

THE MESSENGER

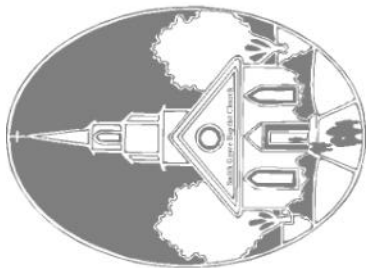
Smith Grove Baptist Church
P.O. Box 57
Colfax, NC 27235

VOLUME 40
July 2023
ISSUE 472

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



July
2023



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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 . . .*

Sun., July 2 ~ Patriotic 4th of July Service

~ followed by hot dogs and hamburgers in the Fellowship Building.
(Hot dogs, hamburgers & dessert will be provided by the church).

NO EVENING SERVICE.

Sat., July 1, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission

Sun., July 16 ~ BEAMS Sunday

Sun., July 16, 6 pm.... Missionary Howard Miller, Speaker

Sun., July 30, 11 am ~ Special Music by Kendra
from Robinwood; 6 pm ~ Special Music by singers
from Gospel Light Baptist Church

Every Monday, 3 pm, Robinwood Retirement Ctr.

Sunday Sundaes: July 9, July 16, August 6, August 20, August 27.



SUNDAY SUNDAES



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)
CCWO5 Michael Maine, US Army; Fort Rucker, AL
(Nephew of Clarence Redmon)
SSGT Trevor Westmoreland, Army, Fort Benning, GA
(Allen & Sandy Westmoreland's son)



Spec. Jocelyn Laramore, US Army ~ is now a civilian, living in Texas with her husband and 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.



“Refuge” – *“That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.”* – Hebrews 6:18

Those who have fled from the wrath to come by fleeing to the “city of refuge” of Christ and His finished work, are eternally safe from the avenger of death. God’s oath and promise cannot be broken for God cannot make a promise He would renege on or would be unable to keep.

God’s redeemed people reside safely and eternally in the refuge of the Saviour and are eternally protected in that refuge for “the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” – Romans 6:23 All of the threats combined, related to the shifting sands of this world and its minions, will never dislodge those who have fled to the refuge of Christ! If a Christian could lose their salvation, the character of God would be stained and His Word would be uninspired.

Praise God, it is impossible for Him to lie and His Word does stand regardless of how we feel or what we think! We who are saved have a strong consolation because we have a secure refuge established upon Christ’s finished work and verified by God’s good character. The hope before us is as secure as its Author. I can safely say that those in Christ will meet in glory for God’s promises will eternally hold firm.



BEAMS' Report for June 2023

of Pledges: 9; # of Contributions: 8;
Total Contributors: 17
Total Contributed: \$ 807.00 =
100 Bibles in June (plus some postage)

Many thanks to all those who gave monies to the BEAMS' ministry specifically for postage which added \$ 140.00 in June!

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/>



Just be you, because you are
Unique, wondrous, and amazing.
Live every day to the fullest as
You be the best you can be – in Christ!

Psalms 139:14 *I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Marvellous are thy works; And that my soul knoweth right well.*

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 *July and August* 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.

Betty Byrd

Trinity Glen Senior Care
849 Waterworks Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27107
336-595-2166 ~ July 01

Patsy Pendry

8054 Clinard Farms Rd
High Point, NC 27265
336-617-0590 ~ August 19

Becky Redmon

8421 Endicott Road
Colfax, NC 27235
336-993-1833
336-482-1926 (Cell) ~ July 09

Doris Nuckles

8324 Tyner Loop Road
Colfax, NC 27235
336-668-2332 ~ August 28

- "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."
.....John Piper
- "When we work, we work. When we pray, God works."
James Hudson Taylor
- "Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them."Elisabeth Elliot
- "Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers."
.....Garth Brooks

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!

July Anniversaries

- 2 Gale and Charlene Tester
- 7 Gary and Helen Hendrix
- 11 Chuck and Carol Peters
- 16 Steve and Stephanie Dillon
- 23 Wade and Nora Smith
- 25 Pam and Glen Blackburn
- 27 Bruce and Darla Freeman



History of Independence Day

When the initial battles in the Revolutionary War broke out in April 1775, few colonists desired complete independence from Great Britain, and those who did were considered radical.

By the middle of the following year, however, many more colonists had come to favor independence, thanks to growing hostility against Britain and the



spread of revolutionary sentiments such as those expressed in the best-selling pamphlet "Common Sense," published by Thomas Paine in early 1776.

On June 7, when the Continental Congress met at the Pennsylvania State House (later Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, the Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion calling for the colonies' independence.

Amid heated debate, Congress postponed the vote on Lee's resolution, but appointed a five-man committee – including Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert R. Livingston of New York – to draft a formal statement justifying the break with Great Britain.

On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of Lee's resolution for independence in a near-unanimous vote (the New York delegation abstained, but later voted affirmatively). On that day, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail that July 2 "will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival" and that the celebration should include "Pomp and Parade...Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other."

On July 4th, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, which had been written largely by Jefferson. Though the vote for actual independence took place on July 2nd, from then on the 4th became the day that was celebrated as the birth of American independence. *Happy birthday, America!*

Pastor Chuck ~ 25 Years of Service ... July 26, 1998 ~ Present



This month highlights another milestone for our church. It doesn't seem possible that Pastor Chuck has been with us for 25 years! We are proud to share our Pastor's biographical profile – son of a coal miner and fierce advocate for the good and right. Our pastor has an intrinsic love of God and country, and he is quick to defend both, with all the fervor of a soldier in battle.

We take this opportunity to thank Pastor Chuck and Sister Carol for the past twenty-five years, for their steadfast dedication to the Savior and love for the Smith Grove Baptist Church family.

Background: Pastor Chuck Peters has pastored churches for more than fifty years and during that time served in the Military as an Army Chaplain. He is an Iraqi War veteran and retired from the Military in 2006 with the Rank of Major.

He holds a Bachelor of Theology Degree from Piedmont Baptist College, a MRE Degree from Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA, and a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Baptist Bible Seminary in Clarks Summit, PA.

*On July 26, 1998, Smith Grove
was blessed to have
Dr. Charles “Chuck” Peters
become our pastor.
Along with his wife Carol,
he has continued the
“true to the gospel” heritage
established more than
a century ago.*



Please Pray for The Smiths

Missionaries to our Military

626 Forest Hill Circle ~ Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Phone: 757-343-0643

(May~June Update)

As we begin this prayer letter, we would like to say along with the Apostle Paul in Philippians 1: 2-3, “*Grace be unto you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.*”

The Lord continues to bless us here in the tidewater area of Virginia in so many ways. We have had the privilege of ministering to so many military families over the soon to be 30 years this coming July. Pictured here is one of those families. Brandy and 3 of the four kids came to spend Easter weekend with us. Josh stayed home to help with the service at their home church. This family was with us for about 10 years while Josh served as a Chief in the Navy. We were and are still considered their adoptive grandparents to all four of their children.



The youngest, Easton, is now 15 years old and was just recently called to preach. Here he is preaching on the Sunday morning that they were with us. When he was much smaller his parents said after church, he would pretend he was preaching. We praise the Lord we had the privilege of ministering to him when he was just a little boy. Mrs. Nora received a lot of “Happy Mother's Day” wishes. Some were from military families who have either gotten out of the military or have transferred to other duty stations. One of these wishes was from Tammy, who is in the Air Force and stationed at Robbins Air Force Base in Georgia. It read, “I love you, Mama. You've always been my second Mama. Lots of things I do is because you taught me. I miss you so much!”

Also please be in much prayer about a revival we are having in mid-June. Our prayer is that it will truly be a revival for God's people and salvation for the unsaved.

As we close this prayer letter, we want to again thank you for your many prayers and financial support you have blessed us with throughout the years we have been here in the Tidewater area of Virginia. Please help us pray that once again, our Heavenly Father would bring those in that He would have us minister to.

THANKFUL TO BE IN HIS SERVICE,

Wade & Nora

Teen Update ~ Summertime is here, and we love these longer nights. Our youth have enjoyed playing wiffle ball with each other after our Wednesday night lessons. If you see them outside the fellowship hall playing, come on down and join in on the fun.

Our teens also enjoyed a night of fishing at Triad Park as a follow-up to our Fishers of Men lesson. The younger kids also joined us, and we had a great time fellowshiping and fishing.



Luke 5:1-11 is the passage about the Fishers of Men. Here are four key points we learned from this wonderful passage of Scripture. Our first point from Luke 5:3 tells us it all begins with inviting Jesus. Just like Simon invited Jesus into his boat, we are to invite Jesus into our lives. Simon could have denied Jesus the opportunity to use his boat; after all, he was probably disappointed from not catching anything on his fishing outing and just wanting to go home. This small choice of allowing Jesus to use his boat led to a miracle that those on the shore saw and changed Simon's life forever! The smallest of choices can have the greatest consequences. Sometimes we get caught up in ourselves, focusing on our problems and forgetting to focus on Jesus. Don't let your disappointments keep you from doing God's will.

The second point from Luke 5:5 tells us to always trust Jesus even when we think we know better. Simon was an experienced fisherman who had fished all night, which he knew was the best time to fish, and caught nothing. Then, during the wrong time of day to catch fish, Jesus instructs him to "let down the net." Simon trusted Jesus, obeyed His instruction, and what a wonderful miracle occurred! God always knows better than we do. Even when His instructions make no sense to you at all, never let your ego get in the way of obeying Jesus. He always knows what is best for us. When we trust God and obey His instructions, something great will appear in the end.

Point three from Luke 5:10 tells us that Jesus wants all of us to follow Him. The miracle Jesus preformed on the boat that day wasn't a way to thank Simon for allowing Him to use it, but Jesus wanted to reveal who He was and invite them to follow Him. Simon and his friends did just that and got much more than they ever imagined! Jesus wants to give us life and have it abundantly as John 10:10 tells us. God will always bless His children tremendously. He wants us to follow Him despite these blessings. The biggest blessing is not the things that God can give each of us, but that God gives us Himself.

Point four from Luke 5:11 tells us that following Jesus means leaving some things behind. It is impossible to move forward and stay in the same place. The same thing is true with Jesus. We can't follow him and stay in the world at the same time. God wants us to choose: we can follow Him, or the sinful ways of the world. This passage

(Cont.)

of scripture says, "they forsook all, and followed him." When we choose to follow Jesus, we must also decide to leave all our sinful ways behind. God will reward those who choose to follow Him. But it never comes without a cost. In Matthew 16:25, Jesus challenges us to have an eternal perspective. To truly be Jesus', we must allow it to be His life and not ours.

Because of Calvary, **Stephanie & John**

Be Strong ~ Youth - How thankful we are to have started our summer at the castle, learning to be "Keepers of the Kingdom"! Each night, our "brave knights and fair maidens" were whisked away to the chambers below, in the "keep of the castle"... the safest, most fortified place in our fortress. There, through Truth Talks, our Royal Trainers used scripture to teach our youngsters to take up their armor and stand strong in life's battles. We deeply appreciate the faithful teachers who led and loved each age group ~ **Catherine and Denice** (*Brave Hearts*, ages 3-4) / **Ann, Ashley, and Barbara** (*Royal Guardians*, 5-8 years) / **Cheryl, Steve, and Brian** (*Mighty Conquerors*, 9-10 years) / **Bruce, Darla, and Marshall** (*Warriors of Valor*, 11-12 years) / **Stephanie and John** (*Courageous Victors*, Ages 13 and up) / **Pastor Peters** (*Victorious Protectors*, Adults). Amidst the lessons on each piece of armor, our generous students even collected over \$500 to send to our missionaries, the White Family, as they plan to build a church and expand God's Kingdom in Bolivia.



What a blessing to once again gather for Vacation Bible School, with a team of friends and family who willingly sacrifice their time and talents to reach others for Jesus! We're so grateful for these dear partners in ministry ~ **"Maid Melanie"** (Music Director) / **Scott** ("Sir Scottie") / **Nathan** (Sound) / **John** (Technical Advisor & Live Streaming) / **Sherrill** (Printing & Clerical Assistance) / **Wendy, Adrian, Clyde, Waynard, Carol, Kathy, Jerry** (The "Noble Brigade" who kept us fed at the "Banquet Hall", replenished our supplies, and tidied up afterward) / **Shelby and Jerry** (Photography, and overall assistance with *anything* we needed). We are indeed indebted to our co-director, **Marshall**, not only for portraying "Blaze the Dragon", but also for his endless vision, creativity, and enthusiasm. For as long as he can remember, his childhood summers have been immersed in Bible School, so it's a passion he can't easily shake. And yes, he is already choosing background music and décor for *next year*! But his excitement is contagious, and all our young people are excited to look ahead, it seems. In the years since our last VBS, our own youngsters have grown so much that they took on some very different roles this summer. **Lillie, Angie, Par-ran, Anthony, Watson, Marshall, Addison, and Mackenzie** were busy decorating classrooms, painting stained glass on shower curtains, lining windows with post-it notes, putting up plastic drapes, and making torches for our castle walls. This year, they invested time, sharing in preparations in a whole new way, and this Bible School became *theirs*. What could bless our hearts more than knowing that the next generation has a tender heart for this ministry? We are grateful for the honor of watching each one grow in their walk with Jesus. To see their joy in this outreach, and to know they are also becoming "Keepers of the Kingdom"... their parents and grandparents are rejoicing. Thank you, church family, for embracing this beautifully busy and blessed time. We truly appreciate your prayerful and loving support...

With Love, **"Sir Brucie" and "Squire Whiskers"**

"Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Eph. 6:10-11



A Tribute to: Leroy Elliott

Gunnery Sergeant
D CO, 1ST BN, 4TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV
United States Marine Corps
28 September 1931 - 08 May 1967
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



I arrived at Parris Island S.C. on November, 1965 and for the next two months endured the rigorous discipline of processing from a civilian to a United States Marine. That process included the rude awakening of an immature 19 year old kid to the responsibilities of an adult. The training was brutal and the senior trainer was, in my opinion at that time, the meanest man on the face of the earth! My new home for 8 weeks was the 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Company C, and Platoon 1025. I was now "Recruit, Private Peters."

That senior trainer was Senior Drill Instructor, SSgt Leroy Elliot. I found him to be a 100% Marine, totally dedicated to his profession of making Marines out of raw recruits and furthermore, training them to fight and survive on the battlefield. Vietnam was now raging and combat duty was the total essence of our Marine training.

As I look back in retrospect, I am very thankful that the molding process of my life was enhanced greatly by this Marine Drill Instructor. I was too immature then to know what was happening, but now, 45 years later, I value more than ever that "brutal training" that had no tolerance for quitting when the going gets tough.

Gunnery Sergeant Elliot is a hero in my eyes. His love of Country and sense of duty was reflected in his total commitment to Country and Corps. He was a real professional in his work. He, furthermore, was a Marine's Marine!

He distinguished himself further by applying on the battlefield his "warrior ethos." He volunteered for duty in Vietnam and paid the supreme price of his life in 1967. I never met again my Senior Drill Instructor after graduating from Parris Island Boot Camp, Platoon 1025, but I know that his training has impacted every aspect of my life in some way.



I have been a Pastor now for more than thirty-five years. I have learned the reality and value of enduring hardness as a soldier of the cross. I have had my spiritual battles! I recently completed a Military career which ended after combat duty in Iraq. My Military life began as a Private at Parris Island in 1965 and I was fortunate to obtain the rank of Major before retiring from the Army in 2005.

I have come to believe that the God I serve knew that I needed what I received from the leadership of Marine Gunnery Sergeant Elliot. He taught me patriotism, love of Country and the willingness to die for the sake of freedom. His tough training taught me to never quit. God has used that discipline many times while serving in Ministry "Bases" of duty!

Thank you, Gunnery Sergeant Elliot, for what you taught me. You are my hero! I'm signing off with an old soldier's salute to one who taught me that there are some things worth fighting and dying for.

Those "some things" include a Country and a cherished freedom! Those "some things" include a sacrificial service for the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He is "Commander and Chief of Heaven and Earth. He is the ultimate High Command!"

I would, however, say to my fellow American Patriot, **Thank you, Sir.** Thanks for, "Double Time, Quick Time March!" Thanks for, "Sir, Private Peters requests permission to speak to the drill instructor." Thank you for, "You are mine while here at Parris Island" and finally, "Congratulations, Marines." You taught us that we had to earn that title.

Semper Fidelis, Gunny!

Charles Ray Peters, Jr. (Maj. Ret., U.S. Army)
(Printed July 2011)

