

February 7, 2010



ESSEX VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

# Reflections

## “Separation of Church & State” By: Stefano Mugnaini

*I stumbled across a rather long article by Kevin Cain about the “separation of church and state.” I think it is worth reading. For the next few weeks, I will include portions of this article here.-Stefano*

One wonders whether the Founding Fathers ever envisioned the intense...at times, malevolent...discourse these simple, instructive words would evoke throughout the land for over 200 years. Should “In God We Trust” be removed from our currency? Should the opening of Court not begin with an incantation to God to “save the United States and this Honorable Court”? Indeed, should reference to an awareness of God be stricken from the federal Constitutional oath of office? Or from the revered Declaration of Independence? Where does the injunction of the First Amendment

lead us? (*Doe v. Tangipahoa...*, 2009).

I was in my car listening to a talk radio program where the subject of the day was the “separation of church and State.” The callers’ opinions were all across the board from the far left to the far right and everything in between. One gentleman finally called in and had the nerve to assert that the First Amendment nowhere contains the phrase “separation of church and State.” And then the fireworks began. Caller after caller (including the host) blasted this neophyte for claiming the First Amendment did not contain this purported phrase.

In reality, the First Amendment has two religious clauses. It states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an **establishment** of

religion, or prohibiting the **free exercise** thereof” (*Bill of Rights*, 1789, emp. added). The first clause is known as the Establishment Clause, and the second is known as the Free Exercise Clause. Not only is the phrase “separation of church and State” conspicuously absent from this short sentence we call the First Amendment, but it is not anywhere to be found in the entire *Constitution of the United States* (nor in any law passed by Congress).

### “THE ORIGIN OF “SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE”

Why is it, then, that so many people mistakenly, yet sincerely, believe that this phrase is somewhere found within the First Amendment? More importantly, why do so

*\*continued on page 3*

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Church Fax: 843-556-6085

Email: [evcoc@bellsouth.net](mailto:evcoc@bellsouth.net)

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 01-31-10**

**Elder for the Month  
of February**

**Program of  
Worship**

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

Bible Classes: 55  
AM Worship: 111  
PM Worship: 52  
Wednesday Evening: 59  
Contribution: 4,230.00

Larry Casbeer 795-0429



**Announcements:**  
Larry Casbeer

**Song Service:**  
Roddy Akers

**Opening Prayer:**  
Ray Boynton

**Communion:**  
John Jenkins, Jr.

**Serving:**  
Durwood Collins  
John Such  
Andy Streets  
Herman Porter

**Sermon:**  
Stefano Mugnaini

**Closing Prayer:**  
George Brown



**Preparing communion:** Rose Ann Such

**Baptismal Garments:** Carla Haselden

***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...

### Super Bowl Party

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

### Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Class

The ladies will resume their class on Tuesday, February 9th at 10:00 am.

### Men's Prayer Breakfast

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

### 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.

### 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 Anniversary

2/14

Arnold & Nancy  
Walden



## Happy Birthday!

2/7

Nicholas Scott

2/10

Twylah Ricker  
Ernestine Jones

2/11

Natasha Streets

## Article continued...

many believe that this phrase means that the government can have no involvement in religion or recognition of God in any form whatsoever? The origin of this phrase can be traced back to an 1802 letter penned by Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptist Association. The Danbury Baptist Association of Connecticut wrote a letter to President Thomas Jefferson expressing concern over their lack of state constitutional protection of religious liberty and against a government establishment of religion. Specifically, the Danbury Baptists stated in their letter to President Jefferson, "Our Sentiments are uniformly on the side of Religious Liberty—That Religion is at all times and places a matter between God and individuals—That no man ought to suffer in name, person, or effects on account of his religious Opinions—That the legitimate

Power of civil government extends no further than to punish the man who works ill to his neighbor" ("Danbury Baptist...", 1801). The Danbury Baptists were concerned that a religious majority might establish a state religion at the expense of the liberties of religious minorities.

Thomas Jefferson responded by letter dated January 1, 1802. He agreed with the Danbury Baptists' views on religious liberty and the separation of civil government from involvement with religious doctrine and practice. Jefferson wrote: "I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus **building a wall of separation**

**between Church & State**" ("Jefferson's Letter...", 1802). Jefferson's statement regarding "a wall of separation between Church & State" was a mere recognition that the government would not endorse or back a single religious group to the detriment of other Christian sects. However, the use of that phrase today bears no relation to what President Jefferson meant when he penned those words in 1802.

## 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

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Essex Village Church of Christ  
736 Savage Road  
Charleston, SC 29414