

THE MESSENGER

Smith Grove Baptist Church
P.O. Box 57
Colfax, NC 27235

**VOLUME 33
December 2016
ISSUE 393**

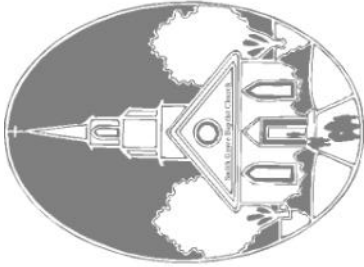
Sunday School 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Children's Church 11:15 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday Service 7:00 PM
Bible Clubs 7:00 PM
Thursday Visitation 7:00 PM

~ **NURSERY PROVIDED** ~
2707 Sandy Ridge Road
Colfax, NC 27235

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Peters, Pastor
Home: (336) 996-8563
Cell: (336) 812-1169

PROVERBS 25:13

As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him, for he refresheth the soul of his masters . . .



www.smithgrove.org

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*The
Messenger*



December




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Sat., Dec. 3Winston-Salem Rescue Mission
Sun., Dec. 4Christmas Dinner
(after morning service)
Tues., Dec. 13, 7-8 p.m.Robinwood Retirement Center
Sun., Dec. 18BEAMS' SUNDAY and
11 am..... Christmas Cantata, Come to the Manger
6 pm Children's Christmas Musical,
"A Churchmouse Christmas"
Sun., Dec. 25 NO EVENING SERVICE



Statement of Faith:

We are an Independent Baptist Church (*established in 1921*) preaching the old time Gospel and still believing that the King James Version of the Bible constitutes the preserved, inerrant, and inspired Word of God for the English speaking people of the earth.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

SHUT-INS

Iris Farrington Neva Long Clara Ward
Harry Haynes Barbara Tucker Gerry Williams

Assisted Living/Nursing Home

Rose Matthews Ann Rayle
Jo Anne Pegram Lorene Robertson

*Prayer List continued on
Next Page . . .*

Pray for those . . .

IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY



CW3 Jonathan Harless (Raleigh, NC—
being deployed)

Maj. Robert Harless (160th SOAR,
Savannah, GA)

Charles Holmes, Al Asad Air Base
(Northern Iraq)

David Laramore, Fort Huachuca, Sierra Vista, AZ, US Army

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Maine, US Army

[Alaska] (Nephew of Clarence Redmon)

Kyle Norman, 565 Outer Drive, Box 190

JB Lewis-McCord, WA 98438

Jason Sabot – Serving in Afghanistan



Welcome **New Members**

Gene & Terri Blankenship
917 Gallimore Dairy Rd.
High Point, NC 27265
336-337-4413 (Gene Cell)
336-687-1517 (Terri Cell)

David & Chasity Ramey
(Chase & Landon)
3642 Hayfield Ct.
Thomasville, NC 27360
336-663-3147 (David)
336-663-3148 (Chasity)



BEAMS' Report for November 2016

of Pledges: 13; # of Contributions: 4 ;
Total Contributors: 17
Total Contributed: \$ 798.00 =
99 Bibles in November (plus some postage)

You can also get the BEAMS' report online at our website:
http://www.smithgrove.org/beams_ministry.htm

Audio Sermons

Pastor Chuck's sermons are online. They are included in the Home Page navigation on smithgrove.org (top of page) -- Audio Sermons button.

VAN TRANSPORTATION

...is now available for anyone who needs a ride to church on Sunday nights or Wednesday nights. See Jim Laramore if interested.

COMMUNION SERVICES:

Feb. 26, 2017; May 28; Aug. 27; Nov. 26

"Until one feels the true Spirit of Christmas, there is no Christmas. All else is outward display—so much tinsel and decorations. For it isn't the holly, it isn't the snow. It isn't the tree nor the firelight's glow. It's the warmth that comes to the hearts of men when the Christmas spirit returns again."



The Road to Everlasting Life

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Romans 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 10:9-10 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."



PERSONAL: Not a day goes by that we don't experience something new and exciting as we serve the Lord here in South Africa. From food and weather, to the driving...every day seems like an adventure. Recently, we took a short trip to an area near the town of Sabie on a waterfall sight-seeing excursion. We were able to visit four beautiful falls within just a few hours' time. How beautiful God's creation is! We all had a great time and really enjoyed some important family time together. Who says you can't have fun serving the Lord?!

MINISTRY: We have some exciting news to report regarding the ministry! Not long after we arrived here, the Lord began to bring our attention to the needy harvest fields all around South Africa. Our eyes and hearts have been opened to city after city and village after village, with populations ranging from between a few thousand to well over a million with NO gospel witness, NO missionary, and NO Bible-preaching, evangelistic church. We could not ignore this great need and began to pray for God's leading. Finally, after an intense season of prayer and searching, God is directing our family to move to the city of Kimberley to begin bringing the gospel to this needy place. Kimberley is a city of around 250,000 population and serves as the capital city of the Northern Cape Province. We are making plans to move there by the first week of December. We will tell you more about the city and new contact information in the next letter. For now, you may continue to call or write us using our current information. While this will mean new languages and cultures and a change in environment, what will NOT change is the Christ - honoring, proven work of evangelizing the lost, baptizing converts, discipling new believers and training servants for the ministry. I'm glad no matter where we may go in this world, the gospel WILL work if we WILL work it! *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."* Romans 1:16

We are so very grateful to the Badgett family and to the churches here for all the help they have been to us over the past months since we arrived. Please continue to pray for them and for the ministries here. While we will certainly miss the people and ministries in White River, we are excited to follow the Lord's leading into this new field of service.

PRAYER: PRAY for rain! Recently, we have had several rainy days, but keep praying – we need LOTS more! PRAY for the move to Kimberley and for every need to be met: housing, moving expenses, etc. PRAY for Phillip, a man we met and witnessed to in the town of Ladybrand. We gave him a Bible and hope to follow up with him later regarding salvation and perhaps a Bible study. PRAY for my grandmother, Betty Wall, who was recently diagnosed with stage three colon cancer. PRAY for us and for our families as we spend the first Thanksgiving and Christmas on the foreign field.

In Christ's Service, *The Branch Family*

SICK/OTHER PRAYER NEEDS:

(Newly added names are in italics.)

Melvin & JoAnn Alley	Neva Long (Kidney Stone/UTI)
Dale Austin (leukemia)	Daniel & Mazie Matthews
Lou Badgett	Gary McArthur (malignant tumor)
Eddie Blackburn (Heart)	Maggie McGee
Homer Bowden	Mary Miller (Health issues)
Sheridan Bowman	Darla Parks (Pulmonary infection)
Jeffrey Branch (Car accident)	Ethel Pendry
Thelma Bullard	Gene & Oma Lou Pitts
Ann Burke (stroke)	Allen Priddy (PTSD)
Tammy Burnett (cancer)	Dean Puckett (Stroke)
Evangelist Cliff Burwell	Joe Ray
Kay Collins (Health issues)	Sandra Richardson
Tonya Crews (Cancer)	<i>Alyssa Roberts</i> (double mastectomy)
Dovie Mae Dull (Heart issues)	Tom Rodgers
Olivia Dunn (9-yr-old - cancer)	Claude Royal
Jamie & Jan Estes	Justin Royal
Diane Foust	Violet Sealey
Kathy Fulk (Health issues)	Ken Shelton (Open-heart surgery)
Sandra Gaither & Family (Car Accident)	Bobby Shelton (Stroke)
Kim Garrett (Cancer/Crohn's Disease)	<i>Debbie Sipes</i> (Pacemaker)
Samuel Hall (Health Issues)	Betty Sue Smith (Health issues)
Carol Hayden	<i>Johnny Smith</i>
George Hayes (heart)	Allen Steele (Syria)
Harry Haynes	Donald Stephens
Rhonda Hedgecock	Chara Tate's mother (cancer)
Ricky Hedgecock	Sue Uhler (Lung Cancer)
Tim Hedgecock	<i>Betty Wall</i> (Colon cancer)
<i>Joretta Holt</i> (Recent hospitalization)	Clara Ward
Reva Holt (Hip Surgery)	<i>Gerri Williams</i> (Recent hospitalization)
Sarah Hudson (CHF)	
Sarah Isenhour (Crohn's Disease)	
Cindy Johnson (Cancer)	
Maureen Lamb	
Wesley Landreth	
Clara Farrington Long (health issues)	

BEREAVED: *Family of*

Sam Clonts



Philippians 4:6 - *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

Colossians 4:2 - *Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;*

Acts 2:42 - *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*



The True Story Of Rudolph

A man named Bob May, depressed and brokenhearted, stared out his drafty apartment window into the chilling December night.

His 4-year-old daughter Barbara sat on his lap quietly sobbing. Bob's wife, Evelyn, was dying of cancer. Little Barbara couldn't understand why her mommy could never come home. Barbara looked up into her dad's eyes and asked, "Why isn't Mommy just like everybody else's Mommy?" Bob's jaw tightened and his eyes welled with tears. Her question brought waves of grief, but also of anger. It had been the story of Bob's life. Life always had to be different for Bob.

Small when he was a kid, Bob was often bullied by other boys. He was too little at the time to compete in sports. He was often called names he'd rather not remember. From childhood, Bob was different and never seemed to fit in. Bob did complete college, married his loving wife and was grateful to get his job as a copywriter at Montgomery Ward during the Great Depression.

Then he was blessed with his little girl. But it was all short-lived. Evelyn's bout with cancer stripped them of all their savings and now Bob and his daughter were forced to live in a two-room apartment in the Chicago slums. Evelyn died just days before Christmas in 1938.

Bob struggled to give hope to his child, for whom he couldn't even afford to buy a Christmas gift. But if he couldn't buy a gift, he was determined to make one - a storybook! Bob had created an animal character in his own mind and told the animal's story to little Barbara to give her comfort and hope.

Again and again Bob told the story, embellishing it more with each telling. Who was the character? What was the story all about?

The story Bob May created was his own autobiography in fable form. The character he created was a misfit outcast like he was. The name of the character? A little reindeer named Rudolph, with a big shiny nose. Bob finished the book just in time to give it to his little girl on Christmas Day. But the story doesn't end there.



Continued, next page

The general manager of Montgomery Ward caught wind of the little storybook and offered Bob May a nominal fee to purchase the rights to print the book. Wards went on to print, "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," and distribute it to children visiting Santa Claus in their stores.

By 1946 Wards had printed and distributed more than six million copies of Rudolph. That same year, a major publisher wanted to purchase the rights from Wards to print an updated version of the book.

In an unprecedented gesture of kindness, the CEO of Wards returned all rights back to Bob May. The book became a best seller. Many toy and marketing deals followed and Bob May, now remarried with a growing family, became wealthy from the story he created to comfort his grieving daughter.

But the story doesn't end there either.

Bob's brother-in-law, Johnny Marks, made a song adaptation to Rudolph. Though the song was turned down by such popular vocalists as Bing Crosby and Dinah Shore, it was recorded by the singing cowboy, Gene Autry. "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was released in 1949 and became a phenomenal success, selling more records than any other Christmas song, with the exception of "White Christmas."

The gift of love that Bob May created for his daughter so long ago kept on returning back to bless him again and again. And Bob May learned the lesson, just like his dear friend Rudolph, that being different isn't so bad. In fact, being different can be a blessing.

Epilogue: *A Blessing Indeed!*

As a born-again Christian, being "different" from the world is a way of life. Christians are often treated badly because of those differences, but in reality, we should feel that this is a mark of distinction and one more symbol of our sanctification through the blood of Christ. *Hallelujah!*

1 Peter 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;*

Romans 12:2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*



“Our Honour Roll”

Smith Grove’s ministry to our widows and widowers

“Honour widows that are widows indeed.”

(1 Timothy 5:3)

This is a continuing churchwide ministry to remember widows and widowers of the church in a meaningful way. Each month, we highlight our special “Honour Roll Gang Members” who are having birthdays. Listed below are *December and January* Honour Roll Gang members. Please take a moment to send a card, make a telephone call, or do something extra special for our special saints.

Joretta Holt

8412 Stafford Mill Rd.
Oak Ridge, N.C. 27310
336-993-2493
336-707-6624 (Cell) ~ December 7

Kathy Flynt

1965 Sandy Ridge Road
Colfax, NC 27235
336-668-2500 ~ January 7

Neva Long

8716 Staples Road
Colfax, NC 27235
336-993-4294 ~ Dec. 19



Dolly Westmoreland

520 Lakedale Rd
Colfax, NC 27235
336-993-2093 ~ January 27



Bernice Johnson

1624 Mellon Dr.
Kernersville, NC 27284
336-904-0832 ~ December 23

- Christmas trees were first decorated with foods such as apples, nuts and dates.
- In the 18th century Christmas trees began being decorated with candles.
- Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in 1895.
- If you received all the gifts from the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” you would have 364 presents.
- The song Jingle Bells was written by James Pierpont in 1857. It was originally called “One Horse Open Sleigh” and was made for Thanksgiving.
- Many years ago in England a traditional Christmas dinner included a pig head served with mustard.
- The tradition of naughty children getting a lump of coal in their stocking comes from Italy.
- Did you know that tinsel was once made of real silver! It was invented in Germany in 1610.
- The tallest Christmas tree ever displayed was in Seattle Washington in 1950. The Christmas tree was 221 feet tall!

December Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Adalyn Finney | 16 | Jan Wilson |
| 3 | Sheila Payne | 17 | Jessica Holt |
| 4 | Mackenzie Barham | 18 | Brian Faulkner |
| 4 | Chasity Ramey | 19 | Neva Long |
| 5 | Willis George | 19 | Todd Tucker |
| 5 | Elaine Lowe | 20 | Andrew Harrison Smith |
| 5 | Bailey Matthews | 21 | Johnny Cameron |
| 7 | Joretta Holt | 23 | Bernice Johnson |
| 9 | Shaila Puckett | 23 | Nancy Kelley |
| 10 | Reva Holt | 30 | Barbara Bowden |
| 11 | Joshua Sexton | 30 | Lillie Mae Crump |
| 11 | Rhoney Wilson | 31 | John David Payne |
| 12 | Lydia Beeson | | Craig Pearman |
| 12 | Tori Heath | | Lonnie Tucker |
| 16 | Gale Tester | | |

December Anniversaries

- 1 Cleo & Reva Holt (1951)
- 3 Dan & Bobbie Hayworth
- 23 Waynard & Carol Nuckles
- 24 Tim & Evelyn Matthews



Congratulations!
Cleo & Reva Holt
65 Years of Marriage



Yesterday, December seventh, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. We will gain the inevitable triumph, so help us God.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

A total of 2,335 U.S. servicemen were killed and 1,143 were wounded. And 68 civilians were also killed - 35 were wounded.

The Wonder of Christmas

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” – Isaiah 9:6

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year. There are, in reality, very few scrooges at Christmas time! The Christmas season conveys a wonder. The music, the shopping, the decorations, and the very atmosphere strike a chord that connects us to memories of the past and the wonder of childhood. Most of us annually decorate our Christmas trees with ornaments of former Christmases and the tree, itself, sends us on a trip down memory lane and we can almost see the excited faces and hear the joyous voices of Christmases with family and friends of Christmases past! There is, to a degree, a sort of magic in the air with the arrival of the Christmas season.

The wonder of Christmas is experienced emotionally as human moods are altered whether it is for good or bad. Some find Christmas a “happy time” while others find Christmas a “sad time!” The best way to transition from sadness to joy is to focus on the real wonder of Christmas! Its real wonder is not captured by secular celebration which has reduced its meaning merely to the context of an annual holiday.

The real wonder of Christmas is to focus upon the One whose name is called “Wonderful!” Christmas is about Christ! Oh the wonder of His virgin birth. Oh the wonder of His vicarious death. Oh the wonder of His victorious resurrection. His mission in coming to this earth was a wonder. He came on a rescue mission to seek and to save the lost! His coming verifies the sinful condition of mankind and the need of salvation. He came to die for our sins and He was delivered for our offences at Calvary. Oh the wonder that He paid sin’s debt, for He died in the sinner’s stead.

The wonder of Christmas is not just a childhood fascination and the anticipation of a “gift bringer.” It is rather a glorious celebration of the incarnation of Jesus Christ in human flesh and the gift of eternal life to those who know Him in forgiveness of sins. Those who have been saved possess the gift of all gifts! Those who possess that gift are rich indeed. “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.” – II Cor.8:9

I personally enjoy the traditions of Christmas and the excitement of the season. I have no intention of boycotting the holiday! I am thrilled, however, to know personally the One who is the wonder of Christmas.

Pastor Chuck Peters



An excerpt from Point II of message: by C. H. SPURGEON (1834-1892)

II. We set before you, now, another way of celebrating Christmas, by
HOLY WONDER, ADMIRATION, AND ADORATION.

"All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them." . . .
. . . There are many of you who are amazed whenever you see God working in your neighborhood or workplace. You hear of somebody being converted who was a very wicked sinner and you say, "It is very amazing!" There is a revival; and you happen to be present at one of the meetings when the Spirit of God is working gloriously: you say, "Well, this is a very astonishing thing!" . . . it is all amazement, and nothing more.

Now, I trust it is different with us; that we will not think of the Savior and of the doctrines of the gospel which He came to preach simply with amazement and astonishment, for this will do us no good. On the other hand, there is another form of amazement which is very much like adoration. I think it would be very difficult to draw a line between holy wonder and real worship, for when the soul is overwhelmed with the majesty of God's glory, though it may not express itself in song or even utter its voice with bowed head in humble prayer, yet it silently adores. I am inclined to think that the astonishment which sometimes seizes the human intellect at the remembrance of God's greatness and goodness is, perhaps, the purest form of adoration which ever rises from mortal men to the throne of the Most High. This kind of amazement I recommend to those of you who from the quietness and solitude of your lives are scarcely able to mimic the shepherds in telling the account to others: you can at least be like the circle of the worshipers before the throne by being amazed at what God has done.

Let me suggest to you that holy amazement at what God has done should be very natural to you. That God should reflect on His fallen creature man, and instead of sweeping him away with the broom of destruction would devise a wonderful plan for his redemption, and that He would Himself undertake to be man's Redeemer, and to pay his ransom price, is, indeed, marvelous! Probably it is most marvelous to you in its relation to yourself, that you should be redeemed by blood; that God would forsake the thrones and royalties above to suffer disgrace on the earth for you. You know yourself that you can never see an adequate motive or reason in your own flesh for such a deed as this, you will say, "Why was such love given to me?" If David sitting in his house could only say, "Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?" What should you and I say? Had we been the most meritorious of individuals, and had unceasingly kept the Lord's commands, we could not have deserved such a priceless blessing as incarnation; but sinners, offenders, who revolted and turned away from God, further and further, what would we say of this incarnate God dying for us, but "This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." Let your soul lose itself in amazement, for amazement, dear friends, is in this way a very practical emotion. Holy amazement will lead you to grateful worship; being astonished at what God has done you will pour out your soul with astonishment at the foot of the golden throne with the song, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"