

Prayer List

Kenny Even, Doris Reyes Fernandez, Marc Genua, Ashleigh Green, Ella Green, Alice Hall, Gordon Hatcher, Betty Hurst & Loise Walker, Kim Johnson, Norman Lee, Mary Lynn McAleer, Tony Priola, Chris Ragle, Norma Ragle, Ronald Russell, Sandra Simmons, Tim Smith, Sheila Sollars, Jim and Carole Turk, Abby Yarlequé.

- The Simmons are traveling.
- Phillip Hutton (James' father) is doing well after having surgery Monday.
- Heather Sanders (Tommy and Linda's daughter-in-law) is doing well after having surgery Thursday.
- Tresa Snyder's biopsy results revealed the need for further surgery.

The Numbers

Attendance	Sunday, February 13	19/19/15	
	Wednesday, February 16	19	
Offering	Sunday, February 13	\$653.75	

Those Serving

Prayer Before Sunday Classes Tommy Sanders

Sunday Morning Worship

Announcements & Prayer	Charles Hatcher
Songs	Keith Keever
Sermon	Brad Green
Lord's Supper & Contribution	David Snyder
Assistants	Levy Cox and Donald Shipley
Closing Prayer	Lance Green

Sunday Afternoon Worship

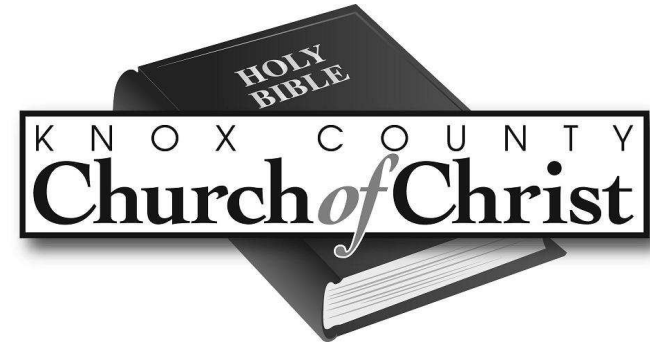
First Prayer	James Hutton
Songs	David Snyder
Sermon	Brad Green
Lord's Supper	Keith Keever
Closing Prayer	Tommy Sanders

Wednesday Night

Songs	Lance Green
First Prayer	Charles Hatcher
Devotional	James Hutton
Closing Prayer	Donald Shipley

Knox County Church of Christ
 PO Box 22441
 Knoxville, TN 37933

February 20, 2011



<http://www.knoxcoc.com>

Meeting Location:
 130 Mabry Hood Road
 Suite 102
 Knoxville, TN 37922
 865.247.4620

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study.....9:30 AM
 Worship.....10:30AM & 1:30 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study.....7:00 PM



From The Preacher's Pen

"GIVE A DEFENSE"

The apostle Peter writes, "sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Pet. 3:15). The word translated *answer* is from a Greek word which means to make a verbal defense, to give an account [as with a legal plea] (Strong), to absolve one's self of a charge (Thayer). Moses, the Old Testament prophets, apostles, and inspired writers of the Bible all serve as examples in regards to giving a defense "of the hope that is in you." They all proclaim that in order to be saved, one must be obedient to God's Word, but they never expected their audience to accept the message they preached without proper evidence proving that it was from God. God has never expected nor commanded man to accept anything without valid proof. One such example is provided by the prophet Elijah. Ahaziah, the ninth king of Israel and the son of Ahab and Jezebel, "fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria" (2 Kin. 1:2) and was severely injured. He sent messengers to "inquire of Baal-zebul the god of Ekron" (2 Kin. 1:2) as to whether he would recover. Angered by this idolatrous and rebellious action, God sends Elijah to stop the king's messengers and inform them that the king would die (1:3-6). After receiving the Lord's message, Ahaziah sends three companies of fifty to command Elijah to "come down" out of the way (1:9). In response to the first two companies, Elijah states, "if I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty" (1:10). Elijah was willing and able to "give a defense" that he was a messenger from God. He was not

ashamed (c.f., Rom 1:16) and he had nothing to fear, for God was with him (c.f., Rom. 8:31). Elijah's response to the king and his representatives is commonly referred to as an "if...then" statement in which a condition is presented with the rational and logical result following. Elijah did not expect his detractors to believe he was a prophet of God just because he made the claim. Elijah's statement could have also been, "*since* I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven," because it was indeed the case that Elijah was a prophet of God. Nonetheless, Elijah was still willing and able to provide adequate evidence to prove his claim and did just that. The second company ignored the evidence provided by Elijah and suffered the same fate as the first. The third company was spared because their captain accepted the evidence and "went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight. Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight. And the angel of the LORD said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king" (2 Kin. 1:13-15).

Elijah is considered a "man of God" because he heard God, obeyed that which he heard, and gave a defense "to every man that [*asked him*] a reason of the hope that [*was in him*] with meekness and fear." By following Elijah's example, we also can be considered to be men and women of God. We should *encourage* people to ask questions and "be ready always to give an answer" rather than attempt to suppress discourse. Those who are right, standing firm in the Truth of God's Word, are obligated to give a defense and without such, those who are wrong and in error will be not given the evidence they

need that could change their hearts so as to "bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance" (Mat. 3:8). There are only two reasons that can be attributed to the one who refuses to "give a defense" – either 1) he does not have the evidence to prove his claim, or 2) the evidence proves his claim to be false and thus he is not a "man of God." God says, "the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of [*i.e., stand in awe of (BDB); dwell or abide with (Strong)*] him" (Deu. 18:20-22). That which Elijah spoke came to pass, proving he was "a man of God." Today, the "man of God" is one who speaks only where the Bible speaks, obeys the Word of God, and will "earnestly contend for the faith" (Jude 3). The man, who will not give Scriptural defense for what he teaches or practices, speaks "presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him."

--Brad Green

Welcome Visitors

Thank you for visiting with us today. If you have any questions about anything said or done during our worship service, please feel free to ask. Also, please take a moment to fill out one of our visitor's information cards and stick around after services so that we can get to know you better.