

BLUE RIDGE

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From My Heart

Happy New Year! The New Year is here and so is the cold weather. Fortunately the fellowship is warm at Blue Ridge and so is the sanctuary. I hope that you will join us as we share in our **Candle Lighting Service** this Sunday, January 7th. This service is a chance for us to dedicate this New Year to God and all that God desires for us in 2018. It is also a great opportunity for us to lift each other up in prayer. We are a family of faith and it is a great joy to affirm and pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

So far 2018 has been blessed for Jackie and me. Jackie got a good report from her eye surgeon. She has a ways to go, but her eye is healing and things are looking good both figuratively and literally. I am recovering from my hernia surgery and will see my surgeon next week for my follow up. In its simplest terms Jackie had a hole in her eye and I had a hole in my stomach. The surgery on Jackie's eye will give her the opportunity to keep her vision. My surgery will give me the opportunity to lead an active life without a lot of pain and other hassles. We thank God for our surgeons and for your prayers and all the kindness that you have shown us in this process. We appreciate you all and do not take for granted God's healing and grace.

As I think about the New Year and our surgeries I am reminded of II Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" Once you give your life to Christ, things are new and forever changed. For one thing, our eternity is settled, we have "crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24), but much more has happened to us. God has given us a fresh start and a new opportunity. The chance to live a life worthy of our Savior, a life that makes a difference, a life that is full and rich

(John 10:10). While heaven is a promise for all who claim Christ as their Lord and Savior, our life here and now is an opportunity. God has enabled us to live an exciting, satisfying, meaningful life. We are enabled, but what happens in our life is our choice. Some live life to the fullest for Christ and others waste their precious opportunity.

If God had not called me to the ministry I would have ended up coaching. I started in Physical Education in college. One of my professor's trained Olympic athletes, but he also helped people who had undergone open heart surgery. Through his guidance and their determination they found a robust and active life they thought impossible before. Those heart attack victims were given an opportunity and they took it. How disappointing would it have been if those saved through surgery wasted their opportunity and returned to their old way of life.

Years ago I visited a fellow in the hospital who had undergone heart surgery twice. Each time the doctor warned him, that he had to change his diet or he would ruin his health. Each time after his surgery he was brought bland hospital food, each time he rejected it and had a friend bring in a fried feast. I call that a wasted opportunity.

If Jesus is your Lord and Savior then you have been given an opportunity. The question is what will you do with that opportunity? The quality of your life and whether you will make a difference in God's Kingdom stand in the balance. This a New Year and a new chance to experience the abundant life that Jesus purchased for us on the cross. Join us Sunday as we walk through the book of Joshua and experience the Victorious Christian Life.

In His Love,

Bro. John



2018 Happy New Year 2018

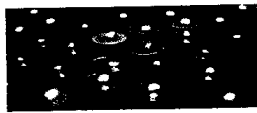
Together at Blue Ridge, We are a Family of God that Loves One Another and Worships in Sweet Fellowship.

We Thank God for our Church and Each One Who is Part of Our Family.

We Dedicate 2018 to Growing Closer to Each Other and to our Lord.

Invite Those in Your Path Each Day to Join You in Your Pew or Your Class to Meet Blue Ridge.

Come Worship in the Peace and Beauty of Blue Ridge Where We Live by Faith!



We will have our Annual Candles Lighting Service on Sunday, January 7 during the Morning Worship Service. As each family or family member comes forward to light a candle for their family, we in the Congregation will silently say a prayer for them for the coming days of 2018. This will help us to lift them up to our Lord in this New Year.



Everyone is Invited to our First Fellowship Meal Of the Year! Sunday, January 14th. Come to the Fellowship Hall right after Morning Worship where we will all bring a Sunday Dinner dish and/or dessert to share.



Your 2017 Contribution Records Will Soon Be Available. We thank Susan Hansen for providing them for everyone.



Announcing Our 1st Brotherhood Breakfast of 2018 All men and boys, along with any friends you would like to invite, are invited to join us for a delicious home-cooked breakfast and time of great fellowship on Sunday, January 28 at 7:30 am. We thank our Brotherhood Director, Terry Graydon, for organizing this event.

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Join us each Sunday in January as Bro. John shares sermons on "Joshua". He will be sharing how, like Joshua, we can have a victorious life now with far more victories in our lives than defeats.

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The presentation of "Christmas Countdown" by the Blue Ridge Players and the Youth and Children's Choirs was great! We thank every one of our actors: Susan Hansen, Renee' Miller, David and Amy Brown, Morgan and Sydney Brown, Dan and Susan Bass, Buddy Davis, Vincent and Nathan Bennet, Ryan Manni, Justin Brown, Ben and Jonathan Lowry, Madlee Cannon, and Bro. John. Also, our Narrator Jim Harris, Soloist Susan Bass, with Reborn Harmony's Buddy Davis and Susan and Dan Bass, Children's Choir Directors Renee' Miller and Susan Hansen, Writer and Adapter Bro. John Carney, Costumes and Set, Jackie Carney and Linda Jones with special helpers Madlee Cannon, and Ben and Jonathan Lowry.

Thank You!

During the month of Christmas celebration, we enjoyed the Poinsettias given by

In Memory of

Ruby Holley, Buddy's Mother by Buddy and Shirley Davis
Ruby Burnette, Shirley's Mother by Buddy and Shirley Davis
John Bryan and Marjorie Carney Bro. John's parents, by Bro. John and Jackie Carney
Allen and Rosa Woodfin, her parents by JoAnn Woodfin
Cheryl Harris, their daughter, by Jim and Barbara Harris
Charles and Vivian Wilson and Tolbert and Alice Harris, their parents by Jim and Barbara Hansen
Louis Rogers, Dad, Granddad, and Great-Grandfather and Joe and Kate Hansen, Brian Hansen's parents by Susan Hansen
Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Horn and Mr. and Mrs. Eric E. Aldridge by Rocky and Wendy Aldridge
Howard and Ina Bayerle, Linda's parents, by Linda and Bill Hines.

In Honor of

Bitsy, Jackie's Mother, by Bro. John and Jackie Carney



Congratulations to our Clarence Mann who has been invited to the United Kingdom to perform at the Soul Essence Reunion. They sought out Clarence based on recordings and performances he has given in the past as a soloist and performing as part of a group. Clarence will be going in April. Our prayers are with Clarence and Janet as they receive this honor and recognition.

Our Christian prayers, love, and sympathy are expressed to Dan and Susan Bass and family in the passing of Dan's nephew John David Bass. His parents, Bill and Belinda Bass are in our prayers.



8	Terry Graydon
9	Shirley Davis
17	James Mallonee
26	Donny Bozeman
30	Barbara Harris



January Children's Ministry

7: Nursery: Shelly Bennett; Preschool: Carney; CC: Aldridge
19: Nursery: K. Bozeman; Preschool: Carney; CC: Hansen
21: Nursery: Shelly; Preschool: Janet Johnson; CC: Aldridge
28: Nursery: A. Brown; Preschool: Carney; CC: Hansen

THANK YOU

Thank you to James and Jody Mallonee and Dr. Don and Joyce Cheatham, our friends in England and London, Kentucky for their ongoing prayer and financial support of ours and their church at Blue Ridge. While living here, they faithfully served the church in numerous capacities in the church leadership that made us who we are today. We cannot wait to see them again.



Our Appreciation

Our church family thanks Greg and Lisa Lott for the beautiful 9-foot Christmas tree they gave for our Sanctuary. We enjoyed it as it sparkled in our Worship Services and the Christmas play.



Thank you, church family, for your wonderful generosity in sharing Christmas gifts with a needy family with 5 children. Because you gave from your heart, they were able to wake up to a gracious amount of clothes, Bibles, toys, and food on Christmas morning as they celebrated Jesus' birth.

Thank You From the Carneys

Dear Church Family,

What a December it has been for our family. We have been so very blessed that God planted our lives here at Blue Ridge with such special, caring brothers and sisters in Christ. Jackie and I have had 4 surgeries in a matter of weeks, plus numerous MRI's, CT Scans, and laser searches. You have blessed and encouraged us with your prayers, calls, visits, offers to drive us since neither of us could drive for days, delicious meals, cards with sweet words, and texts. We love you and thank you. We would have had many difficulties with everyday life without you. We feel a better understanding of those not wrapped in the Christian love of a church family and friends. We will never forget the difference you made in our lives through your lovingkindness and we will always be there for you.

With love and thankfulness,

Bro. John and Jackie

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Fellowship Lunch January 14th
Men's Breakfast January 28th

JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Happy New Year!	1 Counting and Lock Up Terry Graydon	2	3 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	4	5	6	
7 Discipleship 5:00 PM	8 Visitation 7:00 PM	9	10 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	11	12	13 Join us for 5 Love Languages Sundays at 9:45 AM	
14 Fellowship Lunch Join Us! Discipleship 5:00 PM	15 Visitation 7:00 PM	16	17 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	18	19	20	
21 Youth Fundraiser Lunch Discipleship 5:00 PM	22 Visitation 7:00 PM	23	24 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	25	26	27	
28 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Discipleship 5:00 PM	29 Visitation 7:00 PM	30	31	Visit us on the web at blueridgebaptistchurch.net			
		December 2017 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		February 2018 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		Notes: Coming Up! Men's Breakfast 28-Jan Valentine Banquet February	
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