

SMOKE SIGNAL

MAY 2020 CHURCH NEWSLETTER

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:
SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST
WITH ALL PEOPLE

BURNT FACTORY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1943 JORDAN SPRINGS ROAD
P. O. Box 399
STEPHENSON, VA 22656
C. STEVEN MELESTER, PASTOR

*"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN THAT
THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS AND
PRAISE YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN."
~MATTHEW 5:16*

From Our Pastor

Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

James tells the faithful in his Epistle:

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

I pray daily for all of you and miss you beyond words. I hope this newsletter finds you strong in the Lord! I am sharing with you the last correspondence from our Bishop dated April 14. Whether this order be rescinded or extended is beyond our control but know that we will be together again soon. There is light at the end of the tunnel!

*God bless!
Grace and Peace, Pastor Steve*

From Our Bishop

April 14, 2020

Dear Virginia Conference,

I hope you and your families had a very blessed Easter celebration. Let us remember that our hope as believers is in Jesus Christ.

Though our Easter services looked quite different this year, I hope that, especially in this challenging time of a global pandemic, you heard the Easter story anew and, with confidence assured in the resurrected Christ, said, "Alleluia! Christ IS risen!"

Thank you to our pastors, church staff and volunteers who are continuing to find creative worship opportunities through livestream, phone, print and many other communications avenues, so we can worship, promote fellowship and do the mission of the church.

The commitment of so many of you to be flexible and to take on the challenges that COVID-19 presents empowers us to do God's work effectively and SAFELY. It brings joy to our congregants, communities and the heart of God. And we must persevere.

Bishop Lewis's Letter continues on the following page.....

Bishop Lewis's Letter continues.....

Governor Northam's statewide stay-at-home order is in effect until June 10. As such, in-person worship cannot take place until June 11. If the Governor's executive order is rescinded or revised before June 10, we will re-evaluate the status of in-person worship.

In-person, "drive-thru" or "drive-in" worship services on or off Virginia Conference property remain canceled until further notice.

I ask that our Virginia Conference clergy and laity stay the course by continuing to observe social distancing, proper hygiene and follow the stay-at-home directive.

This is not an easy time for any of us, but in Christian love we need to look out for our vulnerable communities and do our utmost to decrease the strain on our healthcare system and emergency services. It is hard not to be able to meet in-person as a community of faith, but we know God is not the church building. God is so much more than a building.

For information about conference resources, ways churches are staying connected, church offerings and much more, please visit: <https://vaumc.org/Coronavirus2020>.

May the promise of Easter remain with us during the pandemic and through the rest of our year.

*Peace and Blessings,
Bishop Sharma D. Lewis*



CCAP, the Congregational-Community Action Project, is a cooperative ministry of 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 congregation for our collection of 23 Easter Baskets:

Originally these baskets were to be given out at CCAP. When CCAP closed because of COVID-19, we were able to reroute the baskets to Fairmont Street Nursery and the children there. Thanks to Steve Cunningham for taking care of delivering our baskets.

CCAP is currently closed for day to day operations because of COVID-19. Food giveaways and other community outreach is happening following the Social Distancing guidelines. Frances Salmon has resigned as President and our own Robin Russell, the current Vice President, is stepping up to fill in and lead CCAP forward during these trying times. CCAP fills a big need in our community and is relied on by many people as a "hands-up" ministry. After the Trustee/Board meeting on May 8, I will send out an email with any information about items needed to help serve our community.

CCAP online donations – CCAP does accept on-line donations. If you would like to make a donation, go to ccapwinc.org.

Lunch at CCAP on the 3rd Sunday of each month. A big thank you to Cheryl and Mark Jones for leading the team that served in April. The need is still very much there for these lunches; but we had to adjust our style a bit. Instead of serving inside CCAP on tables covered with cloths, we plated up the meals in the Church Fellowship Hall and gave them out at CCAP. We were very conscious about the Social Distancing requirements. Thanks so much to this loyal team of God's servants: Cheryl and Mark, Kathy Dixon, Hope Owens, Lisa Patterson, Karen Willis, and Pastor Steve. We had 67 plates of fried chicken, potato salad, broccoli salad, and rolls, plus bags of fruit and snacks. The meals that weren't given out at CCAP were taken to the Salvation Army. Our next Sunday Lunch will be served on May 17. If you would like to be part of the team, please contact Hope Owens at hyotlo@yahoo.com or 540-533-3786.

If you have any questions about CCAP, I can be reached at ricpat5@gmail.com or by cell at 664-6973.

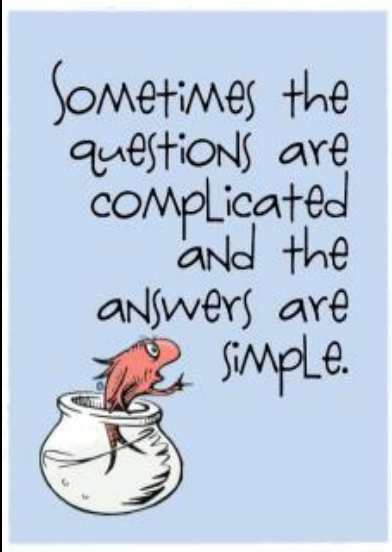
Thanks for all you do for this ministry,
Patty Leonard – Outreach CCAP Rep

May 2020 Relay for Life Newsletter Article

I do not like Cancer here or there.

I do NOT like CANCER anywhere!!!

In this time of uncertainty, as many of our planned fundraisers are cancelled or postponed indefinitely, I want to remind you why it is that we Relay.



*Walking, Silent tears, Hand in Hand
Remembering loved ones who fought and won!
But we still walk it's too early to stop
Too much cancer not enough birthdays
We give, pray, hope to end cancer's reign,
And we walk.*

You can still make a difference by donating to our team. Go to the website below and Choose **The Believers** team and click on the **Donate** button on the top left.

If you haven't joined our team yet, you can go online to secure.acsevents.org and register to become a Believer team member. Choose the Winchester/Frederick County event and the Believers team. It's so easy and it doesn't cost anything to join.

If you don't have a computer and want to join our team, there are paper registration forms in the Social Hall. Please complete one and put it in the Relay mail slot.

Check out **The Believers** Facebook page for updates.

Upcoming Events

All planned events have either been cancelled, postponed or are uncertain. Please stay tuned for updates. Lisa and I were told at the virtual meeting in April that the plan for this year's Relay will be decided and shared at our May virtual meeting. We will let you know as soon as we do.

Our mission is to save lives, celebrate lives, and lead the fight for a world without cancer.

Loving God, help us to celebrate the little victories with cancer, for those in remission, for those who have hope in new therapies. Let us remember those who have died and all who mourn for loved ones, those families that continue to struggle with cancer and all who minister to those fighting the good fight. Be with us as we fight back against this disease so we can celebrate more birthdays and less days with cancer. We ask in the name of the One who came to heal and save us, our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

We thank you for your support!

Theresa Gilbert and Lisa Patterson, Co-Captains



*Hearts of Grace
Caregiver Support Group*

Contact: Debbie Walker

Email: dswalker1@yahoo.com

(540)664-0908 Cell / (540)667-6711 Home

Monthly/Second Tuesday @ 7:00

Faithseekers Room Downstairs

Hi Caregivers, Families and Friends -

I have missed being in fellowship with each of you, as well as the rest of our Burnt Factory Family. These last few weeks have been difficult for all of us and undoubtedly, more challenging for each of you, as you have been caring for your loved ones. The social distancing, staying home, unable to have family or visitors to offer you a break. I have thought of each of you and your situations often, and have prayed for God to keep you uplifted and supported spiritually.

So it's fitting my Care and Share for May would be the following - tips for family caregivers. I hope you find some of these helpful.

Ten Tips for Family Caregivers

1. Seek support from other caregivers. You are not alone!
2. Take care of your own health so that you can be strong enough to take care of your loved one.
3. Accept offers of help and suggest specific things people can do to help you.
4. Learn how to communicate effectively with doctors.
5. Caregiving is hard work so take respite breaks often.
6. Watch out for signs of depression and don't delay getting professional help when you need it.
7. Be open to new technologies that can help you care for your loved one.
8. Organize medical information so it's up to date and easy to find.
9. Make sure legal documents are in order.
10. Give yourself credit for doing the best you can in one of the toughest jobs there is!

I emailed "Tips to Manage Caregiver Stress," "3 Tips to Manage Stress," and "How do we cope with anger as a caregiver." I hope you found these helpful information. If you did not receive them, please call or email me. I will be happy to get those to you.

If there is anyone else you know, who could benefit from our support group, or the information I've been providing, please let me know. If you could provide their contact info, I would be happy to get it to them. Anyone is welcome to be a part of our group. They do not have to be members of Burnt Factory UMC. Our doors are welcome to all who need us.

Our next meeting would be Tuesday, May 12th @ 7:00 pm Faithseekers Room. Again, will depend on the UMC protocol guidelines. Our topic will be "Dealing With Sundowning." If we do not meet, I will send out some info I hope may be of interest or help. Please remember I am available if you need me. Just give me a call. My numbers are listed above. Until then my friends: I lift my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1-2

Grace and Blessings on your Path,

Debbie Walker

As your caregiving journey continues: Dear Lord, I ask that you would flow your strength through me this day. I ask that you would draw my attention to the beauty that is in this day. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen



Happy Birthday

1 st Tom Shepley	19 th Ben Melester
Dan Hayton	Jerry Baldwin
2 nd Eloise Woods	21 st Rob Clemons
5 th Danette Heinlein	24 th Jason Smith
8 th Gianna Cisneros	Annellee Buchele
9 th Susie Gerometta	28 th Harriett Hanke
12 th Lois Wismer	Debbie Moss
13 th Emilia Rodgers	29 th Lizzie Miiller
Regina Baldwin	Lily Hayton
15 th Kenneth Roberts	31 st Lilly Thompson
17 th Tucker Simmers	Vickie Thompson
Gracyn Corron	Beth Kerns
	Dave Darsie



Happy Anniversary

20 th	Dan & Rachel Hayton
25 th	Mike & Denise Repine



Have you given your email address to Keith Roberts, yet?

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 email list in his computer for just such purposes. Your email address is protected and emails are sent, recipients not disclosed, to protect your privacy.

Kindly send your email address to Keith Roberts at john.k.roberts@comcast.net with the message:

“Add me to the church email list” Thank You



*Rejoice in the wedding of
Riley Melvin and Allison Silva
who were joined in Holy Matrimony
April 18, 2020!*

MORE FUNNIES FROM BUDDY!

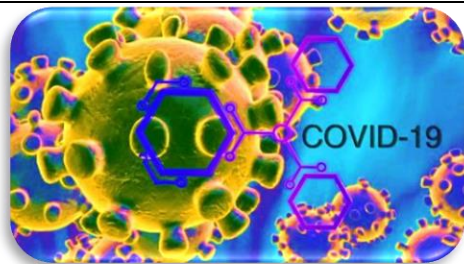
Bad at Golf? Join the Club! 😊

I decided to sell my vacuum cleaner
It was just collecting dust! 😊

You don't want to plant your onions next to your potatoes because the onions will get into the potatoes eyes! 😊

You can't sneak up on corn in a garden.
They have ears; they can hear you! 😊

A man went to the doctor and told him he broke his arm in 4 places. The doctor told him not to go to those place! 😊



May 2020

Faith Community Nurse Article

COVID - 19 COMMUNITY RESOURCES A Guide for Congregations

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Apply online at vawc.virginia.gov or over the phone at 866-832-2363. Eligibility has been expanded to include workers affected by COVID-19, such as a reduction in hours, self-quarantine mandate or caretakers of ill family members. The benefit waiting period has been waived and the requirement to submit two job applications weekly has been suspended.

HEALTH INSURANCE Apply online at commonhelp.virginia.gov or over the phone at 855-635-4370. All Medicaid co-pays have been waived and regular prescriptions increased to a 90-day supply. Apply simultaneously for cash, food, heating/cooling bills and child care assistance. Visit coverva.org for more information.

FREE MEALS & GROCERIES Text "FOOD" OR "COMIDA" TO 877-877 to find free feeding locations for children. The Federation of Virginia Food Banks operates seven regional hubs that support direct distribution to local food pantries. Visit vafoodbanks.org/covid-19-response for a map of locations and current availabilities.

CHILD CARE Search online for a facility near you at childcareva.com or call 866-543-7852. The Child Care Subsidy Program provides financial assistance to pay a portion of child care costs. Apply online at commonhelp.virginia.gov.

EVICTIONS & UTILITIES The Supreme Court of Virginia declared a judicial emergency on March 16th that suspends all non-essential, non-emergency court proceedings through April 6, 2020, which includes new evictions. Also on March 16th, the State Corporation Commission ordered utilities to suspend service disconnections for 60 days. It is unlawful for landlords to change locks or cut off utilities without a court order. For legal help, call the Virginia Poverty Law Center hotline 1-833-NoEvict (663-8428).

COMMUNICATIONS Many internet and phone companies are waiving late fees, suspending terminations, offering free international calls, expanding data usage limits, and even free service. Check with local service providers.

**SEARCH FOR OTHER SERVICES LIKE CLOTHING AND RENT ASSISTANCE AT
211 VIRGINIA. OR OR BY CALLING 2-1-1.**

Congregations are encouraged to add their free community supports to the online 211 portal, a service of the Virginia Department of Social Services.

"The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail." Isaiah 58:11 NRSV

Continually praying for your health and well-being,

Theresa

You can reach me at any time by e-mail at tgilbert@afpdocs.com or theresahgilbert@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.



Burnt Factory

United Methodist Men

May 2020 Newsletter

COVID-19 has turned our world upside down, but please see the note from The Society of St. Andrew and the good that this United Methodist Men sponsored ministry is doing during this pandemic:

Dear Friends,

Please know that we are thinking about you and praying for your health. These are anxious and uncertain days, as we all long for a return to our normal lives. Our hearts, like yours, hurt every day we can't be physically present with those dear to us.

I am so very grateful for the generous financial support SoSA donors have provided over the last several weeks, and I want you to know that Society of St. Andrew staffers are working every day to acquire and distribute healthy food to people in great need.

And friends, our neighbors in every part of this country are in great need. Some of you have even sent notes with your donations, saying that you or your spouse have been laid off, or that you fear you will be laid off in the coming weeks. We are with you in spirit, and we hold you in prayer.

Those who were living on the margins, paycheck to paycheck before this crisis are even more vulnerable now, with more than 22 million people newly unemployed in just the last month.

We've all seen photos of lines snaking around block after block, of people lined up for food assistance. We've read about cars queued up for miles, waiting for a box of groceries from a food bank.

Increasingly, in so many homes where people thought it could never happen to them, the cupboards are trending toward bare.

Just in the past couple of weeks, with your help, the Society of St. Andrew has shared nearly a million pounds of food, including:

- Truckloads of collards, kale, and cabbage in North Carolina and Georgia
- Many hundred dozens of eggs in Tennessee and North Carolina
- Truckloads of assorted vegetables in Georgia and Florida
- Sweet potatoes in Alabama
- Truckloads of assorted fruits and vegetables in Virginia



Thank you for helping ensure that this good food reached people in greatest need. More good food is available and on the way to them, every day. We're so appreciative of new farm and corporate partners who have stepped up to offer first-quality food that they're unable to sell or distribute.

I'd like to talk with you about photos you've seen and news stories you've heard about farmers plowing under fields of fresh produce—millions of pounds of great looking, nourishing food every day, tilled back into the earth. We've all wondered why so much waste, when so many people desperately need that food. It's both a confounding and heartbreaking situation.

The short explanation is that the food supply chain in this country follows two tracks, a retail track that gets food to the grocery store for you and me to purchase and take home to prepare and eat; and a commercial track that gets food to restaurant chains, to hospitals, to factory cafeterias, to airlines, schools, prisons, etc.

And if they were to send a tractor-trailer filled with 1,500 pound totes of shredded lettuce to a food bank, the food bank would have no means (especially with a pandemic-related volunteer shortage) to repackage the lettuce into family-sized bags within the very short shelf-life that lettuce may have. As a result, so much of this produce is simply being left to rot in fields or tilled under.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW LETTER CONTINUES ON FOLLOWING PAGE...

THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW LETTER CONTINUES...

It is tough for us to see so much good food lost, and tougher still for the farmers whose livelihoods are riding on the success of their crops! We've been asked, "Couldn't the farmers just change their systems and process or package food in family-sized containers?"

Unfortunately, commercial farmers have hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars invested in warehouses, packing houses, and equipment that do one thing very well. They work through regular, long-established supply chains. And though those supply chains and processing capacities aren't working at the moment, it would be neither quick enough to help nor financially worthwhile for them to re-tool their entire operation for a once-in-a-lifetime situation that they (and we) pray will end soon.

We at the Society of St. Andrew and all of our partners in this work—from small farmers to large-scale commercial growers, small neighborhood food pantries to major food banks, state and federal government agencies and legislators—are working longer, harder, and more creatively than ever to see that hungry neighbors are fed, and that sharing good food with others doesn't put our nation's farmers out of business.

Again, we appreciate you and all that you are doing during these pandemic days to make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for continuing to support the Society of St. Andrew with your gifts. We crave your prayers for this work and for those we serve.

Health and hope to you and those you love,
Lynette Johnson
Executive Director

If anyone has any questions feel free to contact me (540) 207-7404; tamtut@comcast.net
Steve Cunningham
President Burnt Factory UMMen

THE MANY ROADS OF LIFE AND A FEW WORDS OF WISDOM

from Jim Blankenship as given to him by a Friend

GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED

- 1) Raising teenagers is like nailing Jello to a tree.
- 2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3) Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
- 4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- 5) Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- 6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.



GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD

- 1) Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- 2) Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.



United Methodist Women



I know we are all having withdrawals from not being able to see each other in church, at meetings or the grocery store. Even though we tell ourselves not to take our blessings for granted, sometimes we forget how wonderful it is to be smiled at, to be touched and hugged, and to be told how nice we look! Even though we haven't been able to be together, to touch each other, many have touched the hearts of others by making masks, sending e-mails to friends, texts, grocery shopping for a neighbor/friend, and sending cards. I have been the recipient of these expressions of love since I was laid up for about 7 weeks with a leg muscle problem. I only missed some things the first 2 weeks of that time, and after that nothing was going on anyway! In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, social distancing, mask-wearing days that have drug on, we have had many opportunities to catch up on "catching up" at home. I know many of you have purged clothing from your closets to share with CCAP, Hospice, Goodwill, Salvation Army – when they all open again, organize pantry items, clean out files (when you're a *keeper*, this is a monumental task!), and probably have done all sorts of housecleaning. Working in the yard is a pleasure for some and chore for others, but the opportunity has been/is there! Many thanks to Pastor Steve and our staff for the meaningful streamlined services they have offered. We have been blest!

I'm sorry we weren't able to meet for our April UMW meeting. Debbie Walker was going to be our program leader and Susan Hyatt our hostess. Fortunately, we didn't have a lot of business that we needed to take care of during that month. But each month we like to send encouraging cards to dear friends, hear update on Project Esperanza, hear a RESPONSE Moment, remember an organization or two who needs assistance, have an interesting program, enjoy wonderfully prepared refreshments, emphasize the UMW reading program (we have some new books – check them out when we get back!), receive a new missionary name from our Prayer Calendar to remember in prayer for the next 2 months (send an e-mail for their birthday), and just catching up with everybody attending! What a blessing to be a part of this organization as we commit together to: "be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church." What a prayer to pray as the whole world is thrust into the same COVID-19 experience!

Decisions have not been made as to when we can gather again in the church building. Those decisions will dictate if we can have our June 11th UMW meeting. We had changed our date so as not to coincide with our Annual Conference meeting in June, which a few of our members attend. I understand that date has been postponed, so we won't have to have our kits ready by June. If we are allowed to meet, Susie Gerometta and Martha Ludtke will be our hostesses and Jani Shope was going to work it out that we would make blankets for Camp Fantastic. Maybe our youth could be involved! Making blankets would entail tying the ends together to complete the last step. A fun process! More info. on that later. Sure would be a fun activity to do with each other – and provide a wonderful gift to Camp Fantastic! I know I don't have to remind you to pray diligently about our worldly situation. So many lives have been turned upside down. God is in control and we pray our leaders will look to Him for guidance. Stay well, healthy and safe, wash your hands – and PRAY!

Blessings, Polly Duvall, BFUMW president

From a branch on the Vine,

Missing me? My wife may have a different answer. I'm missing you; the beautifully quirky and unique details of each person. Certainly do miss the hugs and the smiles, even the jabs at my smooth, shiny head. I miss looking into the congregation and seeing the friends who chose this church family to give and receive acceptance. It is the warmth of being together, the energy and spirit of gathering and knowing you are blessed by God and a blessing to others. It's not the same. However, it is still good because God is good.



So, what is God doing? Is He the cause of the virus? Is this a judgment? My opinion is that to blame God for COVID-19 or any disaster is to miss who God really is. If God loves me, would he try to hurt me? Make me to suffer or destroy me? I don't think God can love me and curse me. It's not the character of Him who laid down His life full well knowing what kind of person I am. Then, why are we suffering with this virus? It's not fair, not normal and not good.

None of us can begin to know the mind of God or have the right to challenge His sovereignty. Our belief is He is God and knows more than we do. It is His world He has invited us to share in.

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!³⁴ "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?"³⁵ "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" Romans 11:33-35

If you were God, would you create the world we now inhabit? Would cancer, abuse, murder be part of the construct? Would you include war, famine, genocide? Would you create ebola, malaria or COVID-19? I don't think God did either. So how did these things enter God's creation? When God brought humankind to life, He gave us a choice called free-will. We could be obedient to God or go our own way. Our own way has led Eden to decay into what we are dealing with now.

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue [dominion over] it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1:28

God gave us dominion, and we have abused the responsibility. You say, "not me, somebody else did the damage." You have sinned (turned from God) like me and everyone who has ever lived.....except One: the One who was sent to stop the decay in the heart of humankind. The world is still expiring, and God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are still offering renewal, but it remains our choice. Can we eradicate all the decay (sickness, war, famine)? No more than we can never be angry or judgmental or selfish. We don't have the nature of God.

God is not here to make our earthly lives perfect (although that day is coming). He is present to be our strength and guide through this earthly life until we see Him in glory.

"The sweeping message of the Bible is not a promise that those who believe and do good will not suffer. Instead, the Bible is largely a book about people who refused to let go of their faith in the face of suffering (pg 4, Why? By Adam Hamilton).

The choice is to seek blame or to seek the God of the resurrection. How will you persevere and thrive? With or without God?

In Christ, *Rob*

¹⁵ Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. ¹⁶ And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:15-16

In August of 1996, I wrote this poem for some friends of mine who were struggling with difficulties in their life. With all that's going on in our lives during COVID-19, I felt it might be helpful to all of us.

In His Time

*Why are we so impatient?
Why do we have to wait?
Why do we insist "in our time"?
And argue, "It will be too late!"*

*Why is it so hard to understand,
The reasons behind it all?
Does He do this to punish us?
Is He trying to make us fall?*

*Sickness just seems to continue,
And people continue to fight.
But, I have to hang onto the promise,
That He will make it right.*

*Where does He promise this?
In His Holy Word, you see
When He says, "I will come again"
And make things new for you and me.*

*Even He cried,
"My God, My God, why...?"
He was human, too,
He knows our hurts and sufferings,
Not just mine and theirs, but you.*

*We may not understand it all now
Or begin to know the reason,
But, as we also continue to hear
"For every time there is a season."*

*He does not punish us or make us fall
Or give strife to His children
He is a God of Love, not hate
And takes no pleasure in our suffering*

*This is the thought I hang onto
He only allows so much strife
Not any more than we can handle
He is in Control and will make things
right...*

... In His Time

*Written by
Charlene T. Winter
For Friends
August 15, 1996*

C. Steven Melester, Pastor
Burnt Factory United Methodist Church
1943 Jordan Springs Road
P. O. Box 399
Stephenson, VA 22656
Tele. (540) 667-4993
www.burntfactory.org

Sharma Lewis, Resident Bishop
Virginia Conference
Richmond, Virginia

Rev. Dr. Steven Summers
Winchester, VA 22601
www.winchesterdistrictumc.org

BURNT FACTORY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER



2020



Mother's Day
May 10th