

## Prayer List

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

## Announcements

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Next Men's Meeting is tomorrow at 7PM.

## The Numbers

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Attendance Sunday, November 27 20/23/18  
Wednesday, November 30 17  
Offering Sunday, November 27 \$1040.00

## Those Serving

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Prayer Before Sunday Classes David Snyder

### Sunday Morning Worship

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

### Sunday Afternoon Worship

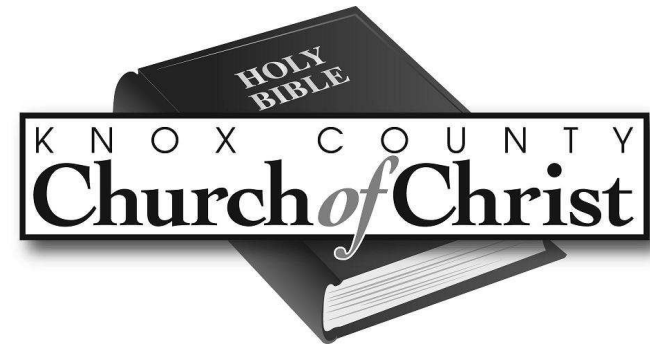
First Prayer David Snyder  
Songs Lance Green  
Sermon Brad Green  
Lord's Supper Charles Hatcher  
Closing Prayer Donald Shipley

### Wednesday Night

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

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

**December 4, 2011**



<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***

### **“RELIGIOUS TITLES”**

It is not uncommon in the religious world to hear individuals referred to as “pastor,” “father,” or “reverend.” These terms have become titles of adulation separating individuals into hierarchical categories. Christians should and must be respectful to one another (Rom. 12:10), but these man-made “titles” have become “badges” of prestige rather than courtesy. Many individuals who use and/or claim these terms as titles get upset when their religious designation is not emphasized. Newspaper articles and obituaries overflow with these man-made “titles,” and when a preacher of the Gospel of Christ responds, “I am just a preacher,” it produces a great deal of confusion. Unfortunately, newspaper writers and editors sometimes add one of these titles anyway, probably afraid that not doing so would be offensive.

Jesus addresses the use of religious “titles” very explicitly. Speaking of the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus says, “all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted” (Mat. 23:5-12). When men seek “to be called of men, Rabbi,” “pastor,” father,” or “reverend,” they do exactly what Jesus condemns the Pharisees for doing.

How more explicit could Jesus have been – “be not ye called Rabbi...call no man your father [*in a religious context, B.G.*]?” Yet men ignore and reject these commands.

The term, “rabbi,” simply means master or teacher and may probably have first been used as a term of respect. However, as Jesus explains, this term had become a religious “title” exalting certain men above others. It is for this reason that Jesus condemned its further use.

“Pastor” is a Scriptural term which describes one of the responsibilities of New Testament elders – to “shepherd” and spiritually feed the flock of God (Eph. 4:11-12). The word, “pastor,” is never used as a “title” in the Bible; it is a role that God has given to certain qualified men charged with serving as leaders in the local church (1 Tim. 3:1-7). God also refers to these men as “elders” because they are not novices (Acts 20:17; 1 Tim. 3:6) and “bishops” because they oversee the work of the local congregation (Acts 20:28). The terms “elder,” “pastor,” and “bishop,” therefore can be used synonymously to refer to the work of Scripturally-qualified leaders of a local congregation. They are terms describing the work they do in the Lord’s Kingdom, not “titles.” Sadly, the term “pastor” has been given to men who preach in denominations. God never authorized preachers to serve as “shepherds” for the church. The preacher’s responsibility is to preach (2 Tim. 4:2). Some preachers meet the qualifications recorded in the New Testament in order to be an elder (or pastor), like the apostle Peter (1 Pet. 5:1), but preachers who do not meet those qualifications cannot Scripturally serve as a pastor. Additionally, though one is qualified to serve in such a capacity, God condemns the use of “pastor” as a “title.”

The word, “reverend,” is only used one time in the King James Version of the Bible and it is in reference to God, Himself – “He sent

redemption unto His people: He hath commanded His covenant for ever: Holy and Reverend is His name” (Psa. 111:9). Since the term, “reverend,” is only used Scripturally in reference to God, it seems quite audacious for any man to use or accept such as a “title.” The same principle applies to the use of the word “father” in a religious context. Jesus authorizes the use of the word “father” in reference to the male parent, a physical relationship (Mat. 19:19). However, in a Spiritual and religious context, Jesus states emphatically, “call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven” (Mat. 23:9). To call a man “reverend” or “father” in a religious context is to set that man up as equal to God and is therefore blasphemous in God’s sight – “there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by Him” (1 Cor. 8:6).

It is man who has devised religious “titles,” not God. God wants all men to be servants – “he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted” (Mat. 23:11-12). The inspired Peter writes, “humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time” (1 Pet. 5:6). God wants all men to be “one” (John 17:21), not divided into categories of “clergy” and “laymen” – “for ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For 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. 3:26-29). Rather than seeking titles of prestige, let us seek simply to hear the words of our Lord, “well done, thou good and faithful servant” (Mat. 25:21). --*Brad Green*