

BLUE RIDGE

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Bible Conference
Join us in person at Blue Ridge or
On YouTube every Sunday!

From My Heart

Happy New Year Blue Ridge Family! God has great plans for us in 2022. I am praying that you will jump in on all that God is going to do among us here at Blue Ridge.

As the new year begins, let me give you a great verse to chew on. It is found in II Corinthians 1:3, 4 ***"Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."***

First, isn't great that our God is the God of all comfort. That means that when you are hurting, others may help, but no one comforts our hearts like God. He loves us and he gives us what we need to heal our hearts. **Second, this verse gives us a purpose which is to share the comfort we have found in Him.** Everyone needs a purpose; it gives you direction and reason to get out of bed in the morning.

Let me challenge you to look at life from a different perspective in 2022, God's perspective. Our perspective on life is what? It is us, me, my, myself and my little world. What is everyone's favorite topic of conversation? It is them of course. Go to a party and spend every conversation you have getting the folks to talk about themselves. When everyone goes home they will think you were the most wonderful, intelligent person there. If you spent the whole time only talking about yourself and not letting anyone get a word in edgewise everyone would have thought you were a bore. People love it when you take an interest in them. Jesus took an interest in everyone: from Zacchaeus to the Lepers, and for that people loved Him.

Countless times in the Gospels Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God of which He is King. That Kingdom doesn't just exist in heaven it exists in the hearts of everyone who calls Jesus their Lord and Savior.

Being in the Kingdom of God means doing what Jesus did. That means focusing on others. When we go through hard times we always ask, "Why me?". The answer to that question is found in this verse. We walk through hard times so God can comfort our hearts so we can comfort the hearts of the hurting that cross our path.

I wish no one ever had to experience pain, but we live in a fallen world filled with sinful people and pain is just a part of living. What matters is what you do with that pain. If you turn to God you find the comfort and grace to live another day and you are empowered to lift the lives of all the hurting around you. In 2022, make your perspective on building God's Kingdom and all those hurting people. It will give you purpose, joy, and a better day.

I hope to see you Sunday!
With love,
Bro. John

Christian Love and Sympathy are expressed to ***Tammi Stevenson*** and her family in the loss of her Father in Maine.

Thanks to Brain and Susan Hansen, and to Steve Rogers who both gave gifts in honor of ***Louis and Deetsie Rogers*** who were charter members and devoted servants of Christ.

We received a thank you letter from the **Renascence Half-Way Home** for the gifts sent at Christmas. Here are a couple lines from the letter which I thought you would like to hear. ***"Your support for our residents says that you believe in them and are willing to give them a second chance."*** The letter goes on to say that your care is a part of planting ***"seeds of success and a transformed life"***. Thank you to everyone who reached out in love through all our ministry efforts this Christmas Season.



Happy New Year, Blue Ridge...It's 2022!



January 1st A New Year in our Lord Begins
 2nd Our First Worship Service of 2022
 9th Candle Lighting and Family Prayer
 15th-17th Youth Smoky Mountain Bible Conference
 23rd Youth Sharing Service



Candle Lighting and Prayer Service
 Sunday, January 9, 2022
"We don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future."

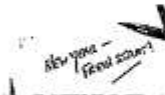
All families will want to be at church for this annual family event.

There will be candles on the Lord's Supper Table. We will go through the pews as families go one at the time to light a candle for their family while they and our church family say silent prayers for them for the coming year. It is a wonderful opportunity to lift each other up to our Lord as we pray.



Pray for Our Youth at the Smoky Mountain Bible Conference

Our Youth will join thousands of Youth from around the South and beyond as they return to the SDEA Bible Conference in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. This is a great opportunity for spiritual growth and fellowship through hearing the best Youth Leaders in our country and hear praise and worship through the best Christian bands in our country. Scott Dawson has put this Conference together for decades. This is funded by their Fundraisers.



Some Christian Resolutions for 2022

1. Read your Bible every day for 20 minutes.
2. Go to church every week. It's a very good habit! Just do it!
3. Pray 15 minutes every day- eyes open while driving- while in the shower- with each meal- with your children and grandchildren- or on your knees.
4. Join people in Bible Study- dig and learn!
5. Ask a friend to church- we are nice, friendly, non-judging people who welcome you.
6. Volunteer at church- ask where you can help. Serve in your community and remember you represent God, your church, and your family.
7. Start tithing- Scripture is clear- look in your Bible or cell phone.
8. Read a Christian book and listen to Christian music- even Elvis has a CD. 4 King and Country is a great CD. Do a Google search for your style of music and find a match for your style. Google and YouTube their music. Lift your spirits!
9. Forgive those who have hurt you and heal your heart.
10. Be a more loving family member and friend. Do not gossip, stop complaining, love unconditionally, and cherish each minute you spend with them.



Looking Back at a Blue Ridge Christmas



We enjoyed a beautiful and joyful Christmas Celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior at Blue Ridge this past month!

Remember our delicious Christmas dinner you prepared with the Harris' frying our turkeys and the Stevensons baking our Christmas ham. Delicious!

We collected Christmas gifts for two families sheltered at Christmas by the Family Sunshine Center. One Mother had twin 6-year-old boys and the other Mother had a 12-Year-old boy and 15-year-old boy who would have no Christmas gifts when they woke Christmas morning were it not for you, our sweet, generous family of BRBC. They received toys, games, clothes, tennis shoes, jackets, and food with God's love. The Mothers got new clothing, blankets, bath products, gift cards, and many other gifts. We filled shopping bags and plastic boxes with everyday essentials, fruit, and snacks for the men residing at Renaissance House. This is a halfway house for men released from prison and seeking a return to their families and a workplace for the rest of their lives. There are wonderful counselors and administrators there who provide a path for them to follow. Pray for them as they take these steps. They know we care and believe in them.

We filled the Sanctuary stage with beautiful red poinsettias given in memory and in honor of our loved ones for the month of December. What a lovely way to express our love and remember their part in our life journey. They looked great in our line of vision and our online worship services.

Our Blue Ridge Players gave an excellent performance of "Christmas Is a Miracle Come to Earth" in Morning Worship. Bro. John wrote this play as he usually has done for years, and we had one reviewer who compared it to "Scrooge" having 3 visits from Jesus' miracles to Doubting Thomas. It was great! You and your friends and family can see it on YouTube or on our website.

Our Candlelight and Carols service was so beautiful and touching. Reborn Harmony blessed us with their spirit-filled music, Clarence Mann was a heartwarming surprise with his wonderful message Of the Messiah with his God given voice, along with his beautiful wife, Janet, Linda Graydon blessed with her gift of music from the piano, Bro. John had a loving message, and we shared candlelight with each other as we sang "Joy to the World".

We continued our donations to the Elmore Food Pantry and Friendship Missions for Men and Women, and Children. There is always a need to be filled.

Blue Ridge Family, you have a full heart for Jesus and for the least of these who would not have food, clothes, essentials and non-essentials for themselves or their children without you. We had a very Merry Christmas and Wish everyone a Happy New Year! God bless you and yours.



Happy January Birthdays

- 9th Shirley Davis
- 17th James Mallonee
- 26th Donny Bozeman
- 30th Barbara Harris



January Children's Ministry

2: Preschool: Emily Roney; Children's Church: Tammi Stevenson

9: Preschool; Emily Roney; Children's Church: Shirley Davis and Susan Bass

16: Preschool: Emily Roney; Children's Church: Jackie Carney

23: Preschool: Emily Roney; Children's Church: Lorrie Sereneck

30: Volunteers Needed for 5th Sunday



Happy New Year with Thanks

It's a new year at Blue Ridge and we are truly blessed by our friends who live away and have never forgotten our church with their tithes and offerings. You make all the difference in our ministries! Thank you James and Jody Mallonee, Dr. Don Cheatham, and Mrs. Brenda Chambliss for your love and faithfulness to Blue Ridge Baptist Church. We pray you have a specially blessed New Year in 2022. You are a wonderful part of our church family, and we thank God for you.



A New Bible Study for You!

It's a new year and we have a new Bible study for YOU!!! We will look at Creation(the original new year and beginning) in January. We will continue to look into the wonderful book of James on Sundays at 5:00 pm. We have an informal time of learning about these topics as we sit around the tables in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee is always available. You will feel comfortable as we are new learners and those who are seasoned learners who share their wisdom. Resolve to take 45 minutes to an hour of those nights to look into the Bible! We would love to see you.

Blue Ridge Baptist Church
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Candle Lighting January 9 Smoky Mountain Bible Conference January 15-17



Join us every Sunday for Worship at 11:00 AM at Blue Ridge or on YouTube!
Go to our Website 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 and click on the Secure Donations Page to begin the process.

Coming in January 2021

On Sundays

9:45 AM Bible Study (Look for new Children and Youth Classes in the coming months.)

11:00 AM Worship

5:00 PM Bible Study (Join us as we dig into the book of James.)

On Wednesdays

5:00 Prayer and Share (Coming soon a study on Creation.)

Sunday, January 9 at 11:00 AM

Candle Lighting Prayer Service

Start the New year by praying for your Church Family.

January 15-17 Smoky Mountain Bible Conference

Pray for our Youth as they venture to the Mountains to worship with 10,000 other youth.

**Happy
New Year**