

THE MESSENGER

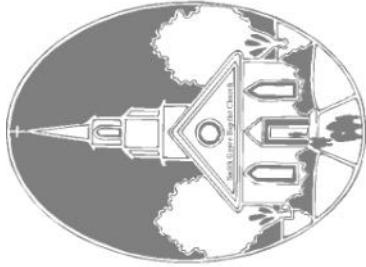
Smith Grove Baptist Church
P.O. Box 57
Colfax, NC 27235

VOLUME 39
March 2022
ISSUE 456

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



www.smithgrove.org

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 . . .

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The Messenger



March 2022



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2707 Sandy Ridge Road ~ Colfax, NC 27235
www.smithgrove.org

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Peters, Pastor
Home: (336) 996-8563; Cell: (336) 812-1169
Rev. Bruce Freeman, Associate Pastor
H (336) 996-1501 C (336) 816-2473

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	6:45-8:15 PM

Streaming Live: Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/mySGBC/>
YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj39_zpMzkkCXdFYy1NKndQ

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 . . .*



Tues., Mar. 8, 7 pm ~ Robinwood Senior Living
Sun., Mar. 13 ~ Daylight Saving Time Begins ~ Set clocks forward!
Sat., Mar 26 ~ Outing to Coronet Seafood (Sign-up sheet will be in the vestibule in March. See Page 2 for more information.)
Sun., Mar. 27, 6 pm ~ Speaker: Frankie Matthews (Missionary)
April 9: Teen Craft & Rummage Sale (Details coming soon!)

Sundays - 10:00 a.m. ~ Adult Sunday School in the sanctuary
11:00 a.m. & 6 p.m. Worship service in the sanctuary.
Wednesdays - 6:45 pm - Be Strong Bible Clubs in the Fellowship Hall;
7:00 p.m. Prayer Mtg. in the sanctuary.
 [BEAMS is always the 3rd Sunday.]

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 David & Carolyn McBrayer
 Neva Long

IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

PVT Adam Brittain, Army, Germany (Sam Crater's nephew)
CW4 Jonathan Harless (Raleigh) } (Hal & Martha
LTC Robert Harless (Fort Campbell, KY) } Harless' sons)
Camren Harrell (Navy – Norfolk, VA) (Grandson of the Craters)
E3 Noah Johnson, US Coast Guard Station Port Canaveral, Cape
Canaveral, FL (Henry & Geraldine Johnson's grandson)
Spec. Jocelyn Laramore, US Army; Ft. Hood, TX
(Granddaughter-in-law of Jim Laramore) Pray also for Valentino
James Laramore, Jim's great grandson & his namesake.
CCWO5 Michael Maine, US Army; Ft. Rucker, AL (Nephew
of Clarence Redmon)
PFC Trevor Westmoreland, PO Box 10197,
Ft. Irwin, CA 92310 (Allen & Sandy Westmoreland's son)



Church Outing on March 26



Coronet Seafood

431 Bethania-Rural Hall Rd, Rural Hall, NC 27045

Sign up sheets will be in the vestibule in March. We will
depart the church around 3:30 and return by approximately
6:15. You are welcome to meet us at Coronet at 4 pm if you
don't care to meet at the church.



BEAMS' Report for Jan. & Feb. 2022

of Pledges: 10+12; # of Contributions: 4+7;
Total Contributors: 14+19
Total Contributed: \$ 723+\$1,284 =
90+160 Bibles in Jan. & Feb. (plus some postage)

Many thanks to the Adult Fellowship Bible Class for their ongoing BEAMS' ministry which added \$210+\$210 for postage in Jan. & Feb.!

You can also get the BEAMS' report online at our website:

<https://www.smithgrove.org/beams-report/>

Services will be streaming Live every Wednesday at 7 p.m. & Sunday at 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. on [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#) — (You do not need a



facebook account to watch the video on fb!)

<https://www.facebook.com/mySGBC/>



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj39_zpMzkkCXdFYy1NKndQ

To listen & download mp3:

Audio Archive Online ~ <https://www.smithgrove.org/audio-archive/>



Men's & Ladies' Fellowship

Quarterly Mtgs.: (3rd Tuesdays - 7 p.m.)

Meetings will resume when the Covid-19 threat allows.

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."



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 *March (no 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.

Ruth Holt
3210 Sandy Ridge Rd.
Colfax, NC 27235
336-993-3109 ~ March 28



Are you or a family member turning 90 this year? Please let Pastor Chuck know if you would like to be recognized on your special birthday!

March Anniversaries

- 17 Richard & Nancy Kelley
- 18 Sam & Sherrill Crater
- 27 Donnie & Mary Campbell
- 31 Norman & Misty Smith



"It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want — oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!" —Mark Twain

Behold, my friends, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love! — Sitting Bull



Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed... Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.
— Henry David Thoreau

The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created Spring. — Bernard Williams

Excerpt from "A House of Hope" narrative by Ken Helser

Few of God's creatures evoke as much emotion in poem or song as the little bluebird. And yet, the saga of the bluebird is a dramatic story of its struggle for survival. Why did the one who carries the sky on its wing nearly become extinct? Because of its many enemies. First, it was the environment. Super highways, malls and housing projects rapidly eroded the wild berry trees that once sustained the bird in the winter. Gone were the hollows in trees and fence posts which it once made its home. Then came the raccoons and black snakes that invade the home of the bluebird for an easy meal; the starlings, robbing its food supply; and the English sparrow, that savagely kills the mother and robs the nest. Some wondered if the bluebird could possibly survive? And some decided to give God's little creature a hand.



It has, thanks to Jack Finch, a Carolinian who has built more than 50,000 bluebird boxes, and plants the berry producing dogwoods for winter provisions for bluebirds with more vigor than Johnny Appleseed planted apple trees. Mr. Finch first caught my attention when he was featured on an "Earth Day" special on CBS news. I was instantly captivated by the Jesus look in his eye when asked why he would spend much of his life building homes for bluebirds, he remarked, "Well, one day this old body will be laid to rest, and I'd like to think a bluebird or two might take notice of my love for them and sing a song or two over my grave." I was so intrigued by the nurseryman from Bailey, NC, that Linda and I sought him out in hopes of taking some photos of the beautiful birds — which I might make a painting of. But we got much more. We got a life-changing message.

"Did you know that bluebirds are very romantic?" Mr. Finch said, tilting his ear to catch the warble of a songbird in the distance. "Yep. The male bird falls in love and courts his sweetheart by first finding a suitable home for them to nest. From there he sings his love song. That's what attracts her. If she says 'I do' to his proposal by entering the future homesite, he flutters wildly and sings his head off with joy! It's a sight to behold."

"Why, that's just like Jesus!" I exclaimed, reveling in the correlation between the bird and the Gospel. "Christ has gone to prepare a place for us, and from there he attracts us, his bride-to-be, to His house with His own love song!"

I was plumb giddy from the revelation, when the kind man continued, "And bluebirds are not only romantic, they are faithful to each other. They mate for life. They make such great parents that they are one of the few birds in existence that continue to feed their young after they leave the nest. Why, they even take a family vacation," he laughed. "They migrate south as a family."

I could see that Jack was choking with emotion. Not for the birds, but for mankind. Turning away to hide the tear in his eye, he spoke solemnly, "There is so much we could learn from God's little creatures if we would only pay attention. The bluebird is such an overcomer. They have so many enemies. So many obstacles to overcome. But they never seem to waste their lives by complaining. They just energetically go on building their homes, their families, with hope. A great big hope that it's all going to work out fine..." *'For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.'*" (Jeremiah 29:11).



It is most appropriate that we
celebrate Irish heritage at
Smith Grove . . .

Our Pastor's mother was *Lottie
Velma Flanagan Peters*, and
Sister Carol's maiden name is
McCurdy.



And... *Smith* is a very common name in Ireland!

We wear a shamrock on **St. Patrick's Day** because, legend says, St. Patrick used its three leaves to explain the Holy Trinity in his teachings. (The Trinity is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as three divine persons who are one divine being [God].) The truth of the St. Patrick legend, however, is in question, as there is no direct record that he actually used the shamrock as a teaching tool.



Note: The symbol of St. Patrick is a three-leaf shamrock, not a four-leaf clover. However, long before the shamrock became associated with St. Patrick's Day, the four-leaf clover was regarded by ancient Celts as a charm against evil spirits. In the early 1900s, O. H. Benson, an Iowa school superintendent, came up with the idea of using a clover as the emblem for a newly founded agricultural club for children in his area. In 1911, the four-leaf clover was chosen as the emblem for the national club program, *later named 4-H*.

Blue was the color originally associated with St. Patrick, but green is now favored. The first St. Patrick's Day parade in the American colonies was held in New York City on this day in 1762.

St. Patrick's Day is the traditional day for planting peas, even in the snow! Cabbage seeds are often planted today, too, and old-time farmers believed that to make them grow well, you needed to plant them while wearing your nightclothes!



Please Pray for *The Smiths*

626 Forest Hill Circle
Elizabeth City, NC 27909 ~ 757-343-0643

We trust that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, Christmas and that your New Year has gotten off to a great start. We also would like to say thank-you for your faithfulness to us over the past year with your prayers and financial support.

We praise the Lord for another wonderful year the Lord has given us health and strength to serve Him. We were able to have a Thanksgiving and Christmas meal and a time of fellowship together with our church family. We continue to be cautious knowing that Covid continues to be on the rise. One young man in the church just tested positive for Covid even though he had been vaccinated. Please pray for him and for others who may have come in contact with him.

We had the joy of sending Christmas Gift Cards to some of the children whose parents used to be with us until they were transferred to other duty stations. Through all the modern technology we are able to stay in touch and even face-time those who continue to keep in touch with us. Down through the years we have seen some saved, some baptized and some grow in their relationship with the Lord. To God be all the glory!

As we are again in the rebuilding phase of our ministry, please help us pray for those who are searching for a church family that God will lead them to us. We have lost many due to transfers and those who have gotten out of the military and gone back to their homeland. Over the past years, the Lord has always replaced those who have left us. He will do it again! Amen!

My back is continuing to heal after my September back surgery. I continue to be under some restrictions for the next couple of months. Thank you for your prayers. We would also appreciate your prayers for Nora who is to have knee replacement surgery soon. It seems as though the hospitals in our area are not taking any elective surgeries at this time because of being over-crowded with Covid patients.

May the Lord richly bless you as we continue to serve Him together.
THANKFUL TO BE IN HIS SERVICE,
Wade and Nora



Teen Update ...

Our teens are gearing up for a new series titled “Living in the World.” Our world today can present many opportunities and challenges for those of us who follow Jesus. In these lessons, we’ll examine Scriptural principles that each of us must take to heart as we live in the world. Lesson 1 will focus on recognizing our high calling and understanding our place in the world. Lesson 2 will discuss going in a different direction and standing strong through the pressure. Lesson 3 is on feeling the pressure and seeing temptation for what it is. Lesson 4 will help us consider the motives for what we do and understand the joy of surrender. Lesson 5 will be about living out our mission and living a life of impact. We pray that each of these lessons will teach us the importance of committing to live our lives for the glory of God and to live our lives in a way that will allow others to see Christ living through us!

Upcoming Events:

April 9, 2022 - Teen Craft and Rummage Sale - More details coming soon!

Thank you for praying for our teens,

John & Stephanie Moore

Be Strong Youth

Our current lessons in Joshua continue to carry our youngsters down our Bible Timeline and into the Promised Land. In a recent relay race, our “Be Strong Bible Club” took turns hurrying to dump “seeds” into a bucket, then covering them over with “soil” (foam packing peanuts). While we pretended to plant, we recalled times when we thought we were getting away with disobeying our parents or teachers. We’re learning that the Israelites often fell into disobedience too. They must have been encouraged to see God moving under Joshua’s leadership-- He had stopped the Jordan River, allowing them to cross on dry ground, and the walls of Jericho had toppled with just their marching and trumpeting! How exciting to witness God’s power bringing them through, just as He had promised! But the 7th chapter of Joshua describes a sad turn of events for God’s people, when one of their own, a man named Achan, sneaked and stole from the valuables taken in the conquest of Jericho... the very gold and silver meant to stay in the Lord’s treasury. Joshua and the Israelites had no idea such an offense had taken place, and as they approached the small, unprotected town of Ai, they felt confident they could take it easily. Joshua didn’t even ask God for direction

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as he sent in only a portion of their soldiers. What an embarrassing disappointment, when God’s army was defeated by such an unimpressive enemy! This caused the people to doubt God’s faithfulness, but God told them the fault was not His, but their own, and He would soon reveal the thief among them. Under questioning, Achan admitted his sin, and after showing the officials where he had buried the treasures under his tent, he was put to death for his wrongdoing. But God gave His people another chance, telling them to send in the entire army against Ai. This time, the Israelites were victorious, and they learned once again the importance of obeying God and following His guidelines.

We may think we’re hiding our secret sins, but we can learn something from Achan, who deceptively “planted” the evidence under his tent~ if we plant seeds of *disobedience*, our lives will grow the sad consequences. With that, our youngsters stuck a silk bouquet into our pail of packing peanuts... a visual reminder that planting *obedience* in this life will instead lead to the beautiful blossoms of peace, joy, and victory.

The adventure of Chapter 9 found us disguising our voices to trick our blindfolded friends, leading us to ponder the ways one cunning group tried to deceive Joshua and the Israelites. Gibeon was located only 25 miles from the Hebrew camp, but its leaders so feared God’s power in His people that they tried to convince Joshua they had traveled from afar just to make a pact with them. Their moldy bread, ragged clothes, dusty shoes, and worn wine jugs were part of the disguise as the Gibeonites pretended to be far away travelers. They asked God’s people to make them their servants. Feeling proud that they had made a name for themselves among travelers from across the world, the Israelites heard only what they wanted to hear. The Hebrews liked the attention and respect, and even Joshua fell into the scheme, agreeing to make a treaty with the crafty Gibeonites. Without consulting God’s direction, Israel let their pride guide their decision. They regrettably later learned that the “weary travelers” were really neighboring enemies, whom the Lord would have had them conquer. When pride clouds our thinking... when we struggle to make wise decisions... God is always just a prayer away.

From Joshua’s journey through the Promised Land, we are uncovering lessons that apply to our own journeys today. As the Israelites face enemies and prepare for battles, we are also seeing the importance of confidently depending on the Lord. In our daily decisions and hourly hurdles, we must learn to seek His guidance constantly. It comforts our hearts to know God’s help is always available, if we will only humble ourselves and ask Him. “*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*” (James 1:5)

Thankful to Be on This Journey with You All,
Bruce, Darla, and Marshall

A Settled Heart Can Still Sing

“My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.” –
Psalm 57:7

David’s heart was settled though he was hidden in a cave while fleeing for his life from Saul. This, “Man after God’s own heart”, had a settled heart! He was not merely coping with his circumstances; he was enjoying a spiritual victory. He, in fact, had a praise and song service in the cave. It is far easier to sing a song of victory in church than in a cave! The key to David’s outlook was his up look. His focus was upon his Lord!



I would suggest that the focus of our heart is a determining focus. It determines whether we become sad, glad, mad, or had! Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest, Finding, as He promised, perfect peace and rest.”

- Frances R. Havergal

These times are unsettling times but the Divine “Fixer” is just as capable today of “fixing” broken hearts as He was when He visited His servant hidden in a cave in the area of the Dead Sea. This Divine, “Fixer,” in fact, specializes in coming to the rescue of those shivering in the cold and lonely “Dead Sea Cave” of sin and giving them a new heart of redemption! He also comes into those lonely caves and finds His child in flight and fear, yet “fixes” their heart to where their cave becomes the site of victory. They, then as David, have their song and praise service in spite of their cave. A settled heart can still sing!

Chuck Peters – 1/23/2022

**From
the
pulpit**

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Blessings from The Surrendered Life

“Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.” – John 12:3



The lady gave a precious gift with value and great cost.
Someone felt it wasted and such an awful loss.
Anointed feet of Jesus were wiped with Mary’s hair.
Her glory she surrendered while fragrance filled the air.

The ointment box was opened; A wealth on Him she spilled.
A life with full surrender; A love so pure and real.
Mary’s box was broken, and many there were blessed.
A sweet aroma filled the room, when she gave her best.

The treasure of surrender, has value more than gold.
A humble heart with gratitude, God’s pleasure will unfold.
A life of selfless living and the giving of our best.
Affords the greatest blessing and secures the greatest rest.

Chuck Peters – 2/7/2022