

Prayer List

Brian Carver, Marc Genua, Eleanor Green, Virgil Hale, Betty Harama, Gordon Hatcher, Amy Headrick, Dennis Hogan, Peggy Hogan, Kenny Hughes, Evelyn Hunt, Magaly Orozco, Chris Ragle, Keith Russell, Dolores Snyder, Sam Teasley, Mary York

- Jana Ward (Simmons family friend) passed away on Saturday. Arrangements are not yet complete.
- Keith Keever is doing well after having knee surgery this past week.

The Numbers

Attendance	Sunday, December 27	17/18/15
	Wednesday, December 30	17
Offering	Sunday, December 27	\$1020.00

Those Serving

Prayer Before Sunday Class Terry Hurst

Sunday Morning Worship

Announcements & First Prayer	Kevin Felker
Songs	John Bagwell
Sermon	Brad Green
Lord's Supper	Tommy Sanders
Contribution	Terry Hurst
Assisting	Barry Simmons
Closing Prayer	Charles Hatcher

Sunday Afternoon Worship

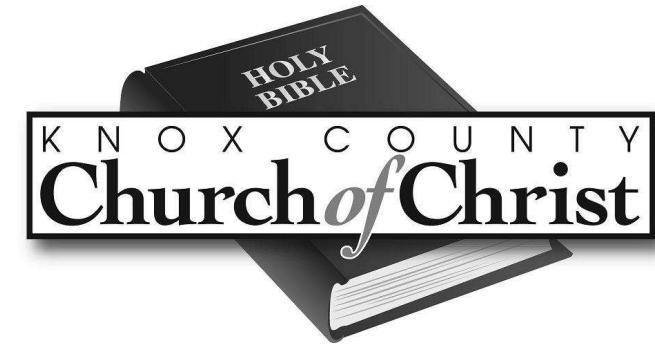
First Prayer	Barry Simmons
Songs	Kevin Felker
Sermon	Brad Green
Lord's Supper	Tommy Sanders
Closing Prayer	Keith Keever

Wednesday Night

Songs	Keith Keever
First Prayer	John Bagwell
Devotional	Charles Hatcher
Closing Prayer	Donald Shipley

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

January 3, 2016



<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.....10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study.....7:00 PM

From The Preacher's Pen

"NOTHING NEW"

A new year is upon us and with every new year comes new resolutions and expectations. Well, perhaps they are called *new*, but they are actually the same old recycled resolutions bantered about every new year.

The thing that hath been, *it is that* which shall be; and that which is done *is that* which shall be done: and *there is no new thing* under the sun (Ecc. 1:9).

Many New Year's resolutions are seeded in vanity and usually are forgotten shortly after they are made until it is time to sweep the dust off of them again sometime in December.

Though we should seek to become stronger and wiser with every passing year, our resolutions for the next do not necessarily need to be new. Instead, the life of a Christian must be a continual, daily, growing process. The apostle Peter states that he wrote his second epistle to "stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance" and concludes by writing, "but grow in grace, and *in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*" (2 Pet. 3:1, 18). Paul, by inspiration, encourages "study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). There is only one way to grow in the faith, and that is through a daily study of God's Word.

Also, though we may desire to be more active in the year ahead, the actions themselves do not have to be new. Prayer should be nothing new to us, so our resolve should be to remain faithful in prayer. We need to pray for opportunities to grow

and opportunities to help those in need. We need to pray that we have the necessary means to take advantage of those opportunities and the wisdom to hear them knocking at the door. Studying the Bible with others should not be new, but we can pray that studies we are currently having will bear much fruit and that more Bible studies will develop from relationships we are in the process of making. Worshiping in spirit and truth (John 4:24) is not new, but we can continue to make a joyful noise, teach, and admonish one another through song, singing with grace in our hearts (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). We can strengthen ourselves and each other while remembering Jesus' death as we partake of the Lord's Supper on every Sunday (Acts 20:7) and become more cheerful in our giving (2 Cor. 9:7) by remembering all He has given us. Seeking to strengthen our faith should not be new, but we can spend more time in God's Word to increase our knowledge.

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee (1 Tim. 4:16).

Sadly, rather than seeing these acts as a part of the Christian's duty, they are seen as New Year's resolutions and usually end up in the same dust-covered heap with all of the rest.

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat (Heb. 5:12).

The inspired author concludes, "let us go on unto perfection" (6:1). Instead of seeking something new, perhaps we do ourselves the most good simply to "go on unto perfection" with those things we are already doing. Many in the

world become a "jack of all trades and master of none." Without dedication and true resolve, this can happen in a Spiritual sense as well. Our goal must be to please God. "All things were created by him, and for him" (Col. 1:16). Our purpose is to serve God, and we can only be pleasing to Him if we are obedient to Him (Heb. 5:8-9).

Before one can go on unto perfection and begin a life that is pleasing to God, he must shed the old man of sin and become a "new creature" in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). There is only one way into Christ—hear (Rom. 10:17), believe (Heb. 11:6), repent (Luke 13:3), confess (Rom. 10:9-10), and be baptized (Gal. 3:27). If you have not yet submitted to God's plan of salvation, there is no greater way to begin your new year than knowing that you have had your past sins washed away and have been added to the Church for which Christ died (Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21; Acts 20:28).

-- Brad Green

