



# Reflections

## *“The Lost” by Stefano Mugnaini*

I lose things constantly. My car keys, wallet, cell phone. Now that Siena has discovered a love for those items, they are especially prone to loss. Every time I leave the house, a frantic search ensues. (This is why we don't arrive at church as early as we would like.) When everything is rounded up and we are ready to go, what a sense of relief comes over us. If I cannot find something, be it phone or wallet, I am paranoid all day.

Jesus told a series of parables similar to this. In Luke 15, preaching to the “sinners and tax collectors,” He told the parables of the lost sheep, coin, and prodigal son. All tell a similar story: an item is lost, a search ensues, the lost item is

returned, and there is great rejoicing.

Due to my own experience, I feel like I understand these parables as well as anything in Scripture. The frantic nature of the search, the joy at finding that which was lost. Of course, Jesus was referring to menial things that represented the most valuable thing: souls. We do well to understand the sheer joy of the father over the salvation of souls. All three parables speak of rejoicing and celebration; the filthy, ragged prodigal is embraced by the loving father.

But have you ever thought of the mindset of the Father during the search? If it is anything like my own, there is great anxiety and concern. I think it necessary that we consider this to get a com-

plete understanding of the parables and the mindset of God described therein.

He longs for the restoration of that which is lost. He aches for it. It is God's greatest hope that the lost will be found. And He searches.

God has never sat back and said: “they know where I am, and they'll find me if they want.” Human history is a history of God searching for His people. He sent prophets, leaders, preachers, and finally, His Son. All in an effort to “seek and Save that which was lost” (Luke 19).

The church needs to learn to identify with God's view of the lost sheep of this world. We need to hurt for their sad state. We

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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 12-07-08

## Elder for the Month of December

## Program of Worship

*Ava Bullard*  
*Helen Embry*  
*Mark Embry*  
*Leonard McNeill*  
*Lois Ott*

Bible Classes: 66  
AM Worship: 116  
PM Worship: 46  
Wednesday Evening: 52

Howard Streets 766-7727



*Preparing communion: Stefano & Shelli*  
*Baptismal Garments: Faye Spence*

**Announcements:**  
Howard Streets  
**Song Service:**  
Keith Dee  
**Opening Prayer:**  
Jim Lamm  
**Communion:**  
Larry Polutta  
**Sermon:**  
Stefano Mugnaini  
**Closing Prayer:**  
George Brown



## 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*

Christopher, Agnes's great nephew, is 6 years old and has an inoperable brain tumor. He is being treated with radiation at this time. Please keep the family in your prayers.

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

Ruby Cooper was diagnosed with lung cancer. She had surgery on Wednesday, October 29th at MUSC to remove part of her right lung. Ruby is recuperating at home.

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

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

Emily Fowler, Scott Fowler's

mother, has some health problems and would like our prayers.

Duke Gregory, Doris and Janie's brother, has been moved back to Manchester Health Care, in Manchester, TN. He is improving each day.

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

Clara Haselden has started her chemo again. Please keep her in your prayers.

Janet Jenkins had surgery and is at home recuperating.

Betty Kuban, Michelle Porter's aunt, has cancer.

James Michael Lamm was in an accident and broke his leg and both feet. He had surgery on September 24th and is recuperating. He is scheduled to have 5 more operations to repair his leg.

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

Jim Moores has cancer. He attends Chesapeake Church of Christ.

Gertrude Rivers, Clara Haselden's sister-in-law, has pancreatic cancer.

John Rogers, Louise's husband, has a blood clot in his leg.

Jill Rush, Ronnie & Sharon's daughter, is in the hospital.

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.

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

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### **Nursery**

There is an attended nursery for anyone who is interested. If you would like to volunteer in the nursery, please sign the sheet in the foyer on the bulletin board.

### **Ladies Bible Class**

December 16th will be the last class before the holidays. They will resume on January 6th.

### **Bible Bowl**

You are invited! It's time to start forming teams for the 2009 SC Statewide Bible Bowl. Please see Keith Dee if you are interested. The Bible Bowl is not just for kids. It is for all ages. Please consider being a part of this great time of fellowship and fun competition. Every participant is a winner!



## *Happy Anniversary!*

12/20

Paul & Thelma  
Townsend

## *“Stuffing of the Stockings”*

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On Wednesday, December 17th, all classes (4 & 5 year olds—High School) are invited to join the ladies Bible class and participate in the “stuffing of the stockings” for the shut-ins.

Items needed: crackers, candy, fruit, nuts, notepads, pens and toiletry items.



## *Happy Birthday!*

12/14

Jordan Akers

12/15

Anna Claire Collins

12/17

Russell Spence

12/18

Lynn Smallwood  
James Thornley

12/20

Ethan Dee  
Marvin Woudwyk

12/21

Sarah Polk

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need to be as eager for their redemption as is our God. Otherwise, we will not search as frantically, work as tirelessly, or celebrate as joyously as do the angels in Heaven.

Yes, God has sent Prophets, Judges, Preachers, Miracle-workers and ultimately His Son. Now he relies on His church to carry on His great work of Salva-

tion. How diligent are we in fulfilling our mission?

## Bulletin Board

### **5th Annual Ladies' Day**

Where: Church of Christ at Johns Island

When: January 23rd & 24th

Theme: "Too Blessed to be Stressed"

Speaker: Deborah Houston from Rochester, NY

Friday Evening: Song Fest

Saturday: Interactive spiritual discussions

Please see the bulletin board for more information.

### **Ladies' Day**

Where: Azalea Drive Church of Christ

When: December 13th

Theme: "The Fruit of the Spirit"

Speaker: Sis. Mitilda Gibbon

Please see the bulletin board for more information.

### **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

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**