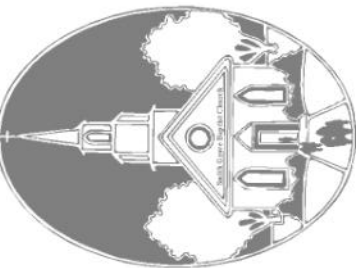


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Stamp



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VOLUME 42
January 2025
ISSUE 490

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
2025



Smith Grove Baptist Church
2707 Sandy Ridge Road ~ Colfax, NC 27235
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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

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 . . .*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2025!**

Sat., Jan. 4, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission

Jan. 19 ~ BEAMS Sunday

Robinwood Retirement Ctr. ~ Every Wednesday at 3:00 pm

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.

Message from the Pastor



Psalm 95:3~ "Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms."

I would like to thank you for the generosity you have shown to others in need. Your giving hearts have helped them greatly, and I know they are so grateful. 2024 has been a year of change, obstacles, heartbreak, challenges, and blessings. *God remained faithful through it all.*

We rejoice over the ones that came to know Christ, and we are grateful for His mercy and grace. We understand there will be more changes, obstacles, heartbreaks, challenges, and blessings in the year 2025. Always remember that God is faithful and worthy of all our praise. May we always have a thankful heart for Who He is, and what He has done for us at the Smith Grove Baptist Church.

In Christ, *Pastor Bruce*

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 December 2024

of Pledges: 8; # of Contributions: 6;
Total Contributors: 14
Total Contributed: \$ 674.00 =
84 Bibles in December (plus some postage)

Many thanks to all those who gave monies to the BEAMS' ministry specifically for postage which added \$ 150.00 in December!

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

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



THE END

Eliminate the first E, and the D - It's NOT the end, it's THEN that God can do a work in your heart!

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.

Casandra Mann

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

Kathy Flynt

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

Doris Cochran

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

Mary Ellen Haynes

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

Betty Bame

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

Jean Rumsey

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

*Are you or a family member turning 90 this year?
 Please let Pastor Bruce Freeman know if you would like to be
 recognized on your special birthday! (336-816-2473)*

- No January Anniversaries -

On Marriage: You don't marry one person; you marry three: the person you think they are, the person they are, and the person they are going to become as a result of being married to you.

- Richard Needham

A New Beginning in Christ

"The most important resolution you can make as another year approaches is this: to open your heart and life to Jesus Christ, and commit your life to Him. Don't waste your time on resolutions that don't ultimately matter; resolve instead to live for Christ."

The Messenger



The New Year 2025 will begin the 42nd year of publication for The Messenger. I remember well the beginnings, with Pastor Ward Laramore's guidance and solid support for our efforts.

But my, things have certainly changed since then. Cut and paste, literally, has yielded to the much simpler digital cutting and pasting on a computer. The old mimeograph, complete with paper masters and ink, gave way to our modern, computerized color laser copier (after various versions of improving print technology!). What a blessing!

Although the equipment, and even the number of publication staff which is needed to print the newsletter, has changed, there is one thing which has remained constant: *the message*.

It is our desire to always glorify God, encourage the saints, and point the lost to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **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 . . .

As our theme verse states, we want this ministry to always be

" . . . A faithful messenger" for Christ.

Happy New Year

from Sherrill & the Newsletter Committee!

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

What does a ghost say on January 1st?
Happy Boo Year!

Why is partying in Times Square overrated?
Because they drop the ball every year.

Last year, I was able to keep all of my New Year's resolutions...
... tucked away in a journal on my bookshelf.

Not to brag, but I already have a date for New Year's Eve.
It's December 31st.

Where do you go to do math homework on New Year's?
Times Square.





Be Strong ~ Youth

Our youth group has been busy as we close another year. What a blessing it is to watch these youngsters work together to bring you the beautiful story, “Night of Miracles”, to be presented on the night of December 22nd. Our insightful narrator (Addison) introduces us to Benjamin (Marshall Moore), a bright young man who has a promising future as a rabbi, but his faith is wavering in the midst of a dark valley. Because his father has died, Benjamin and his invalid mother, Naomi (Catherine), have come to live in Bethlehem with Uncle Simon, an innkeeper (Marshall Freeman). Benjamin finds it hard to find hope in the prophecies of old... after all, with 400 years of God’s silence, and under the oppressive hold of the Romans, it seems like God is far, far away from His beloved people. But Benjamin’s cousin, Miriam (Mackenzie), has a childlike faith and a flickering hope that endures many hardships. On a cold and crowded night in their little village, the family encounters Mary and Joseph (Angie and Watson) looking for a place to stay in the midst of a Roman census. With unexpected visits from prophets, shepherds, and angels (Parran, Anthony, Audrey Hendrix, and Lillie), the night holds special miracles for Benjamin and his entire family.

We pray that others will come along and watch the story unfold. God softly broke the silence on that starry Bethlehem night, sending His precious Son wrapped in human flesh and cradled in a filthy feeding trough. From that moment, God has been “with us”... in the darkest seasons, in the long and lonely waiting, and in the hardest times when all hope seems lost. For many of us, this has been a year of change, uncertainty, and sorrow. It seems there have been heavy storms coming one after the other. So, consider this little play a love letter to your broken hearts, friends, directly from our young people. Because Jesus came, we have His hope and his healing for any trial we face. While we gather at the manger once again, may our weary souls be refreshed as we rejoice! He came and willingly gave His life, a once-and-for-all sacrifice, that we might live forever, redeemed and reconciled with our Father. Let us be reminded that, in some chapters of life, it may seem that God is silent and far away, but He *is always at work* and tenderly waiting for the perfect time to bring His hope... His restoration... and His glory... to finish out our story.

Praying for His Hope in You, at Christmas and in 2025...

Bruce, Darla, and Marshall

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NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS

How many of you are planning on or have already decided to make a New Year’s Resolution? Have you ever kept one or know of someone who has? New beginnings are a wonderful thing and with a new year comes a new starting point. It is a way to erase or forget the past and move on. Many use January first to mark the start of that change for their resolution of self improvement.

These resolutions are good and it is a great way for implementing things that you keep putting off. Most of these self-imposed goals take a lot of stamina, determination and discipline but they are usually worth it.

If you stop and look at the concept, there is a parallel to the truth of Christ. He has given us a new beginning through the Cross, His Death and Resurrection! We truly can leave the past behind and enter into a brand new beginning! Through confessing our sin and believing in Him, we pass a threshold into a changed life and heart along with a clean slate! Mind boggling! To top it off, Christ will be there to walk alongside us! He provides His strength, we don’t need to rely on our own stamina, determination and discipline! That kind of minimizes the appeal of any worldly resolution!

When you make your New Year’s Resolutions this year, ask God to reveal an aspect of your relationship with Christ that needs some work. Then ask the Holy Spirit to help you in the New Year as you implement ways to strengthen your walk. Don’t forget these three: your prayer life, quiet time or Bible study time. Oh, and remember to ask for strength in controlling your tongue, attitude and temper.

Whatever the case, we all need some adjusting – just don’t forget to add God to the mix and put Him first in the New Year! He wants to bless, prosper and strengthen you.... so give Him the opportunity.... ask Him and then follow His lead! New Year’s Resolutions are great for believers because we don’t have to attempt them alone! Ring in the New Year with the Joy of your salvation!

Welcome the New Year with a Smile!

A minister parked his car in a “no parking” zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn’t find a space with a meter. So he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: I have circled the block 10 times. If I don’t park here, I’ll miss my appointment. FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES. When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note: I’ve circled this block for 10 years. If I don’t give you a ticket, I’ll lose my job. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION.

New Year's Cry

By Deb Nelson

Hear my cry, hear my plea,
This New Year, Jesus please change me.

For I still hurt too easily,
And I have pain, that no one sees.
And so I beg you, hear my cry,
As I moan, grumble and sigh.

Take my ego, take my pride,
And change me from the inside.
This is my New Year's prayer,
To always feel that You are there.
Search me, change me, make me whole,
Restore my heart, my mind and soul.



Happy New Year!

Hold fast to your faith (Heb 4:14)

Assemble with the Saints (Heb 10:25)

Pray earnestly everyday (1 Thes 5:17, 18)

Pray for great blessings (Mal 3:10)

Yield not to temptation (1 Thes 5:22)

Neglect not your talents and opportunities (Gal 6:10)

Examine yourself daily (2 Cor 13:5)

Work diligently for the Lord (1 Cor 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness (Rom 6:11, 16)

Exercise yourself in Godliness (1 Tim 4:7)

Aim at sinless perfection (Heb 6:1)

Redeem the time (Eph 5:15, 16)



Is Veteran's Day the only day that we witness? No... but it's a day where churches and volunteers across the nation help in getting the Gospel message into the hands of service

members and veterans. **THANK YOU ALL** who had a part in serving God during this event!

By God's grace and mercy, we were able to partner with Golden Corral, Texas Roadhouse, Chick fil-A; Bob Evans, and Applebee's restaurants. We were able to bless our Saviour with 52 restaurants where 24,507 veterans received 490,140 "little preachers".

We were able to share our Gospel packets in 42 cities on Veteran's Day, 2024 at a restaurant feeding veterans. Some of our supporters have set a goal of 75 restaurants for the 2025 Veterans Day. How can you be involved in this? Some of the items that touched hearts the most were the hand-written Thank You for Your Service notes and Coloring Pages that added a personal touch to the Gospel packets. **But, we need these all year long!**

Golden Corral in Anchorage AK

Nancy Carlson (right), along with Pastor Manny & Marla Fernandez of Eagle River Baptist Church. "The temperature was about 20 degrees. We were set up from 2:30 until 8 pm and handed out about 500 packets with thank you card and lots of Gospel literature. If they looked skeptical or sounded derisive, I had them open the packet, then the thank you card. When I explained that every piece of info in the packet was paid for and collated by people all over the country who are thankful for their service, and we were there to deliver that thanks to them personally, they looked at it differently. May God get the glory for the things he has done and will do with all those 'little preachers'!"



Golden Corral in Colonial Heights, VA I wanted to reach out to say thank you for your ministry and participation at our military appreciation night event. As I sit here today looking at the material that was distributed, I see how closely it relates with our core mission, a sincere thank you to those who served. You will be pleased to know that only a few who received the information left it behind. Rest assured, the literature will be redistributed! I wanted to personally thank the local pastor who worked our restaurant. I look forward to your organization's participation in the future. ~

Mike Edwards, General Manager, Golden Corral, Colonial Heights, VA
Ongoing Prayer Requests Please continue to pray for a building where we could have groups come and help with the collating. Also, I'm still in need of a vehicle that I can sleep in while away from home for a few weeks at a time. If you have a motor coach that you would like to donate to the mission, please call me. All financial support for the Gospel material needs to be sent to: **BAFM, 2400 Chandlersville Road, Zanesville, OH 43701** Donations for the building program or the coach needs to be marked as such.

In Christ by His Grace, *Brother Patrick*, Berean Armed Forces Ministry
Psalm 35:27 ~ patrick@newbafm.com 704-466-5517

The Blessings of Life

The deepest joys in life are in overlooked blessings which reflect the favor of God, unique to those created in His image and saved by His grace. The ability to maintain joy in spite of difficult circumstances is a blessing. The ability to be happy in spite of poverty is a blessing. The ability to enjoy a piece of fruit as simple as an apple and attribute its flavor matching our taste buds with the awareness that the Creator designed it that way. The blessing of finding an impulse to love the Lord in the midst of pain and duress. The blessing of knowing that we are blessed. The blessing of the ability to laugh even when circumstances are un-laughable. The blessing of empathy towards others who hurt and the ability to weep with those who weep. The blessing of nearing the homestretch of life's race with the realization that God's goodness, forgiveness, and abounding love overreach our sins, failures, and shortcomings. The blessing of recognizing the preciousness of life with the tendency to do all we can to live, for life itself, is a blessing from God. The blessing of being able to cope with fear and understand that God designed us physically and emotionally in a way which adjusts to this world's hostile environment.

Above all, the blessing of looking up into the star-studded sky at night with the ability to see beyond the reaches of our strongest telescope. The blessing of not only understanding Him as Creator but also knowing Him as Saviour! We not only can look up but we also can see that which is not seen by mere human eyes. We, who were joined to God in the relationship of redemption, became a new creation in Christ Jesus with a panting after God and blessed with the ability to enjoy best only that which relates to God and what He loves. We can look up into the heavens and say to ourselves, "There is my citizenship, there is my future home, there is my place of ultimate health, safety, and contentment for there is the One who took me in as a stranger, loved me as His child, and invested in me the riches of His favor and attention." Yes, the greatest blessing of life is to know the Blessor for then we are able to see our blessings including those overlooked by those depending only on human eyes and human emotions. We are most richly blessed!

Chuck Peters – 6/21/2022

A New Year - Rev. Kevin Litchfield (Excerpts from a message preached in 2004.)

Can you believe it? Having just celebrated Christmas Day, we look to the end of our past year and the beginning of a new year. This morning, as we reflect upon this new year, I would like to share with you once again a message entitled A New Year. It is my hope that this year's resolutions will remember Christ and our personal relationship and worship with Him.

As the year 2004 draws to a close, what kind of year has it been for you? Has it been a year to cherish or a year to quickly forget? Whatever the year's tone for us, this week fills us with hope. A hope that a new year will bring a change for us. A chance for a fresh new start- a new beginning. And with that many of us make new year resolutions - pledges or promises to yourself or to God that you will personally be different this year.

A story is told that at the beginning of a new year, a high school principal decided to post his teachers' new year's resolutions on the bulletin board. As the teachers gathered around the bulletin board, a great commotion started. One of the teachers was complaining. "Why weren't my resolutions posted?" She was throwing such a temper tantrum that the principal hurried to his office to see if he had overlooked her resolutions. Sure enough, he had mislaid them on his desk. As he read her resolutions he was astounded. This teacher's first resolution was not to let little things upset her in the New Year.

Regardless of past successes or failures... I want you to give a new year resolution one more try but this time realize that keeping this promise is a team effort. **Invite the Holy Spirit to join you this year...**

The disciples were faced with a new day. Their master Jesus had died. Their hopes were crushed. Their dreams shattered. As per Jesus' instructions, they assembled in an upper room knowing what needed to be done but lacking both the power and the desire to carry it out. It was here in their doubt that the Holy Spirit entered the picture.

Turn to Acts Chapter 2 beginning in verse 1. The Holy Spirit powerfully entered their lives and they became bold preachers of the Gospel.

As we contemplate a new year's resolution, we must do so realizing that we can not be successful in keeping it apart from God. John 15:5b says... Apart from me you can do nothing. And the me is clearly God. **So you are not alone.**

Matthew 19:26 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; **but with God all things are possible.**

