

# Blue Ridge

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

## From My Heart

**H**appy New Year! 2025 was a wonderful and a jam-packed year at Blue Ridge and we are praying that 2026 will be even better for your family and our church family. One thing that folks often do around this time of year is to make resolutions for the new year. Usually, they have to do with losing weight or saving money.

**I have a request; this year let's all make the same resolution.** You can do all kinds of great things in 2026, but there is **one** thing that you can do that will bless you and everyone around you. **My suggestion is that we all seek to pray more in 2026.**

When we eat with our grandson, he is the one that prays and I can't be happier. His prayers started out like the prayers our daughter used to pray when she was little. **"God our Father, God, our Father, once again, once again, we are here to thank you, we are here to thank you, Amen, Amen."** His prayers have moved on to more of a conversation about everything and everyone in his life. That, my friend is what prayer is, it is a **conversation**. You are not talking to yourself, you are talking to the Creator of the universe, the one who sent His Son to die for your sins, and the one who not only wants to hear from you, but to talk to you.

There are a lot of ways to describe prayer, I like the ACTS Acrostic.

**Adoration Psalm 63:3-4, "Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands."**

**Confession 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."**

**Thanksgiving Psalm 100: 4, "Enter**

**His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name."**

**Supplication Philippians 4:6, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."**

That pretty much describes the conversations you ought to be having with God. Tell him that you love Him and why you love Him (Adoration). Ask Him for forgiveness (Confession), we all mess up. Tell Him about what you are grateful for (Thankfulness). Ask Him for help for you and all those He puts on your heart (Supplication). One more thing, **listen**. Let Him speak to you (Psalm 46:10).

### How much more should we pray?

Ephesians 6:18 says we should "pray at all times" but let me suggest that you just start doing a little bit more and be deliberate about it.

When I was in high school God was really working on me and I was seeking to grow in the faith. I walked to school every morning and the trip only took about fifteen minutes, but those minutes belonged to God. From the moment I stepped out of my house till the moment I stepped on campus I talked to God and listened to His voice. It wasn't much time, but it set the tone for the day. It gave me peace and purpose. God told me how He wanted me to act on campus that day and I let Him have all my worries.

Give God a little more time in 2026 and be consistent about it. I guarantee that you will be the one who is blessed.

This Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> we will have our Annual Candle Lighting and Prayer Service at 11:00 AM. It is a great way to start the New Year and I hope to see you there.

**Jackie and I love you all and are praying for you. Happy New Year!**

**In His Love,**

**Bro. John**





# *Jesus is All the World to Us*

## *January 2026 at Blue Ridge*

- 1 Happy New Year! 2026 will be a great year in the life of our church*
- 4 BRBC Family Candle Lighting and Prayer Service*
- 11 Fellowship Lunch and Business Meeting*
- 13 Ladies' Crafts Night Out*
- 22 Lunch Bunch on the Move*
- 25 Youth & Kids Fundraiser Lunch*

*We Begin Our New Year with Prayer for All Our Families*  
*Family Candle Lighting Service*  
*Sunday, January 4, 2026*



Light a  
candle!  
It's a beautiful  
way to express  
prayer.



*Each family will go forward , pew by pew, to light a candle and to pray silently for your family in the coming year as we in our pews, silently pray for your family along with you. Thus begins the New Year as we will lift each other up in prayer for the Lord's blessings. We will cover all our church family. Candles will be on the Lord's Supper table. Bro. John and Jackie will begin the candle lighting.*



### **Deck the Halls of the Church**

*Thank you to our Flower Committee and friends who came together to prepare our church inside for our celebration of our Savior's birth. Our decorators were: Lorrie Sereneck, Buddy and Shirley Davis, Fay Milton, Bonnie Ryals, Jim and Joni Musser, Jim Beck, Linda Graydon, JoAnn Woodfin, David Funchess, Bro. John and Jackie, who did her part on the night before. Thank you to Joni Musser for the gifts of the pew bow arrangements and to Bonnie Ryals and Mary Ryals for helping her. They are beautiful! Joni made the pretty wreaths at the front door and around the halls as well.*



*Thank you to our Merry band of Carolers, Lynn McLeod, Kacy Hall, Brooklyn Hall, and Bro. John and Jackie Carney as they went out Wednesday night to sing to our neighbors. We saw a lot of smiles and came back to a lot of goodies and hot chocolate.*



### **A Christmas Angels Thank You**

Church family, your response to the two families we were given to provide Christmas gifts for was so kind and generous. The Sunshine Center was so happy to see all you gave for the adoptive Grandmother and her 2 grandchildren. The man, Matthew who lost everything in a house fire was overwhelmed. He called Bro. John to share his appreciation for all that was given for them! He cried with joy and amazement. He never dreamed of how he would be blessed. We have a member who will give him some furniture when he finds a new home for himself and his three children. We know you prayed over what you gave to these two families. We thank you, our family at Blue Ridge. God bless you!



### **December Eclectic Outdoor Nativity**

Our church members traveled over to Eclectic to see a wonderful live presentation, with real animals and beautifully made scenery, of the true Christmas story of Christ's birth. It was a new experience for most of us and we will go again.





Join Us for Our January 11<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Lunch followed by our Quarterly Business Meeting for our church members. Bring your favorite Sunday Dinner dishes and desserts to share.



### Ladies Craft Night is January 13

Joni Musser will have our craft project and it is really pretty. It's a Valentine door hanger and she needs to know in advance if you will be joining us. She is ordering panels to make the hearts which we will paint and decorate. Bring your favorite ribbon, flowers, mesh, etc. You have received a picture on your phone text messages. Text Bro. John's church family thread to let us know yes or no that you will attend.



### Thank You for the Beautiful Poinsettias

Given in Memory of

Cheryl Lynn, their daughter by Jim and Barbara Harris

Peggy Beck, his wife, by Jim Beck

Gary Ryals, her husband, by Bonnie Ryals

Their parents, by Rocky and Wendy Aldridge

Louis and Deetsie Rogers, her parents by Brian and Susan Hansen

Joe and Kate Hansen and Bill Hansen by Brian and Susan Hansen

Their Mothers, Donna Miller and Carol Johnson by Dave and Becky Miller

Her parents by JoAnn Woodfin

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

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

Their Parents and Grandparents, by Bro. John and Jackie Carney

His Father and her parents by Adam and Mary Ryals

Terry Graydon, her husband, by Linda Graydon

Given in Honor and Memory of

Their Family, by Bro. John and Jackie Carney



**Our After Christmas Kids' Party Was Fun!**  
We shared lunch together and went to bowl in Prattville. We enjoyed ice cream treats as well.



8	Terry Graydon
9	Shirley Davis
17	James Mallonee
26	Donny Bozeman
27	Nicole Cannon Musa
30	Barbara Harris
	Chris Stephens



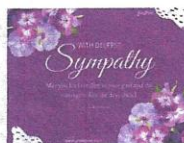
### January Children's Ministry

4: Tammi Stevenson

11: Susan Bass

18: Tammi Stevenson

25: Jackie Carney



Our Christian love and sympathy are expressed to the family of Brenda Chambliss of Montgomery. Brenda was a long time member of Blue Ridge and continued to send her tithes and offerings to the church right up to the last days of her life. Her husband, Billy predeceased her passing. She is survived by two daughters, Wendy Stern and Cindy Jordan. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Children's Harbour Ministry in Alex City.



### Your Contribution Records

Susan Hansen will have your 2025 contribution record available for you this month. We appreciate Susan for keeping these records. Your gifts are charitable contributions for your income tax records.

### Thank You

#### Happy New Year, Sweet Friends!

**Thank You for Your Prayers and Tithes and Offerings you so faithfully send to our church, your home church at Blue Ridge. You make our ministries possible through your faithful remembrance of us. We pray for you as we thank God for you: James and Jody Mallonee, Drs. Corey and Marcia Stanley, Harold and Mabel Haddle, Ken Brock, and Lt. Col. Don and Emily Roney, Janet Johnson, and Dorris Teague.**

The Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Study date is to be announced. Pray for Doris Brown as she recovers at home.

**Blue Ridge Baptist Church**  
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[www.blueridgebaptistchurch.net](http://www.blueridgebaptistchurch.net)

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**Candle Lighting and Prayer Service January 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am**  
**Fellowship Lunch & Business Meeting January 11<sup>th</sup>**



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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Counting and Lock Up David Funchess				1 Happy New Year!	2 Invite a friend to Church.	3 Help take down Christmas 9:30 am
4 Candle Lighting Prayer Service 11:00 am	5 Visitation 7:00 pm	6 TOPS 5:30 pm	7 Prayer & Share 5:00 pm	8	9	10 Business Meeting after Lunch on Jan. 11 <sup>th</sup> .
11 Fellowship Lunch	12 Visitation 7:00 pm	13 TOPS 5:30 pm Ladies' Crafts 6:30 pm	14 Prayer & Share 5:00 pm	15	16	18
18	19 Visitation 7:00 pm	20 TOPS 5:30 pm	21 Prayer & Share 5:00 pm	22 Lunch Bunch 10:00 am	23	24
25 Youth BBQ Lunch	26 Visitation 7:00 pm	27 TOPS 5:30 pm	28	29	30	31 Coming Up Annual Valentine Talent Show Feb 8 <sup>th</sup>



Visit us at [www.blueridgebaptistchurch.net](http://www.blueridgebaptistchurch.net) to see events, pictures, sermons, and a private, secure giving site, all done by our Webmaster, Jim Harris. There are so many pictures to see and information to gather. Thank you, Jim, for an excellent website. It is always up to date!