

THE MESSENGER

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

VOLUME 41
November 2024
ISSUE 488

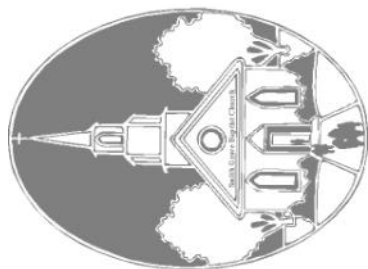
PROVERBS 25:13

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

The Messenger



November
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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 . . .*

In November, Smith Grove will continue its tradition of helping others throughout the month. The theme this year will be, "Thankful Heart Outreach." Pastor Bruce will provide more information on this outreach soon.

Sat., Nov. 2, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission

Sun., Nov. 3 ~ Daylight Saving Time Ends

– Fall back, Everybody!

Sun., Nov. 17 ~ BEAMS Sunday & Last day to bring packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Thanksgiving Week: Prayer Meeting & Youth Services will be moved to Tues., Nov. 26.

Every Wednesday, 3 pm, Robinwood Retirement Ctr.

*GIVE
thanks*

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.*



Our young people are preparing to once again share the gospel with children around the world... proclaiming the far-reaching, forgiving, saving power of Jesus! As Christmastime draws closer, all are welcome to participate in our **Operation Christmas Child** project.

Empty shoeboxes are available in the church lobby or fellowship hall. At samaritanspurse.org/occ, you can learn more about how to pack a box, and what items are not allowed. ***Please remember that liquids or lotions of any kind should not be packed, including toothpaste.*** You may bring your filled box to the church lobby and place it in the stack of "packed shoeboxes"... underneath the bulletin board at the top of the stairs. **We will collect shoeboxes until Sunday, November 17th.**

Your generosity always blesses our hearts, dear Smith Grove Family!



BEAMS' Report for October 2024

of Pledges: 8; # of Contributions: 6;

Total Contributors: 14

Total Contributed: \$ 618.00 =

77 Bibles in October (plus some postage)

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

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

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

A Harvest Celebration



During the autumn of 1621, at least 90 Wampanoag joined 52 English people at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts, to mark a successful harvest. It is remembered today as the "First Thanksgiving," although no one back then used that term.

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

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

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

Jo Ann Green

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

Bernice Johnson

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

Nancy Kelley

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

Barbara Bowden

5469 Macy Grove Rd
Kernersville, NC 27284
336-830-9115 ~ December 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)*

November Anniversaries

- 5 Mark & Elaine Lowe
- 6 Eric & Angela Sexton
- 8 Jay & Wanda Stafford



AMERICA'S PROMISE

If our Veterans are sick let us
heal them
If our Veterans are hungry let us
feed them
If our Veterans seek employment let us
hire them
If our Veterans need a friend let us
befriend them
If our Veterans need peace let us
pray for them
If our Veterans need a home let us
shelter them
For the Veterans who sacrificed
for our freedom...
Let us show them
.America is grateful

Written by Rick P Martinez, USMC Vietnam Veteran
Veterans For America, Founder

Laughter is good for the Soul!



What is Humpty Dumpty's
favorite month? *November.*
Because he had a great fall.

Why did the trees wear sweaters?
Because it was Novem-brrrrr.

In which month should you not ask to
borrow money? *NO-vember.*

What did the monster say when he found out it was November?
It's so boo-tiful.

What do you get when you divide the circumference of pumpkin by its diameter? *Pumpkin pi.*

Why do birds fly south in November? *Because it is faster than walking.*

What is the most knowledgeable month of the year? *Know-vember.*

Why didn't the turkey feel like eating in November?
Because it was stuffed.

Why is November such an adorable month of the year?
Because it is awww-tumn.





Be Strong ~ Youth

As we continue down our Bible Timeline, our young people are eagerly soaking up the truths laid out for us while we follow Paul on his missionary journeys. We played a game of *Will it Float?*, dropping random household items into a bowl of water. We experimented with attaching the buoyant things to the “sinkers” to see if they could stay afloat. In life, we are often just treading water and it sometimes feels as though we’re drowning in our troubles, but Paul reminds us that the Lord’s grace is a sturdy life raft that keeps us from sinking.

We witnessed Paul being arrested in Jerusalem, wrongly accused of bringing a Greek into the temple. Even when the mob ganged up on him, Paul was still sharing his testimony of salvation. A Roman commander held Paul in the barracks for his safety, and through the night, Jesus Himself came to encourage him, saying that Paul would soon carry the gospel to Rome! Each time he came before the leaders of the day... Governor Felix, King Agrippa, and Festus... Paul always preached Christ and shared his personal story of accepting Jesus as his Savior. While in Caesarea, Paul appealed to come before Caesar himself, setting his sights on getting all the way to Rome and taking the gospel with him. On one leg of the journey, despite Paul’s warnings, their boat set sail from Crete and was soon threatened by a storm so violent that the crew lost hope of surviving. But Paul told them an angel had promised that no one on board would die. In the turbulent waves, the ship was torn apart, but the crew and prisoners clung to the pieces of wood and drifted to the island of Malta. God used the devastation of a shipwreck to show His power and His mercy on them all. Stranded, Paul left the natives marveling when he survived a snake bite while he was gathering firewood. As God protected him yet again, Paul was a witness for Christ, healing and touching the sick on the island.

Once he finally reached Rome, Paul spent two years under house arrest, influencing Roman leaders while he wrote letters to the young Christians in the churches he had planted on his journeys: Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon. Throughout many perils, faithful Paul was used by God in mighty ways, and the gospel of Jesus was brought to Europe at last. To the church in Corinth, Paul wrote, *“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then **am I strong**.”* It seems the longer we live, the more we confirm this truth. Even in the midst of suffering, we still endure with joy in our hearts. Through the storm, Jesus keeps us floating, and we can rejoice because He gets all the glory. Please help us pray that our youngsters will learn that, in this troubled life with its stormy seasons, *His grace is always enough.*

So Grateful for His Grace,
Bruce, Darla, and Marshall

“Giving Thanks Always For All Things...” Ephesians 5:20

Thanksgiving is not confined to a day but rather should be the daily exercise of the Christian. The verse says, “Always.” God is always blessing us and those blessings are apparent regardless of the straits and stresses of life. Paul happened to be a prisoner when he wrote these words! *“He who looks only on his trials will soon find his mind soured and complaining; he who endeavors to find how many occasions for gratitude he has, will soon find the burden of his sorrows alleviated, and his mind tranquil and calm.”* (Barnes 107)

The word “gratitude” comes from the same root word for “grace.” We have all received abundant grace. We should show abundant gratitude. “Think” and “thank” are two words coming from the same root word. We would be more thankful if we would be more thoughtful. We need to ponder often the mercies of God. We should continually give thanks for His sufficient grace.

I recently preached on the subject of the sufficient grace of God and penned the following:

“Once I was A Sinner, lost and Undone;
Now I am Adopted, a Child, and a Son.
Once I Was Condemned and A Servant to Sin;
Now I Am Redeemed and Accepted In Him.
Once It Was Death, Turmoil and Strife;
Now It Is Joy, Peace and Life.
The Difference Was Made When His Grace Set Me Free;
That Grace Still Abounds and Is Sufficient for Me.”

- Chuck Peters, Pastor Emeritus

To the many in our church family who lost loved ones in recent weeks . . .

Psalms 34:18 - *The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.*

Revelation 21:4 - *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 - *Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;*

Psalms 147:3 - *He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14 - *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;*

1 Peter 5:7 - *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*



BEN Baptists Equipping
Nationals

210 Cotton Grove Rd.
Lexington, NC 27292

There has never been a more important time to pray for the "peace of Jerusalem" and the Middle East. Some are fleeing to other countries to escape the current and escalating crisis. Others are staying by the grace of God and continuing to faithfully preach and teach the good news of the gospel.

As I write this the expectation is that war between Iran and Israel is imminent.

BEN/NTCGS is continuing to equip men and women for ministry in those limited access countries. The East Africa training will be expanding into the town of Busia in Uganda. In just a few days a graduate will start a nonformal training with 20 plus pastor.

We will be attending two graduations and an Alumni Rally in the next two months, as we continue to train nationals in the 10/40 window.

Your faithful support of the men, women and ministry is building a bulwark of evangelists and teachers as well as pastor teachers who will evangelize, disciple and build the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for your faithful support and prayers!



Blessings,

Frankie & Edith

Frankie Matthews, President

[Email: info@ben1040.org](mailto:info@ben1040.org)

~"Now is no time to think of what you do not have. Think of what you can do with what there is." –Ernest Hemingway

~"Gratitude is when memory is stored in the heart and not in the mind."

~"The thankful receiver bears a plentiful harvest." -William Blake

~"Thanksgiving day is a jewel, to set in the hearts of honest men;" -E.P. Powell

~"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." -John F. Kennedy

~"When asked if my cup is half-full or half-empty, my only response is that I am thankful I have a cup." -Sam Lefkowitz

Does God Expect Christians to Vote?

(www.gotquestions.org)

It is our contention that it is the duty and responsibility of every Christian to vote and to vote for leaders who promote Christian principles. God is most certainly in control, but that does not mean we should do nothing to further His will. We are commanded to pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-4). In terms of politics and leadership, there is evidence in Scripture that God has been displeased with our choices of leadership at times (Hosea 8:4). The evidence of sin's grip on this world is everywhere. Much of the suffering on earth is because of godless leadership (Proverbs 28:12). Scripture gives Christians instructions to obey legitimate authority unless it contradicts the Lord's commands (Acts 5:27-29; Romans 13:1-7). As born-again believers, we ought to strive to choose leaders who will be themselves led by our Creator (1 Samuel 12:13-25). Candidates or proposals that violate the Bible's commands for life, family, marriage, or faith should never be supported (Proverbs 14:34). Christians should vote as led through prayer and study of both God's Word and the realities of the choices on the ballot.



Christians in many countries in this world are oppressed and persecuted. They suffer under governments that they are powerless to change and governments that hate their faith and silence their voices. These believers preach the gospel of Jesus Christ at the risk of their own lives. In the U.S.A., Christians have been blessed with the right to speak about and choose their leaders without fearing for themselves or their families. In the U.S.A., in recent elections, about 2 of every 5 of self-professed Christians took that right for granted and did not vote. About 1 in 5 self-professed, eligible Christians are not even registered to vote.

In our day and age, there are many who want to drive the name and message of Christ completely out of the public arena. Voting is an opportunity to promote, protect, and preserve godly government. Passing up that opportunity means letting those who would denigrate the name of Christ have their way in our lives. The leaders we elect – or do nothing to remove – have great influence on our freedoms. They can choose to protect our first amendment right to religious freedom and the right to spread the gospel, or they can restrict those rights. They can lead our nation toward righteousness or toward moral disaster.

As Christians, we should stand up and follow our command to fulfill our civic duties (Matthew 22:21).

The Importance of Giving Thanks

Have you ever Turned Back when Serving the Lord?

Webster defines the act of turning back as: to go in the reverse direction or to stop going forward. Is turning back a POSITIVE or NEGATIVE action?

Numerous Scriptures shed light on this as seen in **Luke 5:12-14** *And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him. And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.*He obeyed and went to the Priest as Jesus commanded.

We find the story of 10 OTHER LEPERS in Luke 17:11 - *And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. :12 - And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off :13 - And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. 14 - And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. :15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. 17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?*

Did Christ command these **10 LEPERS** to do anything? NO! So, what did they do? Let's look at verse 15 again ~ **15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God.**

As we see in this verse, **only one of the lepers GLORIFIED GOD** when he turned back! The other nine were complacent: *Complacent according to Webster is displaying a smug attitude!*

Speaking of attitudes, do they affect your testimony? **YES**. Can attitudes affect your commitment to live a Christian life? Can negative attitudes change the direction of your life? **YES**

As born again believers, we must strive to Glorify God in our every action, reaction, word and deed. In other words, seek to have an **Attitude of Gratitude** as seen in verse **17**: *And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but **where are the nine?***

How often do we have an Attitude of Gratitude? Do we take God's Provisions for granted. Do we just get in our car or truck, turn the key or push the power button and away we go!

I'm afraid we do that too often **because we believe God owes us His Blessings**. Actually, God owes us nothing! **For the most part we have turned our**

backs to God and His free gift, blessings and provisions. Rom 3:23 - For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Let's stop and think for a minute about our prayer life. What does God hear? **Is it all gimme gimme, got got? Or could it be, Thank you, Lord, for Your Blessings on me.** Do our prayers consist of "Dear God, please give me this or that" or are they, "Dear God, thank you for the prayers you have answered and **for the provisions I never prayed about!**"

Let's look in Psalms 145 where David tells us that we need to display more thankfulness! *Actually we should be thanking Him more instead of asking Him for more. Our thanksgivings for mercy should even exceed our supplications. Supplications are simply the prayers asking God for something!*

Psalm 145:6-7 And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible or awesome acts: and I will declare thy greatness. They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.

How often do you get up of a morning and thank Him for a place to sleep, eat and learn of God's mercy and goodness to you? Have you found your life being similar to your **automobile? Think about the transmission.** Is it an automatic? In other words, do we simply open our eyes, rise and shine, put on our clothes and away we go.

How do we let the world know that we're a new creation through Christ Jesus our Lord & Savior?

2 Cor. 5:17 - Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

All of these men that we have examined made a turn in their lives. Those with thanksgiving in their hearts, turned to the Savior **with an attitude of gratitude.**

Excerpt from a lesson by Calvin Vaughn

**Let's all stop at this time of Thanksgiving to say,
Thank You, Lord, for all of your blessings.**



Blessed

Grateful

Thankful



BE
grateful

