

THE MESSENGER

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

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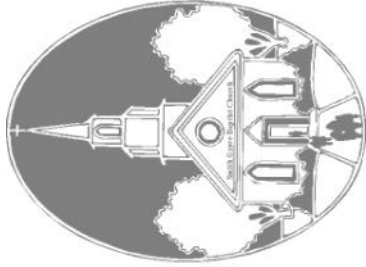
PROVERBS 25:13

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 . . .

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

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The Messenger



January 2023



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

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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 . . .*

Happy New Year ~ 2023

Sun., Jan. 1, 11 a.m. - Regular Morning Services - No Evening Service
Sat., Jan. 7, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission
Sun., Jan. 8, 11 am -- We will be recognizing Mike McCollum, our retiring Music Director who served for more than 20 years, with a special love offering. *There will be a chicken stew after the service.*
Sun., Jan. 8, 6 pm - Guest Speaker: Dewayne Lambeth from the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission
Sat., Jan. 21, 4 pm ~ There will be an appreciation meal in the Fellowship Bldg. provided for all singers, choir, musicians, and those who work with sound & livestream.
Sun., Jan. 29, 6 pm ~ Singspiration with the Joyful Sounds
Mondays, 3 pm, Robinwood Retirement Ctr. ~ Bible Study



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 Carolyn McBrayer

IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

PVT Adam Brittain, Army, Germany (Sam Crater's nephew)
SGT. Eric Compton, Army, Ft. Stewart, GA (Doug Slate's grandson)
CW4 Jonathan Harless (Raleigh) } (Hal & Martha
LTC Robert Harless (Washington, DC) } Harless' sons)
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; Fort Rucker, AL
(Nephew of Clarence Redmon)
SSGT Trevor Westmoreland, Army, Fort Benning, GA
(Allen & Sandy Westmoreland's son)



A Letter a Day with a Verse to Stay

This is a devotional series from **Pastor Chuck** which takes us through the alphabet each month.



“Loved” ~ “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” – Galatians 2:20

This beloved verse of Scripture is rich with both doctrinal and practical truth. The love of God drew salvation's plan and His grace, as the song says, brought it down to man. Christ died, according to Scripture, and His death was by way of crucifixion. Paul views Christ's love as the springboard resulting in His death on his behalf. The love of Christ became a motivation force which constrained him to endure and serve faithfully to the end.

Crucifixion means death and even though Paul was not historically crucified with Christ, he, nevertheless, sensed identity with Christ in His death and resurrection and thus dead to the controlling influences of the world and its vices. He furthermore recognized the presence of Christ in his life controlling his life and conduct. He remained focused, by faith, upon Christ and never got over the fact that Christ loved him and died for him!

Notice the word, “loved.” It is in the past tense. That means God loved us in our previous and worst state of being. In spite of our wallowing in the pit of depravity and degradation, Christ still loved us and died for us! The thought of His boundless love should also constrain our love and commitment to Him. I am amazed that He loves me but really amazed that He loved me!



BEAMS' Report for December 2022

of Pledges: 13; # of Contributions: 6;
Total Contributors: 19
Total Contributed: \$ 1,090.00 =
136 Bibles in December (plus some postage)

Many thanks to all those who gave monies to the BEAMS' ministry specifically for postage which added \$ 200.00 in December!

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.)

Future Meeting times to be announced.

Isaiah 43:18-19

Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

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, widowers, & senior singles
*"Honour widows that are widows indeed."
 (1 Timothy 5:3)*

This is a continuing churchwide ministry to remember *widows, widowers, and senior singles* of the church in a meaningful way. Each month, we highlight our special "Honour Roll Gang Members" who are having birthdays. Listed below are *January and February 2023* 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.

Casandra Mann

800 Quail Meadow
 Colfax, NC 27235
 336-993-4327 (Home)
 336-317-3483 (Cell) ~ January 2

Kathy Flynt

896 Flynt Rd.
 High Point, NC 27265
 336-668-2500 (Home)
 336-880-3352 (Cell) ~ January 7

Doris Cochran

122 Welch Dr
 High Point, NC 27265
 336-869-5059 ~ January 17

Mary Ellen Haynes

708 Lakedale Rd.
 Colfax, NC 27235
 336-993-2081 ~ January 27

Dolly Westmoreland

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

Betty Bame

8610 Adkins Rd
 Colfax, NC 27235
 336-993-2488 ~ January 30

Jean Rumsey

8730 Bame Road
 Colfax, NC 27235
 336-668-2080 ~ February 01

Joy Overcast

441 Mountain View Dr, Apt. 110
 Kernersville, NC 27284
 336-996-7563 ~ February 12

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!

January Anniversaries

No Anniversaries in January



*"Ring out the old, ring in the new,
 Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
 The year is going, let him go;
 Ring out the false, ring in the true."*

Alfred Lord Tennyson



Thank You, Mike!



Mike McCollum, preacher's son and talented musician, has served as Choir Director at Smith Grove Baptist Church for more than twenty years. Such amazing years ~ He and wife Becky have raised their children, become grandparents, and are now experiencing life in the ranks of the retired!

Mike has been a faithful servant of Christ for all these 20+ years, as he directed the choir,

played guitar and banjo, and sang the songs of Zion.

This December, 2022, Mike will be retiring from his role as Choir Director. While we are sad to see him hand the musical reins to someone else, we want to thank him for his dedication and commitment to the church and Savior he loves, and for sharing his talent with all of us. Only time will tell what blessings God has in store for Mike at Smith Grove. As he has said, *"I'm not going anywhere!"*

"God bless you, Brother Mike, and may the music live on!"

Happy New Year ~ 2023

Hail! sweetest, dearest tie that binds
 Our glowing hearts in one;
 Hail sacred hope, that tunes our minds
 To harmony divine.

What though the northern wintry blast
 Shall howl around thy cot,
 What though beneath an eastern sun,
 Be cast our distant lot;

It is the hope, the blissful hope
 Which Jesus' grace has giv'n;
 The hope when days and years are passed,
 We all shall meet in Heav'n.

Yet still we share the blissful hope!
 Which Jesus' grace has giv'n;
 The hope when days and years are passed,
 We all shall meet in Heav'n.



2023 ~ Another Milestone Year!

As we welcome this new year, 2023, we think back to another year, 1998, which has special meaning for us at Smith Grove Baptist Church. This year will herald a quarter century since Rev. Charles Peters accepted the call to serve as our pastor. Pastor Chuck and Carol

will soon be celebrating a Silver Anniversary with our church. Throughout the year, let's all endeavor to let Pastor Chuck and Carol know how much they mean to us, and how much we value their leadership and love.

It won't be long, Pastor! 25 Years!



The Messenger ~ a milestone in print . . .



The Newsletter Committee

It's hard to realize that our beloved *Messenger* will be 40 years in print this year! What a blessing to realize that in this electronic age of paperless viewing, we still have our printed newsletter going into 269 physical mailboxes. Many of the people who receive our newsletter are outside our general area – even outside our

state. It remains a viable means of sharing the gospel and news of our church and its ministries.

We want to thank you for supporting this ministry through your tithes, your prayers, and by reading its content! (Every article is prepared with care, and the authors put a lot of thought into each one. Please be sure to read our Teen and Youth articles. Every month has a lesson built in for every reader, as well as a play by play view of spiritual learning by the young people.) We also thank our workers who pitch in every month to go through all the steps required by the USPS in order to mail *The Messenger*: Becky Redmon, Glenda Foust, Sam Crater, and Clarence Redmon.

Sherrill Crater, Editor

National Theological College and Graduate School ~ Frankie Matthews

We have just concluded our training for 2022. That included 16 courses in 8 modules at our 4 teaching sites Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Uganda. This year I have had the privilege of traveling to each location and interacting with the students. They have told me how this training has begun growth and change in their own personal lives and prepared them to share the gospel with the lost in their own countries. But they have not stopped there. From our four teaching sites, they have also gone out to evangelize, teach, and plant churches in multiple locations in over 28 different countries!

"The training I've received at NTCGS has changed the way I teach and preach."

These students have taught in churches, schools, Bible conferences, orphanages, prisons and from house to house with a desire to share the truths of God's Word to those who have never heard. They are also training the believers in these countries in theology, evangelism, discipleship, and biblical leadership. How we praise the Lord for the impact they are having in carrying out the Great Commission.

Since its inception in 2002, NTCGS has now trained over 600 students, with 400 of them graduating with accredited degrees. This year alone, 106 students from Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Uganda graduated and are currently engaged in ministering in their own country and surrounding nations! Your generous support has made this training possible!

Thank you for your investment in the lives of the NTCGS students. Your partnership makes it possible for these students to be equipped with the biblical knowledge and practical tools necessary to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Let me share just one of many stories about the mission work one NTCGS student is doing. Soules (not his real name) started his studies with NTCGS in 2019, after hearing about the college from his friends in Asyut, Egypt. For years, he had a desire to minister to the unreached people in South Sudan. His first trip was to a village near Juba to an idolatrous tribe where no missionary ever been. He taught and preached, and the people responded. He came home with a request for 5,000 Bibles for these Sudanese who were hungry for God's Word.

On his next trip, God opened a unique place to minister... in prison! The prison guards were happy to allow Soules and his team into the prison as they brought clothes and food for the inmates. Freedom was also given to them to share the gospel and testify of God's love. Among the prisoners were a group of 10 rebels who had been captured by government forces in an attempted raid on a village. These hardened men would have nothing to do with Soules as he preached. But gradually some would listen, and then ask questions. As the words of truth and salvation reached their hearts several of these men gave their hearts to the Lord. "Why haven't you come sooner to tell us about Christ? Please go to our village and share the story of God's love to the people. If they hear about what Jesus has done, they won't be rebels anymore!"

Though currently it is too dangerous to go to the rebels' village, Soules continues his trips to the prisons and surrounding villages, preaching and handing out Bibles. "The Lord is doing amazing things here in South Sudan. I've never seen anything like this before. It is my privilege to serve God in this way."

Because of you, these stories are repeated over and over. Through you the Great Commission is being fulfilled.

BLESSINGS, C. Frankie Matthews, NTCGS President



Be Strong ~ Youth

The arrival of this special season has led us to ponder the giving of gifts at Christmastime. To help us reflect, our youngsters were asked to draw two presents they received last year. To their dismay, they had a hard time even recalling the gifts of last Christmas, and we wondered, "Am I still using them? What became of the presents I dreamed of last year?" Wide-eyed, our students asked themselves, "Did those gifts satisfy me so fully that I'm not asking for any new ones this Christmas?" It's safe to say that nobody wanted to go that far! The truth is, it's our nature to lose interest in our possessions over time. True joy and contentment come not from things, but from our relationship with God.

Accordingly, the Bible's account of King Ahab showed us the dangers of focusing on possessions. When we constantly covet what lies beyond our grasp, we are grieving God. Why does it offend Him when we want things that belong to someone else? Because our hearts are showing that we're not satisfied with what the Lord has prepared for us. It's in our nature to long for more and more and more... we saw that play out as wicked Ahab and Jezebel schemed to acquire a vineyard and later a city that didn't belong to them. With help from the Holy Spirit, we can learn to be content rather than covetous, living in gratitude for what we have, rather than always yearning for more. What a timely lesson to apply to our hearts this Christmas season, as we give and receive gifts!

For our young people, it has been a precious blessing to once again proclaim the most extraordinary gifts of all... the coming of Jesus our Savior, and the everlasting salvation He brings! In presenting "Arise, Shine" to our congregation, we are so grateful to the choir members for allowing us to partner with them in retelling the story of the wondrous night Jesus came. The lamp maker's family was beautifully brought to life by Asa (Marshall M), Rebekah (Catherine), Josiah (Watson), and Miriam (Lillie). The manger scene sweetly unfolded with Mary (Addison), the Angel (Angie), the Shepherds (Mackenzie, Audrey, Abi) and the Wise Men (Anthony, Parran, Marshall F). Our skits were woven between the choir's songs, reminding us to pause in this busy season, open our eyes, peek into the manger, and behold our Lord, the Light of the World! Holding our candles, we loved lighting our church auditorium and watching His Light spread throughout our church family. Could there be any more fitting way to begin 2023? We don't know what the new year holds, but in the months to come, we pray for God's love to light our way, and we pledge to share the Light of Jesus in our own corners of this dark and weary world.

May We All Shine His Light In 2023,
~ Bruce, Darla, & Marshall

Happy New Year!



Psalms 98:1 O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvelous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

Teen Update ~ As we begin the New Year, we want to thank everyone who supported our teens in our 2022 fundraising functions. We collected \$918.00 for the Tohono O'odham Reservation, \$1470.00 for Tabernacle Children's Home, and \$685.00 to be used for our shut-ins, widows, and widowers.

As we continue in our study of "A Biblical Worldview" we answered another question, "Who am I?" This is a simple question, but the answer will greatly impact our perspective of the world we are living in.

Who am I? We aren't here by mere chance nor are we strange creatures that evolved from a cosmic swamp. No, we are all unique individuals created by our Almighty God. We all have unique personalities and qualities that set us apart from the rest of His creations. We looked at the following Scriptures to see what the Bible tells us.

Genesis 1:26-27 tells us that we are created in God's image and that we have qualities that reflect our Creator. These qualities are intellect, morality and a will. Psalm 139:14-16 and Isaiah 44:24 tells us that we are all designed exactly the way God desires us to be. Our abilities and physical features were all designed and given to us by God Himself!

We are loved and treasured by God. Our value as human beings is based on this fact. God not only brought us into existence but redeemed us from sin, and we remain dependent on Him.

What is the impact of how we view ourselves within our worldview? When we see ourselves as God sees us, it gives us the freedom to take the focus off ourselves and put it back on Him. There will be no place for a pity party or pride. We'll have the ability to reflect God to the world, and each of us must reflect Him well! By continuing to study our Bibles, we'll learn to like what He likes and dislike what He dislikes. In all that we do in our lives, we want God to be at the center of it! It is only in Him that we will find the satisfaction that we long for.

Because of Calvary,
John and Stephanie Moore

Use the New Year as an invitation to turn your dreams and hopes into a reality. You're awesome in Christ, and your dreams are possible through Him.

“ANOTHER YEAR BUT THE SAME OLD PROMISE”

“Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;” (II Corinthians 1:10)

Another year of life is depleted and the New Year is now in view. Many and varied have been the events making up the list of events of the past year. We look backwards and recall both the burdens and blessings of the past year. Many can mark the last year as the one that witnessed the Lord delivering you from “so great a death.” It was the year in which you passed from death unto life. You got saved in 2022!

We look back and furthermore recall how the Lord brought us through difficult times and sustained us by His grace. Many currently suffer from physical issues. Many suffer from mental, emotional, and financial stresses. The child of God still can say through it all, “Jesus led me all the way!” We could say in 2022, “He doth deliver.”

Theologically we talk of God’s deliverance from the penalty of sin in justification, the deliverance from the power of sin in sanctification and the future deliverance from the very presence of sin in glorification. The verse above would simply remind us that the deliverance process is in God’s hands!

The infant that Mary cradled in her arms was none other than the Infinite God and Ancient of days. He was, in fact, the architect and creator of all things created. “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:” (Col.1:16) The One who labored in Joseph’s carpenter shop was the “Framer of the ages.” I would also add, the carpenter is a good finisher! “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:” (Phil.1:6)

Yes, we stand on the threshold of a new year and can be certain that it will contain what we would call the “ups and downs.” We, however, can understand that God’s deliverance process will be as much in effect in 2023 as it was in 2022. The promise of deliverance will match the issues of the New Year. Life viewed from the perspective of the Master Carpenter’s work in the life of His people turns our “downers” into “uppers” anyway!

Are you entering the New Year and still yet lost without God? How tragic to think of such a venture without the Lord’s presence and leadership! Start the year right by accepting Christ as your personal Saviour. Enter the New Year as a new creature in Christ. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (II Cor.5:17) **Pastor Chuck Peters**



“I’m Just a Sinner saved By Grace” ~ Pastor Chuck Peters

I was saved in 1968, while in a church service, at Bethel Baptist Church, in Amherst Virginia. The preacher preached a message on the fact of the hardened heart of a lost sinner. The Gospel message, coupled with Holy Spirit conviction, brought me to the realization of my sin condition, hell’s reality, and Christ’s wondrous provision for my sin in His death of substitution on Calvary.

I went forward at the church invitation, as the music leader had the church singing the old hymn, “Just as I am”. I went forward, just as I was, a hell bound sinner, a church deacon led me to a prayer room and also reinforced the plan of salvation. I called on God to save me and left that small room, a new creature in Christ Jesus! It has been my privilege now for over 50 years, by His grace, to preach the Glorious Gospel.

I have a son who is a Gospel preacher and I am so proud of him for he is a humble servant of the Lord and blessed with a great local church, where he serves as Pastor, in Keystone Heights Florida. He not only is a good solid Gospel preacher but he is blessed with a music ability as well. He, a few years ago, sang a testimony song actually entitled, “Sinner saved by Grace”. May I share his song with you, my friends, and say that the song reflects this old unworthy sinner’s testimony but the testimony of all of you saved by the grace of God. I’m just an old sinner, **saved by grace!**

If you could see

What I once was
If you could go with me
Back to where I started from
Then, I know you would see
A miracle of Love that put me
In it's sweet embrace
And made me what I am today
Just an old sinner
Saved by grace
*I'm just a sinner
Saved by grace
When I stood condemned to death
He took my place
Now I live and breathe in freedom
With each breath of life I take
Loved and forgiven
Backed with a living
I'm just a sinner
Saved by grace*

How could I boast on anything

I've ever seen or done
How could I dare to claim as mine

The victories God has won
Where would I be
Had God not brought me
Gently to this place
I'm here to say I'm nothing but
A sinner saved by grace
*I'm just a sinner
Saved by grace
When I stood condemned to death
He took my place
Now I grow and breathe in freedom
With each breath of life I take
I'm loved and forgiven
Backed with a living
I'm just a sinner
Saved by grace*
Now I grow and breathe in freedom
With each breath of life I take
I'm loved and forgiven
Backed with a living
I'm just a sinner
Saved by grace
Saved by grace