All ladies are welcome to participate in **SECRET PALS** It is time to sign up We will draw names February 8th! Don't miss out on the fun.

Monthly Youth Devo at the Brewer's home January 25th after evening services

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Boys bring drinks Girls bring desserts

OUR RECORD JANUARY 18, 2015		
SUNDAY CLASS:	139	
SUNDAY WORSHIP:	172	
SUNDAY PM:	105	
WEDNESDAY (21ST):	108	
BUDGET: OFFERING:	\$5,400 \$5,296	



PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

SUNDAY MORNING January 25, 2014

WELCOME: Darren Dent Jim Sutterfield SONG LEADER: Michael Gilbow OPENING PRAYER: LORD'S TABLE: **Ratis Yeager** Todd Edwards **Ricky Shannon** ASSIST: Greg Bradford Albert Hall Kevin Lovell CLOSING PRAYER: Michael Cole David & Beverly Woody **GREETERS**: Ron & Doni McInturff CARDS: Austin Gilbow Preston Riela Cassi Gilbow VISITOR GIFT/ Gina Ratliff HOSTESSES: SCRIPTURE READER: Alex Riela Psalm 34:1-3

> SUNDAY EVENING January 25, 2014

SONG LEADER: Don Barnett OPENING PRAYER: David Woody LORD'S TABLE: Darren Dent Matthew Dent CLOSING PRAYER: Nathan Woody

WEDNESDAY EVENING January 28, 2014

SONG LEADER: OPENING PRAYER: CLOSING PRAYER: DEVOTIONAL:

R. C. Rawls Ron McInturff Michael Cole Rod Wilson

SCHEDUL	E OF S	SERVIC	CES
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SUNDAY: BIBLE CLASS WORSHIP	9:30 a.m.		
EVENING	10:30 a.m. 5:00 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		
Deacons:Michael Cole815-622-1874DelJarrod DeValle501-450-8719MikMichael Gilbow501-208-2909			
<u>Minister:</u> Glen Elliott 501-314-9999			
<u>Church Office:</u> 501-679-3647			

GREENBRIER CHURCH OF CHRIST 12 Wilson Farm Rd. Greenbrier, AR 72058



12 Wilson Farm Road Greenbrier, Arkansas 72058 E-mail: office@gbcofc.com (501) 679-3647 January 25, 2014

Web: www.gbcofc.com

TEA BAG RELIGION

It's been said that a tea bag is not worth much until it has been through some hot water. There is a lesson in this for Christians. No one enjoys the hardships that trials and tribulations bring our way, but most of us will admit that these are often the times when we experience greatest spiritual growth. Perhaps, this is what James had in mind when he wrote, "consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance" (Jas. 1:2-3). It is the sweat and toil of practice that readies the athlete for competition. Similarly, the difficulties and turmoil of life, when handled with faith and prayer, ready us to handle greater battles in the future. We need endurance, but endurance comes at a price.

Is it worth it? Will endurance pay off? Are we going to look back in the end and feel it was worth the cost we had to pay in terms of personal sacrifice? The Scripture answers with a resounding "Yes!" The Hebrew author exhorts us, saying, "you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised" (Hb. 10:36). Is eternity in heaven worth a little suffering in this present life? Paul answers in the affirmative, saying that this "momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison" (2 Cor. 4:17). Things that cost us nothing are seldom worth anything. Christianity costs us everything in spite of the fact that grace, itself, is a free gift. Paul tells us that our lives must be offered to God as "living sacrifices" (Rm. 12:1).

It is not possible to measure the value of faith apart from testing. Peter explains that "the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 1:6-7). Like gold refined by fire, faith is purified in the crucible of suffering.

But, not all suffering produces good. It depends on how we handle it. In boiling water, an egg becomes hard while a potato is softened. We can look at difficult circumstances as opportunities for spiritual growth or we can let life's challenges drive a wedge of bitterness deep into our hearts. The choice is ours. How much better it is to let God work in our lives for good! (Rm. 8:28). God will strengthen and bless if we will submit and obey. He "is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able' (1 Cor. 10:13). Trust Him. Always.

--Glen Elliott--