



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

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This is an article I shared with the church from April of 2016. It was Easter time. I think it speaks to us today. I'm sharing just a part of the letter. It seems to me that absolutely nothing has changed.

Friends, instead of providing the usual spring newsletter article espousing the wonderful metaphors of new life and the appropriate truths of Easter, I opted to write a commentary. I hope you will receive it in the spirit it is intended and that it will perhaps challenge you. It is entitled:

"The Architect of Disunity and Schism"

"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity." Psalm 133:1

It seems that in today's world everywhere one looks is a spirit of disunity. It seems, at least to this pastor, that the secular and especially the political world has become so polarized that it may never find the ability to enter into positive civil discourse again. Entitlement seems to be the battle cry of everybody in today's world.

"It's my way or the highway" is the mantra. It's what I want --- and what I see as right --- and what I think that matters --- so the slogans of our present leaders of both political parties might as well be: "get out of my way or else" or "shut up" or "I'll get you back if you mess with me" or "I'm not accountable" or "morals, integrity and dignity doesn't matter, as long as you get the job done"

- *Compromise --- forget it!*
- *Negotiate for the good of everybody --- you have got to be kidding!*
- *Find common ground ---- get out of town!*
- *Agree to disagree for the benefit of the bigger picture --- no way!*
- *Use common sense --- what a joke!*

"IT'S ABOUT ME!" "IT'S ABOUT ME!" "IT'S ABOUT ME!"

This is not just a truth in our political system but also among the secular world in general and dare I say it --- could this mantra have ever so sinisterly crept into the church?

Nothing epitomizes this secular sense of entitlement more than what happened in the town of Orange, Connecticut over last weekend. It seems that an Easter egg hunt (Yes, I said An Easter egg hunt) that was sponsored by a local candy company went horribly wrong! The event was well planned and the rules communicated in a precise manner. All to no avail when parents, wanting their kiddos to have the most eggs and to make sure (by golly) that they got "What they deserved and was entitled to" rushed the field where the eggs were disbursed in a frenzy of mass chaos; ignoring the rules, let alone, common decency. The event organizer said, "We sincerely tried our best to create a fun, free activity for everyone to enjoy." "Everyone just rushed the field and took everything. --- the crowd was kind of like locusts." We now live in an environment where even an Easter egg hunt is not safe!

"I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought." 1st Corinthians 1: 10

The church may be in schism, and it may be in decline in places where it used to be strong. But the church has survived schism before, and it will survive schism again. As for the church, I am absolutely and unequivocally sure of this --- it will never pass away!

"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." Matthew 16:18

Jesus established the church, and he established it not in huge temples and among the elite & not in cathedrals and among posh neighborhoods and not in prosperity and abundance.

He didn't establish it with the blessing of politicians or with the partnership of earthly kings.

Jesus established his church among the poor and ordinary. He established his church in the homes of those who were living under persecution --- and guess what? Those places today are where the church is growing! Those places: places where the leaders of their countries are godless and where there is persecution and hatred --- and where there is poverty and humility --- this is where Christianity is flourishing! The one true apostolic church of Jesus Christ is not going away --- no matter how much disunity Satan tries to establish.

I am encouraged by your faithful discipleship and by your willingness to continue the good fight and run the good race! Burnt Factory UMC [now Burnt Factory Church] is growing and thriving and even in the midst of a stressful and transitional time you have not allowed Satan to creep in and divide!

Even with the reality, that we do not all agree with each other on hot point topics politically and denominationally --- you have not disintegrated into camps! I am encouraged because you have not succumbed to the "my way or the highway" thinking! Yes, I am encouraged because you are still a missional church who cares more about others than yourselves! You continue to be radically generous and prayerful. You continue to advance your discipleship with your presence, service, and witness! God bless you all!

Pastor Steve

Friends, this is half of the commentary I shared almost ten years ago! I believe it is as pertinent now as it was then.

LET'S CONTINUE TO MAKE THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING!

JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE!

Pastor Steve

October Birthdays

1st Josh Jenkins
 2nd Donna Willis
 Marty Barley
 4th Jeff Everly
 5th Kathy Dick
 7th Steve Cunningham
 Kaitlyn McClinton
 8th Asher Dennis
 9th Doris Duvall
 Zedekiah Smith
 10th Pattie Edens
 13th Carla Spears
 14th Jim Shepley
 18th Kathy Dixon
 Lillian Sutphin
 Jack Jenkins
 Ramona De La Fe
 20th Tita Place
 Phoenix Neff
 Savannah Lee
 21st Cathy Barley
 Tiffany Smith
 23rd Darlene Morrison
 24th Amora Elliot
 Ryan Swisher
 25th Drew Place
 Sean Everhart
 26th Ayda Rodgers
 27th Ann Kackley
 28th Damien Stevens
 30th Mitzi Everly



Happy Anniversary

7th Jason and Angie Wiseman
 8th Kenny and Christina Rohrbach
 11th Mike and Allie Goode
 14th Duane and Karen Swisher
 Steve and Wendy Fox
 21st Tim and Jen Stinnette
 Jan and Dennis Loeffler
 24th Kathy and Larry Dick
 27th Cathy and Marty Barley
 29th Wilson and Theresa Gilbert

Joys

Let us celebrate together the joys in our wonderful faith community. As we are told in Philippians 4:4, Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!



Alex and Katlyn Shepley welcome their little girl, Sutton James.

CONDOLENCES

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



- Margie Willis, our sister in Christ, has gone onto the promise of the resurrection.
- Liz Scott's son, John, has claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Our brother in Christ, Bob McIntire, has claimed the promise of the resurrection. Keep Judy McIntire and all the family in your prayers.
- Ruth Burke has claimed the promise of the resurrection.



"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."- 2
Corinthians 1:3-4

The poster features a decorative border of stylized autumn leaves in yellow and brown, along with small orange flowers and black dots. The main text is centered on a light beige background.

Get ready for a

FALL FAMILY FUN FEST

October 18, 2025 from 2-4 PM

Join us in celebrating
the fall harvest with friends,
food, hayrides, games, and a trunk or
treat!





DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER 5

OCTOBER 19

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

October 5th: Pumpkin Carving at the shelter! Pumpkins and carving materials will be provided along with pizza. Come out for a smashing good time!

Time: 4:30-6:30



October 19th: Regular youth meeting at the church. We'll have devotion time, activities, and dinner provided!

Time: 4:30-6:30

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

“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.” 1 Peter 4:10-11 (NIV)

October is an especially fun time at Burnt Factory Church with the Fall Fun Fest, Apple Butter, and the Motorcycle and Classic Car Ride the Believers are sponsoring for Helping Hands Cancer Outreach. There is so much to do and enjoy this time of year.

Our Outreach ministry remains active as well. We have a mission team traveling to North Carolina to help the victims of flooding there. Cooler weather also means greater need for warm clothes. Donations to CCAP’s clothing house are particularly appreciated now. A fourth Freedge has opened in Middletown. Donating excess items or leftovers is a great way to contribute and lessen food waste.

Any way you choose to serve is appreciated.

If you feel led to join us in outreach, you may contact me or anyone on the Outreach Team. Our next meeting is on November 6th at 7:00pm in the lower cottage.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sharon Woodard
Outreach Committee Chair
sfwoodard111@gmail.com

CCAP Corner

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

Our next CCAP Collection will be in November for the Thanksgiving Dinner

giveaway happening on 11/22/25. CCAP is asking for all donations by 11/3. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Fellowship Hall **starting 10/5** and will be in the Hall for sign-up thru 10/12. All food (**except the Hams**) should be delivered by 11/2 to the large red carts in the Narthex marked CCAP. Anyone donating a ham, can put it in the kitchen refrigerator. Please put your name on the ham so I will know who it is from.

PICKLE FOR THE PEOPLE Pickleball Tournament - 10/11/25. Winchester Parks and Rec and CCAP are teaming up for the 3rd Annual Pickleball Tournament. The goal this year is to raise awareness and collect canned donations for the citizens of Winchester who need assistance. In addition to the entrance fee, each team is asked to bring 5 canned food items. The tournament will be held on the outdoor courts at Jim Barnett Park. In the event of rain, play will be moved indoors to the gym courts. This tournament is for ages **55+**. There are still spots available. Go to **winchesterva.gov** to register.

CCAP is a great place to give your clothing a second life!! Because of storage limitations; we can only accept winter clothing at this time. We need the following_gently used items:

- All Sizes of Men's Jeans, Sweat pants, Sweat shirts, T-Shirts, tennis shoes and boots;
- Women's small size jeans and shirts (sm and med); all sizes of sweat pants and tennis shoes;
- Adult Backpacks and gently used/clean linens (sheets, pillowcases, blankets & towels);
- Baby wipes and all sizes of diapers

CCAP Corner Cont'd

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.

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!

There is now a 4th FREEDGE located in Middletown at the Wayside Inn.

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

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

Patty Leonard – Outreach CCAP Rep



God is good!!



**American
Red Cross**

Burnt Factory church and others in our community on Sept 11th donated 31 units of blood at Burnt Factory Church. This was our 7th Blood drive. All together we have a collective contribution of 195 units of blood since we started these drives in January 2023. Congratulations to all the donors past and present as while as the numerous volunteers that helped conduct each of these events.

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"



Faith and Health Corner



Helping Hands Cancer Outreach is dedicated to financially assisting those in our local community affected by cancer. It services those in Winchester, Frederick County, Front Royal, Warren County, Page County, Shenandoah County, Clarke County and Fauquier County.

All applicants are eligible for assistance up to \$3,000 per year. All payouts are made directly to the billing company. Helping Hands Cancer Outreach does not pay medical bills. Assistance is provided for rent/mortgage payments, car payments, utility bills, gas cards, grocery cards and funeral expenses.

Please consider donating to this worthy cause by either participating in the 2nd Annual Motorcycle/Vintage Car Ride or by giving monetarily by using the form in the Believers section of this newsletter or by picking up one of the flyers.

“Change is made by diving in deep, taking a great leap, and leading by example.”

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.



The Believers



The BELIEVERS 2ND ANNUAL MOTORCYCLE and VINTAGE CAR (new this year) RIDE TO BENEFIT

Helping Hands Cancer Outreach

**Saturday, October 11th
Beginning and Ending at the
Stonewall District Ruritan Club, Clear Brook, RT 11N
Registration starts at 8:00 AM with coffee and donuts
Leaving the lot at 9:30 A.M.
The ride will be 2 hours including two 15 minute stops
Ending back at the starting point
To share a time of fellowship and a light meal**

**\$25.00 per bike and car
Contact either Mark Jones (540) 247-1422 Or
Randy Cornwell (540) 247-6990 with questions**

Rain Date October 18th

Pre-Registration Available

Sponsors gladly accepted (see next page)

**Sponsor Form for
The Believers 2nd Annual Motorcycle/Vintage Car Ride
To Benefit Helping Hands Cancer Outreach**

Sponsor Name _____

Phone Number (____)

Address

I WISH TO DONATE TO THE BELIEVERS

\$ _____

Checks make payable to The Believers

**Donations can be left in the collection plate at church OR
Mailed to Theresa Gilbert 107 Jeni Court, Winchester, VA
22602**

Burnt Factory 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".

At the Oct. 11 meeting we will be packing bags of goodies for Operation Remember to be delivered to assisted living and nursing home residents. Following is a list of suggested items. PLEASE CHECK ALL DATES. NEEDS TO BE DATED NOV. 1 AND BEYOND.

Crackers, snack cakes, candies, candy bars, pudding cups, chips, pretzels, cheese curls, sugar free items, popcorn, cookies, etc.
Anything WRAPPED INDIVIDUALLY except NO BAGS OF NUTS.

All women of the church welcome to attend!



Your Way's Better

Forrest Frank
(2024)



Chorus Spotlight

Oh Lord, I need You now more than ever
Would You put my heart back together?
I searched the world 'til my head hurt
Just to find out Your way's better
Oh-oh, Your way's better
Oh-oh, Your way's better
Oh, Lord, Your way's better
Jesus, Your way's better

October 2025 Calendar

Date/Time		Event
Wed 1 st	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 2 nd	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sat 4 th	2:00 PM	Hope Owens Celebration
Sun 5 th	Mission Team in North Carolina	
	World Communion Sunday	
	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
	4:30 PM	Youth
Mon 6 th	Mission Team in North Carolina	
Tues 7 th	Mission Team in North Carolina	
	5:30 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 8 th	Mission Team in North Carolina	
Thurs 9 th	Mission Team in North Carolina	
	8:00 AM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Fri 10 th	Mission Team in North Carolina	
Sat 11 th	8:00 AM	The Believers Motorcycle Ride
	10:00 AM	Sisters in Faith
Sun 12 th	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
Tues 14 th	10:00 AM	Bible Study
	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:30 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice

Date/Time		Event
Wed 15 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	12:00 PM	Pathfinders
	6:00 PM	Bible Study
Thurs 16 th	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 19 th	New Member Sunday	
	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Church Conference
	4:30 PM	Youth
Tues 21 st	10:00 AM	Bible Study
	5:00 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 22 nd	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	6:00 PM	Bible Study
Thurs 23 rd	12:00 PM	Apple Butter Peeler & Snitting
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Fri 24 th	10:00 PM	Apple Butter – Start Fires for Kettles
Sat 25 th	12:00 AM	Apple Butter – Apple Butter Production
Sun 26 th	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
Tues 28 th	10:00 AM	Bible Study
	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:00 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 29 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	6:00 PM	Bible Study
Thurs 30 th	6:30 PM	Boy Scout Troop 63

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