

The Link - November 2026

The AP Corner

Our Church's Values: GRACE



Last month, we began to look at the newly adopted expression of our church's values by considering prayer as our first and foundational value. I'd like to continue this month with the next value, which we have stated like this:

Grace - We believe in welcoming all people as they are, without judgmentalism, and communicating God's love and our love for them.

Of course, grace (unmerited favor) is central to the message of the Gospel, which says that we have not earned or deserved our right standing with God, our relationship of sonship and daughtership with Him, or our eternity with Him in heaven, but were rather given these as free gifts: "For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift." (Ephesians 2:8-9, CSB). This value statement is saying at the most basic level that we want to welcome all people, regardless of their background, upbringing, race, economic status, clothing, appearance, etc. - and especially regardless of our opinion of their relative godliness or sinfulness. We owe them a warm welcome, a self-introduction, a friendly smile, a handshake, and/or whatever else we can do to make them feel welcome and connected. Honestly, this should be our practice with new arrivals to our fellowship AS WELL AS those we are used to seeing at church. It should appall us to think that someone would visit our church and not feel welcome; it should appall us even more that someone we worship beside on a regular basis would ever feel that unwelcome or disconnected. I understand that we are not all extroverts who can talk to a brick wall; it is a bit harder for some of us. But would you be willing to step out of your comfort zone and make SOMEONE feel welcome each week as we worship? After all, Paul tells us in Romans 15:7: "Therefore welcome one another, just as Christ also welcomed you, to the glory of God." (CSB) Ideally, of course, this welcoming spirit should not be confined to the church premises, but would extend into our personal lives at home, in the marketplace, etc.

However, it is not enough just to be welcoming and say "hello" and be friendly to people when we encounter them. That is the very least we can do, and frankly, it usually doesn't take very much effort at all. To be a truly grace-filled person (or church) goes deeper; in its highest expression, it means continuously and faithfully communicating God's love to others, without exception, by consistently showing our own love for them by the way we treat them, include them, value them, converse with them, take interest in them, speak truth to them, and minister to them. We are each to be conduits of God's grace to others, and when we get together on Sundays, that spirit of grace should overflow onto each other and onto those who show up to worship with us. May we be a church that makes it impossible for someone to come to an event or gathering and leave saying that they did not feel welcome, accepted, and even embraced by the people of our church. And may we be a group of people who live that way all week, as God enables us.

Peace,

Pastor Dean

100th Birthday Celebrated!!!

The children of the church presented Betty Ann Cone with a birthday cake to celebrate her 100th birthday at the Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal on September 30 which was the eve of her birthday on October 1, 2026. The team who prepares the meals had a pink tablecloth on her table and a bunch of beautiful balloons. Those present enjoyed sharing a piece of the delicious lemon cake which was topped with a glistening 100. Mrs. Betty Ann has attended Ridge Spring Baptist Church since birth as her mother, Susie Jordan, headed up the Cradle Roll at that time. Through these 100 years she has worshipped at Ridge Spring Baptist and been actively involved in numerous ways in the church. **Happy 100th Mrs. Betty Ann!**



Pictured—RSBC children, including her great-grandchildren, Josie & Tucker Webb, presenting the birthday cake to Mrs. Betty Ann Cone.

Joyful Sounds

As we enter November, my mind naturally shifts into thinking about what I am grateful for. One of my favorite worship songs during this season says “Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One.” Worshiping with a grateful heart can mean that we shift our focus away from our personal circumstances and we reflect on who God is and all He has done for us. Whether our worship is through singing, playing instruments, prayer, or even writing in a gratitude journal, we truly do have so many things to be grateful for. - Leah



Coordinated by Ridge Spring Baptist Church & Mt. Alpha Baptist Church
All are invited to attend!

November 22, 2026 at 6:00 pm
at the Ridge Spring Fire Department Building

Ridge Spring Baptist Church members are asked to bring a dessert.

Intercessory Prayer List

Our military	The people of Ukraine
Betty Ann Cone	Wendel Duncan
Kent Perry	Pauline Berry
Kathleen Gibson	Rudy Stoddard
M/M Verley Metts	Debbie Fallaw
Susan Carvalho	Karen Hendrix
Judy Adamick	Darlena Mixon
Yvonne Christenbury	Jody Daly
Sarah Schwarz	Michel Rodgers
Opal Lybrand	James Campbell
Bill Gibbs	Dana Berry
Dallas Cone IV	Dale Bagwell
John Galenta	Buddy Bostian
Gatlin Padgett	Cort Proctor

Upcoming Events

Nov 12: Ridge Ramblers Thanksgiving luncheon
Nov 15: Called Business Meeting—2027 Budget
Nov 22: Titus 2 Devotion & craft 3:00 pm
Nov 22: Community Thanksgiving Dinner @ fire dept

Wednesday Night Fellowship

6:00—6:30 pm Meal
6:30 - 7 pm Devotion w/Pastor Dean / Children's Activities
7:00 pm Adult Choir practice

To Our Dear Friends at Ridge Spring Baptist Church,

Thank you hardly seems appropriate enough for the prayers, love, kindness & support you offered to our family during the recent passing of our beloved wife, mother, & grandmother. Your friendship & outpouring of love, in so very many ways, has truly sustained us. From numerous cards, phone calls, flowers, meals—you have been and shown the love of Christ. With our love and deep appreciation,

The Family of Sandy Miller

Dear Ridge Spring Baptist,

Thank you all for sharing your fellowship hall for our Forrest gathering. What a blessing it was to us all. To gather together after all these years was a true Blessing. May the Lord Bless and Keep you all as you Bless others.

Memmus Forrest

Poinsettias: If you would like to place a Poinsettia in the sanctuary for the Christmas Season in honor or in memory of a family member or friend, please sign up in the vestibule. A box is provided for your check (or cash) made payable to Betty Ann Cone. Worthy's Florist in Batesburg will provide the potted poinsettias wrapped in green paper with a red bow at a cost of \$19.50. The deadline to sign up is November 22nd.



TITUS 2 NEWS - At our October event we learned to make Heritage Quilt Ornaments adorned with tassels and pine boughs. Each is beautiful & worthy to pass to the next generation. Our devotional was "What is Your Heritage" on what kind of legacy does God want us to leave behind. It was a wonderful time of fellowship & women learning from other women. All in attendance had great talks learning about each other's past. Thank you to all who participated. Please join us November 22nd for fun & fellowship. Learn to make Heirloom Lace Ornaments & Create a Family Christmas Tree. Our devotional will be "Know Your Past".



Ridge Ramblers - The Ramblers arrived in Augusta to ride the Savannah River on October 3. We were invited to share the excursion with Celebration Church. While cruising the river, we had the good fortune of observing an alligator cooling himself in the water. He was an exciting treat for all to see. We enjoyed snacks with everyone and good music while learning some history of the area. In addition to heading up the river, Anna Rae and Pastor Dean had an opportunity to drive the boat. They each did a fantastic job and appeared at ease while we cruised. The members enjoying the occasion from RSBC were: Phillip and Darlena Mixson, Debbie Hall, Barbara Cromer, Rosalyn Pressley, Anna Rae and Leah Smith, Pastor Dean and Vicki Pierce. Upon completing our voyage, we along with Celebration Church, met at Old McDonald Fish Camp for a most satisfying meal. The Ridge Ramblers will meet again on November 12 for our Thanksgiving luncheon. Phillip Mixson will prepare our meal. We will need a head count for those wishing to attend no later than November 8.

November

Birthdays & Anniversaries



2 John Chambers
6 Rick Christie
7 Davis Cromer
9 Zach Matthews
15 Shannon DuBose
15 Shannon Price
15 Mark Hall
16 Phil Yon

17 M/M Grae Holston
18 Grae Holston
18 Drayton Wannamaker
20 Will Boatwright
22 M/M Trey Strickland
23 Lilly Claire Matthews
26 Jace Harrison
29 M/M Dillon Harrison

	<u>Deacon of the Week</u>
November 1	Chan Corley
November 8	Will Boatwright
November 15	Tim Crouch
November 22	Brian Derrick
November 29	Brian DuBose
	<u>Nursery</u>
November 1	Shannon DuBose
November 8	Derrick girls
November 15	The Webbs
November 22	Jill & Corbin Yon
November 29	Nicole & Drake Yon
	<u>Children's Church</u>
November 1	Lynda McGee & Diedra Derrick
November 8	Shannon & Brian DuBose
November 15	Nicole & Drake Yon
November 22	Lydia & Kevin Yon
November 29	Beth & Kyle Richards
	<u>Flower Calendar</u>
November 1	Susan Wheeler
November 8	Judy Adamick
November 15	M/M Jerry McGee
November 22	M/M Eddie Webb
November 29	Mike Storey

	<u>Children's Sermon</u>
November 1	Brian Derrick
November 8	Kyle Richards
November 15	Mildred Webb
November 22	Lydia Yon
November 29	Kevin Yon
	<u>Church Greeters</u>
November 1	Vicki Pierce
November 8	Ilka Hendrix
November 15	Jerry & Lynda McGee
November 22	Holly Derrick, El & Ada Yon
November 29	Brian & Diedra Derrick
	<u>Safety Team Duty</u>
November 1	Dray Wannamaker
November 8	Will Boatwright
November 15	Kevin Yon
November 22	Kyle Richards
November 29	Brian Derrick

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