



Reflections

“Patriotism and Orthodoxy” By: Stefano Mugnaini

Samuel Johnson was an English writer, literary critic, and satirist in the 18th century. He is most notable for having written an English Dictionary; one of the earliest, and by far the most widely used for over 100 years. Boswell; a disciple, biographer, and something of a sycophant, preserved much of Johnson’s wit in his *Life of Samuel Johnson*.

I admire Johnson greatly, if largely because of his lack of tact. He told the truth, even if such was deemed unacceptable or uncouth. (He may also have had Tourette Syndrome)

For example, Johnson once said “Patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels”

Obviously, such a statement is likely to be controversial, espe-

cially if misconstrued. Patriotism, even when blind and unquestioning, is generally lauded, and a lack of it a great sin. But Johnson was not condemning support for country. He was condemning a mentality that abandons reason and critical thinking in the name of patriotic fervor. The mentality that says our country is always on the side of right, or that we must support our leaders no matter what.

When reason and intellect fail, the fool or the charlatan may always hide their crimes behind, the façade of patriotism; and upon the same grounds demand unquestioning support. In just the last few years, patriotism has been invoked to justify tax increases, war, immoral public policy, the appointment of criminals to public office,

and the theft and redistribution of wealth. Things are either right or wrong; when love of country becomes a moral compass to itself, then patriotism becomes a refuge for the corrupt and immoral.

There is always a danger of the same thing happening in the spiritual realm. What horrors have been perpetrated for the protection of “Christian Orthodoxy?” How many martyrs have been made for offenses as trivial as translating the Bible into readable languages or opposing slavery upon religious grounds?

The protection of orthodoxy as a concept, rather than the search for truth, is nothing more than blind patriotism with a religious slant. Our tribe may

* 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 11-22-09**

**Elder for the Month
of November**

**Program of
Worship**

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

Bible Classes: 66
AM Worship: 108
PM Worship: 29
Wednesday Evening:
Contribution: 2,976.00

Howard Streets: 766-7727



Announcements:
Howard Streets

Song Service:
Roddy Akers

Opening Prayer:
Ron Herman

Communion:
Jim Lamm

Serving:
Andy Streets
Herman Porter
Ronnie Rush
Norman Ricker

Sermon:
Stefano Mugnaini

Closing Prayer:
George Brown



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. 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. He is in room 3011 but expected to go home on Thanksgiving day.

Paul Quesenberry, Clara Haselden's nephew, had surgery to remove a tumor on his spine and is in serious condition.

Here is what is happening...

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The men will meet on Saturday, December 12th at 9:00 am in the annex for breakfast, fellowship and time spent in prayer.

Thanksgiving Baskets

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the thanksgiving baskets. Your contributions were very much appreciated.



Thanksgiving...

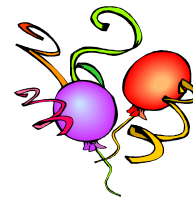
Please remember to pray for our members who are traveling during the holiday weekend!

Article continued...

not always be right. Our tradition may sometimes be flawed. Orthodoxy does not mean truth; just consensus opinion.

truth of God's word, and judge everything by that standard.

As Christians, our task is not to uphold the status quo, or blindly follow our leaders. It is to seek the



Happy Birthday!

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!

11/30
Stacey Boris

12/2
Margaret Casbeer

Bulletin Board

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