



January

# 2024 SMOKE SIGNAL

## Our Mission Statement

Sharing the love of Christ with ALL people.

Burnt Factory Church  
1943 Jordan Springs Road  
P. O. Box 399  
Stephenson, Virginia 22656  
burntfactory.org  
PH: (540) 667-4993

*“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



*“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”*

This passage from Paul’s letter to the Philippians speaks of moving forward and not dwelling on what has been. The past is the past, let it go. Move forward.

Many successful people will tell that the secret to their victory in life is that they always set goals. Many times, in his letters, Paul would reference sports goals. *“Fight the good fight, run the good race. There is a prize waiting for you.”* Apparently, he enjoyed sports and he used these sports metaphors to express his thoughts.

Athletes need to set goals to advance in their particular sport. Christians also need to set goals in discipleship so that they can continue to grow in the faith and be all that God made them to be. Goals are always forward thinking and Burnt Factory Church has many goals. The most important goal is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The goal of any church is to provide a genuine atmosphere of love, hope, grace, acceptance, and joy, so that those outside the church and those that are lost could come and experience the life changing, soul saving truth of the Gospel.

I believe 2024 will be a tremendous year for Burnt Factory Church! With our eyes faithfully pointed forward and upward to Christ our Lord. I look forward and I am excited and energized to be in ministry and mission with all of you.

I am ready to run full steam ahead into 2024!

And I am sure ready to say goodbye to 2023! **“Let us all forget what is behind and press on toward the goal to win the prize.”**

Pastor Steve

### **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](mailto:john.k.roberts@comcast.net) with the message:

“ADD ME TO THE CHURCH EMAIL LIST”



## Exciting News!



Hello Church Family,

It is a new year and with a new year comes new beginnings. I wanted to say that I am officially the new administrator for our church and to let you know that I am here to serve you in any capacity that you need. I am here for any guidance, help, and/or information that is needed. I will be taking on the responsibility of ordering supplies/resources for classes, Studies, and Spiritual Formation items, as you need them. These supplies are books, guides, advertising in bulletins and/or announcements, as well as researching studies for any needed or for suggestions. I will also be keeping all the usage forms, and taking reservations for the church facilities usages, including the bus. I will be available in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9am-3pm. Other times by appointment, and/or email, text messaging, or catch me at events.

I will also be the go-to person for "where is this in the church?". I keep up the storage rooms and closets organizations so "ask me" and I will help as I can! I will be doing the updating on all the church files, answering phones, updating letterhead, and be a resource for those in the community who need our help. I am available for any help you may need and pointing you in the right direction! Stop by and chat, pray, or have a cup of coffee with me! I am always ready for a good chat.

Much love and joy,  
Carrie Fair  
Minister of Children, Family, and Administration



## January Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> Keith Roberts
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Iris Sibert
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Noah Swimley
- 5<sup>th</sup> Karen Lynch  
David Wales
- 8<sup>th</sup> Jacob Taylor  
Derek Bursey
- 13<sup>th</sup> Bill Shope  
Kenny Rohrbach
- 15<sup>th</sup> Harrison Fair  
Jimmy Grayson
- 21<sup>st</sup> Stephanie (Wales) Britton
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Jay Powell
- 24<sup>th</sup> Lilly Reed
- 25<sup>th</sup> Hayden Earhart
- 26<sup>th</sup> Scott Snyder
- 27<sup>th</sup> Ron Baker  
Anne Bromley
- 29<sup>th</sup> Gary Jenkins
- 30<sup>th</sup> Gail Winter  
Audrey Sutphin
- 31<sup>st</sup> Jackie Livengood  
Jason Wiseman



## Happy Anniversary

- 5<sup>th</sup> Tim & Danette Heinlein
- 29<sup>th</sup> Norbert (Norby) & Donna Bonjo

### Remembering Buddy's Jokes

The other day I got a ticket for being parked illegally and I have no idea why because the sign clearly read

**FINE FOR PARKING**

\*Pulled from the January 2021 Edition of Smoke Signal.

# WORSHIP ROAD FOR JANUARY 2024



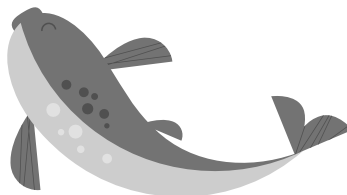
This January, we are going to have a whale of a good time! If this sounds fishy to you, let me explain. We are starting the new year off with a four-part sermon series on Jonah! We will take a chapter a week and explore this wonderful and unique Old Testament book and how it relates to our faith today. We hope all of you will join us for worship and commit hook, line, and sinker! Don't let this series be the one that got away!

Sermon 1 "U Turns"

Sermon 2 "Do Over"

Sermon 3 "Second Chances"

Sermon 4 "Do you Want Some Cheese With That Whine?"





## New Year/New Start!!!

I love this time of year because it's like we get a chance to start over. Like, God is giving us a "Do over". Hit the reset button and begin again. And away we go! This year we have some exciting things planned for Children's Ministries. I am attending a Children's Pastor Conference to get refreshing new ideas, order resources for big events, and work on some Continuing Education Credits.

Of, course, Children's Pastors are nothing but big kids who work for God, sooooo, not only do we learn, pray, worship, learn some more, network, and gain valuable resources, we also invade Disney World. Over 2000 Kid ministers singing, praying, praising, AND playing!!! It's a great time to reset our Minister clocks and return to our churches being refreshed and renewed for a great new year! I am praying that all our church families have a wonderful new start to their New Years as well. May God be with us as we hit the reset button together!

Love,

Miss Carrie



In Children's Church we will be taking on some new stuff by learning about:

7<sup>th</sup>- Baptism/Epiphany

14<sup>th</sup>-Christian Calendar Year and why these dates are important to us in the life of the church.

21<sup>st</sup>- God created Winter.

28<sup>th</sup>- Candlemas-Christians let their light shine!

In Sunday School we will be doing some fun stuff! Songs for Easter, cool skits, dramatic readings, and their favorite Improvisation with Bible stories. All these techniques teach our kids to see the Bible and its amazing stories in a new and fun way, Connecting with the characters, feelings, and emotions, and God's purpose for them.

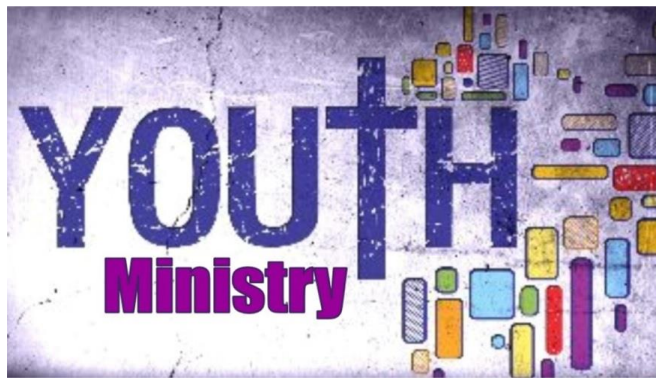
I am always looking for some great assistants, new teachers to help, and subs for our Children's ministries and nursery!

Blessings,

Carrie Fair

Minister of Children, Family, and Administration.





## Youth Group Dates

January 13th

1-3 PM

Youth will be “filling the freedge” on Cameron St. We will meet at the youth cottage to prepare sandwiches and take them, then come back and youth will enjoy a hot cocoa bar.



January 27th

4-6 PM



Youth Game Night!! We will have a variety of fun games (including some outdoors ones weather permitting), and pizza will be provided!

Questions/comments please text Miss Erin 540-535-5283



# Activities

## Melting Snowball

**Age Level:** Preschool to kindergarten

**Materials:**

- a white ball, a beanbag, or white paper bag stuffed with paper

Arrange the children in a circle. Play this game like Hot Potato. Have children pass the “snowball” quickly around the circle so it won’t stay in their hands too long and “melt.”

## Snowball Treats

**Ingredients:**

- peanut butter
- powdered sugar
- coconut flakes

Mix equal amounts of peanut butter and powdered sugar. Add more powdered sugar if needed to make the dough less sticky. Have the children roll the dough into balls, then roll in coconut flakes to make snowball treats.

## Handprint Snowflakes

**Age Level:** Elementary ages

**Materials:**

- white paper
- scissors
- Pencils

Celebrate kids’ unique individuality with this fun craft. Have the children trace their handprints onto whitepaper. Then have children cut out and fold their hands two or three times while cutting a few shapes from each fold. When the children unfold their handprints, they’ll see a unique snowflake design. Discuss how different and how beautiful each child’s snowflake turned out. Stress that God has made each of us unique, special, and beautiful.




# CONDOLENCES

As many have experienced the loss of a loved one, please remember them in prayer:



- Janie Shope's beloved mother claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Tina Liggett's sister, Judy, claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Amy Shepley's mother, Irene Reynard, claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- The Gilbert family mourning the loss of Grandpa Campbell who claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Kristi Rogers' father, Randy Puffinberger, claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Andy and Dawn Nethers lost their beloved pet Alex of 15 years in December.



“For this God is our God for ever and ever;  
He will be our guide even to the end”  
**Psalm 48:14**

## January 2024 Faith and Health Corner



If Advent is a time of Preparation, it seems that the Winter Solstice is a time that Nature provides for us to slow down in the midst of all the things that we are doing.

A few tips for Solstice:

- Cook and share a comforting, healthy meal
- Give thanks for Blessings
- Honor your living space by cleaning and decluttering
- Light a fire, candle, sing or tell stories

### *A Winter Solstice Blessing*

May you find peace in  
the promise of the solstice night,  
That each day forward is  
blessed with more light.  
That the cycle of nature,  
unbroken and true,  
brings faith to your soul  
and well-being to you.  
Rejoice in the darkness,  
in the silence find rest,  
And may the days that follow  
be abundantly blessed.

*As always praying for your health and well-being. Praying that today you will be both blessed and be a blessing.*

*Theresa*

You can reach me at any time by e-mail at [tgilbert@afpdocs.com](mailto:tgilbert@afpdocs.com) or [theresahgilbert@gmail.com](mailto: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.



**Have something you would like shared in the next edition of Smoke Signal?**

Kindly send an email to Becca Ratliff at [beccalea.ratliff@gmail.com](mailto:beccalea.ratliff@gmail.com) with a subject:

“Smoke Signal Newsletter Article Request”

**Would you like to receive the Smoke Signal Newsletter by email?**

Kindly send an email to Becca Ratliff at [beccalea.ratliff@gmail.com](mailto:beccalea.ratliff@gmail.com) with a subject:

“Add me to the Smoke Signal Newsletter email distribution”

## *News From the Church Library*



As we begin a New Year, we are reminded that our Hope is not in the New Year itself, but in the One who created the New Year. It is a wonderful time to begin anew a study of God's word or to focus on a book title that would be an encouragement in your daily walk with the Lord.

A group of books that have been used for previous Bible Studies are placed on the table in the Social Hall. These books are free to take home and keep. Examples of titles being offered include:

- Charles Swindoll - ***Following Christ... The Man of God - a study of John 6-14***
- Charles Swindoll – ***Beholding Christ... The Man of God – a study of John 15-21***
- Charles Swindoll - ***His Name is Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God...*** “Jesus’ names are living revelations, each introducing you to a unique aspect of His infinite nature.”
- Rob Fuquay – ***Take the Flag – Following God’s Signals in the Race of Your Life***
- Adam Hamilton – ***Forgiveness – Finding Peace Through Letting Go***
- Adam Hamilton – ***John – The Gospel of Light and Life*** – “Experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal.”
- James W. Moore – ***Some Folks Feel the Rain, Others Just Get Wet*** – Moore explores why some people are able to see our time on earth as a gracious gift from God rather than an agonizing endurance test.

There are many other books on Christian Living available for check-out in the Church Library located downstairs.

May each of your days be filled with God's presence in your life.

God Bless,

Doris Duvall, Church Librarian





## Greetings and Happy New Year from the Outreach Team!

### The Outreach Mission Statement

*1 Peter 4:10-11 "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."*

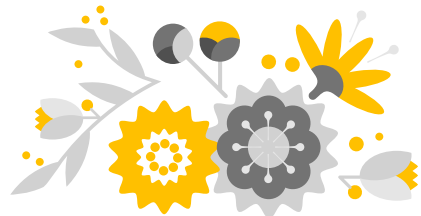
December was a very busy month for Outreach. We began with WATTS week led by Steve Cunningham and many dedicated volunteers who worked to give the guests fellowship, as well as a warm bed, a delicious dinner every night and breakfast every morning. We spent three fun Saturdays ringing bells for the Salvation Army. The Women in Faith provided a "Welcome Home" basket for the Laurel Center that overflowed with items to set up housekeeping for the women who must often start over with nothing. 26 Christmas dinner baskets were provided to families through Social Services. Thank you to Kathy Dixon for leading that effort, and to everyone who donated items and helped collect and distribute them.

We continue work in our ongoing ministries. Remember that we have instituted "Fill the Freedge" on the second Wednesday of the month. In January, it's the 10<sup>th</sup>. Drop items off at your convenience to the 419 North Cameron St. or 700 Aylor Rd. (Abundant Life Church) Freedge. More information is available at the CCAP website: <https://www.ccapwinchester.org/about-3>.

There will be a blood drive on January 9<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall to meet an urgent need. Contact Dennis Loeffler to make an appointment to donate.

We look forward to 2024 and the many ways we can continue to serve. If you are interested in Outreach, we will be part of the Ministry Fair being held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January in the Fellowship Hall. We invite you to stop by and see where you might want to share your time and talents!

Grace and Peace,  
Sharon Woodard, Outreach Chair  
sfwoodard111@gmail.com





# CCAP Corner

## January 2024

*CCAP is a cooperative effort of individuals, civic groups, businesses, and religious communities in Winchester and Frederick County. They have unified to provide financial, material, and supportive assistance in a loving way. Even with the help of existing social service programs, CCAP clients are unable to meet their needs and responsibilities. CCAP's desire is to do God's work in a world where many basic human needs are simply not met.*

A big Thank You to our church for the donations of 18 blankets for CCAP and 1413 diapers for The Red Wagon Ministry. These items were a huge blessing to many!!

**PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT** – A one-day pickleball tournament on **Saturday, 2/28** is being organized by the Winchester Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with CCAP. Everyone is welcome to play!! All proceeds will benefit CCAP. Stay tuned for more information.

**Volunteers needed at CCAP:** Go to [www.ccapwinchester.org](http://www.ccapwinchester.org) and click on the Become a Volunteer tab at the top of the page for a list of positions, days, and times available. You can also reach out to me or anyone on the Outreach Team if you have any questions about what we do as volunteers.

**TWO Friendly Neighborhood FREEDGES:** The original at 419 N Cameron St and the newest at 700 Aylor Rd at Abundant Life Church are open **24 hours a day!!** These are intended to serve low-income residents. Items needed: Fresh fruits and vegetables, granola, cheese, prepackaged sandwiches, garden foods, and yogurt. You can drop off your food at **any time**.

### **Current Donation Needs:**

- Gently used winter children's and teen clothes including PJs, hats & gloves – sizes 2T thru teen.
- Men's jeans and belts; men's and women's sweatshirts and sweatpants, women's purses, and tennis shoes (all sizes men, women, and children)
- New adult underwear winter thermals – all sizes
- **Adult** Backpacks and gently used/clean linens (sheets, pillowcases, blankets, & towels).

Donations may be dropped off Monday-Friday between 9am and 2pm at 112 S. Kent St. Call CCAP at 540-662-4318 from 9 to 4 daily for a scheduled donation drop off if these hours don't work with your schedule.

CCAP is thankful for our churches many donations of time, money, gifts and especially our prayers. Any questions, please contact me at 540-664-6973 or [ricpat5@gmail.com](mailto:ricpat5@gmail.com)

Patty Leonard, Outreach CCAP Rep



## *Pathfinder Ministry*

Contact: Debbie Walker

E-mail: [dswalker1@yahoo.com](mailto:dswalker1@yahoo.com)

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

Monthly: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday @ Noon

Fellowship Hall

Our grief support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficulty of grief. With Pathfinder's, you'll meet others who are grieving and enjoy fellowship, who are suffering the same issues, loneliness and heartache, as you. There is nothing "normal" about grief. We all grieve differently, in our own way, which is how it is supposed to be. There is no neat, orderly stages of grief. We learn helpful ways of coping, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support, from one another, each step of the way.



*Grief Support Group*

### **Pathfinder Luncheon**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each Month**

**BFUMC Fellowship Hall**

**12:00 Noon**

**Info or Questions contact:**

**Debbie Walker**

**(540)664-0908 / (540)667-6711**

**[dswalker1@yahoo.com](mailto:dswalker1@yahoo.com)**

**Please Join Us**

The Pathfinder Ministry is a safe space of compassion, respect, and encouragement for those currently experiencing the loss of a loved one, who recently passed, or have previously experienced loss. There is no time limit on loss and grief. We will gather as a community of empathy, acceptance, and emotional support.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. If you are not sure ahead of time that you can make it, but on the day of the meeting you would like to come – PLEASE JOIN US - *YOU ARE WELCOME!* If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Jesus wants his love for you to be your foundation as he walks with you through this emotion-filled season of grief. We welcome you to join us in fellowship, comfort and support.

**"I can do all this through him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13**

**God keep you in his warm and comforting embrace,  
*Debbie Walker***

## Burnt Factory Prayer Partners

Would you like to know someone is praying for you each month and remembering you on special occasions? Sign up to become a Burnt Factory Prayer Partner in 2024.



Each member of this group has the privilege of constantly praying for their special sister and all the while keeping it a secret. At the same time, they know that another sister is praying for them. Each partner may send a card on special occasions or possibly even a gift. It is a way of drawing closer together and bringing joy and blessing into each other's lives. An extra bonus is being remembered on birthdays and other special days of the year.

If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Kathy Dixon at [kjdixon7@msn.com](mailto:kjdixon7@msn.com).

This is also the time of year to reveal who the Prayer Partners were in 2023.

### **BFW Member**

Becky Dennis  
Anne Kackley  
Darlene Morrison  
Diann Duvall  
Penny Elliott  
Allie Goode  
Penny Croll  
Karen Swisher  
Donna Gallagher  
Polly Duvall  
Amy Shepley  
Teresa Gilbert  
Maureen Dick  
Karen Lynch  
Debbie Burke  
Doris Duvall  
Jo Anne Baker  
Debbie Moss  
Anne Perrault  
Jani Shope

### **2023 Prayer Partner**

Jo Anne Baker  
Debbie Burke  
Penny Croll  
Becky Dennis  
Diann Duvall  
Doris Duvall  
Polly Duvall  
Donna Gallagher  
Teresa Gilbert  
Allie Goode  
Penny Elliott  
Anne Kackley  
Karen Lynch  
Darlene Morrison  
Anne Perrault  
Amy Shepley  
Jani Shope  
Karen Swisher  
Debbie Moss  
Maureen Dick







We will be starting a new series in the newsletter during 2024 called Congregation Connection. We are hoping to slowly introduce some of our longstanding members as well as some of our newer members to the church across both services through a set of questions. We look forward to getting to know everyone just a little bit more. We thank you in advance for your participation.

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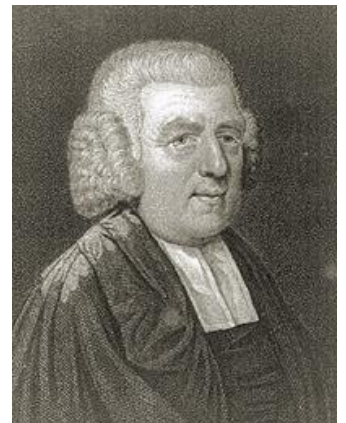
## Amazing Grace

John Newton  
(Lyrics in 1772)



## *Chorus Spotlight*

“The Lord hath promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.”



# January 2024 Calendar

Date/Time		Event
Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup>	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thur 4 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
	7:00 PM	Outreach Team
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	7:00 PM	Church Council
Thur 11 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice

Date/Time		Event
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thur 18 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:30 AM	Blood Pressure Checks
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup>	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thur 25 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours

For more info, view the calendar on our website: [CalenderNew | Burnt Factory Church](#)