



*The
Messenger*



November

“Giving Thanks Always For All Things...”

Ephesians 5:20

Thanksgiving is not confined to a day but rather should be the daily exercise of the Christian. The verse says, “Always.” God is always blessing us and those blessings are apparent regardless of the straits and stresses of life. Paul happened to be a prisoner when he wrote these words! “He who looks only on his trials will soon find his mind soured and complaining; he who endeavors to find how many occasions for gratitude he has, will soon find the burden of his sorrows alleviated, and his mind tranquil and calm.” (Albert Barnes)

The word, “gratitude” comes from the same root word for “grace.” We have all received abundant grace. We should show abundant gratitude. “Think” and “thank” are two words coming from the same root word. We would be more thankful if we would be more thoughtful. We need to ponder often the mercies of God. We should continually give thanks for His sufficient grace.

I recently preached on the subject of the sufficient grace of God and penned the following:



“Once I was A Sinner, lost and Undone;
Now I am Adopted, a Child, and a Son.
Once I Was Condemned and A Servant to Sin;
Now I Am Redeemed and Accepted In Him.
Once It Was Death, Turmoil and Strife;
Now It Is Joy, Peace and Life.
The Difference Was Made When His Grace Set Me Free;
That Grace Still Abounds and Is Sufficient for Me.”

VOLUME 28

November 2011

ISSUE 332

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*

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



www.smithgrove.org

Pastor Chuck Peters

The Johnsons ~ Missionaries to China

Our last letter started off by mentioning how hot it was here, and we're happy to report that this week seems to have brought the first cool breezes of fall! What a joy it is each year to see the variety our Creator put into this world.

With the passing of the seasons we are watching our little ones grow up. You can see from the picture of Lucy [full article with pictures may be seen in the church vestibule] that they are good little ambassadors with kids and adults around us. We rejoice to tell you Steven will be getting baptized this weekend by his daddy. Steven has wanted to be baptized for about half a year, but said he wanted to wait until we were back in China so that the Chinese could see him! We praise the Lord for working in his little heart - pray with us for Lucy's salvation as well.

Stained Glass: Last month we mentioned that Jonathan would be teaching a trade to our students from the mainland so that they could support themselves someday in ministry. We were really surprised at how well they did. They made many pieces and took some materials back over the border. We're thankful too that a few folks in the US have already sent some materials for the group. Does anyone's church back home need windows made by Chinese believers?

The picture at left shows their first large project, a window for a local pastor's house. Pray with us as we also work on formalizing these students' schedules and curriculum. Lately we have lost a teacher due to health issues and Jonathan really would like to see his language abilities increase so that he can take on more sessions without the need of an interpreter. This fall we hope to begin looking at classroom Mandarin courses so that he can make some advances there. We get Cantonese "lessons" each trip into town!

New Families: We are very excited about the arrival of more missionaries to help in our area of the New Territories. Bob and Sarah Roberts arrived safely, as well as Wade and Robyn Peltier. Lord willing they will be helping in the children's ministry outreaches, and may see the start of a midweek English service at the mainly Cantonese-speaking church we help with.

Catherine has enjoyed getting to show the ladies around and exchanging tips on tracking down all the things that make life easier for Americans living in China! Steven and Lucy have enjoyed having some new friends to play with. Lucy seems to be picking up Cantonese by osmosis: leaving a taxi the other day she shouted out "mm'goi!" to the cabbie (Cantonese for "thank-you"), and began singing "mm sik gong, mm sik gong" on the bus ("I don't understand, I don't understand"). Steven continues to do well with his homeschooling and is turning out to be a very good reader.

Travels: Jonathan recently returned from a quick trip to the Philippines where he was able to preach and teach with some of EOTEM's Bible school graduates. We also had a chance to go as a family to a church down on the island of Hong Kong to help a pastor who is having health problems. Trips like that and going to pick up the new missionaries have been made easier by the purchase of a vehicle for 3,000 USD. It was actually the van that Jonathan got to drive last month - figuring out how to drive on the wrong side (left side) of the road was hard enough, so we're happy we don't have to learn again in a different vehicle. Catherine's quite a pro now too!

What's Ahead: As you can tell from our letters the past few months, there are no shortages of ministry opportunities over here. Pray that while we are busy doing ministry we would continue to grow in Christ as a family, "rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as (we) have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." We were blessed to have been taught from our childhood about the living and true God - not an idol dwelling "in temples made with hands," as the one we visited recently. Scenes like this and the perpetual presence of altars of incense and pictures of false gods in our village make us long to share the true faith with those around us. Pray that we would have opportunities to with our neighbors. Some missionary friends to the far north of us reminded us the other night that we are involved in spiritual warfare in places where the truth has long been absent or refused. We treasure your prayers for our family as we try to share "the way, the truth, and the life" with those on the path of error and spiritual death.

As a final request, sister Nolasco had to return to the Philippines after her short stint in China due to political disputes between her home country and her host country. The window of opportunity here is narrow, and someday it may close. May God help us all to do all that we can, "while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work."

Thank you and God bless you for your help in the work! We would appreciate your prayers for the following:

- Language study
- School & projects across the border
- Funds for purchased vehicle

In Christ, Jonathan, Catherine, Steven & Lucy

New Field Address: 83 Pak Long Tsuen

Sung Kwu Tan, Tuen Mun, NT

Hong Kong

[Contact us at: johnsonsinchina@gmail.com]



November Birthdays

2 Ronnie Key	15 Rusty Tucker	28 Wade Shields
5 Nancy Westmoreland	16 Brittany Key	30 Irene Shields
6 Willard Tucker	17 Jennifer Davis	30 Gail Tate
7 Aaron Jordan	22 Darla Freeman	David Donnell
7 Caleb Jordan	22 Cheryl Holt	Kathy Johnson
12 Kathryn L. Crews	23 Jonathan Smith	Justin Stainback
12 Jay Stafford	23 Forrest Tucker	Nicole Tucker
13 Helen Hendrix	24 Tony Nuckles	Adrith Whittemore
13 Virginia Nuckles	24 John Payne	Klinton Wilkey
15 Owen Neese	26 Marshall Freeman	
15 Darlene Pitts	28 Ashley Hendrix	

December Birthdays

3 Sheila Payne	16 Jan Wilson	
4 Mackenzie Ann Barham	17 Jessica Holt	
4 Chasity Ramey	19 Neva Long	
5 Willis George	19 Todd Tucker	
5 Elaine Lowe	20 Andrew Harrison Smith	
7 Joretta Holt	21 Johnny Cameron	Andrew Donnell
10 Reva Holt	23 Bernice Johnson	Marvin Donnell
11 Rhoney Wilson	23 Nancy Kelley	Craig Pearman
12 Lydia Beeson	30 Barbara Bowden	Mark Tilley
12 Tori Heath	31 John David Payne	Lonnie Tucker
16 Gale Tester		



Ladies Fellowship

Hello, Smith Grove Church Family! We have always been a very giving church and we know this Thanksgiving and Christmas Seasons will be no exception. May the Lord bless you as you are a blessing to others. Here are some reminders regarding our annual outreach ministries:



- 1. November** will once again be designated as **Harvest Home Month**. Please bring non-perishable food items/household staples during the month of November. These will be distributed after the end of the month.
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 – Deadline for our Annual Penny Drive for Wade & Nora Smith** – our missionaries in Virginia Beach, VA. Don't forget to drop your change (or paper money) in the buckets at both doors as you leave the church. Whatever is collected for Wade & Nora will be sent to them in time to make Christmas special for the children in their community.
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 – Deadline for Christmas Mailbox** — Feel free to bring your Christmas cards for the church family between November 27 and December 11 and place in the boxes on the front pew. In an effort to make it easier for the “church postal workers”, there will be four boxes this year. Please separate your cards by alphabet – **A-F / G-L / M-R/ and S-Z**. The cards will be distributed before Christmas.
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 – Deadline for Christmas Box items for Senior Saints** — In addition to the fruit baskets that are distributed to the widows and widowers, we also plan to fill a Christmas Box for our Senior Saints who are not able to come to church. We are asking the church family to donate empty shoe boxes and/or small items that seniors can use – i.e. sugar-free candy, gum, lotion, Kleenex, anything else you can think of – just be sure they are packaged small enough to fit into a regular-size shoe box. Please bring to Charlene and we'll see they are put to good use.

November Anniversaries



Curt & Betty Bame
Gene & Oma Pitts
Douglas & Carol Shields
Rhoney & Jan Wilson

THE FOREVER KIND

Lord, grant us the forever kind
 That sees the faults, but doesn't mind;
 The kinds that says, "I love you still"
 If not by feelings, then by will.
 The kind that's like Your own love, Lord,
 That seeks to serve, not earn reward;
 The kind that sees the best in each,
 That seeks to pray for, not to "preach."
 And when old age should take its toll,
 Love, look beyond and love the soul;
 Be thou our anchor and our joy,
 A steadfast love time can't destroy.
 A love-made choice to always stay,
 To be there 'till our dying day;
 And when death comes to break earth's spell,
 Lord, may You tell us, "You loved well."

by Connie Cook

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.

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	Forrest Tucker
Cleo Holt	Bud McCurdy*	Mary Westmoreland

Others in Need of Prayer **Special Needs*

(In alphabetical order)

JoAnn Alley	Katie Griffin	Fred Murrow*
Marilyn Alston	Debbie Harden	John Pearl
Malin Andrews	Caiden Hawtry	Billy Pendry
Curt Bame*	Harry Haynes	Don Peterson
Fred Bame	Rhonda Hedgecock	Miranda Petkis
Roy Boody	Ricky Hedgecock	Norma Pilchett*
Mr. Bray	Tim Hedgecock	Claude Royal
Thelma Bullard	Ronnie Holcomb	Edward Salensky
John Carter	Alice & Barry Holman	Johnny Sealey
Bonnie Clark	Garland Holt*	Lonnie Sorrell
Aaron Cole	Joretta Holt	Eddie Thomason
Frances Cook	Jonathan Horton	Barbara Tucker*
Wayne Covington	Raleigh Hunt	Clara Ward
Bette Crouse	Sherry Jones	Kenneth Westmoreland
Cheryl DeAntonio	Opal Jordan	Gordon Wilkey*
Billy Dillon	Leighann Kincade	Gerry Williams*
Jimmy Dillon*	Dot Long	Tom* & Frances Woody
Rudy Dillon	Daniel Matthews*	Jessi Wright
Joyce Draughn	Preston McCollum	Skylar Hope Yontz*
Myrtle Echols	Richie McCormick	Ken Young
David Gindelsberger	Mark Midkiff	New converts
		The Unsaved

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 families of Jimmy Cameron and Betty Elaine Campbell.



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.



November ~
2011

Tues., Nov. 1, 7:00 p.m. Men's & Ladies' Fellowship Meetings

Sun., Nov. 6 Daylight Saving Time ends.... set your clocks back one hour.

Sat., Nov. 12, 5:00 p.m. Chicken Stew/Oyster Stew (and maybe a hot dog or two!) in the Smith Grove Fellowship Building. The church will provide the stew; please bring desserts to share.

Save the Date - Dec.: Men's & Ladies' Fellowship Meetings will be moved to **Tues., Dec. 13.**



The entire month of November is being designated as **"HARVEST HOME"** month. Each family is asked to bring nonperishable food items to the church. Food items will then be distributed to needy Christian organizations. Thank you for your support of this important community outreach.

I Cor. 7:22-24



**Gary & Friends Missionary
Outreach Ministry**

Greetings from Gary, Carolyn, Ron and Kay. We are busy in senior homes and with others parts of our ministry. The season has changed from summer to fall and that makes me happy! Cool nights and warm days. . . I enjoy fall more than spring but I really enjoy both of them.

As the seasons change, people also change. I see healthy people start going downhill and the next thing we know, in the hospital they go, then on to rehab and hopefully back to their senior home. It's tough to see people that you care about so much decline in this way, and it happens all the time in this ministry. Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to spread some joy to them while we can.

God bless you all. Pray for our pastor and his family, and one another in Christ.

So very happy in Him,
Gary and helpers ~ 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 4 Michael Maine, US Army
[Ft. Rucker, AL] (Nephew of Clarence Redmon)

SSgt. Samuel A. Priddy, Marines - New River (Jacksonville, NC) - son of Brenda Westmoreland



“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 *November and December* 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.

Nancy Westmoreland
628 Millwood School Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27409
668-2891 ~ Nov. 05

Virginia Nuckles
4610 Kendale Road
High Point, NC 27265
668-2334 ~ Nov. 13

Forrest Tucker
8017 National Service Rd.
Colfax, NC 27235
668-2173 ~ Nov. 23

Joretta Holt
8412 Stafford Mill Rd.
Oak Ridge, N.C. 27310
993-2493 (H) 707-6624 (C)
December 7

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

Bernice Johnson
5220 Prince Charles Dr.
Kernersville, NC 27284
788-6302 ~ Dec. 23

Freedom is not Free

by Ashley Persyn



There is a price we pay for freedom
For it is not truly free
But rather paid for by the contributions of veterans
To buy our liberty

As their blood drains from their body
and runs like a river through the grass
Over the years it's forgotten, war is placed in our past
I don't think we all realize the importance veterans play
as they voluntarily serve America each and every day

We should honor the veterans for they act as a shield
Protecting us from danger, keeping America healed.
So if you would take a second to commemorate
You will instantly see
We owe veterans our gratitude
For they are the reason we are free



Friday, Nov. 11 ~ Veterans Day

THANKSGIVING



Psalms 26:7 That I may publish with the voice of **thanksgiving**, and tell of all thy wondrous works.

Psalms 50:14 Offer unto God **thanksgiving**; and pay thy vows unto the most High:

Psalms 69:30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with **thanksgiving**.

Psalms 95:2 Let us come before his presence with **thanksgiving**, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

Psalms 100:4 Enter into his gates with **thanksgiving**, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

Psalms 107:22 And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of **thanksgiving**, and declare his works with rejoicing.

Psalms 116:17 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of **thanksgiving**, and will call upon the name of the LORD.

Psalms 147:7 Sing unto the LORD with **thanksgiving**; sing praise upon the harp unto our God:

Isaiah 51:3 For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, **thanksgiving**, and the voice of melody.

Jeremiah 30:19 And out of them shall proceed **thanksgiving** and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.

Amos 4:5 And offer a sacrifice of **thanksgiving** with leaven, and proclaim and publish the free offerings: for this liketh you, O ye children of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

Jonah 2:9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of **thanksgiving**; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.

2 Corinthians 4:15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the **thanksgiving** of many redound to the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 9:11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us **thanksgiving** to God.

2 Corinthians 9:12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many **thanksgivings** unto God;

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 2:7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with **thanksgiving**.

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

1 Timothy 4:3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with **thanksgiving** of them which believe and know the truth.

1 Timothy 4:4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with **thanksgiving**;

Revelation 7:12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and **thanksgiving**, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.