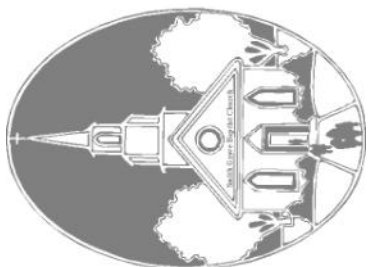


Must have  
First Class  
Stamp



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

**VOLUME 41**  
**December 2024**  
**ISSUE 489**

**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*  
**2024**



**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., Dec. 7, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission**  
**Sun., Dec. 8 ~ Special Music by the Agee Family** (See pg. 2)  
 Christmas Dinner after the morning service. Our Church will provide the meal; please bring desserts.  
 \* **NO EVENING SERVICE** \*



**Dec. 15 ~ BEAMS Sunday**  
**Dec. 22, 6 pm ~ Youth Christmas Play**  
**December 25 ~ NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE**  
**Robinwood Retirement Ctr.~ December Mtg Schedule: 3 p.m.**  
 on Wednesdays Dec. 4, 11, & 18; and on Mondays Dec. 23 and 30  
 \* **M E R R Y \* C H R I S T M A S** \*

**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:** Betty Byrd Iris Farrington

## IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

**PVT Adam Brittain**, Army, Stateside (Sam Crater's nephew)

**CW4 Jonathan Harless** (Ft. Bragg) } (Hal & Martha

**COL Robert Harless** (Ft. Bragg, NC) } Harless' sons)

**E5 Noah Johnson**, US Coast Guard, Portsmouth, VA

(Henry & Geraldine Johnson's grandson)

**CCWO5 Michael Maine**, US Army; Fort Rucker, AL

(Nephew of Clarence Redmon)

**SSgt Trevor Westmoreland**, Army, Fort Benning, GA

(Allen & Sandy Westmoreland's son)

**1stSgt Gregory Reynolds**, Marines, Camp Pendleton, CA.

(Jan Reynolds' son.)

**SSgt. Josh Robertson**, Marines, Naples, Italy (From Clyde Gray)

**The Country of Israel** - families of those killed, and the hostages taken. *May God's chosen people prevail.*



## BEAMS' Report for November 2024

# of Pledges: 8; # of Contributions: 6;

Total Contributors: 14

Total Contributed: \$ 593.00 =

74 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/>

**National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day** ~ Each year on December 7, Pearl Harbor Survivors, veterans, and visitors from all over the world come together to honor and remember the 2,403 service members and civilians who were killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. A further 1,178 people were injured in the attack, which permanently sank two U.S. Navy battleships (the USS Arizona and the USS Utah) and destroyed 188 aircraft. On August 23, 1994, the United States Congress designated December 7 as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Every year, remembrance events are held at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial.

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."

## The Agee Family

### Our Mission

The Agee Family consists of Mom, Dad, and five children. Everyone sings; everyone plays instruments. We travel full-time for one purpose: to worship and glorify God through the Lord Jesus Christ in Spirit and in truth. We also hope to be a blessing to others pointing them to the one true God in salvation, sanctification, and service. "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." Revelation 4:11 KJV Interesting fact from son, Seth: In 2023, my sister Megan and I started an online radio station called Impact Christian Radio, which is currently up and running on Live 365. <https://theageefamily.com/>





**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. 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

**Bernice Johnson**

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

**Doris Cochran**

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

**Nancy Kelley**

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

**Mary Ellen Haynes**

708 Lakedale Rd.  
 Colfax, NC 27235  
 336-993-2081 ~ January 27

**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



***The Reason and Season for Joy***

True joy is rare in this stressful world and even in the Christian world. Joy is defined as "feeling great delight with present or expected good." This is the world's definition, for many people equate joy with feeling good. Christian joy is the joy found in the Lord and is an independent joy. It is a joy independent of "enjoyable conditions" and includes a cheerfulness independent from cheerful conditions. It is a joy which survives difficult conditions, to include a famine in the land. "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation." – Habakkuk 3:17-18

Christian joy is a fruit of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith," – Galatians 5:22 The Christian life is illustrated by a garden plant. When the "root system" is right, the "fruit system" is right. "Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." – Colossians 2:7

The reason and season for Christian joy is stated by a man who once told a crew on board of a sinking ship to cheer up and then later wrote from prison these words: "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." – Philippians 4:4 The real reason for joy is seen in a living relationship with the living Lord. "Rejoice in the Lord." The season for joy is stated in the word, "alway." The priority of joy is seen in the final words in the verse. "and again I say, Rejoice." I also would add that "Rejoice" is capitalized!

The Lord and salvation in Him are the reason for joy and *the season is always or forever*. We all need to square up our emotions with Scripture and through the aid of the Holy Spirit! Life's tough but God is good and joy is still available in Christ. A smiley face is okay but a joyful heart is better! – **Chuck Peters, Pastor Emeritus**



***And the reason for the season of Christmas?***

Luke 2:11 states, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." This verse is a reminder that Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season. Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. He came to this earth to die willingly for our sins on the cross. That is right! **He loved us that much!**







## Be Strong ~ Youth

Our Christmas season has officially begun, with the generous outpouring of shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child! Thank you so much, church family, for being such a vital part of this outreach. Together, we have once again packed shoeboxes for several faraway children, and we are deeply grateful for your help! Continue to pray that the young recipients will open their hearts to Christ when the Samaritan's Purse missionaries arrive to present our gifts, along with the Gospel. Christmas is the perfect time to share the true and treasured story of why Jesus came in a manger, and how He was born to die, to rescue sinful mankind.

In the coming weeks, our youngsters will busily prepare for our Christmas play, to be presented on the evening of December 22<sup>nd</sup>. It's always a blessing to watch them come together, youngest to oldest, as they combine their efforts to bring the Christmas story to you, our dear church family. They take their roles seriously, and truly put their hearts into bringing honor to the Lord while we celebrate His birth at this precious time of year.

Our youngsters have also recently wrapped up the Book of Acts in their Bible Timeline, watching Paul on his missionary journeys, followed by his eventual arrival and ministry in Rome. Next in sight is the Book of Revelation, and we are eager to explore "The Church and the Last Days". In this special season, all our Timeline truths have come full circle as we ponder the glory of Jesus taking us home and making all things new. Our Savior is the heart of our Bible, from cover to cover, and it is tremendous to watch the wonder in our students when they catch a glimpse of why Jesus came. From the beginning, when sin corrupted human hearts in the garden, the Father promised a Redeemer, and His Word is the unfolding story of the amazing plan God set in motion to rescue our frail, fallen souls and restore our relationship with Him. On that long ago Christmas night, Hope was born in a Bethlehem stable when God Himself, clothed in flesh, willingly came, to live among us, knowing He would give His life to bring us salvation. Every piece of our Timeline reflects the message of His gospel, and Jesus is at the center of it, from the past to the future. Just as sure as He came to Bethlehem long ago, He has promised to come again. The assurance of an eternity with Him gives us a blessed hope we cling to in this life. As Christmas approaches, we tenderly anticipate celebrating Jesus with you all... our Promised Messiah, our Lowly Baby in a manger, our Loving Redeemer, our Risen Savior, our Coming King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

May Jesus Be the Center of Our Celebration,  
*Bruce, Darla, and Marshall*

**BREAKING NEWS:** A truck loaded with thousands of copies of Roget's Thesaurus crashed yesterday losing its entire load. Witnesses were stunned, startled, aghast, taken aback, stupefied, confused, shocked, rattled, paralyzed, dazed, bewildered, mixed up, surprised, awed, dumbfounded, nonplussed, flabbergasted, astounded, amazed, confounded, astonished, overwhelmed, horrified, numbed, speechless, and perplexed.

**I was telling** my three boys the story of the Nativity and how the wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the infant Jesus. Clearly giving it a lot of thought, my 6-year-old observed, "Mom, a wise woman would have brought diapers."

**While I was** president of a state college in New York, I came home from work one December day and drove my 5-year-old son, Brett, to Santa's village. Brett was nervous but excited and had a long wish list of toys clutched in his hand. When it was our turn, we approached the great man seated in his big chair. That was when Santa, who turned out to be a student at my college, stood up, extended his hand, and said, "Dr. Andersen. This is an unexpected pleasure!" Brett dropped his list, stared at me with astonishment, and said, "Why didn't you tell me you knew Santa?"

**What did** one snowman say to the other? "Yeah, man, I smell carrots, too!"

**It was the** Sunday before Christmas, and our young new pastor was sharing with the congregation the somewhat ambitious goal he had set for himself the previous December: to visit every church family in their homes before the year ended.

Apologizing for not quite achieving his aim, he asked that anyone desiring a visit before the year's end please raise his hand. We all looked as one person raised her hand. It was the pastor's wife.

Proverbs 17:22

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.



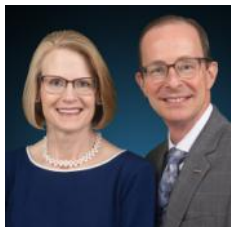
**President's Perspective...** A message from David H. Snyder,  
President ~ Baptist International Missions, Inc.

The Apostle Paul asked for prayer *that the word of the Lord would have free course, and be glorified* (2 Thessalonians 3:1). It is important that we pray about this regularly since Satan is working continually to restrict the proclamation of the Gospel. Sometimes the Lord uses tools like medical missions to open doors, allowing His Word to have free course. Such is the case in the following account given by Kristine McLaughlin, BIMI Medical Missionary serving in Côte d'Ivoire.

When one arrives in a new village, we as missionaries have learned through the years that it is important to present ourselves to the village chief. We arrived, asked around, and were directed to his house. We met with the chief along with his nobility. They welcomed us warmly. To our great surprise and delight, the chief asked if one of our men could preach. I had a couple of deacons with me. Our head deacon preached. They asked for a second preaching session and then a third. All of which our men were glad to deliver. Our hearts could not have been more touched. In my 15 years of ministry here in Ivory Coast, I have never seen this level of openness from a chief during an initial meeting. At the end of our time together, he thanked us sincerely and said, *"We are thirsty for this Word. We will be watching the road for when you come back."*



I praise the Lord for how He is working around the world through faithful missionaries like Kristine. The Word of God is being proclaimed and It will never return void. Thank you for your support of missionaries who are seeking to glorify God by entering the doors He is opening in Africa and the rest of the world. May the LORD richly bless you!



David & Barb Snyder

In Christ,

David H. Snyder  
John 15:16

**A Christmas Poem** by Helen Steiner Rice



Emily, Annela, Edward, Darla,  
Alice, Bryan, Wendy, KATHY, Helen,  
Melanie, Alice, Allen, Richard, BAE,  
Emma, Francisco, Natalie, Emma, Caldon,  
Katelyn, Bill, Karolyn, Grand, John,  
Melanie, David, Arnold, Lydia, Eric,  
Audrey, Tiffany, Kevin, Holly, Peter, Ryan,  
Sharon, Aaron, WILSON, Aubrey, Kristie

I have a list of folks I know, all written in a book  
And every year when Christmas comes, I go and take a  
look,  
And that is when I realize that these names are a part  
Not of the book they are written in, but really of my  
heart

For each name stands for someone who has crossed my path sometime,  
And in the meeting they've become the rhythm in each rhyme  
And while it sounds fantastic for me to make this claim,  
I really feel that I'm composed of each remembered name  
And while you may not be aware of any special link  
Just meeting you has changed my life a lot more than you think  
For once I've met somebody, the years cannot erase  
The memory of a pleasant word or of a friendly face  
So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine  
Of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between,  
For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you,  
It is because you're on the list that I'm indebted to  
For I am but a total of the many folks I've met,  
And you happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget  
And whether I have known you for many years or few,  
In some ways you have a part in shaping things I do  
And every year when Christmas comes, I realize anew,  
The best gifts life can offer is meeting folks like you.  
And may the spirit of Christmas that forever endures  
Leave its richest blessings in the hearts of you and yours.



**St. Nick was more generous than jolly**

The original Santa Claus was actually St. Nicholas, a Christian bishop in the 4th century. He didn't wear the red suit that's so famous today, but he did give all of his inheritance to the poor and needy. In Dutch, his name is Sinter Klaas, which later morphed into Santa Claus.

**Christmas wreaths are religious symbols**

The custom of bringing evergreens into the home began in the 16th century among northern and eastern Europeans, primarily Germans, as a means of cleaning up the Christmas tree and making it more uniform. Instead of throwing out cut-off greens, people wove the excess into wreaths.



However, the religious significance is that the circular shape and evergreen material of the wreath represent eternal life. The circle, which has no beginning or end, "symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul and the everlasting life we find in Christ."



## Give the Gift of Jesus By Deborah Ann Belka

### *This Christmas . . .*

I'm decorating my heart,  
with the wrappings of His love.  
Tying a ribbon around my soul,  
with His blessings from above.

I'm going to avoid all the malls,  
and stop not at a single store.  
The only present I will give,  
is the One that will restore.

I'm giving the gift of forgiveness,  
sending cards about His grace.  
I'm letting the glory of His birth,  
beam across my thankful face.

I'm opening up my home,  
for everyone to come and see.  
The light of His beauty,  
so to celebrate His birth with me.

I'm serving a dish of Christmas joy,  
and offering up God's good cheer.  
We will feast upon His holiness,  
and rejoice that our Saviour's here.

I'm baking Him up a special cake,  
singing to Him a birthday song.  
And a slice of His love and mercy,  
I'll give out for all to take along.

I'm giving the offering of Jesus,  
at naught a cost to me.

I'm sending out the message,  
there is One gift that is truly free!



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

## The Lamb of God By Donna Hendrix

In the stillness of a winter night  
The earth received God's Holy Light  
An infant born to a young virgin girl  
One tiny baby who would change the world

Birthered in a lowly barnyard stable  
The King of kings who would enable  
Born amid the cattle and sheep  
The Lamb of God lay fast asleep

Wise men and kings traveled from afar  
Led to this baby by the beautiful star  
Shepherds were alerted by angels on high  
The Savior is come; time to draw nigh

Angels filled the skies in glorious songs  
Singing praises to Him all night long  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
Came down to us in the form of a child

What a miracle for the world to see  
Yet, many don't believe He is our Savior to be  
Many think the infant born in the stable  
Is someone's version of a long ago fable

Even those who walked with Him on earth  
Doubted this man of the virgin birth  
His wondrous miracles, compassion, and endless love  
Were not proof enough for them that He came from  
above

This precious Christmas story is your saving grace  
God's gift of love to take sin's place  
He sent to this world His only begotten Son  
This tiny Lamb of God; the Father's will be done