

Prayer List

Anna Burris, Kenny Even, Doris Reyes Fernandez, Marc Genua, Ashleigh Green, Ella Green, Alice Hall, Gordon Hatcher, Norman Lee, Tony Priola, Chris Ragle, Norma Ragle, Tim Smith, Sheila Sollars, Jim and Carole Turk, Abby Yarlequé.

- Sandra Simmons will have a CT Scan on the 22nd and will consult with a surgeon on the 30th regarding gall bladder surgery.
- Mary Lynn McAleer (friend of the Simmons) will be having surgery on the 22nd to remove a lesion on her liver.

The Numbers

Attendance	Sunday, December 12	24/25/19
	Wednesday, December 15	N/A
Offering	Sunday, December 12	\$828.00

Those Serving

Prayer Before Sunday Classes James Hutton

Sunday Morning Worship

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

Sunday Afternoon Worship

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

Wednesday Night

Songs	Lance Green
First Prayer	James Hutton
Devotional	Charles Hatcher
Closing Prayer	Keith Keever

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

December 19, 2010



<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

“THE CHURCH”

[The following article was written by Michael Hatcher, preacher for the Bellview Church of Christ in Pensacola, FL, and appeared in the October, 2002 issue of The Defender]

God established three divine institutions: the home, the government, and the church. While the first two listed come before the church in matter of time, the church was purposed before the creation of this world. Inspiration, by Paul's hand, wrote, “And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Eph. 3:9-11). Some incorrectly say that this passage teaches that the church is to make known God's wisdom (that is taught in other passages), that is not what Paul is saying here. Paul is saying that the wisdom of God is the church. God, before the creation, in His wisdom, planned the church and that the Logos (the Word) would be incarnated and die upon the cross to the salvation of those who would obey Him and that the church would house those saved. Thus, when we consider the church, we are considering the very wisdom of God.

This church is known by differing terms. Some of those terms are: church of God (1 Cor. 1:2; Acts 20:28), kingdom of God (John 3:3, 5), kingdom of Christ (John 18:36; Col. 1:13), kingdom of heaven (Mat. 16:19), body of Christ (Eph. 4:12), the bride of Christ (Eph. 5), church of the firstborn (Heb. 12:23), and certainly we would also recognize church of Christ (Rom. 16:16). All these terms refer to that one divine institution which was in the mind of God before creation. Since this divine institution belongs to

Christ, any term/phrase which signifies that the church (or any of its other terms) belongs to Him is certainly a term which would be acceptable to God. However, terms/phrases which have nothing to do with Christ or call an institution by someone else's name cannot be acceptable to God.

Christ is the one who built the church. As we considered previously, God planned the church prior to the creation, He then began working everything together for the perfect time to send His Son. “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made [born] of a woman, made [born] under the law” (Gal. 4:4). He came for the purpose of shedding His blood as a propitiation for our sins (1 John 2:2). Even though He was put to death by wicked hands (Acts 2:23), the pangs of death could not hold Him. The hadean realm could not prevent Him from establishing that divine institution which is God's eternal purpose. He was raised from the dead proving Himself to be the Son of God (Son of indicates one who has the nature of) God (Rom. 1:4). Upon this bedrock that He is the Son of God (God manifest in the flesh; Mat. 1:23; 1 Tim. 3:16) he built His church. “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Mat. 16:18).

The Scriptures reveal there is but one church. In the previous passage Jesus said “I will build my church.” It is very revealing that our Lord used the singular and not the plural: church, not churches. He came with the intention of building that one divine institution which God planned before creation. He never came with an intention of setting up several differing institutions all with conflicting doctrines and practices. He established one and only one. Paul states, “*There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling” (Eph. 4:4). Previously he had identified what that one

body is by saying that God gave Christ to be the “head over all *things* to the church, which is his body” (Eph. 1:22-23). Since there is only one body and that body is the church, then there is only one church. Jesus taught that marriage was to be a monogamous relationship (one man and one woman married for life). With this in mind, we then consider that Paul also likens the relationship of Christ to the church with the marriage relationship. The church is the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:22-33). If it is sinful for one man to have more than one wife, the it would be wrong for Jesus to have many brides (churches)—He only has one. However, when we look around we see many *churches*. How are we to understand such in light of God's Word? Christ built (established, set up) just one church. All the other *churches* were not built by Christ and are in competition with the one He set up. Ultimately, they are the servants of Satan to prevent man from hearing the Truth and obeying it. One would have the right to ask which one of the many which we see was set up by Christ? The answer to that question is found in examining the identifying marks which God revealed in the Bible concerning that one church. This would include such things as the terms of entrance, the five items prescribed for man through which we worship God, the organization of the local congregations, the time and place of origin, along with many other such doctrines.

Realizing we have such a divine institution as the church, we should immediately recognize its importance. We should never denigrate it but hold it in high esteem. We must never try to change or alter the church as God established it. We should also realize that when Christ returns the second time to judge the world, He will save His church. “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body” (Eph. 5:23).

--*Michael Hatcher*