May

2025
SMOKE SIGNAL

Our Mission Statement
Sharing the love of Christ with ALL people.

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

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

Adapted from a devotion by Max Lucado.

It is entitled, "*You're Something Special*"

"Nothing in the whole world will ever be able to separate us from the love of God!" **Romans 8: 39**

"We want to know how long God's love will endure --- not just on Easter Sunday when our shoes are shined, and our hair is fixed --- not just when we're peppy and positive and ready to tackle world hunger. Not then! We know how he feels about us then. We even like ourselves at those times!

We want to know how he feels about us when we snap at anything that moves, when our thoughts are in the gutter, and when our tongues are sharp enough to slice a rock. How does he feel about us then? Can anything separate us from the love Christ has for us?

God answered our question before we asked it. So, if we open our eyes, we will see his answer, for he lit the night sky with a star! If we open our ears, we will hear his answer, with his heavenly choir! If we open our heart, we will feel his answer, for in Christ, God sent his Son to do what had never been done before. He put on flesh and dwelt among us! He sacrificed his life for ours! He came to free us from sin and death! There is nothing we can do to keep God from loving us. He walked out of the graveyard so we could walk into heaven!

God placed his hand on the shoulder of humanity and said to each of us, " You're something special!"

God's love will never fail!

Pastor Steve

Psalm 51: 10 - 12

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
11 Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

From the Administrator

Spring has been very overwhelming but there are so many great things happenings in this church, and I am blessed to get to see all of it. I see the goodness of God in so many ways. We have helped 34 individuals with motel rooms in terrible weather, paid electric/water bills for those in desperate need, provided food gift cards to families in need, and worked with Family Promise to provide any special needs for families with children to get whatever they needed. I have had the special privilege to jaunt over to Front Royal with David Hardesty to purchase the new courtesy shuttle van that provides valuable transportation to our amazing church family, not only on Sunday mornings, but for funerals as well. I am amazed at the numbers we are seeing on Sunday mornings, not because it's a number, but because that is a beautiful soul who has showed up here to find refreshment, be in fellowship, and actually experience the powerful presence of God here. That is what I see when I see the numbers and I pray that they have had an incredible encounter with God when they are here in this Holy House. I pray that the wonderful people watching online have experienced that same Spirit filled encounter and felt like they have been in the presence of God. I have experienced the joys of celebrating birthdays, announcements, receiving cards and special notes, receiving phone calls thanking me and encouraging me, and just the hugs I receive from all the children, to see their joy, and their interruptions during children's time mean they are interested in what I am saying, and they want my attention which is an amazing feeling. These children are NOT the future of the church, they are disciples now, TODAY. They are watching, absorbing, and noting everything that is happening in this church. They see the hugs with the laughter, the hugs when the tears flow, they see and remember it all and this is the best thing we can do for our children. YOU! That is all of you! We are at our best when we are with God. I just wanted to share my feelings with all of you because our presence here matters much deeper than you might know. Keep praying for one another, keep showing up for one another, keep encouraging, keep loving, keep hugging. These are the things that make the most difference in lives, and we may never know how much our actions can change another's perspective. Thank you for all you do for one another in Jesus' name. I love this amazing vocation and all the people I get to help and lead to Christ.

Blessings and Peace

Carrie Fair—Administrator and Children's Minister

May Birthdays

1st	Tom Shepley
	Dan Hayton
2nd	Eloise Woods
5th	Danette Heinlein
9th	Susie Gerometta
13th	Emilia Rodgers
	Regina Baldwin
17th	Gracyn Corron
19th	Ben Melester
	Jerry Baldwin
21st	Rob Clemons
24rd	Jason Smith
	Annellee Buchele
28th	Harriett Hanke
29th	Lizzie Belile
	Lily Hayton
31st	Beth Kerns
	Dave Darsie

Happy Anniversary

10th	Edgar and Doreen Coffelt
12th	Ada and Michael Seabright
18th	Linda and Ronnie Snapp
20th	Matt and Beth Neff
	Dan and Rachel Hayton
21st	Jeff and Mitzi Everly
25th	Mike and 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”

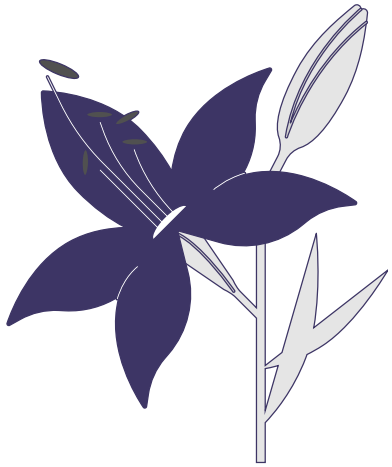
Would you like to receive the Smoke Signal Newsletter by email?

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

“Add me to the Smoke Signal Newsletter email distribution”

CONDOLENCES

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



- Becky Dennis has claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- A lifelong member of our church, Betty Livengood, has claimed the promise of the resurrection and is at peace with her Heavenly family now.
- Peggy Dorsey has claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Stan Harrison's 92-year-old brother claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Phyllis Lemon has claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Debi Rohrbaugh & Jim Borror's sister Melissa's significant other of 23 years claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Darin Owens has claimed the promise of the resurrection.

"If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."
- Romans 14:8

Children's Ministries!!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!!

June 16th-20th

From 6-8:30pm

Fun, Food, Crafts, Music, Games

It's going to be a wonderful/colorful/meaningful week learning about Trusting in Jesus!

Register Online
www.vbspro.events/p/truenorthbfc

or see Miss Carrie for a form!

*Mission Project---Hope Blankets

SUMMER CAMP!!

July 7, 8, 9th

From 9am-1pm

We will dive into the Bible Stories of Daniel

And prayer, Shadrach, Meschach, and Abednego,

And Daniel in the Lions Den. There will be crafts,

Fun Activities, snacks, and games. Transportation

Can be provided if needed. See Miss Carrie To Register or Text 540-247-3199

*Mission Project--Freedge

We are so excited for these really fun and amazing programs for children. Not only are we about doing fun things, but we are also about doing things in mission as well. God is so good! I want to share that with these children, as many as I can, and teach them all about that goodness with encouragement and personal testimonies from our church family.

Blessings and Peace,

Carrie Fair—Minster of Children and Administration

Youth Ministry

All youth grades 6-12 are invited to participate in the following events:

May 4th: Apple Blossom Christian Concert featuring Matthew West!

Time: Concert starts at 2, doors open at 12

May 10th: Youth are working with the Handyman Team to stain a ramp of for one of the members of Burnt Factory.

Time: 10-1

Where: Meet at the church

*Please have youth pack a lunch, we will either eat on site or back at the cottage

May 17th: Jubilee Soup Kitchen!!

Time: 10-12:30ish

Where: Meet Downtown at First Presbyterian Church

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

Greetings from Outreach

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."

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 1st in the Lower Cottage at 7p.m. Come and learn about Outreach and ongoing opportunities to serve. All are welcome!

Grace and Peace,

Sharon Woodard

Outreach Committee Chair

sfwoodard111@gmail.com

CCAP Corner

CCAP Mission:
Guided by our faith in God and love of our community, CCAP is committed to helping our neighbors to meet basic needs with food, clothing, and financial resources.

Recent Collections:

Diapers for Red Wagon Ministry: Thank you once again dear church for the wonderful collection of ***2,024 diapers and 4,500 wipes*** collected at our Maundy Thursday Service. Jody Stephenson, the founder of Red Wagon, and her husband Rick were on-site to pick up our donation. Jody was overwhelmed by Burnt Factory's generosity. Polly and Jack Duvall started this ministry with Jody many years ago and Outreach is thrilled our church continues to support the Red Wagon Ministry.

Easter Dinner Giveaways at CCAP: Our church collected 22 Complete Easter Meals including hams, roasting pans, rolls, canned fruit, cakes and icing, green beans, canned corn, boxed potatoes, Easter baskets and lots of Easter Candy!!! We also collected an additional 300 food items and other miscellaneous items. The collection truck was overflowing!!

CCAP Corner Cont'd

Clothing Needs at CCAP: **A great opportunity to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle your clothing:**

- Gently Used Men's Jeans!! Men's Cargo Shorts and Men's T-shirts
- Gently used Spring and Summer clothes for all sizes and genders and new underwear and socks.
- Gently Used Tennis Shoes (all sizes and genders), Men's belts, Women's purses, adult backpacks, and gently used bath towels, bedding and blankets.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, August 23rd – 5th Annual Bike Tour – all riders are welcome. Teams of volunteers are needed to work the rest stops. There is a signup link on the **ccapwinchester.org website**.

Our Friendly Neighborhood Freedge is a community refrigerator that is open 24 hours a day for all to enjoy. The Freedge is stocked by your neighbors and community members with fresh produce, items they don't want to go to waste, pre-cooked meals, etc! Find them at these 3 convenient drop-off locations:

- **329 N Cameron St (location of this Freedge was recently moved to 329N Cameron)** on the Our Health Campus – you can park on Cameron St and walk across to the Our Health Campus to drop off donations
- **102 Montague Avenue** at the Methodist Church
- **700 Aylor Road, Stephens City** at Abundant Life Church

CCAP's Website at https://ccapwinchester.org has been totally revamped and has information about our supporters and sponsors, upcoming events, the staff and board, the history of CCAP, what is provided to clients, quarterly statistics and newsletters and annual reports.

Please contact me with any questions.

Patty Leonard, Outreach Rep - 540-664-6973 or ricpat5@gmail.com

A quote from Andrea Cosans – CCAP Executive Director – "It's far easier to prevent homelessness, than to fix it"

Faith and Health Corner

I recently had someone ask me how to tell if they had a cold or an allergy. I figured maybe there were more of you who would be curious about how to tell the difference.

Allergy	Cold
Symptoms can develop immediately after exposure to your allergy triggers	Symptoms develop slowly and are milder at the beginning
Thin, watery and clear nasal mucus	Runny nose that starts clear and mucus becomes thick and colored (yellow or green)
Symptoms can last more than 2 weeks or be recurrent	Lasts 7 to 10 days
Itchy nose, eyes or roof of the mouth	Mild fever (mostly in children)
Watery, red or swollen eyes	Sore Throat
Facial swelling	General Aches and pains
Seasonal allergies normally start in the spring, when triggers such as pollen become airborne. It depends on what you're allergic to though, as trees, weeds, grass and other plants can pollinate at different times of the year in different locations. You can also experience allergies in fall and winter. Ragweed allergies are most common in September and October. Meanwhile, mold can develop in wet, fallen leaves and as we spend more time indoors, winter allergies can become more prominent due to things like dust mites and pet dander.	Cold viruses spread faster in cold weather and immune systems may be weaker making you more likely to get a cold in the winter. However, it's still possible to catch a cold any time of the year.

"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul." 2 John 1:2

As always, I pray that you will both be a blessing and be 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.

May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month

Skin Cancer in one of the most preventable cancers. Following these 5 Dermatologist tips can help you reduce your risk:

1. Practice Safe Sun.

When you Practice Safe Sun, you reduce your risk of skin cancer and developing early signs of skin aging like deep wrinkles and age spots. To Practice Safe Sun:

- Seek shade.
- Wear sun-protective clothing.
- Apply sunscreen (broad-spectrum, SPF 30 or higher, and water resistant) every time before going outdoors.

2. Reapply sunscreen.

When outdoors, you want to reapply sunscreen. It's essential to reapply because sunscreen wears off over time, which reduces its ability to protect your skin from the sun's harmful rays.

- Every 2 hours
- After swimming
- After sweating
- After toweling off

3. Forget about indoor tanning.

Evidence from many studies has shown that using indoor tanning devices can increase the risk of developing melanoma and other skin cancers.

Indoor tanning devices include tanning beds, sun lamps, and tanning bulbs.
All of them emit harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays. The amount of the radiation produced during indoor tanning is similar to that of the sun, and in some cases might be stronger.

If you use or have used tanning devices in the past, make an appointment to see a board-certified dermatologist, who can check your skin for signs of skin cancer. When found early, skin cancer is highly treatable.

4. Skip getting a base tan, as it cannot prevent sunburn.

Tanning is not a safe way to protect your skin from sunburn. Every time you tan, you damage your skin. As the damage builds up, you increase your risk of developing skin cancer.

5. Use a self-tanner if you like the look of a tan.

A self-tanner doesn't expose your skin to harmful UV rays. It also cannot protect your skin from harmful UV rays, so you want to continue to Practice Safe Sun.

Although cancer is one of the leading causes of death in the U.S., it is also one of the most preventable. Making an effort to protect your body and utilizing the available resources can help to prevent a future cancer diagnosis, or even death.

A big thank you to Carl Spurlock for several generous donations to The Believers.

A huge thank you to Vicki Newlin and the Xi Gamma Pi Sorority for their generous donation of $350.00 from their Annual Bag and Raffle Basket Bingo.

Your donations will directly help local cancer patients through Helping Hands Cancer Outreach.

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

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

WATTS Ministry

WATTS wrapped up another winter thermal shelter season on March 29, and there is much to be proud of again this year, friends! There were **201 unique individuals** who came into the WATTS shelter seeking hope and care while experiencing homelessness; ALL were assisted and met with non-judgmental support. Perhaps they just stopped in the WATTS Warming Center during the day, or maybe they were simply passing through Winchester for a night or a week and needed a place to stay. Still there were others who faithfully came all 147 nights of the Overnight Shelter for a warm, safe place to rest, and to eat dinner and breakfast, connect to needed resources, and fellowship with people who cared.

Some successes we're pleased to share with you from this season are: 8 guests gained **employment**; 6 guests were **reconnected with family** or stability out of the area; 3 guests entered **rehab**; 1 person was **housed**; 1 obtained **housing + bought a car**; 1 placed into **sober living** and went; and 14 total guests have been **approved through Centralized Intake** to receive voucher assistance with housing. We also operated **22 days of extended hours** this season, days where we essentially provided 24-hour shelter (between our day and nighttime programs) due to extreme weather. These are all really amazing feats and we hope you know you played a main role in helping our guests and the WATTS program to achieve such success these past 5 months.

WATTS is trying out something new this summer with a **small office in downtown Winchester**. The purpose of this space is to provide a place for our guests to come and meet with our Transition Support Specialists as they each continue to work towards the steps they need to end their homelessness. It's also a place guests can come in to get water, charge their phone, or use a restroom. The five months of our season often isn't enough time to navigate through the complex situations our guests are experiencing and get them out of homelessness. Having an office and common meeting spot will make it that much more convenient to keep connected with our guests and complete all the hard work that's already in motion.

Still the greatest hurdle remains: the lack of affordable housing in our area. Affordable housing is a challenge that many in our community are facing, not just WATTS guests, but our guests feel it possibly the hardest since they typically have other barriers coming into play as well. We encourage you to get involved in the conversations, and attend local housing summits, meetings, info sessions, and more to learn about the issues and help come up with solutions. Now more than ever, community matters.

WATTS Ministry Cont'd

We've seen it work - our connections and collective efforts changing the lives of our own neighbors right here in the Winchester area (**78% of our guests this season were local**, meaning they were born and raised in Winchester, Frederick, and Clarke counties.) Thank you for coming together and pressing on in the mission to end homelessness in our community; your faithful support makes a world of difference ♥

Want to continue supporting WATTS year-round? Become a member of our monthly donor club, Heroes for WATTS, at **just $10 a month** to change someone's life in Winchester, VA! Your gift helps to provide assistance with needed resources to end someone's homelessness, things such as obtaining ID or copies of birth certificates, job and housing help, medical advocacy, reconnecting with family, and so much more. Click the button to set up your recurring donation* and be a Hero today! Donate

WATTS announced their 2025-26 schedule and our week will be November 29 – December 6 at the Stonewall District Ruritan Club

God is good, all of the time. All of the time, God is Good

If anyone has any questions feel free to contact me (804) 960-4222; tamtut@comcast.net

Steve Cunningham

Burnt Factory Church WATTS Lead Volunteer

Pathfinders Grief Ministry

Pathfinder Ministry

"A Grief Support Group"

Contact: Debbie Walker
E-mail: dswalker1@yahoo.com
(540)664-0908 Cell / (540)667-6711 Home

The Pathfinder's group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficulty of grief. You will meet others who are grieving and enjoy fellowship with those 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.

The Pathfinder Ministry you will experience empathy, compassion, respect, encouragement, acceptance and emotional support. It doesn't matter if your loss is recent or not, grief has no timeline. We just don't get over it.

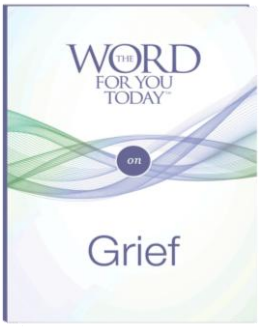
We meet and eat the 3rd Wednesday of each month, in the Fellowship Hall, at 12:00 noon. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

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

Pizza Lunch
Wed. May 21st, 2025
Burnt Factory Church
Fellowship Hall
12:00 Noon



We begin our discussion of "The Word for You Today on Grief". Please join us as we meet, eat and come together in support of one another. Books are available, a chair is waiting and lots of warm hugs waiting to invite you into our fellowship. God Bless!

Sisters in Faith

Purpose: "Burnt Factory Sisters in Faith is a community of women whose purpose is to connect and nurture women so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global ministries".

The Burnt Factory Sisters in Faith last met on April 12th, 2025. Patsy Gochenour was our program leader and presented a very interesting program on Being Good Stewards of God's Creation. She also played a video from her YouTube channel where she recited a poem she wrote, "I Don't Hear the Frogs Anymore" accompanied by artwork of a special friend of hers. She stressed how we need to take care of our beautiful earth. She had us all sing "This is Our Father's World", and she ended the program with a heartfelt prayer. Patsy will have brochures made of her program and will place them in the Fellowship Hall for anyone who would like one.

The ministries that we are currently focused on are Project Esperanza and the Laurel Center. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a student with Project Esperanza or helping with one of our other initiatives, please reach out to Karen Willis.

We are always looking for new members. Our next meeting is June 14, 2025, at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!

Chorus Spotlight

If I Got Jesus
Ben Fuller
(2023)

I've had a dollar to my name
I've had friends that walked away
And I've even lost myself a time or two
There were bridges crossed and burned
But through all the wreckage I have learned
There is one thing that I can never lose

If I got Jesus
I've got all that I could ever need
Take the world away from me
And I'll be okay

If I got Jesus
There's a hope that's living deep inside
A joy that I could never hide
And a safe place to fall
If I got Jesus, I got it all, mmm

May 2025 Calendar

Date/Time		Event
Thurs 1st	8:00 AM	Homeschool Group
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
	7:00 PM	Outreach Team
Sun 4th	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tues 6th	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 7th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 8th	8:00 AM	Homeschool Group
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 11th	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tues 13th	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 14th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 15th	8:00 AM	Homeschool Group
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sat 17th	10:00 AM	Jubilee Soup Kitchen

Date/Time		Event
Sun 18th	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:30 AM	Blood Pressure Checks
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tues 20th	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 21st	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	12:00 PM	Pathfinders
Thurs 22nd	8:00 AM	Homeschool Group
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 25th	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tues 27th	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 28th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 29th	8:00 AM	Homeschool Group
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63

For more info, view the calendar on our website:
CalenderNew | Burnt Factory Church