



Reflections

“Reactionary Faith” *By: Stefano Mugnaini*

Way back in High School, I got the same piece of advice over and over again. I heard this from my wrestling coach and from a biology teacher who was teaching me to play chess.

"Be aggressive. Control the match; don't just react."

It was good advice; though it may seem odd that the same basic principle would apply to chess and wrestling. You could argue that they are both forms of simulated combat; but the similarities pretty much end there. Chess and wrestling are generally regarded as quite dissimilar.

But good advice—at least the kind you get from coaches—usually works so well only because it is universal; even completely generic.

This is no exception; a purely reactionary strategy is usually a

plan for defeat. This is true in chess, in war, in business, in athletics... and virtually all areas of life. Even religion, I would argue.

Consider how much false religious doctrine is purely reactionary.

This leads to polarizing extremes, as we allow our doctrinal positions to be shaped by what we reject, rather than what we accept.

Too often, we study the Bible to disprove ideas we reject, rather than "approve the things which are excellent."

Protestant Reformers allowed Catholic excesses to shape their agenda, resulting in hostility, bloodshed, and the multiplication of sectarian groups. We flee legalism for the comfort of liberalism, or are driven by new-age mysticism to a faith that consists of nothing more than cold cognitive acceptance of a set of logical syllogisms. We know what

we're against so much more often than what we're for.

How many sermons are wasted re-hashing over and over again old debates about pet sins, while the weightier truths of scripture are wasted?

I saw someone on television interpret Isaiah 47:2 to claim that wearing shorts is equivalent to nakedness. Poor hermeneutics were employed. However, better they shun shorts than I be driven to take a prudicity stance! But these petty disagreements are what so often fling the pendulum toward extremism.

Our identity should not be defined by what we reject; it should be defined by what we accept. It is a subtle difference, to be sure; but an important one. To live for God is so much more than just fleeing

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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 11-15-09**

**Elder for the Month
of November**

**Program of
Worship**

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

Bible Classes: 64
AM Worship: 104
PM Worship: 40
Wednesday Evening: 46
Contribution: 3,494.00

Howard Streets: 766-7727



Announcements:
Howard Streets

Song Service:
Keith Dee

Opening Prayer:
John Such

Communion:
Jim Lamm

Serving:
Andy Streets
Herman Porter
Ronnie Rush
Norman Ricker

Sermon:
Stefano Mugnaini

Closing Prayer:
Larry Polk



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 at home now. Please continue to pray for her and the family.

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 Standefer'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 had heart valve replacement surgery on Wednesday, November 18th at Roper Hospital.

Paul Quesenberry, Clara Haselden's nephew, had surgery to remove a tumor on his spine and is in serious condition. He is doing better than expected but has a long road to recovery.

Info...

Ladies Bible Class

Class has been cancelled on Tuesday, November 24th due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Class will resume on Tuesday, December 1st.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanksgiving Baskets are being organized. If you would like to contribute, please see Jim.

Thank you...

Essex Village,

We appreciate all your prayers and cards. Debbie is at home at the present time. We continue to ask for your prayers.

We love you all.

*Mac, Agnes, Stephen & Peggy
McLawnhorn*



Happy Anniversary!

11/28
Eddie & Carla
Haselden

Southeastern Children's Home...

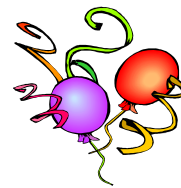
We are sponsoring 2 children for Christmas this year. Here is a list of the things on their wish list.

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 Sperry's (boat style) size 8 or Black/White Converse (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.

If you would like to help with any of these items, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board. Thank you!



Happy Birthday!

11/22
Carla Haselden
11/26
Kelli Akers

Article continued...

Sin. It lends greater focus, greater purpose, greater motivation. To seek holiness is a loftier goal than to simply reject sin. To seek justice and righteousness greater than to just avoid corruption.

Consider Jesus, our ultimate example. He confounded both religious leaders and sinners, because he preached and lived His message. Jesus was revolutionary, but not reactionary. He avoided legalism and licentiousness because His

message was about what is true, not what isn't.

This is not to say we shouldn't oppose error; it is to say that we do so by consistently seeking truth and holding it up as light in a dark world. Moderation comes, not as a goal, but as the natural path of sanity and balance between the madness of extremes.

Don't react; believe.

Condolences...

We extend our condolences to the Porter family in the passing of Donna's father, James Williams. The funeral was held on Tuesday in Columbia, TN. Please keep the family in your prayers.



Bulletin Board

Rutledge Avenue Church of Christ

"Harvest Time" Celebration

When: November 26th at 7:00 pm

Please come and share with us on Thanksgiving. There will be lots of singing, praising and fellowship. Please bring your family and friends as we render thanks and praises unto God.

Area-Wide Annual Singing

Where: Kingsbury Road Church of Christ

215 Kingsbury Road, Sumter, SC 29151

When: December 18th at 7:00 pm

Refreshments will be served. Bring your song leaders.

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