

## THE MESSENGER

Smith Grove Baptist Church

P.O. Box 57

Colfax, NC 27235

VOLUME 40

December 2023

ISSUE 477

### 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

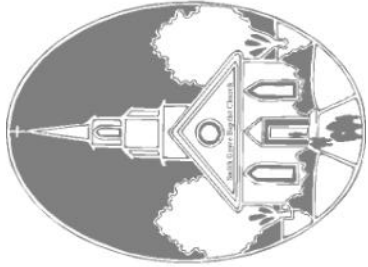
~ NURSERY PROVIDED ~

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



December  
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 . . .*



*The Smith Grove Choir will present selections from "The Heart of Christmas" each Sunday morning throughout the month of December.*

**Sat., Dec. 2, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission**  
**Sun., Dec. 10 ~ Christmas Dinner after the morning service ~ Covered Dish meal.**  
**Sun., Dec. 17 ~ 6 pm - The Smith Grove Youth will present the play, "Christmas Hope" ~ Also BEAMS Sunday.**  
**Sun., Dec. 24 & Dec. 31~ Morning Services.; NO Evening Services**  
**Every Monday, 3 pm, Robinwood Retirement Ctr.~ No services on Christmas Day or New Year's Day**

### 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.*



## 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.*



**W** – “Walk” “(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)” –

*II Corinthians 5:7* The people of the world are governed by what they see. It's all about wealth, honor, splendor, praise, power, and things. The walk of sight is misguided by the lack of real wisdom.

The walk of sight is nearsighted for it sees only the present and cannot see the irrelevance of power and possessions with eternity. It is amazing that so many are robbing and killing for things and kicking others aside to get to the top without once factoring in the fact, that Christ and the salvation He gives, is the greatest possession and will be all that really matters when we cross over into eternity!

The people of God are to walk by faith and to be governed by the things unseen. We live with joy, having full confidence that God is alive, real, and working on our behalf. We walk by faith believing that heaven is near and that this physical tabernacle of our earthly body is destined for a complete “makeover” of a new and glorified body when the Blessed Bridegroom comes in the rapture for His bride, the church. I am accused of taking long strides and I like to point out that the Marine Corps changed my walk in Boot camp by “force marching,” as the D.I. called it.

Salvation changes our walk! We walk by faith and not by sight and, yes, we take a longer stride with even a spring in our step because we, like Abraham, have our spiritual eyes on “... a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” – *Hebrews 11:10*



## BEAMS' Report for November 2023

# of Pledges: 8; # of Contributions: 5;

Total Contributors: 13

Total Contributed: \$ 697.00 =

87 Bibles in November (plus some postage)

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

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/>



“Those who grin while lying  
through their teeth, will  
one day bite his tongue.”  
... . Pastor Chuck



## 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 *December and January (2024)* 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.

**Jo Ann Green**

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

**Bernice Johnson**

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

**Nancy Kelley**

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

**Barbara Bowden**

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

**Cassandra 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

**Betty Bame**

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



*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!*

*December Anniversaries*

4 Tim & Consuelo Matthews  
23 Waynard & Carol Nuckles



**Jolene Louise Aileen Fowler**

was born on November 8, 2023.  
Parents are Dad, Skyler Fowler, and Mom,  
Kayden! And the proud great grandparents are  
"Great-Papaw" Carl Fowler Jr., and "Great-Mimi" Judy Byrd Fowler.



**Jackson Worth Safriet**

was born to Chris & Audrey (Eric Nuckles'  
daughter) on September 25, 2023.  
Great grandmother is Virginia Nuckles.



**"Another Christmas Song" ~ Pastor Chuck Peters**

**First Stanza:**

Its Christmas time and Christmas songs, again we hear and sing.  
The sound of music fills the air, the bells of Christmas ring.  
The Christmas plays and Christmas trees assist the celebration.  
Christmas Day's arrival, brings Children's happy faces.

**Chorus\***

**Second Stanza:**

We sing of silent night and the town of Bethlehem.  
Of shepherds watching o'er their flocks, when darkness filled their land.  
The Holy Night when Christ was born and wise men came from afar.  
Peace on earth, what Child is this; the brightness of the star.

**Chorus\***

**Third Stanza:**

We sing the song of peace on earth; goodwill towards all, we sing.  
The Halleluiah chorus; Forever He will reign.  
About the wise men and their gifts, they brought to honor Him.  
Let's sing another Christmas song; He came to save from sin.

**\*Chorus:**

Let's sing another Christmas song about the new-born King.  
Let's tell the world about Him and let our praises ring.  
Let's shout the loud hosannas, that God in flesh has come.  
Let's sing another Christmas song about God's precious Son.

Brenda Nichols wrote music for this wonderful song . . . .

This is the link for viewing: <https://youtu.be/OAQfYsaDRLk>



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

Thoughts are deep with nostalgia as we prepare to say good-bye to 2023, a year that marks our Pastor's 25th year in the Smith Grove Pulpit. It has been a year of remembering . . .



Pastor & Brother  
Ward Laramore



Thank  
you

2021



Smith Grove's  
100th Anniversary

2023



## The Kennedys & The New Life Children's Home Peru, SA



*Greetings from our family and The New Life Children's Home . . .*

Although we have not seen many of you for some time now, there is not a month that goes by that we do not think of your ministries and families, and how blessed we are to have you praying for us and supporting us as your missionaries. We do not pretend to know the level of sacrifice that you make, but we are so grateful that you choose to invest into our family, our ministry in Peru and The New Life Children's Home. Thank you!

**Ministry Travel** ~ Chelene and I have been blessed to be in some wonderful meetings returning back to the States in August. It's been encouraging to fellowship, make new friends and see folks we've not seen for awhile, but most importantly see God at work in the churches of our great Country. We are quickly filling up our calendar for next year! We'd love to come to your church and share about what the Lord is doing in Peru. Please contact us to schedule a time for us to be with you ..

**Family Update** ~ Chelene and I have enjoyed seeing each of our children and getting to spend some time with them. Mikey has started his Masters program while working full time. Josh is working full time and lives close by. Zack is serving our Country as an Officer in the Military, Mikayla is in her last year of college, and Zane graduated from high school, turned 18 and spent his entire summer helping us in Peru.

**Christmas is 12 weeks away!** It's never too early to start planning for the holidays. Over this season we do many community outreaches through our churches, we've started in Peru, along with a special Christmas for the Children and our wonderful staff at the Home. We also have to pay double salaries in December per the Peruvian government. If you can, and would like to help meet this need, please mark your gift "Christmas Fund."

We never want to make our updates about money or needs, but we're reminded by folks that say to us, "we don't know how to help, if we don't know the need." Thank you in advance for helping us meet these needs!

**Family Update** ~ We had an amazing (and very busy) summer in Peru. We hosted groups practically each week in June and July. We had many opportunities to share The Gospel with both large and small groups in places that we've never been before. We built several more shanty homes for widows and homeless families, gave out blankets and Bibles and saw many put their trust in Christ. We had salvations, baptisms and growth in our churches. We're headed back on October 25th and we are so excited at what the Lord has in store. We will be celebrating the 21st anniversary of our church New Life Baptist Church in Cieneguilla. Please pray for the Lord to bless our time there.

As always, we thank you, our supporters and prayer warriors for all you do for us. Please feel free to contact us at [perumissions@yahoo.com](mailto:perumissions@yahoo.com) or call us at (336)905-0964 and (336)905-0330. We love to hear from you!



## Be Strong ~ Youth

Our youngsters have begun the holiday season with our usual tradition of collecting shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child, and we're so grateful for the generosity of our church family again this year! We delivered eleven shoeboxes to a drop-off location in Oak Ridge, where we are always blessed to have several smiling workers hurry out to meet us and load your boxes on a cart! Before they wheel the gifts into the building, they join hands with us, circle our shoeboxes, and pray for the children who will be receiving them. It touches our hearts to think that, in a few short weeks, the gift you lovingly packed will be delivered to exactly the child who needs it. May God go before each gift, preparing every heart, so that the recipients might respond to the message of Christmas and ask Jesus to be their Savior. Thank you for being part of the amazing ministry carried out by Samaritan's Purse!

Moving along our Bible Timeline, we are seeing the last days of Jesus' life unfold. We made playdough figures, which we "brought to life" by adding a voice and personality. But John's eleventh chapter gives a whole new meaning to *life-giving* power. We saw Jesus delay his coming to the aid of his sick friend, Lazarus, so that "*the Son of God might be glorified*". Arriving after Lazarus had already died, Jesus met the weeping, grieving sisters and proclaimed, "*I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.*" Our youngsters marveled to imagine a dead man walking out of the cave where he had been buried, beckoned by Jesus when he spoke, "*Lazarus, come forth.*" How wonderful to ponder His power over death, and know that this scene was a glimpse into the days to come, when our Lord would step triumphantly from His own tomb.

Another night, we gave the students the chance to pretend they were famous celebrities, wearing sunglasses and having the red carpet rolled out for them as they arrived. As the "crowd," we squealed and swooned, pretending to take photos and plead for interviews. But looking at Luke's account of King Jesus entering Jerusalem, we were struck by the contrast... this was the Mighty Ruler of the Universe, coming into the city on a lowly little donkey, to show that He was bringing peace, not war. We were hurt to think of the tears He shed, knowing that this same crowd, waving palm branches and shouting hosannas, would reject Jesus and crucify Him in a matter of days.

Next, we looked at Mark's telling of the woman anointing Jesus with the costly contents of the alabaster box. It's hard for us to imagine, but it would've taken a year's work to afford the precious ointment she lavished on Him. To bystanders, it seemed wasteful, but we asked the children, "Is giving really a sacrifice if it doesn't hurt?" In giving her all, this woman was reflecting the deep sacrifice Jesus would soon give for us... our salvation cost Him His life's blood, spilled on a cruel cross. Sacrificial love hurts. He gave His best, so we should give Him *our* best... our time, our love, our gifts, our praise, our money, our lives. Christmastime is perfect for reminding our youngsters that Jesus left the glory of heaven to come and live among us; He came, born of a virgin and laid in a manger, knowing the cross would be His cost to bear. As we celebrate His birth once again, may we all bow in humble gratitude and thank Him for the sweetest sacrifice of all.

With Love, at Christmas and Always ~ Bruce, Darla, and Marshall

**Teen Update ~** As we proceed with our study of Proverbs, we have discussed how acquiring godly knowledge can facilitate family life. Everyone's life is better when everyone in the family is aware of their role. God is interested in the relationships we have with our family.

Everybody has gone through challenging relationships at some point in their lives. While some likely let go of these connections, others undoubtedly gave them their best. At the end of the day, we may be so worn out from the effort required to maintain these relationships with friends and classmates that we don't want to spend time with our family. God values families greatly, and when we disregard our familial bonds, we are unable to enjoy the lives that God has intended for us.

God created families from the beginning. Families are being attacked by Satan these days. God created the family as a means of educating, empowering, and supporting one another to live with the knowledge that we now refer to as wisdom. Every member of a healthy family communicates well with one another and leads an increasingly wise existence. Good communication occurs in families when member's value, discuss, and listen to one another.

We talked to our teenagers about how important it is for them to respect their parents. They must show them respect with their words, deeds, and reactions. It is their duty to respect their parents, absorb lessons from them, and realize that they are not in charge of their household. As their parents have previously seen life from their location and viewpoint, they will acquire wisdom from listening to them.

Lastly, there are a few ways that teenagers can make their parents happy. They can make them happy by demonstrating to them that they are growing in wisdom and learning new things. They can also show their parents that they are putting in a lot of effort and that they have learned from their mistakes by not making the same ones twice.

You can have a positive impact on your household if you choose with all of your heart to pursue God and Godly wisdom in matters pertaining to your family. We discussed the following verses for this lesson: Proverbs 17:6; 30:11-12, 17; 1:8; 4:1; 10:1; 15:20; 23:24

Because of Calvary,  
Stephanie and John Moore

### Proverbs 23:24 KJV

24 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.

***A Christian may be in chains, yet he is free. (Apostle Paul)***  
***A lost King may occupy a throne, yet he is in bondage. (King Agrippa)***  
Paraphrased from Pastor Chuck



## “O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”

Luke 2:15

The shepherds responded to the announcement of the birth of the Saviour by saying, “...Let us now go even to Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass,...” They came to Bethlehem and made the most glorious discovery in history! They beheld the most celebrated Person of all times. He was the babe lying in the manger.

When they saw this tiny babe, what were they seeing? They were seeing :

**The Mystery Of Godliness** – (I Timothy 3:16) In the manger lay an infant who was also the infinite. This feeble child was also the great Creator. God was manifested in human flesh. He was the One that Micah had prophesied would come. His “goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” (Micah 5:2) At Bethlehem they say also:

**The Manifestation Of Grace** – Jesus came not to this world in a blaze of glory but as a babe. A babe is approachable! The message of the coming of this Redeemer initially came to the poor, the working class, and shepherds. Jesus is truly the manifestation of grace. He is approachable and His message to those who are weary and heavy laden down in sin is to “come” to Him. (Mat. 11:28) The shepherds also witnessed at Bethlehem:

**The Moving Of Providence** – God had directed Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem in fulfillment of prophesy. (Micah 5:2) They came to Bethlehem on a far more important mission than paying taxes! That mission is declared in this Text, “But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.” (Gal. 4:4-5)

The events of this year have been perplexing and “peace on earth” seems to be remote. Thank God, this One who came, and Whose birth we celebrate at Christmas will one day bring real peace to this earth! The key is to know Him as Saviour and to have that peace with God made possible by justification. (Rom.5:1)

“O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark street shin-eth The everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.” .....*Pastor Chuck Peters*

## HAVE A “MARY” CHRISTMAS

Luke 1:46-47; 2:19

We are accustomed to saying “Merry Christmas,” in an effort to convey our Christmas goodwill. We desire that others have a happy and wonderful Christmas. This standard greeting in the forms of words and cards is usually backed by good intentions. Webster defines “merry,” as “being full of gaiety or high spirits.”

Interestingly enough, Mary’s spirit was truly high as she pondered the significance of the birth of her child. Notice her worship of this One that she would shortly birth into this World. “And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And **my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.**” (1:46-47) Could anyone doubt her “high spirit”? She knew that her womb was the tabernacle of the Son of God!

We read further in verse seven of chapter two, “And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” She used her own hands to wrap her baby! She had just given birth yet personally wraps her child. I wonder if Jesus had Mary in mind when He said, “A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish for joy that a man is born into the world.” (John 16:21) Her joy over the Person and mission of her child overshadowed her travail in childbirth.

Notice this verse, “But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.” (Luke 2:19) Mary had the heart of a mother and the heart of a worshipper. Her mother’s heart was a heart of love, warmth, and tenderness. She also possessed a heart of faith, devotion, and humility. She kept and weighed in her heart the truths concerning her Saviour, Son. She was a woman of faith, thoughtfulness, and discernment.

Christmas, 2023, will soon be here. Satan is mastering all of his forces to hinder a genuine celebration of the stupendous event of the birth of Christ. The subtle strategy of “political correctness” is hot on the burner of our humanistic society this Year. We are told that using the word, Christmas, may offend atheists and religionists who reject the Person and work of Christ. Christians are not to be ignorant of Satan’s devices. The virgin birth of Christ, His finished work upon the cross, His bodily resurrection, ascension, and current position at the Father’s right hand, assures the child of God that His work is totally complete.

I would suggest that we remind ourselves that Christmas is Christ. We need to worship Him as the Biblical approach to Christmas. Our Christmas priority must be a Christmas where our focus is upon the Person of Christ. Mary kept and pondered those things concerning Jesus Christ. Her spirit rejoiced in Christ her Saviour. Mary celebrated the first Christmas in a way that reveals the true way to celebrate the hallowed occasion. Faith, discernment, and worship marked the occasion for her personal celebration of the birth of her son! .....*Pastor Chuck Peters*



Christ is Born!

