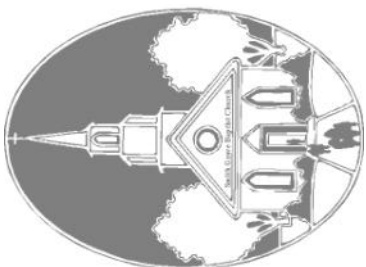


Must have
First Class
Stamp



www.smithgrove.org

VOLUME 41
May 2024
ISSUE 482

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

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

Rev. Bruce Freeman, Pastor
Home (336) 996-1501
Cell (336) 816-2473

The Messenger



May
2024



Smith Grove Baptist Church
2707 Sandy Ridge Road ~ Colfax, NC 27235
www.smithgrove.org

Rev. Bruce Freeman, 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/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 . . .*

~ **Final Reminder for April** ~

Saturday, April 27, 2024; ~ Teen Rummage Sale Fundraiser ~
8 AM – 2 PM ~ All Items 50% off After 12 PM

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

Sun., May 12 ~ **Mother's Day**

Sun., May 19 – **BEAMS Sunday**

Mon., May 27 – **Memorial Day**

Every Monday, 3 pm, Robinwood Retirement Ctr.



LOOKING AHEAD ~

VBS: "The Great Jungle Journey"

Monday-Friday, June 10-14 - 7-9 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)

SSgt Trevor Westmoreland, Army, Fort Benning, GA
(Allen & Sandy Westmoreland's son)

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.*

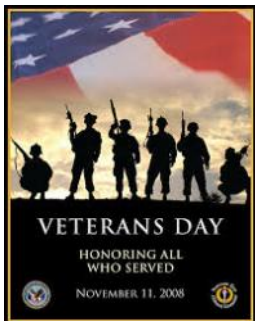


Memorial Day in the USA

...is celebrated on the last Monday in May ~ May 27, 2024.

All men and women, who gave their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces, are commemorated on this day. National Memorial Day is formally known as Decoration Day, the day that commemorated the Union and Confederate soldiers, who died during the American Civil War. Later the day extended to honor all American soldiers, who died while in the military service.

Traditionally, the flag of the USA is raised briskly to the top of the flagstaff, then it is lowered to the half-staff position. This position is chosen in remembrance of those individuals who died for their country. At noon the flag is raised to full-staff as the symbol that the memory of dead soldiers is being raised by the living. *Their sacrifice was not in vain, that is why we rise up in their honor and continue fighting for liberty and justice.*



VS.



BEAMS' Report for April 2024

of Pledges: 10; # of Contributions: 4;

Total Contributors: 14

Total Contributed: \$ 649.00 =

81 Bibles in April (plus some postage)

Many thanks to all those who gave monies to the BEAMS' ministry specifically for postage which added \$ 180.00 in April!

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/>



At VBS 2024, our kids will sail along on a fun jungle cruise, stopping at seven ports of call: the 7 C's of History: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consumma-tion. Kids will discover how these events shape our world, and they will learn to reconnect the Bible to their everyday life. Prepare to swing into fun as we head out on The Great Jungle Journey!

Monday-Friday, June 10-14 - 7-9 pm

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. Join us as we highlight our special "Honour Roll Gang Members" who are having birthdays in May and June. Please take a moment to send a card, make a telephone call, or do something extra special for our special saints.

Alta Key

4454 Peace Rd
 Trinity, NC 27370
 336-431-0079 ~ May 03

Dovie Dull

1016 Madison Place Circle
 Kernersville, NC 27284
 336-996-6330 ~ May 14

Eloise McCollum

8626 Bull Road
 Colfax, NC 27235
 336-996-6320 ~ May 26

Esther Campbell

Brookdale Skeet Club - Room 38
 1560 Skeet Club Rd.
 High Point, NC 27265
 336-317-2093 ~ May 28

Doug Slate

1693 Brookford Rd
 Kernersville, NC 27284
 336-993-3114 (Home)
 704-575-8485 (Cell) ~ June 11

Angela Cornell

1528 Canstaff Dr.
 Kernersville, NC 27284
 336-601-8322 (Cell) ~ June 13

Oma Lou Pitts

8047 National Service Rd
 Colfax, NC 27235
 336-420-5103 ~ June 19



Are you or a family member turning 90 this year? Please let Pastor Bruce Freeman know if you would like to be recognized on your special birthday! (336-816-2473)

May Anniversaries

- 2 Garland & Anita Holt
- 6 John & Stephanie Moore
- 14 Allen & Sandra Westmoreland
- 19 Dennis & Brenda Westmoreland



~ From Pastor Bruce ~

What a great retirement weekend we had for our Pastor and Sister Carol! It's hard to believe that almost 26 years have passed since they became part of Smith Grove Baptist Church. We are thankful for their years of service to our church, and we continue to pray for them as they start the next chapter of ministry.

I would also like to thank those who made this retirement weekend a success. The food, fellowship, singing, programs, and livestream couldn't have been possible without the faithful support of God's people. Truly, the people of Smith Grove are amazing! We love you, and look forward to God's continued blessings on our church.

"O give thanks unto the Lord: for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever." (Psalm 136:1)

Welcome, Pastor Bruce & Darla

As Pastor Emeritus Chuck Peters passed the mantle of leadership to Pastor Bruce Freeman on April 14, 2024, a new church era began. We wish Pastor Chuck and Sister Carol much joy as they move into their much-deserved retirement! As it says on the lovely plaque they were given, "Our prayers cover you as the Lord writes the next chapter of your story."



It seems almost unnecessary to say *welcome* to two individuals who have been a part of Smith Grove Baptist Church for most of their lives. But, just in case you don't know our pastor, here is a short bio:

Reverend Bruce Freeman was born in Asheville, North Carolina, and he moved to Colfax with his parents as a teenager. He was saved at the age of 15, and was later called into the ministry. When he was 24, Bruce joined Smith Grove Baptist Church, met his future wife, Darla, and began working with the youth.

He graduated from Piedmont Bible College in 2001, and in 2014, he received a master's degree from Trinity Theological Seminary. Bruce pastored Manna Baptist Church in Walkertown for eight years. In 2017, he was called back home to Smith Grove, to serve as Associate Pastor, and as of April 15th, 2024, our Senior Pastor.

It is with great joy that we welcome Pastor Bruce Freeman and his wife Darla, to their new calling at Smith Grove! *May God bless you and guide you in your ministry and spiritual leadership.* **With love, your Smith Grove Family**



Be Strong ~ Youth

As we continue to explore the Book of Acts, our youngsters are amazed by the ways the early church grew and spread, despite the enemy's attempts to squelch it. In the midst of persecution, the apostles learned to see suffering for Jesus as a privilege. We thought about our "worst gift" ever... a single sock, an empty Coke bottle. While it might be difficult to find the good in a prison stay or a beating, we are seeing that suffering for Christ's sake is a gift and an honor. We were amazed by the strength of the apostles thrown into prison, but the account of Stephen stopped our young people in their tracks. We saw how the Holy Spirit led and empowered Stephen to preach before the Sanhedrin, boldly telling them they had rejected their Messiah and killed Him on a cross. We marveled at Stephen's bravery to obey God even though it put him in extreme danger, then we sorrowed to read that Stephen was dragged away and stoned. But what a glorious moment when Stephen looked up and saw Jesus by the Father's throne, knowing he would soon be with Him for eternity! Though the Jewish leaders were attempting to stop the spread of the gospel, Stephen's death instead lit a fire that sparked the early Christians to shine Christ's light more than ever. Also in this chapter of Acts, a man stood by, holding the robes of the men who attacked Stephen; and our children were intrigued when we told them to keep their eyes on this man named Saul... his incredible story would continue in our next lesson.

We prepared our hearts for the ninth chapter of Acts by hunting for hidden items in a colorful puzzle page. Sometimes we believe we're seeing things clearly, but it wasn't easy to spy the things we were looking for. Saul must have also believed his vision was perfect, thinking he was doing God a favor, as he hunted down Christians and tried to end this movement called "the Way". But Saul was spiritually blind, and as he made his way to Damascus to seek and arrest believers, the Lord helped him see the Light. Right there on the road, Saul fell to the ground under the intense light, as Jesus Himself asked the question, "Why persecutest thou Me?" Struck blind, Saul waited in Damascus for three days until Ananias, guided by God, came by to touch him and restore his sight. Saul's conversion was a living testimony of the Lord's transforming power. He truly became a new man; so much so that he even changed his name to Paul. Our youngsters are eager to explore the plans God had for him in carrying the gospel afar.

We are also pondering the ways our suffering impacts others. When Stephen lost his life for the sake of Jesus, he was filled with joy and peace, in the midst of the brutal violence against him. No doubt, the scene pricked the heart of Paul as he stood by, holding robes. When Jesus told him that it was hard for him to kick against the pricks, he meant that Paul had been resisting the nudge of the Holy Spirit, just as oxen might stubbornly ignore the prodding of the farmer's stick guiding them in the field. Witnessing Stephen's sacrifice began to melt Paul's heart. We likewise never know how our own trials might influence others. When they see us trusting Jesus despite hardship,

and displaying peace in the midst of turmoil, they know something is different about us, and that gives the Holy Spirit an open door to touch the hearts of onlookers. Paul would later say, "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake." (Philippians 1:29) Help us pray for our young people, that they will develop a proper perspective of suffering for Jesus. Though it may seem an unlikely gift, making a sacrifice for Him is a privilege that may lead others to see our loving Savior in us.

Praying alongside you all, *Bruce, Darla, & Marshall*

Teens Update ~ Our teens and young adults here at Smith Grove Baptist Church are awesome! Their love for Jesus is shown in everything they do. Every month we'll spotlight one of our amazing teens or young adults so you can get to know them better. Please keep each of them in your prayers as they continue to navigate this wicked world.

Because of Calvary, *Stephanie and John Moore*



Smith Grove Baptist Church May Spotlight



Name: Addison Moore

Age: 14

Birthday: June 10

School: Triad Baptist Christian Academy,
Grade 9

Hobbies: Art, music, and games

Favorite Bible Verse: I Peter 5:7 "*Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*"

Why I love SGBC: The youth are really nice and I've made some friends here. Our church family is nice too.

Coming Soon . . . Sunday Sundaes!!!



Mark your calendars for your favorite Sunday night summertime treat. Join us after our 6 PM service and let our teens and young adults make you a delicious sundae with all your favorite toppings to support the Tabernacle Children's Home and the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation. **Dates are as follows:** June 23, June 30, July 14, August 4, August 11, and August 18



Dr. Charles (Chuck) Peters, Pastor Emeritus

Cell Phone: (336) 812-1169 ~ AVAILABLE FOR PULPIT SUPPLY

On April 14, 2024, Pastor Chuck Peters preached his last sermon as senior pastor of the Smith Grove Baptist Church. At that time, he was graced with the title, *Pastor Emeritus*. “Pastor Emeritus” signifies being retired from active pastoral service while retaining one’s title as an honor. The title is offered because of merit earned during the time of active service. ***The honor is never an automatic one but rather is a recognition of exceptional service.***

The Summit of True Spirituality

The Apostle Peter was once questioned about his love for Christ, after his denial. He would later write on the subject for he, personally, had experienced the extension of love from the One he denied. He wrote: “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

I have chosen this verse as my life’s verse for I have come to believe that its truths epitomize a genuine and lofty spiritual testimony of the highest order. Peter references the responsive love of the child of God to the Lover of their soul. The physical absence of the Saviour does not dampen that love, for the Holy Spirit within, magnifies the glories of the risen Saviour and the quickened heart responds with love. That love relationship with the Lord bolsters the faith and the love-faith connection, and results in unspeakable joy!

What is the best gauge of genuine spirituality? Is the gauge fanfare, endless activity, and mere religion? Is it the holding of offices in the local church, the giving of large sums of money to missions, or the holding of respectable titles? The summit of true spirituality is a personal love relationship with Christ, for that relationship alone, brings about a walk of faith, unspeakable joy, and fullness of glory. It is wonderful to know that a Christian may be lacking in abilities and talents, yet, they are enabled, by the Holy Spirit, to have a love relationship with the Lover of their soul! That, in the end, will make our earthly sojourn more enjoyable and Heaven much sweeter. – **Chuck Peters 3/20/2024**



We now have complete authority and access to all the public schools in Kenya, including colleges, universities, high schools, and elementary public schools. God is good! We had our first team to go into a university in Kenya recently. The gospel of our wonderful Lord and His mercy is going into the education units of the country as I write. PLEASE PRAY!

Many people have responded financially in helping us finance the printing of the Christian literature we have been giving out. To date, we have given approximately 60,000 copies to high schools and elementary public schools. Many of you should have received a book called “A Place Called Heaven” and also a copy of “The Gospel Coloring Book” for the elementary students in recent weeks. This is the literature God allowed me to write for Kenya. If you did not get these booklets, please call me, and I will send them to you: (336) 813-5166.

We thank God for everyone who has helped us financially. We are right now in need of financing for the printing of 15,000 more. Several more have committed to supporting a team of four Kenyan Independent Baptist Preachers for \$190 per month for all four. This will allow them to go into the schools on a full-time basis, preaching to several thousand young people every week, sharing the gospel. Not one dollar is used for any other purpose than printing and supporting teams. I personally have not gotten one dollar from the support for the 60,000 copies already given out. And I will not in the future. Thank you for all you are doing to reach Kenyans for Christ. We will need a stream of money to publish future literature. The Kenyans say it’s the best tool they have had in 30 years.

Yours in Christ,
Roger & Diane Baker

“There is therefore no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” Romans 8:1

MEMORIAL DAY ~ 2024

In Loving Memory

They never asked to leave their home
and over sandy deserts roam.

They never requested this ugly war...

Nor to leave their loved ones and to travel far.

But once the need for them was known,
their mighty courage then was shown.
With shoulders high and bags in hand,
they left their families to protect our land.

We watched them as they soared so high;
Above the clouds, up in the sky.
We were so proud as we could see,
they'd fight for us and Liberty.

It wasn't easy... no, not at all;
Because we feared that some would fall.
The older and the young ones too,
prepared to die for me and you.

So hand in hand, we watched to see,
the news reports on our TV.
We watched their bravery, we watched their style.
We were so proud, we had to smile.

But in each heart our fears were known;
Would "All of Them" be coming home?



And now we know that's not to be...
They've left this earth eternally.

But though our HEROES left this
sod, We pray they're in "The Arms
Of God."

[Let's pray that every soldier who is in harm's way will serve with
Christ in their hearts and lean on Him for guidance and courage.]

Moms are Special . . .



Mom and Dad were watching TV when Mom said, "I'm tired, and it's getting late. I think I'll head to bed." She then began her final routine of the day. She went to the kitchen to make sandwiches for the next day's lunches (lunch at school was soup tomorrow, not pizza!). She rinsed out the kids' snack bowls, loaded the dishwasher, took meat out of the freezer for supper the following evening, made sure there was cereal for breakfast, and made coffee and set it to brew at 6:00 the next morning. She picked up the plastic dinosaur toy off the kitchen chair and took the cell phones off the chargers. She watered the plant in the kitchen window, emptied the trash can and hung up a towel to dry. She stopped by the laundry room and threw some wet clothes in the dryer, and put a load of clothes into the washer. She yawned and stretched and headed for the bedroom.



But first, she remembered to grab her cell phone to shoot a text to Billy's teacher, counted out some cash for his field trip next day, and pulled a notebook out from under a chair. She signed a birthday card for a friend, addressed and stamped the envelope and wrote a quick note on her iPhone to pick up a few things next day at the grocery store on the way home from work. She put both near her purse. Dad called out, "I thought you were going to bed." "I'm on my way," she said. She quickly put some water into the dog's dish and put the cat out to potty, then let him back in, and made sure the doors were locked. She looked in on each of the kids and turned out their bedside lamp, hung up a shirt, threw some dirty socks in the hamper, and had a brief conversation with the one still up doing homework on her iPad. In her own room, she set the alarm and picked out her outfit for work in the morning. Then in the bathroom, Mom washed her face, put on her "Oil of Olay" skin cream, and brushed and flossed her teeth. Before her nighttime prayers, she added three people that came to mind to her list of prayer needs. She said her prayers, and asked God to protect her family through the night.



About that time, Dad turned off the TV, said his nightly prayers, then announced to no one in particular, "I'm going to bed." And that's what he did ...without another thought.

You see? God made mothers to be the special women they are!
(*Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12. Be sure to remember Mom in a special way.*)



Proverbs 31:10-12 *Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her . . .*

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