

# BLUE RIDGE

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## From My Heart

I Love Easter! Who wouldn't love a holiday where no matter how old you get, you still get a chocolate bunny. I love everything about Easter. You get new spring clothes, it might just be a new shirt or tie, but there is always something new. There are those awkward Easter Family Pictures, but at least we have a record of changing fashion and strange hairdos. Then there are the Easter Egg Hunts. All of my life I have been either hunting or hiding eggs. It is a joy to see how much fun little ones get scouting out those colorful plastic eggs.

I love our times of worship on Easter. Only on Easter will you get up before dawn to watch the sunrise. I have been to some mighty cold sunrise services where children are actually dressed in sleeping bags. At Blue Ridge we have our "sunrise lite" service every Easter morning at 9:00 AM in the courtyard. The Courtyard Service is always beautiful with the birds singing and sun shining (only once in my 20 plus years at Blue Ridge have we had to move the service inside because of the weather.) The music is also such a blessing, we can not wait to hear what Reborn Harmony and Clarence will share with us. Who doesn't love breakfast on Easter morning? We have every kind of food imaginable and of course Krispie Kreme Doughnuts.

Most of all what I love about Easter is the Message of Easter. It is the story of Jesus laying down his life for the forgiveness of our sins on Friday and then rising from the dead on Sunday. It is the women finding the empty tomb and an angel declaring, "He is not here He has risen, just as He said." (Matthew 28:6)

Easter is the story of hope and victory, it the story of God fulfilling his promise to bless the world through Abraham. Easter is also a personal story. Everyone who asks Jesus to be their Savior and Lord experiences the story

of Easter first hand.

I can remember the week before I accepted Christ as my Savior, I was playing in a baseball game and had just struck out. In anger I threw my helmet, having bad aim I hit the umpire who was standing near third base, which caused me to get thrown out of the game. As I sat on the bench I knew there was more wrong with me than my inability to hit a curve ball. There was an emptiness and loneliness I could not describe, but for me, my Easter was coming!

Before the week was out I knew what I needed and His name was Jesus. I didn't tell anybody, I just got on my knees and asked Jesus to forgive my sins and to be the Lord of my life. Two things happened that happen to every believer, first I became overwhelmed with the love of God that led Christ to lay down His life for me and my sins on the cross. "In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace". (Ephesians 1:7) Second, my life not only became eternal, but also full and abundant. (John 3:16 & John 10:10) You see when you accept Christ, you also receive Christ, and He comes to live with you and to empower your life. (Check out Ephesians 1:13-14 and Acts 1:8) **Once you accept Christ, just like those disciples on Easter morning, your life is forever changed.** One of the quickest changes in my life took place in left field the next time I got on the field. As I stood in the outfield I was usually badmouthing the umpire for calling me out on strikes, but that all changed. David said in Psalm 40:3, "He put a new song in my mouth". Jesus did the same for me. I can remember standing out there singing, I couldn't help it. His love was so overwhelming it began to spill out and I couldn't stop it. He also put a few more hits in my bat and I was hitting .300 before the end of the summer.

**I love Easter because it is personal. It is the story of everyone who has ever called Jesus their Savior. It can be your story too if you will choose Jesus!** April will be glorious, bring a friend and join us every Sunday!

**In His Love,**

**Bro. John**

# Altogether in April

*"Because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9*

*Come to Blue Ridge as we celebrate the Risen Savior in April*



**April 9 Palm Sunday**



**The Morning Worship Service Begins with Palm Branches Fellowship Together at Lunch and enjoy the Great Easter Egg Hunt**



**April 16 He is Risen! Happy Easter!**



shutterstock 78464134

✠ **Beautiful Courtyard Service at 9:00 am with Praise and Worship**  
✠ **The Ordinance of the Lord's Supper in the Courtyard**

**"This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me" "Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me" I Cor. 11:24, 25**

**"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." I Cor. 11: 26**

✠ **Then Fellowship Together with Easter Morning Breakfast (bring a dish) at 9:30**

✠ **Bible Study with Friends**

✠ **Morning Easter Celebration Service at 11:00 am**

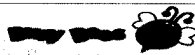
✠  **Children's Choir presents Easter Music, "Christ is Risen"**



**Easter Offering for North American Missionaries in April**



**We will be receiving an Annie Armstrong Easter Offering during April. We honor the life and work of Annie Walker Armstrong as a tireless servant of God. Annie rallied churches to Give More, Pray More, and Do More for reaching people for Christ.**



**Attention Ladies and Gentlemen! Our Easter Services are Coming Up so Come to Clean Up Day! Everyone is invited to participate in our Spring Clean Up Day. "Out with the old" and "Clean-in with the New"! Come Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am with your favorite work clothes, a good attitude, and let's get busy as bees.**



**Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas  
for our Sanctuary To Date**



**Have been given by:  
In Memory of...**

Ruby Burnette, Shirley's Mother by Buddy and Shirley Davis  
Ruby Holley, Buddy's Mother, by Buddy and Shirley Davis  
Rosa Nell Woodfin, her Mother, by JoAnn Woodfin  
Peggy Beck by her husband, Jim Beck

**In Honor of...**

Our Mothers, Marge and Bitsy, by Bro. John and Jackie

On behalf of the Bass family, I would like to thank you for the flowers you sent for the funeral of our mother, Mae Bill Bass. The love and concern that you have shown our family during this difficult time is very much appreciated.

Bill Bass

**Thank You to Our Precious Church Family**

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the Love and Prayers during our time of loss and sickness. We truly have been blessed by each of you with your thoughtfulness. The arrangement sent from the church was truly beautiful. The calls, visits, cards and food were so enjoyed. We are blessed!! 2 Corinthians 13:14, "May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Love,  
Dan and Susan Bass

**Thank You**

Just a note to say thanks for your kind thoughts and prayers. It's a blessing to have a fellowship with you and study God's Word.

Yours in Christ,  
Jim Beck

© Thank you so much to Jim Harris for bleaching the church sidewalks, for working on lighting our church sign for many days, and for trimming our hedges. Thank you to Buddy Davis for so faithfully keeping our lawns so beautifully landscaped. Thank you to Barbara Harris for giving the beautiful Easter tablecloths for our church hallways. Thank you to Clarence Mann for blessing us with song in our Worship Services. Thank you to James and Jody Mallonee in England and Dr. and Mrs. Don Cheatham in London, Kentucky for remembering us with their tithes. Blest be the ties that bind our hearts.



**Children's Ministry**

2: Nursery: Bennett; Toddlers: Carney; CC: Aldridge  
9: Nursery: Amy Brown; Toddlers: Carney; CC: Hansen  
16: Nursery: Kay Bozeman; Toddlers: Janet Johnson; CC: Christena & Tyler Aldridge  
22 Nursery: Bennett; Toddlers: Carney; CC: Hansen  
30: Volunteers Needed



**Galactic Starveyors VBS  
Searching the Visible, Discovering the Invisible!**

Be sure to sign up to work in VBS this July. Clear your calendar for the most fun you will have all summer and while seeing children learn about Jesus. The theme is "Galactic Starveyors, Discovering the God of the Universe", Colossians 1:15, 16. Preschoolers through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade will join together for a big Worship Rally before going to Bible Study, Music, Arts and Crafts, and the all-important Snacks!

Sign up to help in any and all areas. Adults will have their class as well at a different time. This is our biggest evangelistic effort as a church body and we need your prayers, your physical attendance, your love, and your donations. It's all Adult, Youth, and Kid friendly! Watch for a Plan-et Meeting! Sign up in the office hallway. Get out your telescopes, rockets, and Bibles.



- |    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 1  | Brandy Hill        |
|    | Margaret Wilkerson |
| 2  | Jay Goff           |
| 7  | Jason Mitchell     |
| 11 | Doris Brown        |
| 12 | Rachel Turner      |
| 14 | Benjamin Lowry     |
| 16 | Timothy Mallette   |
| 19 | Thomas Gurthie     |
| 23 | Amy Brown          |
| 25 | Lisa Pendley       |
| 27 | Michael Colquitt   |
| 30 | Trey Bethea        |

**Missions Box Needs: peanut butter, oatmeal, & beans, spring and summer clothing for adults & kids**



We will display your Easter lilies or hydrangeas on April 2, 9, and on Easter April 16. Please fill out the form below if you would like to share one to create a beautiful setting for Easter. Hydrangeas are \$16.50 & Lilies are \$9.00 (small) and \$16.50 (large).

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Given in Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given in Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle: Lilly size small or large..... or Hydrangea

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Blue Ridge Baptist Church**  
 4471 Jasmine Hill Road  
 Wetumpka, Alabama 36093  
[www.blueridgebaptistchurch.net](http://www.blueridgebaptistchurch.net)

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 Permit No. 85  
 Wetumpka, AL  
 36093



**Fellowship Lunch and Easter Egg Hunt April 9**  
**Easter Services April 16, Courtyard Service 9:00 AM Breakfast 9:30 AM**  
**Sunday School 10:00 AM Easter Celebration 11:00 AM**

# APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
Invite a Friend to our Easter Celebration	Counting and Lock Up Terry Graydon					1																																																																																				
2 Discipleship 5PM	3 Visitation 7:00 PM	4	5 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	6	7	8 Clean Up Day 9:00 AM																																																																																				
9 Palm Sunday Fellowship Lunch Children's Easter Egg Hunt Discipleship 5PM	10 Visitation 7:00 PM	11	12 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	13	14	15																																																																																				
16 Easter Courtyard 9 AM Breakfast 930 AM Sunday School 10 AM Celebration 11 AM	17 Visitation 7:00 PM	18	19 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	20	21	22																																																																																				
23 Discipleship 5:00 PM	24 Visitation 7:00 PM	25	26 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	27 Visit us on the web at <a href="http://blueridgebaptistchurch.net">blueridgebaptistchurch.net</a>	28	29																																																																																				
30 Discipleship 5:00 PM		March 2017 <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		May 2017 <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				<b>Notes:</b> <b>Coming Up!</b> <b>Anniversary</b> 7-May <b>Mother's Day</b> 14-May
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