

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics

Meets 4th Thursday at 6:45 PM each month

Messiah Lutheran Church

6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

TIM PRESSLEY, President

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The December meeting happened early in the month for our annual holiday party on December 9th. Treasurer Jack Wilson took the lead coordinating the RSVPs and the dinner that was catered by Buddy's Bar-B-Q including pork, chicken, green beans, potato salad, and chocolate chip cookies. We had a total of 24 people (14 members and 9 family and 1 special guest/friend of the Ring, Michael Keating) enjoying the food and fellowship.

After dinner we had a great show by the Ring members with Program Victor Agreda as the host and emcee. Ed Ripley kicked the evening show off with his award-winning performance of the Cups and Balls including costume changes and even rap music. Bill Sturgis put his magic together with a great Christmas theme; he removed three Christmas lights that reappeared and then an effect with Santas in different colors.

Past International President, Mike Stratman, borrowed Jessica Hyder's ring and it reappeared in a set of Nested Boxes. Michael Priestap made a brief appearance with a rope that knotted when dipped into a bag. We were happy to have Kyle Copeland (and his family) join us, and Kyle did "Dad Jokes" where one volunteer chose and read a card, and another read a punchline...and by magic they matched each other. He also did an SPS magic (Deja Zoo) effect with a Christmas theme matching the two spectators' choices. Ring President, Tim Pressley, used a shrunken stocking and fixed a broken candy cane silk good as new. And to close, he had a light bulb decorated like a snowman that magically lit up. It was a fun after-dinner show!

We moved some chairs and moved on to our annual "Dirty Magician" (like a White Elephant swap or Dirty Santa with magicians!). We had eighteen people participating, and the shenanigans was rather exciting this year with gifts like a Popcorn Magic Drawer, Gift Box from Empty Bag, Melting Coin, a bag of thumb tips and DVD, Linking Rings, Harry Lorayne's Magic Book, "Spellbound" book on Doug Henning, candy, and the highly coveted "iDrop" and a random-value gift card (which ended up going for \$50!). All in all, we made it out of the church by 10 PM wishing each other plenty of Season's Greetings, a full stomach, and some good loot!

Tom Vorjohan via Jack Wilson