

THE MESSENGER

Smith Grove Baptist Church

P.O. Box 57

Colfax, NC 27235

VOLUME 41

February 2024

ISSUE 479

PROVERBS 25:13

As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him, for he refresheth the soul of his masters . . .

Sunday School	10:00 AM
Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Children's Church	11:15 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM
Wednesday Service	7:00 PM
Bible Clubs	7:00 PM
Thursday Visitation	7:00 PM

~ NURSERY PROVIDED ~

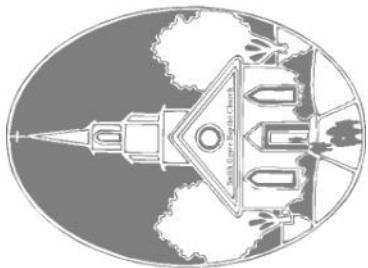
2707 Sandy Ridge Road

Colfax, NC 27235

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Peters, Pastor

Home: (336) 996-8563

Cell: (336) 812-1169



www.smithgrove.org

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Home: (336) 996-8563; Cell: (336) 812-1169

Rev. Bruce Freeman, Associate Pastor

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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 . . .*



Sat., Feb 3 , 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission

Sun., Feb. 4 ~ Chicken Stew & Oyster Stew after the morning service. (Fellowship Bldg.)

Wed., Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day - God is love!

Sun., Feb. 18 – BEAMS Sunday

Every Monday, 3 pm, Robinwood Retirement Ctr.

Looking Ahead: Sun., March 10, 6 p.m. – Communion Service



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 (Ft. Bragg) } (Hal & Martha

COL 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)

1stSgt 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.



Y – “Yet” “Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.” – Habakkuk 3:18

The reader will notice, in the context of the usage of the small three letter word “yet”, the word “although”, precedes various woes. “*Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:*” - Habakkuk 3:17

The dark clouds connected with the “although” give way to the “yet” and its corresponding sunshine of joy. The word “yet” is a very small word “yet” it introduces a great provision provided for those possessing the peace of God from the salvation He gives. We are able to rejoice in spite of the negative things going on around us and in our lives. I told a friend yesterday that I, too, have to practice what I preach and what I write! I, personally, have had my share of the “although” of problematic things but I can praise God for the “yet” of the peaceful joy in spite of those things! The God of the salvation of the saints is both the cause of the “yet” of joy as well as the habitation of that joy.



BEAMS' Report for January 2024

of Pledges: 8; # of Contributions: 8;

Total Contributors: 16

Total Contributed: \$ 765.00 =

95+ **Bibles** in January (plus some postage)

Many thanks to all those who gave monies to the BEAMS' ministry specifically for postage which added \$ 250.00 in January!

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/>

Did you ever think about this?

Christ has a dynamic ministry in Heaven!

He is not only our Savior, but also our Sustainer.



Christ: The all-sufficient Savior for the insufficient sinner and the insufficient saint. Excerpt from a message by 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 *February (none in March)* 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.

Jean Rumsey

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

Joy Overcast

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

During his message, "*Salt Shakers and Light Bulbs are not Knick Knacks!*," Pastor Chuck gave Brother Calvin Vaughn an "assignment" from the pulpit: Create an acrostic for **LED**, as in a type of bright, long-lasting light bulb. Quick to the task, Calvin came up with a challenging acrostic.



Lighten others so they see the Light.

Matthew 5:14 *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*



Educate others ~ 2 Timothy 2:24-25 *And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;*



Disciple others ~ Matthew 28:19 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*

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!

February Anniversaries

8 Gary & Denise Slate
14 Steve & Cheryl Holt



Do you long to know the story behind Valentine's Day, hoping for a romantic tale about love and courtship? Well, legend has many stories about its origin, and none of them are romantic, or even pleasant! One such story goes thusly . . .

During the third century, Valentine was born in Rome. Later in life, he became a priest and then a bishop. He loved the Lord and preached the Christ of Christianity to everyone he encountered.

During that time, the emperor of Rome, Claudius II, wanted to end Christianity. So he outlawed Christianity and killed Christians. Claudius also waged war on many nations to make the kingdom of Rome larger. But he had a tough time recruiting soldiers. Why? He believed this was because men didn't want to leave their wives to go to battle. So, he outlawed marriage!

Valentine continued to preach about God. Whenever a Christian couple wanted to be married, he performed the marriage ceremony. Because of this, soldiers arrested and jailed Valentine.

Emperor Claudius liked Valentine and invited him to the palace many times to talk. Valentine knew that Claudius needed to ask Jesus into his heart and be saved. So Valentine talked to Claudius about Jesus often.

This made the emperor furious. He ordered Valentine to not mention Jesus again. Valentine knew Claudius would have him killed if he didn't stop talking about Jesus. But he also knew Claudius *needed* to hear about Jesus. So he made the decision to continue to share the Gospel with the emperor.

The emperor became so furious that he ordered Valentine to renounce his faith. Because Valentine wouldn't do that, Claudius gave orders to beat him with clubs. When Valentine still wouldn't renounce Jesus, Claudius ordered him stoned to death and beheaded. Valentine's burial occurred on February 14, which is now known as Valentine's Day.



Be Strong ~ Youth

Our "Be Strong" family wrapped up our year by sitting down and enjoying a meal prepared for us by Cheryl and Steve. It was a lovely way to wind down twelve months of growing together in the Lord, and a good time to look ahead to the blessings He will bring to our group in 2024. We're thankful for the many chances we will have to serve Him and shine His light in the months to come.

Eager to return to the lessons that unfold on our Bible Timeline, our youngsters took one night to review the accounts of the gospels we've seen so far. What a blessing to see how much they remembered about the life of Jesus... His miracles, His teachings, and the events leading up to His betrayal.

On a recent night, we looked back at the timeline to consider the sacred night in Egypt, when Moses told God's people to brush the blood of a perfect sacrificial lamb onto the doorposts of their homes. The 12th chapter of Exodus tells of God's promise to the Israelites -- "*When I see the blood, I will pass over you.*" And all the firstborn of God's people were spared as death passed across Egypt. Through the generations, the Jews remembered, keeping the ancient celebration of the Lord's goodness. And though centuries pass between Moses and Jesus, the significance of Jesus arriving in Jerusalem during the Passover celebration was not lost on our young people. They were excited to see how Jesus would take this special Passover meal and make it into a new covenant that would reflect the once-and-for-all sacrifice of God's perfect Lamb!

We talked about our senses, and how strongly they are tied to our memories. Lillie mentioned how certain songs help her recall special moments, and we discussed that scents and tastes also transport us back in time. The smell of pine trees, biscuits baking, or tropical sunscreen can instantly remind us of childhood Christmases, a beloved grandma, or family trips to the ocean. Knowing how the memories of our minds are triggered by our senses, Jesus sat down with His disciples at this Passover meal, leaving us with a powerful and tangible ordinance, meant to stir our remembrance of His sacrifice for us. At this Last Supper together, He broke the bread to show that His *body* would soon be broken, and He poured the wine to show that His precious *blood* would be spilled to pay sin's price for all mankind. As He served them, Jesus said, "*This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me.*" (Luke 22:19) Still today, we are called to observe this solemn and emotional tradition. Our youngsters quietly took crackers and grape juice, reverently focusing on our Savior and thanking Him for giving His life for us.

With that, we pondered the plotting going on behind the scenes of this first communion. Knowing the heartbreaking deed that Judas would soon carry out, Jesus still invited him to the Passover table along with the others. Aware that Judas was about to betray Him, Jesus still offered Judas the bread and the wine. Asked how they would've felt, the children said, "I'd want to throw Judas out." So, why didn't Jesus do that? "*Because Jesus still loved him,*" was

their answer. In His longsuffering, Jesus wanted to give Judas every opportunity to change his mind and turn to Him. His love for us is beyond description. Jesus knows us thoroughly; He sees our weak and sinful ways, yet He invites us into His loving presence, and He is willing to make us new. What better reminder to encourage our souls in this season of love and candy hearts? May His abiding love and forgiveness draw you near, and comfort you all...

~ Bruce, Darla, and Marshall



God is Love



Teens Update ~ We have to make decisions every single day. Cornell University researchers have found that humans face roughly 226 decisions every day just on what to eat! The choices we make result in consequences...whether good or bad. Several decisions we make on a daily basis have an impact on our safety. For example, you practice fire drills at school to make sure you know what to do in the event of a fire, wear seat belts when driving, and wash your hands to prevent illness. The actions that were just listed are not required of us. While there are some things we must do, the final decision is always ours. Understanding and knowledge alone are insufficient; you also need to put your knowledge to use.

Proverbs 2:10-12 says, "When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;" "Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee." To deliver thee from the way of the evil [man], from the man that speaketh froward things." Being wise has its benefits for the possessor. A person has a great advantage when they combine wisdom and knowledge. This wisdom and judgment come from the Lord and His Word, not from the world. Being well-versed in God's Word can help you avoid making mistakes. The answers to all of life's problems can be found in the Word of God. The heart controls the conscious and subconscious actions of man. If the heart of man is stayed on the Lord, there is no way that man can be defeated.

Good decisions will keep an eye on you. You'll stay safe if you understand. Discretion is having good judgment that causes you to think about the choices you are making...and then, choose the right thing to do. We need discretion to help us make right decisions every day. Discretion is necessary to support us in daily decision-making. We must seek His insight and discernment, then put our faith in His instructions. By doing this, we will be able to make the right decisions and shield ourselves from the negative effects of our decisions. Let's all pray to God to grant us discernment, understanding, and wisdom so that we can make the right decisions this New Year!

Because of Calvary, **Stephanie and John**

A Prayer For Presidents' Day

by Margaret Cagle

Dear God, it is Presidents' Day
In this nation in which we live.
We are so grateful and thankful
For the blessings that You give.

Please lead and guide our President,
We ask as we earnestly pray.
We pray for his heart to be right,
So he can lead in a Godly way.

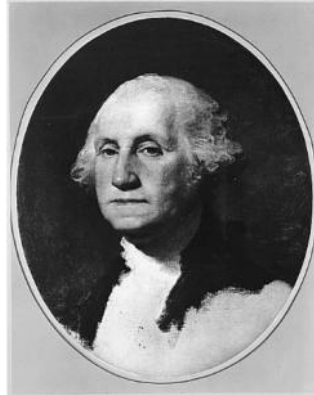
Lord, our President is just a man.
He really needs Your help, we know.
Please help him as he leads us,
And upon him wisdom, please bestow.

In the past, You gave to us
Some Presidents with visions.
You gave to us some great leaders,
Who prayed for the right decisions.

We thank you for the leadership
Of great Presidents of the past.
You used some to do Your will,
And for You, they stood steadfast.

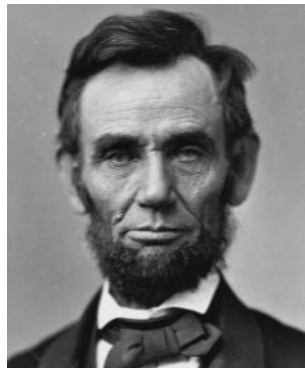
Now, Lord, please grant to us
The forgiveness for our sin,
And please guide us as a nation.
This we ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

George Washington



April 30, 1789 – March 4, 1797

Abraham Lincoln



March 4, 1861 – April 15, 1865

Groundhog Day

Old Mr. Groundhog stretched in his leafy bed.	I'll crawl back in bed for six weeks more,
He turned over slowly and then he said,	Pull up the warm covers and snore and snore.
"I wonder if spring is on the way,	But if no shadow gives me a scare,
I'll go and check the weather today.	I know that spring is in the air,
If I see my shadow between eleven and noon,	I'll wake my friends and wish them cheer,
I then will know that I'm out too soon.	With glorious news that spring is here."

Raymond Dombeck

Missionary Evangelist

"For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed." (Isaiah 50:7)



SUPPLYING WHOLE, HARDCOVER BIBLES TO MISSIONARIES

I thank God for a fruitful year and the privilege to serve Him. A good way to sum up the past year of 2023 is to know that only what is done for Christ will last.

This past October and November, I ministered in North Carolina, preaching and presenting the BEAMS Bible Ministry. I visited some previous churches as well as some new ones. While I was in West Jefferson, NC, I hand-painted a large sign on a metal building for a manufacturing company. Sometimes sign painting is my "tent-making business" to help me stay on the road with the ministry God has given me.

What would you do if you didn't have a Bible? There are about 196 countries in the world, and half of them still haven't a Bible in their language. In many countries, people are begging for a copy of God's Word, but they have no access to one, or they cannot afford a Bible. While on mission trips, I have been in churches where only a few people had Bibles or just the pastor had one. Without a Bible, we couldn't know the God of the Bible. We couldn't mature spiritually or find guidance. It is through God's Word that we find His will for our lives. It is the Book of Truth that gives us a Biblical viewpoint of life. The Bible helps a man to see his sin as God does. Without a Bible, a man cannot know salvation's plan for "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). This is where the BEAMS Bible Ministry comes in. BEAMS raises funds through local independent Bible-believing churches for the purchase and supply of whole, hard-covered Bibles to those who have never had a Bible. Why not ask the Lord what you could do to help send Bibles to those in need. Ask the Lord to give you a burden for the BEAMS Bible Ministry in this year of 2024.

This year we will have twelve months of opportunities to show our gratitude to God for all the benefits He has given us. Let's look forward to how we can invest in God-given lives in 2024.

Keep me in prayer as I travel and preach, and pray the Lord will help me find a dependable new car this year.

Sincerely yours in Christ, *Bro. Raymond Dombeck*

www.raydombeck.com



"We love him, because he first loved us."
– I John 4:19

I find it easy to state the reasons why I love the Lord. I love Him first of all for the fact that He loved me in spite of the miserable sinner that I was in my unsaved condition. He looked beyond my faults and saw my needs. He came to me in my deepest despair and, lovingly, placed His redeeming arms around me and brought me up from the pit of despair to a place of delight and favor. I remember my oldest brother, also a preacher, witnessing to me, inviting me to church, hearing the Gospel message being preached, the Spirit of God tugging at my heart's door, the trip down the aisle, the follow up counsel by the Godly deacon and the flooding of joy into my heart as its wickedness was washed away by the blood of the crucified One!

I love Him because He has given me the ability to love people regardless of who they are and where they are for that was the way He found me! He truly sheds His love abroad in the hearts of the redeemed.

I love Him because of my family and friends! I am so grateful for a faithful wife for over 50 years and my immediate family, to include a Gospel preaching son and supportive Christian wife.

I love Him for the privilege of serving Him for many years and the rich rewards of experiencing His grace, guidance, and mercy along the way in spite of my failings and shortcomings.

I love Him because of Calvary. When I think of how God dumped all the sins of Adam's race upon His precious and peerless Son, I love Him. When I think of the heavens being supernaturally darkened as the spotless Lamb experienced the darkness of separation from the Father on account of our sins, I love Him!

I love Him because I am able to love Him and one day my faith in Him will give way to sight, for I will see Him face to face. My "having not seen" love, will become a full blown "in His physical presence" love, and that will be glory for me! "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:" – I Peter 1:8

.....Chuck Peters – 8/21/2022

1 John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

Biblical Approach to Valentine's Day

"Keep yourselves in the love of God..." (Jude 21)

Valentine's Day. The day is marked by expressions of love signaled with cards, chocolates, roses, and verbal expressions. Unfortunately, like so many other special days, we celebrate the day emotionally and restrict the celebration to a day event instead of a life event. We talk about the "spirit of Christmas." What about the "spirit of Valentine's Day?" The heart-shaped cards, rings, and boxes of chocolate are meant to say, "I love you."

The love in the home is enhanced by our relationship with the Lord. The bulk of marital issues has the underpinning of spiritual deficiencies. A proper devotional life is critical to the marriage relationship. I have noticed that the Christian who truly loves the Lord functions better in the various relationships of society.

We do not have to keep His love towards us. God's love is independent of our actions and attitudes. Praise the Lord! His love is pure and permanent. **"Could we with ink the oceans fill And were the skies of parchments made, were every stalk on earth a quill And every man a scribe by trade, To write the love of God above Would drain the ocean dry; nor could the scroll contain the whole, Tho stretched from sky to sky."** – (Lehman 188) [from "The Love of God"]

Jude reminds us that this "holding pattern" in keeping ourselves in the love of God requires that we feed our spiritual needs, keep warm our devotion, keep pure our affections, and keep bright our expectancy. The "keeping" is sandwiched between building, praying, and looking!Chuck Peters

Frederick Martin Lehman, 1868-1953 – Lehman emigrated from Germany to America with his family at age four, settling in Iowa, where he lived most of childhood. He came to Christ at age 11, as he relates: One glad morning about eleven o'clock while walking up the country lane, skirted by a wild crab-apple grove on the right and an osage fence, with an old white-elm gate in a gap at the left, suddenly Heaven let a cornucopia of glory descend on the eleven-year old lad. The weight of conviction was gone and the paeans of joy and praise fell from his lips.

Lehman studied for the ministry at Northwestern College in Naperville, Illinois, and pastored at Audubon, Iowa; New London, Indiana; and Kansas City, Missouri. The majority of his life was devoted to writing sacred songs.