

Prepare For Defense *By Stefano Mugnaini*



Reflections

Most Christians rarely, if ever, study Christian Evidences. However, it is a topic that is of limitless importance to any believer. For many of us, it is enough to accept that we believe because “we have faith” or “we just know.” While this may make sense to us of the household of faith, what does it do to the secularists that seem to be everywhere about us? The fact is, just unfounded belief in God is no different than teaching some man made doctrine because we “feel in our heart” that it is true. God intends us to have a rational, thinking faith. He desires that we put the same effort toward defending Christianity as we do defending specific doctrines.

In 1 Peter 3:15, we are told to “sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.” Paul echoed this

exhortation when he told Timothy to “preach the word, be ready in season and out of season.” (1 Tim 4:2). Likewise, Jude said that we are to “earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints. (vs. 3) The essential message behind all these statements is the same: we as Christians must be ready to defend our faith. This may mean explaining to others why it is reasonable to believe in God. This may entail dealing with certain arguments against this. We may be called upon to refute false religious teachings, just as we may be called upon to refute false teaching about human origins. We cannot be effective as a defender of the faith, if we are not prepared to respond to the growing skepticism and secularism that is often so prevalent in our society.

We must recognize that the Bible, in and of itself, could not be produced by mere mortals. We must understand that there is limitless

evidence in nature that God exists. And we must understand that the Bible fully reveals God to us and lets us know what His perfect will is. Often in the Lord’s church, we are very good at explaining why we worship without instruments. We can show numerous verses regarding the biblical teaching about baptism, the total authority of Scripture, the truth about Heaven and Hell. These are all good and noble topics to study and things that every Christian should know. However, I believe, based on the statements of Paul, Peter and Jude, we have as great a duty to defend the elementary principles upon which Christianity is built. Our beliefs that God is, and that the Bible is His Word, serve as the very foundation upon which our faith in Christ rests. We must be able to present what we know about Him and His nature, for it is the basis for our worship. We must be ready to defend the foundation unto men, if they are to accept all that is built upon it.

Church Office : 843-556-1792
Church Fax: 843-556-6085

Email: church@essexvillage.org

Website: 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 11-25-07**

**Communion &
Baptismal Garments**

**Program of
Worship**

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

Bible Classes: 57
AM Worship: 131
PM Worship: 57
Wednesday Evening: 61
Contribution: \$2,983.00

Prepare Communion:
Christine Herman
Baptismal Garments:
Faye Spence
Nursery Attendant:
Tina Cooper
Elder of the Month:
Howard Streets 766-7727

Announcements:
Howard Streets
Song Service:
Roddy Akers
Opening Prayer:
David Wakeland
Communion:
Jim Lamm
Sermon:
Stefano Mugnaini
Closing Prayer:
Ray Brown



We Are Praying For...

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

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.

Martha Broom, a friend of Ona White, is now cancer free and would like to thank everyone for their prayers.

Durwood Collins, Sr., Durwood's father, is in Summer-ville Medical Center.

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.

Duke Gregory, Doris &

Janie's brother, is in the hospital.

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.

Debra Langford, sister-in-law of Carl Bowles, had a stroke. Debra lives in Georgetown.

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

Margaret Mills, a member of Cairo Church of Christ, had a heart attack.

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

Lauren Parker, a friend of Gin- nie Streets, has cancer and is not doing well.

Mac Patterson, a family member of Earline Smalls, is in St. Francis Hospital room 311.

John Price, friend of Faye Spence, has cancer and is in stage 4. Faye has requested prayers for him and his wife, Pat.

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

Marcia Steckel is undergoing chemo for breast cancer. Marcia is a friend of Sharon Rush

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

Verdie Whitson fell and broke her hip.



**Thanks for
praying!**

Here's What is Happening...

Ladies Bible Class

December 11th will be the last class before the holidays.

Nursery

We have an attended nursery for anyone that has a need for one. If you would like to volunteer in the nursery, there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer. Please see Louise for additional information.

Food Pantry

If you would like to contribute to the food pantry, we could use the following items: sugar & flour. Thank you for your support!

James Island Light Show

Everyone is invited to go to the James Island Light Show on De-

cember 14th. We have rented a pavilion for our cook-out and will have a hayride for all to enjoy. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Cookie Swap

The annual cookie swap will be on December 16, Sunday afternoon at 4:30. We'll make trays of fruit, nuts, etc for our shut-ins and bring cookies to share. Bring fruit and shelled nuts for the trays and 4 dozen cookies. We'll eat some cookies and share the rest.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The men are invited to breakfast on December 8th at 9:00 am. Please come and enjoy this time of fellowship.

Bible Bowl

YOU ARE INVITED! It's time to start forming teams for the 2008 SC Statewide Bible Bowl. Please see Keith Dee if you are even a little bit curious about how to take part. The Bible Bowl is not just for kids. It's for all ages from 8 to 108. Last year

there were more adult teams than the teenage and pre-teen teams together. Please consider being a part of this great time of fellowship, study and fun competition. Every participant is a winner.

Visitor's Letter

Essex Village Church of Christ,

I want to thank you for your letter and I hope to visit with you again when I return to Charleston for another visit.

I totally enjoyed myself. Your beautiful building and your wonderful kind Christian spirit will not be forgotten.

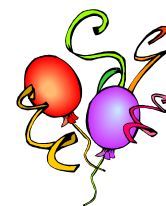
Your sister in Christ,
Sister Melba Richardson
Harlem Church of Chris



Happy Anniversary!

12/03

Mike & Angie Schooff



Happy Birthday!

12/02

Margaret Casbeer

Blake Murray

12/07

Laura Basnillo

Bulletin Board

Southeastern Children's Home

We have been asked to sponsor two teenagers for Christmas this year. If you would like to help, please choose an item off the list on the bulletin board or you may contribute money.

Youth Rally

When: January 26, 2008

Theme: One Goal No Limits

Speaker: Craig Shackelford of Middleton, Tennessee

Where: St. Andrews Road Church of Christ in Columbia, SC

Berkeley Church of Christ Gospel Meeting

Roy Knight was the speaker for the Gospel meeting held at Berkeley Church of Christ. We have received a copy of the lessons and will make a copy for anyone that would like one. Please fill out a slip.

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	

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