No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics Meets 4 Thursday at 7:00 PM each month Knoxville First Seventh Day Adventist Church Annex 3625 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee

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Our November meeting was held a week early...or else we would have had to serve turkey and dressing! We had 16 members and a couple guests including first-time visitor Steve Jerden who found us online and made the journey from Wartburg. After a brief amount of business, we started performances magic that we are thankful for.

Ed Ripley began with a singing and whistling version of the Ambitious Card; in fact, Ed was filming this performance because he needed to send it in for the joint I.B.M./SAM convention contest application. President Michael Priestap followed with a comedy blowoff way to find the four aces, then he did the classic where the red aces changed places with the black aces in the spectator's hand. John Bloor had several effects for us that he recalled getting from the magic shop in downtown Knoxville on Gay Street many years ago. This included a set of small Hindu Cones and also a box with a dragon that came out.

Explaining how he has been carrying an Invisible Deck with him for over 35 years, Tom Vorjohan presented his bread-and-butter routine. Mike Stratman showed his thankfulness for his version of Six Card Repeat and even showed the group how he makes it up for performing. Jack Wilson did several effects with a piece of rope including the Fastest Knot and two versions of tying a knot in a rope without letting go of the ends. Ben Young proudly presented his "patented boredom buster" which was a very clever presentation for the Pom-Pom Stick.

In a seemingly impromptu manner, Victor Agreda did Karl Fulves' Any Deck, Any Time and fooled many of us. To end our formal performances, long-time member Ed Denny told how he was most thankful for the strength and energy of this Ring that he helped restart over 40 years ago. He held our attention as he told his personal story of getting started in magic at the age of 4, and how he travelled and moved around before settling in this area and getting our Ring re-activated. What a great way to end the evening just a week before Thanksgiving!

Tom Vorjohan