

February 14, 2010



ESSEX VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

# Reflections

## “Separation of Church & State, Part 2” By: Stefano Mugnaini

*In this second part of the article, Cain looks at the historical context and persons that led to the First Amendment and the “establishment clause.” This article focuses on Madison; next week we will look at Jefferson, who coined the term “Separation of Church and State.”*

Many take the view that the Framers of the First Amendment intended for the government to be completely detached from any religious activity and neutral in all religious matters. In other words, they equate the phrase “separation of church and State” with absolute refusal by the government not only to engage in any religious activity, but also to passively allow any religious activity in the public sphere. This interpretation is far removed from the context or meaning of the phrase coined by Jefferson in 1802, much less the First Amendment.

It is clear from Madison’s own writings that he was concerned with the union of church and State as was prevalent in Europe at that time. The First Amendment was designed to prevent the government from joining forces with a particular religious organization as a government-endorsed religion. This can be seen in the original proposed draft of the First Amendment submitted by Madison. “The civil rights of none shall be abridged on account of religious belief or worship, nor shall any be established, nor shall the full and equal rights of conscience be in any manner, or on any pretext, infringed” (, 1985, emp. added). **“Madison’s original language ‘nor shall any national religion be established’ obviously does not conform to the ‘wall of separation’ between church and State idea which latter-day commentators have ascribed to him”** (, 1985). Ironically, when the original draft of the First Amendment was later revised and debated in the House on August 15, 1789, Representative Peter Sylvester of New York expressed his dislike for the revised version, because it might have a tendency “to abolish religion altogether” (, 1985). However, Madison stated during this debate that **“he apprehended the meaning of the words to be, that Congress should not establish a religion, and enforce the legal observance of it by law, nor compel men to worship God in any manner contrary to their conscience, or that one sect might obtain a pre-eminence, or two combined together, and establish a religion to which they would compel others to conform”** (, 1789, 1:758). While the Supreme Court has never adopted this interpretation of the Establishment Clause, this is . After reviewing this same historical context of the Establishment Clause, Chief Justice Rehnquist concluded:

It seems indisputable from these glimpses of Madison’s thinking, as reflected by actions on the floor of the House in 1789, that he saw the

\*continued on page 4

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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 02-07-10**

**Elder for the Month  
of February**

**Program of  
Worship**

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

Bible Classes: 75  
AM Worship: 131  
PM Worship: 55  
Wednesday Evening: 61  
Contribution: 4,203.00

Larry Casbeer 795-0429



**Announcements:**  
Larry Casbeer

**Song Service:**  
Royce Akers

**Opening Prayer:**  
Ron Herman

**Communion:**  
John Jenkins, Jr.

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

**Sermon:**  
Stefano Mugnaini

**Closing Prayer:**  
Eric Zink



**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.

**Franklin Rivers**, Clara Haselden's brother-in-law, is in MUSC with pneumonia.

**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...

### **Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Class**

The ladies will meet for class on Tuesday, February 16th at 10:00 am.

### **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!

### **Congregational Lunch**

We will have a congregational lunch on Sunday, February 28th following the morning service.



## Happy Anniversary!

2/14

Arnold & Nancy  
Walden

## Thank you...

Essex Village Church of Christ,

Thank you for the gifts. I really appreciated them. It really made me smile. It was very thoughtful of you. Everything was awesome.

Sincerely,  
Jamie Rhine

Essex Village Church of Christ,

Thank you for sponsoring me and making my Christmas special.

Lee B.  
SECH



## Happy Birthday!

2/15

Beverly Boynton

2/17

Mary Crabtree

2/19

Ashlyn Brown

2/20

Norma Ashburn  
Kinslee Moseley

2/21

Louise Rogers

## Invitation...

Essex Village Church of Christ,

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You are cordially invited to a house warming celebration at Earline's home today at 4:00 pm. Your presence will be greatly appreciated.

In Christian Love,  
Earline Smalls

24 Caroline Street  
Charleston, SC 29403

## Placing Membership...

We would like to welcome Matthew & Sylvia Panos. They have expressed their desire to worship and work with us at Essex Village. Their address is listed below for you to add to your directories.

Matthew & Sylvia Panos  
P.O. Box 1312  
Johns Island, SC 29455

## Article continued...

Amendment as designed to prohibit the establishment of a national religion, and perhaps to prevent discrimination among sects. He did not see it as requiring neutrality on the part of government between religion and irreligion (, 1985).

Madison was also one of the drafters who passed the Virginia Constitution, which carries the phrase, "It is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love, and charity toward each other" (... , 1776, p. 103). Simply put, Madison was a strong believer that governmental leaders, legislators, and even legislation should recognize and espouse submission to Christ.

In his first inaugural address, James Madison recognized that the destiny and prosperity of a nation are directly linked to the blessings and guidance given by God.

In these my confidence will under every difficulty be best placed, next to that which we have all been encouraged to feel in the guardianship and guidance of that Almighty Being whose power regulates the destiny of nations, whose blessings have been so conspicuously dispensed to this rising Republic, and to whom we are bound to address our devout gratitude for the past, as well as our fervent supplications and best hopes for the future (Madison, 1809).

In other words, Madison subscribed to the position that religion should have a place in the role of government. Moreover, Madison expressed a clear belief that the fate of a government was intertwined with its dependence upon and relationship with God.

### 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