

Adult Art Connection - Friday, March 24th - 6:30 pm - 9:00-FBC Fellowship Hall  
\$30 per person 10 spots available Bring a Friend!



**new members class**

Taught by Pastor Rusty  
March 12, 19, and 26  
9:30 AM

**VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**STELLAR**  
SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

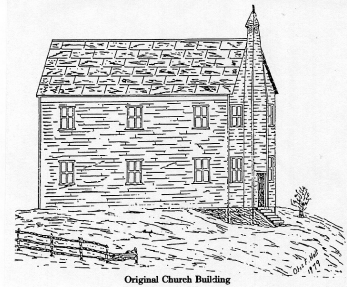
**SIGN UP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**CPR CLASS**

**APRIL 14 & 15**  
Watch for more information.

**UP-COMING EVENTS:**  
**HIGHLAND OUTDOOR MINISTRY LAUNCH—APRIL 1**  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY—APRIL 6—6:30 PM**  
**KIDS' CARNIVAL — APRIL 22**

FBCBR 907 East Main St. Blue Ridge, GA 30513  
brfbc@blueridgefbc.org 706.632.2763  
Rusty Thomas, Pastor rusty.thomas@blueridgefbc.org 706.258.2654  
Pat Young, Childhood Ministries Coordinator  
pat.young@blueridgefbc.org 770.316.6575  
Martha Buchanan, Ministry Assistant martha.buchanan@blueridgefbc.org



Original Church Building



Current Building

### ANNIVERSARY & HOMECOMING

Please join us in celebrating the 135th anniversary of  
First Baptist Church of Blue Ridge, GA  
Sunday, March 19, 2023  
10:45 service and meal following  
(meat & drinks provided)  
Sign up in Fellowship Hall

(Pastor Rusty cont.)

The Apostle Paul writes to the Corinthians church, “As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation (2 Corinthians 7:9-10).

In addition to emerging from the winter season, you may be emerging from a winter season of life with feelings of sadness, guilt, anger, or bitterness. I pray that godly sorrow will lead to repentance, and that repentance will lead to joy, and that the joy of the Lord will spring up into new strength and hope for you to run on. Charles Spurgeon said, “When the soul has been saturated with the rain of repentance, the clear shining of forgiving love makes the flowers of gladness blossom all around.”  
—Pastor Rusty





### THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH

The children of Israel had weathered the winter of deportation, exile, returning to a destroyed homeland, and rebuilding the city of Jerusalem; now in Nehemiah 8, they “gather as one man” into the city square. With the prospect of new life springing up before them, they watched in awe as Ezra, the Scribe, stood with the Book of the Law, and when he opened it, they all stood in reverence to God. Herein, was life, according to Moses, and they stood to honor the life and hope that was before them in God’s Word. They had a great respect for the Word.

Very quickly the scene changed as the Levites, along with Ezra, explained the Law to the people. Instead of excitement, the congregation is now overwhelmed by guilt and grief, and they all begin to weep over their sin. They had great repentance at the Word.

The leaders, Nehemiah, Ezra, the Levites, all realize what is happening, and they stop the people from their grieving and begin encouraging them to rejoice. Why should they rejoice? They should rejoice because even though God’s Law had been broken, by God’s love they could be forgiven. They should rejoice because their repentance and brokenness would bring healing. And they should rejoice, in the words of the leaders, “and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” Then they had great rejoicing for the Word.  
(Continued on back)

MARCH 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Week of Prayer for North American Missions March 5-12 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Our Goal: \$10,000.00			1 Home School 8:30-3:30  Weekly Schedule	2 Old Testament Survey Class—A/Y/C 9am  Aerobics 5:30 pm	3	4
5 Sunday School 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:45 GIDEON SPEAKER Special Deacon Election to install Jerry Gordon, Philip Arnall, Bill Rowe Nursing Home 2:00 P.M. Worship 6:00	6  Deacons’ Meeting 6pm  Aerobics 5:30 pm	7  Young Adult Ministry Bible Study 7 pm	8 Home School 8:30-3:30  Weekly Schedule  Men & Women’s Bible Study	9 Old Testament Survey Class—A/Y/C 9 am  Aerobics 5:30 pm	10	
12 New Member Class 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:45  P.M. Worship 6:00 Business Meeting	13  Aerobics 5:30 pm	14 Heart to Hands 10 am  Young Adult Ministry Bible Study 7 pm	15 Home School 8:30-3:30  Weekly Schedule	16 Old Testament Survey Class—A/Y/C 9 am  Aerobics 5:30 pm	17	18
19 New Member Class 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 HOMECOMING 10:45 Meal Following (meat & drinks provided) No evening worship	20  Aerobics 5:30 pm	21  Young Adult Ministry Bible Study 7 pm	22 Home School 8:30-3:30  Weekly Schedule	23 Old Testament Survey Class— A/Y/C 9 am  Aerobics 5:30 pm	24 ADULT ART CONNECTION Fellowship Hall 6:30—9:00 Sign up Early!	25 S. A. L. T. Women’s Conference “Biblical Theology” Atlanta
26 New Member Class 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:45 (Communion)  P.M. Worship 6:00	27  Aerobics 5:30 pm	28  Young Adult Ministry Bible Study 7 pm	29 Home School 8:30-3:30  Weekly Schedule	30  Aerobics 5:30 pm	Blessed <i>be</i> the Lord, <i>who</i> daily loadeth us <i>with</i> <i>benefits, even</i> the God of our salvation. Selah. Psalm 68:19 KJV	

WEEKLY SCHEDULE		
Sun.	9:30 am	Sunday School
	10:45 am	Morning Worship
	6:00 pm	Evening Worship
Mon.	5:30 pm	Aerobics
Tues.	7:00 pm	Young Adult Bible Study
Wed.	3:30 pm	Painting with a Purpose
	5:00 pm	Family Fellowship Meal
	5:45 pm	Preschool/Children Bible Study/Choir
		ESL Class
	6:00 pm	Youth Bible Study—A/Y Center
		Prayer Mtg./Adult Bible Study
	7:15 pm	Worship Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 am	Old Testament Survey Class—A/Y/C
	5:30 pm	Aerobics—Fellowship Hall

DEACON OF THE WEEK—MARCH 2023		
05	James Weeks	770-329-9210
12	Tim Smallwood	706-248-1091
19	Jerry Gordon	706-632-5321
26	Philip Arnall	706-258-8018

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES		
1	Sophia Carroll	Quinn Leach
	Kathleen Caldwell	
3	Cliff Shirah	
4	Steve Bailey	
5	Cassidy Culpepper	Morgan Blaine
6	Lisa Key	Doris Quillen
7	Joe Dent	
10	Austin Leach	
15	Ann Wright	
16	Deena Chance	
17	Kenny & Patsy Stuart	(A)
18	Carolyn Hall	
22	Sarah Burnett	
24	Evan Dailey	
25	Amelia Thomas	
26	Holly Norton	
27	Bennie Butler	Robert Hart
29	Debbie Brantley	
30	Leanna Johnson	

God Bless  
you  
on your  
Special Day!