

BLUE RIDGE

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From My Heart

Happy New Year! Around this time of year a lot of folks make New Year Resolutions. Our God is all about fresh starts. *"His compassions never fail. They are new every morning."* (Lamentations 3:23) **God is about new beginnings, but He doesn't give us a fresh start every year. He gives it every day.** Psalms 118:24 says, *"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."* We live in the present and it is a present from God to be rejoiced in and to be used for His Glory.

People miss out on Glory and Joy because they look at the big picture instead of what lays right before them. People too often give up on little things because they don't see big results right away.

In the fall of my senior year of college something unexpected happened to me. The college tennis coach saw me hitting a tennis ball against a wall and asked me to come out and practice with the team. If you love tennis, you want to play against the best and our team was the best. Every afternoon was a delight as I ran through drills and played against the best tennis players I had ever seen. The coach even gave me personal instruction and the key to winning every tennis match which is to **focus on one thing.**

Let me explain what I mean, to win a tennis match you need to win 2 sets, to win a set you need to win 6 games, to win a game you need to win 4 points and be ahead by at least 2, to win a point you have to hit the ball past your opponent or be the last person to hit the ball inbounds. When I played in tournaments, I found that I had to hit 6 to 8 shots without an error to win 1 point. If I were to beat anyone I had to hit hundreds of good shots with very few errors. How could I do that? Not by focusing on the match, the set, the game, the point, the calls, my opponent, or the weather. My only

focus was on running to the ball, getting my feet set, and making a good swing every time. **In other words, I took care of what was in front of me and didn't worry about anything else.**

The same is true for success and joy in serving our Savior. **Great things happen when you do the little things that God has placed before you and you do it the best you can.** You don't worry about what happens next, or whether you will get credit, you just do what you can and then do what's next. Living in the moment, keeping your eyes on Jesus, and keeping your feet moving will lead to Glory and a lot of fun!

If you want to have a miraculous 2019, then focus on the little things. Little things like getting up on Sunday and joining us for Bible Study and Worship. Little things like sharing a good word to someone who is struggling. Little things like volunteering to work with children, cleaning up, or hosting a supper. Little things like inviting a friend to Blue Ridge. Great things will come if we keep it up everyday.

Little things matter to God. Colossians 4:5 says, "Make the most of every opportunity." Everyday and in every way, great things can happen! At Blue Ridge we are a people that do a lot of little things very well, so I believe some Big things are coming down the road!

In His Love,

Bro. John

Candle Lighting and Prayer Service
Sunday, January 6th at 11:00 AM
Join us as we pray for one another and ask God's blessing on 2019.

During worship in January we will explore what we believe and how we live out our faith.

During Disciple at 5:00 PM will be walking through the Beatitudes.

Don't miss a Sunday!

**Happy
New Year**



*Happy
New Year*



We Wish You a Happy New Year!

It's a New Year Given to Us by Our Lord!

It's a New Beginning of Actions and Expressions of Love in Honoring Him!

"I will extol the Lord at all times, his praise will always be on my lips" Psalm 34:1



We have so much to be thankful for as we look back on 2018! We had new members join us, the weddings of Ryan and Kelly Manni, Brooke and James Mistrot, and Madeline and Colby Cannon, a new baby named James Patrick Roney, a caring church family who ministered to each other and who cared for our building and grounds, those who visited the sick, recuperating, and the terminally ill. We had a wonderful Vacation Bible School with 38 adults who cared about God's Kingdom of kids and served in the evenings, Kids Klub where our adults shared food and Emily Riddle came and supported all that we did in the summer of 2018. We called out in prayer and to our members and friends for help in repairing our roof at a cost of \$16,500 and miraculously received over \$25,000.00. This amount will be needed to repair the damage of the leaks on the interior of the building. Praise the Lord!!! We give our Lord all the praise and thank Him for all those who prayed about what they could do in their lives to glorify our Lord and Savior and chose to do it!

We thank the Lord for Our Church and our Church Family!

Sunday, January 6, 2019 is a Special Day!



Candle Lighting and Prayer for our Families Service

In our first Morning Worship Service of the Year as the music plays, each family or a family member we will come forward to the pulpit to light a candle for their family as the congregation lifts them and their concerns up to the Lord. As you are seated, the next family in the pews will come forward. Bro. John will close us in prayer.

"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20



The New Year Dinner Bell Rings

Our Monthly Fellowship Meal and Business Meeting is on January 13 right after Morning Worship. Please bring your favorite Sunday Dinner main dishes and side dishes/ and or desserts to share with our family.



Thank You for the Beautiful Poinsettias...

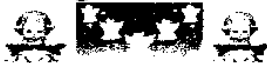
Given in Memory of:

Ruby Burnette (Shirley's Mom) by Buddy and Shirley Davis
Rubye Holley (Buddy's Mom) by Buddy and Shirley Davis
Joe and Kate Hansen by Susan and Brian Hansen
Louis Rogers and Beulah Wright by the Hansens, Bennetts, and Pembertons
Her Parents by JoAnn Woodfin
Ina and Howard Bayerle by Linda and Bill Hines
Gerri Z. Robbins by Glenn Hudson
Sam and Mae Belle Bass, Bill and Jane Sydnor, Lila Rose Bass by Dan and Susan Bass
Our Parents by Bro. John and Jackie Carney
Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Horn by Wendy and Rocky Aldridge
Mr. and Mrs. Eric E. Aldridge by Wendy and Rocky Aldridge
Given in Honor of:
Our Children and Our Grandchildren by Dan and Susan Bass
Bitsy, Jackie's Mother by Bro. John and Jackie Carney



Missions

Blue Ridge Ministries in December



Christmas Angels Thank You

Our church family provided a wonderful ministry for a family who would not otherwise have Christmas! Bro. John delivered 2 bicycles, 4 computer tablets, several outfits for each one, a Mother's robe, Rain boots, tennis shoes, Gift cards, socks, a watch, a doll head to make pretty, slime kits, a life-size doll, and a lot of love from you and Jesus. They had a Christmas morning they will never forget and you provided that blessing, just as He has provided for us! ♥ Pray for this family as the Sunshine Center provides them with safety and basic needs.



Thank you, church family for your constant giving to our Blue Ridge Missions Box. We give the food to the Elmore Food Pantry and the clothing and toys to the Men's and Women's Friendship Missions Centers and to the Renaissance House on Clayton Street in Montgomery which helps men get a fresh start in life.



Children's Ministry in January

6: Nursery & Toddlers: Bennett & Carney; CC: Wendy Aldridge
13: Nursery & Toddlers: Shirley Davis and Susan Bass; CC: Susan Hansen
20: Nursery & Toddlers: Barbara Harris CC: Christena Aldridge
27: Nursery and Preschool: Lorrie Sereneck; CC Susan Hansen



January Birthdays

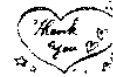
7 Bob Wisenbaker
8 Terry Graydon
9 Shirley Davis
17 James Mallonee
26 Donny Bozeman
30 Barbara Harris



We are looking for some monthly Fellowship Meal Hosts, so if you have not signed up, please do so in the office hallway. Just choose the tablecloths and centerpieces and bring the tea and bread and we are all set to enjoy each other's company.

A new year is God's way of saying: "No matter where you've been or what you've been through, you can always start fresh."

Bro. John will have a sermon series on "What Will You Do with What You Believe in 2019?" Come refresh your faith and discover how you can apply it to your life each new day. We are studying "The Beatitudes" on Sundays at 5 PM. Join us!



Thank You to the Cheathams and the Mallonees
Our church family thanks Don and Joyce Cheatham in Kentucky and James and Jody Mallonee now in Orange, Virginia for their very generous tithes and offerings they give to our Lord at Blue Ridge. They are so faithful in supporting our ministries and we thank God for them.

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers and calls as I underwent eye surgery for the 3rd time. I praise God for good results. I am so blessed with such a loving, caring church family-as we all are.

Love in Christ, Jackie Carney

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Candle Lighting and Prayer Service, Sunday January 6th
Praise God, we reached our goal for our roof repair!

JANUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																	
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