



September

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



One of the many very important theological truths that the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, proclaimed, was about the nature and reality of faith.

Faith is not just a cognitive assent to a set of religious beliefs or doctrines, but a heart-warming experience with God.

On May 24, 1738, Wesley had a pivotal experience at Aldersgate Street in London. On his journal he wrote: *"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was still describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."*

Methodism is about having a spiritual relationship with the living God!

Have you experienced the living God? Did you have an Aldersgate experience?

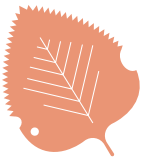
Do you have your life message or testimony that you can confidently share with others?

Do you have an assurance of salvation? Have you received the Holy Spirit?

Do you have spiritual hunger and thirst?

In Methodism, we believe to understand --- not understand so as to believe!

God always takes the initiative in reaching out to us and working through our lives. When we respond to God's call, we come to experience a new future!



Divine initiative + human response = a new future

I am proud to be a Wesleyan Methodist! I hope you are too! God bless!

Pastor Steve

Watermelon Seeds

Stories, Thoughts and Ponderings of a Local Pastor
Considering the Seeds of the Faithful



*Based Upon the Parable of the Sower, Seed, and Soil
from the Glorious Gospel of Matthew 13:1-23*

Rev. C. Steven Melester

Pastor Steve will be offering an 11-week Bible Study based upon his book, *Watermelon Seeds*.

There will be two opportunities to participate each week. We will gather on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 and Wednesday evenings at 6:30. Classes will begin on September 10th in the Fellowship Hall and the classes will be between 60 & 75 minutes. Sign-ups are in the Fellowship Hall or you can text or e-mail pastor Steve if you are interested and if you need a book. I think it will be a lot of fun as we learn from each other.

The study is based upon Matthew 13: 1-23. Hope to see you! God bless!

Worship Road for September 2024

- September 1st** Why not start off your Labor Day celebrations by attending worship!
The sermon is entitled, *“We Don’t Have to Guess”* and has a little revival feel!
We will celebrate Holy Communion.
- September 8th** Football is back! Praise the Lord!
The sermon is entitled, *“The Huddle”*
We have Victory in Jesus ! 1st Corinthians 12: 1-13
Don’t forget to give Sunday School a try. We have new classes starting today!
- September 15th** *“We Give the Devil Too Much Credit”*
Let’s kick that old liar the devil to the curb!!!
1st Peter 5: 6-9 & Ephesians 6: 10-20
- September 22nd** *“Jesus is On Our Side”*
Hebrews 4: 12-16 & Hebrews 7: 23-28
We have a savior that will never forsake us! He will fight for us because he loves us!
- September 29th** *“Beautiful Words”* is the sermon title today.
Ephesians 3: 14-21 & Psalms 103: 11-18
God’s Word is pure, holy, righteous, true and beautiful.

Mark your calendars church!

Sunday afternoon on October 20th at 2:00, Burnt Factory Church will hold their first *Church Annual Report*. Please plan to attend. We will present reports from the Board of Servants along with seeking approval for the 2025 budget.



September Birthdays

- 4th Angela Wiseman
- Bob Hunt
- Carol Delauter
- Zayne Bryant
- Cecilyn Bayliss
- 5th Randy Willis
- Denise Willis
- 8th David Werdebaugh
- Linda Bodkin
- 9th Glen Boudier
- 11th Betty Livengood
- 16th Jennifer Stinnette
- 18th Brendan Luttrell
- Colton Luttrell
- 19th Sylvia Woods
- 20th Sequoia Britton
- 22nd Liz Duvall
- Brandy Woods
- Mallory Henschen
- 23rd Zoey Corron
- 26th Grant Henschen
- 30th Debbie Burke
- Carter Lynn Kerr



Happy Anniversary

- 2nd Adam & Brandy Woods
- 9th Steve & Melanie Melester
- 21st Jim & Amy Shepley

Remembering Buddy's Jokes



**What color socks do Bears
like to wear?**

They don't wear socks.

They have bear feet.

*Pulled from the August 2021 Edition of
Smoke Signal.

Children's Ministries!!

Well, we have hit the "Ber" months! And September kicks it off with cooler weather, school routines in place, and in this area, we celebrate the apple harvest. The Children's church classes will be studying "13 Important Lessons", Sunday school class will be learning Verse Mapping. We are taking some major verses in the Bible and mapping them out to see what we can learn from them!

We are also starting to decorate the placemats for WATTS which is an important part of this ministry.

NEW MINISTRY!!!

Starting September 19th at 6pm we will have our first gathering of the "Pre-teen Ministry". All pre-teens in grades 3-5th are welcome to attend. We will have a snack-caterie board, drinks, and some fun activities. We hope to see all you 3-5th grade students there! Miss Erin and Miss Carrie are very excited!

I am continuing my prayers for all you amazing students and teachers who have returned to school! May you be blessed and be a blessing each and every day!

Love,

Miss Carrie

Minister of Children and Administration



Please RSVP to Miss Erin for any of the above events youth@burntfactory.org, or text 540-535-5283

September 14th: 2-4 pm Youth will help prep some of the meal for Family Promise. The Family Promise organization serves local families who are homeless or on the brink of it and are staying in local motels/hotels.
Location: Fellowship Hall

September 19th: 6-9 pm Pre-teen and Youth event! Youth will be teaming up with some of the older elementary kids to do games/activities. Snacks provided!
Location: Fellowship Hall



Fall Sunday School Happenings!



Starting September 8th, we will kick off a new Sunday school quarter. We have some wonderful options, so if you're looking for a class, check out this page!

Faith Seekers Class

Looking for a unique class? The Faith Seekers class is starting a new study called "Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table". by Louis Giglio. This study dives into the 23 Psalm in an inviting and refreshing way.

The class will serve refreshment! We hope you will come check out this wonderful study. This classroom is located down the hall from the Library.

New Women's Class

Jan Loeffler will be facilitating a new women's discussion class on the book of Romans. This new and exciting class will meet in the Library. All ladies are invited to attend and be inspired by Paul's beautiful letter to the Romans.

Unity Class

The Unity class meets in the administrative cottage and is led by Mark Jones. This class is studying the Wesley Bible Curriculum with a focus on Practical Holy Living.

Fellowship Class

The Fellowship class is a standard Bible study led by Pastor Steve. This class meets in the fellowship hall.

Youth Class

The Youth meet in the Youth cottage. They are studying "13 Most Important Lessons in the Bible". This is a diverse teaching class with skits, discussion, and crafts.

Children's Class

The Children are going to be learning "Verse Mapping". We are going to be studying a popular verse and breaking it down to understand it better. We will be also learning basic Bible Skills.

CONDOLENCES

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



- Please keep Carrie Fair and her family in your prayers. Her aunt, Carolyn Baylis, claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Please pray for Donna Gallagher and her family. Her uncle, George Zickl, claimed the promise of the resurrection.



“Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.”

Psalms 62: 1-2

Don't be Afraid

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Please don't let fear win.

Being brave looks different for each person because each person has a unique call from God.

What is the big question lingering in your heart that you don't know how to answer? Is it a question you're too afraid to answer? It could be big, like a location change, a job change, or a relationship.

Should you pick up and move?

Should you change career paths even though you're well into your fifties?

Should you pursue something romantic with that person you've been “just friends” with for ten years?

If the reason you don't say yes to any those questions is simply, “I'm afraid,” then you need to seek the Lord and ask Him to help you be brave, and then answer those questions based on what He leads you to do.

Conner didn't know when he said yes to playing baseball in his senior year at Vanderbilt (instead of going to the major leagues when he was drafted as a junior) that he would have his best year on the field and off in Nashville, thus earning him a higher draft spot after his senior season.

Ashley didn't know when she said yes to moving to Kansas City to be an intern at the International House of Prayer that the man who would be her husband had done the same.

I didn't know when I went on that first trip to Scotland that my life would forever be tied to that country and the people there.

Friend, we can't see the future, so when we take steps forward, we've got to say no to fear.

God wants you to be “strong and courageous.” Why? Because He's got this! Your life. Your plan. Your future.

God cares about it, and He's with you. He's with me. He's with us.

BE BRAVE *Where are you letting fear hold you back*

September 2024 Faith and Health Corner Cont'd

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

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.



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”

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

Kindly send an email to Becca Ratliff at beccalea.ratliff@gmail.com with a subject:

“Add me to the Smoke Signal Newsletter email distribution”



The Believers - September 2024



Benefit Ride – October 5th



The ride will begin and end at the **Stonewall District Ruritan Club** on Route 11 North between the Frederick County Fairgrounds and Stonewall Elementary School.

Registration, coffee and donuts will begin at 8:00 a.m.

\$25.00 per bike and \$5.00 for additional riders

Stopping points:

(1) Fort Valley Country Store, [7091 Fort Valley Rd, Fort Valley, VA 22652](#).

- Mileage from Ruritan Club: 45 mi

(2) Cooter's, [4768 US-211, Luray, VA 22835](#)

- Mileage from Fort Valley Country Store: 21 mi

- Mileage from Ruritan Club: 66 mi

(2a) Circle K Exxon, [970 US-211, Luray, VA 22835](#)

- This stop is optional. We will stop here only if riders need gas and can't make it to Front Royal without refueling.

- Mileage from Ruritan Club: 69 mi

- Mileage from Fort Valley Country Store: 24 mi

- Mileage from Cooters: 3 mi

The Believers – September 2024 Cont'd

(3) Sheetz, [1621 N Shenandoah Ave, Front Royal, VA 22630](#)

- Mileage from Cooters: 30 mi
- Mileage from Fort Valley Country Store: 51 mi
- Mileage from Ruritan Club: 96 mi

(4) End location, Stonewall District Ruritan Club

- Mileage from Front Royal Sheetz: 30 mi
- Mileage from Ruritan Club: 126 mi

We will only stop at the Circle K Exxon (stop 2a) if any of the riders need gas. This is due to there not being any large gas stations between Luray and Front Royal. This will also accommodate bikes that have smaller tanks that didn't (or forgot to) get gas at the Fort Valley Country Store.

Join us back at Stonewall District Ruritan Club building for hot dogs, baked beans, chips and dessert.

Thank you to all the bakers!!

We raised \$1,045.00 at the Frederick County fair bake sale.

All proceeds go directly to help patients in our communities.

“Cancer can touch you, but not your soul; neither your thoughts, nor your heart.”

Theresa Gilbert
(540) 247-5612
theresahgilbert@gmail.com

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
- Ephesians 4:32



News From the Church Library



Autumn is just around the corner and with the thought of Autumn comes the thought of reading and learning. What a great time this would be for each of us to embark on a journey to enhance our spiritual growth. The church library can offer you a wide selection of books, by well-known authors, to help in this endeavor. Out of the 2,000+ books, here are just a few suggestions to help you on your journey to a *closer walk with Jesus*.

- *Just Give Me Jesus* by Anne Graham Lotz
- *Living the Extraordinary Life* by Charles Stanley
- *Praying God's Word: Breaking Free from Spiritual Strongholds* by Beth Moore
- *Cure for the Common Life* by Max Lucado
- *(For teens) The Christian Girls' Guide to Friendship* by Kathy Widenhouse
- *Living With Confidence in a Chaotic World* by David Jeremiah
- *The Prayer That Changes Everything* by Stormie Omartian

Doris Duvall - Church Librarian

540-539-6989

Greetings 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.”*

There is an emergency need for blood donations now. If you are able, please don’t miss the Red Cross Blood Drive on **September 12th**. The need for all blood types is critical. Sign up on the Red Cross website or contact Dennis Loeffler who leads this effort: chesteratwinchester@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars for **September 5th** at 7p.m. in the Lower Cottage for our next Outreach meeting. We will be discussing all our mission areas. - *There are many opportunities to serve and all are welcome!*



Next month we will continue our *Mission Spotlight* series with the **Winchester Area Temporary Transitional Shelter (WATTS)**.

Grace and Peace,

Sharon Woodard, Outreach Chair
sfwoodard111@gmail.com



CCAP Corner - September 2024

CCAP Mission: Guided by our faith in God and love of neighbor, CCAP is a community lifeline for all people in our area who find themselves struggling to meet basic needs, providing stability and security while enabling them to find paths to self-sufficiency.

1st Annual Golf Fore CCAP – Wednesday, Sept 4 at Sly Fox Golf Club. To register, go to www.ccapwinchester.org. All proceeds go to CCAP.

CCAP's 50th Birthday celebration is October 24 from 5:30 to 9 pm at the George Washington Hotel. Come celebrate 50 years of CCAP with a fashion show showcasing clothes from our Clothing House and modeled by our volunteers. For dinner, there will be chef creations utilizing food that clients can find from CCAP's food pantry. There is a flyer posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall with a QR code to scan and purchase tickets. We hope to see you there.

CCAP is the perfect place to REDUCE, REUSE, AND RECYCLE your clothing!! Starting Sept 1, we will be accepting Fall/Winter clothing but because of limited storage space, we will not take Summer clothes after that date. We need the following gently used items: Most needed are smaller sizes of Men's and Women's Jean!!

- Fall/Winter clothes for infant through adult size 5XL; Tennis shoes (Toddler thru adult size); Men's Jeans and T-Shirts; Women's Jeans - sizes 2 thru 6; New socks and underwear for toddler through adult 5XL, Men's belts and women's purses
- **Adult** Backpacks & gently used/clean linens (sheets, pillowcases, blankets, & towels)
- Hygiene Products for babies and adults; Individual baby wipe packs; and **ALL SIZES OF DIAPERS**
- Tampax tampons, **Adult** disposable underwear in all sizes and incontinence pads.

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

THREE FREEDGE LOCATIONS are open **24 hours a day**; **419 N Cameron St, 700 Aylor Rd (Abundant Church) and 102 Montague Ave.** These are for low-income residents. Everyone can donate. This is another way CCAP helps reduce waste. Please label and date your items before putting them in a Freedge. Examples of Items needed: Fresh fruits and vegetables, granola, cheese, soups, prepackaged sandwiches, garden foods, and yogurt.

Volunteers are always welcomed and appreciated. You can visit the website or contact me or anyone on the Outreach Team if you are interested in volunteering.

Thanks so much for your continued support of this important, Community Lifeline.



Patty Leonard – Outreach CCAP Rep



BFC ALERT!!

Church,

We live in troubling times where no matter how diligent one is, no matter how many protective plans we put into action, our technology still gets “hacked” from time to time.

I want to let everyone know, that if you receive an e-mail or text from your pastor that just doesn't seem right, that seems out of character, that is coming from a different address then please do not act on it or respond to it in any way, and please report it to me.

It seems that pastors, pastor's spouses and families, are being “hacked and used” on a regular basis to scam people out of their money. They prey upon people who are very trusting and have a great desire to help people. They hack into our mailing lists and send messages claiming to be me, my wife, or another family member.

Please, please, please do not. I repeat do not, respond to these hacks.

I, nor any of my family, will ever ask you for money to help anyone through e-mail, texts or any other communication platform. We will never ask you to explore others web-sites. These scammers use pastors all the time. Please be aware and do not respond to any plea for money or help of any kind that is not verified by me.

God bless you all.

Pastor Steve

Bind Us Together

Bob Gillman
(1974)

Bind us together, Lord

Bind us together

With cords that cannot be broken

Bind us together, Lord

Bind us together

Bind us together in Love

Chorus Spotlight

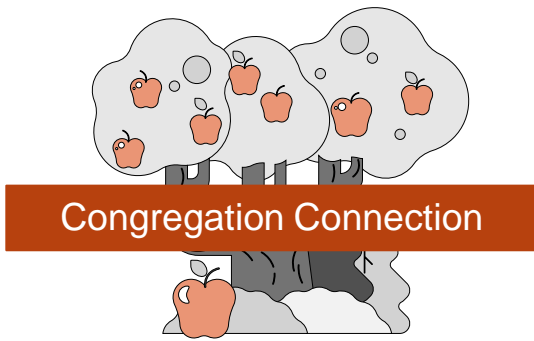


There is only one God,

There is only one King,

There is only one Body,

That is why we sing.



Name: Rev. Kenneth Wales

Hometown: Winchester, VA

Time attending Burnt Factory Church: 13 years

What service do you regularly attend? 8:30 am

What would you encourage others to get involved with? There are so many great ministries in this church from Youth to Elder Ministry and everything in between. Anyone can find purpose and joy in service in these ministries, all you have to do is find the right match for you and volunteer. You will be blessed.

Favorite part of Burnt Factory Church: Having served in ministry for 50 years I can truthfully say that the greatest asset of Burnt Factory Church is our minister. Steve Melester is the best of the best. His ministry started here at Burnt Factory with 59 members and look at us now.

Favorite hymn:

Joy Comes In The Morning

As you knelt beside the rubble

Of an aching broken heart

When the things you gave your life to fell apart.

*You're not the 1st to be acquainted with sorrow,
grief or pain.*

But the master promised sunshine after the rain.

Chorus:

Hold on my child, Joy comes in the morning

Weeping only last for one night

Hold on my child, Joy comes in the morning

The darkest hour means Dawn is just in sight

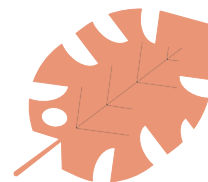
Favorite Scripture:

Joshua 24:15 – As for me and my house... we will serve the Lord, "Amen."

September 2024 Calendar

Date/Time		Event
Sun 1 st	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tues 3 rd	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 4 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	Funeral Luncheon	
Thurs 5 th	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
	7:00 PM	Outreach Team
Sat 7 th	12:00 PM	Social Hall Booked
Sun 8 th	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
	Shelter Booked	
Mon 9 th	7:00 PM	Handyman Team Meeting
Tues 10 th	10:30 AM	Steve's Bible Study Opt 1
	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 11 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	6:30 PM	Steve's Bible Study Opt 2
	7:00 PM	Church Council
Thurs 12 th	Blood Drive	
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 15 th	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:00 AM	Blood Pressure Checks
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship

Date/Time		Event
Tues 17 th	10:30 AM	Steve's Bible Study Opt 1
	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 18 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	6:30 PM	Steve's Bible Study Opt 2
Thurs 19 th	6:00 PM	Preteen Night in Social Hall
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 22 nd	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tues 24 th	10:30 AM	Steve's Bible Study Opt 1
	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 25 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	6:30 PM	Steve's Bible Study Opt 2
Thurs 26 th	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sat 28 th	10:00 AM	Intentional Prayer Meeting
Sun 29 th	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship



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

C. Steven Melester, Pastor
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“I can all this through him who
gives me strength.”
Philippians 4:13