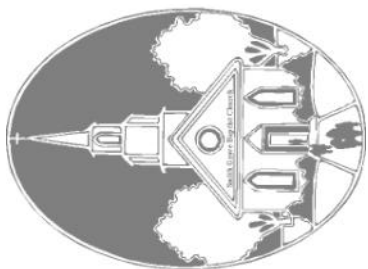


Must have
First Class
Stamp

THE MESSENGER

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

VOLUME 42
March 2025
ISSUE 492



www.smithgrove.org

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

Rev. Bruce Freeman, Pastor
Home (336) 996-1501
Cell (336) 816-2473

The Messenger



March
2025



Smith Grove Baptist Church
2707 Sandy Ridge Road ~ Colfax, NC 27235
www.smithgrove.org

Rev. Bruce Freeman, Pastor
H (336) 996-1501 C (336) 816-2473

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Morning Worship	11:00 AM
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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/UCj39_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 . . .*



March

Sat., March 1, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission

Sun., March 9 ~ Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Set clocks forward.

March 16 ~ BEAMS Sunday
March 20 (Thursday) ~ First day of Spring!

Sun., March 30, 6 pm ~ Song Service - Singers of the church.
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.



There was a university in New England where the students operated a “bank” of term papers and other homework assignments. There were papers to suit all needs. Since it would look odd if an undistinguished student suddenly handed in a brilliant essay, there were papers for an A grade, B grade, and C grade. One student, who had spent the weekend on more

“extra-curricular pursuits,” went to the bank, and as his course was a standard one, he took out a paper for an inconspicuous C. He then re-typed it and handed the work in.

In due course he received it back with the professor’s comments. “I wrote this paper myself twenty years ago. I always thought it was worth an A, and now I’m pleased to give it one!”

“Doctor, Doctor, I keep painting myself gold!”
“Don’t worry, it’s probably just a gilt complex!”



Proverbs 17:22

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

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 (Savannah, GA) } 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 February 2025

of Pledges: 8; # of Contributions: 7;

Total Contributors: 15

Total Contributed: \$ 702.00 =
87 Bibles in February (plus some postage)

Many thanks to all those who gave monies to the BEAMS’ ministry specifically for postage which added \$ 250.00 in February!

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

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

“You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving (John 3:16)”

"God is love; and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him" (1 John 4:16), "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love" (1 John 4:8), and "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

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 **(none in March or April)**. Please take a moment to send a card, make a telephone call, or do something extra special for our special saints.

Dear God, I come before you today with a heavy heart to dedicate our grieving friends to you.

Father, many of our friends have lost someone who was a very important part of their lives. This has completely broken them and now they cry. God, at this point in their lives, we know that only You can ease their grief. So, I pray that you, Lord, will wipe away their tears and soothe their pain. Help them find meaning in their life. Give them the strength and courage to move forward with their life. Be close to them through this dark period and lead them to your light and to a place where they can find joy, peace, and happiness in life again.

Thank you, God, for hearing our prayers. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*



*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)*

March Anniversaries

18th Sam & Sherrill Crater
27th Donnie & Mary Campbell



Irish Blessing



"May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face, And rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, May God hold you in the hollow of His hand."

Looking toward Easter . . .

Jesus died before Calvary!

Revelation 13:8b

***"... the Lamb slain from the foundation of
the world."***



The death of Jesus Christ for the sins of this world was planned and executed in the mind of God before the creation of this world. We read the following in the Book of Revelation: "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." – Revelation 13:8 Jesus, prophetically, died before Calvary!

The Book of Revelation is a Prophetic Book but also a Devotional Book. Devotional stimulation always occurs when the Preeminent Saviour is seen. This Book, itself, is the "Revelation of Jesus Christ"!

I would call your attention to three suggested ideas seen in the above quoted verse. We can note: A Popular Religion, A Proving Registry, and A Planned Redemption. There will be a popular universal religion of the worship of the anti-Christ. Mankind is incurably religious to include atheists and agnostics, for there is embedded in the human soul the reality of inferiority and the realization of someone or something of superiority. Today's culture is no exception, for atheism and its elements include a humanism which is a religion of self-attainment and power.

The Lamb's Book of Life is the proven registry of the redeemed. Those saved have their name recorded in that Book, and their name, in the Lamb's Book of Life, is the assurance that their name will not be blotted out of the Book of Life. "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." Revelation 3:5

Redemption was a planned redemption, planned before the foundation of the world, for Jesus was "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." The cross of Calvary was not an afterthought with God! God put thought into the salvation of the sinner and, furthermore, His redemption included you and me who have trusted Him for salvation. The omniscient God knew before the creation of this world every sinner who would be cleansed through the Blood of this, "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." ***Oh Hallelujah, Oh what a Saviour!***

Chuck Peters – 3/9/2023



Be Strong ~ Youth

In the days leading up to Valentine's Day, all of our young people took a Wednesday evening to celebrate the deep, enduring love of the Lord. First, we played a "left/right" game called "God's Love"... while they listened out for specific key words in the story that was read, our players sat in a circle and passed a stuffed puppy from one pair of hands to the next. As soon as they heard the words "right" or "left", the passing would quickly adjust accordingly for our alert listeners. The story was long, including snippets like this one: "His love surrounds us, **right** and **left**, in every moment of our lives. Even when we feel **left** alone, God is always **right** beside us **right** when we need Him most." The fast-paced passing provided a lot of laughs as the puppy made his rounds. For every round, whoever held him on the last word of the story got to choose a prize from the Valentine gift bag.

Next, we took a moment to ponder the many types of love we experience in this journey of life. Our intuitive young people, who always amaze us with their insightful answers, named over many aspects of love... parental love, sibling love, family love, friendship love, pet love, the sacrificial love that heroes feel for the rescued, and even patriotism, the stirring love felt for our homeland. Although the Valentine holiday focuses mainly on romantic love, we confirmed that there are countless objects of love to encounter in one human lifetime. None can compare, however, to the amazing and lasting love of God. Looking to the 139th Psalm, we are assured that He has not only wonderfully made us, but He also knows us thoroughly; He examines our hearts; and He sees our motives—yet He loves us still. We shared one of Jennifer Marshall Bleakley's sweet devotional lessons, that shows how our devoted dogs often follow us around wherever we go... little "shadows" that are always by our sides. In a way, they are living, tangible reminders that the Lord Himself is faithfully beside us with every step we take. In fact, verse 5 paints a beautiful picture: "*Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid Thine hand upon me.*" Positioning the stuffed puppy helped us visually demonstrate how our God accompanies His children—in front of the toy, behind the toy, and above the toy. In the same way, Jesus not only goes before us, but He also follows us, and puts His hand of blessing upon our heads. Every moment, we are completely surrounded by His loving presence in every direction... **before** us, **behind** us, and **above** us. No wonder the next verse has the psalmist declare that such knowledge is too wonderful, and too great to understand. Truly, the scope of His perfect and unconditional love is beyond our grasping! For our young people especially these days, this world offers a bleak look at love. In this fallen world, we often become discouraged and disappointed in the love exchanged in our frail human relationships. But finding the Lord's constant and everlasting love is life's sweetest gift. No matter what we face, we're surrounded, in all directions, by the redeeming and merciful love of Jesus. We're so grateful that He protects us and carries us through all of life's heartaches.

Praying You Sense His Loving Presence This Season,
Bruce, Darla, and Marshall

TRAVELING ON YOUR KNEES

Last night I took a journey
To a land across the seas.
I didn't go by ship or plane
I traveled on my knees.

I saw so many people there
In bondage to their sin,
And Jesus told me I should go,
That there were souls to win.

But I said "Jesus, I can't go
To lands across the seas."
He answered quickly, "Yes, you can
By traveling on your knees."

He said, "You pray, I'll meet the
need.

You call, and I will hear.
It's up to you to be concerned
For lost souls far and near."

And so I did; I knelt in prayer,
Gave up some hours of ease,
And with the Savior by my side,
I traveled on my knees.

As I prayed on, I saw souls saved
And twisted persons healed,
I saw God's workers, strength re-
newed,
While laboring in the field.

I said, "Yes Lord, I'll take the job.
Your heart I want to please.
I'll heed Your call and swiftly go
By traveling on my knees."

By Sandra Goodwin

Thy Living Word

There's a still small voice,
Always there to aid my choice.
Wisdom's whispers soft but strong,
Teaching me right from wrong...
'Tis the Living Word.

There is a sweet treat,
Honey from the comb so free to eat.
The pure and pristine whole,
That daily delights my soul...
'Tis the Living Word.

There is a guiding light,
A shining lamp on dreary nights.
The path is clear in its glow,
When I'm not sure which way to
go...
'Tis the Living Word.

There is a flaming sword
Keeping my mortal mind secured.
My stand to fight and take apart,
Evil wiles against my heart...
'Tis the Living Word.

There is an oasis,
Wellspring of hope and peace.
A fountain that never runs dry,
Healing and lifting my spirit high...
'Tis the Living Word.

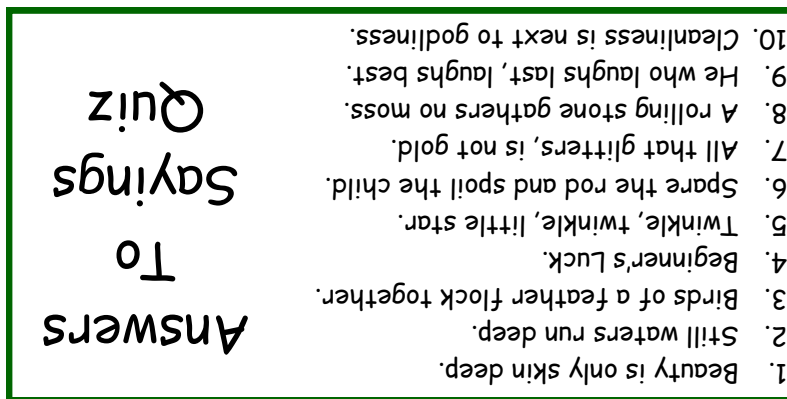
Helpless in so many ways,
In Thee I find sufficient grace;
So help me live, dear Lord, I pray,
In thoughts and deeds and all I say...
by **Thy Living Word.**

By Abimbola T. Alabi, president of
City of Refuge Ministries

Obfuscations of Celebrated Oracular Utterances

[Can you decipher the famous sayings?]

1. Pulchritude possesses solely cutaneous profundity.
2. Compounds of hydrogen and oxygen in the proportion of two to one that are without visible movement invariably tend to flow with profundity
3. Members of an avian species or identical plumage congregate.
4. Neophyte's serendipity.
5. Scintillate, scintillate, asteroid minific.
6. Eschew the implement of correction and vitiate the scion.
7. All articles, which coruscate with resplendence, are not truly auriferous.
8. Calculus concretions in rotary transition glean negligible bryophytic accretion.
9. The person presenting the ultimate cachinnation possesses thereby the optimal cachinnation.
10. Freedom from incrustations of grime is contiguous to deification



March Quotes

- “It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.” — Charles Dickens
- “March 4th, the only day that is also a sentence.” — John Green
- “When March arrives, the earth begins its quiet symphony of growth and renewal.”unknown
- “In March, the brave crocus dares the snow.” - Emily Dickinson
- “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.”



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior! I thank God for the privilege of serving in ministry each day. The past few weeks have been busy and fruitful as we welcomed Dr. Greg Little and his team from Victory Baptist SC and Brother Jim Laramore and Tim Easley from Smith Grove Baptist NC. Their support has been invaluable since we met in 2020, and we're grateful for God's guidance during our meetings across various churches here in the Philippines. Our Bible studies continue to empower individuals in understanding God's Word, with souls being saved through our outreach programs. Recently, a couple incarcerated for theft accepted Christ, thanks to the testimonies shared by Brother Jesse Martin and Brother Trey Moore. While we began with 40 inmates, many have since been transferred, taking the Bibles we provided. Bro. Jim brought candies for the children at our feeding program, and we packed 78 bags with a card saying, "FREE GIFT," which led many to understand and accept the "FREE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE." The children enjoyed the song shared by Brother Tim. We are honored to host these men of God and have been inspired by the preaching and testimonies they shared and beautiful songs by Brother Jamie Ellis and Jim Laramore.

Last December, we held a successful gift-giving program, providing meals and gifts to kids and adults, thanks to Bro. Hendricks' help to make it possible. Please continue to pray for our Bible studies, jail ministries, feeding program and soul winning. Additionally, please pray for our family's physical and spiritual strength as we continue our work in the Lord's Vineyard.

I also ask for your prayers as we prepare to return to the US in June to seek additional partners for expanding the gospel here in the Philippines. Please also pray for our financial need \$260 for passport renewal of Nathaniel and Aislah and \$5,000 for plane tickets. Thank you for your investment in the Lord's work!



Your Co-Laborers, *Brother Howard M. Miller*

How to Plant Well in a Spiritual Spring

By Corella Roberts ~ Author, missionary, fellow traveler on the journey of faith to the heart of the Father.

How to Plant Well in a Spiritual Spring

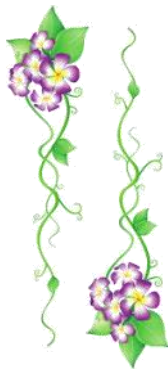
I hadn't even known I was in winter. I was producing a lot — Sunday School lessons, women's ministry events, missionary newsletters, not to mention three meals a day for my family — so how could my soul possibly be frozen? Then, a shift. A wake-up call. A crack in the ice that told me my heart was nearing a change. In Alaska, they call this breakup. The thick river ice, once a highway for snowmobiles, literally breaks up and flips completely over to begin its journey to the ocean. It's the official signal for spring, regardless of the calendar date.

When my wintering soul began its breakup process, I at first mistook it for a breakdown. And it could have been, but for God. When He starts waking and shaking things up inside it can be a painful process, but if we tune into the work His Spirit is doing and join Him in tilling the packed earth of our hearts, new growth will surely follow.

If winter is marked by silence, then spring is marked by noise. Particularly, the voice of the Lord. God is never silent, but in winter He is harder to hear. And while you may have been in a season of rest or, like I did, continued to push through in order to meet expectations during the barrenness of winter, spring will compel you to get up and get your hands dirty. God calls to you almost audibly in spring. You can resist it or ignore it, telling Him, "I like my armchair by the fireplace thank-you-very-much," but you'll be missing one of the greatest opportunities for personal growth and planting in His service.

Springtime is an invitation from the Lord to sow seeds.

"Vindication. Restoration. Sanctification. Emotional renewal, physical renewal, moral renewal: these herald spring. They're what spring produces in rich profusion. They are gifts and they are invitations. The opportunity spring provides—to grow things in abundance—can be missed or seized."



Mark Buchanan, *Spiritual Rhythm* p. 87

Is God calling to you? Stirring things in your soul and bringing buried longings to the surface? Inviting you to take a tenuous step of faith?

Don't miss the invitation to join Him in springtime renewal, no matter how messy this whole digging and planting process might be.

INDICATORS OF A SPIRITUAL SPRING OF THE SOUL

- You're being awakened to needed changes in your life.
- You have a renewed hunger for God.
- God's word is fresh and exciting and personal.
- Something new is on the horizon of your life (A word of caution here: Often after a big transition the springtime excitement heads straight into the bitter struggles of winter. Don't be alarmed if it takes a few seasons longer than you'd like to start seeing fruit in a new area. This seems to be a normal part of the process, just like how a tree that is transplanted will take a dormant season above ground to grow strong roots below ground.)
- You're going through significant healing, perhaps from past wounds or even a physical ailment.
- Energy! Enthusiasm! You truly want to serve God.
- Buried dreams are resurfacing and you sense an invitation from the Lord to explore them again.
- How many of these indicators of spring resonate with you right now?

If you're not in the renewal of spring or the abundance of summer, remember that the sorrow of autumn and the silence of winter are what make spring and summer possible. Don't rush through your spiritual seasons. Find whatever deep work God is doing in your soul and simply meet Him there.

SPRING

RENEWAL