

Reflections

“Giving Thanks at Christmas” *By: Alan Smith, adapted by Stefano Mugnaini*

I heard about a teacher who asked the children in her class about the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. She thought it might be effective to inch toward its meaning by having them playfully correct some wrong ideas.

"Now let me think," she began.

"Thanksgiving. That's the day when we think about all the stuff we have. And how we want more things than anybody else has. And how we don't care about anybody but ourselves. And . . ."

"No!" the preschool kids were starting to chorus! "No-o-o!"

Then one little guy in the middle of the pack looked up and chirped, "That's not Thanksgiving, Miss Michelle. That's Christmas!"

As we have passed through the transition in this country from Thanksgiving to Christ-

mas, there does seem to be a world of difference in the way these two holidays are viewed. Thanksgiving is one of the few holidays left which has not been ruined by commercialism. It is still a relatively "pure" time of giving thanks to God for our bountiful blessings. Christmas, on the other hand...

This should be a time when we are able to take great joy in giving to others, for "it is more blessed to give than to receive"; and a time to remember the great gift that God has given us through Jesus Christ. Instead, for many it has become a stressful, hectic time when we are focused on ourselves and our wants.

Allow me to make a suggestion based on an ancient Jewish practice. The Jews had a day set aside, like our day of Thanksgiving, to

remember how God had blessed them as a nation and taken care of them in their darkest hour. Purim was a day of "gladness and feasting...and for sending presents to one another." (Esther 9:19).

However, there was one major difference in their practice and ours. Their thanksgiving resulted in gift giving, but not just to friends and family. They had a practice of "sending presents to one another and gifts to the poor." (Esther 9:22).

This holiday season, and every day, let's seize every opportunity to give thanks to God for how He has blessed us. We need to remember that with blessings come responsibilities -- and we have a responsibility to use our blessings to God's glory. In the weeks

*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 12-20-09**

**Elder for the Month
of December**

**Program of
Worship**

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

Bible Classes: 60
AM Worship: 120
PM Worship: 40
Wednesday Evening:
Contribution: 3,648.00

Larry Casbeer: 795-0429



Announcements:
Larry Casbeer

Song Service:
Royce Akers

Opening Prayer:
Keith Dee

Communion:
Deron Casbeer

Serving:
Larry Polutta
Larry Polk
Ray Brown
Ray Boynton

Sermon:
Stefano Mugnaini

Closing Prayer:
Herman Porter



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 undergoing another round of chemo treatments.

Maxine Doll has some health problems and would like our prayers. Maxine is Pam Ragland's mother.

Edia Juan 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. She was released from the hospital and is recuperating at home.

Esther Lamm is having some health problems.

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 Na-

tasha 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.

Verdie Whitson is in room 4038 at Roper Hospital.

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

Bible Bowl...

If you would like to provide Sunday dinners, drinks, or a monetary donation for drinks and snacks for the Bible Bowl Studiers during the months of Jan & Feb, please talk to Sandy Dee so that she can tell you the available Sundays.

Thanks for all your support!

Thank you...

Essex Village Church of Christ,

Warmest wishes for a holiday season filled with peace and happiness.

Thanks for the gift and your prayers.

Have a Merry Christmas.

Sam & Barbara Truscello

Article continued...

ahead, may you truly know the joy of using your blessings not merely to make your family happy, but to share with others around you who are in need.

And let us never forget the greatest gift ever given:

“For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the

Directory Update...

Eddie Haselden has a new work number. Please be sure to update your directory. The number is 958-5012.

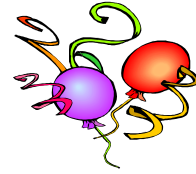
Essex Village Church of Christ,

Bless you for giving of your time, your energy, and your self. Thank you so much for the nice gift!

Many Thanks!
Evelyn Pack

ungodly.”

--By Alan Smith; adapted



Happy Birthday!

12/29
Eric Zink

1/03
Tina Cooper



Happy Anniversary!

12/31
Ron & Christine
Herman

1/07
Ramy & Laura
Basnillo

Bulletin Board

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