

BLUE RIDGE

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From My Heart

Why do you go to church? Most people say they go to church because of the fellowship. I love fellowship, especially the fellowship at Blue Ridge, but the reason I go to church is a little more complicated than that.

I do go to church because I am a pastor and I consider it a great joy to serve the Lord as a pastor, but I have been going to church long before I became a pastor. I go because I am encouraged to in Hebrews 10:25, "*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing*", but the real reason I go is much deeper than that. **I go to church because I owe a great debt.** The debt I am talking about is found in Romans 13:8, "*Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another*". I once saw a graduate from college who had printed on the top of his mortar board on graduation day, "I owe, I owe, so off to work I go". I go to church every Sunday because I owe a great debt of love to those who have invested in my life, shared the Words of Life with me, believed in me, and encouraged me in more ways than I can mention.

The names of those in Christ who have blessed my life are too numerous to mention, but I will share with you about a couple named Sam and Mary who came to work with me and my buddies when I was in the 10th Grade. They worked in our Sunday School Class, opened their home to us, and went on retreats with us. All through high school and college they reached out to us and modeled what it means to live for God. Sam was brilliant, he was an engineer with a doctor's degree who worked on things that are national secrets, but the secrets he shared with me and my friends were spiritual. He challenged us to live for God and to live out His Word. They became more than our teachers they were our friends who helped us to see what it means to know the abundance of God. I owe them so much and out of that debt I

come to church and serve. I can never repay what they did for me, but I can live for God and share what they shared with me.

I wish that everyone had a Sam and Mary in their lives. But I want you to know a secret, the only thing better than having a Sam and Mary in your life is to be Sam and Mary for someone else. There is great satisfaction in knowing that you have lifted someone's life. Speaking of encouraging folks, what a blessing Don and Emily Roney have been. They have jumped in with the kids and shared God's love. Every time you hear an F-16 rumbling over head just remember that could be Don and one of his buddies.

I also come to church because God is doing something exciting and I want to be a part of it. We often forget what an amazing God we serve. In Acts 8 all the new Christians were threatened and run out of Jerusalem. You would think it was over, but God was just beginning. Wherever the believers went they told folks about Jesus and people got saved. Phillip went to Samaria, people listened to him, people got saved, people got healed, and there was great joy! I come to church every Sunday because our God still does mighty things and I want to be there when it happens.

I remember being a part of a revival years ago. The end result was that 14 teenagers got baptized on one Sunday. That was great, but there was more to the story. What the church didn't realize was that there was also another 8 that got saved during the revival. I followed up on each one and they all were a part of other fellowships. They all promised that they would go back to their church and share what had happened in their lives. As I went home that Sunday I knew that God had made it a great day all over town.

I believe that something great is going to happen at Blue Ridge every Sunday and I am rarely disappointed. I will be there Sunday and I hope to see you there too!

In His Love,

Bro. John

Be on the lookout for a sign up sheet for our Football Breakfast, Friday, October 6th.



A SIZZLING September at BLUE Ridge

AS We Leave SUMMER 2017 BEHIND, We Enjoy the BEGINNINGS OF AUTUMN THIS MONTH

September 3
September 4
September 10th

PROMOTION Day IN SUNDAY SCHOOL
Labor Day
Bro. JOHN'S 24th ANNIVERSARY
MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP LUNCH
YOUTH FUNDRAISER LUNCH
Vote IN the Special Election at BRBC

September 24th
September 26



Happy Anniversary

Congratulations to Bro. John on his 24th Anniversary of Service to our Lord on September 10th. He thanks God for such a loving and kind, family of faith. Bro. John counts it a true joy to serve with each of you.



Welcome to Our Newest Members

*Kelley Fyler
3070 Central Road
Eclectic, Alabama 36024*



Missions at Blue Ridge

Our Missions Giving Box is in the office hallway. We are collecting food for the Elmore County Food Pantry. Please bring dried peas, peanut butter, and oatmeal to feed the underprivileged. Also, we will donate clean, used or new clothing for men, women, and children at the Friendship Mission. As you change your closet to your fall and winter clothing, remember those who struggle to clothe their family. **PRAY FOR THOSE IN TEXAS AND LOUISIANA!**

We thank God for You!

We always thank our Lord for the Cheathams and the Mallonees for remembering our church with their tithes and offerings. God bless you as you have blessed us!



Children's Wing Renovations are Happening!

Thank you so much to Jim Harris and Terry Graydon for building a doorway from the Toddler Room to the Children's Restroom. It looks beautiful and we appreciate their fantastic talents in making a safer and more convenient environment for the teachers and children. . Thank you to Jim and Barbara Harris for the new table given for our Preschool Room. It will be well used. Thank you to Terry for making arrangements to have the Sanctuary air conditioner repaired. Thank you to Bro. John for trimming the hedges around the church and for repairing the ladies restroom. Thank you to Jim Beck, Buddy Davis, and Clarence Mann for keeping our lawns perfectly manicured. Thank you to David Funchess for the upkeep on the Courtyard and fountain. Thank you, Barbara for the beautiful table scarves and arrangements around the church. Thank you to Vince and Shelly Bennett for keeping our church building clean. Thank you to all of our lunch hosts, we could not do without you each month. *"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up another" Ecclesiastes 4:9*



Brotherhood Breakfast Was Great!




The men had a big, delicious breakfast menu prepared by our men (welcome new chef Owen Sereneck) and led by Terry Graydon, Brotherhood Director. Don Roney's testimony was powerful and touched everyone who heard. Thank you, Don, for sharing from your heart. Our prayers will be with you daily as you are on deployment. We truly thank you for your service to our country. Our prayers will be with Emily, Avery, Evelyn, and Caroline as they go to visit family while you are away. We will miss you, but be with you in spirit.

**Play Ball! And Up, Up, and Away!
Thank You to the Roneys!**

The Kids and Adults in August were treated to seeing the Montgomery Biscuits play and win and then we visited Don's unit, the 187th, and see the jets he flies take off at night, along with trying on flight equipment. We thank Owen and Lorrie Sereneck for coming along!



 HOW CAN WE BLUE RIDGERS HELP THE FLOOD VICTIMS IN TEXAS AND LOUISIANA? The ALABAMA BAPTIST CONVENTION IS RECEIVING DONATIONS TO GO DIRECTLY TO THE VICTIMS. GO TO SBD.org/TEXAS to donate or give your check at church and we will send it on to them.

A Note from Linda Graydon
Dear Church Friends,
Thank you so much for your kindness to Terry and me during my recovery from knee surgery. All of your prayers, cards, visits, and food were greatly appreciated.
Love, Linda

 Youth News and Views 

We have had a great summer and have enjoyed our classes taught by Susan Hansen, Don and Emily Roney, and Bro. John. We thank our church family for supporting our Fundraising efforts to pay for our trip to the Smoky Mountain Bible Conference in January.

Watch us grow in our faith this Fall! Thank you to the Roneys for our new Visual Bibles and notebooks.

ANNOUNCING!

Please be in prayer about the Sanctuary air conditioning situation. The best options will soon be shared with our church family.

PROMOTION DAY COMES TO BRBC!

Sunday, September 3rd is the day for moving on up to your next group. Hug your teachers good-by and meet your new ones.



Remember, Don Roney and Bro. John are leading the "To Have and To Hold" Marriage Class in Fellowship Hall. Everybody from all ages are welcome!



**EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU
AT THE LIFEWAY STORE!
APOLOGETICS WORKSHOP**

Tuesday, September 12, 10-11 am or 6-7 pm
Come understand more about your faith or be able to articulate your beliefs to a non-believer or someone doubting their faith. There will be free workbooks to the first 75 attendees. Other books and Bibles will be 50% off. Ride the van if you like.



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



Mark Your Calendar for Friday, October 6, 2017 at 7:00 a.m.

Our church will host the Wetumpka High School Football Team and share a great home-cooked breakfast with them.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 5 Tim Parker
- 8 Nathan Bennett, Evelyn Roney
- 9 Jessica Shields
- 11 Jeff Singleton
- 15 Cindy Taylor
- 16 Katie Bennett
- 24 Jazmine Lucas Edwards
- 26 Don Patrick Roney

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Youth Lunch September 24th
Vote at Blue Ridge September 26th
Football Breakfast is coming Friday, October 6th

SEPTEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Counting and Lock Up David Brown				1	2
3 New Sunday School Year No Evening Activities	4 Happy Labor Day Office Closed	5	6 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	7	8	9 This Sunday Bro. John Celebrates 24 Years of Service at Blue Ridge
10 Fellowship Lunch Discipleship 5:00 PM	11 Visitation 7:00 PM	12	13 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	14	15	16
17 Discipleship 5:00 PM	18 Visitation 7:00 PM	19	20 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	21	22	23
24 Youth Fundraiser Lunch Discipleship 5:00 PM	25 Visitation 7:00 PM	26 Vote at Blue Ridge	27 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	28 Visit us on the web at blueridgebaptistchurch.net	29	30
		August 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 31		October 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 31		Notes: Coming Up! Football Breakfast 6-Oct Fellowship Lunch 8-Oct
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