



*The  
Messenger*



*March*

**“JOY FOR TODAY”**

Psalm 118:24

Joy provides a defense for the Christian soldier. Joy is a daily need! “This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” (Ps.118:24)

Our joy can be kindled as we ponder the fact that God made this day! It is newly created and one of a kind. It has the promise of new challenges and new blessings. It constitutes a new beginning and a new opportunity. Every day is a “New Year’s” day when we view it in the context of life instead of the calendar!

Today’s promises do not have to be dampened by yesterday’s problems. Today’s successes do not have to be cancelled by yesterday’s failures. Today’s joy does not have to be robbed by yesterday’s sorrow. The precious moments of today can become a most valuable memory tomorrow! Time is too valuable to be wasted and life is too short to be simply endured. Make your moments count.

Joy is strengthening to the Christian. “The joy of the Lord is your strength.” (Nehemiah 8:10) Joy is experienced in giving. Giving is not just a thing of the hand but more importantly a thing of the heart. It is possible to have a kind hand and a cold heart. There are many who would give the clothes off their back yet they are known as an unkind person!

Practice kindness and love. Practice forgiveness and compassion. Offer your heart along with your hand and you will have joy along with generosity. Determine that today you will accept it as newly created by God and full of precious moments that make priceless memories tomorrow. Determine that today you will balance all spiritual bankbooks by practicing forgiveness and kindness to people. Thank God for the opportunity to serve Him and rejoice today even if you cried yesterday. The amazing thing is that the Child of God can have tears and joy at the same time anyway. Today has been newly created for God’s people to enjoy!

**VOLUME 27      March 2010      ISSUE 312**

**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 . . .



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*

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*Pastor Chuck Peters*

## Old barns and Old people

A stranger came by my ranch the other day with an offer that set me to thinking. He wanted to buy the old barn that sits out by the highway. I told him right off he was crazy. He was a city type, you could tell by his clothes, his car, his hands, and the way he talked.

He said he was driving by and saw that beautiful barn sitting out in the tall grass and wanted to know if it was for sale. I told him he had a funny idea of beauty. Sure, it was a handsome building in its day. But then, there's been a lot of winters pass with their snow and ice and howling wind. The summer sun's beat down on that old barn till all the paint's gone, and the wood has turned silver gray. Now the old building leans a good deal, looking kind of tired. Yet, that fellow called it beautiful . . .

That set me to thinking. I walked out to the field and just stood there, gazing at that old barn. The stranger said he planned to use the lumber to line the walls of his den in a new country home he's building down the road. He said you couldn't get paint that beautiful. Only years of standing in the weather, bearing the storms and scorching sun – only that can produce beautiful barn wood.

It came to me then. We're a lot like that, you and I. Only it's on the inside that the beauty grows with us. Sure we turn silver gray, too . . . And lean a bit more than we did when we were young and full of sap. But the Good Lord knows what He's doing. And as the years pass He's busy using the hard weather of our lives, the dry spells and the stormy seasons to do a job of beautifying our souls that nothing else can produce. And to think how often folks holler because they want life easy!

They took the old barn down today and hauled it away to beautify a rich man's house. And I reckon someday you and I'll be hauled off to Heaven to take on whatever chores the Good Lord has for us on the Great Sky Ranch. And I suspect we'll be more beautiful then for the seasons we've been through here . . . And just maybe even add a bit of beauty to our Father's house.

May there be peace within you today . . . May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. And I do sincerely thank God for my wonderful friends and family who care about me even though I show signs of weathering!

## ~ Ladies Fellowship ~

The Ladies Fellowship met on February 8 with ten ladies present. After prayer requests were taken, Reva Holt led in prayer and we had a short business meeting. We were honored to have Sister Ruth Bevis from Malachi Boys' Home as our speaker for the evening. She brought a very thought-provoking lesson on the differences between a thermometer and a thermostat. We cannot control the thermometer – the temperature goes up and down and there's nothing we can do about it. However, the thermostat is set to the temperature we want it to be. Before our feet touch the floor in the morning, we should set our spiritual thermostat on a temperature that promotes moderation and kindness. Determine in your heart to be a blessing to others . . . spend time in your secret place . . . and remember the words of Philippians 4:11: "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Thank you, Sister Ruth, for sharing with us. We certainly enjoyed your lesson!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be making plans for upcoming events and would love to have you join us as we look forward to Spring and Summer.

And don't forget – it's never too early to start thinking about our Annual Penny Drive for Wade & Nora. Be sure to stop by the buckets at both doors and empty your pockets of any loose change you are carrying around. It'll make a difference in some child's life come Christmas time. *Thank you!*

*The mission of the Smith Grove Ladies Fellowship is to promote spiritual growth of the ladies in our church family, proclaim the love of Christ in every activity in which we participate, and provide benevolent support to our church family and surrounding community.*



*Congratulations Allen & Chara . . .*

*Adalyn Shea Tate ~ February 7, 2010 ~ 8 lbs. 12 ounces*

## March Birthdays.....

02 Dana Lineberry	10 Kristi Wilkey	Kent Stainback
03 David Ramey	10 Karri Koebel	Linda Stainback
04 Melissa Vanderburg	11 Shirley Crouch	Marilyn Donnell
06 Ronda Dudley	12 Ashley Hutton	Michelle Loftis
06 Melanie Crump	13 Johnny Clark	Pauline Shields
08 Michaela Hayes	16 Kaylee Smith	Todd Stephens
08 Marvin Pitts	20 Violet Rose Sealey	Wade Smith
08 Gary Smith	24 Glenda Foust	
09 C. H. Holt	28 Ruth Holt	

## April Birthdays.....

01 Joseph Barham	12 Lawrence Jones	Jo Beeson
02 Steve Holt	12 Beverly Sechler	Charles Cook
02 Carol Nuckles	12 Wesley Smith	Beelinn Damazio
03 Wanda Holt	16 Myles Pitts	Moises Damazio
03 Lisa Pitts	19 Shelby Crump	Torrey Donnell
05 Marilyn Payne	24 Charlene Tester	Lynn Holland
06 Bud McCurdy	26 Chase Ramey	Austin McCormick
07 Pat George	28 Juleen J. Hayes	Erin Mros
07 Larry Tucker	28 Donise Tucker	Dustin Shields
08 Walter Tate	29 Erma Lee Nuckles	
11 Brandy Ramer	30 Ashley Sechler	



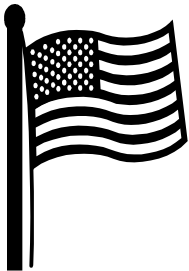
## March Anniversaries

John & Ann Baker  
Sam & Sherrill Crater  
Don & Violet Sealey



## Pray for those In the Service of our Country

Matthew Bennett (new recruit in Jacksonville, SC)  
A1C William Holt, US Air Force  
Sheppard AFB, TX  
CW2 Jonathan Harless (Iraq)  
Cpt. Robert Harless (Savannah, GA)  
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Maine, US Army  
[stationed stateside]  
Corporal Mel Wright, US Marines, stateside  
(Nephews of Clarence Redmon)



# Not Yet

Sometimes I ask the question,  
"My Lord, is this Your will?"  
It's then I hear You answer me,  
"My Precious Child...be still."

Sometimes I feel frustrated,  
'Cause I think I know what's best.  
It's then I hear You say to me,  
"My Busy Child...just rest."

Sometimes I feel so lonely  
And I think I'd like a mate.  
Your still small voice gets  
Oh so clear and says,  
"My Child...please wait."

"I know the plans I have for you,  
The wondrous things you'll see;  
If you can just be patient, Child,  
And put your trust in Me.

I've plans to draw you closer.  
I've plans to help you grow.  
There's much I do you cannot see  
And much you do not know.

It is only a tiny rosebud,  
A flower of God's design;  
But I cannot unfold the petals  
With these clumsy hands of mine.

The secret of unfolding flowers  
Is not known to such as I.  
GOD opens this flower so sweetly,  
When in my hands they fade and die.

If I cannot unfold a rosebud,  
This flower of God's design,

But know this, Child...  
I LOVE YOU.  
You are precious unto Me.  
Before I formed you in the womb,  
I planned your destiny.

I've something very special  
I hope for you to learn.  
The gifts I wish to give to you  
Are gifts you cannot earn.

They come without a price tag,  
But not without a cost;  
At Calvary, I gave My son,  
So You would not be lost.

Rest Child, and do not weary  
Of doing what is good.  
I promise I'll come back for you  
Just like I said I would.

Your name is written on My palm,  
I never could forget;  
Therefore, do not be discouraged  
When My answer is...NOT YET."

## Unfolding the Rosebud

Then how can I think I have wisdom  
To unfold this life of mine?

So I'll trust in Him for His leading  
Each moment of every day.  
I will look to him for His guidance  
Each step of the pilgrim way.

The pathway that lies before me,  
Only my Heavenly Father knows.  
I'll trust Him to unfold the moments,  
Just as He unfolds the rose.

# REMEMBER IN PRAYER

## Smith Grove Seniors

Louise Byrd	Cleo Holt	J. D. Shields
Gordon Crouch	Reva Holt	Raynelle Shields
Shirley Crouch	Helen Jones	Wade Shields
Louise Davenport*	Lawrence Jones	Louise Smith
Iris Farrington	Neva Long	Glenn Tedder
Wilma Farrington	Curney Matthews	Clarence Tucker
June Freeman	Rose Matthews	Forrest Tucker
Ernest Fulk	Bud McCurdy	Hettie Westmoreland
Pat George	Laura Nuckles	

## Others in Need of Prayer

(In alphabetical order)

Marilyn Alston	Debbie Harden	<b>*Special Needs</b>
Fred Bame	Kay Haynes	Norma Pilchett*
Merl Blake	Ronnie Holcomb	Harvey Pitts
Roy Boody	Alice & Barry Holman	Clarence Redmon
Mazalean Byerly	Garland Holt	Claude Royal
John Carter	Raleigh Hunt	Jamie Shell
Robert Cisom*	Daniel Idol	Eddie Thomason
Bonnie Clark	Roscoe Johnson	Melissa Thomason
Cody (13-yr old in Thomasville)	Leighann Kincade	Barbara Tucker
Aaron Cole	Napha Klepper	Clara Ward
Alice Covington	Richie McCormick	Kenneth Westmoreland
Tom Covington	Mark Midkiff	Gordon Wilkey*
Jimmy Dillon	John & Dolly Miller	Gerry Williams*
David Gindelsberger	Darius Moore	Arry Wilson
Clyde Gray, Sr.*	John Pearl	Jessi Wright
	Don Peterson	New converts
	Miranda Petkis	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

- Those on our Youth Prayer List
- Pastor Chuck Peters
- Wade and Nora Smith (Virginia Beach, VA)
- All the missions & missionaries we support.
- Youth Directors
- Preachers, teachers, singers, & workers of our church & Discovery Clubs.
- Our sincere sympathies to the family of Jan Clark Schlosser (Sherrill Crater's sister-in-law).

## Services Each Week

Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service	11:00 a.m.
<i>Children's Church</i>	11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday Services:</b>	
Discovery Bible Clubs	7:00 p.m.
Prayer Service	7:00 p.m.
Thursday Visitation	7:00 p.m.



## March Spring 2010

**Tues., March 2, 7:00 p.m. Men's and Ladies' Fellowship Meetings** in the Fellowship Building

**Sun. Mar. 14, 6:00 p.m. Speaker: Dave Kelly**

**Sun., Mar. 28, 6:00 p.m. Speaker: Michael Stover**

### Looking Ahead:

**Sun., April 4th, 7:00 a.m. - Easter Sunrise Service** and Breakfast in the Fellowship Building

**Spring Revival - Apr.18-21** (Beginning Sunday morning through Wednesday evening.)

**Sun., May 16, 6:00 p.m. Speaker: Andy Messer**

*A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation*

*with bricks others have thrown at him.*

I Cor. 7:22-24



## Gary & Friends Missionary Outreach Ministry

Greetings to all and God bless you. Hey, it's March! – Spring! That's good news after this rough and cold, snowed too much winter! It's behind us now – I hope! Thank you, Lord.

We are expanding our ministry into some new homes - four or five last year and we hope to have four or five more this year. We will also continue our work with the teen and young adult ministries. To our church family: there is always an opportunity for service in the senior ministries. If you want to go some Friday night or Saturday morning and be part of our existing senior ministries, we would love to have you. Or if you would like to start your own senior ministry, I can help you with that! Contact me at 707-3367. God will bless us now and reward us in eternity for our efforts. God bless our church and its ministries, and let's all pray one for another.

In Christ and happy in Him,  
*Gary Smith ~ I Peter 5:7*



### “Our Honour Roll”

**Smith Grove's ministry to our widows and widowers**

*“Honour widows that are widows indeed.”*

*(I Timothy 5:3)*

Listed below are March and April 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.

Gary Smith  
8644 Adkins Road  
Colfax, NC 27235  
668-9089 ~ March 08

Ruth Holt  
3210 Sandy Ridge Rd.  
Colfax, NC 27235  
993-3109 ~ March 28

Bud McCurdy  
1624 Mellon Dr.  
Kernersville, NC 27284  
993-4173 ~ April 06



Patricia George  
8415 Endicott Rd.  
Colfax, NC 27235  
996-1606 ~ April 07

## The White Family ~ BOLIVIA

### Year's end Activities:

Coming down to the end of another year we had several special activities in the church. First we had the church's first ever Christmas banquet the Saturday before. It was truly a wonderful time of fellowship and fun. We had some games like two couples wrapping a gift using only one hand each but having to work together. They actually did better than me with two hands. Along with the games, we had singing and Bro. Christian Ching preached about the importance of union and fellowship in the church. Afterwards, the competition started. Here in Bolivia, there is a dish that is very common during Christmas time. It is called Picana. It is kind of like a soup, but has three types of meat including chicken, pork, and lamb along with vegetables and seasonings. We had a Picana cook off with the ladies in the church, and let me tell you they were all really delicious. This was the first time that I had tried it and I can say I can't wait for Christmas next year. At the end, we did have to pick the winners but in all everyone had a great time. Also, we had a New Years activity to give the people of the church an alternative to the activities that they might normally participate in. We had a great time playing games, like tying a balloon to everyone's ankle and then see who could be the last one standing with their balloon in tact. We divided into two groups, women and men. One reason that we did this was to try and keep the ladies from getting hurt. After the two groups faced off, I think it might have actually been to keep the men from getting hurt. The last activity that we did was a year-end testimony service. This is an activity that we have always done at my home church and is always a great blessing. We start with the room completely dark with only one candle lit at the pulpit. Then one by one each person comes to the front, lights their candle, and gives a testimony of what the Lord has done in their lives the previous year. It is always moving to hear the people give thanks for their salvation and families and many other things that the Lord has done.

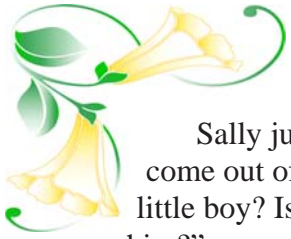
### Prayer Requests:

1. Pray that this upcoming year the Lord will do even a greater work than the last.
2. Pray for a new class that we are starting called “Christian Growth”.
3. Pray for all the preparations that we are making before our furlough in June.
4. Pray for continued protection for our family and especially our children.

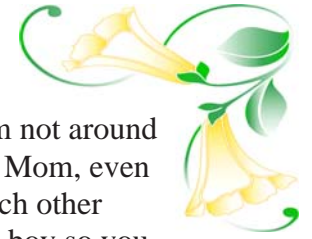
### Missionary Children:

From time to time I like to write about our family and especially our children because what we do here in Bolivia is not just ministry. We do have a family and we are raising children. The part of raising children can have its extra interesting aspects living in another country. Everything from different customs, to learning two languages, at the same time makes you sometimes want to laugh and sometimes almost cry. Grace is now 6, Taylor is 4 and Titus is 9 months and almost walking. As each day passes and I recognize how quickly they grow up I realize the importance of giving them the necessary foundation to be the Christians that God wants. If you would like to see a family picture, go to:

<http://www.kevinwhite.wordpress.com>.



# The Special Letter



Sally jumped up as soon as she saw the surgeon come out of the operating room. She said: "How is my little boy? Is he going to be all right? When can I see him?"

The surgeon said, "I'm sorry. We did all we could, but your son didn't make it."

Sally said, "Why do little children get cancer? Doesn't God care any more? Where were you, God, when my son needed you?"

The surgeon asked, "Would you like some time alone with your son? One of the nurses will be out in a few minutes, before he's transported to the university."

Sally asked the nurse to stay with her while she said good-bye to her son. She ran her fingers lovingly through his thick red curly hair. "Would you like a lock of his hair?" the nurse asked. Sally nodded yes. The nurse cut a lock of the boy's hair, put it in a plastic bag and handed it to Sally.

The mother said, "It was Jimmy's idea to donate his body to the university for study. He said it might help somebody else. I said no at first, but Jimmy said, 'Mom, I won't be using it after I die. Maybe it will help some other little boy spend one more day with his Mom.' My Jimmy had a heart of gold. He was always thinking of someone else and wanting to help others if he could."

Sally walked out of Children's Mercy Hospital for the last time, after spending most of the last six months there. She put the bag with Jimmy's belongings on the seat beside her in the car. The drive home was difficult. It was even harder to enter the empty house. She carried Jimmy's belongings, and the plastic bag with the lock of his hair to her son's room. She started placing the model cars and other personal things back in his room exactly where he had always kept them. She laid down across his bed and, hugging his pillow, cried herself to sleep.

It was around midnight when Sally awoke. Laying beside her on the bed was a folded letter. The letter said: "Dear Mom, I know you're going to miss me, but don't think that I will ever

forget you, or stop loving you, just 'cause I'm not around to say I LOVE YOU. I will always love you, Mom, even more with each day. Someday we will see each other again. Until then, if you want to adopt a little boy so you won't be so lonely, that's okay with me. He can have my room and old stuff to play with. But, if you decide to get a girl instead, she probably wouldn't like the same things us boys do. You'll have to buy her dolls and stuff girls like, you know.

Don't be sad thinking about me. This really is a neat place. Grandma and Grandpa met me as soon as I got here and showed me around some, but it will take a long time to see everything. The angels are so cool. I love to watch them fly. And, you know what? Jesus doesn't look like any of his pictures. Yet, when I saw Him, I knew it was Him. Jesus himself took me to see God! And guess what, Mom? I got to sit on God's knee and talk to Him, like I was somebody important. That's when I told Him that I wanted to write you a letter, to tell you good-bye and everything. But I already knew that wasn't allowed.

Well, you know what Mom? God handed me some paper and His own personal pen to write you this letter. I think Gabriel is the name of the angel who is going to drop this letter off to you. God said for me to give you the answer to one of the questions you asked Him, 'Where was He when I needed Him?' "God said He was in the same place with me, as when His son Jesus was on the cross. He was right there, as He always is with all His children.

Oh, by the way, Mom, no one else can see what I've written except you. To everyone else this is just a blank piece of paper. Isn't that cool? I have to give God His pen back now. He needs it to write some more names in the Book of Life. Tonight I get to sit at the table with Jesus for supper. I'm sure the food will be great.

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you. I don't hurt anymore. The cancer is all gone. I'm glad because I couldn't stand that pain anymore and God couldn't stand to see me hurt so much, either. That's when He sent the Angel of Mercy to come get me. The Angel said I was a Special Delivery! How about that?

*Signed with Love, from God, Jesus & Me*