

THE MESSENGER

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

**VOLUME 34
December 2017
ISSUE 405**

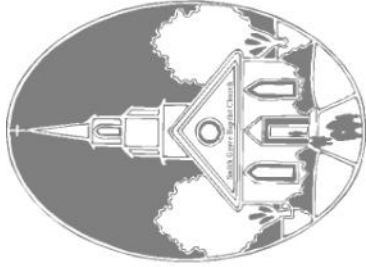
PROVERBS 25:13

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

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Peters, Pastor
Home: (336) 996-8563
Cell: (336) 812-1169



www.smithgrove.org

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*The
Messenger*



*December
2017*



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2707 Sandy Ridge Road ~ Colfax, NC 27235
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Dr. Charles (Chuck) Peters, Pastor
Home: (336) 996-8563; Cell: (336) 812-1169
Rev. Bruce Freeman, Associate Pastor
H (336) 996-1501 C (336) 816-2473

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Sat., Dec 2 **Winston-Salem Rescue Mission**
Sun., Dec 3 **Christmas Dinner** (after morning service)
Tues., Dec. 12, 7-8 p.m. **Robinwood Retirement Center**
(Choir will present the Christmas Cantata, *Gather at the Manger.*)
Sun., Dec. 17, 11 am.....**Christmas Cantata, Gather at the Manger**
6 pm **Children's Christmas Program**
Sun., Dec. 17**BEAMS' SUNDAY**
Sun., Dec. 24.....**Regular a.m. service; Christmas music by the**
Good News trio. NO EVENING SERVICE

Statement of Faith:

We are an Independent Baptist Church (*established in 1921*) preaching the old time Gospel and still believing 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

Iris Farrington Neva Long Clara Ward
Harry Haynes Barbara Tucker

Assisted Living/Nursing Home

Rose Matthews Ann Rayle
Jo Anne Pegram Lorene Robertson

*Prayer List continued on
Next Page . . .*

Pray for those . . .

IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

CW3 Jonathan Harless (Raleigh)

Maj. Robert Harless (Washington, D.C.)

Charles Holmes, Al Asad Air Base (Northern Iraq)

David Laramore, Fort Hood, Texas, US Army

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Maine, US Army

[Alaska] (Nephew of Clarence Redmon)

SrA Kyle Norman, 2602 Westridge Ave W #L304
Tacoma, WA 98466

Jason Sabot – Serving in Afghanistan

PFC Trevor Westmoreland, PO Box 10197

Ft. Irwin, CA 92310



BEAMS is important!

From Bong County, Liberia . . .

Dear Ruby W. Bowden, I want to tell you thanks for the help you me here, and I receives a Holy Bible from you. So I say thank and I pray that you more than this. Thank you in Jesus' name.

- Pastor Cooper F. Dongan.

From Gbarnga City, Liberia.....

Dear Sir/Madam, In Jesus name, with great joy and appreciation, we the youth of Truth Baptist Church, we say a big thanks to you all. We hope that this love should continue between us.

Your sincerely, Br. Jeremiah Suah

What a joy to read this sometimes broken English, sent from those who have been directly impacted by the BEAMS' program at Smith Grove!



BEAMS' Report for November 2017

of Pledges: 15; # of Contributions: 2;

Total Contributors: 17

Total Contributed: \$ 629.00 =

78 Bibles in November (plus some postage)

A special thank you to the Young Adult Bible Class for their contribution of \$335 to the BEAMS' ministry to be used for postage.

**You can also get the BEAMS' report online at our website:
http://www.smithgrove.org/beams_ministry.htm**

Pastor Chuck's sermons online: [smithgrove.org](http://www.smithgrove.org)

Audio Sermons



Christmas Card Distribution: Do you want to save money on postage? Simply place your cards in the boxes provided at the front of the church (each will be marked with a range of the alphabet). The cards will be distributed in church on December 24.

Congratulations!

....to the Bride & Groom!

Paul Kelley and Megan Pressley

October 28, 2017



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."



“Our Honour Roll”

Smith Grove’s ministry to our widows and widowers

“Honour widows that are widows indeed.”

(1 Timothy 5:3)

This is a continuing churchwide ministry to remember widows and widowers of the church in a meaningful way. Each month, we highlight our special “Honour Roll Gang Members” who are having birthdays. Listed below are *December and January* Honour Roll Gang members. Please take a moment to send a card, make a telephone call, or do something extra special for our special saints.

Joretta Holt

8412 Stafford Mill Rd.
Oak Ridge, N.C. 27310
336-993-2493
336-707-6624 (Cell) ~ December 7

Casandra Mann

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

Neva Long

8716 Staples Road
Colfax, NC 27235
336-993-4294 ~ December 19

Kathy Flynt

1965 Sandy Ridge Road
Colfax, NC 27235
336-668-2500 ~ January 7

Bernice Johnson

1624 Mellon Dr.
Kernersville, NC 27284
336-904-0832 ~ December 23

Dolly Westmoreland

520 Lakedale Rd
Colfax, NC 27235
336-993-2093 ~ January 27

Save these 2018 Dates!

Quarterly Meetings of the Men’s Fellowship & Ladies’ Fellowship: Tuesdays ~ Jan. 16, April 17 & July 17 (In the Fellowship Bldg.)



MEMBER UPDATE: New phone numbers for **Ernie Fulk:**

Ernie Cell: (336) 341-1598; **Kathy Cell:** (336) 209-7636



December Anniversaries

- 1 Cleo & Reva Holt (1951)
- 3 Dan & Bobbie Hayworth
- 23 Waynard & Carol Nuckles



SICK/OTHER PRAYER NEEDS:

(Newly added names are in italics.)

Mary Allen (Cancer)
Annie Alley (Health Issues)
Jo Ann & Melvin Alley
Lucille Alley (Health Issues)
Julia Anderson (cancer)
Lou Badgett
Joe Blackburn (surgery)
Eddie Blackburn (Heart)
Terri Blankenship (broken foot)
Sheridan Bowman
Paulette Bull (Health issues)
Tammy Burnett (cancer)
Kay Collins (Health issues)
Richard Collins (Health issues)
Bob Cox (Cancer)
Tonya Crews (Cancer)
Sue Druck (Cancer)
Jamie & Jan Estes
Diane Foust
Debbie Frazier (ALS)
Kathy Fulk (Health issues)
Kim Garrett (Cancer/Crohn’s Disease)
Gertrude Glidewell (Health Issues)
Ephraim Gosler (Health Challenges)
Gospel Light Leadership Team:
Rev. Bobby Roberson (Brain Tumor)
Rev. Jeff Johnson (Cancer)
Bob Richards (Cancer)
Robbie Jones (Kidney Disease)
Stanley Gray (Heart attack)
Jo Ann Green (knee surgery)
Samuel Hall (Health Issues)
Ivan Handy (Gravely ill)
R.C. Harrelson (Hospice Care)
Mary Hart (stroke)
Teresa Hatch (Breast Cancer)
George Hayes (heart)
Bill Hayworth (Cancer)
Rhonda Hedgecock
Ricky Hedgecock
Stan Hedgecock (Serious car accident)
Tim Hedgecock
Cleo & Reva Holt (Health issues)
Cheryl Holt’s brothers (Salvation)
Joretta Holt (CHF & acoustic neuroma)
Annie Hutchens (broken ankle)
Jeffrey’s School friend (Brain tumor)
Robin Jobe

David Kite (stroke)
Wanda Lemar (Health issues)
Clara Farrington Long (health issues)
Richard Long (Surgery)
Robert Maness (Health issues)
Ann Matthews (Colon cancer)
Daniel & Mazie Matthews
Jessie May (Health Issues)
David & Carol McBrayer
Kevin McBrayer (Heart Issues)
Maggie McGee
Barry McLaurin (serious surgery)
Mary Miller (Health issues)
Darris Moore (broken ankle)
Shannon Pardue (Cancer)
Mae Cecil Petticord (Stroke)
Jo Anne Pegram (Kidney issues)
Ethel Pendry
Gene & Oma Lou Pitts
Allen Priddy (PTSD)
Gabriel Ransom (brain tumor)
Sandra Richardson
Connie Rierson (Heart issues)
Alvin Ring (Health issue)
Carissa Robbins (NF2 - tumors)
Tom Rodgers
Justin Royal
Noah Sanchez
Adam & Maryann Serafini (Spiritual needs)
Betty Sue Smith (Heart issues)
Fred Smith (Cancer)
Nancy Smith (Health Issues)
Ronald Smith (Heart Issue)
Allen Steele (Syria)
Donald Stephens
Dennis Stone (Illness)
Mike Tate (Health issues)
Mae Tester (Health issues)
Donald Tilley (Heart surgery)
Wayne Tilley (Cancer)
Michael Vogler (Internal bleeding)
Betty Wall (Colon cancer)
Clara Ward
Duain Whitemore (broken shoulder)

BEREAVED Family of:

Peggy Ballard (Patsy Pendry’s sister)
Mark Lockley (Nancy Kelley’s nephew)



~ *Golden Corral ~ Military Appreciation Meal* ~
 Monday, November 13, 4:00 till 9:00 p.m.

Smith Grove was there . . .

. . . Glowing with excitement, we distributed appreciation packets to service men and women after they received their meal at Golden Corral. What a blessing to see faces light up with our greeting, “*Thank you for your service!*” When time permitted, we explained that the packet was a gift from our church and invited them to come visit with us! We distributed 612 packets! *Praise the Lord!*

Thank you for your support of this patriotic, soul-seeking outreach! Let’s all pray that seeds will be sown, hearts encouraged, and that precious souls will be saved.

To God be the Glory!

“We sleep safely at night because rough men stand ready to visit violence on those who would harm us”. —Winston Churchill

”Whatever you do, you need courage. Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires some of the same courage that a soldier needs. Peace has its victories, but it takes brave men and women to win them.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

” It doesn’t take a hero to order men into battle. It takes a hero to be one of those men who goes into battle.” – H. Norman Schwarzkopf, Jr.

The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.”

– Douglas MacArthur

Men’s Fellowship

I thank our Lord and Savior for our Pastor asking me to share a devotional at the Men’s quarterly Fellowship. I spoke on the Priority of Prayer in our daily life. This was and is an awesome responsibility to stand and share what God is doing and desires to do daily in our life. I have to confess that sometimes other “things” get ahead of my devotional and prayer time.

Hopefully allowing me to reiterate a few points may challenge each of us to consider the importance and priority of prayer. Not only is this relevant for me personally but for those around us. Someone may ask, “How’s my prayer life impacting others?”

We often pray for others asking that His Will be done, regardless of our wants and desires. Occasionally, one may share their burden with you, asking you to pray. Do you consider this as a priority in your prayer life? Do you respond instantaneously or whenever you get around to it?

When we tell someone we will pray, is that our commitment to them and to God to do so? I hope so, especially when I ask you to pray with me over a burden. Unfortunately, I have stumbled before and failed to recall my prayer commitment until I saw that individual again! Shamefully, I confessed and asked His forgiveness and strength not to forget a prayer commitment again.

Please read Mark [14:32-38](#). At Gethsemane, Jesus asked His disciples to sit while he went to pray. Guess what – Jesus found them sleeping upon His return. Verse 38: Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak. Yes, our flesh is weak!

We find an admonition in I Thessalonians [5:17](#) - *Pray without ceasing*. Our prayers do not have to be an “on-your-knees-prayer.” We can pray with our eyes open or closed when asking God to bring His Light to shine and supply the need at hand. After all, look in John [15:5](#), *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing*.

Philippians [4:6](#), *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God*.

May we always consider prayer and prayer requests as privileges and commitments in serving Him. Let each of us be challenged to consider **Prayer** as a **Priority** in our life.

God Bless you, *Calvin Vaughn*

Branch Family update – South Africa

Greetings once again to all our dear friends! “Prys die Here!!” (‘Praise the Lord’ in Afrikaans) In unexpected fashion, God graciously granted for Malachi and me the opportunity to travel to the States in September to join up with Vicki and Anna to see our new grandbaby! Though the stay was short (4 days), we were thrilled to be able to hold Rylee in our arms, to be able to visit with some of our family, and even preach at our home church! A HUGE “thank you” to our home church, Victory Baptist Church in Danville, VA and Pastor Curtis, for giving so generously toward making the trip possible!

Ministry: The various ministries of Truth Baptist Church continue to go well and show great spiritual growth. God has given us a core group of people who are faithful to most every service and work hard to witness and invite people to church. We’re currently placing a greater emphasis on reading the Bible and the people are responding with great enthusiasm. All of the children’s outreaches in the various schools and daycares are doing well and keeping us busy, including the monthly outreach in the village of Greenpoint. The school year is winding down and they will take the whole month of December off so it will slow down a little then. We’re praying that the Lord has used us to build a good foundation this first year that we can build off of when school resumes in January. We are planning to have a “Missions Emphasis” month in November. It will be the very first time for most of the people to hear and learn about the ministry of missions. We are praying that by the first of the year our church will be able to begin supporting missionaries!

We are also in the planning stages to present a “Live Nativity” here in the city at Christmas. When we moved to Kimberley last year, we noticed very little emphasis on Christ at Christmas. So, our church wants to change that by presenting a live nativity that will put forth the message that Christ should be the center of Christmas. We will be setting up in a park located in a heavily-travelled part of the city. The church people will be dressed in costume and we hope to have a few live animals as well. A table will be set up nearby to hand out gospel tracts and hopefully witness to people. This has never been done in our city before and we’re very excited to see God use this to “bring...good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.”

Prayer: PRAY for the all the children’s outreaches that we can make a difference in their lives for Christ. For Truth Baptist Church for souls to be saved, baptized, and discipled. For the “Live Nativity” to be used to bring glory to God and get people to think of Christ at Christmas. For the young men in the Bible Institute as they finish up their first full year of training in November.

In Christ’s Service, *The Branch Family*

IMPORTANT NOTICE: As our visas will expire in January, 2019, it will be necessary for us to take furlough sometime next year. We are prayerfully planning to go to the States in early August, 2018 and return home to South Africa in early January, 2019. We will be staying on the eastern side of the U.S. closer to our home base for this furlough, and will plan to visit the Midwest and West on our next furlough. If you would like to schedule us for a visit during this time, please email me at preachkjb1@aol.com or call me at 434-688-0632 (please keep in mind that as of Nov. 3rd, we are seven hours ahead of EST).



In the weeks leading up to Christmas, our young people are finding many ways to reflect on the coming of the Savior! In the Bible Club’s study, “Happy Birthday, Jesus,” we continue to seek the Lord in Old Testament scripture. We have traced the story of Jesus, starting with God’s promise in the Garden of Eden. We’ve read the promise that the Savior would come through Abraham’s family, then we witnessed the way Ruth’s faithfulness put *her* in line to become an ancestor of the Lord... from Ruth and Boaz, to Obed, to Jesse, to David. The youngsters loved acting out the parts of Jesse’s eight sons when Samuel came to anoint the next king of Israel... the way God rejected each son until little David was brought from the sheep field and declared king, because the Lord looks on the heart, not on the outward appearance! We marveled that King David was the *great, great, great, great* grandfather of Jesus, and we examined the deep roots of Jesus’ family tree. Additionally, we have looked at the varied prophecies that God revealed ... the many details that gave clues about Jesus, hundreds of years before His arrival! How fascinating to ponder a few pieces of the puzzle from the prophets Isaiah and Micah, who gave clues that the Savior would be born in Bethlehem, would be born of a virgin, would be the Light in a dark world, and would be called “Immanuel”... “*God with us.*” Isaiah 9:6 proclaims, “His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.” How blessed we are, to live in this age of looking *back* on Jesus’ first coming instead of looking ahead to it! We can readily accept Him as the Messiah because we see the complete picture, and we know that Jesus is victorious on the cross, at His resurrection, and in all the end time events to come. We can be assured of His second coming, because it’s clear to see that when God makes a promise, He keeps it!

Our lessons tracing the thread of Jesus throughout scripture have also served to prepare us for our Christmas play to be presented on December 17. Our young people are eager to honor Christ as we celebrate His coming, through songs, re-enactments, and scriptures. With the backdrop of a snowy mountain cabin, the young people will assist Whiskers and Scottie in proclaiming the sweetest gift of all... Jesus! Please help us pray that hearts will be tender, and that someone will realize their need of Jesus as their Savior. May all our church family be blessed with a season that celebrates the miracle of His coming! What a wonder... from the very beginning, when mankind faltered and fell away from the Father, God promised to send His salvation. His perfect answer was Jesus...”for unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.”

Bruce, Darla, & Marshall

“The Wonder of Christmas”

Pastor Chuck Peters

We are now in the 2017 Christmas season. Much has changed in terms of technology and the new “Christmas décor!” Department stores brought out the Christmas decorations earlier than ever, it seems. This year we can expect more sights and sounds to brighten up the holiday.

Many of us actually miss the old décor. I, for one, miss the “bubble lights” and strung popcorn on the tree! Many of us also are tempted to say that Christmas is just not quite the same. We say this because there is now an element of loneliness due to absences of loved ones and friends. We also remember the Christmases of childhood and excitement of the unbroken family circle. We are tempted to think that the “wonder” is gone!

Yes, we know that Jesus is the reason for the season. We know the fact of Christ being virgin born and most of us are very familiar with the Christmas favored text, Luke Chapter Two.

The true “wonder” of Christmas is still the same and will never change regardless of the passing of time and the passing of precious family members and friends! The “wonder” of Christmas cannot change for it is based upon the “wonder” of an irreversible event, the virgin birth of Jesus Christ! The “wonder” of Christmas is found in the One whose name is “Wonderful!” (Isa.9:6)

The Shepherds found that “wonder” for they found the “Wonder” of Christmas when they found the Christ child.

We need not fear the attempts of the atheistic crowd who attempt more every year to alter the Christmas celebration. Changes will never change the reason, message, and result of Christmas. No one will ever change the name of the One called “Emanuel!” Christians will never lose the real “wonder” of Christmas for they know the “Person” of the “wonder.” They have experienced the “wonder” of salvation. We may lose the sense of the magical, sentimental feeling that dominates this time of year but the real “wonder” stays intact.

The “wonder” of Christmas is still a reality in 2017. Traditions and times change but truth remains the same. If Christmas could be lost then the “wonder” would be lost. Since Christmas is about the virgin birth of Christ, it can never be lost, including its “wonder.” That precious historical event and its corresponding fulfillment of prophesy cannot be altered.

The “wonder” of Christmas lives on and the salvation of every sinner is a testimony to that “wonder!” The One who defines Christmas was indeed virgin born. He died a vicarious death and arose victoriously. Those who have found the “wonder” will forever celebrate the “wonder!”

Proclaiming the Savior's Birth Abroad

~ An Excerpt from a Sermon Delivered on Sunday Morning, December 24, 1863, by C. H. Spurgeon, at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington.



To begin then, in the first place, we find that some celebrated the Saviour’s birth by PROCLAIMING ABROAD what they had heard and seen; and truly we may say of them that they had something to rehearse in men’s ears well worth the telling. What prophets and kings had waited long for, had at last arrived and arrived to them. They had found out the answer to the perpetual riddle. They might have run through the streets with Archimedes the ancient philosopher, crying, “Eureka! Eureka!” for their discovery was far superior to his. They had discovered no solution to a mechanical problem or metaphysical dilemma, but their discovery was second to none ever made by men in real value, since it has been like the leaves of the tree of life to heal the nations, and a river of water of life to make glad the city of God. They had seen angels; they had heard them sing a song all strange and new. They had seen more than angels,— they had beheld the angel’s King, the Angel of the Covenant whom we delight in. They had heard the music of heaven, and when near that manger the ear of their faith had heard the music of earth’s hope, a mystical harmony which should ring down all through the ages, — the serious sweet melody of hearts attuned to praise the Lord, and the glorious swell of the holy joy of God and man rejoicing in glad accord. They had seen God incarnate, — such a sight that he who gazes on it must feel his tongue unloosed, unless indeed an unspeakable astonishment should make him dumb. Be silent when their eyes had seen such a vision! Impossible! To the first person they met outside that lowly stable door they began to tell their matchless story, and they did not weary until nightfall, crying, “Come and worship! Come and worship Christ, the newborn King!” As for us, beloved, do we not have something also to relate which demands utterance? If we speak of Jesus, who can blame us? This, indeed, might make the tongue of him who sleeps to move, — the mystery of God incarnate for our sake, bleeding and dying so that we might neither bleed nor die, descending so that we might ascend, and wrapped in swaddling bands so that we might be unwrapped from the grave clothes of corruption. Here is such a story, so profitable to all hearers that he who repeats it the most often does best, and he who speaks the least has the most reason to accuse himself for sinful silence.