

*The
Messenger*



July

A Tribute from the Pastor to . . .

**Senior Drill Instructor
SSgt Leroy Elliott**

I arrived at Parris Island, S.C. in November of 1965, and for the next two months endured the rigorous discipline of processing from a civilian to a United States Marine. That process included the rude awakening of an immature 19-year-old kid to the responsibilities of an adult. The training was brutal and the senior trainer was, in my opinion at that time, the meanest man on the face of the earth! My new home for 8 weeks was 1St Recruit Training Battalion, Company C, and Platoon 1025. I was now “Recruit, Private Peters.”

That senior trainer was Senior Drill Instructor SSgt Leroy Elliot. I found him to be a 100% Marine, totally dedicated to his profession of making Marines out of raw recruits and furthermore, training them to fight and survive on the battlefield. Vietnam was now raging and combat duty was the total essence of our Marine training.

As I look back in retrospect, I am very thankful that the molding process of my life was enhanced greatly by this Marine Drill Instructor. I was too immature then to know what was happening but now 45 years later, I value more than ever that “brutal training” that had no tolerance for quitting when the going gets tough.

Gunnery Sergeant Elliot is a hero in my eyes. His love of Country and sense of duty was reflected in his total commitment to Country and Corps. He was a real professional in his work. He, furthermore, was a Marine’s Marine!

(Continued on Center Page)

God and the Soldier, we adore,
In time of danger, not before.
The danger passed and all things righted,
God is forgotten and the Soldier slighted.

~Rudyard Kipling~

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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

Sunday School 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday Service 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

Ladies Fellowship

Ladies Fellowship will not meet during the summer months, but we will be back in full swing come September. *Enjoy your summer!*

Jesus On The 4th Of July

We gather 'round to celebrate
On Independence Day
Pay homage to our country
As the children run and play



With barbecues and picnics
And fireworks in the air
The flag we own is proudly flown
To show how much we care.

The stars and stripes spell freedom
She waves upon the breeze
While bursts of colors can be seen
Above the towering trees.

This is all quite wonderful
We revel in delight
But God above in divine love
Has brought this day to light.

With just a stroke of liberty
A touch of His great hand
He gave democracy to us
And helped this country stand.

The stripes upon our stately flag
Were touched by His sweet grace
Each star of white that shines so bright
Reflects His loving face.

So as you turn to face the flag
For battles that were fought
Be filled with pride for those who died
And freedoms that were bought.

But don't forget to thank the One
That gives the bright display
The reason why we paint the sky
On Independence Day

~ Marilyn Ferguson ~

The Talking Centipede

A single guy decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged critter), which came in a little white box to use for his house.

He took the box back home, found a good spot for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him. So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time."

But there was no answer from his new pet. This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?" But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation.

The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time. "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about God?"

This time, a little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time! I'm putting on my shoes!"

God has a tender reason for everything we face.
Just as each change of season makes earth a sweeter place;
For every night - a morning; for every thorn - a flower,
His rainbow bright adorning; the silver of the shower;
Unfailing comes tomorrow, to work His will and tell -
God cares through joy and sorrow; God lives and all is well!



God understands; it is sweet to know
When we are tired and when the hand of pain
Lies on our hearts, and when we look in vain
For Human comfort, that the Heart Divine
Still understands those cares of yours and mine

Not only understands, but day by day,
Lives with us while we tread the earthly way,
Bears with us all our weariness, and feels
The shadow of the faintest cloud that steals
Across our sunshine, even learns again
The depth and bitterness of human pain.

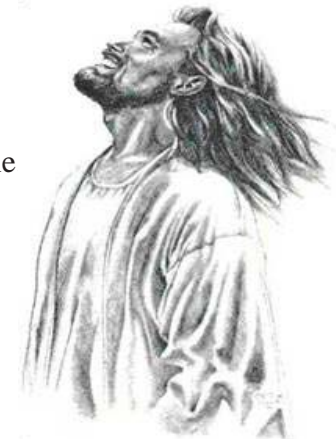
*There is no sorrow that He will not share,
No cross, no burden for our hearts to bear
Without His help; no care of ours too small
To cast on Jesus; Let us tell Him all,
Lay at His Feet the story of our woes,
And in His sympathy find sweet repose.*

....from Annie Nuckles

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

Just think,

you're here not by chance, but by God's choosing,
His hand formed you and made you the person you are.
He compares you to no one else – you are one of a kind.
You lack nothing that His grace can't give you.
He has allowed you to be here at this time in history,
to fulfill His special purpose for this generation.Roy Lessin



July Birthdays

1 Betty Byrd	16 Barbara Tucker	Hudson Donnell
2 Tommy Holt	19 Bill Dillon	Stephanie Dowd
6 Homer Bowden	22 Troy Holt	Charles Flynt
6 Bruce Freeman	22 Tanya Stafford	Justin Payne
7 Jeremy Payne	24 Brad Hendrix	Lauren Sechler
9 Becky Redmon	24 Jonathan Jimenez	Dana Stainback
10 Johnny Foust	25 Amy Jordan	David Vaughn
10 Jim Laramore	27 Victoria Ann Holt	
12 Sherrill Bowling	29 Karen Holt	
14 Goldie Jones	29 Christopher Sealey	

August Birthdays

2 Sandy Westmoreland	13 Darrell Jordan	23 Allen Westmoreland
3 Taylor Westmoreland	15 Mattie Mae Nuckles	24 Maudean Nuckles
3 Gordon Wilkey	17 Jay Pitts	24 Mary Westmoreland
4 Lorene Robertson	19 Patsy Pendry	25 Annie Nuckles
6 Spencer Holt	20 Sarah Hendrix	27 Patrick Clark
7 Mike McCollum	21 Tori Kennedy	27 Lindsay Owens
7 Audrey Nuckles	21 Trudy Nuckles	28 Doris Nuckles
8 Allen Pitts	22 Jeanette Dillon	28 Ethan Nuckles
9 April Owens	22 Stephen Hutton	30 Scott Crump
12 Cleo Holt	22 Carol Peters	Spencer Dowd
12 Gerald Pitts	23 Curney Matthews	Daniel Vaughn



July Anniversaries



Pam and Glen Blackburn	Gary and Helen Hendrix-July 7
Homer and Barbara Bowden	Lawrence and Helen Jones
Jimmy and Kathy Crews	Curney and Rose Matthews
Bruce and Darla Freeman	Chuck and Carol Peters-July 11

David and Chasity Ramey-July 25
 Gary and Beverly Sechler
 Wade and Nora Smith
 Gale and Charlene Tester
 Duain and Faye Whittemore

(Missionary letter omitted from online version for security reasons.)

Free In The USA

On the Fourth of July, I raised the flag,
 As I spoke with love and pride:
 "I'm blessed to be an American," I said,
 To two friends who stood by my side.



One was my neighbor, who lives next door,
 He's a citizen, like me.
 The other, a visitor from a hard, oppressed land,
 Far across the sea.

"My flag stays in its box this year,"
 Said my neighbor, boiling mad.
 "The terrible shape this country's in,
 The future looks nothing but bad."



"Taxes, scandal, indifference and crime,
 On our land like a giant stain."
 My visitor said, "We have all that, and worse,
 But it's against the law to complain."

My neighbor looked startled, but not subdued;
 Then he started in on the Press:
 "There's nothing but bad news; the headlines are bleak."
 (It gets me down, too, I confess.)

"Our news is all good," said my visitor.
 "It's just how you'd like to be.
 We know what our government wants us to know;
 Our press is controlled, you see."



My neighbor spun 'round and marched toward his house,
 And here is the end to my story:
 The next time we saw him, he was out in his yard,
 Proudly raising Old Glory.

By Joanna Fuchs

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Smith Grove Seniors

Louise Byrd	Reva Holt*	Jo Anne Pegram*
Gordon Crouch	Helen Jones*	J. D. Shields
Shirley Crouch	Lawrence Jones*	Raynelle Shields
Iris Farrington*	Neva Long	Wade Shields
Ernest Fulk*	Curney Matthews	Louise Smith*
Pat George	Rose Matthews	Clarence Tucker
Cleo Holt	Bud McCurdy*	Forrest Tucker
		Mary Westmoreland

Others in Need of Prayer

(In alphabetical order)

***Special Needs**

JoAnn Alley	Debbie Harden	Miranda Petkis
Marilyn Alston	Rhonda Hedgecock	Norma Pilchett*
Fred Bame	Ricky Hedgecock	Claude Royal
Merl Blake	Tim Hedgecock	Johnny Sealey
Roy Boody	Ronnie Holcomb	Harold Smith
Thelma Bullard	Alice & Barry Holman	Eddie Thomason
John Carter	Joretta Holt	Barbara Tucker*
Bonnie Clark	Raleigh Hunt	Clara Ward
Aaron Cole	Opal Jordan	Kenneth Westmoreland
Bette Crouse	Leighann Kincade	Gordon Wilkey*
Cheryl DeAntonio	Daniel Matthews	Gerry Williams*
Jimmy Dillon	Richie McCormick	Tom* & Frances Woody
Rudy Dillon	Mark Midkiff	Jessi Wright
Joyce Draughn	Fred Murrow*	Skylar Hope Yontz*
David Gindelsberger	John Pearl	Ken Young
Katie Griffin	Don Peterson	New converts
		The Unsaved

Note: If there are names that you know could be removed from the prayer list, please let someone on the newsletter committee know. Also, let us know if you have someone you wish to add to the prayer list.

Special Prayer Requests

- Pastor Chuck Peters
- Missionaries Wade and Nora Smith (Virginia Beach, VA)
- All the missions and missionaries we support
- Youth Directors, Johnny & Tammy Cameron
- Preachers, teachers, singers and workers of our church and Bible Clubs
- Our sincere sympathies to the family of June Freeman, and other families outside our community: Hollee Holliday Alley, Infant Connor Brittain (ND), and Robert King (TN).



Services Each Week

Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service	11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 p.m.
	
Wednesday Services:	
Bible Clubs	7:00 p.m.
Prayer Service	7:00 p.m.
Thursday Visitation	7:00 p.m.



July ~ 2011

Sun., July 3, 11:00 a.m.	4th of July Extravaganza ~ "Honor to Our Veterans who Provided Our Freedom" Patriotic Concert and message, followed by lunch in the Fellowship Building.
Sun. July 3, 1:00 p.m.	Apache Helicopter Fly-in and Static Display (weather permitting).
Sun., July 3	NO EVENING SERVICE
July 8 ~ 16	Please pray for Pastor Peters as he travels to Alaska on a mission trip .
September 19-23	Piedmont Baptist Camp Meeting

The *Message of Redemption* (archived sermons preached by Brother Ward Laramore) is broadcast daily on radio station **WPIP ~ 880 AM, 2:00-2:15 p.m., Monday through Friday.**

I Cor. 7:22-24



Gary & Friends Missionary Outreach Ministry

Greetings from Gary and helpers! We are hoping all is well and that July is great for you all. Happy birthday, America! May God continue to bless our nation.

I had the great honor last month of being able to welcome some senior citizen soldiers of WWII back home after a *Flight of Honor* trip to Washington, D.C., where these men and women were honored all day, and taken on a site-seeing trip. What an honor as thousands of people were at the airport to welcome them back to Greensboro and to honor them with hand claps, cheers, "God bless you," and "you are a great American and hero," and other words of thankfulness. Thank you to all the vets for what they did for all of us in WWII, and thank you, God, for blessing them and our nation, and the American people.

God bless you all. Gary Smith and helpers are thankful for the freedom we have in CHRIST, our Saviour from sin. Thank you, Lord!

Gary and Friends ~ I Peter 5:7

Pray for those In the Service of our Country



Matthew Bennett, Afghanistan
A1C William Holt, US Air Force
Pope AFB, Vass, NC 28394
CW2 Jonathan Harless (Raleigh, NC)
Cpt. Robert Harless (Savannah, GA)
Charles Holmes, Al Asad Air Base (Northern Iraq)
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Maine, US Army
[Ft. Rucker, AL]
Corporal Mel Wright, US Marines, Charleston, SC
(Nephews of Clarence Redmon)



"Our Honour Roll"

Smith Grove's ministry to our widows and widowers
"Honour widows that are widows indeed."

(I 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 *July and August* 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.

Betty Byrd

3316 Sandy Ridge Road
Colfax, NC 27235
~ July 01

Becky Redmon

8421 Endicott Road
Colfax, NC 27235
575-8553/993-1833 ~ July 09

Lorene Robertson

2410 Sandy Ridge Rd.
High Point, NC 27265
668-2372 ~ August 04

Louise Smith

8330 Tyner Loop Road
Colfax, NC 27235
662-0951 ~ August 06

Mary Westmoreland

2705 Sandy Ridge Rd.
Colfax, NC 27235
668-2818 ~ August 24

Annie Nuckles

8712 Staples Rd.
Colfax, NC 27235
993-5297 ~ August 25

Doris Nuckles

8324 Tyner Loop Road
Colfax, NC 27235
668-2332 ~ August 28

A Nation's Strength

by Ralph Waldo Emerson (1904)



What makes a nation's pillars high
And its foundations strong?
What makes it mighty to defy
The foes that round it throng?

It is not gold. Its kingdoms grand
Go down in battle shock;
Its shafts are laid on sinking sand,
Not on abiding rock.

And is it pride? Ah, that bright crown
Has seemed to nations sweet;
But God has struck its luster down
In ashes at his feet.

Is it the sword? Ask the red dust
Of empires passed away;
The blood has turned their stones
to rust,
Their glory to decay.

Not gold but only men can make
A people great and strong;
Men who for truth and honor's sake
Stand fast and suffer long.

***Gunnery Sergeant Leroy Elliott ~ D CO, 1ST BN, 4TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV
United States Marine Corps ~ 28 September 1931 - 08 May 1967 ~ Philadelphia, Pennsylvania***



**Gunnery Sergeant
Leroy Elliott**

He distinguished himself further by applying on the battlefield his “warrior ethos.” He volunteered for duty in Vietnam and paid the supreme price of his life in 1967. I never met again my Senior Drill Instructor after graduating from Parris Island Boot Camp, Platoon 1025, but know that his training has impacted every aspect of my life in some way.

I have been a Pastor now for more than thirty-five years. I have

learned the reality and value of enduring hardness as a soldier of the cross. I have had my spiritual battles! I recently completed a Military career which ended after combat duty in Iraq. My Military life began as a Private at Parris Island in 1965 and I was fortunate to obtain the rank of Major before retiring from the Army in 2005.

I have come to believe that the God that I serve knew that I needed what I received from the leadership of Marine Gunnery Sergeant Elliot. He taught me patriotism, love of Country and the willingness to die for the sake of freedom. His tough training taught me to never quit. God has used that discipline many times while serving in Ministry “Bases” of duty!

Thank you Gunnery Sergeant Elliot for what you taught me. You are my hero! I’m signing off with an old soldier’s salute to one who taught me that there are some things worth fighting and dying for.

Those “some things” include a Country and a cherished freedom! Those “some things” include a sacrificial service for the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He is “Commander and Chief of Heaven and Earth. He is the ultimate High Command!



I would, however, say to my fellow American Patriot, Thank you, Sir. Thanks for, “Double Time, Quick Time March!” Thanks for, “Sir, Private Peters requests permission to speak to the drill instructor.” Thank you for, “You are mine while here at Parris Island” and finally, “Congratulations, Marines.” You taught us that we had to earn that title.

Semper Fidelis, Gunny!

Charles Ray Peters Jr. (Maj. Ret., U.S. Army)

“ . . . a Marine’s Marine.”

“Gunnery Sergeant Elliott was a black Philadelphian and I was a white Georgian. But those facts of life were never and will never be important”, wrote Stephen B. Gray, who as a young Marine recruit had Elliott as a senior drill instructor at Parris Island, S.C. Gray never saw Elliott again after he finished boot camp in May 1965, but said he will always remember the imposing Philadelphian for enabling him to gain “the beginnings of the strengths of character, purpose, direction and never say quit attitude which has enabled me to achieve meaningful success thus far in my life ... He showed me qualities that knew no color.” Elliott, a 15-year veteran, left his comfortable stateside drill sergeant assignment to volunteer for Viet Nam in December 1966.”

“He taught our son ... so many values at such an early age so he could grow up and walk like a man. He gave us so much, as if he knew that we would have to walk up the road of life without him”, his wife recalled. The 35-year-old gunnery sergeant was assigned to Company D of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. Elliott died near Con Thien, Quang Tri Province, on May 8, 1967. Survivors include his wife, son, father and a brother.

