

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

Michael Priestap, President

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Our annual Holiday Party was held on December 12 with 22 members, 7 guests and four visiting performers from Nashville's Ring 37. It was a great group ready to have some fun and fellowship! Our was set up by Sherman Wires who arranged for B&G Catering to bring turkey and dressing and "all the fixin's" ...plus Sherman's lovely wife also prepared deviled eggs, two different bundt cakes and some of her delicious banana pudding. It was the best feast we have shared in quite some time. Thank you to the Wires!

The previous weekend, five of our members (Michael Priestap, Sherman Wires, Andrew McGrath, Roy Schubert, and Ed Ripley) drove to Nashville to perform for their Christmas celebration, so tonight we had four of their members as our guests to provide the after-dinner magic. Vickie Gibson opened with some silent magic followed by her husband, Tom Gibson, who is the long-time I.B.M. TVP for Tennessee. Tom's comfort in front of our group was obvious, and he always looks like he is having just as much fun as we are watching him. Larry Finley, assisted by his wife Jana closed the show with some magic that we have grown to love as Larry is a regular performer at the Winter Carnival of Magic's contests. Thank you to our neighbors who shared their time and talents with us.

To close out the evening, we held our annual-somewhat-notorious "Dirty Magician" gift exchange. There were some nice – albeit coveted – treats under the tree that were playfully traded throughout the evening. In the end, there were no hard feelings, and it was all smiles after a wonderful evening of food, magic and fun-filled fellowship.

Tom Vorjohan