

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

SUNDAY MORNING

December 25, 2016

WELCOME: Darren Dent
SONG LEADER: Don Barnett
OPENING PRAYER: Jim Bell
LORD'S TABLE: Clayton Dent
Phillip Short
ASSIST: Garrett Brewer
Ratis Yeager
Merrell Story
Travis Moody
CLOSING PRAYER: Randy Gordey
GREETERS: Kevin & Annie Blair
Mike & Kristie Brewer
CARDS: Preston Riela
Ryeland Lovell
VISITOR GIFT/ LINDA HARNESS
HOSTESSES: DONNA ALLENSWORTH
SCRIPTURE READER: BRANDON BECK
Psalm 61:1-4

SUNDAY EVENING

December 25, 2016

SONG LEADER: last Sunday
OPENING PRAYER: last Sunday
LORD'S TABLE: Greg Bradford
Jim Bell
CLOSING PRAYER: last Sunday

WEDNESDAY EVENING

December 28, 2016

SONG LEADER: Mike Wolff
OPENING PRAYER: Rick Camp
DEVOTIONAL: Randy Gordey
CLOSING PRAYER: Eli Leonard

***Please contact Mike Wolff
if you are unable to serve.**

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

BIBLE CLASS 9:30 a.m.
WORSHIP 10:30 a.m.
EVENING 5:00 p.m.
LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 1:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

BIBLE CLASS 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY:

LADIES BIBLE CLASS 10:00 a.m.

Elders:

Gene Blair 501-499-5868 Darren Dent 501-581-3052
Gary Bradford 501-626-3232 Rod Wilson 501-328-7888

Deacons:

Kevin Barley 501-472-4852 Mike Brewer 501-472-7692
(ushers) (youth)
Michael Cole 815-622-1874 Jarrod DeValle 501-470-8710
(benevolence, pantry) (education & teachers)

Michael Gilbow 501-208-2909
(nursing home, fellowship room set up)

Mike Wolff 501-472-8912
(building & grounds)

Ministers:

Glen Elliott 501-314-9999
Spencer Cromwell 731-438-1206

GREENBRIER CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Greenbrier, AR 72058

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December 25, 2016

THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

At a time of year when giving and receiving gifts seems so important to so many, it may prove helpful to pause and reflect upon a far-greater gift—the gift of forgiveness. It is both a gift given and a gift received. Jesus says, “love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you” (Mt. 5:44). How completely foreign to human reasoning! Yet, He followed up this teaching with personal example when He looked upon His tormentors, praying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing” (Lk. 23:34).

If we are completely honest, we must confess that forgiving others is not an easy thing for us to do. C.S. Lewis writes, “Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive.” But, in spite of its difficulty, forgiveness is essential in that Jesus went on to say, “And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your transgressions. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions” (Mk. 11:25-26).

Someone has astutely observed: “We are most like beasts when we kill. We are most like men when we judge. We are most like God when we forgive.” Alexander Pope wrote these familiar words: “To err is human, to forgive divine.” Indeed, offering the gift of forgiveness draws us closer into the image of God than does resentment. In fact, there is no disposition more destructive to the emotional and spiritual well-being of a person than harboring an unforgiving attitude. Such a spirit contaminates every other emotion. Injured egos and hurt feeling move us from anger to hatred and then from hatred to retaliation. Human nature demands revenge. This is why it is so important for us to immediately forgive even the smallest deed done against us. Someone has written: “Forgiveness saves the expense of anger, the cost of hatred, and the waste of spirit.” When bitterness and hatred rage within, we should take warning, for in the words spoken to Cain, “sin is crouching at the door” (Gen. 4:7).

What is forgiveness? Webster defines it as “pardon, acquittal, or remission; or to cancel, remit or to give up resentment against.” The word most often translated “forgive” in the New Testament means “remit, send away, to set or put apart, forsake, or leave.” Consequently, the principal meaning of forgiveness has to do with putting away all grudges and forgetting the wrong that has been done to us. This is what God promises to do for us in Christ. He will not hold our sins against us anymore (Heb. 8:12). Thank God for the precious gift of forgiveness through the blood of Jesus!

--Glen Elliott--

THURSDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE CLASS

Please join our class
Thursday, January 5th
at 10am. We will
begin a new book

A Glimpse Into God's Heart.
Also, after our first class of the
new year we will go out to eat.
We hope you will make a
commitment to join
our class this year!



VISITOR BAGS

for January 1st

Anna Wolff & Cassi Gilbow

OUR RECORD

DECEMBER 18, 2016

SUNDAY CLASS:	161
SUNDAY WORSHIP:	222
SUNDAY PM:	108
WEDNESDAY (21st):	92
BUDGET:	\$5,400
OFFERING:	\$6,489
YTD average:	\$5,650
YTD ahead/behind:	\$12,747

NEWS & NOTES

PRAYER REQUESTS

*Helen Swindle has requested prayers for her sister, Shirley Gilbert, who is having some health issues.

*Remember Becky Gossett as she recovers from knee surgery. And Bob & Becky's son, Scott, as he recovers from burns.

*Keep Gina Ratliff's mom, Barbara, as she is in hospice care.

*Vic Byrd is in the rehab part of the Greenbrier Nursing Home.

*Continue to keep Eric McNulty's friend, Steve; Doni McInturff; Robin Linn's dad, Michael; Susan Ward; and Gaylon Lewallen in your prayers.

*Remember Jeanne Halthcote who is in the Greenbrier Nursing Home.

*Pick up an extended list of those in need of our prayers on the table in the foyer.

*Some names from this list have been moved to the extended prayer list.

BIRTHDAYS		
Mary Tubbs	12/27	
Claire Drewry	12/28	
Bea Eichmann	12/29	
Floyma Sutterfield	12/29	
Adam Blake	12/30	
Emma Leonard	12/30	
ANNIVERSARIES		
Richard & Burnadean Murray	12/30	
Glen & Colleen Elliott	12/30	

Widows/Single Women's Luncheon

in the home of Linda Harness



December 31st at 1pm
Please see signup sheet
on the bulletin board

MEN'S BREAKFAST

January 14th
at 8:00am
in the
fellowship room



ACTS 13:47

YOUTH OUTREACH UNIVERSITY

January 13th - 15th

* **Teens** sign up in class (cost \$25)
* **Members** we need help housing
teens from Mountain Home church of
Christ. Please see the bulletin board
if you can help!!

FOOD COMMITTEE for December

Please contact

Gina Ratliff or Dana Short
581-1948 472-4740



"A Leader In The Rough"

One minute he was sipping Egyptian coffee from the balcony of Pharaoh's palace, the next he had blood on his hands, murdering an Egyptian after seeing him mistreat a fellow Hebrew. Now he was a fugitive, running for his life trying to escape the grasp of the world's most powerful man. He ran until he decided it was safe to stop, catching his breath in Midian at a well, some 280 miles away from Egypt.

Seven girls catch his eye. Trying to take care of their father's very thirsty flock, they are bullied by some shepherds who obviously have no concept of being gentlemen. So he intervenes again, but this time it's a drastically different story. He helps the damsels in distress and takes care of their flock. This time he receives no bounty on his head, but blessings. Reuel (also called Jethro) respects this man who showed his daughters respect, giving him food, a job, a place to live, and his daughter Zipporah hand in marriage

When we look at the Exodus 2 version of Moses, we begin seeing a leader in the rough, some of the leadership qualities that God must've seen and planned to refine. A leader sees when his people are hurting.

Exodus 2:11 Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens.

Moses didn't turn a blind eye towards those who were hurting, the Hebrews. Do you take the time to look at others' burdens? A leader learns to keep his emotions in check. A leader devoid of emotion would be a robot, and an emotional leader would allow his emotions to cloud his judgment. A leader with wisdom keeps his emotions in check. A leader knows when to move. Moses was good at moving—remember the cloud and the pillar of fire by night? His first-born was even named "stranger in a foreign land!" He couldn't be a guy who got attached to the places where he was only camping—there was a Promised Land, and Egypt wasn't it, and neither was the wilderness! We've got to remember those things, too. A leader isn't afraid to get his hands dirty. Exodus 2:17 says that Moses stood up, and helped them. Being a great leader isn't telling others what to do—it's showing others what to do.

- Spencer Cromwell