

# BLUE RIDGE

## Inside this Newsletter

Sunday School	9:45 AM
Worship	11:00 AM
Bible Study	5:00 PM
Join us in person at Blue Ridge or On YouTube every Sunday!	

## From My Heart

**H**appy New Year Blue Ridge!

We had some sad goodbyes and many blessings in 2020. We lost Deetsie, Kate Ratliff, and Bob, got hit by a tornado, shut down by a pandemic, but God never stopped working among us. When we couldn't meet in person we went on You Tube and we always stayed in touch with each other and prayed for each other.

We got to celebrate with the Mann's as Janet returned home healthy from her double lung transplant. We were blessed with a lot of hard work to rebuild our church facilities: new roofs, new floors, new walls, new paint, refurbished doors, and more. Only God and the talented folks of Blue Ridge could have pulled all this off.

In time, while we stayed online, we got back in person in worship and have slowly begun safely opening up Bible Studies. Amazingly, we pulled off a safe and BIG Fall Festival. We had a crowd, we did it right and everyone had a blast. The Roney's did some creative things including t-shirts and everyone pitched in, it was great! We also shared a BBQ meal together when it was safer in October.

**Christmas was Christmas at Blue Ridge.** We packed our Shoe Boxes and sent them around the world to bless the lives of little children. We adopted two families from the Sunshine Center and packed the van with presents – they were richly blessed. Thank you for your generosity! We did our Christmas Play, aren't the Blue Ridge Players the best! Finally, we shared our Candlelight and Carols Service to usher in the Christmas season.

By that time, Jackie and I were personally so far behind that we didn't even have a tree up. Fortunately, we planned to take the week off to get ready for Christmas in overdrive. We raced every day, putting up Christmas,

buying presents, wrapping, and mailing gifts and cards. We were going nonstop through Christmas Eve. That is when I got sick.

Before dawn I knew I had fever. It was a blessing when it happened because we had taken days off from church and we didn't expose our church family. Because it happened on Christmas Eve we didn't expose Wyatt and his family, either on Christmas Day!

Thank you all for your kindness: prayers, calls, food and encouraging words! I have recovered through Jackie's great care and she has stayed healthy, so we are blessed. We still have not opened a single gift or gotten to give anything to Wyatt yet, but there is always time for that.

As we step into 2021 let's focus on the verse I texted out New Year's Eve. **Joshua 1:8,9** says, *"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

No matter what awaits us in 2021 our plan must be to obey God in everything, to be courageous, to trust God, to feel His presence, and to believe He will make us prosperous and successful. This is what I am praying for Blue Ridge in 2021: **Courageous Obedience, Hearts that seek the Presence of God and Celebrate His Prosperity.**

In His Love,

Bro. John

We love you all and can't wait to see you again soon!





# It is the Year of our Lord 2021!

**We don't know what this New Year holds, but we know who holds every day! Our Wonderful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ keeps us in His watchcare!**

- January 3 We have postponed our Candle Lighting Service for Family Prayers until a safer time. In the meantime, use your church directory to pray for our church family every day.
- January 3,10, 17, 24, 31 Come together to worship as a church family with Bro. John sharing the Word and Linda Graydon blessing us on the piano. We are blessed with the sweetest church family!
- January 3,10,17, 24, 31 The Fellowship Hall tables are safely distanced for Sunday School Bible Study. Gloves, masks, and disinfectant sprays are available. Bring your own if you like.
- January 6, 13, 20, 27 Join us for a Mid-week Prayer and Share and Bible Study together in the Fellowship Hall.
- January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Join us at 5:00 pm each Sunday for a time of fellowship, prayer, and Bible Study on a timely topic.

*"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:24,25*



### **Our Blue Ridge Christmas- Reaching Out!**

*Celebrating Jesus' Birth with Love and Joy!*

*Our church family reached out to God's*

*people in many ways with everyone giving in many ways. We blessed the lives of 4 Angel Family children and their Mothers as they were under the protection of the Sunshine Center. On Christmas morning, they woke to find every gift on their wish list fulfilled, plus more and the Mother's stockings were full for the children to see. Great ministry, Blue Ridge family!*

*Bro. John and Jackie delivered huge numbers of clothing, jackets, socks, etc. that you gave to the Renaissance House and various charities for the homeless, poor, and underprivileged.*

*Don't forget the 40 Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoeboxes that were delivered from our Sanctuary hallway to children all around the world. Your love for Jesus and His people, young and old, has lighted the world coming right from your hands!*



### **Our Heartfelt Thank You**



We thank God for our special friends who always remember Blue Ridge when they give their tithes and offerings each month. We are so blessed by these families as they give to Blue Ridge! James and Jody Mallonee, Dr. Don and Joyce Cheatham, Drs. Cory and Marcia Stanley, and Brenda Chambliss faithfully remember us and allow our church to carry out our ministries and mission. We keep you and your families in our prayers and we love you!



### **The Blue Ridge Players Presented "The Christmas Investigation 2020" on December 13**

Sherlock Watson (Amy Brown) was on the case as King Herod (Bro. John Carney) tried by hook and crook to find the Baby Jesus before he might take over His Kingdom. Enter the Librarian, David Brown, the Wise Men, Ben and Jon Lowry and Justin Brown, the Sheperds, Buddy and Shirley Davis, Vinnie (Terry Graydon) and the Innkeeper's Wife (Susan Bass). Jim and Barbara shared their voices to narrate the play, Jackie Carney provided the costumes and the set. Bro. John wrote the play. A good time was had by all as we refreshed our memories of the Christmas story. Thank you to all who took a part in telling the story. Thank you to the Congregation for singing along with hymns of Christmas. Thank you to Linda Graydon for accompanying on the piano. Our good friend Jody Mallonee made many of our costumes many years ago.



## Sanctuary Poinsettias



### In Memory of.....

Gordon Brown by Doris Brown

Cheryl Lynn Harris, their Daughter, by Jim and Barbara Harris

Ruby Burnette, Shirley's Mother, by Buddy and Shirley Davis

Rubye Holley, Buddy's Mother, by Buddy and Shirley Davis

Allen and Rosa Nell Woodfin, her parents, by JoAnn Woodfin

Sam and Maebelle Bass, Dan's Parents by Dan, and Susan Bass

Bill and Jane Sydnor, Susan's Parents, by Dan and Susan Bass

Joe and Kathleen Hansen, Brian's Parents, by Brian and Susan Hansen

Louis and Deetsie Rogers, Susan's Parents, by Brian and Susan Hansen

Howard and Ina Bayerle, her Parents, by Linda Hines

Bill Hines, her Husband, by Linda Hines

### In Honor of.....

Our Children and Grandchildren by Dan and Susan Bass

Wyatt Lott and his Great Grandmother, Bitsy, by Bro. John and Jackie Carney

### Christmas Decorations



Thank you to the Flower Committee and friends for so beautifully decorating our Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and all our hallways and Children/Youth Wing for Christmas. We thank Greg and Lisa Lott for donating our pretty tree. We are blessed with talented people!

Our Candlelight and Carols Service was a quiet time of light and reflection as we shared the Lord's Supper and heard a lovely message from Bro. John. Greg Lott and Reborn Harmony provided wonderful messages in song. It was a great time of fellowship with our church family before entering the last days before Christmas Eve.

The Louis and Deetsie Rogers family has given a very generous financial gift to the church in their memory. Their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren gave. We thank them for their generosity. We miss Louis and Deetsie!



### January Birthdays

8	Terry Graydon
9	Shirley Davis
17	James Mallonee
26	Donny Bozeman
30	Barbara Harris



### January Children's Ministry

- 3 Children's Church: Carney
- 10: Shirley Davis and Susan Bass
- 17: Volunteer Needed
- 24: Sereneck
- 31: Volunteer Needed

### Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Jackie and I have spent time in quarantine since Christmas Eve! I had a sudden sick feeling late while finishing some gift wrapping, went to bed, and woke Christmas morning with a 100.8 fever. I hardly ever have fever. I went to the E.R. to be checked out. It was Christmas Day and healthcare workers were scarce! It took until Monday to get my diagnosis of the Novel Coronavirus. Our personal physicians immediately put us on strong medications for my cure and for Jackie's precautionary measures. By the time I got my diagnosis on Monday, my fever had broken. Jackie has never had any symptoms or illness. She is just busy as a bee taking care of everything. Thank you, church family for being busy as a bee taking care of us. We are overwhelmed by the love and care shown to us during these long 10 days of isolation. I am locked in a quarantine room, studying, watching TV, answering your calls, and having my food placed right inside the room so Jackie doesn't breathe my air. I do not touch anything. Our Christmas gifts remain untouched, both to others and from each other. We are thankful for the timing!!! We were going to the Lott's home for Christmas lunch and gift exchanging. It would have been unbearable to think we had infected anybody. Also, we had taken the week off from church, so we didn't come into contact with you! God is so good! He knows the future before we do, and we can be confident He will see us through this Pandemic and this New Year! Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts. Happy New Year! See you soon! Miss you!

We love and treasure you,  
Bro. John and Jackie

**Blue Ridge Baptist Church**  
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 36093



Join us every Sunday for Worship at 11:00 AM at Blue Ridge or on YouTube!  
 Go to our Website [www.blueridgebaptistchurch.net](http://www.blueridgebaptistchurch.net) and click on the link.

**How to Give Online**

Unleash your generosity by giving through our safe and secure GiveThree65 digital platform.  
 Visit [www.blueridgebaptistchurch.net](http://www.blueridgebaptistchurch.net) and click on the Secure Donations Page to begin the process.

# JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Counting and Lock up Terry Graydon				1 Happy New Year Blue Ridge!	2 His Compassion Never Fail They are New every Morning! Lam. 3:22,23
3 Bible Study 9-9:45 Worship 11:00	4	5	6 The Mid-Week Picker Upper 4:00 PM	7	8	9 Watch us on the Blue Ridge Baptist Church YouTube Channel
10 Discipleship 5:00 PM	11	12	13 The Mid-Week Picker Upper 4:00 PM	14 Remember you can give online at <a href="http://blueridgebaptistchurch.net">blueridgebaptistchurch.net</a>	15	16
17 Biblical Justice 5:00 PM	18	19	20 The Mid-Week Picker Upper 4:00 PM	21	22	23
24 Biblical Justice 5:00 PM	25	26	27 The Mid-Week Picker Upper 4:00 PM	28 Visit us on the web at <a href="mailto:blueridgebapt@church.net">blueridgebapt@church.net</a>	29	30
31 Biblical Justice 5:00 PM	December 2020 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		February 2021 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		Notes:  <b>Coming Up!</b> Coming in January New Study Biblical Justice	