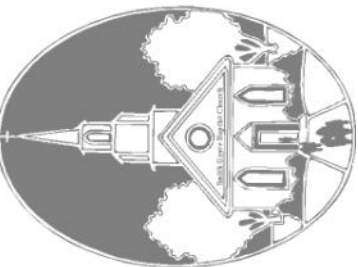


Must have
First Class
Stamp



www.smithgrove.org

VOLUME 42
September 2025
ISSUE 498

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



September 2025



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 . . .*

Happy Fall, Y'all

Sept. 3-5, 7 pm ~ Piedmont Baptist Camp Mtg
Sept. 4-5, 10 am service (More details inside)
Note: Wed., Sept 3, there will be no youth or adult services at Smith Grove. Please join us for Camp Meeting.

Sat., Sept. 6, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission
Sun., Sept. 21 ~ BEAMS Sunday
Robinwood Retirement Ctr. ~ Wednesdays at 3:00 pm

Looking Ahead: Smith Grove Homecoming
Sun., Oct. 12, 11:00 a.m. ~ Homecoming Message by Rev. Wade Smith. A meal will be provided by the church in the Fellowship Building after the service. (Please bring desserts.) **NO EVENING SERVICE**

Statement of Faith: We are an Independent Baptist Church (established in 1921) that still preaches the old time Gospel, and we believe 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.



Where did this holiday originate?

Labor Movement: Labor Day emerged from the labor movement in the late 19th century, a period marked by intense struggles for better working conditions, including fair wages, reasonable hours, and safe environments.

First Celebration: The first Labor Day celebration took place in New York City on September 5, 1882, organized by the Central Labor Union.

First Parade: The first Labor Day parade involved 10,000 workers marching from City Hall to 42nd Street.

Federal Holiday: Labor Day became a federal holiday in 1894 when President Grover Cleveland signed a law making the first Monday in September a national holiday.



LABOUR DAY FLOAT, 1916

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 August 2025

of Pledges: 7; # of Contributions: 8;

Total Contributors: 15

Total Contributed: \$ 440.00 =

55 Bibles in August (plus some postage)

Many thanks to all those who gave monies to the BEAMS' ministry specifically for postage which added \$ 80.00 in August!

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

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

Why couldn't the jalapeño
practice archery?

Because he didn't habanero.

We can all thank Miss Lisa
for this one!



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

Carol Hayden

8413 Adkins Rd
 Colfax, NC 27235
 336-708-9435 ~ September 01

Bobbie Hayworth

1847 Horneytown Rd.
 High Point, NC 27265
 336-869-3956 (Home)
 336-942-0750 (Cell) ~ September 27

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



*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)*

September Anniversaries

- 2 Bob and Shirley Ingold
- 3 Bill and Jeanette Dillon
- 12 Tony and Trudy Nuckles
- 19 Henry & Geraldine Johnson
- 23 Michael & Lisa Serafini
- 29 Carl & Judy Fowler



Jewish End-Time Ministries

(Condensed from original letter)

Two weeks before my Cuban trip, I had an a-fib attack and spent several days in the hospital. They discharged me with a heart monitor. I had already committed to going to Cuba and the Lord was gracious in assisting me through days of visitation, witnessing, and preaching in the church services. Our mission outreach began with a wonderful sight. Some 40 people who had accepted Christ came by bus from other cities wanting to be baptized. Each person openly confessed the Lord before us that they had accepted Christ.

The team members on this trip consisted of 14 Americans, 80 Cuban missionaries, and church members that came from different cities as we worked with eight different churches. We were invited into a woman's home to share the Gospel. As I spoke with her, her 15 year-old son came in and sat down to listen. It is a rarity that we have the opportunity to share the Gospel with children.

My interpreter and I walked the streets of the cities witnessing. We met an older man sitting on the curb. We gave him the good news of the Gospel, winning him to Christ. We met another woman who had a wonderful testimony of her salvation. I started to speak to one man who stated he was a Catholic. I ignored what he said and continued to share the Gospel. He understood his need and asked Christ to forgive him. One thing remains the same, from house to house, is Cuban hospitality. Without that, it is hard to say how much would be accomplished. Please pray for my heart doctor appointment and future work in New York.
Thomas Jeran

Piedmont Baptist Camp Meeting

8632 Bull Rd., Colfax, NC 27235

September 3 - 5, 7:00 pm nightly

Dr. Joe Arthur, Wednesday, 9/3 & Thursday, 9/4

Dr. Kenny Baldwin, Friday, 9/5

Thursday - Friday Morning 10 am ~ Dr. Don Anderson

**SPECIAL MUSIC ~ Camp Meeting Choir ~ Joyful Sounds ~
 The Lawsons ~ and Others**



Be Strong ~ Youth

While our young people ease back into the routine of school schedules and heavier workloads, we are still finding time to settle in together on Wednesday nights for Bible lessons and fellowship. The younger group continues our study on prayer, still focused on answering the question, **“How do we pray?”**

One night, we kicked off the lesson with a game of “Prayers Up, Blessings Down”... with feet pointed at the center of our circle, we used our toes to keep balloons off the floor as we imagined balloon-prayers going up and balloon-blessings drifting down into our lives. The 20th chapter of Second Chronicles introduced us to Judah’s King Jehoshaphat, who needed enormous help from God. Two enemy countries, Moab and Ammon, were marching toward Judah, intent on attacking. Jehoshaphat knew they didn’t have a chance against these invaders on their own, but he also knew where to turn for help. He gathered his people for a gigantic prayer meeting, *“and all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.”* (V13) Jehoshaphat declared they were powerless without Him, saying, *“neither know we what to do; but our eyes are upon Thee.”* (V12)

Pleased with the outpouring, God then spoke through His prophet Jahaziel, urging His people to face the enemy fearlessly, *“for the battle is not yours, but God’s.”* (V15) Reminding them that His presence would go before them, God said, *“Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you.”* (V17) With relief, the people followed King Jehoshaphat’s lead, falling to their knees, faces to the ground in worship. What a powerful picture of God’s people, all ages, humbly falling before Him, and collectively trusting as they proclaim, “We’re looking to see what You’ll do for us.”

The next morning, in anticipation of the victory to come, Judah’s soldiers put on their armor. But Jehoshaphat so trusted the Lord that he actually appointed singers and musicians to lead the army into battle! Can you imagine? It was like being led to war by a praise band! That’s when God brought a miraculous victory... in confusion, the enemy armies turned on one another, and not one villain was left standing. Jehoshaphat’s people joyfully paraded through the land, playing trumpets and harps in praise of the Lord’s amazing provision. In fact, in our clue basket, we found a toy trumpet to remind us that “we pray to ask God for what we need.” And oh, how we should likewise praise Him when He comes through for us!

We hope to strengthen the prayer life of our youngsters through these continued practical lessons. In the midst of impossible battles that beset us, can we also cry out to our faithful Savior in true humility and say, **“Lord, we don’t know what to do, but our eyes are looking to You...”** From young to old, may we all learn to do it more every day.

With Eyes Looking to Him,
Bruce, Darla, and Marshall

God in the Stairwell



You say you will never forget where you were when you heard the news on September 11, 2001. Neither will I.

I was on the 110th floor in a smoke filled room with a man who called his wife to say “Good-Bye.” I held his fingers steady as he dialed. I gave him the peace to say, “Honey, I am not going to make it, but it is OK. I am ready to go.”

I was with his wife when he called as she fed breakfast to their children. I held her up as she tried to understand his words and as she realized he wasn’t coming home that night.

I was in the stairwell of the 23rd floor when a woman cried out to Me for help. “I have been knocking on the door of your heart for 50 years!” I said. “Of course I will show you the way home - only believe in Me now.”

I was at the base of the building with the Pastor ministering to the injured and devastated souls. I took him home to tend to his flock in Heaven. He heard my voice and answered.

I was on all four of those planes, in every seat, with every prayer. I was with the crew as they were overtaken. I was in the very hearts of the believers there, comforting and assuring them that their faith has saved them.

I was in Texas, Virginia, California, Michigan, Afghanistan. I was standing next to you when you heard the terrible news. Did you sense Me?

I want you to know that I saw every face. I knew every name - though not all know Me. Some met Me for the first time on the 86th floor.

Some sought Me with their last breath. Some couldn’t hear Me calling to them through the smoke and flames; “Come to Me... This way... Take My hand.” Some chose, for the final time, to ignore Me.

But, I was there. I did not place you in the tower that day. You may not know why, but I do. However, if you were there in that explosive moment in time, would you have reached for Me? Sept. 11, 2001, was not the end of the journey for you. But someday your journey will end. *Seek Me now while I may be found.* And I will be there for you as well. Then, at any moment, you know, without a doubt, you are ready to go. I will be in the stairwell of your final moments.God

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~ A Giving God ~

One thing we really don't talk about is how God gives way more than we ever give Him. Some of us go days without praying; we don't open our Bible; we're not asking for forgiveness, and we're not even including Him in our day-to-day life, yet we're still here. We're still breathing and waking up. Still getting to enjoy moments of laughter, peace, and life . . . that's not by chance. That's the mercy of a perfect and patient God. Because let's be honest, no human would put up with that kind of rejection and still pour out love like that. No human heart could handle the kind of silence we give God sometimes and still say, "I'm right here whenever you're ready."

Something starts to shift when you give even a little bit back though. When you open your Bible even if it's just to read a few verses a day. When you talk to God during your day like He's your best friend. When you pause and ask for forgiveness, not only out of shame, but because you love Him too much to stay the same. Suddenly you start feeling a peace that doesn't even match your situation. Things align in ways that you never imagined. Random blessings come out of nowhere. You see beauty again. You notice little moments of joy that remind you God is right there in all of it. Even in the chaos and when the enemy tries to darken your view, God starts showing you light everywhere.

It's not just about wanting to feel good, it's about being steady. It's about walking through real life with real pain and still knowing you're held. It's about seeing prayers answered in quiet ways. It's waking up with breath in your lungs and knowing deep down, "God's not done with me yet." It's being able to say, "Even if everything else falls apart, I know who's holding me together."

God never needed us to be perfect. He just wanted us present, available, and willing because He's the God who gives 100 times over what we give Him. He doesn't hold back; we do. But when we finally stop resisting, stop running, stop ignoring Him . . . that's when everything starts to change.

Give Him room in your heart, your life, and your home. Watch Him fill it with more than you ever expected. That's just the kind of Father He is.
(Shared by Andrea Adkins.)

Philippians 4:19 - *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

James 1:17 - *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

Brighten your day with a chuckle or two . . .

Labor Day . . .

Why don't comedians tell jokes about Labor Day?

They don't work.

Why aren't boys born on Labor Day? *There's no male delivery.*

On what day are most babies born? *Labor Day.*

Why did the calendar factory worker get fired? *He took Labor Day off.*

Why are locksmiths open on Labor Day? *They are key workers.*

The medicine factory was so quiet on Labor Day, *you could hear a cough drop.*

The Work Place . . .

What do you call it when everyone calls in sick? *A staff infection.*

What do you call a snake that works for the government? *A civil serpent.*

How many people work in your company? *About half.*

What did the janitor say when he jumped out of the closet? *Supplies!*

Why was the lamp store open only on weekends? *Business was light.*

What do dentists call x-rays? *Tooth pics.*

How many psychiatrists does it take to change a light bulb? *Only one, but the light bulb really has to want to change.*

Why did the can crusher quit his job? *It was soda pressing.*

How do you like working as a tailor? *It's so-so.*

What do biologists wear to work on Casual Friday? *Genes.*

What job has you asking people to pick their noses? *Plastic surgeon.*

Do you know what they say about a clean desk? *It's a sign of a cluttered desk drawer.*

What do you call a magician who's lost his magic? *Ian.*

Why did the employee get fired from Pepsi? *They found Coke in his system.*

After all those years working as a limousine driver, *I don't have much to chauffeur it.*

There's no training to be a garbage man. *You just pick it up as you go along.*

I got a job at a paperless office. Everything was great until *I looked in the bathroom.*

I just lost my job as a psychic. *I did not see that coming.*

I quit working for Nike. *I just couldn't do it anymore.*

Working on a ship - *pays just enough to stay afloat.*

I kneaded dough so *I got a job as a baker.*

I have some jokes about unemployed people, *but none of them work.*

My wife tells me I talk in my sleep all the time, but I'm skeptical. *Nobody at work has mentioned it.*

Now that I've gotten into astronomy, *my whole career is looking up.*

I used to own a paper company, *but it folded.*

I had to quit my job at the helium factory. *I refuse to be spoken to in that tone!*



“A Closer Look at Calvary”

Romans 3:24-26

There is a tendency to regard the cross work of Christ with a mere sentimental emotion. The physical sufferings were no doubt extreme and terrible. The suffering of Christ from the hands of God far exceeded His sufferings from the hands of man!

We lack the capacity to fully understand the depth of suffering in the saying, “My God...why hast thou forsaken...”? When we carefully survey that “wondrous cross,” we understand more clearly the cause to glory in that cross.

A closer look at Calvary reveals the significance of **the place of the Substitute**. Jesus literally became the sacrifice or offering for the sin of the world. He was divinely offered or set forth by God. (Verse 25) Two offerings in the Old Testament illustrate the precious significance of the cross work of Christ. The sin offering indicated the vileness of the sinner being transferred to the substitute and the burnt offering indicated the virtue of the sacrifice being transferred to the sinner. We think of II Corinthians 5:21 which states, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

A closer look at Calvary reveals **the pleasure of the Sovereign**. “The cross is the public declaration that God is righteous in the way He handled the sin question.” (John Phillips) God’s holiness, justice, and righteousness is not compromised in saving the sinner! The Lord Jesus has fully discharged all our obligations and there are no legal grounds for charges to be pressed against us anymore. He qualified to fully pay our sin debt by virtue of the riches of His character. He is sinless. The penalty of the law was upheld, God’s justice was honored and His holiness was not compromised because a full compensation has been provided by the Saviour. God is both just and the justifier! (v.26)

A closer look at Calvary reveals **the portion of the saved**. “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:” (3:24) The tense of the word, “justified” implies a continual action and the word, “freely” indicates the fact that there is no cause in us to merit that justification. His grace is the key!

The child of God can say in the words of the great hymn,
*“No condemnation now I dread, Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,”*
– Charles Wesley

Chuck Peters ~ Oct. 2011

Can You Fall from Grace? ~ Chuck Peters – 5/11/2022

“Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.” – Galatians 5:4

The first approach to Scripture should always be the approach of contextual consideration. The question should always be asked as to why the Book was written as well as the addressees of the Book. Rather than grabbing one verse and running with it, it pays the reader to approach a text as it appears in its immediate context as well as the overall context of the scheme of sound Christian doctrine.

Can a person lose their salvation or not? The implications of the finished work of Jesus Christ upon the cross as well as the clear-cut statements of Scripture mitigate against the notion of God, somehow, undoing His complete work of justification on behalf of the believing sinner. “For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.” – Hebrews 10:14; “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” – John 10:28

It behooves the reader to know that Paul was writing to Christians at Galatia who had instilled into their DNA of their cultural background the characteristic of being impulsive. They, historically, had the ancestry of being “Gaul’s” whose background included that of barbarians who had flowed into Greece three centuries before Christ. They also had the disadvantage of being zealous new converts without the critical resource of growth in grace and solid spiritual development. A person just saved has an insatiable desire to please the Lord for they have just been washed from their spiritual uncleanness, given a new life, and they find it easy to hurl themselves into activity thinking that the more they do, the more they please the Lord!

Enter the legalizing Judaizers from Palestine, teaching a combined doctrine of law and grace as necessary for salvation. Paul wrote to expose the error of their way. “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:” – 1:6; “I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.” – 2:21

Paul would have the Galatian believers to understand that the mingling of law with grace was tantamount to “falling” from the “grace way alone” as the sole way of salvation. Remember what Paul says in another Epistle. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” – Ephesians 2:8-9

This verse does not teach the falling from grace and losing salvation at all. Paul is dealing with a defection in the matter of doctrine for the mingling of law with grace will stunt the spiritual development of the believers. Their defection in doctrine was akin to a defection in discernment. The precious doctrine of the eternal security of the believer, as stated earlier, is embedded in the plain truth of Scripture and the fact of the finished work of Christ. The dependance on what we do rather than what Christ has done results in frustration, restlessness, and a failure to grow in grace. Salvation is not lost but ultimately and prophetically, an immature believer will lose rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ and “suffer loss”! “If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” – I Corinthians 3:15 Again, always be guided by sound Christian doctrine and avoid the proof texting of single verses to formulate doctrine. *“He saves me from ev’ry sin and harm, Secures my soul each day; I’m leaning strong on His mighty arm– I know He’ll guide me all the way. Life now is sweet and my joy is complete, For I’m saved, saved, saved.”* - Jack P. Scholfield

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