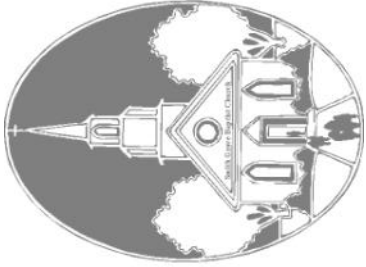


## THE MESSENGER

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

VOLUME 42  
November 2025  
ISSUE 500



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

### 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

Must have  
First Class  
Stamp

# The Messenger



# November 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 . . .*

Sat., Nov. 1, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission

Sun., Nov. 2 ~ Daylight Saving Time Ends - *Set clocks back*

Sun., Nov. 16 ~ **BEAMS Sunday**

Sun., Nov. 23 ~ **Harvest Home outreach:** Rather than bringing food donations this year, an offering will be collected in both the morning and evening services for the **Tabernacle Children's Home**.

**Thanksgiving Week: Tues., Nov. 25 ~ Prayer Meeting & Youth Services (moved from Wednesday night). We will also have special music that night from the *Agee Family Singers*.**

**Robinwood Retirement Ctr.** ~ Wednesdays at 3:00 pm

**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.





**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

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

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

**Barbara Bowden**  
 5469 Macy Grove Rd  
 Kernersville, NC 27284  
 336-830-9115 ~ December 30

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



*November Anniversaries*

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



**Sadie Hawkins Day** originated from the Li'l Abner comic strip (by Al Capp), which introduced the fictional event on November 15, 1937. As the story goes, Sadie Hawkins was the not-so-lovely daughter of Hekzebiah Hawkins (Mayor of Dogpatch), with absolutely no suitors. In the year that Sadie turned 35, the Mayor felt he must step in to help Sadie "win" herself a beau. Thus, a foot-race ensued with all the town's eligible bachelors running from the pursuing Sadie. It isn't known if Sadie caught her fella, but lore has it that this was the beginning of an annual event, "Sadie Hawkins Day," where a single girl could approach a single guy and ask him out on a date, without reproach, quite in the face of an age-old tradition that only the boy does the asking! ☺



***Living With an Attitude of Gratitude***

(Excerpt from a sermon by Calvin Wittman)

I believe as Christians living in the United States, we have so very much to be grateful for, more things than we can even fathom. I'm reminded of the wealthy Texan who was in the habit of giving his father unique gifts every father's day. One year it was hang-gliding lessons. The year before it was the entire record collection of Slim Whitman's Hits, autographed by the singer himself. But this past year he had outdone himself. He purchased a rare kind of South American bird, called the translator. This bird could speak five languages and sing "Yellow Rose of Texas" in any key while standing on one foot. The talented bird cost \$10,000, but the son felt it was worth every penny. This would be the Father's Day gift his dad would never forget.

A week after Father's Day he called his father. "Dad, how did you like the bird?" His father responded, "It was delicious."

We have so much that sometimes we can't see the great value of all God has given us. That is ingratitude.

Francis Schaeffer once said, "The beginning of man's rebellion against God was, and is, the lack of a thankful heart."

Nowhere is that sentiment more eloquently expressed than in W. E. Henley's famous poem entitled "Invictus," which in Latin means "unconquered." It is a testimony to the unconquerable human spirit. Its imagery is that of a person standing at the gates of hell, unafraid because he is sufficient unto himself. You've likely heard the final stanza, which says, *"It matters not how strait the gate, How charged with punishments the scroll, I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul."*

How well this summarizes the sentiments of our day. It is an attitude that sees one's self as the source of strength, happiness, and prosperity. We, as Christians, are influenced by this sentiment and live with the ever-present danger of thinking that we are what we are, or have what we have, solely because of what we have done. **It is an attitude that runs against scriptural teaching and is inconsistent with the Spirit-filled life.**

Those of us who know Jesus, who have been born again, washed in His blood and given the gift of eternal life, should never give in to this sentiment. We have so much for which to be grateful. We have the gospel - the good news - and the privilege of sharing it with the rest of the world.

Here in Psalm 100 we are given an admonition to thank the Lord for who He is and what He has done. We are told how to thank Him, and when and where to thank Him.

1. **He is worthy of praise** ~ Verse 1 says, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands." KJV
2. **He is worthy of service** ~ Vs. 2 - "Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing."
3. **He alone is God** ~ Vs. 3 - "Know ye that the LORD he is God: . . ."

No one else deserves our service like He does. He is God. He must be first in our lives. Before our career, before our family, before our children, before our wife, before our own desires, before everything. God must be first. Here is our motivation for service with gladness. This is how we can live with an attitude of gratitude, because the Lord we serve is God.



## Be Strong ~ Youth

While the leaves fall and the breezes grow more brisk, our youngsters are continuing their exploration of prayer. We have recently found two more answers to the question, "How do we pray?"

To strengthen our relationship with Him, we must make praise a central part of our prayers to the Lord. We started off our lesson by hunting for plastic eggs hidden all around the fellowship hall, then we paid special individual compliments to one another. "How does it make you feel when I say to you... you're so bright; you're beautiful; you are such a talented musician?" We all agreed that it blesses our hearts when we feel noticed, bragged on, and lifted up. The same is true for God, Who loves to be worshipped and adored. But sometimes, it's hard for us to describe how truly wonderful He is. That's why we opened our eggs to discover 18 characteristics of God that we may have never realized before. Each "attribute" was accompanied by scripture so we know these traits are mentioned directly in the Bible. Next, we prayed together, allowing each child to choose an attribute that especially spoke to them in that moment, and we silently praised God... for being, among many things— "All Knowing", "King of Kings", "Creator", "Holy", "Everlasting Father", "Our Rock", and "Our Redeemer". Depending on our needs in each situation, our hearts may appreciate a different characteristic of Him, so our personal conversations with God will reflect this each time we approach His throne. We glued each attribute on a banner to display, so now, they are before our eyes often where we can grow more and more familiar with them. It is a blessing to give our youngsters the tools they need to strengthen their prayer life while giving the Lord all the compliments He so deserves from us. "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord." (Psalm 150:6)

Another vital aspect of prayer was pondered the night we met the woman in the eighth chapter of John. When her accusers dragged her to Jesus, she had an encounter with mercy and grace. "According to the law, this sinner should be stoned", they said, testing Jesus. But He silently scribbled in the sand before telling the crowd that the one without sin among them could throw the first stone. One by one, they dropped their heavy stones and walked away. And the life of the sinful woman was changed. Forgiveness will change our lives too, but we must regularly come before the Lord, confessing the sins that separate us from Him. We talked about the ways we hurt others everyday, and how it's sometimes hard to say, "I'm sorry." Maybe we're reluctant because we're ashamed, afraid, or unsure about how the other person will react. But we never have to worry about the way Jesus will respond. There's no feeling like the relief and freedom that forgiveness brings to our souls, so we should make confession a part of every prayer. It helps bring to mind too, how we must willingly forgive others who hurt us, even when it's hard. Our clue basket offered up a stone to remind us that our sins condemn us, but Jesus is always waiting with grace and forgiveness, if we will only confess our wrongs to Him.

Continued on next page

As we learn more about "Talking With God", it's our desire to instill young hearts with the practice of including **Praise** and **Confession** in their prayers. Conversations with the Lord are meant to be so much more than just coming to Him and asking for things we want. Help us pray that our young people will build confidence in prayer while they begin the lifelong habit of talking intimately with their dearest Friend, Jesus.

'So Thankful He Hears Our Prayers,  
Bruce, Darla, and Marshall

**Operation Christmas Child Reminder: Please return packed shoeboxes by Wednesday, November 19**

### More Corny Jokes . . .

**I know, I know . . . But, if we can find 'em, just be kind and read 'em! ;-)** (Thank you, Lisa!)



**Wife:** "Would you please bring me a carton of milk, and if they have eggs, I need six."

**Husband:** "Okay." *Later that day, upon his return . . .*

**Wife:** "Why in the world did you buy six cartons of milk???"

**Husband:** "They had eggs." (Ba-dum-ching!)

~ A time traveler finished his meal, but was still hungry. *So, he went back four seconds.*

What do you call a turkey on the day after Thanksgiving?  
*Lucky*

What's the best dance to do on Thanksgiving? *The Turkey Trot*

What's a turkey's favorite game? *Hide and Seek*

What do you get when you cross a turkey with an octopus?  
*Lots of drumsticks*

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? *Pilgrims*

What happened to the turkey who got into a fight? *He got the stuffing knocked out of him*

What did the turkey say to the hunter? *Quack, quack*

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

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

Why did the tree get the job? *Because she had the right qua-leaf-ications.*

What do the trees in Star Wars say to each other in the fall?  
*May the forest be with you.*

How do trees get on the Internet? *They just log on.*

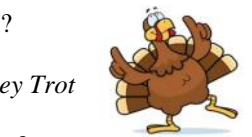
How do you fix a broken pumpkin? *With a pumpkin patch!*

What is it called when a tree takes some time off? *Paid leaf.*

How do gourds get so strong? *By pumpkin iron.*

What type of music did the Pilgrims listen to? *Plymouth Rock.*

Why didn't the tree think it was autumn? *Because it was full of disbe-leaf.*



## PREACH Evangelistic Ministries ~ Steadfast in a Shifting World

*(Highlights from the most recent Prayer Letter)*

A chaotic and spiritually confused world presses daily upon the sacred stitchings of our faith. Like boisterous waves, it beats against the moorings of every Christian's mind. This reality demands a deliberate resolve from every child of God to persevere and to personally inspect the tenacity of their faith and their loyalty to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Many years ago, a great saint of God told me that the work of missions is summed up in three realities:

1. A Surrendered Walk with God- God demands our surrender and seldom gives us a preview of where He will lead. We must simply follow. 2. Spiritual Warfare - Demons of darkness rage against righteousness and relentlessly attack the saints. 3. Simple Hard Work- Our Lord came to do the work of the Father; as His servants, we too must put our hands to the plow and not look back. These truths have proven themselves in every field and every season.

**1. Church Plant- Freedom Fellowship Baptist Church (Seymour, MO)** – The work at FFBC continues to move forward, though not without challenges. Attendance has fluctuated, but the spirit remains strong.

**2. Training & Equipping- TBS and Mentoring Men for Mission** – Both the Theological Baptist Seminary (TBS) and the Mentoring Men for Mission Training Program (MMM) remain small in number but rich in spiritual impact. Please pray for God to send us families who will advance His Name to the ends of the earth through this ministry. Our next semester begins August 18.

**3. Summer Ministry Highlights** – This summer was different-fewer weeks at youth camp for me personally, but more opportunities for younger preachers to minister nightly. Testimonies from our short-term mission travelers stirred hearts and strengthened faith.

**4. Sending to Sow - Romania** – By early 2026, we anticipate sending Zachary and Emily White to the mission field of Romania. Their ordination was held last October, and their support is nearing full. By early 2026, they will be sowing the good seed of God's Word among the Romanian people.

**5. Shipments** – For 20 years, we have kept a pledge-first to God, then in writing to the West African Board of Education to place Scripture in the hands of students annually. Our “door-to-door” cost is \$1,000 per ton, and we are asking each of our supporting churches to prayerfully commit to sending one ton of Scriptures this year.

**6. Special Thanks** – We are deeply grateful to our sending church, First Baptist Church of Ransom, for their love, care, and generous help during my recent health setbacks and medical expenses.

**Closing Word** ~ It is a high honor and joy to serve the Lord in these days. Thank you - our faithful supporting churches and sponsors - for laboring with us these 35 years to advance the cause of Christ both among the nations and here at home. May the Lord richly bless you for your labor of love in His Name.

*“Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.”* - Philippians 4:17

With gratitude in Christ, **Dr. Paul Pritchard, Jr.** ~ Missionary/Pastor  
PREACH Evangelistic Ministries Inc. ~ PO Box 750, Seymour MO 65746

## THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

One thing to be learned in reading about the first Thanksgiving is there are many versions of this event that have been passed down through the centuries, but only one documented historical account exists. This took place in Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts, in 1621. In one paragraph of a letter, Edward Winslow, a colonist, wrote that a good harvest led the colony to “rejoyce together.” [Note: This 1651 portrait of Edward Winslow is the only known portrait of an original Plymouth colonist, and is on display at the Pilgrim Hall Museum.] Part of their celebrations included firing guns. The sound of firearms attracted their Wampanoag neighbors, who probably thought a battle had broken out. Finding a celebration instead, ninety Wampanoag people, led by their chief Massasoit, attended the celebrations, along with the 52 English colonists. After a quick hunt, the Wampanoag brought deer for the meal. Together, the Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag visitors “entertained and feasted” for three days.



It is known to have been more a diplomatic event to mark the colonists' successful harvest and form an alliance, rather than the modern holiday we celebrate today. The meal did feature game like venison, as well as fowl, and other local foods, but did not include items like pumpkin pie or mashed potatoes.



Although the exact reason and/or purpose for the celebration can't be stated with support from any concrete evidence or writing, it is important to note that having any record of the event is monumental. The intrepid English travelers were seeking religious, political, and economic freedoms that they were denied in England, and this was an opportunity to celebrate those newfound freedoms, as well as God's providence in a bountiful harvest.

As Christians, we should always be thankful for God's blessings, not only on Thanksgiving Day, but every day of the year. God's Word says it best: **Psalm 100:4-5** “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” **1 Thessalonians 5:18** “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

## A Bubbling Over Heart

“(To the chief Musician upon Shoshannim, for the sons of Korah, Maschil, A Song of loves.) My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.” – Psalm 45:1

The Psalmist has a song on his heart to sing concerning the King. His heart overflows with love and he is anxious to sing about the good theme which has captivated his heart. This is a royal wedding song and its lyrics are filled with praise and love towards the King. To him, the King was the main subject and his tongue would serve as a pen to express his feelings and words.

Oh, to speak and sing of Him with an overflowing heart and to allow the sweet presence of God to drown out the noisy clamor of this Christless world. Oh, to have Him to frame our words and thoughts and to sense Heaven tugging at us as glory fills our soul. From time-to-time God seems to break through and even our prayers to Him are as simple as, “Lord, I love You” or “Lord, I praise You for a sense of your presence and love.”

Today, many have troubled and fearful hearts. Many have heavy hearts and broken hearts. The basic reason is that the focus of the heart is wrongly placed. Truly, hearts that are focused upon people, events, and things will tend to become troubled and unsettled. God’s people are given new hearts and hearts which can never be satisfied with mere earthly things for they are hearts fashioned to derive pleasures which only Christ can give.

The great need of the hour is a “new heart” followed by a consecrated life dedicated and devoted to Christ. “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.” – Ezekiel 36:26; “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” – Romans 12:2 Only Jesus Christ satisfies the deepest longings of the soul and only those with a “bubbling over heart” can live with joy, peace, and hope in a world turned upside down by sin and degradation.

Chuck Peters – 6/29/2022



## “Thanksgiving Day Prayer”

Thanksgiving Day; A table spread and Macy’s Parade to see.  
The turkey and the dressing, as good as it could be.  
The gathering at the table is prefaced by a prayer.  
Heads are bowed in thanks to God for blessings He did share.

Across the way the soldier serves yet wishing to be home.  
The post in life, a battlefield, while frightened and alone.  
The soldier, too, is grateful as the selfless service shows.  
The sacrifice for freedom, the soldier only knows.

The blessings of the harvest with the table fully spread.  
Reflect the gracious hand of God; He gives that we be fed.  
We thank Him too for freedom and the soldier far away.  
We pray that God will keep them safe and bring them home to stay.  
Chuck Peters – 11/24/2021

## “My Life Has Been Blessed”

Many songs have I sung since He first gave the song  
that He placed in my heart on that day.  
Many sermons I’ve preached since He first bid me preach  
of His Gospel and power to save.  
Many seasons I’ve known, much love He has shown,  
He grows nearer and dearer to me.  
I’m much slower in pace; I will soon end this race,  
and head to His home and be free.  
Many friends I have known, much love they have shown,  
they have all been so gracious to me.  
I’ve a wife by my side, a helpmeet and bride,  
and a love shown by word and by deed.  
My son and my buddy, my church and my study,  
rich blessings I count beyond measure.  
I’ve truly been blessed, what more could I ask?  
Where else could I find greater treasure?  
Many titles I’ve worn since the day I was born,  
many miles have been traveled through life.  
Many times I have cried, many times I have sighed,  
and many days have seen trouble and strife.  
Every time He was there, Every time He did care,  
Every time I’ve had battles to face.  
All the time, He’s been near when I’m tempted to fear  
and no time has He not given grace.

Chuck Peters ~ Oct.25, 2014