

# BLUE RIDGE

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## From My Heart

One of my favorite words is **enthusiasm**. It comes from a Greek word meaning "*inspired by the gods*". We all like enthusiastic people. As you know, I am a Dodger fan and when I was growing up the Dodgers had a very enthusiastic manager named Tommy Lasorda. Lasorda, was a round mound of unbridled enthusiasm for Dodger Blue. His players caught his spirit which turned into a lot of victories and a couple of World Series Championships.

Billy Graham was preaching way back in 1965 about enthusiasm, He said, *"You can be as mad as you like about the World Series; you can go to Yankee Stadium and shout yourself hoarse, and everyone thinks this is normal. You can be mad as you like about money or pleasure or even drink. You can be mad about the Beatles. And in each case you are thought to be sane and normal. But bring the enthusiasm into your faith in Christ and you have .... Gone mad, gone too far."*

It is true that the world will never understand if you get enthusiastic about Christ or about our fellowship at Blue Ridge and some might even mock you, but that is the kind of faith God has called us to. In Acts chapter four the Disciples were arrested and instructed to hush up about their faith in Christ, they gave their response in verse 20, *"For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."* They couldn't and wouldn't keep quiet about their Savior. I love how Billy Graham described the kind of faith they had, he said they brought a *"grand and glorious abandon to their dedication to the Lord Jesus Christ."*

How do you live out that kind of enthusiastic faith? Let me share two pictures that I have seen. First, was at Callaway Gardens many years ago. I was young and a full-time Youth Minister and I was attending the first ever Southern Baptist Convention

National Youth Conference. I was at Callaway with Youth Ministers from all over the country. We were all very young except for two gentlemen who looked like they got lost on the way to the Santa Clause Convention. We got to know the white haired men as the week long conference continued. *They were not paid, both were retired, and both had unbridled enthusiasm for their Lord.* Their church had youth, but no leadership so God spoke to their hearts and they became the leaders and drove half way across the country to find some training.

The second picture took place in Miami. I took a group of youth there to do VBS in an inner city apartment complex. Our contacts there were two eighty year old women who had spent most of their lives sharing the love of Jesus with poor children in southern Florida. Years before the North American Mission Board had told them to go home because they were too old. They ignored the NAMB and just kept reaching children for Jesus. We had a great week and save several precious kids come to Christ. *I can still remember walking through this dangerous complex with these dedicated women, they knew everybody and everything that was going on and nobody was going to stop them from sharing the Good News. They were inspiring!*

God is looking for folks who are willing to be enthusiastic for Christ and His church. *If you will be enthusiastic for Christ people may not understand, but people will be reached for Jesus and you will be blessed.* You know just about everything can be taken away from you, except your enthusiasm for Christ. Hope to see you Sunday!

Enthusiastically Yours,

**Bro. John**

As Gomer says, Thank You!, Thank You!, Thank You! Our Cookout & a Movie was Great! Fall Festival is coming Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>.





### ALL IN For October at BLUE RIDGE!

- 1-31 PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH IN THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
- 14 MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP MEAL AND BUSINESS MEETING
- 21 YOUTH FUNDRAISER LUNCH
- 28 OUR ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL OF FAMILY FUN OUTDOORS



#### October is Pastor Appreciation Month In the Southern Baptist Convention

Please share your words of appreciation of his ministry at Blue Ridge with Bro. John this month. He receives so much joy and blessings from working with our great church family.



Bro. John's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of service to our Lord and His church family at Blue Ridge was celebrated last month. He appreciates every card and word shared with him and Jackie, your love and encouragement, your very generous gifts, and your presence as he shares God's Word 3 times a week with all who come



#### Fall Festival is October 28

It's time to break out your 1950's clothes or come as you are to celebrate Fall with our church and community. We will be handing out treats with the kids (Trunk or Treat) as they come to our car trunks to play a game in the front parking lot. We have plenty of games or you may bring your own. We need your help in providing chili and hotdogs, cookies, and desserts for those who come. Most of all, we would love to have you present so we can welcome the families who come. We will have hayrides and inflatables for the kids. We will have tug'o'war, field games to watch, ping-pong, and more to provide a fun afternoon. It is all out front, so everyone can see.



We had a great Movie/Dinner night on September 30. We got to see old friends, meet new neighbors, and watch the kids play games. We saw "Swiss Family Robinson" on a big screen out front. Katie and Nathan Bennett ran the popcorn machine and Justin Brown and David Brown served up snow cones...yum! We enjoyed a great supper provided by Renee' Miller, Jim and Barbara Harris, Don Roney, David Funchess, Bro. John, Jim Beck, Susan Hansen, Shirley Davis, Amy Brown, and many more.



#### Our October Fellowship Meal and Business Meeting is Sunday, October 14, 2018

Right after Morning Worship. Please bring your favorite Autumn Sunday Dinner dish/and or desserts to share as we enjoy this great time of fellowship.

#### Thank You

We are so blessed with a Lord-loving and serving church family. We really appreciate the many people who do things all the time to make our church building and grounds more beautiful. Thank you to Buddy Davis, Jim Beck, and Jim Harris for cutting the grass and trimming the hedges. Thank you to Terry Graydon for working on the Baptistry heater. Thank you to Barbara Harris for the pretty basket of Fall flowers in the Sanctuary and for the table runners and arrangements around the church. Thank you to David Funchess for cleaning the Courtyard. Thank you to Jim Beck, the Harris', the Davis', Susan Hansen, the Bennett's, Dan and Susan Bass, and Bro. John for supplying our kitchen and bathrooms with needed supplies.

**How We Can Reach People Around the World From Our Church on Jasmine Hill Road?**



You can begin bringing joy to children around the world by packing toys, hygiene items, books, puzzles, school supplies, flip-flops, socks, t-shirts, balls, games etc. as you visit stores this month. We ask that all boxes be given to the church by Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Please include \$9.00 handling fee for each box if you can, if not, others give extra p&h money to cover our boxes. Thank you for bringing Jesus' joy to the world.'

**Let's Fill Our Missions Boxes**



Here we are at the change of seasons where we clean out our closets and we have the opportunity to give our clothes, coats, like new socks, gloves, and caps, toys, and school supplies to the Homeless, Men's, and Women with Children's Shelters, to the Elmore Food Pantry, to the Renance Half-way House, and to the Crisis Pregnancy Center in the River Region area. We, at Blue Ridge live out Jesus' own words to us to love one another. We are so blessed to have this church family who truly cares! The boxes are out in the office hallway. Thank you for being the hands of Jesus.



Thank You to Don and Joyce Cheatham in London, Kentucky for sending their tithes and offerings to our church to help our church continue our ongoing ministries. We thank James and Jody Mallonee as well for remembering us and we are thrilled to know they are back in Virginia! Welcome home, James, Jody, and Gina and we hope to see you soon!

*Kids' Korner*

*We are back in school and we are in our new Sunday School Classes where we love our teachers who give their prayers, time, and love to our kids each week. We are always looking for new friends in Bible Study, so everybody invite somebody.*

*We had a really fun time at the Movie/Cookout Night on September 30. We had fun games, a funny movie, snow cones, popcorn, hotdogs, and hamburgers and great visits with our neighbors of all ages, along with a visit from Dee and Henry Blake. Let's do it again. Oh, we will on Sunday, October 28 at our annual Fall Festival! Listen for the ways you can help.*



*Youth News and Views*



*Youth and Kids at Work: Thank you to the Youth for cleaning the Sanctuary floors, pew pockets, pews, and vacuuming the carpet. They cleared the floors of the Fellowship Hall for Bro. John to mop it and the kitchen. They carried out the trash and got the church ready. Good job! They are continuing to raise funds for their Smoky Mountain Bible Conference on the MLK weekend. They appreciate your donations and prayers for them and the chaperones.*



Congratulations to Don Roney on the great Air Show he headed up last month!



*A Thank You from Bro. John on his 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Service to our Lord and Savior at Blue Ridge*

*Thank you to everyone who came and celebrated with Jackie and me as we move forward to our 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of service with you, our loving and serving church family. Each day is a joy to our hearts as we see what God has in store for us at Blue Ridge. We always pray for Him to place before us where we can be of service and as we seek His will in all things. We thank you so very much for your very generous love offering and for the beautiful chocolate Anniversary cake. The cards brought a treasure we will keep for years as you expressed your appreciation and love. We love you and want you to call on us anytime. We will be there!*



**October Birthdays**



2	Margaret Cone
5	Emily Riddle
14	Jim Harris
21	Dan Bass
24	Joel Johnson
26	JJ Cannon
28	Bailey Shaw
30	Wendy Aldridge



**Children's Ministry in October**



7 : Nursery & Toddlers: Bennett & Carney; CC: Wendy Aldridge  
 14: Nursery & Toddlers: Shirley Davis and Susan Bass; Children's Choir with Susan Hansen, Renee' Miller  
 21: Nursery & Toddlers: Barbara Harris CC: Christena Aldridge  
 28: Nursery and Preschool: Lorrie Sereneck; Children's Choir: Susan Hansen and Renee' Miller



The Kids are beginning to rehearse for their Christmas Musical.

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

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**Fellowship Lunch October 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Youth Lunch October 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Fall Festival October 28<sup>th</sup> 4:00- 6:00 PM**

# OCTOBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1 Counting and Lock Up Terry Graydon	2	3 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups	4	5	6 Join us for our Angel Bible Study Sundays at 5:00 PM	
7 Angel Bible Study 5:00 PM	8	9	10	11	12	13 Invite a Friend to Lunch this Sunday!	
14 <b>Fellowship Lunch</b> Angel Bible Study 5:00 PM	15 Visitation 5:00 PM	16	17 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	18	19	20	
21 Angel Bible Study 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 Invite Friends and Family to Fall Festival this Sunday 4:00-6:00 PM	
28 <b>Fall Festival 4:00-6:00 PM</b>	29	30	31 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	Visit us on the web at <a href="http://blueridgebaptistchurch.net">blueridgebaptistchurch.net</a>		Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes November 11th	
		September 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		November 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		<b>Notes:</b>  <b>Coming Up!</b> Fall Festival OCC Deadline  October 28th November 11th	
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