

## THE MESSENGER

Smith Grove Baptist Church

P.O. Box 57

Colfax, NC 27235

VOLUME 40

May 2023

ISSUE 470

### 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 ~

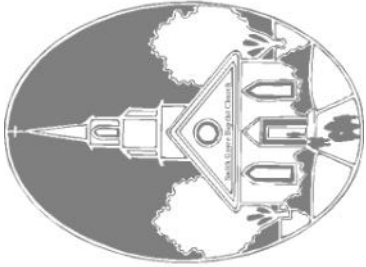
2707 Sandy Ridge Road

Colfax, NC 27235

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Peters, Pastor

Home: (336) 996-8563

Cell: (336) 812-1169



[www.smithgrove.org](http://www.smithgrove.org)

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## The Messenger



May  
2023



**Smith Grove Baptist Church**  
2707 Sandy Ridge Road ~ Colfax, NC 27235  
[www.smithgrove.org](http://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](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 Mother's Day**

**Sat., May 6, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission**  
**Sun., May 7, 11 am & 6 pm ~ Speaker:**  
**Brother Duain Whittemore**  
**Sun., May 14 ~ Mother's Day**  
**Sun., May 21 ~ BEAMS Sunday**  
**Mon., May 29 ~ Memorial Day**  
**Every Monday, 3 pm, Robinwood Retirement Ctr.**  
*~ Bible Study*

"The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness."  
....Honore de Balzac

**Looking Ahead ~ VBS, June 12-15, 7-9 pm, "Keepers of the Kingdom"**

### 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:** Betty Byrd 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.



**“Patience”** – “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,” – Hebrews 12:1

Patience or endurance is required in successfully running and completing the Christian race – a race which begins with salvation. Faithfulness to the end should be the testimony and legacy of the child of God. Running with patience is enhanced by the knowledge and observation of the great “cloud of witnesses” as mentioned in Chapter 11 of this Book. We also are to emulate the faithful lives of Christian mentors and associates which all of us have been privileged to know.

Those hindrances and besetting sins must be laid aside if we are to be faithful in the race. The race is run along the racetrack of discipline in the areas of the Christian life needful for growth and maturity. The race is run in the presence of observers watching our demeanor and example and influencing spiritual decisions on their part whether negative or positive.

Patience and stamina in the race are really enhanced by... *“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* – Hebrews 12:2 **Chuck Peters**



## BEAMS' Report for April 2023

# of Pledges: 8; # of Contributions: 4;  
Total Contributors: 12  
Total Contributed: \$ 357.00 =  
44 Bibles in April (plus some postage)

*Many thanks to all those who gave monies to the BEAMS' ministry specifically for postage which added \$ 170.00 in April!*

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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj39_zpMzkkCXdFYy1NKndQ)

To listen & download mp3:

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



## Vacation Bible School

Mon. through Thur.

June 12-15, 7-9 pm

**“Keepers of the Kingdom”**

## 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 *May and June* 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.

**Alta Key**

4454 Peace Rd  
Trinity, NC 27370  
336-431-0079 ~ May 03

**Esther Campbell**

8309 Lakedale Circle Dr  
Colfax, NC 27235  
336-317-2093 ~ May 28

**Dovie Dull**

1016 Madison Place Circle  
Kernersville, NC 27284  
336-996-6330 ~ May 14

**Doug Slate**

1693 Brookford Rd  
Kernersville, NC 27284  
336-993-3114 (Home)  
704-575-8485 (Cell) ~ June 11

**Eloise McCollum**

8626 Bull Road  
Colfax, NC 27235  
336-996-6320 ~ May 26

**Oma Lou Pitts**

8047 National Service Rd  
Colfax, NC 27235  
336-420-5103 ~ June 19

*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!*

## May Anniversaries

- 2 Garland & Anita Holt
- 6 John & Stephanie Moore
- 14 Allen & Sandra Westmoreland
- 19 Dennis & Brenda Westmoreland
- 26 Rick & Angela Cornell



Each year, Americans pause to remember those who have given their lives while serving in the nation's armed forces. Falling on the last Monday of May every year, **Memorial Day** honors the men and women who died while serving in all branches of the U.S. military—more than 1.1 million military personnel in all conflicts from the Revolutionary War to the war on terror.  
*Memorial Day, May 29, 2023, honors those who have died, while Veterans Day in November honors all military veterans living and dead.*

## John Boff and Family

Serving in Porto Alegre, Brazil

**Hello from Brazil!** We are well into our summer months with temperatures reaching up towards 100 with high humidity.

Before I give an update on the ministry, I'd like to take a moment to thank each one of you, from the bottom of my heart, for your financial help and intercessory prayers. Your love and prayers do not go unnoticed. May God bless each of you for your faithfulness to Him and to this ministry.

**CANOAS** – This church continues doing well with many people returning for the regular services. We are also seeing some visitors come. Nine people have been evangelized and are now attending the services on a regular basis. We have prayed continually that God would open the doors for new people to visit, preaching nonstop and giving our many tracts and Bibles to new converts. Amen! We thank God for His continuous love to us.

**GRAVATAI** – The church in this city is showing growth as well with new members and visitors every Sunday. Pastor Dwayne and his wife, Dianna, have visited many families and have evangelized many in that city. We are thankful to God for the lives of these American missionaries who are leading that church with much love and care. May God bless them greatly!

**BIBLE INSTITUTE** – As of December 10th our institute classes are finished. We had our graduation ceremony on December 15th and we started the new school year in March. Our goal is to train men and women to God's glory and honor and to continue the ministry of preaching the Gospel. Our motto is: ENTER TO LEARN, LEAVE TO TEACH! Mark 16:15. Please pray for more students who are sold out for God and want to do more for HIM!

**PARTENON**—in the city of Porto Alegre – Pastor Jose Stefanini continues to pastor and has been involved in going out evangelizing every week. They are seeing visitors come to every service. Souls are being saved for His glory and honor!

We will continue to preach and evangelize the Gospel of Jesus Christ until He returns. Please pray for our state of Rio Grande do Sul and for the country of Brazil as we do His work!

In His service and for His glory,  
*John Boff and Family*



## The Divine Optometrist

*“And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.” – Mark 8:24-25*

Jesus touched the blind man's eyes and he had his sight restored. At first, he could not see distinctly for the men appeared as trees, walking. He then, after Jesus put His hands upon him, saw every man clearly. His sight was completely restored.



The lost sinner is in a state of darkness and blinded by sin. “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” – I Corinthians 4:4 When saved, eyes are opened and everything is seen in a new light. The Scriptures, the Saviour, and creation are now seen for what they are and in light of the Sovereign heart and hands of God. The new convert, however, sees at first indistinctly.

The Christian experience is viewed with wonder and amazement. The Christian life is viewed by the ones with newly opened eyes as mysterious and the doctrines of Scripture are hardly understood. The eyes newly opened by the grace of God sees “men as trees walking”!

The wonderful spiritual transformation of the greater sanctification of the believer leads to “eyes seeing more clearly.” The “Divine Optimist” not only restores sight to the blinded eyes but corrects the vision more and more as the walk with God continues and the heart is more drawn to Him. The progress of vision involves that of “no vision” to “20/20 vision” and ultimately “face to face vision” with the One who restored blinded eyes. “For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.” – I Corinthians 13:12

Chuck Peters – 5/13/2022

*Praise the Lord for eyes that see!*

## Pastor Chuck ~ 25 Years of Service ...

**And the ability to laugh at himself!**

Pastor Chuck and Sister Carol have had medical issues arise over the years, some serious, some not so serious. But, Pastor has recently dealt with two cataract surgeries which ordinarily would have greatly improved his vision. In this instance, Pastor still needs some laser surgery to correct a film over his cornea which is causing vision problems. He has even resorted to using some really cute “readers” (which belonged to Sister Carol) to get him by until his surgery. One Sunday, Pastor stood behind the pulpit and Carol giggled outright . . . He immediately stopped that giggle with, “What are you laughing at?” and Carol responded, “Well, you *are* wearing two pairs of glasses!”

Sure enough, Pastor had donned two pairs of glasses – three layers of vision, and six eyes to help him through his sermon! While this is no laughing matter, we did have fun with our pastor over the multiple pairs of eye wear!

But then . . . a helpful church member who shall remain nameless (right, Nathan?), suggested a final, prior to surgery, solution. *Our good sport pastor jumped right in! Finally, the right prescription!*

On a serious note, at the time of printing, Pastor has not yet had his laser procedure to correct his vision. This will be coming up soon, and we are praying for a successful surgery which will give him perfect vision!



2 Kings 6:17 - *And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: . . .*



## Be Strong ~ Youth

Having learned about the Old Testament prophecies, our youngsters have been excited to dive into our New Testament study at last. What a blessing to see the promised Messiah appear to a lost, lonely, and longing world! Beginning our lessons on the life of Christ, the Book of John has fittingly introduced us to the gospels... *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* (John 1:1) Remembering God's many promises that a Savior would come, our students looked back over their Bible timeline, fascinated to see that, from the very beginning, the Father's plan of salvation included His Son, and His rescue mission was long ago set in motion, to unfold in His perfect timing. Jesus was God's promise, come to life... God's Word, made flesh. Over the coming weeks, we are honored to lead our children in exploring the life of Jesus, and we pray they will steadily grow in their walk with Him.

We are also thrilled that our upcoming Vacation Bible School will coincide so richly with our focus on Jesus. As **"Keepers of the Kingdom,"** our knights and fair maidens will learn to put on the armor of God. In these trying and uncertain times, our Master's Kingdom is continually under attack, and more than ever, it's crucial to teach young people to prepare and stand strong in today's battle for truth! If you feel the Lord leading you to be a part of this timely outreach, please join us in the fellowship hall for our first meeting on **Monday, April 24, at 7:00 pm.** We will have supper together, then sneak a peek at the royal and wonderful adventure to come! How exciting it will be, whisking our youngsters away to a land of castles, regal kings and queens, brave knights, fire-breathing dragons, and epic battles! To further immerse our visitors, we will soon be transforming our classrooms into a medieval kingdom, so we would appreciate any of the following contributions you might have on hand: large, empty boxes (to paint for castles and towers)/ toy castles/ large castle-themed playhouses or tents/ toy knights/ stuffed dragons/ stuffed horses/ princess toys/ wreathes of flowers or ribbons to wear on the head/ child or adult-sized crowns or capes/ ANY costume items—"princess dresses", king or queen items, knight items, peasant clothing/ suits of armor/ castle-type flags or pennants/ antique candelabra (pewter or iron like)/ brass accessories (candle holders, urns, jugs)/ bugles or trumpets/ solid color fabric remnants (especially velvet or silk)/ any medieval-themed décor (swords or shields).

It has been a long time since we were blessed to hold Vacation Bible School. As our entire team embarks on this epic journey, we all covet your prayers once again, dear church family!

~Bruce, Darla, Marshall, and all our fellow "Keepers of the Kingdom"



**Teen Update ~** Thank you to everyone who donated to our rummage sale. We've had a great time on Wednesday nights sorting, cleaning, and pricing items. We have a lot of great things to sell!! We appreciate your support more than you know!

Our recent lesson on integrity is one we can all learn from. Integrity is defined as "the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness." Someone with integrity will always do the right thing simply because they know it's the right and honorable thing to do. They are not worried about impressing others around them or avoiding trouble. Having integrity exhibits that your faith is real and your desire to obey God is genuine.

We looked at what the Bible has to say about integrity. Proverbs 5:21, Proverbs 21:3, and Luke 16:10 tells us the importance of having integrity. Proverbs 5:21 tells us that no matter what we do, even if it's done in secret God sees it, and you can't hide from Him. He knows your every move and every desire of your heart. Proverbs 21:3 tells us that doing what is right pleases God more than sacrifices. God wants us to love Him so much that we will always want to do what is right because of the love we have for Him. Finally, Luke 16:10 tells us that integrity in small things equals integrity in big things. If a thief takes one dollar or \$1000, a thief is still a thief. The amount is not what's important. Your heart is either faithful or unfaithful. It doesn't matter how big or small, it's the same.

Next, we moved on to the benefits of integrity. Proverbs 11:3 tells us that integrity will guide you and keep you on a great path in life. Titus 2:7-8 tells us that people will not have bad things to say about you. Your speech reveals what is in your heart. Pure words come from a pure heart, and there is no condemnation for that. Psalm 18:20 and Matthew 6:4 tells us that God will reward our acts of integrity. When we help others, we must not do it for public acclamation. We must help because there is a need, not to benefit ourselves.

Plain and simple, integrity is a choice. Your choice! When you do what God wants you to do at all times, in every circumstance, and at all costs, you become a person of integrity. Micah 6:8 says, "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Acts of integrity is what God has "required of thee" and it's through these acts that we demonstrate true Christian maturity. May your faith be proven to be genuine as you live lives of integrity!

Because of Calvary, *John and Stephanie*

As of this posting, we still have upcoming events in April:

**Mon., April 24, 7 pm, first VBS Meeting (Fellowship Bldg)**  
**(If you would like to join the team, come on out!)**  
**Teen Rummage Sale Fundraiser on April 29, 8 am-12 pm.**

## “Happy Birthday, Mom” ~ Pastor Chuck Peters (written several years ago)

My wife emailed me from work and reminded me that my Mother would have been 96 today. Today, of course, was her birthday. I have decided today to pay tribute to my mom. I must say that there is no deceased human being that I miss more than my mom. I know that it is a human experience to bond in a special way with a “Mom!” I am no exception to the rule. I thank God for both my Dad and Mom. I loved them both. I did, however, seem to be closer to Mom.

There are many things today that I miss because Mom is no longer here. She, in fact, entered into the presence of her LORD on Mother’s Day, 2005.

I would say in a general way that I miss her love, humor, candidness, and lifelong “mother’s heart.” She gave birth to eight children but loved us all individually. She was always candid enough to never make you wonder if she was mad or not. She spoke her piece whether we liked it or not, but she always assured us that she had our back at the end of the day. I find myself missing even more Mom’s candidness at a time when political correctness rules and honesty is treated as rudeness, crudeness, and offensiveness.

I miss my Mom’s humor. I miss her homespun statements, pronunciations, and quick wit. I miss her humor in laughing at herself – like the time on vacation when she was soaking wet from a downpour. She failed to get the umbrella opened, yet held it up as though it was open! She wasn’t mad and nursing a wounded pride, she joined in the laughter. I miss her “mountain” pronunciation of words and statements. Mom was always “pert-in-near” ready to do this or that!

I miss my Mom’s old-fashioned approach in child rearing. She feared spoiling the child if she spared the rod. She “gave it to us” when we had it coming to us! Mom didn’t practice the modern “time out” or “you’re grounded” approach in discipline. *We weren’t grounded, we were pounded!* It would have been hard for her to ground us when we didn’t even own a car. She couldn’t take away our T.V. time, Computer, or Cell phones. We had none! There were none. She knew that sending us to the room wouldn’t work. Several of us kids slept in the same room. She whipped us, sent us outside and said, “Don’t come back in until you straighten up!”

Today, moms like my Mom would be attending anger management classes or, better still, a class on “what to do, now that I’m in jail.”

I not only miss my Mom’s style of discipline but I miss a society where the family was the basic social foundation of the society. I miss a society where a home consisted of a Mom and a Dad. I miss a society where moms and dads stayed together in marriage and took seriously the vow, “till death us do part.” My Mom and Dad lived through tough times.



Dad worked like a dog to feed his family. Mom raised eight kids, cooked, and called us all to the table at one time. This is now rare! Mom and Daddy had their disagreements and even “fights!” But, I venture to say, they didn’t accidentally celebrate more than fifty years of marriage!

Today, I miss going home and knowing that my visit was treated special. I miss a welcome that included spending the night in, what Mom considered, still my bedroom. I miss Mom’s homemade soup, pot of cabbage, apple cake, and ice-cream that she made sure the kids picked up from the store before I got there. I miss our going out to eat and her occasional trip back with me to stay a few days. I miss those times when she would go with Carol and me on vacation. She never got over telling about meeting little Jimmy Dickens! I miss driving to see her on Christmas Eve and her childish excitement in opening her “12 days of Christmas” gifts.

Yes, I miss Mom today and realize now more than ever that those days were more precious than I had sense enough to realize. Yes, I was busy with my own life and home. Yes, I lived in another state. Yes, I . . . – It is amazing how we usually learn after the fact!

I do, however, know now a little more about loneliness associated with aging. I have had the God-given privilege of living more than six decades. My life ministry has been a “people-centered” work. As a Pastor, I have spent multiple years dealing with people including associates, strangers and friends. It has been an extraordinary blessing to have the respect and love of dear friends. I do, however, have to say that I have never valued anything more than the love and respect of my own family. I used to take for granted a simple phone call to Mom or a card or a visit. I never really was able to understand that Mom’s later days found her a lonely widow. A simple, “I love you Mom” meant more to her than I then realized.

We will all eventually, if God permits, find that life’s accomplishments, degrees, and medals are poor substitutes for family and friends. Families especially need to honor, love, and cherish time together. Why? Life will soon enough usher us into a world of precious memory. Thank God for precious memories! Memories of precious loved ones take us back to when we walked together and talked together. The remembrance of their voices and love is precious but what we wouldn’t give to hear them again say, “How are you, when are you coming in?”

Well, today I will say . . .

**“Happy Birthday, Mom. I love you and miss you. I am encouraged by the fact that I know where you are and know that there are no lonely days there. I remember the night you wept when I came home from church and told you I was saved. Because of that fact, I can say that I’ll be coming home soon.”**

*And Happy Mother’s Day!*