

BLUE RIDGE

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From My Heart

Spring will be here before we know it. I love spring. Blue Ridge is beautiful in the spring. It is a time when you feel like getting outside and moving. Baseball begins, the grass turns green, and everything has a transformation. Everything in God's creation gets a fresh start and who doesn't want a fresh start.

A great verse comes to mind when I think about spring, it is Romans 12:2, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will." In Christ we can be transformed and reborn. As Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". Jesus said we can have a full and abundant life, but too often many of those who have found the grace of God have missed out on the satisfying and meaningful life that Jesus promised. The question is why?

I think I found the answer as I gazed at my golf clubs and thought of many springs gone by. As a teenager I took an interest in golf, so my Dad bought me some used clubs and took me to the links. We had a lot of fun, but I was never very good. I had a terrible slice. If you're not familiar with golf, a slice is when you hit the ball and it goes straight at first and then suddenly starts slicing to the right (if you're right handed like me). The problem with that is that no matter how hard you try to aim it, the ball never goes where you want it to go. I spent most of my days watching my ball sail into the rough, the trees, sand traps, and my favorite, various bodies of water. My dad saw my frustration and signed me up for golf lessons.

The golf pro who taught my lessons was a great teacher and very patient. In the first lesson he changed my grip, my stance, and how I started my swing.

All the changes felt awkward and unnatural, but I tried to do what he taught me. We started with a nine iron, taking only a half swing. The first ball I hit went only 50 yards, but it went straight. I took a full swing and the ball sailed 100 yards as straight as an arrow. He then pulled out my driver, I told him, "I can't hit a driver." He said, "You will today." I took a swing and I heard a huge WACK, I looked up and saw the ball sailing higher and higher into the sky straight down the middle. I hit one after another, father and father, each one straight. It was amazing!

That brings us to one question, why is your Pastor not on the PGA tour. There are many reasons for that, but the number one is something called practice. After that wonderful lesson I didn't pick up the clubs for a week or two. As time passed, I slowly went back to what felt natural and started losing lots of golf balls in the rough and ponds.

My failure on the golf course mirrors many folks failure in their Christian life. They have been given a fresh start, a wonderful guide, the perfect instruction of God's Word, and the power of the Holy Spirit to live out a blessed life. The only thing that stands in the way is the practice of daily living for Jesus. It will feel unnatural because it is unlike any kind of life the world offers. It will not always be easy and sometimes you will find yourself in the rough, but in time God will do a mighty work in your life and you will be hitting straight and far!

March is going to be great, lots of fellowship, food, celebration, and a new Bible Study for anyone who doesn't have one and looking for a new beginning.

Don't forget our Men's Breakfast at 7:30 AM and the Starter Class at 10:00 AM this Sunday, March 5th.

See you Sunday!

In His Love,

Bro. John





March



A Magnificent March Awaits You at Blue Ridge
Invite Someone to Come With You Every Sunday and Wednesday!

March 5	Brotherhood Breakfast ☼ New Starter Class Begins in Fellowship Hall ☼
March 12	Daylight Savings Time Begins ☼ Monthly Fellowship Lunch
March 19	Youth Fundraiser Lunch
March 20	Spring Begins ☼
March 26	Baby Shower for Eric and Nicole Aldridge



Brotherhood Breakfast Sunday, March 5, 2017

All men and boys of Blue Ridge are invited to the best breakfast in town. Thank you to our Brotherhood Director, Terry Graydon for organizing a great breakfast for you. Our Blue Ridge men will be up and ready to do some great cooking. Rev. George Smith is our guest speaker and he will bring us a challenging message.



The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

Announcing a New Morning Sunday School Class
If you are not currently in a class, Bro. John invites you to something new! Our Starters Class begins on Sunday, March 5 at 10:00 am.

We begin with a 5 week study from the Disciples Path entitled, "The Beginning, First Steps". No one will be called on, you will be comfortable, and this class will help to make Jesus the center of your life, moving you toward the full, joyous, and exciting life He promises each of us. All ages, men and women, single, married are invited. The coffee pot will be on and we have a book for you.

I Always Thank God For You

We really appreciate Faith Verburg filling in for Linda Graydon when Linda has to be out. She plays beautifully. Of course, we always appreciate Linda Graydon and Susan Hansen for leading us every Sunday. They always serve with talent given from God and a smile. We thank Jim Harris for keeping us updated on our church website. We thank Jim and Barbara for the beautiful centerpieces you will see on the Fellowship Hall tables in April. Thank you to Larrie and Owen Serenack for hosting our March Fellowship Meal. Thank you to Marilyn McGrady and Shirley Davis for hosting our February Fellowship Meal. What a joy to have the Cheathams visit with us on February 12. They were on their way to give a scholarship to a deserving Auburn Veterinary student at their Annual Banquet there. They are such wonderful people and we are blessed to have them remain a part of our church family, even though they have relocated to Kentucky. They share their friendship and their tithes with us at Blue Ridge. We thank the Mallonees for their faithful tithes and offerings and we thank God for His healing for Lynn. It was great to hear from James this month. Thank you to Jim Beck for making a gracious many church address labels. Thank you to Shelly Bennett for keeping our church looking great. Thank you to Buddy Davis for the best looking lawn in the area.

A Note From James Mallonee

Hey John, Jackie and Blue Ridge Baptist!
 Jody has been in the States taking care of our babies so she hasn't made the tithe like she was going to do. She left the checkbook at the house. I've been thinking about it and wanted to make sure it got to you.

Wanted to let you know that y'all are in our hearts wherever we go. Blue Ridge is still our "Home" church.

James

A Note From Barbara Harris

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for thinking of me during my recent surgery and recovery. Your calls, cards, and especially your prayers mean so much.

I am thankful for my caring church family.

Love,
 Barbara Harris



All Blue Ridge Ladies are invited to
 A Baby Shower
 Honoring
 Nicole and Baby Rylie Aldridge
 On

Sunday, March 25, 2017

At 2:00-3:30 pm

In the Fellowship Hall.

Nicole is registered at Target.



Youth News and Views

Getting Ready for a Summer Missions Trip

The Youth and parents will host a Fundraiser Lunch on March 19th right after Morning Worship. We appreciate any donations you want to give.

Daylight Savings Time Begins on Sunday,
 March 12, 2017



Get Up and Move It to Church!



Our Christian love and sympathy are expressed to Dan and Susan Bass and family in the passing of Dan's Mother, Mae Belle Bass at 96 years old in Enterprise, Alabama.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

God Bless You in March

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 2 | Troy Lauritson |
| 4 | Fay Milton |
| 6 | Joyce Cheatham
Eric Aldridge |
| 24 | Don Cheatham |
| 25 | Katrina Elliott |
| 28 | Keith Pendley |
| 30 | David Brown
Marisa Logsdon |



March Children's Ministry



- 5: Nursery: Bennett; Toddlers: Carney; CC: Aldridge
 12: Nursery: Amy Brown; Toddlers: Carney; CC: Haman
 19: Nursery: Kay Bowman; Toddlers: Janet Johnson; CC: Christena & Tyler Aldridge
 26: Nursery: Bennett; Toddlers: Carney; CC: Haman

Kid's Korner

Come Fly a Kite! We will go outside to fly a kite in the beautiful skies of March right after lunch on March 12. Bring your favorite kite and string and we see how high we can go!



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 and \$16.50.
 Your Name: _____

Given In Memory of: _____

Given in Honor of: _____

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

Amount enclosed: _____

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Spring

Men's Breakfast and Starter Class March 5
Fellowship Lunch March 12
Aldridge Baby Shower March 26

MARCH 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Counting and Lock Up David Brown		1 Prayer & Thank 6:00 PM YOUTH 6:10 Men's Group 7:30 PM	2	3	4
5 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Starter Class Begins 10 AM Discipleship 3 PM	6 Worship 7:00 PM	7	8 Prayer & Thank 6:00 PM Youth and Men's Group 7:30 PM	9	10	11 Turn your Clocks Ahead 1 Hour Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday
12 Fellowship Lunch Children's KID Day Discipleship 3 PM	13 Worship 7:00 PM	14	15 Prayer & Thank 6:00 PM Youth and Men's Group 7:30 PM	16	17	18
19 Youth Fundraiser Lunch Basketball 6:30 PM	20 Worship 7:00 PM Spring Baptist	21	22 Prayer & Thank 6:00 PM Youth and Men's Group 7:30 PM	23	24	25
26 Baby Shower for a Grand Aldridge 2:00 PM Discipleship 3:00 PM	27	28	29 Prayer & Thank 6:00 PM Youth and Men's Group 7:30 PM	30 WIT US ON The web at blueridgebaptistchurch.net	31	
February 2017 S M T W T F S 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28			April 2017 S M T W T F S 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			Notice Coming Up! Fellowship Lunch 8 Apr Easter Celebration 10 Apr