

# BLUE RIDGE

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## From My Heart

*C*hristmas is a wondrous time of year. It is a time when we all get nostalgic and children get a twinkle in their eyes. One of the fun things to watch is children and their parents visiting the mall Santa. The parents are excited about getting that perfect picture and a lot of the kids are not too sure why Mom and Dad have put them on the knee of this white bearded stranger.

When our daughter was young I remember two Santa stories that touched my heart. For most of her preschool years they had the same Santa at the mall. She enjoyed seeing him year after year. One year we took a break from shopping and ate dinner in the food court. At the same time the Santa was taking a break and walking across the mall. Morgan asked if she could go speak to him. She caught up to him and they talked for a little bit and then they held hands and walked across the mall. They came to the Santa door, she said good bye and then came skipping back to us. It is one thing to tell Santa what you want and another thing to walk hand and hand with him.

Another time Morgan's class got to meet Santa at school and they taped it and put it on cable TV. When it was Morgan's turn to tell Santa what she wanted, she had had only one request, "A kitten". Being a smart Santa he tried to steer her to other gifts, a doll, a dress, a car, anything but a pet. Morgan did not bite, "I just want a kitten." Shortly after the kids appeared on TV I got a call, "I have Morgan's kitten", said a Vet friend. I was not sure we were ready for another cat, but the voice on the other end of the line said, "We can't let Morgan down" and that's how we got a cat named Peaches. Yes, Christmas is a time of the year when your wishes come true and you walk hand in hand with people you only dream about.

When you think about it, that is what the first Christmas was all about. **John 1:14** tells the story, "*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*" The God of creation walked among us. People got to see God face to face, hear His words, and feel his touch. Think of it, little children sat with Him, walked with Him, and were blessed by Him. People also called His name and asked for their deepest wishes to come true and they were healed, saw their loved loves rise from the dead. If that doesn't fill you with wonder nothing ever will.

Because of the first Christmas we have hope of so much more. He died for us on the cross for our sins, rose from the dead for our victory over the grave. Because of Christmas someday I will be able to walk with the God of creation and I will be able to see my loved ones who have gone on before me.

*Yes, Christmas is a time of wonder! It is a wonder that must be shared and celebrated. We will celebrate that wonder every Sunday in December.* My prayer is that you will join us each week and bring those you love with you. Merry Christmas!

In His Love,

**Bro. John**

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Jackie and I have been overwhelmed by the gestures of love and kindness shown to us during Jackie's recovery from eye surgery.** Thank you for your prayer, gifts of food, and encouraging messages. We love you all and thank you from the bottom of our hearts! So far Jackie is doing well, but staying face down 45 minutes of every hour has been tough. I praise God that so far she is doing well and I ask for your continued prayers.





**Merry Christmas to All- "For Unto Us, A Savior Is Born, Which is Christ the Lord"**  
**In this month when we celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus who followed God's plan to live on earth to show us how we should live, we will have many opportunities for you and your family and friends to honor the King!**



**All ladies and girls are invited to our Annual Christmas Breakfast and Ornament Exchange at Shoney's on Sunday, December 3 at 8:30 am. "O Christmas Tree"!**



You and your family are invited to our  
Annual Church Christmas Dinner  
On Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 5:00 pm.  
The Social Committee will provide the turkey and ham.  
Please bring your favorite side dishes and desserts to share.



*Come to a beautiful Christmas Candlelight and Carols Service where your family can experience a quiet worship time, singing our favorite Christmas hymns, hearing special music, observing the Lord's Supper in remembrance, and sharing candle light around the Sanctuary. Join us at 5:00 pm on December 17.*



Join us as we go Christmas Caroling around the neighborhood to our Seniors and Shut-ins. On Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00 pm. We will deliver a fruit/candy basket to each one. Let Bro. John know if you would like to donate fruit and candy. We will sing 3 carols and share greetings with each one. Dress warmly.

**Praise the Lord! You gave 38  
Shoeboxes!**



Thank-you precious Son of God, our  
holy loving Lord;  
Thank -you baby Jesus for coming to  
this world.  
Thank-you for the Christmas star  
that shines up in the sky;  
Thank-you for the evergreen. In  
Christ we'll never die.

**Merry Christmas to All!**

**We will have a meaningful and entertaining  
Christmas Musical and Drama presented by  
our Blue Ridge Players and Children/Youth  
Choirs on Sunday, December 17 Morning  
Worship.**

**"Jesus Loves Me This I Know"**



**The Christmas Angels Are Here**

**See the Angel Board in the Office Hallway and  
know how to give to this Mother and her 5  
children under 7 years old. Their name was  
given to the church through the Christmas  
Clearing House. Sign up beside the child or  
children you choose and whether you will give  
clothing or toys. We do this to provide equally  
for all children.**

**Thanksgiving Dinner was Wonderful!**



**What a Wonderful Time of Food and Fellowship on  
November 12\*! The best cooks- ever provided us  
with delicious fried turkey and tasty ham for our  
church Thanksgiving meal. Our members provided  
beautiful, delicious side dishes and desserts.  
Brother John gave us a Scripture verse and prayer,  
along with a riddle to bring us smiles. We enjoyed  
our visitors and friends We really appreciate all that  
our Social Committee does to prepare for these  
great church events. Be sure to check out our  
website to see the beautiful décor, food, and friends.  
Don't miss the Christmas Dinner!**

Happy **DECEMBER** Birthday!

- 4 Tammy Cannon
- 5 Sydney Brown
- 9 Linda Graydon
- 14 Lynn Mallonee
- 17 Chasity Elliott
- 18 Vincent Bennett
- 20 Brenda Chambliss
- 27 Renee' Miller
- 28 John Mallonee
- 31 Howard Bayerle, Jr.  
Jon Wall



**Welcome to our Newest Member!**

**Christena Aldridge  
7225 Redland Road  
Wetumpka, Alabama 36093**



**December Children's Ministry**

- 3: Nursery & Toddlers: Bennett & Carney; CC: Aldridge
- 10: Nursery & Toddlers: Amy Brown & Carney; CC: Hansen
- 17: Nursery & Toddlers: Janet Johnson & Carney CC: Christena
- 24: Nursery: Bennett; Toddlers: Carney; CC: Hanson



**We thank Dr. Don and Joyce Cheatham and James and Jody  
Mallonee for their very generous gifts to our church. Our  
friends in London, Kentucky and England are so faithful to  
remember us. They help our church continue our many  
ministries, both within and outside our church. They are such  
a blessing and we pray special blessings on them and their  
families, especially in this Holy Season.**



**Christmas Poinsettias for the Sanctuary**

**Please fill in this form if you would like to give a  
poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone special to  
you. Place the form in an envelope designated,  
"Christmas Poinsettia". The cost of a 6 1/2 inch  
poinsettia is \$7.00 or a 10 inch poinsettia is \$14.00.**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

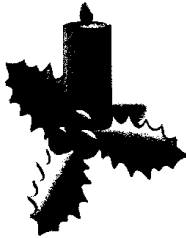
In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

How many & size : \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Ladies Ornament Exchange Breakfast at Shoney's 8:30 AM December 3rd  
 Christmas Dinner December 10<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM  
 Candlelight & Carol December 17<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM  
 Christmas Caroling December 20<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM

# DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Counting & Lock Up David Brown			1	2 Help us Provide Christmas for a needy Family.
3 Ladies Ornament Exchange 8:30 AM Discipleship at 5PM	4 Visitation 7:00 PM	5	6 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	7	8	9 Check in front of the Sunday School office for details.
10 Christmas Dinner 5:00 PM	11 Visitation 7:00 PM	12	13 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	14	15 Coed II Christmas Party	16
17 Christmas Play 11AM Candlelight and Carol 5:00 PM	18 Visitation 7:00 PM	19	20 Christmas Caroling 6:00 PM	21	22	23
24	25 Merry Christmas Christ is Born!	26	27	28	29 Visit us on the web at <a href="http://blueridgebaptistchurch.net">blueridgebaptistchurch.net</a>	30
31		November 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		January 2018 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		Notes: Coming Up! Christmas Dinner 10-Dec Candlelight & Carol 17-Dec