

## Prayer List

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Doris Reyes Fernandez, Marc Genua, Ashleigh Green, Eleanor Green, Amanda Hatcher, Gordon Hatcher, Norman Lee, Early Phillips, Andrew Ragle, Chris Ragle, Norma Ragle, Verne Ragle, Ronald Russell, Tim Smith, Dolores Snyder, Tresa Snyder, Sheila Sollars, Joe Stephenson, Ramona Sutton

## The Numbers

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Attendance Sunday, February 19 11/11/11  
Wednesday, February 22  
Offering Sunday, February 19 \$

## Those Serving

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Prayer Before Sunday Classes Keith Keever

### Sunday Morning Worship

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

### Sunday Afternoon Worship

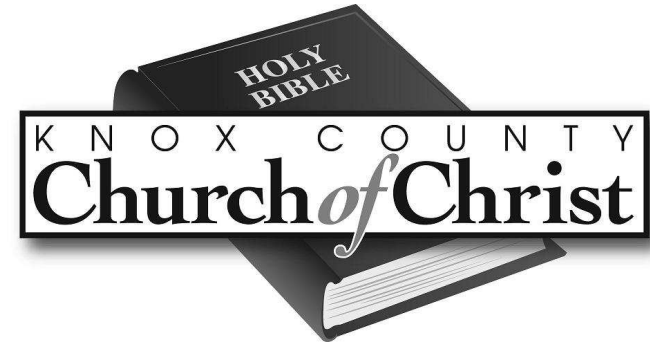
First Prayer Tommy Sanders  
Songs *Singing*  
Sermon Brad Green  
Lord's Supper Charles Hatcher  
Closing Prayer Donald Shipley

### Wednesday Night

Songs Lance Green  
First Prayer Charles Hatcher  
Devotional Keith Keever  
Closing Prayer David Snyder

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

February 26, 2012



<http://www.knoxcoc.com>

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

## Schedule of Services

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### Sunday

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

### Wednesday

Bible Study.....7:00 PM



## ***From The Preacher's Pen***

### **“WHY ARE WE LOSING ‘OUR’ ADULTS?”**

[This article was written by brother Kent Bailey, preacher for the Northside church of Christ, Calhoun, GA.]

The church of the Lord is the sphere of Salvation. It is the room and realm of those who have been redeemed. When one obeys the Gospel of Christ, the Lord adds that individual to the body of those who have been saved, the New Testament church (Acts 2:38-47; Eph. 5:23). To state the same truth in a different manner, by means of the Holy Spirit inspired Truth of God, one is baptized into one body (1 Cor. 12:13). If a germ makes entry into my being it must make entry into my body. Thus, if one makes entry into the fellowship of Christ one must make entry into the body (church) of Christ. A correct understanding of the import of membership in the church of Christ (whether local or universal) underscores the need for realization that the church is composed of individuals. The composition of the church is not made up of organized "groups." The only organization as authorized by the New Testament is that of the local congregation composed of individuals. While indeed there are various age categories within the church, the grouping of members of the church into collective functioning units within the same congregation is without Bible authority. The church, thus, does not have official "youth groups," "ladies groups," "senior citizen's groups," etc. Therefore, when we refer to "our" adults we are only making reference to Christians, as individuals, who have attained adulthood. We are not making reference to an organized sub-group within the framework either of the local church or universal body of Christ.

**Not all Christians will remain faithful to Christ.** Eternal Salvation is contingent upon one's faithfulness to Christ (1 Cor. 4:1-2; Rev. 2:10). When one, after obeying the Gospel of Christ, returns to the practice of sin, they must either repent of such sin and return to Christ or else realize that they have returned to a lost condition of

condemnation (1 John 1:6-10; 2 Pet. 2:20-22). Often times (and rightly so) we express concern for youth upon their leaving home to attend college, enter the military, or move away seeking employment in the work force elsewhere. We have noted, with sadness, the great number that turns their backs upon God, Truth, the church, and even their families. Such reality is indeed grievous. However, a growing problem that is very prevalent is the reality of mature adults who abandon the cause of Christ. John, the apostle of Christ noted: "went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us; but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us" (1 John 2:19).

Why are we losing mature adult Christians to the world? There are numerous reasons.

**We are losing adults due to the fact that some never really obeyed the Gospel of Christ.** Some were baptized even though they were improperly taught. They never developed a true faith in Christ, or perhaps they never repented of their sins. Some never really wanted to obey Christ or perhaps they never really understood the nature of the New Testament church (Acts 28:24-27; Rom. 6:17-18).

**We lose some adults due to persecution.** Generally, we do not (at least in our nation) suffer physical persecution as they did in the first century. None the less, Christians do suffer ridicule and stiff opposition from family and friends. Even some who are adults never learn to overcome such (Mat. 13:20-21).

**We lose some adults due to false teaching.** We must take heed as to what we hear as well as how we hear (Luke 8:18). We must be mindful that God's Truth is the only true source to determine right and wrong even when it comes to religious practices (Mat. 7:13-14; 21-23). Sincerity of those advocating a particular doctrine is not the determining factor of validity. Truth, and only Truth, is that which determines the validity of the message presented (John 8:32, Gal. 1:6-9). When individuals present a religious message that is either contrary or contradictory to sound doctrine we must reject both

the message as well as the messenger (Rom. 16:17-18).

**We lose some adults due to the fact that they either do not understand or else reject the concept of Biblical authority.** We have reached a point in time within churches of Christ where the majority of individuals openly reject any form of control or supervision. They are not concerned about accomplishing what God would have them do; they only concern themselves with their own personal desires (Col. 3:17; 2 John 9). When their desires come into conflict with divine revelation they, without hesitation, throw out the New Testament and substitute their own desires.

**We lose some adults because they either never grasp the significance of Biblical fellowship or else reject such.** When we speak with reference to Biblical fellowship we refer to joint participation. The only way to have a proper fellowship among Christians is to maintain a proper fellowship with God (1 John 1; 2 John 9-11). Where the authority of the New Testament of Christ is not respected, false teaching and unauthorized practices causes lines of fellowship to be drawn separating God's faithful from those who are unfaithful.

**We lose some adults because of worldliness and materialism.** Some refuse to overcome the world in their lives (Luke 8:14; 1 John 2:15-17).

**We lose some adults because of their improper reaction to suffering.** We are procreated by God as individuals with free will. There will be times when individuals make wrong choices in life which results in suffering. Other times individuals suffer because of the wrong choices of others. Still, often times individuals suffer as a consequence of the laws of nature being changed or else violated. Finally consider the fact that as the result of sin being introduced into the Garden of Eden, our bodies will wear out and die (1 Pet. 4:12-19).

May we see the need to be faithful to the Cause of Christ. May we have the courage to practice Truth and die in the Truth that we may live with Him in eternity.

– *Kent Bailey*