

BLUE RIDGE

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Anniversary Celebration	May 7
Mother's Day	May 14
Graduate Recognition	May 14

From My Heart

May is the month we celebrate our Anniversary at Blue Ridge. It was 52 years ago in May that it all began on the Cranford's lawn. On these celebrations it is a good time to sit down and think about who we are and what God has called us to do as members of His family at Blue Ridge. I have come up with three verbs that describe what God has called us to do at Blue Ridge and to my joy we do it all the time. We are called to **Eat, Invite, and Equip.**

It doesn't sound spiritual, but it is! We **Eat** at Blue Ridge. We eat all the time and we eat well. We share covered dishes every month, we eat feasts at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and on our Anniversary, the men eat the best Breakfast in town and hear great speakers, the youth prepare us lunch most every month, we eat hotdogs and chili in the fall, and we are constantly having some kind of treat to celebrate or honor somebody. Why do we eat? Because that's what Christians do, "They devoted themselves to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread. They ate their food with a joyful and humble attitude" (Acts 2:42, 46). We eat because that is what a family does. We eat together to celebrate, we bring food together to comfort, and we always eat to have a good time. We take Romans 12:15 seriously, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep". It is a joy to serve with you. Years ago I worked with a group of folks who would not open a can of green beans in Jesus' name. If you were not in their Sunday School class, you did not exist.

Ours is a caring fellowship. Not only do we joyfully celebrate together, but we also stand with folks in need. I have been there as you have helped fix plumbing, provided meals every week all summer for someone fighting cancer, given Christmas to needy kids, and stood with those who have experienced loss. Some of the folks that you have stood with, you have

being taken advantage of, but I call it grace and it pleases the heart of God. At Blue Ridge we **EAT!**

At Blue Ridge we **Invite.** We are in the business of reaching out. That is why VBS is such a big deal. 25% of everybody that ever gets saved is saved through VBS. At Blue Ridge we all pitch in to make VBS happen. In some churches only those who have school age kids' help out, but at Blue Ridge if you are warm and breathing you probably have something to do with VBS. We thank God for you!

At Blue Ridge we seek creative ways to make friends in the name of Jesus. We have Fall Festival and invite children from miles around to trunk or treat and that's you! We have community meetings with programs about safety with the sheriff, gardening with the county extension, hospice, and once we even taught ladies self defense. There is not a door we have not knocked on and not a mail box that has not received an invitation to Blue Ridge.

At Blue Ridge we **Equip.** If Timothy 3:17 says that God has given us His Word, "so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." We are in the business of equipping. Every sermon I prepare proclaims the Good News and lays down a foundation for how to live your life in Christ. Over the years we have equipped our folks to share their faith, to make their kids mind without losing their minds, to enrich their marriages, to become prayer warriors, and much more. More than once we have walked the entire congregation through the basics of our faith just so everybody has a solid foundation. Our youth are constantly given the basics of the faith and have been taken to hear the best speakers in the nation who have challenged them to live a transformed life in a crooked world.

Blue Ridge is a great place and through God's grace we will continue eating, inviting, and equipping. Hope to see you Sunday as we celebrate another year of service to our Savior- 52 Years!

In His Love,



Bro. John



52 Years Old and Growing in the Lord!

The First Sunday in May, on the 7th, is our
52nd Church Anniversary Celebration!

Join us as we have a special Worship Service with Reborn Harmony, Clarence Mann, Faith Verburg, and Susan Hansen. Our guest and charter member, Rev. Steve Rogers will share about our church history and Bro. John will share about "Who We Are" at Blue Ridge. Look at the pictures of the past around the church. Stay for a delicious lunch featuring ham, turkey, dressing, and any dishes and desserts you would like to bring and share with our church family. We will have a big church birthday cake and other desserts. Thank you to our Anniversary Committee for planning for this great historical event.

Happy Mother's Day!



Everybody bring your Mother, Grandmother, and other friends and relatives who are like a Mother to you to church on Sunday, May 14, Bro. John will share a sweet message for them and we will have a nice gift for each Mother present.



This is a day to remember those who have served in service for our country. We will have a table in the Sanctuary on May 28 for your pictures, medals, or memorabilia of loved ones who served.



Youth News and Views



We thank you, church family, for your faithful support for our Youth through our fundraisers and your generous donations.



Our 2017 Baccalaureate Service

Is on Sunday, May 14

Come join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of our own Blue Ridge students. We will have a Sunday bulletin with an insert sharing about each one.

Morgan Brown
Edgewood Academy

J.J. Cannon
Wetumpka High School

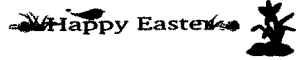
Katie Bennett
Middle School Graduate at Churchill Academy

Justin Brown
6th grade Graduate at Edgewood Academy

Benjamin Lowry
Redland Elementary

Brantley Kay Bozeman
Wetumpka Kindergarten

These young people have been a true blessing to us all of their lives and we pray God's blessings on them as they pursue the next stage of their lives.



We had a joyful time of Worship on Easter Sunday! Thank you to everyone who led us in worship; Bro. John, Reborn Harmony, Faith Verburg, Clarence Mann, the Children's Choir and Youth Drama Team, and Terry Graydon, along with everyone who came and participated in Worship, sharing smiles, and welcoming our family and friends. Thank you to our Bible Study teachers as well.

Thank you to Jim and Barbara Harris for beautifully decorating the Fellowship Hall for the Easter season. Jim made the beautiful cross centerpieces and Barbara gave the table runners in the hallways and on the Lord's Supper table. She created the flower arrangement on the Lord's Supper table.

We all got a treat basket with a reminder of Jesus' Resurrection and candy from Jim. We had a joyful time of Worship on Easter Sunday

Clean Up Week for Easter

Here are some of the folks that came to spruce up the church for Easter: Buddy and Shirley Davis, Terry Graydon, Jim and Barbara Harris, Owen and Lorrie Sereneck, David Funchess, Marilyn McGrady, Shelly Bennett, and Bro. John and Jackie Carney. Thank you!

Thank you for the Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas for our Services

We enjoyed the beautiful flowers you gave for our Palm Sunday and Easter services.

In Memory of:

Ruby Burnette, Shirley's Mother by Buddy and Shirley Davis
 Rubye Holley, Buddy's Mother, by Buddy and Shirley Davis
 Rosa Nell Woodfin, her Mother, by JoAnn Woodfin
 Bill and Jane Sydnor, Susan Bass' Parents
 Sam and Mae Belle Bass, Dan Bass' Parents
 Lila Rose Bass, Susan and Dan Bass' granddaughter
 Aubrey and Bonnie Horn and Eric and Annie Aldridge, their parents, by Rocky and Wendy Aldridge

In Honor of:

Our Mothers, Marge and Bitsy, by Bro. John and Jackie
 Our children and precious grandchildren by Dan and Susan Bass



Blue Ridge Missions Box



**Food Pantry
Donations Needed**

Our Missions Box is open for your spring and summer items you would like to donate for men, women, and children in need. Also, we are collecting boxed macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, and oatmeal for the Elmore County Food Pantry.

Happy Birthday

- 1 Jayme Mallonee Mercer
- 3 Favor Williams
- 5 Jack Lamasney
Hannah Greenshields
- 6 Cindy Singleton
- 8 Gracie Briggum
- 9 Kristina Mallette
- 10 Susan Owen
Morgan Carney Lott
Ryan Manni
- 11 Wendy Chambliss
- 24 Linda Jones
- 26 Makinsey Parker
- 27 Don Jones
Theresa Hill
- 28 Brittany Hill



- 7: Nursery & Toddlers: Bennett; CC: Aldridge
- 14: Nursery & Toddlers: Amy Brown; CC: Hansen
- 21: Nursery & Toddlers: Kay Bozeman & Janet Johnson; CC: Christena & Tyler Aldridge
- 28 Nursery: Bennett; Toddlers: Carney; CC: Hansen



Kid's Korner



The Children's Easter Musical and Youth Drama were quite meaningful to our Easter Service. We thank Emily Riddle for leading us that morning. We thank Renee' Miller for leading the children in the VBS Music ongoing rehearsals. Remember VBS launches on July 9-13.

We have had a major cleaning in our Preschool and Children's Wing. Thank you to all who have helped! School is out this month and remember church is ongoing!



Spring Fling is An Old Fashioned Down on the Farm Day on May 28!

After a Hotdog Lunch, we will head outdoors for Tug of War, Egg Toss, Corn Shucking, Pie Eating, Cotton Stuffin', Sack Races, Face Painting, Corn Hole, and more fun than you can shake a stick at. Invite your friends and neighbors!

Blue Ridge Baptist Church
 4471 Jasmine Hill Road
 Wetumpka, Alabama 36093
www.blueridgebaptistchurch.net

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 36093

Happy Anniversary

Anniversary Celebration and Lunch May 7
Mother's Day and Graduate Recognition May 14

MAY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Counting and Lock Up David Funchess	2	3 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	4	5	6
7 Anniversary Celebration and Lunch	8 Visitation 7:00 PM	9	10 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day Graduate Recognition	15 Visitation 7:00 PM	16	17 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	18	19	20
21 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 Memorial Day Service Old Fashion Field Day Discipleship 5:00 PM	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30	31 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	Visit us on the web at blueridgebaptistchurch.net		
		April 2017 S M T W Th F Sa 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	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	Notes: Coming Up! Father's Day 18-Jun VBS 9-Jul		