

to the church purchased by Jesus. We worship God by preaching, singing, praying, giving, and partaking of the Lord's Supper. We have the same persistency teaching the same thing, practicing the same thing, and trying in every way to live the same way the people of the New Testament church taught, practiced, and lived. We do not desire to have something new, or to leave the old pattern or model that was given by the Lord, realizing we have much room to grow therein. Knowing also that the church is the body of Christ, if we left the old pattern where would we go? There is no other Savior. There is no other hope.

"Where is your draw, your pulling power, your attractiveness," people ask. The response is, "All in the Lord of lords." In serving the Christ and not pleasing men, we have the greatest attraction there ever has been. What else could possibly begin to compare with the Creator of all, and the Promised One of God? What singer or healer can touch His hem? What man of science or government is His equal? In His simplicity and grace we find the truth and the love of God. Our draw is in teaching only the Word of God. Meeting in the Word of God all that God would have us to know and to become or to avoid we have the most precious of opportunities. Learning in a place where the Word is seen living in the lives of the members. Looking and learning at a level of individual words, not to pick a fight or prove my point. Not to be capable of being a judge over others, but to find what God desires to see me become. Finding the Bible to be a living message from God and viable in all phases of my life. The discovery of the deepest understanding I can find in the study of His Word and building a mountain of faith in that understanding from the study that can overcome all that the world has to bring against us. Knowing the same joy and the same comfort that was given to the church at Pentecost we can grow "old as dirt" in the anticipation of a mansion in the Father's house. Oh what a draw and glorious comfort found in becoming "as old as dirt," and that is a wonderful thing. West Newton [*and the Knox County congregation, B.G.*] is a church persistent and consistent with the original design, purpose, and function. Come visit us, and enjoy something truly old in its original consistency and persistency. Sing like the saints of two thousand years have sung. Pray and listen, give and sup just as they have done from Pentecost. Come touch the dirt of home. --*Jimmy Thompson*

Prayer List

Peggy Driscoll, Doris Reyes Fernandez, Marc Genua, Ashleigh Green, Eleanor Green, Alice Hall, Amanda Hatcher, Gordon Hatcher, Philip Hutton, Jim Ledbetter, Norman Lee, Mary Lynn McAleer, Matthias Meredith, Tony Priola, Chris Ragle, Norma Ragle, Ronald Russell, Tim Smith, Dolores Snyder, Tresa Snyder, Sheila Sollars

- Eleanor Green is still at Children's Hospital.
 - Ramona Sutton (coworker of Charles Hatcher) was seriously injured in a car accident this past week.
 - Jimmy Thompson passed away Tuesday.
- Several prayer requests from James Hutton:
- Colleen Stewart is 27, and has several underdeveloped organs that are failing.
 - Nancy Stewart is undergoing chemotherapy.
 - Lee Wiegand's wife died unexpectedly.
 - Tom Stewart broke his ankle in three places and is also having problems with diabetes.

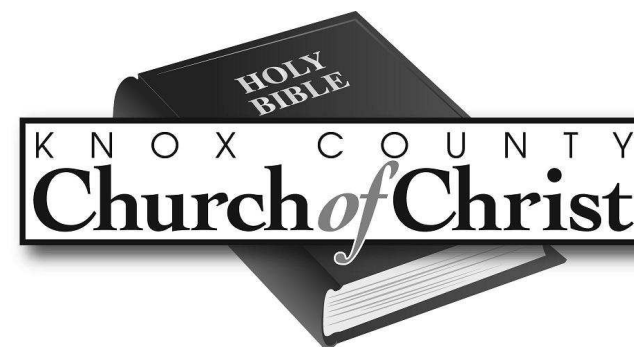
The Numbers

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Attendance | Sunday, October 23 | 20/21/16 |
| | Wednesday, October 26 | 11 |
| Offering | Sunday, October 23 | \$900.00 |

Those Serving

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Prayer Before Sunday Classes | | Lance Green |
| Sunday Morning Worship | | |
| Announcements & Prayer | Charles Hatcher | |
| Songs | David Snyder | |
| Sermon | Brad Green | |
| Lord's Supper & Contribution | Tommy Sanders | |
| Assistants | Levy Cox and Donald Shipley | |
| Closing Prayer | Barry Simmons | |
| Sunday Afternoon Worship | | |
| First Prayer | Barry Simmons | |
| Songs | <i>Singing</i> | |
| Sermon | Brad Green | |
| Lord's Supper | Tommy Sanders | |
| Closing Prayer | Donald Shipley | |
| Wednesday Night | | |
| Songs | Lance Green | |
| First Prayer | Keith Keever | |
| Devotional | Charles Hatcher | |
| Closing Prayer | David Snyder | |

October 30, 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

"AS OLD AS DIRT"

[Jimmy Thompson (1940-2011) preached for the West Newton church of Christ, West Newton, IN.]

As we grow older during this journey through life, we often are teased about getting older. In a recent conversation during which I made a comparison of today with the period of time in the early fifties, I was told, "You're older than dirt." For just a second I stopped and thought and then responded, "No, I'm three days younger." Dry land having been brought forth on day three of creation and man being created on day six would leave the human species three days younger than dirt. Then as "old" men often do, I pondered a while over the phrase that had been directed in jest, and found within it some interesting comparisons. There are some things that should relatively be "as old as dirt." By this I mean they should be as persistent and consistent as the dirt upon which we walk. Their purpose, action, and performance should be exactly as it was at the time of their design and establishment. Looking about and seeing diverse items, emotions, and persons I soon discovered that in too many cases some things that should be "as old as dirt" did not stand the test of time. In some cases this is sad, in others it is regretful, in others it is tragic. Looking at many of the areas of former industrial activity around town I could see old buildings that once housed active businesses and provided good income for many of the people who lived in and near the neighborhood. Now the buildings often stand empty, not contributing but detracting from the greater good of the neighborhood. This is a case of sadness. I could also see old houses, worn down and deserted; no longer serving as a place where children are raised and parents find rest – Regretful. Moving on I looked at a school, with broad sweeping lawns, acres of athletic fields, complexes of buildings, and signs supporting several extra-curricular activities. I saw groups of young people invested with a diverse and amazing quantity of technical information. They understand to a great degree the theories and the methods of data development, flow, use, and change. A great percentage of the young here have a firm and good grasp on their future. This is good, until weighed against the fact often many from this same general group of young people do not have the ability to add or subtract, multiply or divide without the use of a calculator, and

they know more about reproduction than they do about history, government, economics, English, or responsibility. This is sad. Where once the development of pride and deportment supportive of good morals and honorable behavior in the home was seen evidenced in the language, behavior and appearance of the students; now often we see a lack of self respect, less than honorable behavior, deportment that undermines good behavior, and an appearance that sometimes appears to be a walking display of an old National Geographic expose of paganism, cultic practices, and regressive behavior because there are no home values taught. Schools as a reflection of developing society should be "as old as dirt" by displaying an honorable generation being formed. This is tragic if they do not.

Looking at the visual presentations of our age I soon realize most of it is not "as old as dirt," most of it is dirt. We seem to have become a people bent upon finding something more immoral, disgusting, and degrading to place before our eyes each passing day. In my youth I was required to sit with the family before the radio or television to listen or watch the evening news. Today's newscasts are often too horrific in content, sexual overtones, and disgusting praises of immoral and abhorrent behaviors to allow a child to watch. The education they would receive would be toward developing them into the opposite of what we desire. Even the billboards, radio blurbs, and TV commercials draw upon the lusts of life for their product appeal. Toothpaste, automobile, cell phone, food product, and medical advertisements more often stress the male-female potential for the product than the purpose of the product. Toothpaste was not made for kissing development, it was made to clean teeth and lead towards oral hygiene. Cars were designed to transport not to impress a girl or boy you want to meet. Apparently the product does not have the attractiveness to support sales without the lusts factor. Does motor oil really work better if advertised by a model that is almost naked? Is the test of good toothpaste less cavities and better hygiene or is it how many people you can kiss? This is a tragic part of life.

After looking at schools, homes, businesses, houses, factories, media, the people I pass on the street and in the stores, I next looked at the church. Remember I was looking at things to see if they were still consistent and persistent with the original intent and purpose for which they were originally established. Just shortly after

dirt and man were created, man chose sin and the need for a Savior was established. Man could never be resident with God if God did not provide a Savior. God did that and His Son was born, died as our sacrifice for sin, and established the church in which our salvation could be secured by the purchase with His blood (Acts 20:28). That church was physically established on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus from the grave. Through His apostles Jesus established His perfect law of liberty, the Gospel (Jam. 1:25; 2:12), and those who obey it are translated into the Kingdom of God's Son, the church (Col. 1:12-14). The purpose of the church was to declare to mankind the manifold wisdom of God (Eph. 3:10), to provide a kingdom for God's people, and where worship of God in truth would be found (John 4:24). This was the church as it was established. The church as mankind defines and accepts it is not like this. This is tragic, for if the church is not like this, it cannot fulfill the purpose for which it was established. The church is to preach the Word of God, the church is to remember the Lord and look forward to His coming through the Lord's Supper, the church is to sing the praises of God, the church is to give of its means, the church is to pray. The church has no other mantle from God to do any other things.

The church is not authorized to conduct shows or entertainment. It matters not the content of the show or entertainment. A parade of fakes claiming they are healing to make everyone feel good and to create a large following has no more authority than the clown for Christ or the pastor that kisses a pig. The seminars on finance, divorce recovery workshops, schools, day care centers, ladies auxiliaries, sports teams, conventions, denominational creeds and organizations, titles and rank, and all the other things seen today in various things called "churches" are not "as old as dirt." They fit neither the original consistency nor have the persistency to be identified with the unique and peculiar church of the New Testament. Therefore they cannot fulfill the purpose for which the church was purchased and given to mankind. What a tragedy.

It seems a reasonable person would ask of me, "what about the church of which you are a member?" In asking this they would desire to know how we stand in consistency and persistency to the New Testament church. We are of the same consistency; believers in Jesus Christ and His Gospel who have obeyed that form of doctrine found in the Gospel whereby God added us