



# Reflections

## *“Last, Best Hope” by Stefano Mugnaini*

“In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free---honorable alike in what we give, and what we preserve. **We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best, hope of earth.** Other means may succeed; this could not fail. The way is plain, peaceful, generous, just---a way which, if followed, the world will forever applaud, and God must forever bless.”—Abraham Lincoln.

This statement, part of speech given to Congress in 1862, contains a statement that is popular with politicians and pundits and largely taken out of context. Lincoln’s speech was given a month before the issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation, referring to the abolition of slavery, that most horrible institution. Today, Lincoln is quoted to support either an imperialist “nation building” foreign policy or a Socialist system of entitlements. Both approaches utterly miss the point.

I love my country and I

thank God for the blessing of being born an American, but it is the worst kind of idolatry to confer messianic status on this or any other nation. America cannot save us; neither the government, nor our fellow Americans can provide any kind of lasting salvation. It is not within man to save; nor is it within any collection of men to produce that which the individual cannot. It has been said, regarding the value of legislative meetings, that “none of us is as dumb as all of us.” To argue that humans can save themselves is classic atheistic humanism; to argue that a nation can save us is statism. Both are idolatry.

Lincoln’s statement does have a modern application, and it is more in line with the original import of the words. The church of our Lord is humanity’s last, best hope. Without the church, the crumbling morals, hedonism and lawlessness which we see around us would overwhelm. We would even more swiftly become an exact replica of Rome at its

nadir; lazy, gluttonous, promiscuous and authoring our own destruction. As one writer put it, our nation is living on the moral capital of a past generation. We espouse principles that many no longer actually believe, and live according to societal rules which few truly value. What will happen when this capital is expended?

This is why the Lord’s church must do our duty. We are the last hope for the souls of humanity. We are the last hope for a free and just society. We are the last bulwark against anarchy, decay, and destruction. In the so-called “dark ages,” monasteries were responsible for the reproduction of manuscripts and the preservation of learning. What a blessing it is that they understood the importance of their task, and the necessity of preserving the most important collection of documents ever produced: the inspired word of God.

\*\*\*continued on page 3

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 03-02-08**

**Communion &  
Baptismal Garments**

**Program of  
Worship**

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

Bible Classes: 81  
 AM Worship: 144  
 PM Worship: 69  
 Wednesday Evening: 71  
 Contribution: 5,325.00

**Prepare Communion:**  
 Sharon Rush  
**Baptismal Garments:**  
 Pam Ragland  
**Elder of the Month:**  
 Howard Streets 766-7727

**Announcements:**  
 Howard Streets  
**Song Service:**  
 Roddy Akers  
**Opening Prayer:**  
 Eddie Haselden  
**Communion:**  
 Larry Polutta  
**Sermon:**  
 Stefano Mugnaini  
**Closing Prayer:**  
 Tex Patton



**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*

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

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

**Duke Gregory**, Doris & Janie's brother, is in the hospital. Cards would be appreciated. The address is: 4056 Manchester Highway McMinnville, TN 37110

**Wesley Hahn** is in need of prayers for his health and em-

ployment. His mother is a close friend of Faye Spence.

**Clara Haselden** was diagnosed with cancer and is receiving chemo treatments.

**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.

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

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

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

**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 masectomy on Wednesday and is recovering at home.

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

**Tom Vergne**, Matt's father, had by-pass surgery.

**Verdie Whitson** is in Trinity Rehab Center.



**Thanks for  
praying!**

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

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### **Ladies Bible Class**

The ladies meet for Bible class on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 in the annex.

### **Contribution Report**

If you would like an annual contribution report for income tax purposes, please make the request in writing and give to Eddie.

### **50th Wedding Anniversary**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 12th to celebrate the 50th wed-

ding anniversary of Chuck & Faye Spence. More details to follow.

### **Bible Bowl**

Essex Village won two of the three categories in the state wide contest that was recently held in Columbia. Congratulations to our 2008 Bible Bowl team!

The Bible Bowl team would like to thank the congregation for all of the love, encouragement and food they received.



*Happy Anniversary!*

3/9

Harvey & Diana  
Byrd

## *Thank you...*

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Dear Essex Village,

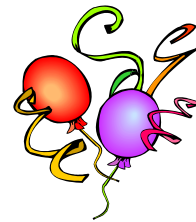
Thank you all for all your help and blessings for Melissa Byrd Murray and her families!

Gratefully,  
Bonnie Koontz

## *Perfect Attendance*

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Congratulations to Tyler Ragland on having perfect attendance for the Winter quarter on Wednesday evenings.



*Happy Birthday!*

3/8

Larry Casbeer  
Jennifer Headden

3/12

Scotty Hall

3/13

Courtney Morrow  
Norman Ricker  
Geraldine Smith

3/15

Stephanie Dee

## *"Last, Best Hope"...continued from page 1*

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We are entering another dark age. Christianity is mocked; adherence to the Bible is condemned as old-fashioned and close-minded. The biblical definition of marriage and the concept of the sanctity of human life are under attack for many sides. Immorality is rampant; the wicked glory in their shame. Only God can save us from the nightmarish world to which we are speeding. He has chosen us, his church, to right wrongs, correct the course, provide

the only roadmap to hope, peace, and real contentment. This world is dying without the gospel message; let us be ever vigilant in living it, defending it, and proclaiming it to all who will listen. We must be a light in these dark times. The Lord's church is the last, best hope of Earth because we hold the key to freedom for the worst type of slavery: slavery to sin.

## Bulletin Board

### **Gospel Meeting at St. Andrews Church of Christ**

Theme: Words of Life John 6:63

Speaker: Richard McWilliams from Greer, SC

When: March 9th - 12th

Please see the bulletin board for more details.

### **Ladies Day at Plaza Church of Christ**

When: April 12, 2008      Time: 9:00 am

Speaker: Ruby Lee Reynolds from Walnut Street Church of Christ in Dickson, TN

Topic: "Is Anything too Hard for the Lord?"

### **64th Annual Carolina Lectures**

When: April 6-10, 2008

Theme: Timeless Truths from Days Gone By

Hosted by: Sanford Church of Christ in Sanford, NC

Please see the bulletin board for more details.

### **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**