

## Prayer List

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Doris Reyes Fernandez, Marc Genua, Ashleigh Green, Eleanor Green, Amanda Hatcher, Gordon Hatcher, Norman Lee, Juan Mandujano, Early Phillips, Andrew Ragle, Chris Ragle, Norma Ragle, Verne Ragle, Ronald Russell, Tim Smith, Dolores Snyder, Tresa Snyder, Sheila Sollars, Joe Stephenson, Ramona Sutton, Kevin (Chela Keever's nephew)

## The Numbers

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Attendance	Sunday, April 15	12/13/15
	Wednesday, April 18	15
Offering	Sunday, April 15	\$623.00

## Those Serving

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Prayer Before Sunday Classes Barry Simmons

### 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	Keith Keever

### Sunday Afternoon Worship

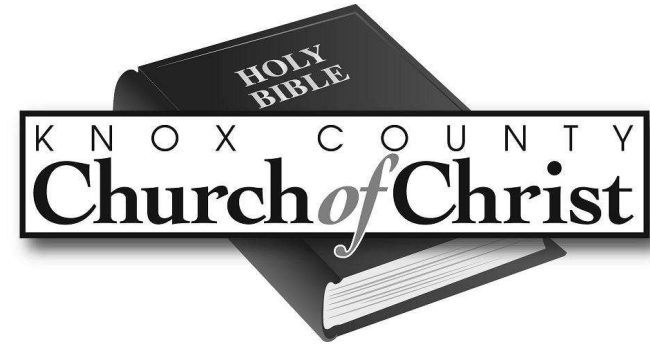
First Prayer	David Snyder
Songs	Keith Keever
Sermon	Brad Green
Lord's Supper	Charles Hatcher
Closing Prayer	Donald Shipley

### Wednesday Night

Songs	Lance Green
First Prayer	Charles Hatcher
Devotional	Tommy Sanders
Closing Prayer	Barry Simmons

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

April 22, 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***

### **"COMMUNION"**

After forty years of wandering in the wilderness, led by Joshua in the conquest of the promised land of Canaan, "the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which He swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein" (Jos. 21:43). After possessing the promised land, Joshua pronounced to the children of Israel, "if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Jos. 24:15). The idolatrous worship which existed in Canaan and surrounding areas was lascivious and immoral in nature. According to *New Unger's Bible Dictionary*, "fertility cults nowhere controlled people more completely than in Canaan. When Israel entered Palestine, the Canaanites were in the last stages of degradation as the result of centuries of worshipping degrading deities." This moral abandon persisted in pagan and heathen worship even into the first century. God's people of the Old Testament were commanded, "when thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations" (Deu. 18:9). So too were Christians of the first century (and today) – "wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry" (1 Cor. 10:14). After giving this command, the apostle Paul appeals to an act of New Testament worship which is authorized and commanded by God – the Lord's supper. Paul writes, "the cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?...Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils" (1 Cor. 10:16, 21). The principle here inspired is also found in Paul's second letter to the church at Corinth, "be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" (2 Cor. 6:14) as well as to the Christians at Ephesus, "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Eph. 5:11). The inspired John adds, "if we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the Truth" (1 John 1:6). The words,

"communion," and "fellowship" in these verses are translated from a Greek word meaning, "to share with others" (Strong's); "join oneself as an associate, make oneself a sharer or partner" (Thayer's). How is it then that communion and fellowship pertains to the Lord's supper?

#### **COMMUNION BY MEANS OF OBEDIENCE**

The Lord's supper is an act of worship commanded by God, and for God. By participating in this act of worship, as God authorizes, one exhibits obedience, submission, and faithfulness to God and His Word (c.f., John 14:15). One who attempts (or claims) communion with God through means of the Lord's supper, but who also joins and participates in that which is not authorized by God (i.e., "the cup of devils") finds himself in a tragic inconsistency. Paul asks, "what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (2 Cor. 6:15-18). One cannot be pleasing in God's sight while being in communion with that which is contrary to God's Word. Jesus very pointedly and succinctly states, "no man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other" (Mat. 6:24).

#### **COMMUNION BY MEANS OF REMEMBRANCE**

Jesus instituted the Lord's supper saying, "this is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you" (Luke 22:19-20). Paul later explains, "as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come" (1 Cor. 11:26). Though we were not able to join ourselves to the Lord while He hanged on the cross, we are able to do so by way of remembrance. The Gospel accounts record for us the terrible pain and agony endured by Jesus as He carried His own cross as far as He could (John 19:17; Mat. 27:32), was nailed to it (John 20:25), having His flesh broken by a sword and shedding forth His blood (John 19:34). Faithful Christians can join themselves to

that day and hour when our Lord died by means of remembrance.

#### **COMMUNION WITH GOD AND FELLOW CHRISTIANS**

Through our obedience and remembrance, we not only have fellowship with God, but also with all of His faithful – "for we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread" (1 Cor. 10:17). Christians share this fellowship because they are called by the same (and only one) Gospel of Christ (2 The. 2:14). Paul writes, "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:9-10). Christians are produced by the same seed – "the Word of God (Luke 8:11), have been "baptized into one body" (1 Cor. 12:13), "into Jesus Christ," and "into His death" (Rom. 6:3). God says, "as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:27-29). Having one's sins washed away in water baptism (Acts 22:16), Christians have the promise of God that "if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Let us glorify God by worshiping Him "in spirit and in Truth" (John 4:24) and by our obedience to His Word, let us join ourselves to Him, and Him alone.

*– Brad Green*

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### **Gospel Meeting**

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Let's all make plans to attend our Gospel Meeting with brother Terry York from Sunday, May 20th through Wednesday, May 23rd. Invite everyone you can!