

## Prayer List

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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)

## Announcements

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Brad and April Green are out of town today. In Brad's absence, Charles Hatcher and David Snyder will be preaching today.

## The Numbers

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Attendance Sunday, December 16 22/23/22  
Wednesday, December 19 19  
Offering Sunday, December 16 \$1071.00

## Those Serving

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Prayer Before Sunday Classes David Snyder

### Sunday Morning Worship

Announcements & Prayer David Snyder  
Songs Lance Green  
Sermon Charles Hatcher  
Lord's Supper & Contribution Keith Keever  
Assistant Levy Cox  
Closing Prayer Tommy Sanders

### Sunday Afternoon Worship

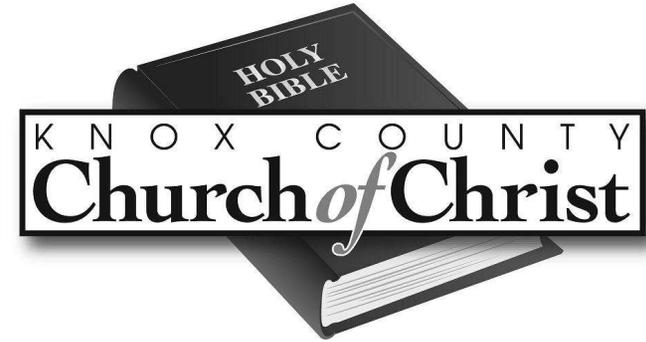
First Prayer Lance Green  
Songs Nicholas Snyder  
Sermon David Snyder  
Lord's Supper Keith Keever  
Closing Prayer Alex Snyder

### Wednesday Night

Songs Lance Green  
First Prayer Tommy Sanders  
Devotional Brad Green  
Closing Prayer Charles Hatcher

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

**December 23, 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***

### **“BACKSLIDING”**

*[The following article is by brother Bruce Stulting, and appeared in the November 2, 2009 Beacon, A Publication of Bellview Church of Christ in Pensacola, FL]*

As surprising as it may seem, many do not think that backsliding is a biblical term. In Old Testament times, backsliding was a continual problem of God's people as shown in Jeremiah 8:5, which states, "Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return." To backslide is to turn away from God's truth and return to one's former wicked life.

There are many warnings in the Bible concerning the danger of backsliding. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 10:12: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Even Paul himself was not immune to the danger of backsliding. In 1 Corinthians 9:27, Paul wrote, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

In guarding against backsliding it is necessary to determine its cause. A little boy trying to explain why he fell out of bed said, "I just went to sleep too close to where I got in." This simple illustration helps explain why some fall away from Christ after becoming a Christian. Upon entering the kingdom, it is necessary that one grow spiritually. It is sad that many refuse to grow, but remain close to where they entered the kingdom. We are exhorted in Hebrews 6:1 to "go on unto perfection." Likewise, we are admonished in 2 Peter 1:5-7 to add to our faith: virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. By growing in these qualities, we will guarantee that we will not "go to sleep too close to where we got

in." In fact, 2 Peter 1:10 states, "if ye do these things, ye shall never fall."

Many refuse to grow because they remain closely tied to things in the world. In the parable of the sower, Jesus spoke of some who allow the "care[s] of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, [to] choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful" (Mat. 13:22). To avoid this, we must sever our ties to the world and turn our full attention to spiritual growth. By pressing on to perfection, we will not "slide back" into the ways of the world which we left when we became Christians.

— *Bruce Stulting*



## ***From The Preacher's Pen***

### **“HAPPY IS HE”**

*[The following article is by brother G K Wallace, and appeared in the August 16, 1979 Beacon, A Publication of Bellview Church of Christ in Pensacola, FL]*

Webster says, "Happiness is a state of pleasurable content with one's condition in life". Happiness, therefore, is not a child of circumstances but a child of faith.

A story has often been told of a fairy who came to the residence of a man who was resting after a hard day's toil. The fairy said, "We hear that you are the happiest man in the world." The man who had finished his day of toil replied, "Not so, because I work so hard to provide for my home." The fairy then, as the story goes, took the man over all the country and told him he might exchange his place with anyone that he wished. He first chose a rich man. But when he was shown what it meant to be rich, he declined. Secondly, he chose a man of power in the government but when shown what it meant to have such power he again declined. He then said to the fairy, "You were right, I am the happiest man in the world and don't know it."

Happiness, therefore, does not consist of money. Happiness does not consist of power. The book of Ecclesiastes reveals the experience of Solomon who avowed that such do not bring peace of mind. Happiness is not found in giving one's self to the pleasures of this world. Moses refused the way of sin "choosing rather to share ill treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." (Heb. 11:25)

What then is happiness? Happiness consists of right thinking. The Bible says "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding" (Prov. 3:13). Paul said, "Happy is he that judgeth not himself in that which he approveth" (Rom. 14 :22). Paul's final exhortation to the brethren at Philippi was concerning their thoughts. He said, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

Happiness consists in right living. The Psalmist in referring to the prosperity and security of Israel said "Happy is the people that is in such a case: yea happy is the people whose God is Jehovah" (Psalm 144:15), The preacher said, "This is the end of the matter; all hath been heard: Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man" (Eccles. 12:13).

Happiness consists in right conduct. The Bible says, "Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

— *G K Wallace*

### **Welcome Visitors**

We're glad you are with us today. Feel free to ask us any questions you may have. We look forward to getting to know you better.