

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

SUNDAY MORNING

February 12, 2017

WELCOME: Brian Drewry
SONG LEADER: Don Barnett
OPENING PRAYER: Gary Bradford
LORD'S TABLE: Shannon Whitley
Pete Hines
ASSIST: Kevin Blair
Teddy Lewis
Kevin Barley
Mike Wolff
CLOSING PRAYER: Michael Gilbow
GREETERS: David & Beverly Woody
Ratis & Dorothy Yeager
CARDS: Tate Stacks
Jonathan Rawls
VISITOR GIFT/ Nita Sadler
HOSTESSES: Dana Short
SCRIPTURE READER: Nathan Lovell
Isaiah 40:30-31

SUNDAY EVENING

February 12, 2017

SONG LEADER: Brian Drewry
OPENING PRAYER: Randy Gordey
LORD'S TABLE: Tom Barkley
Pete Hines
CLOSING PRAYER: Jarrod DeValle

WEDNESDAY EVENING

February 15, 2017

SONG LEADER: Kevin Lovell
OPENING PRAYER: Jackie Horton
DEVOTIONAL: Jim Bell
CLOSING PRAYER: Spencer Cromwell

****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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February 12, 2017

HE HARDENS WHOM HE DESIRES

Does God harden the human heart? This question has been asked in reference to Romans 9:18 where we read: "So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires."

As we look at this passage in its context, we discover that it has nothing to do with an individual's salvation. Nor can we interpret this passage in a way that removes a person's free moral agency. The question raised in verse 19 sheds light on the meaning of the passage. Paul writes, "You will say to me then, 'Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?'" If the mercy discussed in this passage made it easier for one person to be saved than another, then one might argue: "Why does He still find fault?" Similarly, if the hardening discussed applied indiscriminately to one person and not to another, one could still argue: "Why does He still find fault?" In other words, our salvation would have nothing to do with our faith response. That position violates other clearer passages of Scripture (Acts 10:34-35; Eph. 2:8-9; Hb. 11:6).

So, in what sense does God show mercy on whom He desires and hardens others whom He desires? In the context, two examples are given. One has to do with the selection of Jacob as the child of promise rather than Esau while the other example has to do with the hardening of Pharaoh's heart in the process of Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage.

In the first example, God chose Jacob to be the one through whom the lineage of Christ should come (Rm. 9:12-13). This choice did not make it any easier for Jacob to be saved nor any more difficult for Esau. It was simply an act of mercy extended to Jacob by the hand of our sovereign God. It has nothing to do with his individual salvation.

In the second example, we observe that, in the process of delivering the Israelites from Egyptian bondage, God hardened the heart of Pharaoh (Ex. 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:8). This allowed God to work all ten of His plagues and demonstrate to the world His superiority over the gods of Egypt. While it may puzzle us to observe that God hardened Pharaoh's heart, we should also note that Pharaoh first hardened his own heart (Ex. 7:13, 14, 22; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7, 34, 35). God did not make it more difficult for Pharaoh to find salvation, but allowed the stubborn will of Pharaoh to a more complete, God-glorifying deliverance.

The matter might be illustrated as follows: The sun shines on wax and on clay. It melts the wax, but hardens the clay. Pharaoh by his own free will chose to be clay. If he had chosen to be wax, God (the sun) would not have hardened him. In other words, Pharaoh would not have been hardened by the actions of God had he chosen to submit and obey His will.

So, the matters addressed in the above passage have to do with choices God has made in influencing human history rather than matters which influence individual salvation. God's justice will not allow Him to act in such a way as to make it easier for one person to be saved and more difficult for another. All are saved on the same conditions.

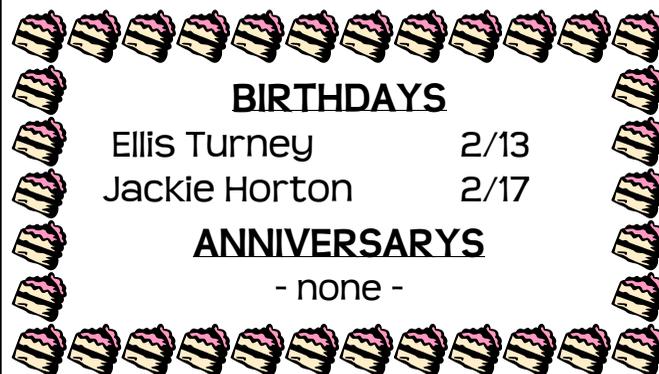
--Glen Elliott--

NEWS & NOTES

PRAYER REQUESTS

- *Susan Ward is doing fine after the lung ablation
- *Glen Elliott's brother, James, health is deteriorating.
- *Amy Drewry had surgery Tuesday at Conway Regional but is home now.
- *Ratis Yeager was to have a arteriogram on Friday.
- *Rick Camp's stepmother, Brenda, is in the Springhill Baptist hospital in NLR.
- *Stephanie Phillips is at Greenbrier Rehab room 310.
- *Thank you for the prayers for Tony Worm's son, Patrick.
- *Continue to keep Mary Kennedy, Janet Banks, Burnadean Murray, Dorothy Tatum and Doni McInturff in your prayers.
- *Remember Jeanne Haithcote 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.

Standing in your garage makes you no more a car than going to church makes you a Christian



BIRTHDAYS

Ellis Turney 2/13
Jackie Horton 2/17

ANNIVERSARYS

- none -

If you would be willing to be a substitute teacher for either Sunday morning or Wednesday night classes, please see Jarrod DeValle. Also, if you would be willing to teach for a quarter (or more), let Jarrod know.



VISITOR BAGS

for February 19th

Anne Janski & Stephanie Barkley

OUR RECORD

FEBRUARY 5, 2017

SUNDAY CLASS:	167
SUNDAY WORSHIP:	215
SUNDAY PM:	122
WEDNESDAY (8th):	118
BUDGET:	\$5,400
OFFERING:	\$26,176
YTD average:	\$5,123
YTD ahead/behind:	-\$1,664

BAPTISM

We rejoice in Blake Traffanstedt's decision to become a Christian last Sunday after services. Let's encourage him in his walk with God.

Our **Missions Day** goal was \$20,000 over the weekly budget. Thanks to your generosity we were \$20,776 over the budget!

*"The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad."
Psalm 126:3*

AREA WIDE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

February 12th
Liberty church of Christ at 5pm
Van will leave at 4:30

FOOD COMMITTEE for February

Please contact:

Laura Blake or Donna Allensworth
269-6522 454-0595



There will be a **New Christian/ Foundational class** taught by Spencer Cromwell beginning Monday, February 20th @ 5:30pm in the fellowship room

This class is open to 5th Grade -Senior High age groups. You are welcome to bring guests. We will be covering the building blocks of Faith, Salvation, Christianity, and Evangelism. There will be a signup sheet on the bulletin board for those planning to attend.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

February 25th at 8am

in the fellowship room
Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend