

# BLUE RIDGE

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## From My Heart

**T**he good old summer time is here! I love everything about summer even the heat. I do wish that things were a little more like the good old summer time of my youth. Things seemed safer back then. I remember my folks would tell me to get out of the house and find something to do. I would leave and wouldn't come back for hours. Nobody knew where I was and nobody was concerned. Today if your child disappears for 15 minutes we call the FBI and call out the search dogs. Things were a lot safer or my parents were just trying to get rid of me.

One thing that is better than ever is VBS! Growing up, VBS was fun. We heard some Bible stories, drank lots of red Kool-Aid, ate some rock hard cookies, made some weird craft out of old Clorox bottles, and played Red Rover (It is amazing that somebody didn't break their arm every year, that is one tough game.). VBS was fun and kids got saved, but it is better today!

Years ago when I was a youth minister, VBS had kind of lost its way. It became way too complicated and boring. I remember attending a training clinic and in order to teach the first day's lesson I had to turn to page 18, 54, 129, and then back to page 7. The teacher's book looked like one of my college text books.

In 1997 everything changed. They started over from scratch. They kept the good focusing on the Bible and developing relationships and they made important changes. They made it **simple!** You do not need to be a Bible scholar to teach VBS, you just need to have a willing spirit. They made it evangelistic and foundational. Kids today have very little foundation in God's Word and they have not been presented with the Gospel. That first new VBS was the *Wild and Wonderful Good News Stampede* and it focused on one verse John 3:16. You can't get

anymore foundational than that and kids responded in a big way. They also made it really **Fun!** Each year we have a fun theme. This year we are a kid's club and all the children are *Galactic Starveyors* who are going to "Discover the God of the Universe". The church will be transformed and it will all be exciting. They also made everything in VBS **integrated**. Our Bible stories are taught through study and games in the Club House. The kids move on to music where they learn songs written just for this VBS that affirm the Bible story they have just been taught. The music is fun, peppy, and very touching. They then move on to crafts and missions which also reaffirm the Bible message. Before it is done they will also get some snacks that are not only delicious, but you guessed it, that reinforce the Bible message.

They also added two more things to VBS. A "can't miss", dynamite **Worship Rally** that gets the kids hopping and also has a video each night which will make them laugh and get them thinking about Jesus. On the fourth night of VBS we have a special time where we pull it all together and give the kids an opportunity to choose Jesus and to get some special counseling.

**When you put it all together it is one unforgettable life changing week.** The good news I have for you today is that some things are better than ever before and VBS is one of them!

Let's all be in prayer for what God wants to do at VBS this month. Invite the kids in your neighborhood! Come join us, it will make your summer!

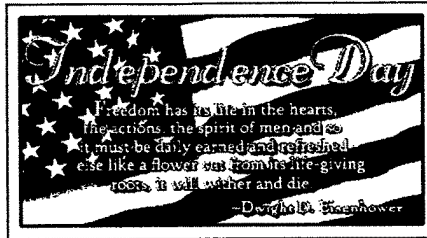
Make sure to join us every Sunday for **Camp Meeting Days**. We are having some great music and lately we have been able to celebrate the baptism of Madlee Cannon and Trey Bethea. Something good is happening every week!

*In His Love,*

*Bro. John*



**HOME  
OF THE  
FREE  
BECAUSE  
OF THE  
BRAVE**



## July Church Celebrations!

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| ★ July 4 <sup>th</sup> | Independence Day                        |
| ★ July 9               | Monthly Fellowship Lunch                |
| ★ July 9-13            | Galactic Starveyors VBS 2017            |
| ★ July 16              | VBS Family Night, Musical, & Open House |
| ★ July 21-24           | Youth Mission Trip                      |

★ **VBS Motto for Galactic Starveyors:**  
Searching the Visible, Discovering the Invisible

★ **Our VBS Scripture:** ★  
Colossians 1:15-16

*"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by Him, in Heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or authorities- all things have been created through Him and for Him."*

Please pray for our VBS children (Starveyors) that the Lord sends our way. Pray for those who cannot be here, but have offered supply help. Pray for open minds, open hearts, patience, kindness, and Jesus' love to shine.



### VBS Reminder



Please contribute to our VBS Space Station Store where the children will spend their coupons they have earned for Good Conduct, Bringing friends, Memory Verse, Bringing Bible, and Attendance. They love school supplies, toys, and snacks from WalMart and the Dollar stores. The parents and kids love to go shopping with their Blue Ridge coupons on Family Night.

★ **Teachers Make A Difference-**

**Prayer List for our VBS Leadership**  
Shelly Bennett, Madeline, and Katie Bennett  
Amy Brown, Morgan and Sydney Brown

David Brown  
Emily Riddle  
Wendy Aldridge  
Christena Aldridge  
Shirley Davis  
Jim and Barbara Harris  
Susan Hansen  
Renee' Miller and Ashley Bonasera  
Catarina Elliott and Chasity Elliott  
Gracie Briggum  
Catarina Elliott  
Trey Bethea  
Madlee Cannon  
Ryan Manni

Marilyn McGrady and Linda Jones  
Reagan and Andrew Brown  
Jim Beck  
Janet Mann

**Bro. John Carney and Jackie Carney**  
*Come and join us any night that you can spare and you will receive a blessing!*

**Welcome to our Church Family**



**By Baptism:**  
**Trey Bethea**  
 440 Price Road  
 Wetumpka, Alabama 36093

**By Baptism:**  
**Madlee Cannon**  
 4110 Jug Factory Road  
 Wetumpka, Alabama 36093

**Welcome to Sunday School**

<b>Don and Emily Roney</b>	<b>Coed</b>
<b>Avery Roney</b>	<b>Preschool Class</b>
<b>Evelyn Roney</b>	<b>Preschool Class</b>
<b>Caroline Roney</b>	<b>Nursery</b>



*All ladies are invited to a  
 Baby Shower  
 Honoring  
 Ashley Miller Bonasera  
 on  
 Saturday, July 8, 2017  
 at 2:00 pm  
 at New Home Baptist Church  
 Ashley is registered at Amazon.com*

**Children's Ministry**

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



**Let's Help the Family of drowning victim, Dustin Levi Ragan, young father of 4. Their needs: Huggie size 4 diapers (allergic to others), size 2-3T Pull-ups, Vanilla soy milk formula, Baby wipes, donations to Gassett Funeral home to cover funeral expenses.**



**2 Corinthians 3:17**

**<sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.**



**Special Thank You's**

We praise the Lord and ask His special blessings on the families of Dr. Don and Joyce Cheatham and James and Jody Mallonee. As they are in Kentucky and in England, they do not forget the church they consider their "home". We are so thankful for their sending their tithes and offerings and for praying for Blue Ridge. We pray they know how much we love them and cherish them.

**★HAPPY★  
 JULY BIRTHDAY! JULY**

- 1 Kenny Wilkerson
- 2 Anne Funchess
- 7 Buddy Davis
- 9 Jody Mallonee  
Henry Blake
- 14 Brooke Riddle
- 17 David Funchess
- 27 Shelly Bennett
- 31 Trent and Tyler Aldridge



**Youth News and Views**



**YAY!** It's July and it's time for our Youth Mission Trip. We are headed south to help in the Mobile Baptist Association outreach efforts. Please pray for us as we go July 21-24. We thank you for your prayer and financial support to help our trip possible.



**Kid's Klub**



We have had so much fun this summer meeting with Christian friends on Tuesdays at Kids Klub. We had outdoor and indoor games, snacks, crafts, Bible Stories, music, lunch, and fun playing together. We thank the Harris' for loaning us their Cornhole game and for snacks, as well as Emily Riddle, the Davis', and Jim Beck. We thank Emily Riddle, Ryan Manni and Jim Beck for helping us out each week.

**Remember to INVITE FRIENDS to VBS!**

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

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**Galactic Starveyors VBS 2017 July 9-13**  
**Fellowship Lunch & VBS Family Night July 16**

# JULY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Counting and Lock Up Terry Graydon					1 Pray for VBS July 9-13
2 Discipleship 5:00 PM	3 Visitation 7:00 PM	4 <b>Independence Day</b> Office Closed	5 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	6	7	8 Invite Someone to VBS July 9-13
9 VBS Kick-Off <i>Galactic Starveyors</i> 6:30-8:30 PM	10 <i>Galactic Starveyors</i> 6:30-8:30 PM	11 <i>Galactic Starveyors</i> 6:30-8:30 PM	12 <i>Galactic Starveyors</i> 6:30-8:30 PM	13 <i>Galactic Starveyors</i> 6:30-8:30 PM	14	15
16 Fellowship Lunch VBS Family Night 6:30 PM	17 Visitation 7:00 PM	18	19 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups* 7:00 PM	20	21 <i>Youth Mission Trip</i>	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	31 Visitation 7:00 PM	June 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		August 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		<b>Notes:</b> Coming Up! VBS Family Night 9-Jul 16-Jul