentially pointing to the same source: the actions of man. We did not all inherit the sin of Adam, but we did inherit many of the consequences; namely, expulsion from an earthly paradise, and physical death. Given more writing space, it is easy to trace the root of human pain and suffering to their original cause: a misuse of the free will that a benevolent God could only give to His most beloved creation. However, this article's purpose is not

to argue the weakness of this atheistic argument, but to highlight the positive side of suffering to the Christian.

First of all, Christ never hid the fact that we should be prepared to suffer for His name: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake." There are several other places in which we are told that to suffer for Christ is both commendable and requisite: however, realizing the necessity of suffering does not always make it easier to bear. It only shows us that we are not alone or isolated in what we must undergo.

There is, indeed, a positive side to hardship, pain, and suffering. It is one of the most supreme of all blessings: perspective. Had we never tasted a lemon, could we appreciate the sweetness of lemonade? It is the same with all "sour" aspects of life. Without experiencing the bad, how could we appreciate the

good? We can apply this principle from the smallest inconvenience to the greatest.

If Adam and Eve had seen what it was like outside the garden, would they have eaten the fruit? We know that, as Christians, we are promised a rest when our labors end. How much more then, is that rest worth to him who labored greatly? How much more beautiful a promise of heavenly bliss must be to those whose earthly lives were anything but blissful? Our struggles here don't deny, but rather emphasize, the love our God shows us by offering us something better than anything we have ever experienced in this life.

"There remains, therefore, a rest for the people of God"---Hebrews 4:9

Stefano R. Mugnaini
Minister, Essex Village
Church of Christ

Church Office :
556-1792

Church Fax:
556-6085

Email:
church@essexvillage.org

Website:
www.essexvillage.org



Military

Robert Bagley
 Kristopher Black
 Adam Carlucci
 Russell Coble
 Barry Collins
 James Dalton
 Mark Fiorey
 Ellis Flenoid
 Steven Hilton
 Michael Hilton
 Matthew Lemieux
 Katie McCaskill
 Kevin Mitchell
 Shawn Reynolds
 Rob Weltzin

*For the Record:
 Week of 04-22-07*

Bible Classes: 100
 AM Worship: 165
 PM Worship: 62
 Wednesday Evening: 72
 Contribution: \$3,978.00

*Communion Preparation
 & Baptismal Garments*

Prepare Communion:
 Mary Ann Googe
Baptismal Garments:
 Lorraine Watkins
Elder of the Month:
 David Wakeland

*Program
 of Worship*

Announcements:
 David Wakeland
Song Service:
 Royce Akers
Opening Prayer:
 Ray Brown
Communion:
 Andy Streets
Sermon:
 Stefano Mugnaini
Closing Prayer:
 Tee Bolen



Thanks for Praying...

Nikolas is in remission but will undergo chemo for two years and has a long road ahead.

Nik is the nephew of Angela Noyes.

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

Felicia Bennett, a member of Berkeley Church of Christ, is having health problems.

Carol Bohanna, a neighbor of Kim Koontz, has cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

Tracy Boyles, Anne Marie's father-in-law, is not doing well.

Martha Broom, a friend of Ona White, has cancer.

Maxine Doll had a pace-maker put in and has other health problems. Maxine is Pam Ragland's mother.

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

Dennis Flatley, a friend of

Jim Lamm, is currently undergoing chemo to treat his cancer.

Kevin Goodman, Jim & Esther's granddaughter's boyfriend, is having health problems.

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

Judy Hennessee, a family member of Carl Bowles, has started chemo treatment following her double mastectomy.

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

Melissa Murray is being treated for cancer, please keep Melissa and her family in your prayers.

Lauren Parker, a friend of Ginnie Streets, had her baby and has begun chemo.

Elose Patterson, Earline Smalls' niece, is in a coma

and the family is taking care of her at home.

Geneva Sims, a friend of Ronnie & Sharon Rush, has Lou Gehrig Disease.

Earline Smalls was released from the hospital on Thursday. She is recovering from Pneumonia.

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

Linda Stoddard, Tex Patton's daughter, had a cancerous kidney removed.

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

Frances Wakeland broke her foot on Wednesday evening.

**VISITS TO OUR
 SHUT-INS**



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

Here's What's Happening...

Missionary Report

We received a report from Sergy. Sergy is the missionary that we are supporting in Russia. The report is on the bulletin board for everyone to read.

Cards to the Military

Everybody has the opportunity to send a personal note of encouragement or thanks to someone serving in the armed

forces. Please just take a moment to write a short note to let people in the military know you appreciate them, their hard work, and their dedication to our country. There are blank cards, envelopes, and pocket cards with the plan of salvation on the table in the foyer. Your cards and messages will be distributed through an

organization called "A Million Thanks.org." They will be delivered to either active duty or retired and to many USO's and Veterans Hospitals for distribution. Please refrain from using any political or negative statements in your message. The closing date for this will be May 22. Thank You!



Happy Anniversary!

5/5
Howard & Gayla
Moseley

To All 2007 Graduates:

If you are graduating from high school or college this year, please let Janie Polutta know. For High school, I need a wallet size picture, a graduation invitation and your personal card; also where you plan to attend college and ma-

For college graduates, please provide an invitation if you have one, what your degree is in and your future plans. Thanks so much and congratulations!!!
Janie Polutta

New Address

Johnny & Melissa Murray
109 Botany Bay Blvd.
N. Charleston, SC 29418

Stefano & Shelli Mugnaini
1705 Eallystockert Road
Charleston, Sc 29414

Stefano - 329-3704
Shelli - 329-3705



Happy Birthday!

4/29 Deron
Casbeer 5/1
Sophie Vergne
Raymond Boynton
5/2 Jordan
Cooper Chase
Wakeland 5/4
Ben Moulton
5/9 Donna
Porter 5/10
Earline Smalls

Bridal & Baby Showers:

There will be a drop in bridal shower for Ginnie Streets on June 3rd from 2:00 - 5:00. If you are interested in a group gift or would like to know where Ginnie is registered,

please see Louise Rogers.

There will also be a baby shower for Angie Schooff on June 24th. Please see Agnes McLawhorn for more details.



*Visit the
Children's Library
on May 27th*

On the Bulletin Board...

Azalea Drive Church of Christ's 11th Annual Mother/Daughter Program and Luncheon will be held on Saturday, May 12th at 1:30 pm. Please check the bulletin board for more information.

Southeastern Children's Home will be having their Bi-Annual Bar-B-Q and Blue Grass Benefit Dinner on Saturday, June 2nd. For more information, please see the bulletin board.

Thank you...

Arnold and I would like to thank you for the most generous gift you gave us. Each item will be put to good use in our home. Also a very special thank you for allowing us to become a part of your family at Essex Village. The love that each one has shown has been overwhelming. We are sure we have joined something good and wonderful in the Lord's name.

Thanks again,
Nancy & Arnold Walden

Adult Classes

Basic Bible for Adults Taught by Jim Lamm	Sunday mornings in the Elder's Office
Teach the Teacher Taught by Keith Dee	Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall
Gospel of John Taught by Stefano	Sunday mornings in the Auditorium
Introduction to the Bible	Wednesday evenings in the Auditorium
Fragrance of Faith Ladies class taught by Louise Rogers & Carla Haselden	Wednesday evenings

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736 Savage Road

Charleston, SC 29414