

Prayer List

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

The Numbers

Attendance	Sunday, December 2	15/16/15
	Wednesday, December 5	16
Offering	Sunday, December 2	\$736.00

Those Serving

Prayer Before Sunday Classes Charles Hatcher
Sunday Morning Worship

Announcements & Prayer	Tommy Sanders
Songs	Lance Green
Sermon	Brad Green
Lord's Supper & Contribution	Charles Hatcher
Assistant	Levy Cox
Closing Prayer	Barry Simmons

Sunday Afternoon Worship

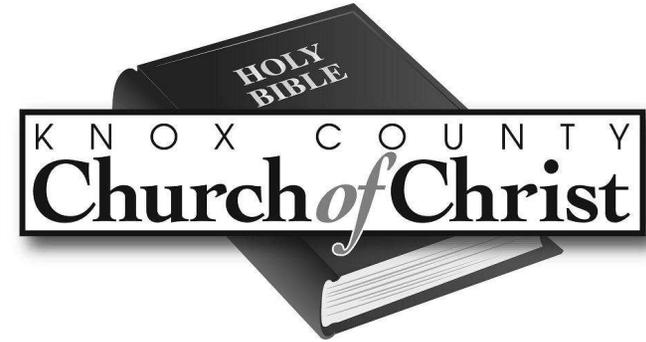
First Prayer	Tommy Sanders
Songs	Keith Keever
Sermon	Brad Green
Lord's Supper	Lance Green
Closing Prayer	Barry Simmons

Wednesday Night

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

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

December 9, 2012



<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

"XMAS EXTREMES"

[The following article was written by brother Dub McClish and was published in the December 5, 2011 edition of the Beacon, A Publication of the Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL]

This is the time of year when most people are the happiest, friendliest, most hospitable, and most benevolent. I suppose the reason is what might be termed the "Christmas spirit." What a wonderful world this would be if this spirit "ran loose" each day of the year, and indeed, this is what the Lord wills. Along with all of the good things this season brings, I have observed some who have extreme positions toward "Xmas." Not long ago I received a question concerning defense of decorating a tree and giving gifts at this season of the year. This points up one of the extremes, namely, that it is wrong to practice such innocent customs as having a tree and buying gifts, exchanging cards, and such like. There are some religious groups that take this position and among individuals, I have known of brethren at various places who do, also. I think this is the answer to that extreme: if it is wrong to give gifts on December 25, it is wrong also on any other occasion. If it is not wrong on any other occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc.) then it is not wrong on December 25. There is nothing more wrong with decorating a tree with ornaments as merely seasonal custom than with raising a flag on Veterans' Day or eating a turkey on "Thanksgiving" day. Another extreme is represented by the often-heard cliché, "Put Christ back into Christmas." Perhaps this sounds good to many, but the truth is that Christ never was in Christmas until man put him there!

In the 5th century the Western church [Roman Catholic—DM] ordered the feast to be celebrated on the day of the Mithraic rites of the birth of the sun and at the close

of Saturnalia, as no certain knowledge of the day of Christ's birth existed (*Encyclopedia Americana*, 6:622).

This statement clearly points out the fact that God was not very concerned about His Son's birth's being celebrated. The thing that God considered important for us to celebrate was His death, and we are thus to keep it in sacred commemoration each Lord's Day. It is not by the **birth** of Christ that we are saved, but by His death and resurrection. Thus when we sing, "Remember Christ Our Saviour Was Born on Christmas Day," we know not what we sing. God has made it impossible for us to attach any sacred significance to one day as the birthday of Christ by withholding from both sacred and secular history the day on which He was born. For this reason churches of Christ have no special religious observances at this season of the year. The silence of the Scriptures forbids any such religious observance. A practice that began four centuries after Messianic and Apostolic times and gathered all of its ingredients from Pagan customs should indeed be looked upon with repugnance as a religious practice to those interested in New Testament Christianity.

One other extreme is especially noticed: Although I personally believe we are at liberty to exchange gifts at this or any other appropriate time, this can also be carried to extremes. We

should not become enslaved by our freedom. Sometimes the contribution figure of the church sees a sharp decline at the close of the year. It may be because our prosperity has decreased, but it may also be because we went to the extreme with our gift-buying, decorating, and so forth. Some members of the church probably spend as much on gifts during this one season as they give to the Lord all year. We should never allow the Lord to suffer because we spent too much money on a wife, husband, child, or others. When such is done, we are in fact making Christ pay for our "Santa Claus." We should never allow such a seasonal custom to interfere with our giving, church attendance, or other Christian duties. May we be delivered from these "Xmas extremes."

— Dub McClish

Our Location

We meet in Suite 102 of Four Seasons Village, at 130 Mabry Hood Road in Knoxville, TN. Coming from Kingston Pike, we are on the right just past Chili's. Come and visit with us!



Welcome Visitors

Thank you for visiting with us today. If you have any questions about anything said or done during our worship service, please feel free to ask. Also, please take a moment to fill out one of our visitor's information cards and stick around after services so that we can get to know you better.