

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

### SUNDAY MORNING

February 5, 2017

WELCOME: Brian Drewry  
SONG LEADER: Don Barnett  
OPENING PRAYER: Rod Wilson  
LORD'S TABLE: Jim Bell  
Marty Leonard  
ASSIST: Tim Dixon  
Ratis Yeager  
Eric McNulty  
Greg Bradford  
CLOSING PRAYER: Mike Brewer  
GREETERS: Merrell & Patsy Story  
Shannon & Jennifer Whitley  
CARDS: Benjamin Thomason  
Jag McNulty  
VISITOR GIFT/ Tiffany Hillman  
HOSTESSES: Edie Singleton  
SCRIPTURE READER: Brandon Beck  
Psalm 106:1-3

### SUNDAY EVENING

February 5, 2017

SONG LEADER: Kevin Lovell  
OPENING PRAYER: Spencer Cromwell  
LORD'S TABLE: Jackie Horton  
Robert Hayes  
CLOSING PRAYER: Rick Camp

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

February 8, 2017

SONG LEADER: Brian Drewry  
OPENING PRAYER: Robert Hayes  
DEVOTIONAL: Kevin Lovell  
CLOSING PRAYER: Clayton Dent

***\*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**

12 Wilson Farm Rd.  
Greenbrier, AR 72058

# *Greenbrier church of Christ*

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February 5, 2017

## PREPARING THE WAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Jacob was returning home after twenty years. His hasty departure and long absence is explained, in part, by his brother's oath to kill him. Esau was upset at Jacob for stealing his birthright. It is understandable, then, that Jacob's eventual return would be marked by fear and apprehension. How would Esau react to his return? Would he carry out his threat to kill him? Jacob prepared for the worst. He placed his wives and children in an order which reflected his favorites and divided his flocks and herds in hopes that some might be saved in the event of conflict. Then, he sent servants to Esau with overtures of peace along with gifts, hoping to soften Esau's attitude toward him. The gifts were not accepted and his servants returned warning him that Esau was on his way with 400 men. It would be an understatement to say that the situation was tense.

Having done the best he could to protect his family, Jacob prayed to God for protection. He reminded God of His promise that He would make of his seed a great nation. That night, in an event unparalleled in human history, God appeared in human form and Jacob wrestled with the Lord all night. Following the struggle, God provided assurance to Jacob, changing his name to Israel, meaning "prince of God" (Gen. 32:28).

As Esau approached the next morning, Jacob left his family behind and went out to meet his brother, bowing seven times before him. Esau ran to meet his brother, fell upon his neck kissing him, and they both wept. Jacob expressed his gratitude, saying, "I see your face as one sees the face of God, and you have received me favorably" (Gen. 33:10). There was no hint of the bitterness which had characterized their previous time together. All had been forgiven.

Centuries later, another situation arose—a situation intense beyond comparison. Jesus faced the men who nailed Him to the cross, the soldiers who cast lots for His clothing, and the Jews who had condemned, ridiculed, and mocked Him. These angry, hardened souls might have expected words of condemnation, anathema, and cursing as was common place among those being crucifixion. Instead, they heard words of love for His mother, cries of anguish to His Father, and words of mercy for His tormentors. How could He do it? How could He forgive those who had treated Him so badly? Paul answers the question, saying, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rm. 5:8). In light of the fact that our sins put Jesus on the cross, it is remarkable that He should be so utterly selfless in His sacrifice. Since He was so gracious in preparing the way for our forgiveness through the blood of the cross, how earnest ought we to be in extending mercy to those who sin against us?

--Glen Elliott--

