



# 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



## The Old Hickory Tree

If a tree falls in the forest and there is no one around to hear it, does it make a sound? I don't have an answer for this age-old philosophical quandary, but I will tell you I was around to hear the great hickory tree in the church's cemetery fall, and it was quite loud!

I love the beauty of mature trees. Trees that have stood the test of time. Trees that have watched generation after generation rest in their shade. Trees that have watched time march on. Trees that have put down deep roots. The great, tall, stately, old hickory in the cemetery has witnessed people come and go, was present when many of the faithful were planted under its branches. I bet that old hickory could tell many a good story of the saints of Burnt Factory. The old tree has heard many hymns over the years, have watched many children play under its leafy canopy. If trees could talk, can we imagine what that beautiful hickory would say.

I decided to count the rings of the fallen giant one day, and I may not be completely accurate, but I believe I have come close at tallying 187.

So, what was happening in 1838 when the sapling was planted?

- Martin Van Buren was president.
- Samuel Morse's telegraph was used for the first time.
- The forced evacuation of the Cherokee people began with what was called the Trail of Tears. Four thousand Native Americans died on the journey.
- The Iowa territory was created, which at the time encompassed parts of Minnesota, North Dakota & South Dakota.
- Duke University was established.
- John Wilkes Booth was born.

Just think about all the history that passed by while the old Hickory watched time go by.

The Civil War came and went. The expansion of the west. The growth of the USA. The railroad connecting the east to the west. The automobile and airplane. The Titanic & the telephone & moving pictures. World War I, the roaring twenties, the depression, FDR, World War II, and the atom bomb. The advance of the American dream. The fifties, Elvis, the Beatles, landing on the moon, Viet Nam. History kept on going and the old hickory still stood firm. Its leaves would turn a beautiful yellow in the fall, its leaves would drop at the onset of winter and once again, its leaves would sprout forth again as the cycle of life would march on. Oh, the history that old hickory lived. The 70's, 80's 90's and all the way to 2025!

But like all of us, as time marches on, our roots start to get a little weak, our leaves are not quite as bright as they used to be, some of our branches start to hurt and wither, the sap is not flowing like it did years ago. The birds still nest in the old trees branches, the squirrels still race up and down its limbs, but something is not the same. The old tree is tired. Its seen enough. The storms of summers were getting more scary, the heat of summer was taking it toll, winter was getting colder, and one day, out of the blue, a strong wind with an agenda, decided it was time for the old hickory to end it time on this old earth. There was no fanfare, no funeral, no prayers, just chainsaws, bucket trucks, and woodchippers. And that was all. The old hickory's time was over.

Time for a new tree to take its place.



# July Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup> Mike Gerometta  
 5<sup>th</sup> Diann Duvall  
 6<sup>th</sup> Kathy Hunt  
 Isabella Repine  
 7<sup>th</sup> Luke Leonard  
 8<sup>th</sup> Tyler McClinton  
 9<sup>th</sup> Aimee Taylor  
 Tim Heinlein  
 10<sup>th</sup> Brooks Sutphin  
 Jason Malone  
 11<sup>th</sup> Mike Goode  
 14<sup>th</sup> Colin Sinnette  
 Jan Loeffler  
 Ryan Seabright  
 18<sup>th</sup> Avery Woods  
 Erin Woods  
 Lander Manuel  
 20<sup>th</sup> Patty Scheder  
 21<sup>st</sup> Amy Shepley  
 22<sup>nd</sup> David Peterson  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Norbert Bonjo  
 24<sup>th</sup> Jamar Thomas  
 Andrew Bryant  
 25<sup>th</sup> Judi Eckert  
 Jen Bryant  
 26<sup>th</sup> Karen Swisher  
 Debbie Walker  
 Olivia Tristan Goode  
 28<sup>th</sup> Paige Manuel  
 Elijah Britton  
 Landon Orndorff



# Happy Anniversary

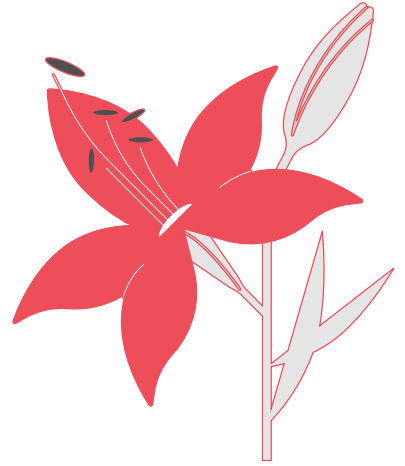
5<sup>th</sup> Ben & Becca Ratliff  
 7<sup>th</sup> Glen & Julia Boudier  
 10<sup>th</sup> Chad & Rennie Earhart  
 Glen & Carrie Fair  
 Mark & Lucinda Lentz  
 15<sup>th</sup> Richard & Bonnie Henry  
 16<sup>th</sup> Terrie and Jason Malone  
 Sequoia & Stephanie Britton  
 24<sup>th</sup> Chad & Tabitha Lee  
 28<sup>th</sup> Debbie and Ronnie Rhodes



**Special thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make VBS 2025 a success this year!**

# CONDOLENCES

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



- Kathy Feight's brother-in-law, Kenneth Weller, claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Everett Oakes claimed the promise of the resurrection. Please keep Alice and all the family in your prayers.
- Baby Penelope passed away and is with Jesus now. Please keep the parents Lauren and Greg in your prayers as well as Robin Russell's entire family.



“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;”  
- John 11:25

# Children's Ministries!!

## SUMMER CAMP!!

July 7, 8, 9<sup>th</sup>

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



### **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"

### **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"





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



### **July 12th: Creek Day!**

Time: 12-4

Where: Church Shelter

Bring your water shoes and towels for a day at the creek! We will have water games, creek games, and lots of fun in the sun. Pizza and popsicles will be provided!!



### **July 19th: Zip Lining**

Time: 12-?

Where: We will meet at the church at 12, and plan to be back between 5-6. This is a pre-registered event, so everyone who RSVP'd will be getting more information through e-mail.

**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."***

Due to a conflict with the upcoming Fourth of July Holiday, we will not be holding the July Outreach Committee meeting. We look forward to the Believers Ice Cream Social being held in the Fellowship Hall this month. This will benefit the Helping Hands Cancer Outreach. Look for information on this and other Outreach opportunities in this newsletter and the Sunday bulletin.

Have a safe and happy Independence Day!!!

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.***

Our SPECIAL FOOD DRIVE FOR CCAP during the month of June will end on 6/29. Many cuts to critical programs have caused interruptions in the food intake at CCAP. We at Burnt Factory are making a difference to those suffering from food insecurity. Our donations will help fill the pantry at CCAP.



## CCAP Corner Cont'd

**Quarterly CCAP Collection:** We will be collecting

- new Men's boxer briefs in sizes Medium and Large,
- Men's White T-shirts in all sizes except small and
- Men's white socks.

The Red bins will be available in the Narthex for drop-off of these items through Sunday, July 20th.

**We are looking for Volunteers to work the Saturday Food Pantry at CCAP on Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> from 9am until noon.** Volunteers will set up, welcome guests, take them shopping through the pantry, and hand out meat and produce. We will arrive at 9am for set up. Customer services begin at 10 and end at 11:30. Cleanup will start at 11:30 and we will be finished by noon. Please contact me if you can help on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Clothing House has a **BIG** need for **gently used men's jeans and shorts and also women's shorts in ALL sizes. We also need gently used summer clothes – sizes baby thru adult sizes**, Adult Backpacks & gently used/clean linens (sheets, pillowcases, blankets, & towels), **Individual baby wipe packs**; and **SIZE 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6 DIAPERS.**

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

**Our Friendly Neighborhood Freedges** are community refrigerators that are open 24 hours a day for all to enjoy. The Freedges are 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

**5th Annual Bike Tour Benefit ride for CCAP.** **Saturday, August 23rd.** Volunteers and riders are needed. Go to the [www.ccapwinchester.org](http://www.ccapwinchester.org) to register or volunteer. Volunteers are for hospitality purposes only. The ride will start at the Wellness Center on the Valley Health Campus at 8am. All proceeds from this bike tour will go to CCAP. There are several different rides including 10 miles, 30 miles, 50 miles, 70 miles and 100-miles.

Thanks so much for your continued support of this important ministry.

Patty Leonard – Outreach CCAP Rep

540-664-6973



# Burnt Factory Sisters in Faith

Sisters in Faith celebrated its one-year anniversary on June 14 by noting that the seeds planted last year have bloomed into a beautiful demonstration of God's love and grace. This year we have expanded our outreach to serve within our church body as well as throughout Winchester and beyond.

Our activities have included:

- Welcome Home Basket for the Laurel Center as well as once-a-month meals
- Cooperating with Operation Remember to provide snack bags to those in assisted living facilities
- A baby shower for ABBA
- Ongoing support for Project Esperanza in the Dominican Republic
- Helping a family devastated by a house fire with food and other resources.
- 

The June meeting also featured an informative presentation by Sharon Woodard highlighting the wealth of resources available through Frederick County Library System. Most of these services are available free with your library card.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, August 16 at 10:00 in the church Fellowship Hall. We encourage all women within our body to join with us as we go forward toward new goals of putting love in action.



## What a Friend We Have In Jesus

Joseph Medlicott Scriven  
(1855)



## Chorus Spotlight

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!

# July 2025 Calendar

Date/Time		Event
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup>	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
	7:00 PM	Outreach
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	12:00 PM	Pathfinders

Date/Time		Event
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:30 AM	Blood Pressure Checks
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup>	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 27 <sup>h</sup>	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 31 <sup>st</sup>	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63



For more info, view the calendar on our website:

[CalenderNew](#) | [Burnt Factory Church](#)