November

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

Members, Friends, Brothers and Sisters of Burnt Factory Church, Burnt Factory Church has been blessed throughout the years in so many ways. We have enjoyed slow and steady growth over the last twenty years, and our outreach, witness, and nurture ministries have flourished.

- We survived, were unified, and actually flourished during a million dollar plus building renovation and expansion program in 2015 and 2016. During that time, we worshiped at Greenwood Elementary School and actually enjoyed growth while we were there.
- When the property directly across the road from the church became available, we were unified in our decision to step out in faith and purchase the house and fifteen acres.
- We had some challenging times during the pandemic from 2020 through 2021 but stayed strong. The fallout from the pandemic set us back but we survived and began to grow again.
- We have grieved over the death of thirty-six saints of the church over the last three years.

- The most difficult challenge was the gut-wrenching, soul-searching and controversial decision in 2023 to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. With 84% of the church casting an affirmative vote, we made the very expensive, but courageous decision, to become an Independent, Traditional Methodist Church.

Thanks to your devoted and faithful giving, our mission and outreach ministries have made a huge difference in many lives throughout our community.
Thanks to your devoted and faithful commitment to worship, both in-person and virtually, the church has set attendance records for each month of this past year.
Thanks to your wonderful generosity, the church has been able to support valuable staff positions that are critical for sustained growth. Thanks to your grace, faith, hope and love, BFC has been able to continue to grow in almost all areas of ministry.

Because of God's great blessings, and in attempting to stay true to the Gospel, and in looking at future needs, the Board, along with the professing membership of the church has voted unanimously to make the following staff promotions and changes for 2026.

Carrie Fair has served the children of BFC for over 15 years. She also stepped up when we needed it the most and took on the administration needs of the church. She also, because of the growth of our outreach mission initiative with the working poor, took on this vital ministry. If that is not enough, she does so many things behind the scenes that are too numerous to count. She has been my right arm and has stayed loyal to her church, to me and especially and most importantly, to the Lord Jesus Christ! Carrie is an excellent preacher, teacher, administrator and care giver. The Board and the membership of the church at our Annual Conference has determined that in moving forward, the need for an Associate Pastor is critical. The church has approved Carrie Fair to be that person! Because we are an Independent Church, we have the God given authority to ordain within our church, for service in our church, those we believe display the gifts, graces, ability, maturity, capability and calling to fulfill the role of pastor.

Therefore, we desire to ordain Carrie Fair as an Associate Pastor of Burnt Factory Church, with all the authority and credentials to preach, teach, preform marriages and funerals and to officiate and administer the sacraments. She will continue as the administrator of the church. She will also be the Spiritual Formation director. She will continue her calling to manage the discretionary funds of the church while working with the housing challenges and working poor of our community. She will be leaving her role as the Children's minister on December 31, 2025. Her ordination service will be held at BFC on January 4th, 2026.

Erin Hartman has received the call to step out in faith and take over the children's ministry role. Erin regrets leaving her role as youth minister but feels very strongly, the call of God on her heart, to step out in faith and devote her time, gifts, graces and love to this vital ministry of the church. Erin has also been, throughout all our challenges, loyal to Jesus Christ and to this church. Erin serves in many ways and is always willing to step up and do the work of ministry. She serves as worship leader, she plays the piano for funerals, she has managed the youth group of BFC with devotion and love. She has been creative with her attempts to drawl youth to the church. She has done an exemplary job as youth minister, and the Board is sure that she will bring all her gifts and graces to bear on this new role of children's ministry director. Her last day as youth minister will be December 31, 2025.

We are actively searching for a youth minister at this time and are hopeful we will find one to join our team for 2026.

I look forward to where God is leading BFC in 2026 and I , along with Carrie and Erin and all the staff thank you all for your continued devotion, generosity, encouragement and love. Together, we can make a difference for the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

God bless you all

Pastor Steve

November Birthdays

2nd Linda Nicholson
4th Tim Stinnette
6th Martina Bouder
7th Mike Taylor
12th Kate Reed
Robert Willis
Michael Seabright
Chuck McFarland
15th Bonnie Carter
16th Naleah Seabright
18th Adam Woods
Mackenzie Leonard
Janet Ritter
19th Jim Pitzvada
20th Jani Shope
21st Donna Gallagher
Abby Melester
22nd Anne Perrault
Glen Fair
Doug Kiracofe
23rd Karen Willis
25th Frances Taylor
26th Wilson Gilbert
Mark Lentz
Marcus Smith
27th Leila Bayliss
29th Jo Anne Baker
Mike Dick

Happy Anniversary

2nd Johnny & Darlene Morrison
13th Joe and Patty Hulver
18th Jerry & Regina Baldwin
19th Jimmy & Jo Anna Grayson
24th Mike & Maureen Dick

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!

Lily & Dylan welcomed their little boy Dutton Charles Anderson.

CONDOLENCES

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

- Mark Jones's sister-in-law Sherry Jones claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Debbie Bayliss's sister-in-law claimed the promise of the resurrection.

"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit."
- Psalm 34:18

Christmas Program!

25 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS PRACTICES

All practices are from 4-5:30pm in the Sanctuary
November 2nd
November 9th
November 16th
November 30th
December 7th
PROGRAM DECEMBER 14 AT 6PM

*All youth and children are invited to participate! We need all ages!
Readers, singers, and characters!
See you Sunday November 2 at 4pm!1

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

November 2nd — Youth will meet in the Sanctuary to help out with the Christmas Play! Dinner afterwards in Youth Cottage!
Time: 4-6

November 15th — We will be volunteering at Jubilee Soup Kitchen from **10-12:30**. Please meet at First Presbyterian Church on the downtown mall.

November 16th — Play practice/youth meeting with dinner afterwards in youth cottage!
Time: 4-6

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

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”

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)

November ushers in the busiest time of year for many people and it is true for us at Outreach as well. We have many opportunities to serve. CCAP is collecting for the annual Thanksgiving Turkey dinner give away. Blankets and diapers will be collected at the Healing service and we will have signup sheets for the Social Services Christmas meals and Salvation Army bell ringing. We prepare and deliver the Family Promise Meal on the 16th. It is also time for WATTS week!

WATTS (Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter) started in 2009 after the tragic freezing death of a homeless man in Winchester. A group of local Faith Community leaders came together to offer shelter to the homeless during the coldest months of the year. Each church opened its doors for one week, providing beds, dinner, breakfast, bagged lunches and snacks. Volunteers spent time with WATTS guests socializing, playing games, doing puzzles, or watching movies. That first season of WATTS proved a great success and it has continued every year since.

WATTS is a low-barrier shelter, meaning it will accept any adult who is experiencing homelessness, regardless of sobriety or criminal background. For this reason, WATTS is for adults only. Anyone entering the shelter must be at least 18 years old, including all volunteers. WATTS guests agree to abide by a certain set of rules and trained WATTS managers are always on site to run the shelters, maintain safety and handle any issues that may arise. Shelters are operated from November to March from 7p.m. to 7a.m. WATTS owns a bus to transport guests each night to the host location and return them in the morning.

Greetings from Outreach Cont'd

Today, WATTS stands for Winchester Area Temporary Transitional Shelter. This reflects its growth and expanded services to the area's homeless population. They have Seasonal Heating and Cooling Centers with drinks, snacks, restrooms, and a shower. WATTS employs year-round specialists to help guests transition out of homelessness. These services include assistance obtaining copies of birth certificates, job applications, housing searches, applying for healthcare benefits as well as drug and detox rehabilitation programs.

Burnt Factory Church has hosted WATTS week for many years. Our members donate 500 volunteer hours during the week. In 2025, our week is November 29 to December 6. We are blessed this year to have Jimmy Grayson as our new Lead Volunteer. If you would like to share in this ministry we would love to have your help. A Signup Genius will be sent out with information about how you can participate.

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

ALL ARE WELOME!

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.

Collections for CCAP – November is a busy month for CCAP collections! We will continue our traditional giving to CCAP as follows:

- We are currently collecting **food for the Thanksgiving giveaway** being held Nov.22 at CCAP. We will supply 20 - 25 complete meals including turkeys. All non-perishable food should be dropped off by Sunday, 11/2 in the large carts marked CCAP in the Narthex. Turkeys can be left in one of the freezers in the church kitchen.
- **Diapers and Wipes for the Red Wagon Ministry and Blankets for CCAP – will be collected at the Healing Service on Wednesday, 11/19 and Sunday, 11/23 –** Diaper sizes 2 and 3 are most needed and small packages of baby wipes. Requested blanket sizes are Full and Queen.

3rd Quarter Summary: To date in 2025, we have served 9646 individuals. There were 7667 visits to the food pantry and 5203 visits to the clothing house. We gave out 108,547 items of clothing, 47,208 diapers and 899 clients were helped with financial needs. The 5th Annual Bike Event raised over $32,000 – the most profitable year to date!! Andrea Cosans, CCAP Executive Director states, “These are statistics and don’t tell the story of the individual clients whose “Bless yous” keep both staff and volunteers working harder to help with even more compassion and grace. Someone described CCAP as a place for second chances, not just for the clients but for the staff and volunteers.”

CCAP Corner Cont'd

We now have 4 Neighborhood FREEDGES. With so many more people in need, these Freedges are more important than ever. These 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!
329 N Cameron St 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
Wayside Inn in Middletown

CCAP is a great place to give your clothing a second life!! **We need the following gently used items:**

- All Sizes of Men's Jeans, Sweatpants, Sweatshirts, T-Shirts, tennis shoes and boots;
- Women's small size jeans and shirts (sm and med); all sizes of sweatpants and tennis shoes;
- All sizes of baby/child winter clothing; infant sizes thru teen;
- 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. Winchester, Va. Call CCAP at 540-662-4318 for a scheduled donation drop off if these hours don't work with your schedule

Please contact me or anyone on the Outreach Team if you have questions about CCAP.

Thank you for all you do for CCAP.
Patty Leonard

Faith and Health Corner

Be Generous With Your Words

"Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body."
Proverbs 16:24

Brave people take God's Word and speak love into the lives of others. Brave people let God love them and know they are equipped for all ways to use their words to speak love.
This verse is so beautiful and so true. Have you ever been around someone whose words just grate? We can use our words to hurt others, to be negative, to gossip, and to complain.
Or, we can be brave enough to step out into a negative, cynical world, where people want to hear gossip and negativity, and instead we can be generous with our words and use them to bring life.
If we are focused on that – if our goal, day in and day out, is to be generous and gracious, speaking love with our words – our negative mind-sets and habits will fall away. The cussing will stop because it doesn't fit into who you want to be. The sarcasm will slow because you can't imagine hurting someone else with your words, even if it is unintentional. The inappropriate jokes may still come into your mind but not as much out of your mouth.
When we put God's Word in, diligently and routinely, the lesser things fall away. God makes us new, again and again, and we can be intentional and generous with our words to ourselves, to each other, and to God.
I hope today you will write a note. To anyone. To people who need some words of life poured into their hearts. I hope that you will stand up for people who can't stand up for themselves. And I hope you will think before you speak, choosing words that are gifts of light, not ones that cause death.
Friend, be brave. Be different in a world that uses words to hurt. Use your words to heal, and use them often. Give those words of life, the words found in Scripture, to as many people as you can.

Taken from 100 Days to Brave by Annie F. Downs

As always I pray that you will be blessed and that you will be a blessing to others.

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

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month

Lung cancer is the most common cause of cancer death in the United States for both men and women. More men die of lung cancer than the next 2 most deadly types of cancer for men (colorectal and prostate) combined. More women die of lung cancer than breast cancer.

According to estimates by the National Cancer Institute, 234,580 patients received a diagnosis of lung cancer last year in the US. Some 125,000 died of the disease. Smoking is the most common cause of lung cancer in the United States. Cigarette smoking causes 80 to 90% of lung cancer deaths. Other risk factors include being exposed to second hand smoke; having a family history of lung cancer; being treated with radiation therapy to the breast or chest; exposure to asbestos, chromium, nickel, arsenic, soot or tar in the workplace; and exposure to radon. When smoking is combined with other risk factors, the risk of lung cancer increases.

Thank you to everyone that supported The Believers second annual motorcycle/vintage car run. It was an absolutely gorgeous day and fun was had by all those who participated.

We are leaving our fundraising for this event open until December 31st. If you still would like to support our event feel free to either contact me or put your donation in the collection plate with a note for The Believers.

Beginning in January we will start working toward the 3rd Annual Event scheduled for May 16, 2026!!!

100% of all donations to The Believers go directly to help cancer patients in Winchester, Frederick County, Clarke County, Warren County, Fauquier County and Page County through the Helping Hands Cancer Outreach organization.

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

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

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".

Women called to serve

We packed snacks for Operation Remember at the October meeting. These will be delivered to residents in local nursing homes. SO MUCH FUN!!!

Also at October meeting Tricia Lawrence, Development Director at ABBA, was our guest speaker. Her talk was very informative. ABBA is spiritually based. It is Pro-Life. They provide counseling, testing, parenting, and childbirth classes.

EXCITING ACTIVITIES PLANNED

- Adopt a family at Laurel Center for Christmas and shop for gifts.
- Several ladies will be attending the Empty Soup Bowl fundraiser for Laurel Center on Nov. 7.
- Welcome Home Basket for Laurel Center in Feb.
- Women's Retreat held at Burnt Factory Church on May 16, 2026

Next meeting is Sat., Dec 13 at 10:00 in Fellowship Hall. All women are invited to attend. DON'T MISS OUT – COME JOIN US!

Christmas Dinner Baskets

Burnt Factory Church is again cooperating with Frederick County Social Services to deliver Christmas Dinner Baskets to families in our area. You can sign up to reach out to a special family and then shop for specific items to place in a basket for them. If you wish, we will provide you with an empty basket. **Sign ups will begin on Sunday, November 30 after both services.**

Once you have shopped for your basket items, you can bring the completed basket to the **Stonewall Ruritan Building on Wednesday, December 17 between the hours of 2:00 and 7:00 pm.** Social workers from Frederick County will then deliver the baskets to families in our area on December 18.

This year we are again limiting the basket items that need refrigeration. We are asking that participants not bring eggs or milk because of the difficulty of keeping them refrigerated overnight until Frederick County can pick them up. We are also asking for no frozen turkeys.

This is an opportunity to reach out to a family here in Frederick County and share the love of Christ by providing a special Christmas meal.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Dixon at 703-407-2441 or by email at kjdixon7@msn.com.

This is My Father's World

Maltbie D. Babcock
(1901)

Chorus Spotlight

This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas--
His hand the wonders wrought.

November 2025 Calendar

Date/Time		Event
Sun 2nd	All Saints' Day	
	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
	1:00 PM	Cantata Practice
	4:00 PM	Children's Christmas Program Practice
Tues 4th	10:00 AM	Bible Study
	5:30 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 5th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	6:00 PM	Bible Study
Thurs 6th	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sat 8th	10:00 AM	Sisters In Faith
Sun 9th	Veterans Sunday	
	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
	4:00 PM	Children's Christmas Program Practice
Tues 11th	10:00 AM	Bible Study
	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:30 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 12th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	6:00 PM	Bible Study
Thurs 13th	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 16th	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
	1:00 PM	Cantata Practice
	4:00 PM	Children's Christmas Program Practice

Date/Time		Event
Tues 18th	5:30 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 19th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	12:00 PM	Pathfinders
	7:00 PM	Healing Service
Thurs 20th	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 23rd	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
Tues 25th	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:30 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 26th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 27th	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sat 29th	WATTS Week	
Sun 30th	WATTS Week	
	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
	4:00 PM	Children's Christmas Program Practice

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