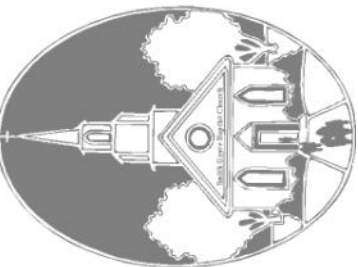


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www.smithgrove.org

VOLUME 42
October 2025
ISSUE 499

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



October
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 . . .*

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 Hall after the service. (Please bring desserts.)

NO EVENING SERVICE

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

Sun., Oct. 5, 11 am - "Thank You" Sunday

Sun., Oct. 19, 11 am ~ Mercy Mountain Christian Girls Home, with Lori Harvey. Also, **BEAMS Sunday**

Sun., Oct. 26, 11 am ~ **Dedication Service** ~ to celebrate the rebuilding of our church basement

Robinwood Retirement Ctr. ~ Wednesdays at 3:00 pm

Looking Ahead: Daylight Saving Time - Ends Nov. 2

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.

"Pastor Appreciation Day"

Sunday, October 12



Our Pastor is Rev. Bruce Freeman, who, along with his wife Darla, has been leading the Smith Grove flock since April of last year. He has had major challenges during that time, including extreme flooding in our basement from a hurricane!

He has met every obstacle with an obvious dependence on our Lord and Savior, and a keen eye on keeping us financially healthy in the midst of high rebuilding costs. We are very thankful that "Pastor Bruce" is with us.

Our pastor has made it no secret that he doesn't care for being in the limelight. He truly feels that every member of our church is equally important in the service of our Lord. In spite of that, we want to take a moment and express our deep appreciation for his dedication to the Lord and for the love he shows our entire church family.

Thank you, Pastor Bruce and Darla, for your unwavering faith, caring, and devotion to the cause of Christ. *We love you very much!*



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 September 2025

of Pledges: 8; # of Contributions: 9;

Total Contributors: 17

Total Contributed: \$ 709.00 =

88 Bibles in September (plus some postage)

Many thanks to all those who gave monies to the BEAMS' ministry specifically for postage which added \$ 280.00 in September!

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

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



What is a clinical trial done in October called? *A trick or treatment.*

How do you compliment a pumpkin in October? *"You look gourd-geous."*

Why do truckers like October 4th the most? *Because it is 10/4, good buddy.*

What's the best type of joke to tell to an oak tree in October? *Acorn-y joke.*

What do carved pumpkins celebrate on October 31st? *Hollow-een.*

What happened to the man who forgot he had to wait till October 31st to dress up like a ghost? *He spook too soon.*

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 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



*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



Miss Joy finally explained what OCD really means. (I'll bet you thought it was Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. *Au Contraire*)
 It's *Old, Cranky, & Dangerous!* ;-)



TABERNACLE CHILDREN'S HOME

3931 White Horse Rd., Greenville, SC 29611
 (864) 269-2760 Ext. 229 ~ Email: home@tabernacleministries.org

From Our Director: What a wonderful, yet speedy summer we had. It feels like they become shorter each year. The end of July- beginning of August was packed with extra excitement and activities for our children. We are so grateful for the opportunity that our children were offered attending various Christian camps. What a blessing it was to surround them with like-minded believers to nurture their relationships with the Lord while also having fun.

Our first stop was Locust Springs Christian Retreat, in Tennessee. This camp was hosted entirely and generously by Pastor Dustin Epps and his church, Faith Independent Baptist Church. The facility was truly breathtaking! Many of our children were mesmerized by the three crosses that stood on a hill in the near distance which made for a beautiful sunset each evening.



We returned home for a quick weekend to do laundry and repack for The Wilds. Many of our children have attended there in the past and were thoroughly looking forward to returning. They had a blast! It was a quiet week without most of the children at the home; however, it truly came at the perfect time due to our yearly inspections being due. It will never cease to amaze me the way God works out even the smallest of details. Huge praise that all inspections went well. God is so good!

Off to The Wilds!



Spotlight: We would like to spotlight our children as they resumed school on August 7th and have all done AMAZING! This has everything to do with the phenomenal teachers we have been blessed with here at Tabernacle Christian School. We are excited to see what this school year has in store. Please join us in prayer, for our children to not only thrive academically but also spiritually. We are truly blessed with a wonderful Christian school!

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world " James 1:27

Prayer Requests: We do have some empty beds here at the home. Please help us pray for the children that God will see fit to entrust to us in the near future.

Needs: Paper Towels; Two accent office chairs; Large area rug (we are updating our office)

Recent Travels!

Aug. 24 Joy Baptist Church, Lakemont, GA.

Aug. 25 Oconee County Independent Baptist Camp Meeting, Westminster, SC

Sept. 8 Young at Heart, Spartanburg, SC

Sept. 14 Little Cypress Baptist Church, Calvert, KY

Sept. 14 Albany Independent Baptist Church, Albany, KY



Be Strong ~ Youth

As autumn approaches, our young people are still spending their Wednesday nights exploring the blessing and purpose of prayer. Asking again, “How do we pray?”, we recently learned that we must always pray with thanks.

To set up this lesson, we went all the way back to Genesis, where we reviewed the days of creation. On folded paper, we sketched God’s accomplishments in six consecutive blocks... giving light and dividing it from the darkness; creating the sky and air to breathe; making the plants and trees; tossing the sun, moon, and stars into their proper places; speaking the creatures of the ocean and the sky into existence; then crafting all the land animals, along with man and his wife. All of creation dramatically speaks of God’s brilliant wisdom in setting this world into motion. The ultimate Designer, God’s handiwork is on display in each intricate detail of the vast universe. Especially in this beautiful season, His delicate creativity is evident in all directions ... in the vibrant colors of the painted leaves, on the brisk breezes of the evening air, within the blended hues of a pastel mountain sunset. We are reminded to show our gratitude to the Lord... for our lives, and for the magnificent creation we see all around us. Imagine its perfection before the fall of man! But even before Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, our gracious Father knew He would give His precious Son to rescue us from the curse of the sin that entered His perfect creation. In our prayers, how mindful we should be, to thank Jesus for willingly giving His life for our salvation!

The guidance of this lesson’s memory scripture names three things we must do to nurture a close relationship with our Savior:

“**REJOICE** evermore”... being joyful regardless of our troubles.

“**PRAY** without ceasing”... continually staying in a conversation with the Lord.

“In everything **give THANKS**” ... keeping a grateful heart in all circumstances.

“For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

(I Thessalonians 5:16-18).

If we can learn to follow this wisdom, our relationships with God will deepen and thrive. It blesses our hearts to show our youngsters these truths as they are growing in their walks with Jesus. We appreciate your prayers for our youth while they are strengthening their prayer lives...

Grateful For His Gift of Salvation,
Bruce, Darla, and Marshall

HOME COMING ~ 2025



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. 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.

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 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 104 year history of the church.

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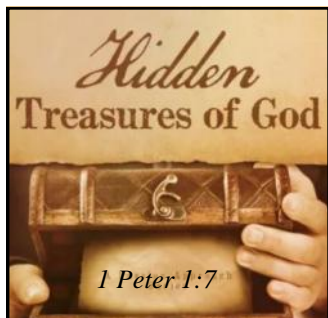
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God Sees the Hidden Treasure

(Excerpts from a Sunday School Lesson by Brother Glen Blackburn)



1 Peter 1:7 “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”

It is not the approved faith, but the approval itself that is in the apostle’s mind here. For instance, a gold-mining company wishes to buy a proposed site

where gold is said to have been found. But it was not sure whether the metal is real gold or not and whether it is there in sufficient quantity so that a mine would be a profitable venture. The company engages an assayer of metals to take samples of the gold ore to be examined. After examination, the assayer sends his report indicating that the ore contains true gold, and that the gold is found in sufficient quantity so that the venture will pay. The report of the assayer approving the gold ore is of far more value to the mining company than the gold itself he inspected. It is upon the basis of this report that the company can go ahead with assurance and buy the land and begin mining operations.

The fact that God finds our faith to be one which He can approve, is of far more value to Him and to His glory, than the approved faith, for He has something to work with, a faith that He knows can stand the testing and the trials which may come to the Christian. The fact that God can trust a Christian as one that is dependable, is of great value to Him. God is looking for faithful, dependable workers, not necessarily gifted, educated, cultured ones.

It is important for us to know that God can see the treasure (He sees the gold) within us, that we cannot see.

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

Quotes from the Not-so-Famous

While looking through notes from over the years, I honed in on some quotes from our own church family which were very meaningful to me. There may be one or two from visiting preachers who preached in our pulpit, or were quoted by our pastor. This time of homecoming seems a very appropriate time to share some of these with our readers.

.....The Editor

Glen Blackburn:

- ~ Salvation means “Divine Approval”- Not a “new leaf, but a “new life!”
- ~ “God’s Word: Sometimes it blesses; sometimes it blisters.”
- ~ “Give the salt of the Word . . . It will make the hearer thirsty for the Lord.”
- ~ “God Himself was the purchaser and the price.”

Dr. Harold B. Sigtler:

- ~ “Agree to disagree; resolve to love.”

Dr. John R. Rice:

- ~ “If the stars fall from the sky, do right.”

Calvin Vaughn:

- ~ “God weaves all the tangled threads of our life into a beautiful tapestry.”
- ~ “GPS - God’s Positioning System” (Found in God’s Word!)
- ~ “TrUst - **Y**ou must trust in Him!” & “**I**-itis - Not what **I** can do, but what **Christ** can do through me.”

Pastor Chuck:

- ~ “When God is with us, the size of the enemy is of no concern.”
- ~ “Something amazing happens when Deity and dust come together.”
- ~ “We need to always live on the plane of love, and maintain an *attitude of gratitude!*”
- ~ “Death - We sorrow one by one; collectively, we rejoice in the new home for the soul.”
- ~ “Peace is not the absence of trouble, it is tranquility in the midst of trouble.”

Pastor Bruce:

- ~ “**We** are the voice of truth. Truth is the only thing that will stand forever.”
- ~ “When we pray, do we fully trust, or do we have Plan B & C?”
- ~ “Do storms make you bitter, or do they make you better?”
- ~ “The Lord has the last say, anyway!”
- ~ “Our challenge to you tonight is to stay close to God.” (And there is a challenge for us at the close of virtually every message.)

Pastor Ward Laramore:

- ~ “Law and grace are mutually incompatible.”

Tribute to My Friend, Dr. Billy Martin

Today I would pay tribute to a great friend and mentor, Dr. Billy Martin, who has been taken from our midst but placed into the caring hands of his loving Lord. I met my friend 55 years ago in a classroom at Piedmont Bible College when I sat in the seat of a student and he stood in front of the classroom as my teacher. I attended the church he pastored, the Urban Street Baptist Church, and it was, "Pastor Martin" who baptized me. I was one of those who had previously been baptized before a "clear cut" salvation experience. I remember being thrilled as he expounded the Scriptures and, particularly, exalted the risen Saviour. He greatly enhanced my ministry direction for he offered me a Sunday School class to teach and later recommended me for a church pastorate in King N.C. He then would arrange and lead in my ordination service.



He and his dear wife, Barbara, would become personal friends to Carol and myself. They would often attend the services of Smith Grove Baptist Church and we would always fellowship with them and enjoy their company. Brother Billy and Barbara seemed to enjoy hearing my "West Virginia Stories" and in fact, I had just shared one with them which resulted in their outburst of laughter as noted in the picture to the left! This, "great preacher" was also a "down to earth" individual who enjoyed a good laugh and made it easy to be comfortable in his presence.

I noted, in his preaching, that Dr. Martin always made a bee line to the cross and highlighted Christ's finished work on behalf of our sins. He would emphasize the truth of our total inability to comprehend the suffering of our Substitute at the hands of the Father when He was judged on account of our sins! He would often state that the tomb is empty and the throne is occupied!

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Dr. Martin was, in my opinion, the greatest expositor that I have known. God's blessings upon his ministry were evident in the scope of his ministry. He was in great demand in hundreds of local churches in this area and around the Country. He also kept a full calendar as he had many preaching assignments in multiple Bible Conferences and Missions Conferences around the world. He led in arranging many trips to Israel and scores of Pastors and church members have been blessed to have been able to join him on those trips.

Dr. Martin's pulpit demeanor and Bible exposition distinguished him in a way which is rare in a modern world that has taken the dignity out of many pulpits where Bible expositors have been replaced by talented entertainers! No Pastor, who has welcomed Dr. Martin as a guest preacher, has ever been disappointed by the Bible Messages preached by this Preacher! I personally welcomed him into the pulpits of every church I pastored and he was loved and respected by our members. They knew they were hearing the Word of God preached by a Man of God!



This world has just lost a "real hero" who has left behind a legacy far greater than all the careers combined of those who have walked across the Hollywood "Silver Screen" or spent their life dedicated to goals pertaining only to wealth, fame, or power.

Dr. Billy Martin, the "Soldier of the Cross," has just retired his colors and has just completed his last formation of earthly duty on the battlefield of this world. He has just experienced his "post deployment ceremony" on the shores of Glory. He has just saluted his "Chief Commander" in Person and has just been awarded the "Medal of Honor," worded:

"Well done thy Faithful Servant!"

"His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." – Matthew 25:21

Our love and prayers go out to Sister Barbara and the entire Martin family. – Chuck Peters 8/31/25