

# BLUE RIDGE

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## From My Heart

**E**aster is here! For me it has a multitude of meanings. Easter means I will get up real **E**arly on Sunday morning. Whether you are a mother laying out your children's Easter duds or a preacher setting up for a Courtyard Service, Easter comes early. One of the pre-dawn activities on Easter is a trip to get **K**rispy **K**reme doughnuts. Most churches in the river region make the spiritual pilgrimage to the Atlanta Highway every Easter. Easter would not be Easter without a glazed doughnut.

I remember one Easter that fell on Daylight Savings Time Weekend. Everyone was running late that day, including the one assigned to get the doughnuts. On that day the World's Lands Speed Record was set from **W**etumpka to **M**ontgomery and back, the doughnuts arrived hot and on time.

Easter means that everyone gets some new spring **A**ttire. Out with the old winter garb and in with some bright spring colors. Ladies and little girls wear new dresses and boys and men are made to wear something new. Jackie has gotten me a sharp new tie for Easter. Before we can relax on Easter we all have to pose for those awkward family photos. God also gives all of nature new attire for Easter. There is no more beautiful a place to be than **B**lue **R**idge, every plant and tree around us is bursting with color.

Easter is a time for a **S**unrise Service. I love our **C**ourtyard Service! It is technically a Sunrise Service because we have the sun and yes it is rising, just at a more Christian hour of 9:00 AM. I truly enjoy hearing us sing praises to our Savior and letting the music fill the skies. If you have never come, please do, it is a joyous time.

Years ago I served at a church that was meticulous about their sunrise serve. On one Easter, sunrise came at 5: way

We put out chairs, but before anyone could sit down they were covered with frost. I remember children arriving wearing sleeping bags.

Easter is a day that can only be described with a bunch of words that begin with the letter **T**. The soldiers who guarded the Tomb were **T**errified as the earth quaked, the angels appeared, and the stone rolled away. The women were **T**roubled when they discovered that Jesus' body was missing. Once they understood the Good News of Jesus' resurrection they were **T**hrilled and ran to tell the Disciples. The Disciples were **T**ransformed and went from hiding in corners to standing on the street corners proclaiming the Good News.

Easter is also about **E**gg Hunts and **E**aster Baskets. Jesus loved the little children and Easter is a great time for children. We had our Egg Hunt last Sunday and the one word to describe it was pure joy. Jesus believed in celebrations and Easter is a special time to get together with your family, the ones you love, and to include someone who needs some love and grace.

Finally, Easter is about Jesus'

**R**esurrection from the grave. Jesus said to **M**artha (Lazarus' sister) "*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?*" John 11:25, 26. There is double great news here. First, Jesus has risen from the grave. He is alive! Second, you and I have the opportunity to share in that resurrection!! Eternal life and Abundant life is available to everyone willing to turn from their old way of life and to receive a gift of grace and forgiveness from the Son of God. As I shared last Sunday, "*He is no fool who exchanges what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose*"

Easter is best celebrated at Blue Ridge! Bring a friend and share the news, He has Risen!

**In His Love,**

**Bro. John**



*He is the morning star,  
 He is the Life,  
 He is the Redeemer,  
 He is the Savior  
 May His blessings be  
 upon you on Easter and  
 always.*

**We Celebrate the Risen Savior, Jesus Christ!**

**Come to the Easter Celebration at Blue Ridge on Sunday, April 1, 2018**

- 9:00am**                      **Outdoor Courtyard Service**
  - 9:30 am**                    **Easter Morning Breakfast...bring a dish to share**
  - 10:00 am**                   **Bible Study for all ages**
  - 11:00 am**                   **Easter Morning Worship Celebration**
- Clarence Mann and the Youth/Children's Choirs performing**

**Don't miss any of the events and bring others to share in this greatest Holy Day!**



*Thank You for the Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas in the Sanctuary*

In Memory

Given in Memory of Peggy Beck, his wife, by Jim Beck  
 Given in Memory of Ruby Burnette, Shirley's Mom by Buddy and Shirley Davis  
 Given in Memory of Rubye Holley, Buddy's Mom by Buddy and Shirley Davls  
 Given in Memory of their daughter, Cheryl by Jim and Barbara Harris  
 Given in memory of Dr. and Mrs. John Carney by Bro. John and Jackie Carney  
 Given in memory of JoAnn Woodfin's parents by JoAnn Woodfin  
 Given in memory of Robin Lowery by Ryan Manni and Kelley Tyler  
 Given in memory of Bart Lowry by Ryan Mann and Keiley Tyler

In Honor

Given in Honor of Jackie's Mother, Bltzy by Bro. John and Jackie  
 Given by Don and Emily Roney

**"O, Happy Day" Musical was a Blessing!**  
 Choir: Chasity Elliott, Catarina Elliott, Dustin Kemerer, Trey Bethea, Ben Lowry, Jonathan Lowry, Harley Bethea, Haley Bethea, Avery Roney, Evelyn Roney, and Caroline Roney, Skylar Bethea

**Thank you to our Narrators: Jim and Barbara Harris, Terry and Linda Graydon, Susan Hansen, Owen and Lorrie Sereneck, Buddy and Shirley Davis, Jim Beck, Don and Emily Roney, David and Amy Brown, and Renee' Miller**

*To Jim Beck for donating CD's  
 To Vincent Bennett for recording CD's for every family to learn at home*

*To our Choir Leaders: Bro. John Carney, Renee' Miller, Christena Aldridge, Don and Emily Roney, Susan Hansen, and Jackie Carney*

*We thank Jesus for washing our sins away!*



### Kids' Korner



The Great Easter Egg Hunt was Fantastic Fun! Our church family helped the kids and teenagers have a large time hunting and hiding eggs. Thank you, church family, for donations of plastic eggs, extra baskets and grass, candy, prize bags and prizes, and a great big thank you to Shirley Davis for the precious Easter bunny cake. Thank you to the Youth group and parents for providing a lunch before our Great Egg Hunt. Thank you to Don Roney and Keith Pendley for hiding camo eggs with special prizes for the Youth in a separate hunt. Thank you to the combined choirs for leading out in worship on Palm Sunday and for bringing in the palm branches to start our service. Thank you to Bro. John for sharing the Resurrection eggs with us.



### Youth News and Views



Bring your friends, cousins, brothers, and sisters to a new Wednesday night class for our 7-12<sup>th</sup> Graders. It is "Every Young Woman's Battle" led by Emily Roney and "Every Young Man's Battle" led by Don Roney.



### Thank You, BRBC Family Members

We really appreciate the brand-new television for our Sanctuary given by Janet Johnson. It is a great improvement for our worship needs, such as assisting in Youth and Children musicals and showing videos for the special offerings, missionary stories, VBS videos and much more.

We thank Shirley Davis, Jim Beck, Jim and Barbara Harris, Shelly Bennett, Susan Hansen and the Carneys for giving kitchen supplies. Following is a list of Joy of Giving church stock-up items: Solo or Styrofoam tea cups, coffee cups, stirring sticks, yellow, blue, and pink artificial sweeteners, divided plates, plastic utensils, small dessert plates, bowls, 13 gallon and 39 gallon trash bags, hand sanitizers for the kitchen, bathrooms, and classrooms, Ledger size office paper, sticky notes, postcard and letter stamps, and snacks and drinks for the kids. Thank you for helping us share together.



### Easter Clean-Up at Church

We really appreciate everyone who came to clean the church inside and outside as we prepare for our Easter services. Thank you to Owen and Lorrie Sereneck, Buddy Davis, Linda and Terry Graydon, David Funchess, Jim Beck, Jim and Barbara Harris, Marilyn McGrady, Linda Jones, and Bro. John and Jackie. People worked all during the week as well as on Clean-up Day.



We thank our wonderful church friends, Don and Joyce Cheatham and James and Jody Mallonee, for remembering us, their Alabama church home, for their very generous gifts of their tithes and offerings they faithfully send to our church every month. Through them, we are able to carry out the Lord's work and our vision for our church.

**Announcing Our 2018 VBS Dates:  
July 15-19 with Family Night on July 22.  
Be sure to sign up and take your place  
at "Game On, Gearing Up for Life's Big  
Game"**



### Welcome to Sunday School

Skyler Bethea

Preschool



### April Birthdays



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



### Preschool & Children's Ministry

- 1: Nursery & Toddlers: Bennett & Carney; CC: Aldridge
- 8: Nursery & Toddlers: Amy Brown & Carney; CC: Hansen
- 15: Nursery & Toddlers: Janet Johnson & Carney CC: Christena
- 22: Nursery: Bennetts; Preschool: Carney; CC: Hansen & Miller
- 29: Volunteers needed

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

**Courtyard Service & Breakfast Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 9:00 AM**  
**Easter Celebration Service Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 11:00 AM**

# APRIL 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>Easter</b> Courtyard 9AM Breakfast Bible Study 10 AM Celebration 11AM	2 Counting and Lock Up Terry Graydon	3	4 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups	5	6	7
8 <b>Fellowship Lunch</b> Jesus Among Secular Gods 5:00 PM	9 Visitation 7:00 PM	10	11 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	12	13	14
15  Discipleship 5:00 PM	16 Visitation 7:00 PM	17	18 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	19	20	21
22 <b>Youth Lunch</b>  Discipleship 5:00 PM	23 Visitation 7:00 PM	24	25 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	26	27	28
29  Discipleship 5:00 PM	30 Visitation 7:00 PM			Visit us on the web at <a href="http://blueridgebaptistchurch.net">blueridgebaptistchurch.net</a>		
		<b>March 2018</b> 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>May 2018</b> 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> Fellowship Lunch      April 8th Youth Lunch              April 22nd		