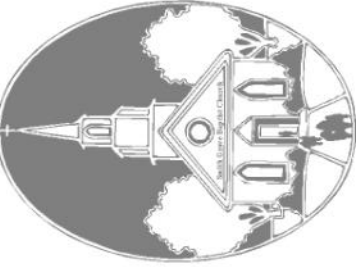


Must have  
First Class  
Stamp



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

**VOLUME 42**  
**May 2025**  
**ISSUE 494**

**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  
2025



**Smith Grove Baptist Church**  
2707 Sandy Ridge Road ~ Colfax, NC 27235  
[www.smithgrove.org](http://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](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 . . .*

Mother's day

**Sat., May 3, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission**  
**Sun., May 11 ~ Mother's Day**  
**Sun., May 18 ~ BEAMS Sunday**  
**Sun., May 25 ~ Special offering** for the Building/  
 Basement fund. (Both AM and PM services.)  
**Robinwood Retirement Ctr.**  
 ~ Every Wednesday at 3:00 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.

*The Story of the Ermine, an excerpt from a Sunday School Lesson  
by Glen Blackburn*

In the forests of northern Europe and Asia lives a little animal called the ermine. He is from the weasel family and is famous for his snow-white fur. White ermine fur is very valuable and is often used on the robes of kings and judges — the white being emblematic of purity and honor. The ermine is very careful of his white fur coat and protects it against anything that would spoil it.



It is said that the fur hunters take cruel advantage of the ermine's care to keep his fur clean. They do not set a trap to catch him, but instead they find his little home — a cleft in the rock or the hollow of a decaying tree and smear the entrance and inside with dirt and unclean matter. The dogs then start the chase and the ermine becomes frightened and hurries toward his home which is the only place of refuge. When he arrives he finds it covered with uncleanness and he will not soil his pure white coat. Rather than go into the unclean place, he turns and faces the barking dogs and preserves the purity of his fur at the price of his life. He would rather die than be unclean. This should be the stand the Christian makes against the world and for our love of righteousness. *Perhaps you, dear Christian reader, may not be called upon to lay down your life, but you can live each day in a way that will be pleasing to the Lord, if you ask Him to help you.*

---

## 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** (Savannah, GA) } 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.*



## BEAMS' Report for April 2025

# of Pledges: 11; # of Contributions: 4;  
Total Contributors: 15  
Total Contributed: \$ 551.00 =  
68 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/>

**Mom to the Rescue!!!** My mother had just finished taking a CPR class at a local college when she and I were in the mall and saw a big crowd gathered around a still body. Mom took off running at a speed I didn't know she could muster, yelling, "Everyone back! I know CPR!" Just as she threw herself next to the body and was about to begin, a pair of strong hands pulled her to her feet. "Ma'am," said a police officer beside her, "we are trying to arrest this man." —Talea Torres

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 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

**Terry Matthews**

1798 Sandy Ridge Rd.  
 Colfax, NC 27235  
 336-362-9682 ~ May 18

**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

**Dreama Moore**

1237 Masten Dr. Apt. 220  
 Kernersville, NC 27284  
 336-564-2355 ~ June 15

**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



**~ Dave & Sandy Kelly ~ News Update**

**These last two months have been very fruitful.**

Mark Hall and Eric Murphy were able to travel to Curacao to encourage our churches and youth leaders.

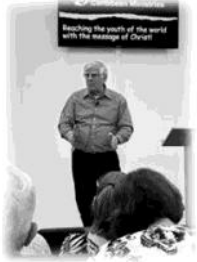
We were able to send 4 pastors from North Carolina to St. Lucia to encourage our missionaries and minister to pastors who are using our WOL youth ministry program.

Dave and Tim Cobaugh traveled to St. Maarten & Anguilla to orientate two new churches in St. Maarten and to survey potential new churches in Anguilla. While there, Dave had an opportunity to preach in a local church who is interested in adopting Word of Life Youth Ministries.

We were able to visit one of our supporting churches in Sumter, SC. Cherryvale Baptist has been so faithful for so many years. God bless you, Pastor Dawson.

This dear lady gave us her testimony and showed the very spot in the church where she stood as a youngster to receive an Olympian award!

After being posted in various places with the Airforce, they are back, serving in Cherryvale Baptist!



Tim Cobaugh, Sandy and I recently went to Aruba to minister in a variety of ways. We spent much time with Mr. & Mrs. Dany Hirschfeld, our new missionaries. This is a hardworking, faithful couple. Please pray for their financial support. Dave and Tim taught in a 2-day leadership conference. The main emphasis was "How to develop a solid, Biblical mind." There were over 80 leaders in attendance. Dave and Tim did a tour of Camp Washington. This is a potential site for future camping programs for Word of Life Aruba. Dave preached & Tim Cobaugh gave his testimony in the Evangelical Church of San Nicholas on Sunday morning. *(For Future Ministry Opportunities & Prayer Requests, see full letter in vestibule - Missionary Book.)*

*Your missionaries,*

**Dave and Sandy Kelly**

davek@wol.org | 336-470-9203



## Be Strong ~ Youth

Our youngsters have excitedly concluded our Bible timeline as we explored the teachings of Revelation. After pondering the mystery of the moment Jesus takes us to be with Him in the rapture, we took a look at the sequence of other end-time events. Seeing the seven years of tribulation, we shuddered at the anguish and confusion endured by those left behind. The 19th chapter showed us the second coming of Jesus, when He returns to earth, riding on a white horse, to defeat Satan at last. We marveled at the peace of the millennium, when Jesus reigns over all the earth for a thousand years... when creation exists as God meant it to be, and the lamb can safely lie down with the lion! And in John's last few descriptions, we watched Jesus "make all things new" as our heavenly home is revealed: walls of jasper, gates of precious stones, streets of gold, the tree of life, and God's throne, with the crystal clear river flowing from it. The details of the place He is preparing for us are far more spectacular than our feeble minds can imagine. But beyond the glorious sights and sounds, in this season of suffering here on earth, perhaps we yearn most for the promise that **"God shall wipe away all tears from (our) 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."** (Rev. 21:4)

When God allowed John a peek into the future, He instructed him to write down what he saw, to warn us, and to give us an understanding of things to come. In the final lines of Revelation, Jesus Himself delivers the message, **"Surely I come quickly."** When we closed our Bibles on this last page, it was fitting that, through the window, a blazing twilight sky prompted us to hurry outside and take in the splendor of a breathtaking sunset. Behind the magnificent smears of amber, rose and purple, the sun was slipping away for yet another day. And so too, the sun was setting on our study through the Bible... cover to cover, Genesis to Revelation, beginning to end... a journey begun over five years ago when we dove into God's rescue story for mankind, step by step, book by book, and lesson by lesson. We've learned that, at the heart of God's Word, the Hero has always been Jesus, and His redeeming blood is traced from page to page, revealing the salvation plan that brought mercy and grace to our broken souls. Throughout the Bible, from Old Testament to New, as redemption's plan unfolds, Jesus is woven into every account, and every passage whispers His precious name. Caught up in the moment, Parran and Anthony took off running across the darkening grass toward the sinking light in the west, while I just stood still and soaked it all in... the sheer beauty of His promises and the blessing of making them real for the next generation. Just to think—beyond this glorious watercolor sky He's painted, our Lord has made an eternal home for us; and at any moment, upon majestic pastel clouds like these, Jesus could step out and beckon His weary children to come to Him. Oh, how we thank our Risen Savior for choosing the cross, and we praise His dear name for a forever home that awaits us, just beyond the clouds.



**'Grateful for the Eternal Hope We Have in Him,**  
Bruce, Darla, and Marshall

*God shall wipe away all tears.*

### Rewards of Having Children ~ "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.(Psalm 127:3).

I have often read that children are a blessing from the Lord but I had never really thought about why – I was too busy raising them! In the Old Testament we read again and again how important children were to the family. In fact, women who couldn't have children felt very defeated. Take Hannah for example – she couldn't even eat she was so depressed about not having a child.

Today I would like to touch on different ways our children have been a blessing to Marvin and me: **The Wonder and Joy of Birth:** It can be likened to the joy of spiritual birth. When I held our newborn babies in my arms for the first time there was a rush of love that flooded over me...the pain of the delivery was all but forgotten. John 16:21 says, *"A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world."*

**The Daily Delight of Watching the Child Develop...** ...waiting for the first smile, hearing the first laugh, being delighted the first time they hold out their arms toward us.

**The Pride and Joy When They Have Successful Experiences** – Those first tottering steps; saying a recitation in public for the first time; that first day of school (how tightly they held my hand or was it the other way around?); doing well in school, sports, music or any competitive events; graduation day; their wedding day; the day they have their first child. All of these bring great satisfaction to parents.

**Children Bring Back the Sense of Wonder in a Person's Life** – Kids carefully examine bugs, flowers, frogs and clouds. There is the fun of kneeling in the garden soil and planting seeds with them and then watching them check every day to see if "God has grown them yet." It was so much fun to get caught up with their excitement at Christmas and birthday parties. What a thrill to receive that first bouquet of dandelions or "made-in-school" Mothers' Day or Valentine's card.

### **The Blessing of Being Used by God to Comfort Them When They Hurt**

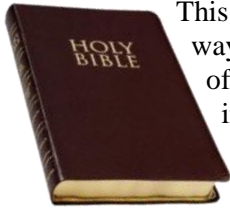
At first it is kissing sore fingers or knees, but later it is comforting and helping them through broken relationships, sitting beside them and rubbing their back while they are crying their heart out because of seemingly insurmountable problems. And then it is experiencing God answer your plea for words of comfort and wisdom at the right time.

**The Pleasure of Seeing God Change Impossible Situations:** Sometimes He does this in an instant but generally He does it in the course of time. Meanwhile, our patience has a chance to grow.

**The Blessing of Having our Character Developed** For many years I thought I was training my children but after a while I realized that God was using them to develop me. As parents, we learn perseverance and the meaning of total commitment. Most of the time, commitment to the child comes naturally, but there are times with each child when you simply have to cry to the Lord for love. There are many times when commitment to the child is an act of your will. You never give up on them because Christ doesn't give up on you. Only when I realized that raising children takes supernatural wisdom, love, strength and patience. It was after I asked God to direct my life –let His Holy Spirit control me, that I was able to raise them the way God wanted me to do. ~ by Katherine.J. Kehler

## THE BIBLE ~

*Quote found at the beginning of Gideon International's Bibles*



This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character. Here paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object; our good is its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is given you in life and will be opened in the judgment and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

### *National Day of Prayer*

In the United States, the National Day of Prayer in 2025 is May 1. This American tradition is actually older than America itself, dating back to the Second Continental Congress, before the Declaration of Independence. Before America was born, it was already steeped in a tradition of prayer!

On June 12, 1775, the Second Continental Congress recognized the importance of prayer across the colonies, saying, "We may, with united hearts and voices, unfeignedly confess and deplore our many sins, and offer up our Joint supplications to the all-wise, omnipotent, and merciful Disposer of all events."

*One could certainly argue that the National Day of Prayer is older than America itself!*

Twenty-two years later, President John Adams further built on the tradition of a single day focused on prayer (and fasting): "I have therefore thought fit to recommend, and I do hereby recommend, that Wednesday, the 9th day of May next, be observed throughout the United States as a day of solemn humiliation, fasting, and prayer."

President Truman issued a proclamation in 1952 formally instituting National Day of Prayer, and it's been an annual occurrence since.

## *My Mother* .....by Sherrill Alley Crater

Mother was the greatest role model  
a girl could ever have known.  
She tried to live right all of her life,  
and by her seeds of inspiration were sown.



She served her Heavenly Father  
with a close and loving daily walk.  
Mother raised her girls on that same narrow road –  
and filled their minds with righteous talk.

Mother was my hero,  
in life my true best friend.  
When trouble came into my life  
She my woes would mend.

I miss my mother very much,  
and life is now quite strange;  
for the world is a much lonelier place  
without Mother – yes, life has changed.

I thank the Lord for allowing me  
to have my precious Mother.  
She lived for more than 92 years  
and loved me as no other.

She took me to church  
and led me to the Savior;  
what joy I feel to remember  
the resulting change in my behavior.

Mother is in Heaven now,  
with the One she served so long;  
And though I miss her every day,  
I know she's happy in that Heavenly throng.

She's with Daddy and my grandparents,  
And so many who've gone on before;  
With two of her daughters, two brothers, a sister –  
Oh, don't you know she feels such joy!

Thank you, Mother, for your legacy of love,  
Your hope in Christ and the eternal hereafter.  
I cherish your memory and a life well-lived –  
In faithful service to the Master.

*In loving memory of Violet Inez Smith Alley*



# “Stay Behind Troops”

*Printed in recognition of Memorial Day, May 26, 2025*

There were two-hundred troops that were unable to accompany David as he pursued the Amalekites. They remained behind and guarded the stuff. David returns from victory over the enemy and shares the spoils of war with the “stay behind troops.” Their contribution to the battle was not from a front line position but it was still a commendable contribution. David rewarded them with equal shares in the spoils!

We are indebted to the “stay behind troops” as we serve on this foreign land. Homeland support is so critical to our troops here in this lonely, far away battlefield.

Our mission here requires that we synchronize our personnel and assets in a way that we maximize our effectiveness in mission fulfillment. There is absolutely no unimportant soldier or airmen here at Camp Bucca. At the end of the day every person here can hold their head high knowing that they did their vital part in this mission.

The homeland support is likened to a refueling aircraft that links up to an in-flight aircraft and provides it with the necessary fuel to continue the flight. We find ourselves refueled by our “stay behind troops.” The prayers, letters, care-packages, and pats on the back at airports assure our troops that our families are sticking by the stuff!

I am so thankful for faithful spouses who remain supportive of their deployed husband or wife. They deserve an equal portion of the spoils! They are noble Americans whose sacrifice matches the sacrifice of the troops in uniform. They send our children off to school, pay the bills, keep the automobile maintenance done, manage the household, and serve as father and mother to our children. They, too, bear the loneliness of separation.

My own wife has had to come home to a quiet house every day for over six months. She works full time and manages our home totally by herself. She has never complained. She continues to support her deployed husband and is proud to be a contributor to her country’s defense. If I return home with any degree of mission accomplishment, it will be because of my Lord’s grace and my wife’s support.

The “stay behind troops” share in the spoil. They have equal share

to patriotism. They have equal share to everything that America is accomplishing by this war. They go with our troops in prayer and support as they go on patrol. They are with us as we sit in the lonely guard towers here at this base. They are with us in the form of a letter from home. They are with us in an emailed picture of a child at their birthday party. They are with us as they fly the yellow ribbons back home and keep the light on. They are with us in our children’s bedtime prayers at night before going to bed. They are with us at church as our churches are praying for the safety of our troops.

We all will share together the spoil of a much-awaited-for reunion when the plane flies home to the wonderful American shore. There will, of course, be mixed feelings on that day because some will not have a returning son, daughter, husband, or wife.

*Their loved one was called upon to offer their greatest sacrifice for the defense of their Nation. Our tears that day will be both bitter and sweet, yet all of America’s true patriots know that freedom is worthy of the sacrifice.*

We all are soldiers. The only difference is that we wear different uniforms. For some of us it may be desert camos. For others, it may be a suit, a factory worker’s uniform, or a nurse’s uniform. Some of us are called to be here in Iraq. Others are called to be a “stay behind troop.” At the end of the day and at the end of the war, we all will share together the blessed spoil of helping keep America safe and continually the sweet land of liberty. We all can sleep well knowing that we did our part in assuring that our children and grandchildren grow up with the same blessings and freedoms that we in our generation have enjoyed.

I Samuel 30:24 *“For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike.”*

Chaplain Chuck Peters ~ Camp Bucca Iraq  
*First printed in May 2005 . . .*

