Must have First Class Stamp

VOLUME 41 March 2024 ISSUE 480

Smith Grove Baptist Church

Colfax, NC 27235

P.O. Box 57

THE MESSENGER

PROVERBS 25:13



of his masters.

6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM

1:15 AM

Morning Worship

Sunday School

Children's Church Evening Worship Dr. Charles (Chuck) Peters, Pastor

Home: (336) 996-8563

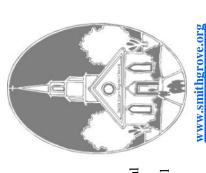
Cell: (336) 812-1169

NURSERY PROVIDED 2707 Sandy Ridge Road

Chursday Visitation

Wednesday Service

Bible Clubs



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

The Messenger







Smith Grove Baptist Church 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 11:00 AM Morning Worship 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/

UCi39 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., March 2, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission

Sun., March 3 ~ First day for Rummage Sale Donations (see Pg. 5) Sun., March 10, 6 p.m. – Communion Service & Daylight Saving Time begins ~ Spring forward.

Sun., March 17 – BEAMS Sunday

Sun., March 31, 7 am ~ Easter Sunrise Service with a message by Pastor Bruce Freeman. Breakfast will be served after the message.

NO EVENING SERVICE

Every Monday, 3 pm, Robinwood Retirement Ctr.

Looking Ahead: Retirement Dinner for Pastor Chuck Peters

Sat., April 13, 5:00 pm, in the Fellowship Bldg.

Teen Rummage Sale Fundraiser

Saturday, April 27, 2024; 8 AM – 2 PM



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

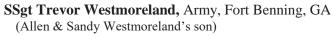
PVT Adam Brittain, Army, Stateside (Sam Crater's nephew)

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)



1stSgt Gregory Reynolds, Marines, Camp Pendleton, CA. (Jan Reynolds' son.)

SSgt. Josh Robertson, Marines, Naples, Italy (From Clyde Gray) 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.



Z-"Zealous"

"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." – Titus 2:14

The Christian is a new creation in Christ with an altered lifestyle and walk in accordance to their newness of life. Good works reflect the genuine Christian and the Christian desires to live for God's glory. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." – Ephesians 2:10

Life is an active experience from the cradle to the grave. Think of the energy that is directed towards things and pursuits which leave so many exhausted from endless labor. We live in trying times and are surrounded by weary laborers! Labor is good and no one should trifle their time and not have goals and aspirations. Zeal is good in right causes!

Zeal is utilized differently for the Christian. Christians are not to be lazy and shirk responsibilities pertaining to the management of life. The Christian, however, has a balanced zeal which includes works and enterprises that have eternal value, for the Christian lives in light of eternity. They are on a new moral plane and take the high road due to the convictions of the Holy Spirit. They are "zealous" of good works.



BEAMS' Report for February 2024

of Pledges: 8; # of Contributions: 5; Total Contributors: 13

Total Contributed: \$ 723.00 = **90 Bibles in February** (plus some postage)

Many thanks to all those who gave monies to the BEAMS' ministry specifically for postage which added \$ 220.00 in February!

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!) You https://www.facebook.com/mvSGBC/



https://www.voutube.com/channel/UCj39 zpMzkkCXdFYv1NKndO

To listen & download mp3:

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

- People used the color blue when celebrating St Patrick's Day up until 1798.
- This was the color that was used to represent Ireland as a whole. Then, in 1798, the Irish began to wear green to separate themselves from the English. This is where the term 'emerald isle' has been thought to originate from.
- Now, green is the color we use to represent Ireland and St Patrick's Day. St Patrick was thought to actually use a shamrock when teaching about Christianity. He used each leaf to help represent the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The leaves are now associated with faith, hope, and love.
- Over 100 countries around the world celebrate St Patrick's Day!

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."
(I 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 birth-days. *We have no* Honour Roll Gang members in March or April.

March ~ 2024 . . . a time for reflection as we remember the past 25+ years with Pastor Chuck Peters as Senior Pastor. We have all laughed, cried, rejoiced, and mourned with our Pastor and Sister Carol, as life happened (as it always does) throughout our congregation. We prayed as he traveled to Iraq to defend our country, and we rejoiced upon his return. We cried and mourned as he paid homage to more than 100 of our saints who were promoted to their heavenly home. We laughed as Pastor and Carol

another . . . and then another!

And, too, we rejoiced when souls were saved, either through personal visitation in the community, or in services where God's Word was always preached in truth and biblical accuracy.

managed to get themselves into one hilarious situation after

As Pastor Chuck, sometime in April, moves into the role God has prepared for him, that of *Pastor Emeritus*, we wish him joy and fulfillment in all his new endeavors, as well as contentment in his continuing work at Smith Grove. *Join us on Sat.*, *April 13th at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Bldg. for a Retirement Dinner for Pastor and Carol.*

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!

March Anniversaries

18 Sam & Sherrill Crater27 Donnie & Mary Campbell



The Vaughns ~ Missionaries to Brazil

As most of you who have been keeping up with our prayer-letters know, I got COVID-19 on August 28, 2021, and was hospitalized 51 days in ICU and recovery, getting out of the hospital on October 15, 2021. They called me the miracle one, because they did not think I would make it. The dosage of high-powered antibiotics for the COVID-19-attacked my liver. I had bloodwork done every month from the liver specialist from October 2021 until April 20, 2023, when he said I would be okay to travel and take our late furlough. Once again, we want to thank you for your continuing prayer and support for us and the ministry to Brazil. We had planned to spend some time on furlough with the children and their families near Dallas, Texas, as we have been missionaries to Brazil for 50 years. The grandchildren wanted to see Grandma and Papa. Then the plan was to start visiting some of our supporting churches in the eastern states in the fall. As you can see, the plan did not work out, with an explanation in the following paragraphs . . .

I am so sorry that this prayer letter is several months late. The problem is that since June I have been in the hospital in June and August for almost a week at a time. Also, in August, I saw my Primary Care Physician and returned to the hospital two days later for almost another week in September. In the month of October, with the Lord's help, I was finally able to get into the Liver Clinic here in Dallas to get the attention that I so desperately needed. There were three abdomen fluid drainages, as well as lab work every other week in October. In the month of November the abdomen drainages were done weekly, as well as a biopsy, MRI, and cardiology echo, to see the damage to the liver, and seek the best treatment for the problems.

Since arriving in the States on April 28, 2023, I was hospitalized for liver damage: On June 09 -15, from ER to hospital for blood in stools, lab work, MRI, and CT scan. August 10-15 I went from the ER to hospital for blood in stools, lab work and first time fluid drainage of abdomen, 7.5 liters = over 15 lbs. of fluid. [There were many other visits to the Liver Clinic the rest of the year.] I have gained and lost over 152 pounds of fluid since August. I thought it was a type of water, but my doctor told me it was protein, and would cause muscle loss, which leads to other problems. I will be placed in the hospital on Jan 01-04,2024, for a surgical procedure to hopefully control and limit fluid accumulation in the abdomen.

Follow-up from Facebook:

"I want to THANK EACH AND EVERYONE THAT HAS BEEN PRAYING FOR ME!! The surgical procedure went very well, the Doctor said that she would keep me monitored, to see if it is doing what they wanted it to a t. We still have a long journey in our treatment. Please continue to remember us in your prayers. Thanks so much."

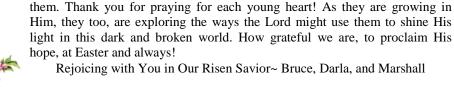
Serving in God's Harvest, Charles & Peggy Vaughn

Be Strong ~ Youth

As spring begins to unfold around us, it's fitting that we are finishing up our study of the gospels and closing the portion of the timeline that centers on the life and ministry of Jesus. The Easter season awakens a deep gratitude for the price our Savior paid for our souls. The youngsters have

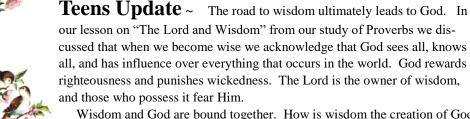
solemnly looked at Luke's account of the night Jesus was taken from the garden, betrayed and unjustly tried, mocked, and hung on a cruel cross to die. They marveled at His compassion in His last hours... instead of focusing on His own pain and sorrow, Jesus was thinking of the ones who put Him there as He whispered, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." While He drew His last breath, we know He gave His life—no one took it from Him. Having gone through the entire Bible over these years, the children have a deeper understanding that the sacrifice Jesus made was part of the rescue plan God set into motion from the very beginning of time, to save mankind and restore our fellowship with Him.

While the tomb was sealed, all hope seemed lost, but because Jesus paid the awful price, hope would soon be found! On the third and glorious day, His followers rejoiced to find His empty tomb! And our youngsters were amazed to see the many times Jesus appeared to His followers: in the upper room, on the road to Emmaus, and on the banks of Tiberius as He beckoned the fishing disciples to "come and dine" on a breakfast by the beach-- the fish he was cooking over a fire! But one appearance stood out to us, perhaps because His message is still so clearly meant for us today. To prepare our hearts, we each drew out names of places we go... school, restaurants, parks, or stores. Our young people thought of the goals or missions we might have in mind when we visit each destination. To bring this lesson home for His followers, the risen Christ brought them to a high mountain where they could look down on their familiar villages, but also see far in the distance, where they would soon "Go... teach... and baptize." From that vantage point, Jesus must have pointed in every direction to impress on them the mighty task that lay before them. In this "great commission", He was instructing them to carry on without Him, yet with His Holy Spirit in their souls. Though it's hard for us to imagine, at that time, the good news of Jesus was completely contained in that tiny part of the world. In the years to come, the rest of the world would become the mission field for His followers. For us, the mission is still the same, and we too, can look beyond what is familiar, far past the everyday places we go. Of course we have a goal in mind when we go to school or to the grocery store, but what if we added to the common mission and remembered to share the love of Jesus while fulfilling our daily tasks? With that pondering, our children looked at the incredible account of the ascension, at the Mount of Olives, where Jesus rose into the sky, departing from His followers and leaving them physically behind. The youngsters are eager to begin the final segment of our timeline, where they will discover the way Jesus builds His church through His followers. They are excited to see how the early church is challenged,



Rejoicing with You in Our Risen Savior~ Bruce, Darla, and Marshall

empowered, and driven to carry His message beyond what is comfortable to



Wisdom and God are bound together. How is wisdom the creation of God? Saving that wisdom is God's creation is a graceful way to say that He made the world run according to wisdom. Therefore, God is able to advise us on what to anticipate from people because He created them. He is aware of our nature. God does not find this world mysterious. He understands the depths of His creations.

There are forces pulling against us in this world that tell us we do not need God's wisdom. Wisdom apart from God, is empty of substance, worth, and truth. Sometimes these revelations only tell part of the story, with the other parts originating from the speaker's desires, and other times they have no substance at all and are simply someone's opinion. Godly wisdom is pure, with no agenda other than His love for us.

We ought to have a reasonable fear of God when we acknowledge that He sees everything, knows everything, and has influence over everything. Foolishly, we fear consequences from people, who we can see, more than the displeasure of God, who we can't see. Proverbs 29:25 tells us, "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe." God alone should be our guide, not other people. Nowadays, a lot of people aim to win over their friends' and peers' approval. By doing this, we turn from Christ and place our faith in other people. A wise person is concerned with winning over God, not people.

Being in a relationship with God is similar to having a defense tower. The words "The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe" are found in Proverbs 18:10. The benefit of knowing the allknowing, all-seeing God is peace. Those who follow him have a stronghold in him. A wise person does not rely on his own sight or hearing; rather, he trusts in the Lord, who sees and hears more than we can ever know.

Because of Calvary, Stephanie and John











Smith Grove Baptist Church Teen Rummage Sale Fundraiser Saturday, April 27, 2024 8 AM - 2 PM



All Items 50% off After 12 PM

Are your closets and cabinets overflowing with things you no longer need? Do you have too many knickknacks lying around the house?

Is your garage in need of a clean-out?

All sales from the donated items will go towards the teens Christmas gift ministry to buy Christmas gifts for the Tabernacle Children's Home and the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation (Brother John Coleman).

<u>Items Accepted – Must be clean and in good condition:</u>

Gently worn clothing and shoes – Smoke and stain-free, please; Handbags; Books; Toys and Games; Bikes; Tools; Home Décor and artwork; Small household appliances and electronics – must be in working condition; Kitchen items – plates, bowls, drinking glasses, etc.; Furniture – you must be able to bring it yourself Friday, April 26, from 6 pm to 8 pm; Sports equipment and camping gear; Collectibles; CDs and DVDs

Items Not Accepted:

Computers, treadmills, stationary bikes, elliptical machines, used candles, stained or torn clothing, mattresses, cribs, car seats, bedding, stuffed animals, or broken items.

Donated items can be placed in boxes in the vestibule starting Sunday, March 3. Items can also be dropped off at the fellowship hall on Friday, April 26, from 6 pm to 8 pm.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please see any teen or Stephanie. *Thank you for your continued support!*

Rummage [ruhm-ij]verb ~ to search thoroughly or actively through (a place, receptacle, etc.), especially by moving around, turning over, or looking through contents. To find, bring, or fetch by searching.

So, let's rummage through our stuff & help the teens have a great sale!!

~ THE FOUR GOSPELS ~

"Let us remember this, if we hear men professing to believe the writers of the New Testament, and yet sneering at the things recorded in the Old Testament, as if they were fables. Such men forget, that in so doing



they pour contempt upon Christ Himself. The authority of the Old and New Testament stands or falls together. The same Spirit inspired men to write of Solomon and Jonah, who inspired the Evangelists to write of Christ. These are not unimportant points in this day. Let them be well fixed in our minds." (J.C. Ryle, Commentaries on the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John)

"A Man Named Matthew"

There was nothing in the background of Matthew which commended him to the favor of Jesus. He worked for the Roman government and collected taxes. He had no qualms collecting far more than what was owed for his own coffer. He was a part of a despicable profession, in the eyes of the Jews. "And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him." – Matthew 9:9

The very thing which qualified him for the grace and calling of Christ was the fact that he was a sinner! He wrote this Gospel and included this account of his calling. I am wondering if perhaps he wiped a tear from his eyes when he recorded this statement? Jesus still saw him and called him despite his background. Jesus saw him for who he was and what he was but still loved him, saved him, and called him anyway. Matthew had been in the business of bankrupting others but melted under conviction and sensed his own spiritual bankruptcy!

Oh, what amazing love and grace, that Jesus sees a sinner seated in a seat of degradation and still loves them just the same. "And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood... Amazing love How can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me?" – (Bob Kauflin) Jesus saw the tax collector as "Matthew" rather than "Levi"! God sees the redeemed sinner as what grace can make them, rather that how sin has stained them. Praise God, we are at liberty to put our name in the name block. Jesus saw a man, named Matthew and He, likewise, saw a man named Chuck! I can only say, "Thank you Lord, for saving my soul"!

— Chuck Peters – 1/11/2024

The Four Gospels, continued on Next Page.

"A Man Named Mark"

The Disciples of Christ, at their best, were still human and all of them revealed their humanity though chosen to be Disciples of the Lord. Mark is no exception for he became a disappointment to the great Apostle, Paul. The man named Mark, was John Mark. "And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark." – Acts 15:37 He had been befriended by Barnabas and Barnabas trusted him to accompany him to Cyprus. Mark, earlier, had returned home on the first missionary journey and Paul lost respect for him and parted company from him. "And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;" – Acts 15:39

Paul at that point viewed Mark and considered him unprofitable for the journey but later changed his opinion. "Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry." – II Timothy 4:11 Paul is nearing the end of his earthly life and reaches out to Mark, recognizing that he is a companion made profitable by God's workings in his life.

The man named Mark was enabled by God to faithfully serve and even author one of the Gospels. The man named Mark, is another biography in Scripture of one made worthy to serve the Lord despite human failure. God delights to take the "unprofitable" and make them "profitable" by His grace. God makes the unworthy, worthy, and the unprofitable, profitable. – **Chuck Peters** – 1/12/2024

"A Man Named Luke"

Luke was a humble physician who does not mention himself in the Gospel or the Book of Acts. His focus was the humanity of Christ. Each of the four Gospels present Christ in a different way and they all four, combined, give better understanding of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ. I am reminded of Ezekiel's vision of the four Cherubim with four faces. "As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle." – Ezekiel 1:10 This verse reminds us of the four Gospels and the four different ways Christ is presented. Matthew presents Him as the Son of David and we see Him as King, corresponding to the Lion. We see Him in Mark as the Servant and illustrated by the Ox. John presents Him in His Deity and as the Son of God illustrated by the Eagle's penetrating eyes. Luke presents the face of the Man! He is presented as the Son of Man.

This modern computer age has introduced us to technology to include this media outreach in which I use to post articles such as this one. We are also able to "facetime" with our family and friends. The Gospel of Luke is not about him displaying his face to others but rather the display of the "face" of the Son of Man! Luke presents the perfections and personal aspects of Jesus, as perfect Man. Luke records the Lord's appearance in homes and at the dinner table more than the other Gospel writers. You really get to know a person well at the table! Luke, the Physician, gives an expanded account of the Virgin Birth of Christ, and rightly so!

"A Man Named Luke" Continued

The man named Luke wrote under inspiration and was totally convinced that what he wrote was true. "Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us," — Luke 1:1 He was certain of the reason God became flesh and reminds us of that essential purpose in both of his Books. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." — Luke 19:10; "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." — Acts 16:31

Chuck Peters – 1/14/2024

"A Man Named John"

A Man named John, was assigned a special place by the loving Lord. It was John who was one of the three who were in the inner circle and with Jesus on special occasions. It was John who was with him on the Mount of Transfiguration and in the Garden, before He died. It was also John, who lovingly cared for Mary, the mother of Jesus, after the Lord's death, resurrection, and ascension back to Heaven.

It was John who wrote the fourth Gospel in order that we might not only know Him but know fully Who He is. He states this theme for the writing of this Gospel. "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." – John 20:31 The Gospel of John is the fourth Gospel. It specifically directs our gaze to the Deity of Christ. Amazingly enough, John writes under inspiration the last Book of the Bible and references four creatures. "And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle." – Revelation 4:7 The fourth creature is the eagle. The first three creatures are associated strictly with the earth but the fourth creature, the eagle, is a creature with his home on high! Jesus is come down from Heaven. I also would mention that the form of the fourth man, in Daniel 3:25, was like the Son of God. God set the sun to rule on the fourth day and the sun affords life, light, and warmth.

It was John who wrote this great Gospel, fully convinced himself, that Jesus was truly the Son of God. He had gathered up all the signs proving the case for the Deity of Christ to include the 7 "I Am" claims of Christ. It was John who rested his human head on the bosom of the Eternal God and heard His loving heartbeat! It was John who wrote three Epistles. They stress the importance and priority of walking in the truth and the eternal security from knowing the One who is "The Truth." John writes the Gospel that one might believe on Christ and have life and he writes the Epistle of I John in order that those who have life may know that they have life! "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." — I John 5:13

- Chuck Peters 1/16/2024