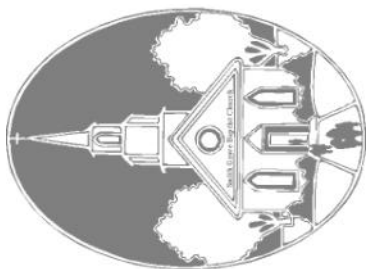


Must have
First Class
Stamp



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VOLUME 43
January 2026
ISSUE 502

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*



January
2026



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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 . . .*

2026

*Happy
New Year*

Sat., Jan. 3, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission
Sun., Jan. 11 ~ Pastor Daniel Hawtree, Kerwin Baptist Church, will be preaching in both the morning & evening services. *The Joyful Sounds* will be singing in the morning service, starting at 10 am.
Sun., Jan. 18, 6 pm ~ BEAMS Sunday
Robinwood Retirement Ctr. ~ TBA

~ NEW YEAR - NEW YOU ~

Resolution One: I will live for God. **Resolution Two:** If no one else does, I still will. –
 . . . Jonathan Edwards
 Theologian Jonathan Edwards sums up a new year's resolution rather simply: live for God. It doesn't matter who doesn't join us in doing so, but only that we continually choose to do so every day. Let us remember Edwards' notable new year's quote as we enter 2026 to live for God and choose daily to do His will.

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)

Gregory Turner, National Guard, Kuwait (late January) (son of a CVS
pharmacist in Kernersville)



The Messenger

And here we are, beginning another year. As I think back over this past year, I can't help but ponder the sadness of our losses . . . Precious, beloved church members that left us. Yet, in the midst of the sadness, God reminds me in 2 Corinthians 5:8, that to be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord. Thus, we would do well to consider our own life here on earth – such a fleeting thing – and use the time wisely for our Savior. To quote Brother Glen Blackburn, "We as wise stewards know we need to redeem the time . . ."

As The Messenger continues to be shared each month, it is our prayer that its contents will uplift and edify the saints, be a source of encouragement to the disheartened, and serve as a bearer of the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord to the lost.

Thank you for taking the time to read each article, laugh at our attempts at humor, and give us encouragement along the way. God is so good, and we are truly thankful that He has allowed this publication to stay in print, in spite of obstacles that have arisen over the years. As we start this 43rd year, please help us pray that we would always strive to be in His will and serve Him with gladness. What an honor to be a Messenger for His glory! Praise His name!the Editor

Happy New Year!



BEAMS' Report for December 2025

of Pledges: 8; # of Contributions: 8;
Total Contributors: 16
Total Contributed: \$ 629.00 =
78 Bibles in December (plus some postage)

Many thanks to all those who gave monies to the BEAMS' ministry specifically for postage which added \$ 230.00 in December!

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

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

By the breath of God . . . Job 37:9-10 - Out of the south cometh the whirlwind: and cold out of the north. By the breath of God frost is given:

In the Bible (KJV), "winter" appears in passages about seasons, prophecy, and practical matters, most famously in Matthew 24:20, where Jesus tells disciples to pray their flight isn't in winter due to hardship, and in Song of Solomon 2:11, symbolizing the end of a difficult season ("the winter is past"). Other verses mention "winter houses" (Amos 3:15) or the act of "wintering" (Titus 3:12) for travel, highlighting winter as a time of cold, difficulty, and spiritual testing.

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

Cassandra Mann

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

Betty Bame

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

Kathy Flynt

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

Jean Rumsey

8730 Bame Road
 Colfax, NC 27235
 336-668-2080 ~ February 01

Doris Cochran

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



January Anniversaries

~ No anniversaries in January ~



"The year's first month is like a blank canvas. Let your actions be the brushstrokes that create your masterpiece."

~ Thoughts for the New Year ~
Where is Your Help in Time of Trouble?
 (Excerpt from a lesson by Brother Calvin Vaughn)

What happens when you are faced with a Life Changing Storm, problem or simply a Closed Door?

Do you feel like the rug has been pulled out from under you? Could it be that you didn't know what to do, where to go or whom to turn to? Too often Christians have the misconception that we are free from such problems or difficulties. Some needs and wants we can eventually meet ourselves, but many of our problems must be overcome with the help of others.

Since we are ultimately creatures made by God and for **His purposes**, our greatest need and sometimes unrecognized want is for a **healthy relationship with our Creator**. Our problem with sin and all our problems ultimately find their solution with God's assistance and intervention. Otherwise, we are stuck.

The presence of storms or problems **doesn't mean that God is absent or that he doesn't love you**. Problems come to everyone, but **with God, you have the resources to deal with any problem that comes your way**.

Always remember when we get stuck in the midst of life's difficulties, God promises to listen to us! We must **approach Him** and He will help us work through our problems. His teachings help us **learn from our problems** and to **approach them with greater confidence in the future**.

John 16:33 - These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world

Col 2:6 - As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk ye in him:

Col 2:7 - Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. As born again believers, we should strive to exemplify the fruit of the Spirit found in **Gal 5:22** - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith. Please realize that problems are inevitable; they will come. So the question is not, "Will problems come?" but "What will I do with problems when they come?"

For those who have trusted Christ as Lord and Savior, we can **lean and embrace the Comforter** that God promised us:

John 14:16 - And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever

John 16:7 - Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

John 16:8 - And when he is come, he will reprove or convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment



~ A Note of Appreciation ~
From Bruce, Darla, and Marshall

This time, our monthly message takes a bit of a departure from the usual youth updates, so that we can pause and take a moment to reflect on some of the people who have made the Christmas season special for our church family.

Much appreciation goes to Clyde, Wendy, and Adrian, for preparing and serving at our Christmas Party on December 13th. It was a cozy night spent together, warmed by all the chicken and oyster stew we could hold. The fellowship of friends and family made it a lovely way to celebrate the birthday of our Savior.

We're also grateful for John and Stephanie, who put together the Christmas treat bags given out to all those who attended on December 21st. They also planned and ordered the gifts for our widowed and shut-in friends, and the teens were on hand to assemble the thoughtful presents. We also thank those of you willing to deliver the gifts to loved ones near and far.

We thank Sherrill too, for updating our Christmas card list, and for providing it to all of us hoping to send greetings throughout our church family. What a sweet tradition, exchanging cards filled with messages of love and wishes for the new year!

And many thanks go to Waynard, Andrea, and Ashley for their willingness to share reflections in this year's play, "*Christmas Memories*". Our young people too, despite their busy work and study schedules, have been gracious to jump in and help this homemade production unfold. Church family, we have been deeply touched by your response in sending old photos that give us a peek at cherished Christmases past! The outpouring of nostalgia has been amazing, and your personal touch has created a play that belongs to all of us. This would not have been possible without Ashley's tireless efforts to string together all our vintage pictures into a single, seamless video presentation that blends into one combined and heartwarming Smith Grove story... from one home to another, from one generation to the next.

As Perry Como gently crooned so long ago, "there is no Christmas like a home Christmas", and our collection of sentimental images prove that the past beckons to us during the holidays especially. While the decades fly by, we yearn for simpler times and familiar faces, and our ideas of "home" start to sadly shift. With the passing years, we begin to realize that we can't return to the home of our childhood... that beloved home in our fading photographs. Landscapes change, homeplaces crumble, loved ones leave. But, let's reconsider that invitation to "come home for Christmas"... not to a temporary place on the map, but *to a lasting place in the heart*... to the manger that holds the precious Savior of the world. There is no better place to gather this Christmas, and we are honored to linger there with you—adoring Him, rejoicing in His peace, relying on His hope, and trusting Him as we walk together into another uncertain new year. Whatever changes we face this season, let's thank Jesus for His willingness to come and give His life to purchase our forever home. The many glimpses of dear ones we caught in our beautiful video? They're waiting for us there, and we can carry that hope of heaven within us. When we come humbly, with grateful hearts, seeking forgiveness, and ready to surrender our lives to Him, we have truly "come home" at last...



Because the year is NEW! Here's a
Chuckle or two for you!



What do you call always wanting a date for New Year's Eve?
Social security.

What was Dr. Frankenstein's New Year's resolution?
To make new friends.

What do you call someone who says they know all the words to "Auld Lang Syne"? A fibber.

What New Year's resolution should a basketball player never make?
To travel more.

What's a digital camera's New Year's resolution? 1080p.

Where can you go to practice math on New Year's Eve? Times Square.

Why should you put your new calendar in the freezer? To start off the New Year in a cool way.

What did Adam say to Eve on Dec. 31? It's New Year's, Eve.

Why was the telephone late for work on Jan. 1?

It was busy ringing in the new year!

Why did the man stand on one leg at midnight on New Year's?

He wanted to start the year on the right foot.

What did the woman say when she was offered a raisin on New Year's Eve?

"No thanks. I already have a date."

My New Year's resolution was to drop my bad habits, *but no one likes a quitter*.

What did the farmer give his wife on New Year's Eve? Hogs and kisses.

Say What? . . .

~ May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions.

~ An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

~ An iPhone and a firework were arrested on New Year's Eve. One was charged, and the other was let off.

~ What's the best way to make an eggroll on New Year's Eve? Just push it.

~ What do you call someone who loves going to work after New Year's?
Retired.

~ What was the spider's New Year's resolution? To spend less time on the web.

~ What's the luckiest band to listen to on New Year's Day? Black-Eyed Peas

~ At the beginning of the year, I made a resolution to lose 20 pounds. Only 30 more to go!

Laughter ~ A tool for resilience and healing: Laughter provides a powerful mechanism for coping with stress, pain, and life's difficulties. It is described as "medicine" for the soul and body, which releases endorphins, reduces stress hormones, and boosts the immune system.

~Strengthening relationships and evangelism: A joyful and lighthearted attitude is disarming, welcoming, and can draw people together. A Christian's ability to express joy and laughter amid stress can be a powerful testimony to their trust in God, offering an opportunity to share their faith with others.

A New Year, A New Start

(Excerpts from an article by Carol Van Atta)

Amazingly, it's that time. A new year is approaching right on schedule — again. This is the time of year so many of us start making resolutions to change a certain area, or multiple areas in our lives. Maybe we have some extra pounds to shed. We might be committed to changing a specific, harmful behavior. New Year's resolutions range from simple desires to seemingly full-proof-plans for extensive life change. What we all have in common is the hope that something will change, and life will be different (and better) in the year ahead.

Every year, people ring in the New Year with goals to live differently on some level. However, a few short weeks later, many of these very same well-wishers end up discouraged and filled with shame and remorse over their failed attempts to make their resolutions come to pass. Who knows? This may be the second, third, fourth, or 15th year someone has tried to “kick the habit.” After so many misguided attempts, why would they even want to try again? That's a good question. First consider a few additional questions...

What if every spring, the flowers just gave up on blooming? What if the local birds that have migrated to some faraway place just decided to stay put on that tropical island? What if the sun chose to hide behind the clouds all summer long? *Worse yet: what if Christ had not come to earth as a baby or hadn't risen from the dead?*

I don't know about you, but I love fragrant flowers, sweet singing birds are pretty nice, and, oh, how I love that summer sun smiling down on me! But the thought of Christ not defeating death is downright terrifying. Without his resurrection power, we really would have no hope for permanent life change — ever.

However, He was born. He died. And he most definitely did rise again.

That means this year, this month, today, or even this moment, is filled with hope for a better future — in him. We don't have to white-knuckle it anymore. Whatever your “it” might be, you too can turn from your sin, and release it into the capable hands of the ultimate Life-Changer.

When we desire change, we have the perfect example to follow: Jesus Christ. When we are ready to implement change, we have the perfect guide book: His Word. Finally, we have the perfect companion to strengthen our resolve: his Spirit.

As we pursue change God's way, hope for a better future is no longer a dream; it becomes our reality. We truly can experience freedom in our lives today, tomorrow, and forever. With Christ, we don't have to wait for another New Year to roll around, or for the big glittery ball to drop in Times Square. His mercy is new every morning. We can pursue our own new beginning right now. Romans 15:5 *“Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:”*

We are to follow Christ. As we pursue him and seek to imitate his ways, we move forward in our process of change. No more slip-sliding backwards. When we truly follow Jesus, we are on the path that moves forward and upward, one prayer at a time.

Duain & Faye Whittemore



Dear Precious Friends in Christ, what a blessed thought that we are truly friends “In Christ” — Philippians 1:1. We are Family IN CHRIST as well. I can truly say with Paul when he wrote Philippians 1:3 — “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.”

As I write this letter, all day in my heart, I have just been rejoicing and thanking the Lord for His Goodness and Grace in my life. I just read Psalm 100 and when I got to verse 4, I tried to enter his gates with thanksgiving. What an honor, what a privilege. Thank God for GRACE, GRACE, GRACE!

I'm thankful for HIS PRESENCE — Psalms 75:1; I'm thankful for HIS PROVISIONS — Philippians 4:19; I'm thankful for HIS HOLINESS — Psalm 30:4; I'm thankful for HIS PROMISE — Peter 4:1; and thankful for HIS POWER — I Corinthians 15:55. We have access to his RESURRECTION POWER IN CHRIST!

The Lord has been so good to all of us here at Anchor. Mission teams are preaching, teaching, training and watching God work. We will never get tired of watching God work, and we will praise and give HIM THE GLORY for allowing us to be a small part in all HE DOES!

Faye and I have been in meetings for most of the summer and fall. It was an honor to have Brother Sam Kalawala from India with us for several weeks. He is one of the greatest Christians that I know alive today. He does more than any one man I know. He oversees 47 churches and I have had the honor to preach in many of them; in fact, by God's Grace, I have been able to raise the money to build 5 of them. If you don't support a missionary in India, you would be blessed and get your monies' worth if you directed it toward Brother Sam. He is on the board here at Anchor. He has a wonderful family with three boys who are all Preachers and speak very good English. Brother Robert Jones, my assistance, has been a great help also in the work in India. Please help us pray for the means to build one more church in India. The name of the church will be, “The Lord's Side Baptist Church”. If you have any questions, please call me or Brother Jones about the projects. We are thankful for all the doors around the world that the Lord has opened for Anchor. We need your prayers and support.

Brother Barton needs your continued prayers. He seems to be doing very well at this point. *[They were supposed to learn in December if the treatments were successful, Ed.]*

I desire your prayers as I travel and preach almost every weekend of my life.

Please continue to pray for Brother Joel Jurado as they continue to process the sudden loss of their 11 year old son, JC.

In His Service, *Duain & Faye Whittemore*

A New Year and A New Chapter

“For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told. The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.” – Psalm 90:9-10

Physical life can be illustrated by the composition and character of a book. A book conveys a story and intention, on the part of its author. A book consists of language organized for the purpose of conveying a message. The message is usually posted in the form of words, pictures or symbols. I’m thinking of an evangelistic tool used in reaching children with the gospel message, the Wordless Book. The Book consists of nothing but colors which symbolize the sin condition, redemption through the Blood of Christ, the imputed righteousness provided, and the blessing of eternal life, including Heaven.

Physical life can be illustrated by a book. I would suggest that life’s “book” is short. It’s as brief, in the language of verse 9, as a short meditation. (2025 seemed to go by in a flash!) The Book of Life includes tragedy. The sin problem of the fallen human race brings God’s wrath into life’s equation. Death, accountability, and potential wrath mar the pages of the book of those unprepared to meet God. The penalty of sin is death and, tragically, eternal death, for the unsaved who die without Christ.

The Book of Life is short, even though some live to make it to threescore and ten. Really, how does 70 years compare to eternity? Also note that the elderly have to deal with weakness and sorrow and even those “golden years” can be darkened by the breakdown of these dying physical bodies, in spite of “Balance of Nature” supplements!



What's in Your Book of Life?

Beginning this new year, our Book of Life has a new but blank chapter. What will be recorded? Will the chapter content only include information, soon to become obsolete because of a lack in substance? Will it be only about living, working, buying, vacationing, and personal leisure? Will the chapter be cut short because of death?

Will the new chapter be the most thrilling chapter for it will highlight a most wonderful event? Will it talk about your coming to Christ? Will the chapter include a story of growth in grace? Will it be a chapter on a deepening relationship with the loving Saviour? Will this new chapter be a crowning chapter? Will this new chapter distinguish the book in such a way that it will be a record seller in God’s sight? Will it bring great pleasure to the One who enables it to be written? Will it display His purpose in our life’s story? Christians are to be living epistles, read by a lost world. “Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:” – II Corinthians 3:2

Will this New Year’s Chapter add credibility to our life’s book or just be another boring chapter without significant material? If Jesus tarries His coming during the course of this New Year, will this new chapter reflect the ultimate New Year happiness? It most certainly will if the theme of the chapter is that of selfless service for The Master!

Chuck Peters

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