

# Reflections

## “Why the Bible?”

by Stefano Mugnaini

The religious world has been compared to an enormous department store, with shelf after shelf of religions, stacked one upon another, each waiting to be picked out, examined, and taken home. Perhaps one of the greatest shortcomings of the religious world today involves acceptance, rather than careful examination, of religion. People tend to choose a religion based on surface characteristics rather than real, valid, criteria. Rick Warren, a pioneer of the community-church” movement, began his church by finding out why unchurched people didn’t attend any church services, and then building a church that met their demands.

Such an approach would be fine and good if he was building a country club of civic organization; it is utterly unacceptable in matters of religion. If it is a power higher than ourselves to whom our worship is given (which

virtually all religions teach) then it is absolutely essential that our actions are governed by the mandates of the subject of our worship. If we purport to worship the God of the bible, then our work and worship must be governed by the same Bible that reveals all that we know about our God.

But it is first necessary to determine which, of all the “holy” books that have been written, truly bears the marks of the divine. It is that book that will simultaneously reveal the true God of the Universe and His will for His subjects. Whether we choose the 3 million “gods” of the Hindus, the animist and pantheists concept of deity practiced by other Eastern Religions (and Oprah), Islam or Christianity, our conception of God must be shaped by the book which we regard to be holy. There are several criteria which must be examined:

1. What the book claims

for itself-Is it inspired by God?

2. Historicity of the Book-Did it really happen? Can we examine its historicity? Does it even claim as much?

3. Do its unity, accuracy, transmissibility and content support its claims?

4. Does it bear marks of being beyond Human ability? I.e. Predictive prophecy, foreknowledge? Inerrancy?

It is my conviction that the Bible is the only book that stands up to such examination and testing. This morning’s lesson will examine arguments for this position. Let us recognize, affirm and proclaim that our Bible is the word of God, the only viable candidate to be called such, and it reveals to us all that we need to know about the creator and Lord of the Universe.

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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 06-01-08

Bible Classes: 85  
AM Worship: 128  
PM Worship: 58  
Wednesday Evening: 65  
Contribution: 3,734.00

## 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:**  
Roddy Akers  
**Opening Prayer:**  
John Such  
**Communion:**  
Andy Streets  
**Sermon:**  
Stefano Mugnaini  
**Closing Prayer:**  
Ron Herman

*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...*

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### **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. For more details please see Michelle

### **Vacation Bible School**

Vacation Bible School is being planned for sometime in late July. More information to come.



*Happy Anniversary*

6/12

Rick & Donna

Porter

## *Update on Ava Bullard...*

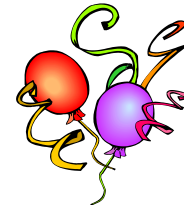
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Mother is doing much better. She still misses her previous room, but she at least has a smile back on her face.

She has been receiving cards daily and this has really perked her up, especially the ones with photos in them.

Thank you so much for the cards and prayers. It really has meant a lot to her and to us.

God Bless You!  
Judy Mims



*Happy Birthday!*

6/8

Debra Scott

6/9

Faye Spence

6/11

Eddie Haselden

6/13

Kendle Scott

6/15

Pat Fagan

## *Note from Stefano...*

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Last Sunday, I began preaching a sermon series entitled "God Is: a study of God's existence, His characteristic attribute and the link between God's nature and Christian doctrine. It will be approximately 10 weeks. This would be a good opportunity to explore for ourselves and explain to others what we believe and why.

Also, the article on Creationism and evolution along with a suggested reading list (as promised in last

week's sermon) is on the table in the foyer for anyone that would like a copy.

## 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**  
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