

SMOKE

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER
BURNT FACTORY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
STEPHENSON, VIRGINIA 22656
C. STEVEN MELESTER, PASTOR

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

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

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*From the
Pastor*

I found this devotion in a copy of "our daily bread." I thought it appropriate to share as we all are growing somewhat weary.

To those Christians who are always in a hurry, here's some good advice from the 19th-century preacher A.B. Simpson: "*Beloved, have you ever thought that someday you will not have anything to try you, or anyone to vex you again? There will be no opportunity in heaven to learn or to show the spirit of **patience**, forbearance, and longsuffering. If you are to practice these things, it must be now.*" Yes, each day affords countless opportunities to learn **patience**. Let's not waste them.

Commenting on our need for this virtue, M.H. Lount has said, "*God's best gifts come slowly. We could not use them if they did not. Many a man, called of God to...a work in which he is pouring out his life, is convinced that the Lord means to bring his efforts to a successful conclusion. Nevertheless, even such a confident worker grows discouraged at times and worries because results do not come as rapidly as he would desire. But growth and strength in waiting are results often greater than the end so impatiently longed for. Paul had time to realize this as he lay in prison. Moses must have asked, 'Why?' many times during the delays in Midian and in the wilderness. Jesus Himself experienced the discipline of delay in His silent years before His great public ministry began.*" God wants us to see results as we work for Him, but His first concern is our growth. That's why He often withholds success until we have learned **patience**. The Lord teaches us this needed lesson through the blessed discipline of delay.

Patience, beloved! Patience! We will be back together soon! What a joy that will be!

Ephesians 4: 2 "*Be patient, bearing with one another in love.*"

Romans 12:12 "*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*"

GRACE & PEACE

THE SOVREIGN LORD IS OUR STRENGTH!

Pastor Steve

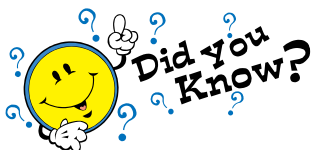


BFUMC is working very hard to stay active in our community through our many outreach ministries. We have been providing many volunteer hours to CCAP, which is our communities main resource for those in need in our area. We have continued our third Sunday meals for the housing challenged. We have held diaper drives and supported many families who need rental assistance. We have supported the Salvation Army with an additional monetary contribution. We have helped out at Camp Overlook and are reaching out through our contact in the Dominican Republic to assist a vital High School there that may have to close.

In an effort to show our unity, we have also reached out with a donation to several organizations that represent those on the front lines of the difficulties our country and communities are facing. We have donated to the Fredrick County Sheriff Office for their "Project Lifesaver" initiative. This is a program that donates transmitters to at risk Alzheimer's and Autism patients. We have donated to "Literacy Volunteers" that helps people read and to learn English so that they can better appropriate the benefits of living in community. We have donated to The National Alliance of Mental Health to help those who advocate, educate and mentor for the mentally ill and we have donated to the NAACP as they help educate and advocate for the end of hatred and racism.

Burnt Factory UMC continues to be a positive influence in our community by sharing our resources with those in need and by doing so with the love of Christ in our heart. I want to thank all the volunteers who pray for our missions and who donate to them and who actively participate. We are all the body of Christ! God bless you!

The Staff and Outreach Team of BFUMC



BUDDY's One-Liners for July - Enjoy!

I had to get a new pair of scissors today. THE OLD ONES JUST WEREN'T CUTTING IT!

What do you call a potato wearing glasses? A SPECTATOR!

What do you call a belt with a watch on it? A "WAIST" OF TIME!

I went into a restaurant and asked the waiter for bacon and eggs. The waiter asked me how would I like my eggs? I TOLD HIM I DIDN'T KNOW BECAUSE I HAVEN'T HAD THEM YET!

What is the hardest thing about learning to ride a bicycle? THE PAVEMENT!

Why do humming birds hum? THEY DON'T KNOW THE WORDS! (This is Buddy's own joke!)

The bakery in town burned down last night. THEY HAD A SPECIAL ON TOAST!

Buddy says, *"I am the making of the choir. I'M NOT IN IT!"*



*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

Happy July 4th Frienas –

The meeting in June had 4 in attendance. We were low in numbers, but large in fellowship. We talked about "Anger as a Caregiver." It was an opportunity to discuss anxious moments, why our family members do certain things and act a certain way. We talked about why we react at times and how we could better "pick our battles."

We touched on what comes after the anger – the dreaded "guilt." We plan to discuss a little more about the reasons why we feel guilt and how we may find peace. The following are some common causes for caregiver guilt:

- Being angry about the amount of time caring for a loved one requires, and then feeling guilty for this anger
- Resenting not having time to spend with friends and to attend favorite social activities
- Feeling as if they are letting everyone down, including their children, their employer, and the person they care for
- Being criticized by the care receiver who has unrealistic demands and expectations for the caregiver
- Believing that they should be doing more because they can't make it through their endless "to do" list each day.

The caregiver may have doubts about their role and what they are experiencing in this role. They may find themselves asking God, "why me?" Out of all my siblings and family, why am I the "chosen one?"

- Mercy, compassion, and selfless love are all behaviors that are strongly praised in the Bible. During Jesus' ministry on earth, He told the religious leaders, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice (Matthew 9:13). Mercy is a prime factor in caregiving—seeing the need of another and providing for that need.
- Compassion is a characteristic of God. Like a father to his children, God shows compassion to those who fear Him (Psalm 103:13)

Caregiving requires the ability to love selflessly, not expecting anything in return. He said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Caregiving requires this kind of love. Mercy, compassion, and selfless love are not easy—in fact, humanly speaking, they are impossible to do with a completely righteous attitude (Romans 3:10-11). But God is faithful to provide strength, joy, and cheer if we ask Him. With His strength caregiving (and any other incredible feat of love) is more than possible (Mark 9:23).

I read a quote by C.S. Lewis: "*We are not necessarily doubting that God will do the best for us: we are wondering how painful the best will turn out to be.*" Sometimes what's best is extremely painful, especially as we walk through it. Yes, it's difficult to understand sometimes. But whatever you're walking through today, remember this: God is doing what's best for you, even when it's hard to see.

*Lord God, how blessed I am to be part of Your ministry to another.
Thank You for allowing me to be there for my loved one, and please bless us both.*

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14th, 2020, at 7:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. Our topic will be "*Overcoming Caregiver Guilt and Finding Peace.*" I look forward to seeing you. Until then –

Grace and Blessing on your journey –
Debbie



- 1 Mike Gerometta
Logan Davis
- 3 Sarah Shoremount
- 5 Diann Duvall
- 6 Kathy Hunt
Isabella Repine
- 7 Janie Bigler
Luke Leonard
- 9 Aimee Taylor
Tim Heinlein
- 10 Brooks Sutphin
- 11 Mike Goode
- 14 Collin Stinnette
- 18 Erin & Avery Woods
Lander Manuel
- 21 Martha Ludtke
Amy Shepley
- 23 Danny Murphy
Norbert Bonjo
- 24 Jamar Thomas
- 25 Judi Eckert
Rick Ours
- 28 Karen Swisher
Debbie Walker
Olivia Goode
- 27 Irene Reynard
- 28 Paige Manuel
Elijah Britton
Landon Orndorff

*Happy Birthday,
Everyone*



- 4 Billy & Sue Swimley
- 7 Glen & Julia Boudier
- 10 Chad & Rennie Earhart
Glen & Carrie Fair
Mark & Lucinda Lentz
- 15 Richard & Bonnie Henry
Sequoia & Stephanie Britton
- 20 Jim & Jean Blankenship
- 24 Chad & Tabitha Lee
- 25 Ken & Mary Lou Wales
- 28 Danny & Amye Murphy
- 29 Ryan & Sue Ellen Rutherford

*Happy
Anniversary.
Everyone*



*Sean and Laine Everhart have a 3rd
Granddaughter.
Her name is Emmalynn June.*

*Larry and Kathy Dick also have a new
Granddaughter.
Her name is Camden Brooke.*

From a branch on the Vine,

This month, Deb and I are moving our youngest daughter to Wilmington, NC, as she starts her career with General Electric Power. In these challenging times, thank God she has a job, and it is a good job that she worked hard to attain. She begins a new chapter, and a chapter comes to an end for Deb and I. Beginnings and Endings, the ebb and flow of life. For something to begin, something must end.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. Genesis 1:1-3

As recorded in John 12, Jesus tells us, "Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

What are the beginnings we desire? A new car? Out with the old car. A new home? Goodbye to the old neighborhood. A new shirt? But the old one fits so well; it is "holey." Many beginnings require tough decisions. How about a new life in Jesus? What things do you need to end to know Christ? Do we need to end all sins and never sin again, in other words be perfect, before we come to Jesus? Be honest, we will never be perfect; it is not what God expects; plus, we believe it is by the acceptance of Jesus that transformation can happen. Waiting to choose Christ is holding onto what you believe is better than what He offers. Tomorrow is not the day for salvation. It is today.

Many in the secular world don't see the gain of Christ, only the loss of choices. In his letter to the church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul wrote to us:

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

And, Christ, through Paul, tells us to end the old ways to begin a new life in Christ:

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!

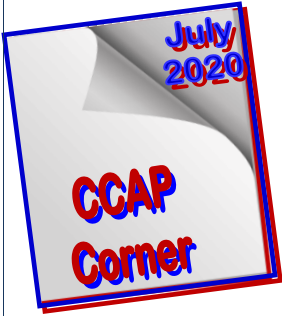
It sounds so easy on paper, but it is within the power of God to change our hearts. We can be more forgiving; more patient and tolerant; more generous; less about ourselves and more about others. With God, we can be better (not perfect). As we are better, more like Christ, we can make the world better – more compassionate care for the needy and sick; more hospitality for the alien; more justice for the oppressed. We can change racism to equality; exclusive to inclusive; foes to friends; non-believers to followers. This can be the beginning for each of us and the revival for all of us.

God is wonderful. Let us let Him do a new work in our lives. He is the beginning and the final end.

In Christ, *Rob*

¹³ *Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 3:13-14***





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.

Diaper Collection: - Our church collected 2371 diapers for the CCAP diaper giveaway on June 27. Many children will be served with this kind donation. Thanks to everyone for the donations and to Penny and Tom Croll for wrapping the diapers and delivering them to CCAP. We also collected 144 Depends and 192 wipes.

Opportunities to Serve: - Even though CCAP has been closed because of COVID-19, we have been busier than ever and doing some rewarding work organizing giveaways in our community. Clients are not allowed in the buildings, so these giveaways require a lot of manpower. There are many opportunities to serve this important ministry. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering. Several of our church members have been helping with packing food, manning the giveaways, organizing the buildings, delivery pickups and other activities. Wearing masks is a requirement and social distancing is practiced. Please reach out to me via email or phone and I will add you to our list of volunteers. I will send out emails letting you know of opportunities to serve as they arise.

Van Drivers for Partner Pick Ups: - We are in desperate need of volunteers who are available during the day approximately 8am-11:30am with a valid driver's license and able to load and unload. Without van drivers we are unable to start our partner pick-ups again. The Van runs 7 days a week, but you can volunteer for one day a week (or more if you want). We are looking for van drivers and back-up drivers (to be on call in event someone is out). Please pass the word, this is an immediate need for us and one of the most important. Please let me know if you are interested in being a driver. A regular license is required not a CDL.

Lunch at CCAP – 3rd Sunday: - In June, Karen Willis and her team packed and served 52 chicken dinners at CCAP. Because of Covid19, we are packaging the meals in our Fellowship Hall and giving them to clients outside of CCAP. Thanks to **everyone** who provided food and helped serve. Our next serving day is July 19. We will meet at the church at 11 to begin packing the lunches, then drive to CCAP to serve. Contact Donna Gallagher at 540-431-9027 if you would like to contribute in any way.

Special Notes: - CCAP does accept on-line donations. If you would like to make a donation, please go to ccapwinc.org. Also, a big **THANK YOU** to Stonewall Ruritans for donating milk for giveaways. The milk and the deliveries were very much appreciated.

Please keep this ministry in your prayers as we make plans to reopen safely.

Patty Leonard – Outreach CCAP Rep

Because we don't have a newsletter calendar this month, as a "Friendly Reminder" for those who regularly send me their articles and for anyone who may have an article for the August newsletter, I will be needing your August articles by.....

3:00pm on Wednesday, July 29th.

I will be sending the August Newsletter on Friday, July 31st.

Thanks, Charly

Newsletter
DEADLINE



During my early morning walks, I have paid special attention (as I try to drown out the noise from 81) to the birds chirping. They sound so cheerful as they flit from tree to tree, wire to wire. They don't seem to be worried or concerned about what's going on in our world. The grass is so lush and growing faster than we would like. The dogs bark as I near their yards. The flowers are popping through the dirt and making a glorious appearance. It's like they are all saying "All's right with my world." People are out to get the paper and some getting into their cars. As David reminds us in

Psalm 8, vs. 6-9, *"You have made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the fields, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"* We humans are concerned about the changes in our lives because it has caused us to alter our routines. But those birds just keep on chirping and we have God's beautiful creation to admire and enjoy!

It has been brought to our attention by Caitlin at Project Esperanza that a High School in the DR (Colegio Costambar) is in jeopardy of closing after 35 years. It is the school that several students from P.E. attend after completing their primary learning. A fundraiser has been started asking 50 groups to support this. Penny and Tom are responding to this message from Caitlin. We feel at Burnt Factory that the UMM, UMW and Outreach can respond to this need and offer \$350 each towards keeping this well-respected High School from closing its doors. Since we have not met as a group since February, I hope you will agree that since our treasury can support this, we will move forward to do our part as UMW to participate in this fundraiser.

Our calendars hardly have anything penciled in to remind us of activities, luncheons, meetings and other important stuff! But one of these days our leaders will guide us in the appropriate and safe decisions for us to gather with our friends and family and worship together.

In the meantime, let's remember to shop for the UMCOR Kits for Conference when supplies go on sale in July and August. Here are the items you can buy:

**BLUNT SCISSORS
BOX OF 24 CRAYONS
ONE-SUBJECT SPIRAL COMPOSITION BOOKS
LOOSE-LEAF PAPER 100-200 PAGE PACKET
HAND-HELD ONE INCH OR LONGER PENCIL SHARPENERS
RULERS - UNSHARPENED PENCILS - AND 2 INCH ERASERS.
THEY WILL BE ENCLOSED IN A 2 GALLON PLASTIC BAG.
THE SUPPLY WE HAVE ON HAND NOW WILL BE TAKEN TO
ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER.**

Maybe by August we'll be able to have a UMW meeting! There will be more about that in the August newsletter. In the meantime, continue to pray for your prayer partner, pray for our national and local leaders, ask God to heal our land as you count your blessings, pray for our BF staff and the HCT committee, cut out the cancelled stamps, make good choices, and stay well, healthy and safe!!

Blessings, Polly Duvall, president

July 2020 Relay for Life

**WE STAND TOGETHER,
EVEN WHEN WE'RE APART
COVID-19**



COVID-19 changed the way we Relay, but with everyone's support we made sure that the battle to end cancer doesn't stop. Together we can keep fighting cancer!

There may have been no active Winchester/Frederick County Relay for Life this year, but Polly Duvall, JoAnne Baker, Jean Wilson, Chip and Lisa Patterson and I walked in the sun and rain all through Abrams Pointe subdivision. It just didn't feel right to us not to walk somewhere. We had a great time catching up with each other (masks taken off only long enough to snap a quick photo).

Even though we were not able to hold most of our fundraisers this year, our team raised \$4,516.00!! We cannot thank you enough for your contributions and fundraising for the 2021 Relay event is NOW under way.

After our walk, the 2 little girls that live next door to me came over and asked why we were walking and why we all had the same shirts on. I asked them if they knew what Relay for Life is. They didn't, so I explained it to them in a way that they could understand. Shortly after that they came back each with a \$1.00 dollar bill. Their mom said that they came in and each asked for their own money because they wanted to help the sick people.



It made our little trip around the subdivision so much sweeter.

The Dr. Seuss theme will most likely be used for the 2021 Relay event so any decorations that have already been purchased will not go unused.

I do not like cancer here or there, I do not like cancer anywhere!!

Please let Lisa or I know if you have any questions.

theresahgilbert@gmail.com or (540) 247-5612

lisapatterson423@gmail.com or (540) 664-4169

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

We thank you for your support!

Theresa Gilbert and Lisa Patterson, Co-Captains

Polly's article about the wonderful bird sounds of nature on her early morning walks brought to mind the poem and pictures below I had written and Lauren, our Granddaughter, had taken about what we hear and see in our own back yard. We continue to enjoy the birds; Purple Martins, Tree Swallows, and Blue Birds who live in the Gourds and Bird Houses in our backyard every year. We also enjoy the Humming Birds as they drink from their feeder hanging on our porch. We enjoy watching the Cardinals, Goldfinch and House Finches eating away at the Birdfeeders. Sometimes even a smaller Dove will give it a try. They also enjoy our birdbath for a drink or a bath along with a Redwing Blackbird, a Cowbird, Mocking Birds, Robins and one Purple Martin, which is really unusual for a Martin.

Here are the poem and pictures I'd like to share. *Charly*

SILLY OL' BIRDS

Silly ol' Mockin' Bird
Chirpin' all day long
Mockin' all your brothers
Tryin' to sing their song

I can't decide the monotony
Between your sounds or the others
The many sounds you make
Or the repetitious ones of your brothers

The other day you were cranky
Attacking a friend passing by
Swooping down at her head
Didn't you hear her cry?

She did nothing to you
But you continued your best
To let her know for certain
In the lilac bush was your nest

The Robins are a bit more friendly
Not concerned with where we go
One tried to sit atop the little maple
Haphazardly swaying to and fro

Another waited for the sprinkler
As it watered the berry patch
To sprinkle her with light drops
Morning shower, instead of a bath



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Burnt Factory
United Methodist Church
Newsletter



2020



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY,
AMERICA!**