

## THE MESSENGER

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

VOLUME 41  
October 2024  
ISSUE 487

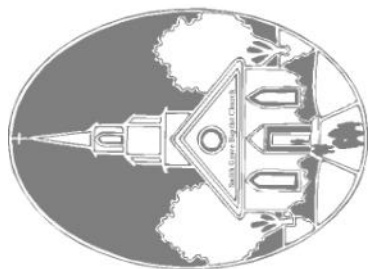
### PROVERBS 25:13

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

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



[www.smithgrove.org](http://www.smithgrove.org)

# The Messenger



October  
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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 . . .*



## Homecoming – 2024

**Sunday, Oct. 13, 11:00 a.m. ~ Homecoming Message by Rev. Frankie Matthews.** A meal will be provided by the church in the Fellowship Building after the service. *(Please bring desserts.)*  
**NO EVENING SERVICE**

**Sat., Oct. 5, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission**  
**Sun., Oct. 20 ~ BEAMS Sunday**  
**Every Wednesday, 3 pm, Robinwood Retirement Ctr.**



### Statement of Faith:

We are an Independent Baptist Church (*established in 1921*) preaching the old time Gospel and still believing that the King James Version of the Bible constitutes the preserved, inerrant, and inspired Word of God for the English speaking people of the earth.

# REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**SHUT-INS:** Betty Byrd Iris Farrington

## IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

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

**CW4 Jonathan Harless** (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.*



On September 6, 1924, 100 years ago in Forsyth County, a baby was born to James Israel and Claudia Hester Laramore. This precious baby, Milton Ward Laramore, the youngest of twelve children, was greatly blessed in his lifetime. He had a beautiful wife and family, and he dedicated his life totally to the service of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And, he was also a very important part of our church history as he served as

Pastor of the Smith Grove Baptist Church for 30 years.

*It is very fitting that we take a moment to reflect upon a life well lived as we remember our beloved Pastor, Rev. Ward Laramore, on what would have been his 100th birthday.*

### Brother Ward's favorite scripture verse:

Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."



## BEAMS' Report for September 2024

# of Pledges: 8; # of Contributions: 6;

Total Contributors: 14

Total Contributed: \$ 635.00 =

79 Bibles in August (plus some postage)

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

You can also get the BEAMS' report online at our website:

<https://www.smithgrove.org/beams-report/>



How do you compliment a pumpkin in October?

"You look gourd-geous."

What do you call a pair of pumpkins that hang out with each other in October? *Gourd friends.* What did the tree say to the month of October? *Take it or leaf it.* Why do truckers like October 4th the most? *Because it is 10/4, good buddy.* Why is October the best month to play a joke on a leaf? *Because they fall for anything.* What do you call a furry, eight-legged mammal that comes out of hibernation after September? *An Octo-bear.*

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\\_zpMzkkCXdFYv1NKndQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj39_zpMzkkCXdFYv1NKndQ)

To listen & download mp3:

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

## 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 October and November. Please take a moment to send a card, make a telephone call, or do something extra special for our special saints.

**Ruby Bowden**

2007 Beeson Road  
Oak Ridge, NC 27310  
336-993-0220 ~ October 20

**Iris Farrington**

C/O Fair Haven Home  
149 Fairhaven Dr, Rm a5b  
Bostic, NC 28018  
828-245-9095 ~ October 24

**Norman Smith**

111 Buena Vista Ave  
High Point, NC 27265  
336-847-2164 (Cell) ~ October 26

**Kathy L. Crews**

8103 Tam O'Shanter Dr  
Greensboro, NC 27409  
336-668-9721 ~ October 30

**Jackie Chastain**

1053 St. Michael's Ln  
High Point, NC 27265  
336-869-4697 (Home)  
336-804-0560 (Cell) ~ October 31

**Willard Tucker**

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

**Virginia Nuckles**

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

**Irene Shields**

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

*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)*

## October Anniversaries

5 Scott & Melanie Crump  
16 Jerry & Shelby Crump  
28 Nathan & Ashley Pilcher



## ~ Pain, Adversity, Delays ~ Excerpt from a lesson by Calvin Vaughn

Pain, Adversities and Delays can be so discouraging! Yet God will use them to cut fleshly habits and attitudes from our life. That allows us to grow in Christlikeness. John 15:1-5 KJV *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

Let's look at a vineyard or orchard in Fruitland, North Carolina (northeast of Hendersonville) in apple country, where many farmers have apple orchards. Once a Pastor stopped by to visit one of them; he found the farmer mercilessly cutting branches from one of the trees.

He told the Pastor that to produce an abundant crop of the best fruit, he had to prune the branches. It might look as if the tree was going to die, but new growth would spring from the wounds.

This conversation helps us understand why the Lord sometimes uses His pruning knife in our lives. To get a plentiful crop of spiritual fruit, He must remove anything that hinders us from becoming the person He designed us to be.

We may have experienced such pruning or we may know of a family or Church member experiencing something like this. We should pray for each other, especially when we or others are facing adversities, pruning or delays in our/spiritual walk with Christ. A good question for each of us is how do we respond.

This is part of being disciplined. Not many of us like this part of life but it is necessary. The process is often painful as God cuts away fleshly habits and worldly attitudes, but His pruning results in us becoming a more accurate reflection of Jesus Christ. Hopefully we can develop an attitude of gratitude as we walk down this difficult pathway.

Sometimes we tend to blame God, a spouse, a friend or a coworker for these trials of life. Unfortunately, such times of adversity can be stressful. Life sometimes causes us to feel like a rubber band stretched tight. Pressures build up and pull us in different directions or pull against our sense of well-being.

What is the answer? We need a perspective that comes only from God. We must be willing to surrender our rights and ways to God. We must stop telling God how to answer and ask God What He wants us to do or not do!

One of the hardest things for us to bear is not having control over our own circumstances. But as Christians, this is exactly how we are called to live. Jesus made this very clear when He said we must deny ourselves and lose our life for His sake. Luke 9:23-24 *And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.*

**WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER** to the question of the day: Is God absent in my times of pain and trouble? Rest assured Promises from God will sustain and encourage you: **PSALM 31:7** *I will be glad and rejoice in your unfailing love, for you have seen my troubles, and you care about the anguish of my soul.*





## Be Strong ~ Youth

Our youngsters have been excited to return to our Bible Timeline, where we're watching more of Paul's missionary journeys unfold. Before opening to the eighteenth chapter of Acts, we built a tower of blocks, then carefully pulled away a block at a time, until our tower toppled.

While in Ephesus and Corinth, Paul and his companions shared the powerful Word of God with people in darkness, resulting in the *toppling* of their pagan beliefs. The power of the gospel starts a life-changing chain reaction, and we learned that nothing could stop the widespread growth of Christ's church!

We met Aquila and Priscilla, as well as Apollos. And we saw Paul help some magicians realize that only Jesus could help them cast out evil spirits. They trusted in the Lord, then burned their wicked magic books. The idol-making silversmiths of Ephesus were making a fortune until their sales dropped, a direct result of Diana worshipers turning to Jesus! So next, we witnessed Paul sparking a riot in this pagan city where the temple of Diana was so grand that it was considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world! We even looked at a picture of the temple's ruins today. Why did the temple of this mythical goddess topple and fall to the ground like our block tower? Because God's power proved unstoppable, and in those days of the early church, when Jesus was growing the faith, He used Paul and other believers to spread His truth throughout the world. In our time, too, we can be assured that our Savior will give us the strength and ability to share His message of redemption with others.

Looking at a picture of the remarkable Angel Oak Tree in Charleston, we pondered its age. Most scholars say it could be as many as 1500 years old! No one can be sure of its origin, but long ago, a little acorn germinated and took hold, deeply spreading roots and growing more with each passing year. Similarly, the seed of the gospel was planted over 2000 years ago, and our heavenly Father has seen to it that the message of His beloved Son put down deep roots, and it has never stopped spreading and growing... *"So mightily grew the Word of God and prevailed."* (Acts 19:20) As a reminder of this, we each took a sharpie and wrote, *"MIGHTILY"* on our acorn souvenirs. This season of autumn may seem somber to some, with its dying leaves, withering greenery, and dry, browning landscapes. In many ways, it feels like an ending, a sorrowful time of dying. But don't lose hope, dear church family... somewhere in the rich and musty forest floor, a faithful little acorn is taking hold and beginning to grow into a mighty oak tree. The faith sprouting in the young hearts of our youth is a treasure we cherish. We are so grateful for the many missions rooted in our long Smith Grove history. Those strong ministries span generations, and they are the sturdy foundation on which we are building today's ministries. In October especially, we are deeply mindful of the parts every single one of you plays in reaching others for Jesus. Our ministries rely on yours, and we truly appreciate the blessing of serving Him along with each one of you precious coworkers...

Thankful to Minister by Your Sides,  
Bruce, Darla, and 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 ~ *October Spotlight*



**Name:** Watson Crump

**Age:** 14

**Birthday:** May 1

**School:** Northwest Guilford High School,  
Grade 9

**Hobbies:** Playing trombone, video games,  
movies

**Favorite Bible Verse:** Deuteronomy 31:6 *"Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."*

**Why I love SGBC:** Good community, many relatives go here, and it teaches well.

## Autumn Glory © 2013 Caroline Gavin Daniel 2:21

Chills on my skin, I feel an Autumn breeze,  
Red, gold and orange Glow upon the trees.  
The air is crisp, Refreshing to breathe in,  
Excitement stirs in my heart, As starts a new season.  
Lord Jesus, I marvel, At the rhythm you create,  
Surely but a glimpse, Behind Heaven's gate.  
With perfection and beauty, The seasons do dance;  
Each one has its glory; Each one its chance.  
So amidst these changes, As trees are cloaked in glory,  
I remember all is Yours, Your unfolding story.  
The refreshing air, The trees of red and gold,  
Sing a song of Your love, Extending from days of old.  
The cool Autumn air, I delight to breathe in;  
Excitement stirs in my heart, As starts a new season.  
Yes, my Lord Jesus, As I feel an Autumn breeze,  
The glory of Your presence, Brings me to my knees!



## News from the Colemans' Tohono O'odham Nation Missions

Praise, Glory, and Honour to our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ. The Colemans, John and Mavis, thank you for your Prayers and Mission Support. I thank our wonderful Lord for the Missions Calling upon our lives. We are able to Go Share the Gospel, see Lives Changed, Souls Saved, and Help with needs, because of your Mission Partnership. We travel many miles, Preaching and Teaching for the Lord Jesus Christ. We give away Bibles, Gospel Tracts, and other Gospel Literature. Once again, thank you for helping us be able to do that. You also helped us with over 300 Back to School Back Packs for Children on the reservation, each one had some school items and copy of God's Word. We have seen at least 4 souls saved, delivered over 20,000 lbs. of good food to help families.

Pictures, with a brief story... Bible Study; Special Music by Br. George; Believers Cross, given to these believers; Youth from Village of Santa Rosa; Br. John with Jose & 3 of his children, brought his children to church in a Small Red Wagon. (He prayed and received Jesus as Savior); Chair Donation from United Christian Fellowship Church; Couple of back to back school pictures. And a special thank you to Josh and Jen, and Bud and JoAnn, for all their prayers and help.



Thank you for all your Faithful Mission Support, **John and Mavis**  
*Serving with Christ to the Nations' Missions*

Sending church - Temple Baptist Church, Madison Heights, VA

Local Church - Tucson Baptist Church, Tucson, AZ

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Dr. Charles (Chuck) Peters, Pastor Emeritus**

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

## Sweet Meditation

David exemplifies an Old Testament model of God's grace and love abounding towards an undeserving sinner. He too, as Paul, would make the claim of being the chief of sinners. He too, as Paul, knew the joy of God's forgiveness and peace of God's presence. David was a man of meditation



and found, through experience, the exhilarating joy of a meditation upon God's Person and work. He testified that his God focused meditation was sweet and uplifting. *"My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD."* – Psalm 104:34 Another Psalm reflects a contrast in meditation and outcome. Asaph gave thought to the wickedness in the world and found the thought to be painful. *"When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;"* – Psalm 73:16

I ponder the conditions in this world and the weaknesses of these dying bodies. I think of the insecurities on every front. My thoughts are painful! I then ponder my Lord and His goodness. I stand amazed that he loves me despite my sins. I meditate upon Who He is and what He has done. I meditate upon my acceptance in Him and the security of that acceptance. My heart embraces the truths of the old Hymn. "Pause, my soul, adore and wonder: Ask, "Oh, why such love to me?" Grace hath put me in the number Of the Saviour's family: Hallelujah! Thanks, eternal thanks to Thee!" - Book of Worship (Rev. ed.)

There is no amount of change or modernization of this world which will ever tarnish the genuine heart worship of God's child. I find that an opened Bible and a faith sight of the implications of Christ's finished work is met with the realization of the presence of the living and loving Lord! There is no earthly pleasure which can match for even a second the profound pleasure when Christ is made real to the soul. That is when earthly moments become heavenly moments. This kind of spiritual pleasure is not produced by religion but rather by grace! – **Chuck Peters**



# Smith Grove Baptist Church ~ Established 1921

In 1921, the Reverend Nealis Smith of Kernersville, North Carolina, held a meeting under a brush arbor located near the present church building. From this meeting, a church was organized. With the pastor and most of the charter members being Smiths, “*Smith Grove Baptist Church*” was born. The first church building was erected in 1923.

Clint Smith (father to Wade Smith, missionary) donated the first organ to the church, and Ruby Nuckles and Cora Pendry were the first organists. Tom Ballard, Grover Farrington, “Big” Jim Nuckles, Green Pendry, Drew Smith, and Bob Westmoreland were the first deacons. Among the first Sunday School teachers were Maude Smith and Dovie Clark.

In 1928, the Reverend Richard O. Nuckles was called to be the pastor. A new building was begun on July 4, 1952, with Pastor Nuckles doing most of the construction himself. The first service was Saturday night prayer meeting on April 30, 1955 with Reverend James Brown, speaker. There were 178 in attendance at the first Sunday service.

Reverend T.L. Sasser and Reverend Luther Naul (Burlington NC) spoke at a dedication service on June 19, 1955. The first wedding in the new church was Lala Kathleen Briles to George Harvey Pitts on February 5, 1956. Also in 1956, Ruby Nuckles, Nesbit Smith, Ray Campbell, and Margie Campbell were the first to be baptized in the church baptistery.

In May, 1956, the church voted to help support the Reverend and Mrs. Harlan E. Willis and family to go to Alaska as the first missionary outreach. In November, 1959, Mr. Charles R. Lambreth of Greensboro, N.C., put chimes in the church in memory of his mother, and in January, 1960, Mr. W. M. Bruton from Asheboro, NC painted the baptistery picture.



*In His Service*

Ben Farrington, Bill Johnson, Delas Long, Walter Westmoreland, Cordell McCollum, Johnny Long, David Ward, Clint Nuckles, Eddie Thomason, and Bruce Freeman were among the preachers called out of the church. Reverend Wade Smith and family (Nora and Jonathan), are the first missionaries to be called out of Smith Grove (ministering to the Armed Forces Personnel in Virginia Beach, Virginia).

C.B. “Boot” Westmoreland served as choir director from 1947 to 1983. Curt Bame became choir director in 1983 (Dennis Westmoreland, Assistant) and served for many years. Mike McCollum then served in that position for more than twenty years. Jim Laramore is our current choir director, with Charlene Tester, pianist; Joy Vaughn, assistant pianist, and

H.B. Clegg, organist.

Due to declining health, Reverend Nuckles preached his final sermon on December 22, 1968, after 40 years of service. At that time, Reverend Ward Laramore was called to be the pastor. Under his ministry, Smith Grove Baptist Church continued to stand strong as a thriving beacon of hope in the community, with beliefs grounded and rooted in the fundamentals of God's Word. Reverend Laramore served until 1998, having completed 30 years as Smith Grove's pastor.

Dr. Charles “Chuck” Peters became pastor in 1998, and along with his wife Carol, he continued the “true to the gospel” heritage established a century ago. He retired in April, 2024, after more than 25 years as pastor.

Reverend Bruce Freeman pastored Manna Baptist Church in Walkertown for eight years, and in 2017, he was called back home to Smith Grove to serve as Associate Pastor. On April 15th, 2024, with wife Darla at his side, he became the Senior Pastor of Smith Grove Baptist Church, only the fifth pastor to serve in the 103 year history of the church.