

January 17, 2010



ESSEX VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Reflections

“Trophies on Display at Wal-Mart” *By: Stefano Mugnaini*

I love the state of Alabama. Some of my fondest memories come from the summers my family spent there. I hope to retire to the family land and grow vegetables there someday. However, it would be dishonest to deny that Alabama, like many Southern states, has something of an image problem...a bit of a hillbilly reputation.

There are, of course, ample reasons to argue that the reality doesn't match the perception. Alabama's major metropolitan areas, to my mind, are annoyingly cosmopolitan, and they even have a space center in technology-rich Huntsville; but the reputation persists.

This being said, it reminded me of a bad Jay Leno joke (not that he tells good ones) when it was announced that the University of Alabama was going to put their College Football BCS championship trophy on display...at Wal-Mart.

Again, I love Alabama. Wal-Mart is ok, too. But rarely do stereotypes collide so fortuitously in a cataclysm of comic gold. Evidently the Crimson Tide has a sponsorship deal with Wal-Mart. It is rare that we see such a wholesale embrace of stereotypical images; thank you Alabama!

But all this got me to thinking. We generally view stereotypes as negative. And we should. The Bible teaches us that God is no respecter of persons; Martin Luther King appropriated this idea when he called for a man to be judged on the “content of his character, rather than the color of his skin.” If there is a place this should be true, it is in the Lord's Church.

But there is another kind of stereotype which we must consider. How often have we heard the charge that “Christians are hypocrites”? How do we respond to it? Do we bristle and go on the de-

fensive or confess its veracity?

It is one of the paradoxes of our faith that we will profess a perfection that is beyond our attainment. It is simply reality that this will be viewed as hypocrisy by some. And it is our natural tendency to defend ourselves from such a charge, as the allegation of hypocrisy is particularly stinging; it is a criticism of the heart, rather than the hands.

But hypocrisy is a claim that cannot be disproven, except by an overwhelming volume of blatant sincerity. You will not convince me that you mean what you say, except by living it. But it is so easy to prove my preconceptions to be correct.

Let us be ever mindful that we will be branded as hypocrites. Rather than dispute the claim, let us determine to live with consistency. Consistency of profession and practice.

Church Office : 843-556-1792

Church Fax: 843-556-6085

Email: evcoc@bellsouth.net

Website: www.essexvillage.org

Sunday
Class: 9:00 am
Worship: 10:00 am
Worship: 6:00 pm
Wednesday
7:00 pm



**For the Record
Week of 01-10-10**

**Elder for the Month
of January**

**Program of
Worship**

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

Bible Classes: 70
AM Worship: 114
PM Worship: 55
Wednesday Evening: 49
Contribution: 2,481.00

Howard Streets 766-7727



Announcements:
Howard Streets

Song Service:
Royce Akers

Opening Prayer:
Eddie Haselden

Communion:
John Jenkins, Jr.

Serving:
Chuck Spence
Eric Zink
Tex Patton
Bill Ragland

Sermon:
Stefano Mugnaini

Closing Prayer:
Jim Lamm



Preparing communion: Doris Akers

Baptismal Garments: Christine Herman



We Are Praying For...

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

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 was admitted to Methodist Hospital in Omaha this week for possible heart problems. Maxine is Pam Ragland's mother.

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.

Esther Lamm is having some health problems.

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

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

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

Verdie Whitson is having some health problems.

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

This is RJ's Air Force Boot Camp Address listed below. He can only receive letters. Letters to motivate are appreciated. He is doing Great at this point and HARD CHARGING!!!

**AB BORIS, ROBERT C
324 TRS/FLT 185 DORM B6
PSC 3
1320 TRUEMPER ST. UNIT 362913
LACKLAND AFB, TX 78236-5570**



Here is what is happening...

Soup Kitchen

If you would like to help prepare lunch at the soup kitchen on Monday, January 25th, please see Raymond Boynton.

Super Bowl Party

The annual Super Bowl party will be held in the annex on Sunday, February 7th following the evening service. Everyone is invited to join in the festivities. Please bring your favorite finger foods & drinks.

Congregational Lunch

We will have a congregational lunch on February 14th following the morning

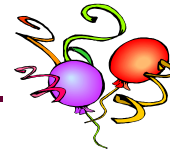
service.

Contribution Reports

If you would like an annual contribution report for tax purposes, please put it in writing and give to Eddie.

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. Thank you!



Happy Birthday!

1/18

Leonard McNeill

1/20

Shannon Wakeland

1/20

Julia Brown

Emily Brown

Article continued...

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Calendars & Tracts...

Please be sure to pick up the latest edition of House to House, Heart to Heart and the 2010 pocket calendars. They have been placed on the table in the foyer along with new tracts for you to share with your friends and neighbors.

Baptism

Grace Akers was baptized on Sunday, January 10th by her father, Roddy Akers. We rejoice with her and her family in her decision to serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Thank you!...

Dear Friends at Essex Village,

For many of the children we serve Christmas at the Children's Home is one of their fondest memories. Because of you, this Christmas season was no different.

Whether you sent gifts, money for gifts, or prayed for them during Christmas, we appreciate your kindness and generosity.

With you as partners, it is possible for them to have many fond memories and opportunities-that otherwise they would not have the exposure.

Thank you for your continued support and willingness to share in making this a memorable Christmas for the children in our care.

All of us at Southeastern Children's

Home hope that you and your family had a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

For the Children,
Christy Nodine
Development Associate

p. s. Thank you for providing gifts for Lee and Jami. They had an awesome Christmas because you care!

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