



Reflections

“Salt of the Earth” by Stefano Mugnaini

I like to watch Jeopardy. I even took the on-line test to be a contestant on the show once. (It did not go well.) Last week, one of the categories was “Gardens.” A contestant chose the category, and happened to select the Daily Double. The “answer?” “In this Garden, Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss.” From the contestant, silence. More silence. Finally, as time expired and Trebek demanded an answer, she ventured a guess. “Garden of Eden?”

This inspired an angry rant from me, an expression of surprise from my wife, and “Dahhh-gy” from Siena (she says that to everything). But I was simultaneously shocked, frustrated, angered and saddened by the answer. Who

hasn't heard of the garden of Gethsemane? Moreover, who is in the dark about the fact that the garden of Eden is the creation setting, way before the incarnate Christ? Surely even Muslims and infidels know this much about the Bible!

But then two sickening thoughts dawned on me, at precisely the same time. (Neither of them was “write a bulletin article”-that came later.) The first? How ignorant of the Bible is the average citizen? If Jeopardy is taken as a standard, then the inevitable answer is “very.” Every time the Bible shows up as a category, the success rate is relatively low. Especially compared to “illegitimate children of Hollywood actors” or “Obscure European rulers.” Is it, then,

any real surprise that thousands are led astray by hucksters and crooks like Jimmy Swaggart or Benny Hinn? Or that spiritual yearnings are apparently satisfied by the raw emotionalism, triviality and drivel of Max Lucado or Joel Osteen? OR that smooth talking con artists can inspire deeper allegiance than Jesus Christ, our hope? Are we Christians as far superior as we think? Are we the people of the book we claim, or believe ourselves to be?

Secondly, what are we doing with the Biblical knowledge that we have? Is it just for trivia? Is my ability to distinguish between the events at Eden and Gethsemane doing anyone any good? I know that sin began at Eden; I know the Salvation came by the one

*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 03-01-09**

**Elder for the Month
of March**

**Program of
Worship**

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

Bible Classes: 62
AM Worship: 62
PM Worship: 92
Wednesday Evening: 52
Contribution: 3,616.00

Howard Streets 766-7727



Preparing communion: Janie Polutta
Baptismal Garments: Pam Ragland

Announcements:
Howard Streets
Song Service:
Roddy Akers
Opening Prayer:
Eddie Haselden
Communion:
Herman Porter
Sermon:
Stefano Mugnaini
Closing Prayer:
Tex Patton



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...

Contribution Reports

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

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The men will be having their monthly prayer breakfast on Saturday, March 14th at 9:00 am.

Soup Kitchen

If you would like to help prepare and serve lunch at the Crisis Ministry on Monday, March 23rd please see Raymond Boynton.



Happy Anniversary!

3/27

Tex & Bea
Patton

Bible Bowl 2009...

Congratulations to all of our team members! This year our congregation finished first in the preteen, second in the teen, second in the senior and third in the adult divisions.

The team members would like to thank everyone for their prayers, support and FOOD provided during the past few months and invite everyone to join in the fun next year!



Happy Birthday!

3/8

Larry Casbeer

Jennifer Headden

3/13

Norman Ricker

Courtney Morrow

Geraldine Smith

3/15

Stephanie Dee

"Salt of the Earth" continued...

betrayed at Gethsemane. Do I care? How often do I fail Him? How often do I choose the worldly over the spiritual? Forsake worship for work, or the fellowship of the saints for the company of those who carry me downward rather than upward? How much time and energy is devoted to the successes or failures of my football team, rather than the Savior of the world and His mission? Do I visit IHOP more than house of worship? More time with the TV on than in study or prayer?

If we are honest with ourselves, how much do we like the answers to these questions? If these considerations make us uncomfortable or guilty, then perhaps we have lifestyle changes to make; if they don't, then perhaps it is our heart that needs to be stirred.

"Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? 35 "It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear." ----Luke

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

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 Gooe 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