

# BLUE RIDGE

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## From My Heart

**F**ebruary is the love month. Often with love, we focus on romantic love and that sends us in two directions. In one direction we find ourselves head over heels having discovered the love of our life who loves us back. In the other direction we find Charlie Brown standing beside an empty mailbox on Valentine's Day. "No sweetheart for you, Charlie Brown". A lot of folks can relate to Charlie Brown. I remember being in 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Mr. Rayborn's class. Only one boy had a girlfriend, his name was Rod. Most of the rest of the boys wanted one, but didn't have a clue how to get one and Rod wasn't giving up his secret.

Romantic love can cause you to soar and can also can send you crashing to the ground, but I have something very unromantic to share with you this Valentine month. It is a message that can enable you to keep alive the special relationship you hold dear to your heart, it can enable you to experience more of the love of the Heavenly Father, and it can brighten someone's life in ways you would never imagine.

**The message I have to share is this: if you want to keep the love of your life, then learn the importance of, "the daily drip of faithfulness."** That phrase was used by one of our speakers at The Smoky Mountain Bible Conference. He used it in reference to our service to God. He said that when you add it up, the greatest things done for God were not big grandiose efforts, but small daily sacrifices. **That got me to thinking; the secret to a love relationship is not the big things, but the small ones.**

Do not get me wrong, big things are important too. A ring, a wedding, an anniversary gift, and much more are all important. All those things matter and will be remembered, but if you want your love to stay warm, if you want to keep a twinkle in their eye then it is not the big things, but the daily things that

matter.

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians he shared the secret to love, "Love is patient, love is kind." (I Cor. 13:4) You would think it was something bigger than that, but it is not. If you want love in your life, then do something kind for the one you love everyday. It may not seem romantic, but it keeps romance alive.

This little phrase certainly matters in our relationship to God, too. Do you love God? We would all say, "Yes!" But, when do we prove that love? If Sunday is the only day that you show love to God then maybe you do not love Him as much as you think you do. Jesus said we are to, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and all your mind." That kind of love takes more than one day a week to express, it needs to be expressed every day of the week. How do you express love to God? Jesus said, "You are my friend if you obey Me." We show love to God daily by putting Him first, by daily choosing to honor Him in what we say and do. It may not be earth shattering, but it will keep you close to the heart of God.

Finally, Jesus said the second greatest command is to, "Love your neighbor as yourself." How often are you kind and considerate of the person you see in the mirror every morning? The answer better be every day! God wants you to love yourself, but He also wants you to love those around you. How do you show love for yourself? Do you throw yourself a party everyday? I hope not. In the same way, God is asking us to show small considerations and kindness for those He has placed in your life. A call, a note, a kind word, or a small gesture can be a life changer.

This month let's all learn the power of, "The small drip of faithfulness". I love you all and count it a great privilege to serve as your pastor. See you Sunday!

*In His Love*

*Bro. John*

*Happy  
Valentine's  
Day*



**"For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son...." John 3:16**  
**Come to Blue Ridge for a**



## *Fabulous February*

- ♥ *Make Friendship Card Contacts All Month*
- ♥ *Family Fellowship Meal on February 12*
- ♥ *Children's Valentine Party on February 12*
- ♥ *Youth Fun and Fundraiser Lunch on February 19*

**God's Love is Everlasting and Never Fails!**



### *Make Friendship Contacts In February*

Is someone on your heart that needs a contact? Maybe you want to invite them to church or you have been missing them at church. Maybe they have an ongoing illness or a loss in their life. We have postcards available for your use to make those contacts this month. As you send them, you might hear, "thank you, you sent me that card at just the right time." Pray about those God would have you reach out to and see the cards in the back of the Sanctuary each Sunday this month.

*"If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" 1 John 4:11*



*Invite your friends and family to our Monthly Fellowship Meal On Sunday, February 12 Right after Morning Worship. Bring your favorite Sunday Dinner dish and/or dessert to share and your sweetheart or friends to join us. Shirley Davis and Marilyn McGrady are our hostesses.*



### **Kid's Korner**

It's love month at church and we are going to celebrate with a Valentine Party for you! We have our Fellowship Lunch on the 12<sup>th</sup>, so we will stay after that delicious meal and then have our party. Bring Valentines for everybody and we will drop them in special containers made just for you. We will play games and you will have a Valentine goody bag to take home with you. Let your teachers know if you want to bring a friend. We will honor God in all we do. Remember, He loves you and we do, too.

Let's remember to love and honor our teachers who are waiting on us every Sunday and Wednesday. They have volunteered to pray, plan, and teach you because they want to share God's love and knowledge about His Holy Bible with you. They love you. They have been called out by God to spend this year with you and all of the years they teach His children at Blue Ridge. Let's thank God for Mrs. Shelly, Miss Janet, Mrs. Jackie, Mrs. Amy, Mrs. Susan, Mrs. Christena, Mr. Tyler, Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Wendy, and Bro. John and Jackie. We love and appreciate Mrs. Renee, too, as she joins us in Children's Church sometimes. Mrs. Barbara teaches us special topics and helps in Children's Church as well. Our church life is so much better because of them! We covet the prayers and support of those who remain in class as those listed above step out to serve in the Children's Wing of the church. See you at the Valentine Party on the 12<sup>th</sup>!



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

*Make the Connection*

**Welcome to Sunday School and Worship**

**Owen Sorenack**



**Good!!**



### Our "New" Church Sign

Have you seen the new look on our church sign, especially the beautiful cross Jim made and the new, clearer lettering. We really thank Jim and Barbara Harris for their vision for the sign and all the improvements they have tirelessly made on our neighborhood information sign, which helps all of us remember. Jim's next dream is to light the sign for all to see, day or night. Well done, Jim!



**Missions at Blue Ridge**  
Remember that we have our ongoing clothing and blanket, etc. collection for the homeless in our area. Adult, teenage, children, and preschool items are needed and appreciated.

### Thank You

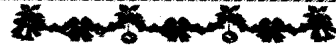
Our church family is so blessed with wonderful members who share their gifts and talents and who look around our house and grounds to see what needs there are. We thank Buddy Davis for cleaning our landscaping. We thank Jim Harris for his continuous work on our church sign and for the wood projects he makes for the church. He also oversaw the cutting of trees over our playground. We thank David Funchess for caring for the courtyard. We thank Jim Beck for providing the binding on our new church directories and for providing van gas and financial support for our Winter Youth Bible Conference. We thank Susan Hansen, Susan Bass, Linda Graydon, and Faith Verberg for leading us in worship on Sundays. We thank Clarence Mann, Reborn Harmony, and the Children's Choir for providing beautiful special music for us during our Sunday Worship. We thank Bro. John for driving our church van, for the cleaning he does inside the church, and for trimming the bushes outside. We thank Shelly Bennett for keeping our church building sparkling clean and for all the cleaning and kitchen and bathroom supplies she and Vincent provide. We thank her for very nice bulletin boards she and Jackie come up with each month. We thank Susan Hansen for the kitchen supplies. We thank all of our monthly Fellowship Lunch hosts and hostesses for creating our happy Fellowship Hall environments. We thank Barbara Harris for the table and hallway arrangements and beautiful table runners she provides. We thank everyone for their financial and prayer support for our many church ministries that are ongoing.

We thank Dr. Don and Joyce Cheatham and James and Jody Mallonee for their continuous support and heartfelt prayers and expressions of love for our church through their sending their tithes and offerings from Kentucky and England. We thank God for you!



### It's A Boy!

Congratulations to Scott and Lynn Mallonee Lee on the birth of a boy, James Paul on December 16. James (JP) weighed 10 lbs. 2 oz. and was 21 1/2" long. We praise God that Lynn has recovered from having blood clots in her lungs after giving birth. She is back at home in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Pray for her Mom, Jody Mallonee as she has come from England to help the family. We pray God's blessings on this special family. Remember James and Gina back in England.



### Thank You From Our Angel Family Mother

God shows His love through the warmth and kindness of special people like you.

Thank you and God bless,  
Rachel Cook and Family  
Luke 6:38!!

Philippians 4:19

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches and glory Christ Jesus.



### YOUTH NEWS AND VIEWS IN FEBRUARY



Here we are back in Wetumpka, fresh from our Bible Conference in Gatlinburg. What a great gathering! We saw 1122 Youth make decisions!!! We had a Youth Pastor pray over the entire crowd of 9200 and name every kind of sin we could have in our lives and ask God's cleansing of our hearts and minds. It was powerful! We heard great worship leaders, with *IV God and Country*, a great band, giving the most strong message to us, as our young people are Princesses of God and Princes of God and how they need to, and can re-purify and/or remain pure in their lives and respect each other. We truly thank our church family for making this trip possible.

We will have a Youth Fundraiser Meal on February 19 and then have some fun time together.



### February Birthdays



- 3 Kenneth Owen
- 7 Rocky Aldridge
- 12 Morgan Brown
- 19 Jordan Williams
- Marilyn McGrady
- 25 Susan Hansen
- 29 Susan Bass



### February Children's Ministry



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

### Brotherhood Breakfast is Coming Up!



Men, we have a great Brotherhood Breakfast coming up the first Sunday in March. As always, our men prepare the best breakfast in town (with the help of Barbara's gravy) and the fellowship builds us up. Rev. George Smith, a long-time friend, will be our speaker. All boys and men are invited. We thank Terry Graydon, our Director, for organizing this great event.

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

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Fellowship Lunch February 12  
 Children's Valentine Party February 12  
 Youth Fundraiser Lunch February 19

# FEBRUARY 2017

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