



# Reflections

## *“Mammon”* *By: Stefano Mugnaini*

To my mind, one of the most difficult aspects of Christian living relates to the subject of stewardship. On the surface, the message of Jesus and the apostle's is simple:

***“Then He said to them, 'Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.” - Luke 12:15.***

***“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up***

***for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.”-1 Timothy 6:17-19***

Each of us can easily understand what Jesus is saying; it is the application that challenges us. We are being told to seek heavenly things rather than earthly; to elevate the spiritual over the physical. We are being warned to avoid obsession with and misuse of material wealth.

And while each of us can easily absorb the surface meaning of that message, it is in the practice that danger arises. At what point have we crossed over into obsession? When do we become lovers of this world's goods? At what point does our desire for nice things

become a hope in the uncertainty of riches? Where is the line between a spacious house and a temple to materialism?

It is within this gray area that sin lurks. It places upon each of us a tremendous responsibility. As much as or more than any area of Christian life, when it comes to the question of stewardship, we are called to be extremely judicious; to measure our steps with care.

Idolatry is a constant threat because it is so subtle; we are not often tempted to pray to Baal, but it takes so little to slip to our knees before mammon. In my mind, the surest insurance against the threat of materialism is to aggressively seek to direct our energies, enthusiasm, and efforts

\* continued on page 3

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Website: [www.essexvillage.org](http://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 01-24-10**

**Elder for the Month  
of January**

**Program of  
Worship**

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

Bible Classes: 71  
AM Worship: 109  
PM Worship: 39  
Wednesday Evening: 59  
Contribution: 2,793.00

Howard Streets 766-7727



**Announcements:**  
Howard Streets

**Song Service:**  
Roddy Akers

**Opening Prayer:**  
Herman Porter

**Communion:**  
John Jenkins, Jr.

**Serving:**  
Chuck Spence  
Eric Zink  
Tex Patton  
Bill Ragland

**Sermon:**  
Stefano Mugnaini

**Closing Prayer:**  
George Brown



**Preparing communion:** Doris Akers

**Baptismal Garments:** Christine Herman

***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*



**We Are Praying For...**

**Doris Akers** is at home recuperating from knee surgery.

**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.

**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 to a medical facility in McMinnville, TN. He seems to be doing well and has been able to preach occasionally at the facility. He cannot write with his right hand since he had the stroke, but he is dealing with it. Thanks for everyone's prayers.

NHC Healthcare  
928 Old Smithville Road  
Room 213A  
McMinnville, TN 37110  
Tel # 931-474-2929

**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.

## *Here is what is happening...*

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### **Men's Prayer Breakfast**

The next prayer breakfast will be on Saturday, February 13th at 9:00 am.

### **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 Sunday, February 28th 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.



### ***Happy Anniversary***

2/14

Arnold & Nancy  
Walden

## *Bible Bowl...*

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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!

## *Calendars & Tracts...*

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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.



### ***Happy Birthday!***

2/5

Nancy Morrow

Tradd Cooper

2/6

Ray Brown

2/7

Nicholas Scott

## *WBS...*

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A great tool for teaching the Gospel. You can have a part in this work. It cost you nothing but time and caring. You can use mail or e-mail. Please see Larry Polutta for how you can become part of this effort. Also, take a copy of "Action" magazine from the table in the foyer.

## *Article continued...*

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into spiritual things. As Jesus said later in Luke; let us be actively crafting money belts of the kind that do not perish. If that is our practice, it becomes more difficult to while away the hours counting our loot.

## 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](mailto: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

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736 Savage Road  
Charleston, SC 29414