



Reflections

“Monet”

By: Stefano Mugnaini

Imagine a man with two passions in life -- light and color -- losing his eyesight. Such was the case with the famous French impressionist, Claude Monet. Monet had devoted 25 years of his life to creating a floral paradise on his country estate in Giverny, and putting onto canvas his impressions of the beauty around him. Then, when he was in his sixties, cataracts began to form on his eyes, and his vision began to fail. Monet continued to paint, but his paintings grew darker, and objects grew unidentifiable. Within a few years he was almost totally blind, and his canvases were covered only with dark, swirling shades of red. His paintings were accurate images of his own distorted impressions, but they bore very little resemblance to reality.

In 1923, at the age of 83, Monet somewhat fearfully agreed to allow a physician to perform cataract surgery on his eyes. It was a success!

Monet's clear vision returned, and his paintings were filled once again with what he loved most -- dazzling splashes of light and color inspired by his gardens. Following his surgery, Monet spent the last three years of his life completing what is now considered to be his crowning achievement, the water lily collection.

Spiritually, we reenact Monet's same journey in our lives. Every one of us begins life basking in God's light. But as sin distorts and clouds our spiritual vision, darkness prevails. Spiritual darkness results in guilt, depression, confusion and, ultimately, death. Monet could have chosen to do nothing about his blindness and to surrender to darkness . . . but he yearned to return to the light. Surrender to darkness or return to the light; we face this same choice. God's gracious offer to bring us out of darkness and into His glorious light must be either accepted or rejected.

Paul moved even more rapidly from darkness to light. He recounted his journey in Acts 26:15-18:

And I [Paul] said, "Who are Thou, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But arise, and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; delivering you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me."

*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 11-08-09**

**Elder for the Month
of November**

**Program of
Worship**

*Helen Embry
Mark Embry
Polly Fowler
Leonard McNeill
Lois Ott*

Bible Classes: 70
AM Worship: 158
PM Worship: 44
Wednesday Evening: 63
Contribution: 3,716.00

Howard Streets: 766-7727



Announcements:
Howard Streets

Song Service:
Royce Akers

Opening Prayer:
Larry Polutta

Communion:
Jim Lamm

Serving:
Andy Streets
Herman Porter
Ronnie Rush
Norman Ricker

Sermon:
Stefano Mugnaini

Closing Prayer:
Durwood Collins



Preparing communion: Stefano & Shelli Mugnaini

Baptismal Garments: Michelle Porter

Military
*Robert Bagley
Kristopher Black
Adam Bowles
Chris Branham
Adam Carlucci
Russell Coble
Ryne Collins
James Dalton
Mark Fiorey
Ellis Flenoid
Steven Hilton
Michael Hilton
Matthew Lemieux
Katie McCaskill
Kevin Mitchell
Scott O'Connor
Shawn Reynolds*



We Are Praying For...

Debbie, Steve McLawhorn's sister & Mac & Agnes' daughter, is in ICU at St. Francis Hospital. She had a brain tumor removed on Monday.

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

Judy Cox, the mother of Natasha's friend, has advanced stage 4 colon cancer. She is receiving chemo treatments.

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.

EdiaJuan Fagan had test ran

and is waiting for results.

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 is receiving chemo treatments.

Val Mabry, Ann Mabry Stander's aunt, has Alzheimer's.

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

Jim Moore in cancer free. Jim attends Chesapeake Church of Christ. Thank you for your prayers.

Louise Shaw, co-worker of Natasha Streets. Louise's husband is very ill.

Sam & Barbara Truscello, Raymond Boynton's neighbors, are in need of prayers. Sam has health problems and Barbara is the caregiver.

David Wakeland will be having minimal invasive surgery for heart valve replacement on Wednesday, November 18th at Roper Hospital.

Paul Quesenberry, Clara Haselden's nephew, has a tumor on his spine and is in serious condition.

Article continued...

Our walk of faith may be less dramatic, but it is no less real. We live in a world blinded by sin. We can either share in the world's blind-

ness, or move toward God's light. -- Adapted

Teen Group Retreat...

Many, many thanks go to so many people who helped to welcome the teen group from Burnt Hickory church of Christ of Atlanta, Ga. To those who prepared food (for 54 teens and 10 adults), thank you so very much. To others who loaned their air mattresses for a good night's rest, and to our elders who allowed them to use the annex building for sleeping and the kitchen for preparing their food. (They had plenty to eat). With our help, they managed to stay under their budget for their fall retreat. The teens performed at several lowcountry areas which showed their compassion for

others. They had three groups who went to the Charleston Miracle League, the Lowcountry Orphan Relief and the East Cooper Meals on Wheels and helped these groups and they were so enthusiastic about doing this. So please accept our thanks for all your service as well. The good news is when they arrived safely home Sunday night, two young ladies were baptized. The adults and teens are a good example for all of us.

One more time, many many thanks for your contribution to their efforts. Larry and Janie Polutta

Southeastern Children's Home...

Please express our appreciation to Essex Village Church of Christ for their willingness to assist with Christmas wishes for the children we serve. You had requested one boy and one girl please see the following:

Lee is 16 years old. He enjoys football and is a Georgia Bulldog fan. Some items on his wish list are: DVDs (funny or scary PG/PG-13), Jordan tennis shoes size 10 (any color), Mach 3 turbo razor, Books by Louis Lamour, a racing PSP game. His clothing sizes are shirts large, pants 34x32, shoes 10 and prefers boxers.

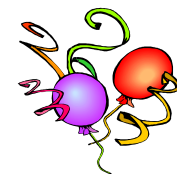
Jami' is 15 years old. She enjoys riding horses, reading, and playing DS. Some items on her wish list are: Brown Sparry's (boat style) size 8 or Black/White Converses (not high-tops), Nintendo DS Imagine Animal Doctor game, DVD (for teen girl PG/PG-13 for example High School Musical 3, 8 Below, etc, she also has jewelry on her list she is thin and tall. Her clothing sizes include shirts medium, jeans 1-2, shoes 8.

Again, thank you all for assisting us to create fond holiday memories for our children.

For the children, Christy

Thanksgiving Baskets are being organized.

If you would like to contribute, please see Jim.



Happy Birthday!

11/21
Rosie Such

11/22
Carla Haselden



Happy Anniversary!

11/17
James & Lisa
Thornley

11/18
Andy & Natasha
Streets

Bulletin Board

East Cooper Church of Christ

Gospel Meeting

Monday—Thursday, November 16th –19th

Theme: “Good News For Those Who Want To Go To Heaven”

Speaker: Terry D. Wallace, Sr., Minister for West Oak Grove Church of Christ in Hernando, Mississippi

Time: 7:30 pm nightly

East Cooper Church of Christ is located at 3381 South Morgan’s Point Road, Suite 505, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466. It is in the Food Lion Shopping Center, North Highway 17, near the Charlestown National Community.

St. George Church of Christ

Fall Gospel Meeting

When: Monday –Wednesday, November 16th-18th

Time: 7:30 pm nightly

Speaker: Terry Gunnells from the Barnwell Church of Christ.

Where: 767 Hwy. 15N. Across from Roger’s Auto Sales

Great Smokey Mountain Marriage Retreat

When: February 17-20, 2010

Where: Pigeon Forge Holiday Inn Conference Center

Theme: “Joy in the Journey-Celebrating God’s Gift of Matrimony”

The retreat is sponsored by the Jacksonville church of Christ

325 Nisbet Street, Jacksonville, AL 36265

RSVP: If possible, please register by contacting 256-435-9356 or info@jvillecoc.org to let us know you are attending.

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 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