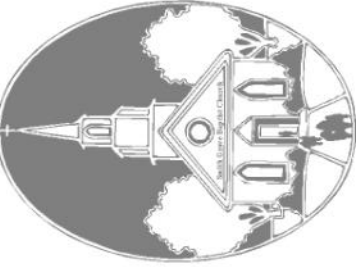


Must have  
First Class  
Stamp



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

**VOLUME 42**  
**December 2025**  
**ISSUE 501**

**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



December  
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  
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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., Dec. 6, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission  
Sun., Dec. 7, 6 pm - Communion Service  
Sat., Dec. 13, 5 pm ~ Church Christmas Party ~  
"Chicken and Oyster Stew"  
Sun., Dec. 21, 6 pm ~ Christmas Play & also **BEAMS Sunday**  
**Christmas Eve ~ Wed., Dec. 24, No Prayer Mtg or Youth Services**  
**Wed., Dec. 31 ~ "Prayer Service for the New Year"**  
**Robinwood Retirement Ctr.** ~ To be announced at a later date.

*Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace".*

**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.

# REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**SHUT-INS:** Betty Byrd Iris Farrington

## IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

**PVT Adam Brittain**, Army, Texas (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)

**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)



## BORN TO DIE ~ Written by Shireen Salyer

Shepherds gazed in wonder  
While angel voices sing  
This night of nights has come  
And brought the world the long  
awaited King  
The earth is filled with gladness  
And yet the heavens weep  
For heaven's eyes can see  
He was born to die for me  
Jesus, baby Jesus  
Is that a tear in Your eye?  
Jesus, sweet baby Jesus  
You must know You were born to  
die  
It must have broken God's heart  
For the future He could see  
Yet He formed the hands and feet  
Knowing one day they'd be nailed  
to a tree



So all the world could know Him  
A gift came from above  
For God so loved the world  
That He gave His only Son  
Jesus, baby Jesus  
With a tear of love in Your eye  
Jesus, sweet baby Jesus  
You knew You were born to die  
So Jesus, thank You, Jesus  
For Your gift of eternal life  
My Jesus, Jesus  
'Cause for me,  
*You were born to die*

**John 3:16-17: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.**



## BEAMS' Report for November 2025

# of Pledges: 9; # of Contributions: 5;

Total Contributors: 14

Total Contributed: \$ 458.00 =

57 Bibles in November (plus some postage)

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

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

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

## New Year's Eve Watchnight Service ~ Historical origins

**Emancipation Proclamation:** The tradition is historically linked to December 31, 1862, known as "Freedom's Eve". Enslaved people gathered in churches and homes to anxiously await the Emancipation Proclamation, which went into effect on January 1, 1863, and declared them legally free.

**Wider Christian tradition:** The practice of watchnight services pre-dates this historical event and has roots in early 18th-century Moravian churches, later adopted by John Wesley for Methodists.

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 December and January 2026. Please take a moment to send a card, make a telephone call, or do something extra special for our special saints.

**Jo Ann Green**

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

**Kathy Flynt**

896 Flynt Rd.  
 High Point, NC 27265  
 336-668-2500 (Home)  
 336-880-3352 (Cell) ~ January 7

**Nancy Kelley**

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

**Doris Cochran**

122 Welch Dr  
 High Point, NC 27265  
 336-869-5059 ~ January 17

**Barbara Bowden**

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

**Betty Bame**

Parkwood Place  
 601 Johnson Ridge Rd - Room 176  
 Elkin, NC 28621  
 743-201-6438 ~ January 30

**Casandra Mann**

800 Quail Meadow  
 Colfax, NC 27235  
 336-993-4327 (Home)  
 336-317-3483 (Cell) ~ January 2



*December Anniversaries*

- 4 Tim & Consuelo Matthews
- 23 Waynard & Carol Nuckles



"I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It's not bad at all really. Maybe it just needs a little love." – Charlie Brown, "A Charlie Brown Christmas"



*Jesus: Born to bring salvation through his death.*

Jerusalem

**OBITUARIES**

**33 AD**

Jesus of Nazareth, aka Jesus the Christ, 33, died Friday on Mount Calvary, also known as Golgotha, the place of the skull. Betrayed by the apostle Judas, Jesus was crucified by the Romans by order of the ruler Pontius Pilate. The causes of death were crucifixion, extreme exhaustion, severe torture, and loss of blood.

Jesus, a descendant of Abraham, was a member of the House of David. He was the son of the late Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth and Mary, his devoted Mother. Jesus was born in a stable in the city of Bethlehem, Judea. He is survived by His mother Mary, His brother, James, faithful Apostles, numerous disciples and many other followers.

Jesus was self educated and spent most of his adult life working as a Teacher. Jesus also occasionally worked as a Medical doctor and it is reported that he raised one Lazarus from the dead and has healed many patients and called out many demons from the lives of those who were troubled.

Up until the time of His death, Jesus was teaching and sharing the good News, healing the sick, touching the lonely, feeding the hungry and helping the poor.

Jesus was most noted for telling parables about his father's Kingdom and performing miracles, such as feeding over 5,000 people with a little boy's lunch of 5 Loaves and 2 fish and healing a man who was born blind. On the day before his death he held his last Supper in a borrowed house, celebrating the Jewish Passover at which he foretold his death.

After his death, his body was quickly buried in a stone grave which was donated by Joseph of Arimathea, a loyal friend of the family, with some spices provided by one Nicodemus, a teacher of Israel.

By order of Pontius Pilate, a huge boulder was placed in front of the tomb with Roman guards placed in the front so that his followers would not steal his body and indicate that he had risen from the dead.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that everyone strive to live as Jesus lived. Donations may be sent to anyone in need. But committed lives would be appreciated.

*Shared by Pastor Chuck Peters*



## Be Strong ~ Youth

While our young people excitedly look forward to the approaching busy holiday season, they are still settling in together on Wednesday nights for Bible lessons and fellowship with one another. The younger group continues our study on prayer, still focused on answering the question, **“How do we pray?”**

One recent night, they were told to shape their play dough into an animal that is known for its good sense of hearing. We had a bat, a dog, and an elephant to display the better qualities of listening. But we turned to the Old Testament to find a young man who exemplifies hearing when the Lord calls. When Samuel was just a little boy, he was brought to the temple to live with Eli the priest. Years before he was born, Samuel’s mother, Hannah, had begged the Lord for a child. Because God answered her prayers, she dedicated her young son to Him, knowing that Samuel essentially belonged to God in the first place. This little boy was a gift from God, so Hannah gave Him back to God’s service, surrendering him at a young age to learn about the priesthood. One night as he slept, when little Samuel heard someone calling for him, he assumed it was Eli, so he hurried to the old priest’s bedside, calling, *“Here am I.”* The old man told him, *“I called not, my son; lie down again.”* This happened three times before it occurred to old Eli that God’s voice was the One calling to young Samuel in the night. The old teacher instructed the child what to do if he heard the voice again... answer with *“Speak, Lord; for Thy servant heareth.”* So Samuel did as he was told, and God revealed to him that he would grow up and replace Eli as one of the Lord’s special prophets known throughout Israel.

When Samuel patiently waited for God’s voice in the stillness, he was displaying one of the most powerful aspects of our prayer life. Our clue basket offered up a large image of an ear, reminding us that listening for the Lord’s direction is often an overlooked part of our talks with Him. Praying should never be a one way conversation in which we do all the talking, but we sometimes forget to pause and listen for what God may be saying to us. What a blessing, helping our young people learn to “be still” and wait for Him to speak. Although we won’t hear an audible voice, God may nudge us through the Holy Spirit, or through scripture, or through other people He uses to direct us. Samuel shows us that we’re never too young to be still and allow the Lord to guide us in His good timing. Sometimes, all it takes is the patience to wait in the stillness, and the willingness to say, **“Here I am, Lord — use me.”**

‘Learning to Listen Alongside You All,  
Bruce, Darla, and Marshall



## Pearl Harbor ~ Dec. 7, 1941



Pearl Harbor is a U.S. naval base near Honolulu, Hawaii, that was the scene of a devastating surprise attack by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941. Just before 8 a.m. on that Sunday morning, hundreds of Japanese fighter planes descended on the base, where they managed to destroy or damage nearly 20 American naval vessels, including eight battleships, and over 300 airplanes. More than 2,400 Americans died in the attack, including civilians, and another 1,000 people were wounded. The day after the assault, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan. The attack on Pearl Harbor was a surprise, but Japan and the United States had been edging toward war for decades.

The United States was particularly unhappy with Japan’s increasingly belligerent attitude toward China. The Japanese government believed that the only way to solve its economic and demographic problems was to expand into its neighbor’s territory and take over its import market.

To this end, Japan declared war on China in 1937, resulting in the Nanking Massacre and other atrocities.

American officials responded to this aggression with a battery of economic sanctions and trade embargoes. They reasoned that without access to money and goods, and especially essential supplies like oil, Japan would have to rein in its expansionism.

Instead, the sanctions made the Japanese more determined to stand their ground. During months of negotiations between Tokyo and Washington, D.C., neither side would budge. It seemed that war was all but inevitable. Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, is located near the center of the Pacific Ocean, roughly 2,000 miles from the U.S. mainland and about 4,000 miles from Japan. No one believed that the Japanese would start a war with an attack on the distant islands of Hawaii.

Additionally, American intelligence officials were confident that any Japanese attack would take place in one of the (relatively) nearby European colonies in the South Pacific: the Dutch East Indies, Singapore or Indochina.

Because American military leaders were not expecting an attack so close to home, the naval facilities at Pearl Harbor were relatively undefended. Almost the entire Pacific Fleet was moored around Ford Island in the harbor, and hundreds of airplanes were squeezed onto adjacent airfields. To the Japanese, Pearl Harbor was an irresistibly easy target.

**In the midst of war, a story of salvation:** Part of the aftermath of the ensuing war is the story of Mitsuo Fuchida, the commander of the Japanese air fleet that attacked Pearl Harbor. Fuchida later became a Christian after being given a Gospel tract written by an American prisoner of war, Jacob DeShazer.

**Mitsuo Fuchida:** *“God has revealed to me the way of salvation through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. I decided to believe whatever is revealed in the Bible, accept it, and stand as His witness telling others this truth with the help of the Lord.”* (<https://www.moodymedia.org/articles/i-led-air-raid-pearl-harbor/>)

# BEAMS

## Bible Education and Missionary Service

P. O. Box 10200 • 15444 Duckworth Road • Gulfport, MS 39505-0200

Phone (228) 832-1096 • Email: office@beamsbibles.com

Dr. Arthur J. Lockard, Jr.; Executive Director

Dr. Rene J. Freret; President Emeritus



Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! I pray all is well with you, your family, and your ministry. September has been a very busy month at the BEAMS Headquarters. Our staff has been



*Dr. & Mrs. Lockard*

working diligently to pack and ship English Bibles so that our missionaries can place them into the hands of new believers in their churches. We praise the Lord for the pastors who allow us to present the need of mailing boxes to their congregations, and for the faithful members who give toward the postage. Truly, we could not provide Bibles without those who give toward both the printing and the shipping.

This month, the Lord blessed us with three church groups who came to help pack Bibles: Crossroads Baptist Church of Mobile, Alabama; First Baptist Church of Soso, Mississippi; and Bible Baptist Church of Gulfport, Mississippi. In addition, preparation for mailing the next edition of our newsletter was completed with the help of faithful volunteers from Bible Baptist Church and Faith Baptist Church. We are so thankful for their hard work in getting the newsletter ready to go out.

We were also encouraged by visitors this month. Dr. Stephen Crane, Pastor of Temple Baptist Church In Gulfport, brought Bro. Randy King and a missionary serving in a sensitive area to tour the BEAMS Biblical Heritage Exhibit. I enjoyed fellowshiping with these brothers and hearing what God is doing in their ministries. Another couple also stopped by Headquarters for a tour. If you are ever in the area, we invite you to visit your ministry and see firsthand how God is using BEAMS to send the whole Word to the whole world.

Until next month-keep looking up!

For Souls and Bibles,

*Dr. Arthur J. Lockard, Jr.*

Psalms 119:130

### Prayer Requests:

- A missionary working on a method of shipping Bibles into his country
- Bro. Saripalli and the team finishing translation of Telegu Bible
- Bro. and Sis Lockard's trip to the Philippines Oct. 2 through Oct. 11, 2025
- BEAMS missionaries' health and safety

**Sending the Whole Bible to the Whole World!**

# The Unspeakable Gift

This Christmas, let us find encouragement in the “unspeakable gift” of Jesus, remembering that His birth is the source of our hope, joy, and peace. Let the miracle of His arrival remind us of God’s faithfulness and the promise of eternal life, a gift far greater than any on earth, for “whosoever will” accept that gift. As we reflect on His glory, may we share His light with others and find peace in His everlasting love.

### The Gift of Hope and Joy

John 1:14 (KJV): “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

Encouragement: Jesus came to earth to dwell among us, God-man, a testament to God's love and a source of ultimate hope. His presence (and sacrifice on the cross) brings the promise of grace and truth into our lives.

### The Gift of Peace

Luke 2:14 (KJV): “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Encouragement: The birth of Jesus was announced with a heavenly host singing of glory and goodwill. This is the foundation of the peace we can find in Him, a peace that transcends worldly troubles.

### The Gift of Eternal Life

Romans 6:23 (KJV): “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Encouragement: The ultimate gift of Christmas is not a physical one, but the promise of eternal life through Jesus. This is a gift freely given, and its value is immeasurable.

### A Call to Share His Light

Isaiah 9:2 (KJV): “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.”

**Encouragement:** Just as the star guided the wise men, we are called to be a light for others. In a world that can feel dark, let us share the warmth, comfort, and joy we find in Christ with those around us, a true expression of the Christmas spirit. *Share the gospel message!*



# The Wonder of Christmas



None of us can deny that Christmas is somewhat of a magical and exciting time of the year. There is a noticeable difference in the spirit, attitude, and excitement level this time of the year. Most of us do not have a lot of patience with Christmas Scrooges, unless we are a Scrooge! An atheist complained to a Christian friend, "You Christians have your special holidays, such as Christmas and Easter. Jews celebrate their national holidays, such as Passover and Yom Kippur. But we atheists have no recognized national holidays. It's unfair discrimination." His friend replied, "Why don't you celebrate April first?" (Psalms 14:1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God . . .).

The wonder of Christmas is found in the One whose name is "Wonderful"! "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." – Isa. 9:6. The Shepherds found that wonder for they found the wonder of Christmas!

I miss the Christmas that I experienced as a child. I miss the fun and family time when all of my family was living. I miss the fun, wonder, excitement of childhood at Christmas time. That part is gone but the real wonder of Christmas will never be gone. Traditions are altered by time and death of family members but truth stands. How can we lose Christmas when its meaning pertains to the birth of Christ? In order to lose Christmas, we would have to lose an historical event. We would have to lose a fulfillment of prophecy. We would lose a necessary requirement for the redemption of sinners. The virgin birth of Christ!

The Real Wonder of Christmas never ends because the One whose name is "Wonderful" lives forever! The wonder is found in a "Name" – "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." – Mat.1:23. The wonder was expressed in a question –



"Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him" – Mat. 2:2 The wonder is found in the miracle of the event – "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost." – Mat.1:18. The wonder is found in the experience of salvation made possible by the virgin birth of Christ – "And she shall bring forth a

son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. "– Mat.1:21. What a celebration when we know the Author! The wonder is every day and forever! The wonder is in a gift of all gifts – Jn.3:16. The wonder is in a reflection on the Person of Christmas – "Mary kept those things..." The wonder is in a Christmas Carol – "Glory to God in the highest..." The wonder is in a Gospel message that has saving power – Rom.1:16. The wonder is the peace of God in the heart of the redeemed. The wonder is in a hope that will be realized. – "And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." – Rev.19:6. The wonder was found in the One wrapped up in swaddling clothes. That same one Who was wrapped up was lifted up on a cross, He was raised up out of the tomb, He ascended up to heaven, He will call up His church, he will straighten up this earth one day and will rule upon this earth.

The wonder of Christmas is an eternal wonder found by a hell bound sinner when they receive the Wonderful Saviour in their heart. When you have found the wonder, you will forever celebrate the wonder!

Chuck Peters – 11/1/2022