

SMOKE SIGNAL

DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

BURNT FACTORY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
STEPHENSON, VA 22656

C. STEVEN MELESTER, PASTOR

Our Mission Statement: SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH ALL PEOPLE

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." -Matthew 5:16

Pastor's Christmas Message

When Pope Julius the first authorized December the 25th to be celebrated as the birthday of Jesus in A.D. 353, who would have ever thought that it would become what it is today.

When Professor Charles Follen lit candles and placed them on the first Christmas tree in America in 1832; who would have ever thought that the decorations would become as elaborate as they are today.

It is a long time since 1832, longer still from 353, and longer still from that dark night brightened by a special star in which Jesus, Emmanuel, was born. Yet, as we approach December 25th again, it gives us yet another opportunity to pause, and in the midst of all the excitement, chaos, elaborate decorations and over commercialization which surround Christmas today, to consider again the event of the incarnation.

God heard our cry for help and sent us himself in the flesh to be an atoning sacrifice for our sin and to be a blueprint for our life journey.

It is my hope and prayer that as we all journey through another Advent preparing for the arrival of the Living Christ, that we all take stock of our lives, embrace the simple, meaningful things of life and confess that Christ is the reason for the season!

As 2017 winds down and a new year beckons; Melanie and I can't help but to reflect on how blessed we are to be in ministry together with the faithful of Burnt Factory UMC! It has been an exciting year in the life of the church and I can't wait to see what God has in store for us in 2018. I know that we will be faithful to seek God's will and to be obedient to that will! And I also know that God will always be faithful!

From our family to yours, Melanie, Ben, Abby and I wish you the very best that life has to offer! A life grounded and rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ! We wish blessing upon blessings upon each of you as you faithfully seek God's truth! May this be a Christmas that brings hope, peace, joy, love, and Christ into your family afresh and anew! May the warmth of the light of Jesus Christ; may the grace of our Lord and the love of God surround, nurture, and keep you now and forever!

Merry
Christmas
Pastor Steve

Walk to Emmaus Men's Loudoun Valley (LV) Walk 85 and Women's Loudoun Valley (LV) 86

The Loudoun Valley Men's LV 85 Walk was conducted on Oct 26-29, 2017 at the 4-H Center in Front Royal, VA. Two of our church members, Tim Heinlein and Jason Corron attended and completed this walk. They had an opportunity to strengthen their Spiritual Life with God; further understand his Grace and Love; work with other men on their projects to learn to plan and work together on projects for God; and sing, reflect, pray, worship, and experience God's grace in the Community and World. Friendships made at this retreat will last them the rest of their lives.

Walk to Emmaus provides inspiration, challenges, and equips leaders for Christian action in their homes, place of work, in the church, and their communities. We took them out to dinner before and after their retreats and heard their testimonies at these meals. We attended their Candle Light Service on Saturday, Oct 28 and sang songs and marched pass below them holding our candles. This was a very inspirational service.

Attached is a Photo # 1 of Pilgrims--Tim Heinlein and Jason Corron, with Kalyn's Parents (Bruce and Bonnie Rogers), Carrie Fair, head of our Children's Ministry, who sponsored Jason Corron, and Josh & Sue Morimoto, after the Closing Ceremony for the Men's LV 85 Walk.

The Women's LV 86 Walk was conducted Nov 2-5, 2017 also at the 4-H Center. Kalyn Corron shared her experiences with 15 other women from other churches in our area. This retreat provided her an opportunity to renew her spiritual relationship with God and to develop lifelong relationships with other women who attended this retreat. We attended her Candle Lite Service which was indoors because of the rainy weather. Pilgrims were surrounded by the Walk to Emmaus Community as we marched and sang songs while we surrounded them. Pastor Steve Melester was also there to participate in Walk to Emmaus Service followed by this ceremony.

Photo # 2 shows the Pilgrim Kalyn Corron, her husband Jason Corron, her parents Bruce and Bonnie Rogers, and Josh Morimoto at the end of the Closing Ceremony.

The 3rd Photo was taken at the Holiday Inn's Houlihan Restaurant where we celebrated Kayln Corron's completion of her Women's LV 86 Walk on Nov 2-5. Jason brought their two children—Zoey and Gracyn,

and he was accompanied by Bruce and Bonnie Rogers, Carrie Fair and Josh Morimoto. It was fun getting everyone together to celebrate this important event in her life.

We also want to thank everyone who wrote AGAPE Letters to these three members. We also had several church members donate Crosses, Pins, and other Walk to Emmaus Gifts to all the Pilgrims that attended these retreats. Steve Cunningham and his father, Walter Cunningham always do a good job with these gifts.

Our next Walk to Emmaus Event is a Community Gathering on Nov 18 at the St. Thomas UMC in Manassas, Virginia (8899 Sudley Road). We will have a DDU Training at 4:00 pm. A Potluck Dinner at 5:30 pm, and a Walk to Emmaus Service with a lot of praise singing at 6:30 pm.

The next Men's LV 87 Walk will be May 10-13, 2018, and Women's LV 88 Walk in May 17-20, 2018. Call Josh Morimoto, Cell 410-371-2216 for questions.



Walk to Emmaus Reunion Gathering

January 11 ~ 7:00 pm ~ Burnt Factory Social Hall

As the graduates of the Walk to Emmaus return to their churches, their experience will have outward effects for the church congregation:

- Increased joy and spirituality for the Lord
- Increased desire for vital worship and Holy Communication
- Increased willingness to serve, teach, and lead
- Increased motivation for involvement in Bible Studies, and need for spiritual growth opportunities
- Increased readiness to bear witness to Christ by sharing their testimonies
- Increased vigor for mission and service

(Source: Fourth Day, The Pilgrims Continued Journey)

We would like all graduates of Walk to Emmaus Retreats to meet with us at a Walk to Emmaus Gathering Reunion Reception on Thursday, January 11 at 7:00 pm in our Social Hall for a presentation on our 4th Day Activities; including spreading of Agape (Love) to all around them inside and outside the church, formation of Reunion Groups to discern what God wants us to do, and what we will do for him, and Sponsoring other church members for future Men's Walk on May 10-13, and Women's Walk on May 17-20 at the 4H Center in Front Royal, VA.

We will have sign-up sheets for future Reunion Groups in the Social Hall on Sunday, Dec 31 and again on Sunday, Jan 7. We will be forming three types of Reunion Groups—Men's, Women's, and Couples and the signup sheets will ask what days they are available during the weeks of Jan 14-20, and 21-27, 2018.

And finally, our next Area Gathering will be on the third Saturday, Jan 20, beginning with the Work on Agape Gifts for next Group of Pilgrims attending retreats in May starting at 4:00 pm, Potluck Dinner at 5:30 pm and Walk to Emmaus Worship Service at 6:30 pm. Pilgrims really appreciate these Agape Gifts when they attend the Retreats. Place of this event will be announced shortly.

Call us if you have any questions. Please send us an email or call our cell phone and leave a message by Wed Jan 6 if you can attend the Jan 10 Wed Area Gathering in our Social Hall so we can plan the food for this gathering.

Josh Morimoto, Cell 410-371-2216, Email: joshindel@comcast.net; Sue Morimoto, cell 443-880-0987, and Email: smori01@comcast.net.



Prayer Partners for 2018



This year's prayer partners will be revealed at our Dec. 14 UMW meeting. At that time, we will also draw names for our 2018 prayer partners.

If you wish to have a prayer partner for 2018, I need to have your name, birthday and anniversary, if married. **Even if you have participated in the past, including 2017, I have no names to begin the new year until I receive this information by December 11.**

For those who have never participated, prayer partners are kept secret until the reveal at the end of the year. Throughout the year, we pray for the person whose name we drew and try to get to know them better as well as their needs. Cards are usually sent at different times, and sometimes a gift may be appropriate but not necessary.

If you would like a prayer partner for 2018, please contact me with your name and information at srobinso@su.edu or 540-662-1928 by Monday, December 11.

Thank You, Sue Robinson



Christian Sympathy is extended to the following families in the passing of their loved ones ~

To the Withers Family in the passing of Marie Withers. Her husband, Rev. Bill Withers, passed away in 2016. He gave 60 years of service as a pastor in the Virginia Annual Conference with Marie by his side. When Rev Withers passed away, Pastor Steve mentioned that he believed in the late 50's or 60's Rev. Withers served the faithful of Burnt Factory.

To Pat Martin and Family in the passing of her husband, Marty. Rev. Martin was a colleague of Pastor Steve's.

To the family of Stan Paskel. Mr. Paskel was a friend of Pastor Steve's.

To Jay Powell and Family, for daughter, Meaghan and son, Greg in the passing of Bruce Powell, Jay's husband and Meaghan and Greg's father.

Prayers are lifted up for peace and comfort.



2/4 BLT (2nd/4th Bag Lunch Tuesday)



All are welcome to join us on December 12th, for a Christmas Potluck, 12-2 pm

Almost one year ago, a new lunch group was formed; Bag Lunch Tuesday, which meets in the church Social Hall. The group was established to offer a place to meet for lunch on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month and share some fellowship time.

Since our first meeting, we have had 34 adults and 3 children join us at one time or another for lunch and fellowship. After lunch, we have played games, knitted or crocheted, enjoyed a program about Trinity House (now known as Valley Light), made Palm Crosses for Easter, hand-tied three fleece blankets for the sanctuary, helped to move the church library to its new location, enjoyed a Fall potluck lunch, colored placemats for WATTS and packed 30 weekend bags at each meeting for Fremont Street Nursery (330 weekend bags to be exact!) and most importantly we laughed, we hugged, and we shared God's love over a brown bag lunch.

We will meet once more in 2017, on December 12th from noon-2pm, for a Christmas potluck. If you would like to join us, please come! All are welcome, male, female, young or mature! It is always more fun to share a meal with another than to eat alone, don't you agree!

Contact, Penny Croll ptcroll@hotmail.com or call 571-220-0471.

Church Family, a Big Thank You for your unceasing support of The Laurel Center.



We were able to deliver a sizable amount of items on their wish list.

Donna Gallagher

December Birthdays!



December 2-----Kathy Feight
 December 3-----Maureen Dick
 December 6-----Sam Lentz
 December 7-----Robert & Ryan May
 December 8-----Josh Shriver
 December 9-----Megan Wilson
 December 11-----Jean Blankenship
 December 12-----Ernie Kerns
 December 13-----Rob Moss
 December 16-----Mark Hostuttler
 December 19-----Angela Renner
 December 21-----Naomi Monroe
DECEMBER 25-----JESUS!
 -----Hazel Kerns
 December 26-----Polly Duvall
 December 27-----Tom Duvall
 December 28-----Don Duvall
 December 29-----Bonnie Henry
 December 30-----Melissa Clemons

Happy Birthday, One and All!



December 21----Jay & Anne Kackley
 December 28-- --Tim & Anne Perrault

Happy Anniversary!



Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift offered to us without price.

On Sunday, October 29th, baby girl twins, Erin Margaret and Avery Rose Woods were baptized. They are the children of Adam & Brandy Woods.

Keith Roberts needs your e-mail address for the following reasons....

PASTOR STEVE HAS SPECIAL NOTICES HE NEEDS TO SEND TO THOSE WHO ATTEND BURNT FACTORY. THE NOTICES WILL INCLUDE NOT ONLY PRAYER CONCERNS BUT ALSO SCHEDULE CHANGES DURING BAD WEATHER.

KEITH KEEPS AN E-MAIL LIST IN HIS COMPUTER FOR JUST SUCH PURPOSES. YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS IS PROTECTED AND E-MAILS ARE SENT, RECIPIENTS NOT DISCLOSED, TO PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY.

Kindly send YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO KEITH ROBERTS AT JOHN.K.ROBERTS@COMCAST.NET WITH THE MESSAGE:

“ADD ME TO THE CHURCH EMAIL LIST”

THANK YOU

United Methodist Women



Thanks to all who helped to make our hosting of the UMW Zone meeting on November 11th a successful one. Many of our members pitched in to show hospitality to the 38-40 people who attended.

The year moves on and we are looking forward to our December UMW meeting on Thursday, the 14th, in our Social Hall. Our hostesses will be Janie Shope, Doris and Diann Duvall and Debbie Walker will be our program leader. We will also have a wrapped gift exchange (please limit to around \$10).

Prayer Partner names will be revealed and we will draw new ones for the coming year. Sue Robinson is the capable person who handles this. If you do not want to be a part of this for the coming year, please see her before the meeting on the 14th. If there are no changes, the same names will be in the bag for drawing. Also, if you want your name added, see Sue ASAP.

Come hear the latest on Project Esperanza, and Trinity House, and be a part of our annual donations to several organizations. It is such a joy to be able to share from our treasury to help these groups. It's also a joy to be with friends for a couple of hours! Mark your calendar for the 14th. This date is a change from our regular Thursday. We hope having it in the middle of the month will suit your schedule and we will have good attendance for this last meeting of the year.

This is the time that we prepare for the arrival of the Christ Child and stay focused on the fact that Christ is the Reason for the Season.



*God's blessings to each of you!
Polly Duvall, president*

A Very Special Thank You!

Dear Burnt Factory Family,

It is always a pleasure for me to put together your newsletter each month of the year.

It is also a privilege to work with such dedicated people who share their faith with all of us.

I want to especially thank all the "Newsletter Regulars" who, after receiving my "Friendly Reminder" each month letting them know when I need their articles, send their articles before the deadline and sometimes earlier. It makes my "coordinating" so much easier.

And most of all, thank you for allowing me to be creative.

*Merry Christmas,
Charly*





CCAP, the Congregational-Community Action Project, is a cooperative ministry of 45 area churches and one synagogue serving Winchester and Frederick County that have joined together to provide financial, material and supportive assistance to people in need. CCAP is located at 112 and 106 S. Kent Street.

Thank you so much for your generous donations for the Thanksgiving food collection. We were able to supply enough food for 16 complete Thanksgiving dinners for CCAP.

We also donated an additional 10 turkeys. The food was distributed to CCAP clients the Saturday before Thanksgiving so they could prepare a meal for their families.

On November 22nd, to continue our tradition of a Thanksgiving Eve offering, we collected 38 new blankets for the CCAP Christmas Giveaway and 2685 diapers, 3 teething rings, 2 pacifiers and 2152 wipes for The Red Wagon Ministry. Again, we graciously thank you for your wonderful giving to two important ministries serving those struggling to stay warm and diaper their children.

In September and October of this year, the Outreach committee did a trial run of serving lunch one Sunday a month at CCAP. The trials went well and on average we served 25 homeless clients at these lunches. We prepared the lunches ahead and 6-7 volunteers from church helped serve the meals outside of the main CCAP Building. We started the set-up at 12:15 and served from 12:30 to 1:30. We would like to continue this mission and have chosen the third Sunday of each month as our Sunday to reach out to these homeless clients. We have set-up three different serving teams so each team will only serve 4 times a year. Please contact me if this is a mission you would like to be part of. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us. Our next lunch will be served on Sunday, December 17th.

As 2017 comes to a close, The Outreach Committee would like to extend our sincere thanks to each of you for supporting CCAP through your generous donations, volunteering and prayers. Your kindness reaches a lot of people. We will never truly know how many lives we have touched.

If you are able to join me, **the next CCAP meeting is Friday, January 19th at noon at the main CCAP building.** I can be reached at ricpat5@gmail.com or by cell at 540-664-6973 if you have questions about CCAP, need help with picking up a donation or if you would like to learn more on how to volunteer.



Merry Christmas
Patty Leonard

Saturday Morning



Intentional Prayer

The Intentional Prayer small group is restarting in January and will have its first meeting on Saturday morning, January 13th at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We typically gather for an hour or less every two or three weeks to pray specifically for the needs of our Burnt Factory congregation. Then we divide up these concerns and pray for them individually until our next meeting. This is a wonderful time of sharing concerns and heartfelt intercession. Please consider joining us in the New Year! If you have questions, contact Kathy Dixon at 703-407-2441.

From a branch on the Vine

The season of Advent, four Sundays before Christmas, is preparation for the coming of the Messiah, Emmanuel, God with skin on – expecting the glory of God in a form we can relate to. God comes to us to save us from our own brokenness. An exciting time is here in this Christmas season.



⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” Luke 2:8-14

However, some aren't feeling joy. Life's circumstances (illness, financial hardship, loneliness and loss) get magnified when family, friends, even strangers appear to be brimming with joy. When will the struggle end; the pain go away; the hole be filled? Where can they turn; where will their hope be found? This time of year can be hard.

God has always used ordinary people to do extraordinary things. The ordinary is you and me. The extraordinary is what God can do through us. We can be a voice of hope, a shoulder to lean on, an understanding heart. When you are in darkness, you need a light to guide you. Within each of us is the light of Christ for those in despair. Our role is not to have answers, but to be a lighthouse on the shore to guide the traveler to a safe port – to Jesus.

This season, will you be a vehicle of grace, of mercy; a reminder that forgiveness is available; an example that Jesus makes all things new again? Are you God's herald of love? Some of your brothers and sisters can't see what God is offering. Will you tell them? Will you love them because you have been in pain and darkness and you have come through it by the gift of Jesus.

*“...blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”
Jeremiah 17:7-8*

Give the gift of Hope – be God's messenger and proclaim that unto us is born a Savior, come into the world to take away our sins and give us a new life of hope.

*In Christ, **Reb***



YOUTH PAGE

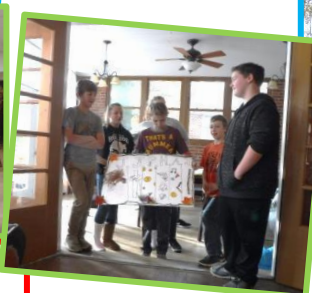


It was a fun meeting November 6th for Youth. Today's Youth are phenomenal at utilizing their phones and social media, but



we discovered they don't know how to shoot a rubber band. Thank you Ms. Angie for the wonderful dinner

and for all the kids who participated in our talk about what it means to be blessed - to Bless Others. *A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed (Proverbs 11:25).*



Contemporary Music, messages about Jesus, plenty of food and the "Mission" = the Middle School Retreat. Jefferson, Anna, Teddy, John, Paige and Harrison ventured to Eagle Eyrie (Lynchburg) and joined United Methodist Churches throughout Virginia to dig a little deeper into who Jesus is. Special Thanks to Jason and Angie Wiseman for being great chaperones!!

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:

Saturday December 9 Salvation Army Angel Shopping 9 – 11

Meet in Fellowship Hall

Each Youth is asked to donate \$10 towards purchasing gifts

Sunday December 10 Children's Christmas Program 6pm Sanctuary

Sunday December 17 Choir Cantata 7pm Sanctuary

Thursday December 28 End of Year Party 5:00 – 8:00 Fellowship Hall
Cookie Exchange and Thieves Christmas (\$10)

Sunday January 14, 2018 Regular Meeting 4:30 – 6:30 Fellowship Hall
Would some Parents consider providing our Youth with dinner?

Saturday January 27 Motel Ministry 9:30 – 1:00 Fellowship Hall

Contact Mr. Rob: ram288@comcast.net, 540-303-7161

Merry Christmas



Faith and Health Corner

December 2017

12 Ways

To Have a Healthy Holiday Season

Brighten the holidays by making your health and safety a priority. Take steps to keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy - and enjoy the Christmas season.

1. **Wash hands often to help prevent spreading germs.** It's flu season. Wash your hands with soap and clean running water for at least 20 seconds.
2. **Bundle up to stay warm and dry.** Wear appropriate outdoor clothing: light, warm layers, gloves, hats, scarves, and waterproof boots.
3. **Manage stress.** Give yourself a break if you feel stressed out, overwhelmed, and out of control. Some of the best ways to manage stress are to find support, connect socially, and get plenty of sleep.
4. **Don't drink and drive or let others drink and drive.** Whenever anyone drives drunk, they put everyone on the road in danger. Choose not to drink and drive and help others do the same.
5. **Be smoke-free.** Avoid smoking and secondhand smoke. Smokers have greater health risks because of their tobacco use, but nonsmokers also are at risk when exposed to tobacco smoke.
6. **Fasten seat belts while driving or riding in a motor vehicle.** Always buckle your children in the car using a child safety seat, booster seat, or seat belt according to their height, weight, and age. Buckle up every time, no matter how short the trip and encourage passengers to do the same.
7. **Get exams and screenings.** Ask your health care provider what exams you need and when to get them. Update your personal and family history. Get insurance from the Health Insurance Marketplace (Healthcare.com Marketplace) if you are not insured.
8. **Get your vaccinations.** Vaccinations help prevent diseases and save lives. Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine every year.
9. **Monitor children.** Keep potentially dangerous toys, food, drink, household items, and other objects out of children's reach. Protect them from drowning, burns, falls, choking, and other potential accidents.
10. **Practice fire safety.** Most residential fires occur during the winter months, so don't leave your Christmas lights on or fireplaces, space heaters, food cooking on stoves or candles unattended. Have an emergency plan in place and practice it regularly.
11. **Prepare food safely.** Remember these easy steps: Wash hands and surfaces often, avoid cross-contamination, cook foods to proper temperatures and refrigerate foods promptly.
12. **Eat healthy, stay active.** Eat fruits and vegetables which pack nutrients and help lower the risk for certain diseases. Limit your portion sizes and foods high in fat, salt, and sugar. Also, be active for at least 2½ hours a week and help kids and teens be active for at least 1 hour each day.

I hope that some of these tips will be helpful to you as we enter the Christmas season, but above all please remember that **Jesus is the Reason for the Season**. Relax, spend time with friends and family, listen to Christmas carols, fill your heart with all the love it can hold and spread joy all around.

Until the next time ... Blessings to you and yours,
Theresa

You can reach me at any time by e-mail at tgilbert@afpdocs.com
or theresa.h.seddon@gmail.com or by phone at (540) 247-5612

As your Faith Community Nurse, I am here to serve as a bridge to better health, meeting the wholistic healing mission of the church by partnering with the Pastor as a healer of the spirit, mind and body.





Kid Min Connection



Here we are! The end of the church calendar year. I cannot believe that 2017 has come and gone so quickly. We have had a great year in the Children's wing! We started a Praise and Worship Service for Children; we had an amazing Easter Celebration; a fun-filled VBS; a Spirit-Filled Summer Camp; we started a Children's Choir and Dance Group; we painted and praised; we served at the Jubilee Soup Kitchen; we made placemats for WATTS, cards for Veterans, and so much more! Our children are a huge blessing and I thank all the members of Burnt Factory for their support and prayers for our children. 2018 will be even more amazing!

DATES TO REMEMBER!

December 03 – Christmas Play Run-through - **Charlie Brown characters and Readers only!**

December 10 – The Children of Burnt Factory present-A **Charlie Brown Christmas!** - 6pm

December 24 - Regular Worship Services 8:30am and 11:00am; Sunday School 9:45am and Candlelight Services 5:00pm and 8:00pm.

Nursery is available for all Services except 8:00pm.

Dear Church Family,

You have been such a blessing to me and my family this entire year. We are so very blessed to be a part of a family like Burnt Factory. I can't thank you all enough for the support throughout the year with cards, letters, emails and texts of encouragement that always seem to come at the most important moments. I love every hug and handshake, every smile and every word of encouragement that I get every Sunday. I look forward to what 2018 will bring us for our Children's Ministries, Missions, and Opportunities to be in service with you all. May God Bless all of you and your families this Christmas. Each of you truly makes a difference in what you do. I thank you for hearing the call and serving. I am truly thankful for all my wonderful teachers: Lucinda Lentz, Becky Dennis, Penny and Tom Croll, Jean Wilson, Kelley Keller, Kathy Hunt, Storm Bayliss, Bob and Donna Gallagher, Kalyn and Jason Corron. You Make a difference to these beautiful children and we are blessed to have each of you!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Love,

Carrie Fair, Director of Children's Ministries



CONGRATULATIONS to the Reed Family!!!

Ryan & Kari Reed welcomed baby #3 on Sunday, November 12th!



Her name is
Kate Tyner Reed.

Sisters Lilly & Eva, I am sure, are very excited! Girl # 3! 😊 😊 😊

BURNT FACTORY UNITED METHODIST MEN

Christmas gift idea for that man that has everything.

The General Commission on United Methodist Men has a program called EMS Ministry (Every Man Shares in Evangelism, Spiritual Life and Missions).

EMS is value packed with resources that help you grow spiritually – but this is not just about you and what you get. As an EMS member, you begin a partnership relationship with United Methodist Men in the crucial ministry work of reach men for Christ – in our local congregation, community, nation and world. EMS will become a base from which you can grow rich spiritually, and have the opportunity to invest wisely as a steward of your time, talent and treasure.

See the link below for more information and to enroll

http://www.gcumm.org/files/uploads/EMS%20brochure%202010_1.pdf

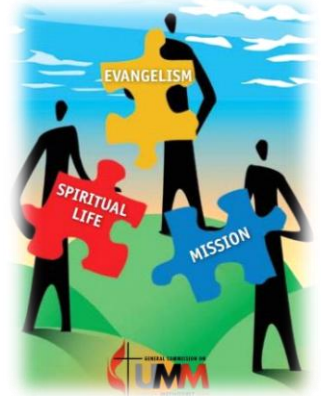
You can also speak with me, I have some EMS brochures with more information or you can find them in the UMMen display in the Fellowship Hall.

Please join us at our next UMM meeting on December 16th at 8:00 AM in the Church Fellowship Hall.

Mark your calendar for the Church's New Year's Fellowship Prayer Breakfast on January 6, 2018 at 9:00 AM at the Stonewall District Ruritan Building.

If anyone has any questions, feel free to contact me (540) 207-7404; tamtut@comcast.net.

Steve Cunningham, President, Burnt Factory UMMen



"Meet and Eat" Teams – Looking for New Members!!!

The Nurture Ministries Team started a new fellowship activity in 2015 called "Meet and Eat." We meet once a month in small groups of 7 to 9 people and enjoy meals and fellowship. After three months, the teams are re-grouped to form new teams.

*We will be re-grouping for January and would love for you to be part of a team. These meals are a great opportunity to **meet** fellow parishioners, **eat** good food, share stories, and get to know one another. We hope you will join us.*

There is a new sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for anyone who would like to join. If you are already a member of "Meet and Eat," you will automatically be part of the next rotation and do not have to sign up again.

*For additional information/questions, please contact Patty Leonard:
ricpat5@gmail.com or 540-664-6973.*

*Merry Christmas
Patty Leonard*



How Not to Break the Bank this Christmas Season



“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” James 1:17

Ahhhhh. . . do you hear the familiar bells ringing at JC Penney as you walk in the mall? Do you feel the chill in the air? Have you been listening to Christmas music for weeks? Can you smell the fresh cut pine and cookies baking in the oven? All of the familiar Christmas activities have commenced! And did I mention the shopping?

We spend agonizing hours over that perfect gift so make everything just right for our children and loved ones. Then as we head into the New Year we are greeted with the overwhelming credit card bills that accompany all of the joy from last month. Sound familiar? It doesn't need to. Here are a few ideas to keep from overspending your Christmas season.

MAKE A LIST AND A BUDGET OF WHAT YOU PLAN TO SPEND . . . and then stick to it! It is too easy to make impulse purchases and overspend. Nothing is worse than getting the dreaded overdraft notification from the bank or racking up credit card balances that will charge unrelenting interest fees.

SHOP FOR DEALS. Retailers are all competing for your business. If you are looking for a particular item, compare prices and check sales. Coupons and bargains are great!

EARN EXTRA CASH. Do you have too much stuff? Consider decluttering and simplifying your life by selling items you don't need. Perhaps treasures of Christmas past that you had to have last year, but now have become dust collectors. One man's junk is another man's treasure!

GET CREATIVE. DIY projects are a great way to be festive and save money. Crafts that come from the heart are often more cherished than any box of stuff that you would buy at the store.

SPEND MONEY ON EXPERIENCES. See above where I mentioned decluttering and simplifying? We tend to accumulate things which create more work and require more space. Consider making memories with the family on a getaway (near or far). Something as simple as tickets to a local play or outing will give an excuse to get together and create an enjoyable experience.

Above all else, remember this season is not about the gifts, the decorations or the parties. It is about cherishing the ultimate gift that God gave us in baby Jesus. If you are blessed, let's remember those less fortunate and share our abundance this season and all year through.

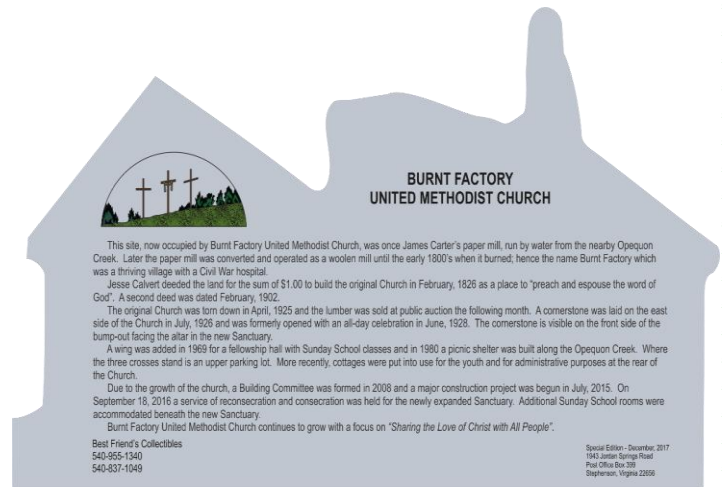
“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” Matthew 25:35



Angie Wiseman



We are excited to announce that the wooden replicas of the church will be arriving just in time for Christmas. They are in production as this article is being written and are due to arrive December 17th. Below is a sample of the front and the back (which gives a history of the church).



The money raised from the sale of the replicas will benefit Relay for Life. Plan to stop by the Fellowship Hall on December 17th to purchase this great Christmas gift/stocking stuffer. Replicas are beautiful sitting on a window sill, above the window on the trim, on doorway trim, or on a table/shelf.

DON'T FORGET that The American Cancer Society is offering an Early Bird Sponsorship Opportunity. Long story short, if you or your business would like to become a Relay for Life sponsor each level is **HALF PRICE** until 12/31/17.

THE TOP LEVEL is originally \$5,000 but can be purchased for \$2,500 until 12/31/17. \$2,500 will get your company logo featured on the back of the event T-shirts, a 4 foot ribbon sign displayed at the event, verbal recognition at the event, your company supplied banner displayed on the relay track, recognition on the relay website and facebook, a crystal award for display at your business, the opportunity to participate in the sponsor recognition lap during the relay event and 3 complimentary event T-shirts. The least expensive level is \$250. For only \$125 through 12/31/17 you can get your company logo on one track sign to be displayed during the RFL event, recognition on the Sponsor's page of the Relay website and an opportunity to participate in the sponsor recognition lap during the RFL event.

Pick up a Sponsorship Forms from the table in the Fellowship Hall for details about all of the levels that are available. Feel free to recruit a sponsor if you know a business that might be interested in supporting Relay for Life.

Sponsorship Forms can either be mailed or turned into Theresa Gilbert or Brenda Drumheller. Please don't forget to put "The Believers" team on the form so that we can get credit for the sponsorship.

If you ever have any questions about Relay for Life, feel free to email Brenda at wngirls@gmail.com or Theresa at tgilbert@afpdocs.com or grab one of us after church.





December

2017 Burnt Factory Church Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING at J C Penney Main Entrance ~ Saturdays, December 2 nd , 9 th , and 16 th from 9:00am-3:00pm					1 Print December Newsletter	2 WATTS Program Begins
3 WATTS Program at the Ruritan 8:30am-Worship 9:45am-10:00am-Children's Mini-Praise & Worship 9:45am-Sunday School 11:00am-Worship 11:00am-Children's Church 4-5:30pm-Children's Practice and Dress Rehearsal	4 WATTS Program at the Ruritan 6:00pm-6:30pm-Children's Choir 7:00pm-7:30pm-Worship Dance 7:00pm-Advent Study	5 WATTS Program at the Ruritan	6 WATTS Program at the Ruritan 9:00am-1:00pm-Pastor's Office Hours 10:00am-Advent Study 7:00pm-Men Living Faith at Cunningham's	7 WATTS Program at the Ruritan	8 WATTS Program at the Ruritan TODAY thru 10 th – Youth High School Retreat at Camp Overlook	9 WATTS Program Ends 9-11-Youth S.A. Angel Shopping
10 8:30am-Worship 9:45am-10:00am-Children's Mini-Praise & Worship 9:45am-Sunday School 11:00am-Worship 11:00am-Children's Church 6:00pm-Children's Christmas Program	11 6:00pm-6:30pm-Children's Choir 7:00pm-7:30pm-Worship Dance 7:00pm-Advent Study	12 12n-2:00pm-BLT (Bag Lunch Tuesday) Christmas Lunch 6:00pm-Choir	13 9:00am-1:00pm-Pastor's Office Hours 10:00am-Advent Study 6:30pm-Sing Along at Evergreen	14 7:00pm-UMW	15	16 8:00am-UMMen
17 8:30am-Worship 9:45am-10:00am-Children's Mini-Praise & Worship 9:45am-Sunday School 11:00am-Worship 11:00am-Children's Church 7:00pm-Choir Christmas Cantata	18 6:00pm-6:30pm-Children's Choir 7:00pm-7:30pm-Worship Dance 7:00pm-Advent Study	19 6:00pm-Choir	20 9:00am-1:00pm-Pastor's Office Hours 10:00am-Advent Study 7:00pm-Men Living Faith at Cunningham's	21	22	23
24 8:30am-Worship 9:45am-10:00am-Children's Mini-Praise & Worship 9:45am-Sunday School 11:00am-Worship 11:00am-Children's Church 5:00pm and 8:00pm-Christmas Eve Candlelight Services		26 NO BAG LUNCH TUESDAY NO CHOIR PRACTICE	27 9:00am-1:00pm-Pastor's Office Hours	28 Year-End Celebration 5:00pm-8:00pm Youth End of Year Party Fellowship Hall	29	30
31 8:30am-Worship 9:45am- 10:00am-Children's Mini-Praise & Worship 11:00am-Worship 11:00am –Children's Church	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"> </div> <div style="width: 40%; text-align: center;"> <p>January, 2018 Newsletter Articles Due</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3</p> <p>Printing FRIDAY, JANUARY 5</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"> </div> </div>					

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BURNT FACTORY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

HOPE



First Sunday of Advent

LOVE



Second Sunday of Advent

JOY



Third Sunday of Advent

PEACE



Fourth Sunday of Advent

CHRIST



Christmas Eve

IS BORN!