

THE MESSENGER

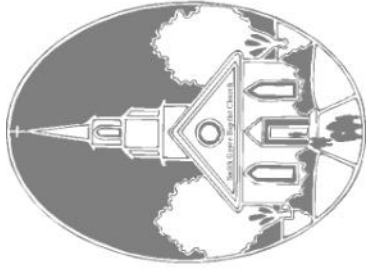
Smith Grove Baptist Church
P.O. Box 57
Colfax, NC 27235

VOLUME 40
November 2023
ISSUE 476

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



November 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 . . .*

The entire month of November is again being designated
"HARVEST HOME" month.

Starting in November, we will bring nonperishable food items to the church for distribution to two worthwhile ministries: the W-S Rescue Mission & Tabernacle Children's Home.

Sat., Nov. 4, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission

Sun., Nov. 5 ~ Daylight Saving Time Ends – Fall back, Everybody!

**Wed., Nov. 8 ~ Last day to bring packed shoeboxes for
Operation Christmas Child**

Sun., Nov. 19 ~ BEAMS Sunday

**Thanksgiving Week: Prayer Meeting & Youth Services
will be moved to Tues., Nov. 21.**

Every Monday, 3 pm, Robinwood Retirement Ctr.



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

IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

PVT Adam Brittain, Army, Stateside (Sam Crater's nephew)

CW4 Jonathan Harless (Raleigh) } (Hal & Martha

LTC Robert Harless (Ft. Bragg, NC) } Harless' sons)

E5 Noah Johnson, US Coast Guard, Portsmouth, VA
(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)

MSgt Gregory Reynolds, Marines, Camp Pendleton, CA.
(Jan Reynolds' son.)

The Country of Israel - families of those killed, and the hostages taken. *May God's chosen people prevail.*

~Many thanks to **Eric Compton** who has finished his time in the army, and is now in the reserves. *Thank you, Eric, for your service!*

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.



V – “Victory” *“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”* – I John 5:4

Those who are born again are overcomers through Christ and are on the side of victory. The victory, itself, was secured by the Great Conqueror, the Lord Jesus Christ. He conquered death, hell, and the grave by His death, burial, and resurrection. He is the “Overcomer” and faith, placed in Him, results in victory in and through Him. *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”* – John 16:33

The means of victory, on our part, is faith in Him. We sing, “Faith is the victory that overcomes the world” but we must understand that faith is no better than its object. Our victory is not “faith in faith” but faith in the One who, Himself, is the Conqueror! If someone fell into the water and a rope was tossed for Him or her to grab, the rope would be useless unless secured by someone or something on the other end of the rope! Jesus must be on the other end of the rope of faith in order to be delivered out of the water of this world with its threats. He is the source of our victory.



BEAMS' Report for October 2023

of Pledges: 9; # of Contributions: 8;

Total Contributors: 17

Total Contributed: \$ 883.00 =

110 Bibles in October (plus some postage)

Many thanks to all those who gave monies to the BEAMS' ministry specifically for postage which added \$ 210.00 in October!

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/>



We don't know them all, but we owe them all. Sat., Nov. 11, 2023

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

- John F. Kennedy

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 *November and December* Honour Roll Gang members. Please take a moment to send a card, make a telephone call, or do something extra special for our special saints.

Willard Tucker

8109 Thorndike Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27409
336-668-2370 ~ November 6

Bernice Johnson

1624 Mellon Dr.
Kernersville, NC 27284
336-904-0832 ~ December 23

Virginia Nuckles

4610 Kendale Road
High Point, NC 27265
336-668-2334 ~ November 13

Nancy Kelley

118 Applegate Rd.
Kernersville, NC 27284
336-830-4852 (Cell) ~ Dec. 23

Irene Shields

8042 Clinard Farm Rd
High Point, NC 27265
336-668-2298 ~ November 30

Barbara Bowden

5469 Macy Grove Rd
Kernersville, NC 27284
336-830-9115 ~ December 30

Jo Ann Green

3942 Cloverwood Meadow Ln
High Point, NC 27265
336-454-0351 (Home)
336-802-6172 (Cell) ~ Dec. 17



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!

November Anniversaries

- 5 Mark & Elaine Lowe
- 6 Eric & Angela Sexton
- 8 Jay & Wanda Stafford



"I saw that you were perfect, and so I loved you. Then I saw that you were not perfect and I loved you even more." –Angelita Lim



"My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD."
– Psalm 104:34

Today, I reflect upon "Thanksgiving" and, obviously, miss the family time of the past associated with the Holiday aspect and previous family gatherings. No longer is there a Thanksgiving Table surrounded by all the family members of years gone by. Many of my saved family are now in glory!

Meditation is the soul of true spirituality. The focus of our meditation determines whether the meditation is bitter or sweet. When I ponder my faults and failures, I am brought to despair. When I ponder the many disappointments associated with people relations, I am discouraged. When I reflect upon memories of the past and the passing of relatives and friends, my heart aches. The good old days of youth and boundless energy are left in the fog of the passing of time, to never be revisited! Memories may be precious yet when eyed through the memory lens of mere human thought, they sometimes tend to be somewhat tormenting! A meditation on the past can be hurtful.

The meditation of Christ, however, is sweet for it is the meditation of the living and loving Saviour. It is a meditation of a historical victory on our behalf which adds luster to the past and glory in the future. *My meditation of Him is sweet* for I rejoice in what He did for me at Calvary and thank Him for saving my wretched soul from the penalty of sin. *My meditation of Him is sweet* for I think of where He is now and how He cares for this wandering sheep, as The Great Shepherd on High. *My meditation of Him is sweet* as I ponder the future, He has laid out for me and know, as He has told me in His Word, that it will be far greater than this temporal life in this unstable and sinful world.

My Thanksgiving meditation, for this reason, is hopeful, uplifting, and sweet!

Chuck Peters – 11/23/2022

Pastor Chuck ~ 25 Years of Service ...

Our Homecoming service was designed to say Thank You to our beloved Pastor Chuck & Carol for 25 years of service, and it exceeded our expectations in every way!

~Pastor and Carol had no clue about any of the surprises that were in store.

~We were thrilled to have preachers from both sides of their family to participate in the service.

~The Choir sang "Homecoming," and it perfectly fit the day.

~We had a special guest, Miss Kendra, who sang with her lovely, lift the rafters' voice. What a blessing she was!

~The singing group from within Pastor's family, "the Baker Family," sang so beautifully and displayed their love and respect for our Pastor and Carol, and another niece dedicated her song to her much-loved aunt and uncle. Videos by son Kerry Ray and Rev. Ed Gindlesperger brought tears to all our eyes. We are very thankful for their presence, in person and by video.

~Other family members shared both love and fun-filled teasing as they related many of the humorous mishaps of our pastoral couple over the past twenty-five years of their ministry. (And there were many!)

~The beautiful presentation from our church by Pastor Bruce and Darla, was truly special. There was a lovely Certificate of Appreciation presented, a beautiful vase of flowers, and Bruce had many personal stories to tell about great times with the pastor. His love and appreciation for Pastor Chuck was very obvious in the kind "tongue in cheek" tenor of his story-telling.

~Our livestream staff managed to run livestream and juggle several slide shows and videos, without missing a beat. Many thanks to our talented staff for managing the complicated audio and video and livestream on Homecoming day!

~The wonderful workers in the Fellowship Building prepared and served a delicious meal. *Many thanks to each and every one!*

And then our Pastor shared his own thoughts on Homecoming . . . "A celebration of planning, building, growth, sacrifice, and a legacy....founded on the Word of God. We are able to celebrate more than an annual homecoming; we celebrate sinners coming home and saints going home. Yes, a time to celebrate our history and victory for this moment – made possible through the gospel message. The family has stayed intact... we haven't lost a single one... the roster is still complete. " (*Excerpts from Pastor's comments.*)

The message by Rev. Dave Peters was poignant, yet challenging, as he told stories of past adventures with his brother "Chuckie" and then shared his thoughts on the impact of the Smith Grove Baptist Church. *Only time will tell how many people's lives were touched by our church and its gospel outreach over the past 102 years.*



The great advantage we have as Christians in this day in which we live over past generations, we can see prophecy slowly unveil itself as we await our Lord's imminent return for His church. We never know what we will see, hear or experience next. Israel seems to have been the Lord's timepiece for prophecy. You may have not heard or read about Israel's need for the Red Heifer. According to the Mosaic Law the Red Heifer is a necessity for cleansing. Numbers 19:2 **"This is the ordinance of the law which the Lord hath commanded, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring thee a red heifer without spot, wherein is no blemish, and upon which never came yoke: Numbers 19:9 "... it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of separation: it is a purification for sin."** The Red Heifer is one animal needed for generations for the future cleansing. The Temple Institute has attempted to produce the Red Heifer for many years, but by the intervention of Jehovah, Israel now has seven Red Heifers which have been approved and will be able to be seen by the public but will not be touched. Land has been purchased on the Mt. of Olives for the sacrificing of the Heifer. The sacrificial date for the Red Heifer is Passover 2024! How close are we for the coming of our Lord? As you might know the Religious Jews already have the temple corner stone; all the priestly garments and the priests are prepared for the sacrificing.

Last month, I had the pleasant opportunity to attend **"Homecoming Sunday"** at Mantua Country Baptist Church in Aurora, Ohio. For years I have been asked to please attend, but each time I was either leaving the country or just returning. It was a joyful time to visit with the many friends I have made through the years.

In a few weeks I will be leaving for Cuba working with Brother Jason Jordan who has joined JEM recently. This will be my thirty-ninth trip to Cuba through the years. Because of the many Christians leaving Cuba for the states, there is a need to train Believers for different positions in Temple Baptist Church in Bejucal. Our missionary Brother Rolly Muniz needs mature Christians in his church **"... to make up the hedge."** We have already received some serious questions from the church concerning certain subjects that they would like to have answered. It is a sad situation in Cuba with Christians, interpreters and pastors leaving the country for a better life in America. The interpreters that have left were some of the best that I have worked with and were a true blessing.

Through the years I have mentioned in my letters concerning the brothers I have been mentoring. I have been praying for some time the opportunity to speak with one of their friends that I have taken with me on different occasions. The Lord granted me my petition and the boy assured me that he has trusted Christ when he was younger.

I have already purchased air fare for my next trip to Cuba in October. I thank the Lord for restoring my health to make all these trips possible. I desire to give you my personal "Thank You" for your continuing prayers and your gracious support as we minister together for our Lord Jesus Christ. May our loving Lord bless all of you!

Shalom, Thomas Jeran



Be Strong ~ Youth

As the leaves change and the air turns brisk, our children continue their way along our Bible Timeline. The gospels are unfolding before our eyes, teaching us, as the New Testament witnesses were shown, that Jesus has control... over His creation and over anything that can harm us.

Bruce showed us a tiny, froggy fishing lure one night, and we pondered how fishermen rely on tricks to attract fish, since we can't make fish do what we want and force them to bite our hooks! After a night of catching nothing, Peter, James, and John must have been puzzled when Jesus told them to put their nets on the other side of their boat. But Jesus directed His creatures, the fish, to swim right into the nets! The enormous catch that resulted led these fishermen to become His disciples, "forsaking all" to follow Him. Time and time again, the disciples witnessed the power of Jesus over creation... the raging storm He almost slept through as their boat was tossed; and the splashing waves He walked upon as He made His way to their boat on another dark night. The more they saw, the more their faith was strengthened. Ours is strengthened too, knowing Jesus can carry us through any dangerous storm we face.

Another Wednesday, we were amused trying to draw animals while blindfolded. While we often take our sight for granted, the man of John's 9th chapter understood the sorrow of a life in darkness. Blind since birth, his story is told so that God would be glorified! Jesus healed his eyes and gave Him sight, giving the man a miraculous *physical* healing. But Jesus later comes looking for him in order to give him a glorious *spiritual* healing. He was first saved from his blindness, but then he was saved from his sins, the moment he believed in Jesus as his Savior. We thought about the irony of the self-righteous Pharisees who looked on, smugly believing in their own works. Jesus said they are sadly the ones who are truly blind because they couldn't see their need of Him, the One Who came to be their Savior. Though Jesus has power over any disease, ailment, or injury to our bodies, His ultimate focus is to solve our *sin* sickness!

To help our students understand the weakness of hypocrisy, we drew pictures of our favorite costumes. It's fun to dress up as somebody else and pretend to be someone we're not. But the word "hypocrite" comes from an ancient Greek word referring to an actor who wears a mask. With that, we led into Mark's account of Matthew (Levi), the tax collector, who left behind his despicable profession to follow Jesus. Like so many others, Matthew's life was changed, and he invited his friends, the "publicans and sinners", to a meal at his home, so they could meet Jesus for themselves. The scribes and Pharisees scorned Jesus for mingling with the sinful, but He knew the truth... if you already think you're perfect, you won't think you need a Savior. In Chapter 3, when Jesus healed the man with the withered hand, the temple leaders' only concern was that Jesus was "working" on the Sabbath. They couldn't see past the rules and regulations to have compassion on the man who needed a touch from Jesus. Our Savior knew the hearts of these hypocrites. The Pharisees covered their faces and hid their true selves, not wanting others to see their own failures. Instead of admitting they were wrong, and in need of a touch themselves, they resented the ways of Jesus and began plotting a way to put Him to death. As we soon look at the way our dear Lord willingly gave His life for us, we appreciate your prayers that young hearts will be touched!

Thankful to Serve Him With You All ~ Bruce, Darla, and Marshall

Teen Update ~ As we continue in our Proverbs study, we discussed how the wisdom we gain can be applied to the words we use. The words we use daily can have a lasting impact. Do you ever speak without thinking? Do you ever gossip about others? When we do this we are hurting and not helping others.

Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never harm me, as the saying goes. Is this accurate, or do you believe that words can be used as a weapon in the same way as a stick or stone can? We use a lot of words every day since they are such an essential aspect of communication. Men use 12,000 words a day on average, compared to women's 25,000 words. We want to lift others rather than bring them down with the words we use on a daily basis.

I encourage each of you to read the Proverbs verses that we discussed in class since they discuss how we should use our words. Proverbs 12:14, 18; 13:3; 18:2, 8, 13, 21; 21:23; and 29:5. These verses tell us that our words should be used to heal rather than to harm. Our voice, whether it be spoken or expressed through sign language, is crucial. Relationships build and develop through the use of words. We also mend connections through apologizing. Without words, we often keep individuals at a distance and refuse to bring them into our lives.

Our words have very deliberate effects. Every time we communicate, we either uplift or depress someone else. Words that are careless, foolish, and destructive can significantly alter our life. After they are said, words cannot be taken back. We may apologize, sure, but once anything is said, it cannot be taken back. These words have the potential to cause rejection, job failure, friendship breakup, or the start of a conflict. On the other side, wise words can lead to the start of new friendships, the security of a job, or the restoration of a relationship. Proverbs 21:23 says, "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles."

Just as surgeons become skillful with their hands, so Jesus' followers should become experts at encouraging with their words. People may be attracted to foul talk and gossip. But when things get serious, though, they'd much rather have a friend they can rely on and whose advice is wise.

Because of Calvary,
Stephanie and John Moore



Only God Can!

God found Israel, represented in Jacob, as a helpless and hopeless Nation. “He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.” – Deuteronomy 32:10 The Nation was found “in the waste”! The word “waste” is the word used in Genesis 1:2, “without form”. The created earth was “without form.” Until God developed it and gave it structure.

Only God could find, lead, instruct, and keep Israel as His prized and Covenant people! Only God could take such a rebellious people and continue to extend mercy and hope. Israel is promised and will one day enjoy the benefits given in the Abrahamic Covenant. No enemy will ever succeed in blocking God’s plan for His people.

Only a skillful watchmaker can make a quality timepiece calibrated to accurately work. Only a capable builder with tools and skill can build a house which can stand against howling winds and storms. Thoughtful minds, skillful hands, and talented workers are behind notable works of art and great inventions.

Only the Divine Creator and Gracious Shepherd searches and finds the poor lost sheep in the wilderness and bears it safely home on His shoulders. Only the Maker of the Universe can take ruined lives and make something out of them. Only the God of grace can save a poor lost sinner and lead them safely through this sin ridden wilderness. Only a loving God can take such unloving specimens of humanity and still love them just the same and treat them as the “apple of His eye.” Only God can!

Chuck Peters – 9/17/2023

James 5:16 - *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*



Blessed

Grateful

Thankful



The Only Cure for This Mess

We are in a mess, as the moral and spiritual seams of our culture have unraveled. Our Country is in a dangerous state! America is like a runaway train without a conductor. Crime, corruption, and moral decadence permeate society from the top down. The primary reason for the spiritual and moral cultural abyss is a default in character on the part of citizens and thus the Nation. Someone said that it is easier to build boys than to repair men. We are where we are today because there has been an abandonment on child training, beginning in homes. We could cite the breakdown of the home, the radicalization of the education system, and especially, the spiritual decline in our culture. It is amazing that we invest billions of dollars in “repair institutions” while totally overlooking the “training institution” of the home! The promotion of self-interests, on the part of many parents, have become a greater priority than the training of precious children to grow up to be men and women of character and have productive lives.

I have some suggestions that are “old school” and would challenge anyone to prove that the “new school” is better. The “old school” tenants of: the priority of the home, the sanctity of marriage, teaching children the importance of character, God, prayer, and the Bible as a priority in homes, the importance of church, and respect for those in authority.

Only God can straighten out this cultural mess and nothing short of turning to Him for help will bring the real cure. “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” – II Chronicles 7:14 -

Chuck Peters – 9/29/2023

