

The Link - January 2026

Great Things are Happening at RSBC!

WELCOME HOME TROY!

After being deployed for about ten months, SSGT Troy Thomas was reunited with his Family on December 20, 2025. Most of his deployment was in the Middle East. While he was deployed, seven packages known as "Treats for Troy" were sent to him by our Church. Members were extremely generous, and there were always more than enough treats to fill every box. The packages were a small token of everyone's appreciation for Troy's faithful and dedicated service to our nation! Heartfelt Thanks is expressed to Troy and to his fellow Servicemen and Women for ensuring we can continue to enjoy the many Freedoms that we all too often take for granted. With the Family's consent, the remaining treats that were not mailed to Troy were donated for use in the Church's Blessing Box.

Partnering With RSM Elementary - In our October RSBC newsletter, you read about a unique opportunity we have to partner with Ridge Spring-Monetta Elementary School, supporting teachers, staff and students in their journey to success and making a positive difference in our communities.

Several church members have already been a part of this outreach. For the, October was busy. On the 20th, we made up and delivered sixty bagged lunches for teachers. Those lunch bags were tagged with a special "You are Loved" card that provided details on our church services. Then, on October 30th, several church members joined the RSM Elementary Literacy Trunk or Treat after school event.

School Principal, Lydia Bon-Perez had this to say to our Literacy Trunk or Treat event participants: "Your creativity, generosity, and community spirit helped make the event a huge success. We are truly grateful for the time and effort you put into making the evening so special for our students and families."

Many thanks to Lynda and Jerry McGee, Diedra and Brian Derrick, Holly Derrick, Blair Derrick, and Nicole and Drake Yon for their time and participation in one or both activities. Thanks also to Jill Yon for helping us identify specific opportunities to serve RSM Elementary.

We've only just begun, so please contact Tanya Butts (if you haven't already) if you are interested in being involved in this outreach opportunity during the 2026 school months.

Minutes - Quarterly Business Meeting, October 26, 2025 - Brian Derrick called the meeting to order. The first item of business was to approve the 2025-26 Roles of Service, which were approved with a show of hands. Second item of business was presented by Jerry McGee, Chairman of Buildings and Grounds, recommending that a request from the Music Committee be approved, concerning the organ which was purchased five years ago. The organ needs repairs to the power supply and should cost approximately \$2,862. The motion passed unanimously. The chair then opened the floor for additional business. Hearing none, the meeting was closed in prayer by Chairman Derrick.

Minutes - Called Business Meeting (2026 Budget), November 30, 2025 - Brian Derrick called the meeting to order at the conclusion of the worship service. Joanne Crouch, Finance Committee Chair, presented and made the motion from the committee to approve the 2026 budget, which had been out for membership review for two weeks. Brian Derrick, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, presented a motion to amend the budget to reduce the Pastor's salary from \$19,500 to \$10,400, reflecting a reduction of \$9,100 annually. The \$9,100 would be added to the Associate Pastor's salary to increase it from \$35,000 to \$44,100. The amendment passed by a show of hands. The amended budget was then voted upon by secret ballot and was approved with 39 votes in favor, and 1 vote opposed.

Minutes - Called Business Meeting (Associate Pastor Search), December 7, 2025 - Chair, Brian Derrick, called the meeting to order. He then recognized Gary Griffith, Co-Chair of the Associate Pastor search committee who made the motion that Dean Hill be hired as our Associate Pastor. A vote was taken by secret ballot, which was unanimous (48-0) in support of hiring Dean Hill as the Associate Pastor.

These minutes from the last Quarter of 2025 were taken and written by P. Kevin Yon, Assistant Clerk
Submitted by Converse B. Cone, Clerk

RSBC Angel Tree Sponsors were busy this December, making the holidays bright for over 25 elementary school children in our area! Many families were in need and names and wish lists were provided by the RSM Elementary Guidance Counselor. As God would have it, I kept holding on to one family because there was a special need and I just believed that the right person was going to ask and I would KNOW who should adopt this family. And there was no doubt the perfect match adopted this family! Thanks to special contributions and devout shoppers who went above and beyond, two little boys are now sleeping in brand new bunk beds (thanks to Economy Furniture for a special deal) with brand new bedding and pillows. And of course, toys and clothes were also purchased. The monetary contributions received were just what was needed to purchase the beds - God's hand was surely evident! On the last week of school, many gifts, and stockings (filled by the WMU under Shannon Griffith's leadership), were loaded into every inch of the truck and delivered. Wilson and Jean Thomas helped with unloading and organizing the gifts. This ministry is a Ridge Spring community tradition. Thanks to everyone who participated!

WMU NEWS

WMU Titus 2 Bible Study & Craft Event - At our November craft event we all had a great time of fellowship and fun with a Bible study on how to Paint Your Heart Beautiful with positive thoughts, words, and actions. We learned to paint three different ornaments for Christmas: one of course being heart shaped as a reminder that putting God's beauty in your heart will show through to the outside for others to see. Thanks to Diedra Derrick for all her help. We enjoyed Blood Orange Tangerine Tea during our study time. Twelve were in attendance for our Holiday craft class. Thank you to all who participated!

WMU Christmas Birthday Celebration at Saluda Nursing Center - During our first Birthday Christmas Event we all had a wonderful time with our local nursing center residents. A special thanks to the Mt. Alpha Youth Choir for lending their beautiful voices in song. A Solo by Shannon Griffith of Sweet Little Jesus Boy was lifted in praise. AnnElise Griffith rendered in painting The Gift of Christ from nativity to the cross. Pastor John delivered a wonderful message on the Christmas Star and six residents raised their hands to pray the sinner's prayer for salvation. "Praise the Lord." Gift bags of tracts, candy, and nativity ornaments were given for 175 residents. Mt. Alpha served delicious birthday cake and the residents kept coming back for more. A beautiful celebration of life and love was had by all.

WMU Christmas Stockings for Children in Need - Stockings stuffed with tangerines, apples, hot cocoa, candy bars, plastic canes with chocolate candies, rice crispy treats, candy canes and candy cane gospel tracts were given to 25 of our Ridge Spring community children in need. Thank you to all the ladies who helped to make these children's Christmas a little more joyful!



Stockings



AnnElise painting "The Gift of Christ"



Gift bags

Intercessory Prayer List

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Our military | The people of Ukraine |
| Jean Gregory | Betty Ann Cone |
| Wendel Duncan | Kent Perry |
| Pauline Berry | Kathleen Gibson |
| Rudy Stoddard | Mr. & Mrs. Verley Metts |
| James Smith | Irving Boatwright |
| Lisa Murk | Randy Robertson |
| Rev. Bobby Jackson | Waylon Chavis |
| Debbie Fallaw | Susan Carvalho |
| Sandy Miller | Judy Adamick |
| Karen Hendrix | Lynn Graham |
| Scott Johnson | Robert Rodgers |
| Dana Tyler | Paul Metts |
| Richard Miller | Owen Velie |
| Ann Yeargin | Sadie Davis (Mt. Alpha) |

Dear Friends,

As we look back on this year, our hearts are full of gratitude for you. Thank you for choosing to walk beside us, for caring about Ukraine, and for giving so generously so that others could feel hope again. Your support has carried families through cold nights, through fear, and through uncertainty - more than you may ever know.

From all of us at Heritage Ukraine, and from the many people whose lives you have touched, thank you for staying with us. Your kindness has become part of their storied, and part of ours too.

This Christmas, we wish you peace that warms the soul, joy that fills your home, and moments of rest with those you love. May the New Year bring you strength, light, and many blessings in return for all the good you have shared with the world. With deepest appreciation and warmest wishes, Your Heritage Ukraine Family

Upcoming Events

Dec 31: **NO** Wednesday night meal & activities
Jan 4: Deacons meeting
Jan 7: Wed 6 pm Meal, Bible study, Children's practice
Jan 14: Wed 6 pm Meal, Bible study, Children's practice
Jan 15: RS Garden Club meeting—Fellowship hall
Jan 17: Church Safety Training, Covenant Baptist, 9 - 12
Jan 21: Wed 6 pm Meal, Bible study, Children's practice
Jan 25: Quarterly Business Meeting
Jan 28: Wed 6 pm Meal, Bible study, Children's practice

Notes of Thanks

I would like to thank the WMU for the Christmas stocking filled with fruit and treats. I enjoyed visiting with Sannon Griffith so much when she delivered the stocking. Thank you WMU for all you do and for thinking of me during this Christmas Season. I have the stocking hanging on my mantle and I am certainly enjoying the fruit and sweet treats. Thanks again, Betty Ann Cone

Ridge Spring Baptist Church,

*Thank you so much for the fruit basket. We enjoyed it so much, but the thought behind it meant a lot.
Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Richard & Sandy Miller*

Thank you for the delicious Christmas Basket. It was a warm reminder of my life-long Ridge Spring Baptist heritage. Love always, Susie Watson

Thank you all for the cards, goodies, gifts, kind words and support throughout the year. I appreciate each and every one of you and the opportunity to serve as your church secretary! Pam Horne

Ridge Spring Baptist Church Christmas Carolers

What a joyful evening our church shared together through caroling and fellowship! On Friday, December 19th, a group of 28 members bundled up and headed out to spread Christmas cheer throughout our community. We stopped at eight homes, filling the night air with familiar carols and sharing the hope and joy of the season through song.

The smiles at each doorstep reminded us that even simple acts - voices raised together and time shared - can be a meaningful blessing to others. After our final stop, the group gathered at The Blue Canoe to warm up and wind down with pizza and ice cream. Laughter, conversation, and full hearts made for the perfect ending to a wonderful night.

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this evening so special. Moments like these beautifully reflect the spirit of community and joy that make our church family such a gift. **(See insert for pictures)**

JANUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries



| | <u>Deacon of the Week</u> |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| January 4 | Jerry McGee |
| January 11 | Will Boatwright |
| January 18 | Tim Crouch |
| January 25 | Brian Derrick |
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| | <u>Nursery</u> |
| January 4 | Diedra Derrick & Lynda McGee |
| January 11 | Shannon DuBose & Lydia Yon |
| January 18 | Corbin & Jill Yon |
| January 25 | Drake & Nicole Yon |
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| | <u>Children's Church</u> |
| January 4 | Shannon DuBose & Mildred Webb |
| January 11 | Tanya Butts & Nicole Yon |
| January 18 | Kyle & Beth Richards |
| January 25 | Kevin & Lydia Yon |
| | |
| | <u>Flower Calendar</u> |
| January 4 | M/M Halleck Butts |
| January 11 | Guy Rutland |
| January 18 | M/M Bob Boatwright |
| January 25 | Betty Ann Cone |
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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 6 Nicole Yon | 20 Pressley Rauton |
| 7 Haley Webb | 22 Caleb Griffith |
| 7 M/M Gary Griffith | 24 M/M Anthony Rauton |
| 8 Becky Wannamaker | 26 Michael Amick |
| 16 Roma Jay | 26 Darlena Mixson |
| 18 Larry Lange, Jr. | 26 Tanya Butts |
| 19 Lynn Addy | 27 Addison Yon |
| 20 Donna Lybrand | 28 M/M Mark Rutland |
| | 30 Kaitlyn Corley |

| | <u>Children's Sermon</u> |
|------------|--------------------------|
| January 4 | Mildred Webb |
| January 11 | Brian Derrick |
| January 18 | Kyle Richards |
| January 25 | Kevin Yon |
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| | <u>Church Greeters</u> |
| January 4 | Billy & Miriam Rodgers |
| January 11 | David Sawyer, McKenzie & |
| January 18 | Vicki Pierce |
| January 25 | Jerry & Lynda McGee |
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| | <u>Safety Team Duty</u> |
| January 4 | Brian DuBose |
| January 11 | Dray Wannamaker |
| January 18 | Brian Derrick |
| January 25 | Will Boatwright |
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