

Reflections

“What Might Have Been” By: Stefano Mugnaini

John Greenleaf Whittier wrote “For all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: ‘It might have been!’”

Think of the many proverbs, both biblical and extra-biblical, that deal with the subject of wasted opportunities. We may gain or lose money, health, possessions; the same dollar passes through many hands in its life span. Ecclesiastes tells us that bread cast on the waters returns.

But of all the commodities which we use, only time is irretrievable. We cannot get it back. This is why there is no greater tragedy than opportunity wasted.

Doubtless we can all think of opportunities we’ve let pass by; chances we did not take or decisions we failed to make. Most of

these missed opportunities, however life-altering, are ultimately trivial; because this life itself is but a vapor.

But how many opportunities for spiritual growth, for evangelism, for commitment to Christ have we missed? How many people have we failed to approach with the message of the Gospel? How many opportunities to worship God have we forfeited for the pursuit of worldly pastimes and pleasures? For that matter, how often have we let anger, preoccupation, or the cares of the world hinder our worship and distract us from the meaning for our gatherings?

It is a privilege and a blessing to have the opportunity to serve in God’s kingdom; may we never take for granted or waste the opportunities He presents us with.

Often read at funerals, Ecclesiastes twelve emphasizes the importance of seizing the opportunity that each of us has, right now, to turn to God. It is associated with death; but it is really a passage about life. It urges us to make right what lacks in our relationship with God now; while the strength and vitality to serve still remains.

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, “I have no delight in them”; before the sun and the light, the moon and the stars are darkened, and clouds return after the rain; in the day that the watchmen of the house tremble, and

**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 11-29-09

Elder for the Month of December

Program of Worship

Helen Embry
Mark Embry
Polly Fowler
Leonard McNeill
Lois Ott

Bible Classes: 65
AM Worship: 114
PM Worship: 56
Wednesday Evening: 44
Contribution: 3,981.00

Larry Casbeer: 795-0429



Announcements:
Larry Casbeer

Song Service:
Royce Akers

Opening Prayer:
Andy Streets

Communion:
Deron Casbeer

Serving:
Larry Polutta
Larry Polk
Ray Brown
Ray Boynton

Sermon:
Stefano Mugnaini

Closing Prayer:
Ron Herman



Preparing communion: Ginnie Fowler
Baptismal Garments: Christine Herman

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.

Eloise Hinrichs, Carla's grandmother, had a heart attack on Tuesday

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

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

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 recuperating at home.

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.

Festival of Lights

Our annual trip to see the Festival of Lights at the James Island County Park will be on December 11th.

"Stuffing of the Stockings"



On Wednesday, December 9th, the Ladies' Bible class will be stuffing stockings for our shut-ins. If you would like to contribute, please bring the following items: crackers, candy, fruit, nuts, notepads, pens and toiletry items.

Southeastern Children's Home...

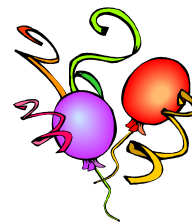
We are sponsoring 2 children for Christmas this year. Here is a list of the things on their wish list.

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!

Article continued...

mighty men stoop, the grinding ones stand idle because they are few, and those who look through windows grow dim; and the doors on the street are shut as the sound of the grinding mill is low, and one will arise at the sound of the bird, and all the daughters of song will sing softly. Furthermore, men are afraid of a high place and of terrors on the road; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper

drags himself along, and the caperberry is ineffective. For man goes to his eternal home while mourners go about in the street. Remember Him before the silver cord is broken and the golden bowl is crushed, the pitcher by the well is shattered and the wheel at the cistern is crushed; then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

12/07
Laura Basnillo

12/10
Andrea Hanlon
Jim Lamm

12/12
Hilton Googe

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