

# Blue Ridge

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## From My Heart

What do you do when you face discouragement? Most folks just pack it in, quit or become bitter and angry. I heard about a church that was going through tough times. One of their beloved lay leaders was murdered because he had shared with his friends and neighbors that Jesus was the Christ, the Savior of the world. In humility and love he told them about Jesus and in response they formed a mob, knocked him to the ground, and hit him with rocks until he died.

It got to be real dangerous to be a Christian in that town and the only option they had was to run. The church did not disband, it just moved to not one city, but many. Wherever they went they told people about Jesus. It was dangerous, but if you belong to Jesus that is what you do (Check out Acts 4:31). One fellow named Phillip moved to Samaria and started telling his neighbors about Jesus. The response was more than positive, "So there was great joy in that city." (Acts 8:8) Do you get the picture? One day you are running for your life feeling rejection and fear, the next day you are leading a revival that is turning the whole city upside down and bringing joy to every corner of town.

You might say, "That was then and this is now." You are right, things have changed. What has changed is not people's need for and interest in Jesus, but that Christians just don't talk about Jesus. People don't care about church these days and most don't go to church, but everybody needs Jesus and everybody secretly longs to receive his love and forgiveness. If we will talk about Jesus they will come in droves otherwise they will stay home and see what's on Netflix.

This month we will begin a sermon series on *Sharing Your Faith*. I will try to give you tools, examples, and scripture that will enable you to share

your faith with confidence. We will look at great stories of God's transforming grace and we will challenge everyone to **Go and Tell Someone!**

Well, it has been 25 years since Jackie and I came to Blue Ridge. I am a humble man, but I can say with confidence that I have worked tirelessly, been unconditionally positive and Christ Centered every day we have been here. I have been willing to do anything and everything. Everything I have done my wonderful wife has done just as much and often more. Through the years we have been often blessed and sometimes disappointed, always by people and never by God. *God has been good and we love and treasure all the people that God has led to Blue Ridge. We are thankful for all who serve and sacrifice for the Savior here. We are grateful and on our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary I have a prayer list.*

I am praying for us to see more people declare their faith in Christ this year through baptism (I long to hear that water bubbling in the baptistery.), for us to gain more active members in Sunday School (We pray that Each One will Reach One.), and for us to grow in giving. It was over 10 years ago that both Jackie and I took a 25% salary reduction so that the church could function financially when the economy took a nose dive. We were willing to do whatever it took, but it is time move on from surviving to thriving.

Everyone one of those wishes would be a great work of God. We have a **Big God** and it is time that we turn over to him some **Big prayer requests**. God is capable of answering each and every one of those requests and more! *Most of all I know as a fact that if we will all share what Jesus has done for us that we will celebrate a lot of baptisms this year and there will be rejoicing in heaven.*

**Bro. John**

Coming September 30<sup>th</sup> we will have a **Cookout and a Movie**. This will be a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to Blue Ridge. It will be fun, so put it on your calendar.





# September

*September Is Special at Blue Ridge*

*Fellowship Meal is September 9*

*Bro. John's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is September 9*

*Roney Baby Shower is September 16*

*Youth Trip to Pensacola is September 22-23*

*September 30 Church and Community Cook-out and Movie*




Bro. John's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of service to our Lord and His church family at Blue Ridge will be celebrated on September 9<sup>th</sup>. We thank him for His deep love and devotion to our Lord and to our church family and our extended families.

He spends hours in God's Word each day to bring us His message on Sundays and he serves as a Bible Study teacher on Sunday mornings and evenings, as well on Wednesday evenings. When needed he leads the music in Worship and runs the sound system. He has taught every age group from Preschool, Children, Youth, and Adults. He has driven the van thousands of miles to pick up hundreds of children and youth these 25 years. He cleans the church and sets up tables for events. He trims the hedges. He stays in touch with everyone who needs a visit or call. He has ministered to us through our trials and tribulations, through our laughter and tears, and through counsel and mediation. Please share words of encouragement and appreciation with him on his anniversary of beginning his ministry.

He loves our Lord and Savior with all of his heart and counts it a true blessing to serve alongside with you. Bro. John is a "good and faithful servant". God bless him in all of his days.

Promotion Day in Sunday School is September 2



Calling all members to come to Sunday School and see your new teacher. It is a great time to join a class of seekers if you don't have one. Pray for our teachers as they prepare a great new year!



Please join us for a Baby Shower  
Honoring the Roney's and James Patrick Roney

Son of Emily and Don Roney,

Brother of Avery, Evelyn, and Caroline Roney

On Sunday, September 16, 2018

2:00 - 4:00 in the afternoon

At Blue Ridge Baptist Church

Registered at Amazon, Wal-Mart, and Target



## CHURCH-WIDE BAKE-OFF

Winners at our annual summertime event were: main dish: Jim Harris; desserts: Bro. John; breads: Shirley Davis. Each person who entered the bake-off received a blue ribbon and we all enjoyed a great supper. Thank you to Barbara and Jim Harris, Shelly Bennett, and Bro. John and Jackie for decorating.



## Thank You

Bro. John and our entire church family thank James and Jody Mallonee and Don and Joyce Cheatham for their giving their very generous tithes and offerings to our church, which they consider their home church. Pray for the Mallonees as they return to the U.S. this month.

Jesus said, "Freely you have received, freely give".  
Matthew 10

## Angels



*"Should we look to angels for guidance?  
Will we become angels?"*

*Do we each have a guardian angel?"*

Sundays in September at 5:00 pm

Join us around the tables and hear questions and answers on Angels.

## Sympathy

*Christian love and sympathy are expressed to Gerri Robbins and family in the passing of her brother DeWayne Zigler and her nephew Will Earl Zigler; and to the family of Roy Mahyles in his passing. Roy was a faithful attendee of the Brotherhood Breakfasts and a neighborhood walker.*



**THE WETUMPKA FOOTBALL TEAM BREAKFAST** at Blue Ridge was GREAT! THANK YOU TO TERRY GRAYDON AND HIS BROTHERHOOD VOLUNTEERS AND TO THE LADIES WHO COOKED, SERVED, CLEANED, SET UP AND TOOK DOWN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AND SERVING TABLES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED GUYS AND COACHES WHO CAME FOR A GREAT BREAKFAST AND PRAYER FOR THEIR SEASON SAFETY AND PERFORMANCE. OUR CHURCH HOSTS THIS GREAT MINISTRY EVENT EACH YEAR.



## Kids Korner



Sunday School is back for a new year! We will be returning to the Gospel Project and learning about the Bible, cover to cover. Bring your friends and let them learn with you. Miss Emily Riddle will now be teaching 5-6<sup>th</sup> Grade and we love her! We are praying for all of our teachers, Susan Hansen, our Director, and all of you.



## Ladies Craft Day for September

*"Deck the Doors with Holiday Wreaths"*

Join us on Sunday, September 23 at 3:00 to make a Fall and/or Christmas wreath. Supplies will be available, or you may bring your own wreath. Susan Hansen and Shelly Bennett will lead this class.



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

7	Owen Sereneck
8	Nathan Bennett Kelly Tyler Manni Evelyn Roney
11	Jeff Singleton
16	Katie Bennett
26	Don Patrick Roney



## Children's Ministry in September



2: Nursery & Toddlers: Beanett & Carney; CC: Wendy Aldridge  
9: Nursery & Toddlers: Shirley Davis and Susan Bass; Children's Choir with Susan Hansen, Renee' Miller  
16: Nursery & Toddlers: Barbara Harris CC: Christena Aldridge  
23: Nursery and Preschool: Lorrie Sereneck; Children's Choir: Susan Hansen and Renee' Miller  
30: Fifth Sunday Volunteers Needed



## Youth News and Views



It has been a few weeks since you all began your new school year. We will enter a new school year in Bible Study as well. We welcome Don and Emily Roney as our new High School teachers and hope for a great year. Before the first day of Fall we plan to go to Pensacola for a retreat and time of Bible Study and Worship on the beach. Listen out for the latest details.

Have you enjoyed the worship time on Wednesday nights? Mr. Don has added a big screen and new lights for you to sing along with the words for you to see.

We will be fundraising for our future Smoky Mountain Bible Conference. Everybody, please show up for each one. That is the way to earn the money to go. Be sure to thank Bro. John for bringing you to church each Sunday and Wednesday and for driving you on your trips. See you Sunday! Bring a friend!



## Choir A Christmas Musical is in the Works!



*"It's Christmas Time"*

Please join the Christmas Choir to make a joyful sound as we sing of the newborn King in December. All adults and youth are welcome and needed. The songs will be familiar to you. Can't carry a tune? No problem. Tone deaf? No problem. Can't sing in the shower? No problem. The dog won't sing with you? No problem. God created us all and can use us all. Please see Bro. John if you are willing to help out.



Blue Ridge Baptist is located at  
 4471 Jasmine Hill Road  
 Wetumpka, Alabama 36093  
 Call 567-4325 for information.

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 U.S. Postage  
 Pd.  
 Permit No. 85  
 Wetumpka, AL  
 36093



New Sunday Year Begins September 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Roney Baby Shower September 16<sup>th</sup>



Fellowship Lunch Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Cookout & Movie Night September 30<sup>th</sup>

# SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Counting and Lock Up David Brown					1 Join us in Bible Study at 9:45 AM
2 New Sunday School Classes Begin at 9:45 Discipleship 5:00 PM	3 Labor Day Office Closed	4	5 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	6	7	8 Invite a Friend to Lunch this Sunday!
9 Fellowship Lunch  Discipleship 5:00 PM	10 Visitation 5:00 PM	11	12 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	13	14	15
16 Roney Baby Shower 2:00 PM Discipleship 5:00 PM	17 Visitation 7:00 PM	18	19 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	20	21	22 Youth Retreat
23	24 Craft Night 5:30 PM	25	26 Prayer & Share 5:00 PM Youth and Mission Groups 7:00 PM	27 Visit us on the web at <a href="http://blueridgebaptistchurch.net">blueridgebaptistchurch.net</a>	28	29
30 Cookout & a Movie 6:00 PM		August 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		October 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! Cookout & Movie September 30th Fall Festival October 21st

[www.blueridgebaptistchurch.net](http://www.blueridgebaptistchurch.net)