



Reflections

“The Cross” by Stefano Mugnaini

Apart from the cross of Christ, we have nothing. No hope, no salvation, no purpose for gathering; indeed, no purpose for living.

Paul said something to this effect in 1 Corinthians 2:

And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. **For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.** I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on

the power of God.

The context of Paul's statement is different than mine, but the focal point is the same. Paul appeared in Corinth—a wicked, idolatrous city, home to the temple of Apollo, a center of commerce, wealthy and prestigious—and preached the crucified Savior. A message that he himself acknowledged in the first chapter of the letter to be “a stumbling block...foolishness.”

But that's not the whole story. He also preached Christ risen; over whom death had no power, no victory, no sting. He preached the promise of Victory in Jesus, eternal life and reconciliation with our Creator.

And none of this can be separated from the message of the cross.

In modernity, we have all kinds of debates about the propriety of modern interrogation techniques being used on terrorists; Compared to crucifixion, waterboarding would be like a Shiatsu massage. The Romans were masters of violence, of pain, or torture and death. Perhaps no more brutal a society has ever existed. Daniel speaks of Rome (I believe) as honoring only “a god of fortresses.” That's to say, the dealing of death was their true religion. And in the midst of their dominion, God incarnate died upon the cross...to the Jews a stumbling block, to the Greeks, foolishness.

And to the Christian, life!

Apart from the cross,

**continued on page 3*

Church Office : 843-556-1792
Church Fax: 843-556-6085
Email: evcoc@bellsouth.net
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 02-22-09

Elder for the Month of March

Program of Worship

Ava Bullard
Helen Embry
Mark Embry
Leonard McNeill
Lois Ott

Bible Classes: 74
AM Worship: 122
PM Worship: 46
Wednesday Evening: 57
Contribution: 3,245.00

Howard Streets 766-7727



Preparing communion: Janie Polutta
Baptismal Garments: Pam Ragland

Announcements:
Howard Streets

Song Service:
Royce Akers

Opening Prayer:
Jim Lamm

Communion:
Herman Porter

Sermon:
Stefano Mugnaini

Closing Prayer:
Larry Polk



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.

Steve Bragg, former member of Essex Village, had surgery on the 17th. He is now at home but we had a bit of a scare on Thursday. He was supposed to be coming home that day but they discovered a blood clot in his lung and pneumonia. On Thursday they put him in ICU for about 24 hours until they got his oxygen saturation back up in the 90's instead of in the 70's and put him on a higher dose of blood thinners. He is doing much better now. He will not be able to test out the new ankle for about 4-6 weeks but it looks good so far.

Ray Brown, Herman & Michelle's neighbor, fractured his neck and will have to wear a halo for 4 months.

Larry Cooper, Ruby's son, has lung cancer.

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.

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

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

James Michael Lamm was in an accident and broke his leg and both feet. He is scheduled to have 6 operations to repair his leg.

Brandon Lock, Louise's nephew, had 2 surgeries on his brain. Brandon is 18 years old.

Gil & Val Mabry: Ann Standefer requested prayers for them. Ann is a member of the Church and attends in LaVergne, TN. Gil has cancer and is receiving treatments.

Thomas Matherly, Clara Haselden's brother, was diagnosed with cancer and is receiving chemo. He is in the hospital due to complications from his chemo treatments.

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

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

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

Marcia Steckle, a friend of Sharon Rush, had a mastectomy and is recovering at home.

Here's What is Happening...

Concordance

We have purchased a Strong's Concordance for Mary Beth Christy. It has been placed on the table in the foyer for everyone to have an opportunity to sign before we give it to her.

David Lipscomb

David Lipscomb University softball team comes to play the College of Charleston softball team. We have volunteered to feed the team on Friday night, March 6th. Plans are to have the entire congregation be present if possible. We need help with food as well.

There is a poster in the foyer asking that you sign if you plan to attend.

More information to come.

"The Cross" continued...

no amount of obedience effects our salvation. Apart from the cross, a thousand baptisms would produce no souls worthy of heaven. Because of the cross, Salvation has come to the people of God.

What a glorious hope we have as Christians. As we share what we believe, let us never neglect to fo-

Contribution Reports

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

Addresses...

If you would like to send a word of encouragement to Steve & Sabrina Bragg, here is their address:

130 Anna Ridge Drive
Heflin, Alabama 36264

New Address

Meghann Ragland-Moulton
1004 Rochelle Ave.
Lot 20
Charleston, SC 29407



Happy Anniversary!

3/2

Herman & Michelle
Porter

3/5

Larry & Margaret
Casbeer



Happy Birthday!

3/2

R. J. Boris

Lori Akers

3/3

Janie Polutta

3/8

Larry Casbeer

Jennifer Headden

Bulletin Board

Retirement Reception

You are invited to attend an afternoon reception in honor of David R. Pharr on the occasion of his retirement on Saturday, February 21 at 3:00 pm at the Charlotte Avenue Church of Christ.
RSVP 803-327-7853

11th Annual Carolina Men's Fellowship

Date: Saturday, March 14, 2009
Where: Gold Hill Road Church of Christ
Fort Mill, SC Telephone # 803-548-7762
Sponsored by Charlotte Avenue Church of Christ in Rock Hill, SC

Georgetown Church of Christ Ladies Day

Theme: "As The Lark Sings"
Speaker: Jo Ann Mills from DeRidder, Louisiana
Author, Speaker, Sojourner, Bible Class Teacher
Date: March 28, 2009
Registration: 9:30—10:00 am
RSVP by Wednesday, March 25th
Email: mady@sc.rr.com

The Eighth Annual Charlotte Avenue Youth Rally

Theme: Sow What
Date: April 25, 2009
Where: Charlotte Avenue Church of Christ
339 Charlotte Avenue
Rock Hill, SC 29730

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	

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