OCTOBER 2026

SMOKE SIGNAL



Burnt Factory Church
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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

IN THIS ISSUE

Pastoral reflections	2–3
Church community	4
Youth & children	5
Faith & fellowship	6
Missions & outreach	7–11
Health & care	12–13
Ways to serve	12
Church calendar	14

From the Pastor's Desk

The grace and peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you all!

As I was preparing a lesson the other day I came upon a wonderful poem written by Marion Shelton entitled "The Greatest." As we continue to walk in faith and discern God's call in our lives, I pray that we consider these words.

When Jesus walked upon the earth
He didn't talk with kings,
He talked with simple people
Of doing friendly things.

He didn't praise the conquerors
And all their hero host,
He said the very greatest
Were those who loved the most.

He didn't speak of mighty deeds
And victories. He spoke
Of feeding hungry people
And cheering lonely folk.

I am glad his words were simple words
Just meant for me and you,
The things he asked were simple things
That even I can do!

John Wesley said, "There is no religion but social religion, no holiness but social holiness." He insisted that personal salvation always involves Christian mission and service to the world.

Burnt Factory continues to be an active church, with many ministries, many opportunities for service, and many discipleship situations. Burnt Factory is a wonderful house of worship filled with many warm and friendly people that are committed to Christ. But we are compelled by the Holy Spirit to always seek to move forward! We are compelled to always consider and ask ourselves "What can be done next? How can we glorify our Lord now? Who needs the love of Christ shared with them today?" We can never be lulled into complacency by what we have done in the past, both personally and as a church. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ makes it abundantly clear that we will always be challenged by the world we live in. There will always be need and thus, there will always be opportunity.

My fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, I humbly ask that you continue to pray for the ministries and missions of Burnt Factory and the role you personally will fill in working out your discipleship.

May God bless you!

Pastor Steve

Associate Pastor Thoughts

CHURCH IS HARD!

I recently came across an article that stated why church is hard. It challenges us to think that church is hard, because that's the place where we go to find our peace, our healing, our Word for the week. But if you think about it, Sunday mornings are hard. It's hard for the parents trying to arouse their children to get up early for services after a long week of work and school, it's hard for single parents to get everything done to get them there. It's hard for the couple who argued all the way to church. It's hard for singles, surrounded by married couples supporting each other, holding hands, heads on shoulders. It's hard for the widower who used to attend with their spouse, with an empty seat next to them. It's hard for the people singing worship songs and hymns overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics. Church is hard for the man insecure about his role as a leader. Church is hard for the wife who desires to be led by a righteous man. Church is hard for couples who watch the kids go downstairs who long for a child of their own. Church is hard for the church leaders and staff who carry the weight of the church business, planning, and leading while carrying their own heavy burdens. Church is hard for the person trying to look like they have it all together while they don't. Church is hard for separated couples trying to keep it together. Church is hard for young people carrying the heavy weight of sin, hoping not to be judged. Church is hard for sinners. Church is hard because everything looks so nice and amazing on the outside, perfect, having it all together.

Underneath you find a layer of imperfect people, carnal souls, selfish in their motives. But here is the beauty of the church! Church isn't a building, mentality, or expectation. Church is a body. A group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship as saints. We are a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love. Church is a Holy Ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace. Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors. Church is where hearts are invited to seek restoration, a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope. Church is a family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories. Church, the body, is where Jesus shows up, and is always faithful to come. I often hear, I can't sit in church because I feel like I am just going to cry. Well, go ahead. So many of us feel that way, and we are all in this together. Life only works well when we go together. I saw a church sign on Facebook that made me laugh so hard. "Missing church is a Misdemeanor. The more you miss church, the meaner you get". Come on, you have to laugh at this! Honestly, it's truth. There's just something about coming together, getting the hugs, smiles, handshakes, praying with one another for one another, singing together, laughing and crying together, holding each other, that just makes it all worth it to be in Church as much as possible. We need each other, we need this body, even when Church is hard. Wishing you all warm and cozy October Blessings,

Pastor Carrie

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	Patti Edens
	Art Rauch
13th	Carla Spears
14th	Jim Shepley
15th	David Newlin
18th	Kathy Dixon
	Lillian Sutphin
	Jack Jenkins
	Ramona De La Fe
20th	Tita Place
	Phoenix Neff
	Savannah Lee
21st	Cathy Barley
	Tiffany Smith
	Carl Spurlock
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
	Sue Ashley





Happy Anniversary

3rd	Kim and Glen Burke
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

Condolences

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

- Sandra Bouder's brother, Bill Lemon, claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Carla Spears mother, Joyce McDonald, claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Willie Umbenour's brother, Max, claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Bonnie Carter claimed the promise of the resurrection.



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

Youth Ministry

Happy Fall Burnt Factory Youth and Parents!

I hope this letter finds you well. I am enjoying getting to know everyone. Now that summer has come to an end, I am looking forward to a more regular schedule for our youth. Youth Worship Service is on Sunday, October 18th. I am so excited for the youth to share their gifts and talents and share what the Lord has done in their lives. I am sure it will be a blessing to us all. We are planning an outing to a corn maze Friday, October 30th so please mark your calendar! More information will be sent out soon! I'm also looking forward to our first annual Youth Friendsgiving in November! Please don't forget Youth Group is the first and third Sunday of every month from 4:30–6:30 p.m. We will be looking at the life of Jesus. Pizza and snacks are always provided. There is now a youth Facebook page. It is called Burnt Factory Youth. I am praying for all of you and appreciate your prayers as well. I am excited to see how God works in all of our lives!

See you on Sunday!

In Him,

Tammy

Children's Ministry



🍂 FALL FAMILY FUN FEST! 🎃

A FREE afternoon of FALL FUN for the whole family!

🎃 Trunk or Treat
🎨 Fall Crafts
🎯 Games & Activities
🏰 Bouncy House
🍕 Food & Treats
🍁 AND MORE!

👻 COME DRESSED IN YOUR FAVORITE COSTUME! 👻

Bring your family, invite your friends, and join us for an afternoon filled with fun, laughter, food, and fellowship!

🗓️ OCTOBER 31
⏰ 1:00–4:00 PM
📍 Church Shelter

🎃 WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE! 🎃

Erin Hartman, Director of Children's Ministries

Brothers in Faith

The September Brothers in Faith Meeting held on September 12 had another good turnout and an uplifting presentation on missions by Marcia Etu. The next Brothers in Faith meeting is scheduled for November 14 at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. We will have a special speaker (Dudley Rinker) from "Sleep In Heavenly Peace". Free breakfast and good fellowship are always on the schedule! Guys, please come and bring a friend.

Brothers In Faith Leader

Dennis Loeffler



"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."
Psalm 51:10-12

Sisters in Faith

Mark your calendar! The next meeting is October 17 at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Pastor Carrie and Robin Russel will be presenting a program on the Financial Assistance Fund. It promises to be interesting and informative.

Looking ahead! There are a couple opportunities to serve Operation Remember in November and December. I am always keeping my eyes and ears open for ladies to lead a program. Challenge yourself, ladies, and step out of your comfort zone. God will lead you. Contact Karen Willis.

Sisters in Faith meets the third Saturday of the month, six times a year.

ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND! WE ENJOY SEEING NEW FACES!

Mission Presentation to Brothers in Faith



Marcia Etu • September 12, 2026

Thanks to Dennis Loeffler for asking me to share about mission. I'm pretty passionate about it and hope that many of you are too. The Burnt Factory Church is well known in this community and beyond for serving those in need.

The church is active in mission on 3 levels:

LOCAL: 80% of the church's mission focus is local. Our outreach includes the Handyman Team, CCAP, the Laurel Center, Family Promise motel meals, WATTS, ringing the bells during Advent for Salvation Army, etc.

NATIONAL: 10%: Burnt Factory has been sending mission teams out for many years, primarily to provide disaster assistance most recently in VA, PA and NC.

GLOBAL: 10%: our church supports Project Esperanza in the Dominican Republic, providing education for kids from Haiti who have been displaced by violence, crime and poverty. Some members of our church have also visited this mission. During the pandemic when we were unable to send mission teams out, BF worked with Church World Services to sponsor a family who worked for the U.S. in Afghanistan, and we have now come alongside 6 refugee families that have been resettled here in Winchester. Our last international mission team served in Haiti in 2014.

Looking around the room I know that you all are involved in the local mission work of this church. How many here have been on a mission trip? Where have you served?

Mission Presentation to Brothers in Faith (continued)

Let me share a bit of my story. I started leading mission teams 21 years ago and have taken 12 teams to various disaster areas. My church in upstate NY hadn't sent a mission team out in many, many years. In 2005 we were praying about sending a team to Kenya when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. We changed gears and began sending teams there for the next 7 years. It was life changing for those who went as well as those who sent us.

The first year we had a team of 16. The next year our number grew to 57. Most were members of our church which was about the size of Burnt Factory, but we also took along members of the community that wanted to be a part of what God was doing. And that year we had an amazing confirmation that we were a part of His plan. 40 members of the team were to fly out of Albany NY airport on a snowy Saturday morning…the other team members were coming in from various parts of the country, young adults who had grown up in the church.

We arrived at the airport in Albany at 5:00 am. When I attempted to check the team in at the United Airlines counter I was informed the airport was closing due to the worsening snowstorm. I was pretty much speechless. Another team member overheard the conversation and I will always remember his words "Marcia…it's just a bump in the road." We said a quick prayer.

I explained to the United representative that we were a mission team en route to the Gulf Coast to help rebuild homes and bring hope to the people suffering there. Tears rolled down her cheeks. She said she was from New Orleans, and somehow she would get our team there! She conferred with her supervisor, and offered to transport the team by bus to the airport in Hartford, CT, 3 hours away. For free. She said they were open and we could fly out of there.

Upon arrival in CT, I approached the United check-in area. The lady at the counter knew nothing of our situation, but went to find out what to do. I asked her if she could find a way to at least get our professional contractors, electricians, plumbers etc on a flight, the rest of us could come later. 20 minutes later she returned. 4 different airlines had agreed to fly the team. We would all arrive in New Orleans in time for dinner.

God works in powerful ways! I'm here to tell you that God wants us to do mission!

So what does a mission trip look like? It's a time away to grow in one's faith, a spiritual retreat, a time of humble service to those in need, with meaningful conversations, laughter, and fun. It's an opportunity to learn new skills, experience another culture or way of life, see firsthand the impact of natural disasters on families/communities, share meals, work together as a team, develop new relationships,

Mission Presentation to Brothers in Faith (continued)

worship and receive communion, and see God at work throughout each day.

While on a mission trip, God will honor the gift of your time and talents.

Being on a team is an amazing experience. You come to know team members from your church in deep and meaningful ways, and relationships develop that are ongoing. Our 2026 team continues to share a devotional every morning. It keeps us connected in faith. Linda Bodkin sent our scripture verses for today: “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

BFC mission teams have a reputation for working hard. This year’s team had 10 members, 4 men, 6 women. It was the first mission trip for 3 of our team members.

The staff in Ashe County, NC was amazed at all that we accomplished. All 10 of this year’s team are planning to return next year and we would love to share that experience with many of you. Two of our ladies took a week of vacation time from work to be there. I started going on mission trips when I was 50 and that week off from work was always so meaningful.

As a team leader I have never worked with a better local staff than Ashe County, NC. They are committed Christians who have been called to long-term disaster assistance. They are organized, gifted and hardworking. Projects are assigned based on the skills of the team, and the materials are on site when we arrive. Their construction managers work alongside our team. The local staff has developed trusting relationships with each of the families we are serving. We were blessed to get to know the families too.

Sometimes people are hesitant to go on a mission trip. Some comments are:

“I don’t have any skills”…You don’t need any. Just a servant heart. We will provide on-the-job training!

“I can’t be away that long”…You don’t have to go for the whole week, several team members worked 3 days.

“I can do mission work here at home”. Absolutely, but It’s not the same experience.

“I’m too old.” Everyone on this year’s team was in their 60s or 70s. Last year we had 2 team members who were 80!

“It’s out of my comfort zone”…the families of Ashe County will genuinely welcome you, and show their appreciation.

In the words of Larry Dick “The satisfaction of helping others and seeing God’s work in an area filled with beautiful mountains, flowing streams, and towering trees all created by His hand is something I could not afford to miss.” The experience will change your life.

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

Burnt Factory Church continues to be generous with both time and money to support our outreach ministries. These ministries are vital as the needs of our community grow at a rapid pace.

There are many ways you can get involved in serving our church, community, and beyond. The list includes:

- Believers/Helping Hands Cancer Outreach
- Sisters in Faith
- Brothers in Faith
- Blood Drive
- The Laurel Center
- CCAP
- Family Promise
- Financial/ Motel Assistance
- Refugee Assistance
- Handyman Team
- Mission Team
- WATTS
- Christmas Baskets for Social Services.

You can find more information about many of these ministries in this newsletter. Please contact me if you are interested in helping or just want more information.

The Family Promise ministry was able to provide extra meals again in September. Thank you to all who contributed by providing food, assembling meals, delivering meals, or donating money.

Coming up in October:

- October 17th - Sisters in Faith meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- October 18th - Family Promise Meal
- The Laurel Center Collection

Our next Outreach meeting is Thursday, November 5th, at 7:00 p.m. in the lower cottage. We would love to see you there!

Cheryl Jones
Outreach Committee Chair
cheryl_b_jones@yahoo.com

Fall Family Fun Fest

On October 31st, put on your fun costumes and come down to the shelter for a trunk or treat, some hayrides, fun, and food! The church will provide fried chicken, hot dogs, and drinks. The congregation is asked to bring side dishes and desserts. We will hold this from 1–4 p.m. The trunk or treat will start at 2 p.m. There will also be a candy jar – can you guess how much candy is in the jar?

Yours in Christ,

Cathy Barley

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 11/21/26. CCAP is asking for all donations by 11/16/26. All food (except for the Turkeys) should be donated by Sunday 11/15/26 to the large red carts in the Narthex marked CCAP. Items we are asking for are:

- Canned Green Beans
- Cranberry Sauce
- Boxed Potatoes
- Canned Yams
- Dressing/Stuffing Mix
- Turkeys (please contact Kathy Dick (540) 539-2905 or Patty Leonard (540) 664-6973.) We plan to arrange a time to pick up your donated turkeys. Another suggestion; monetary donations are greatly appreciated towards the purchase of turkeys.

We are currently in the season of autumn which brings cooler temperatures! At the CCAP clothing house, we switch the clothes from summer to winter clothes. So, at this time only winter clothing donations can be accepted.

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.

Patty Leonard and Kathy Dick
Outreach CCAP representatives

We need the following gently used items:

- Men's jeans, sweatshirts, tennis shoes and boots
- Women's small-size jeans and shirts
- Women's all sizes of sweatpants and sweatshirts
- Women's tennis shoes and boots
- Hats, gloves, and thermal gear
- Adult backpacks and gently used/clean linens (sheets, pillowcases, blankets and towels)

New items needed:

- Baby wipes and all sizes of diapers
- Men's T-shirts, boxer briefs, and socks
- Women's underwear, bras, and socks

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, and single-serving meals. Thank you to our BLT group that supports this mission every month.

The Freedges are located:

- 329 N 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
- The Wayside Inn- Middletown

Thanks so much for your continued support of this important Congregational Community Action Project (CCAP).

The Believers



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month – a time to come together to raise awareness, support those affected by breast cancer, and encourage everyone to prioritize their health. October provides a special opportunity to focus on breast health, awareness and early detection.

Wearing pink is a simple way to show support for individuals and families impacted by breast cancer. It can also spark conversations about prevention, screening, and the importance of knowing your own health history.

Together, we can raise awareness, offer support, and remind one another that breast cancer health matters – not just in October, but all year long.

"The goal is to live a full, productive life even with all that ambiguity. No matter what happens, whether the cancer never shows up again or whether you die, the important thing is that the days that you have had you will have lived."
Gilda Radner

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

October Donations

October 2026 donations for the Laurel Center
We do not accept travel sized items, clothing, toys, stuffed animals, or books, unless there is a specific need listed.
We are currently in need of the following items:

- Cases of bottled water
- Individually wrapped snacks
- Juice boxes
- 13-gallon trash bags
- To-go water bottles
- Umbrellas
- Q-tips
- Facial tissues
- Deodorant
- Heating pads (electric or non-electric)
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Gift cards for Martins and Walmart and Visa Gift Cards

Blood Drive

The blood drive that was scheduled for September 10th was cancelled at the last minute due to the Red Cross leader falling ill and no alternate resources could be found by the Red Cross. Future scheduling efforts are yet to be determined.

Hospitality Team Help

The Hospitality team needs additional help with setting up the food table on Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. All you need to do is put the food and drinks out on the table and make coffee. All items are purchased ahead of time by me. I need 1–2 people on the first, second, fourth, and fifth Sundays of each month. Please contact Cathy Barley if you can help with this. My phone number is 540-664-6018 and my email is barley1084@outlook.com

Faith and Health Corner



October is a beautiful reminder that caring for our health is one way we honor the gift of life God has given us. As the seasons change, it is a good time to pause, reflect, and pay attention to the needs of our body, mind and spirit.

Care for Your Body

As cooler weather arrives, make time for regular movement, nutritious meals, adequate sleep, and routine health screenings. Listen to your body and don't ignore symptoms that need medical attention. Small, consistent choices can make a meaningful difference in our overall well-being.

Care of Your Mind

Life can become especially busy as we move toward the end of the year. Give yourself permission to slow down. Spend time in prayer, Scripture reading, quiet reflection, or with people who encourage and support you. If you are experiencing ongoing sadness, anxiety, loneliness, or emotional distress, reaching out for professional support is an important act of self-care, not a sign of weakness.

Care of Your Spirit

Our faith reminds us that we are never alone. In seasons of illness, uncertainty, grief, or stress, prayer and the support of our faith community can provide comfort and strength.

We can also become God's hands and feet by noticing those around us who may need a listening ear, a phone call, a meal, or a helping hand.

Fall is also a good time to review your preventive healthcare. Talk with your healthcare provider about vaccinations, recommended screenings, medications, and any health concerns that may have developed since your last visit.

As a faith community, let us continue to create a place where people feel safe asking for help, sharing their burdens, and finding encouragement.

May this October remind us that caring for ourselves and caring for one another are both meaningful expressions of faith, compassion, and stewardship.

"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers."
3 John 1:2

If you have questions about health concerns, medications, upcoming procedures, or need help navigating healthcare resources, please reach out. Conversations are confidential, supportive, and grounded in faith. Together, we can build a healthier, heart-strong community.

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

October 2026 Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Sun 4th	4:30–6:30 PM	Youth Group
Tue 13th	12:00–1:00 PM	2/4 BLT
Sat 17th	10:00–11:00 AM	Sisters in Faith • Fellowship Hall
Sun 18th		Youth Worship Service
Sun 18th		Family Promise Meal
Sun 18th	4:30–6:30 PM	Youth Group
Wed 21st	12:00–1:00 PM	Pathfinders
Sat 24th	11:00 AM–noon	Blessing of the Animals Service
Sun 25th	1:30–3:00 PM	Cantata Practice
Fri 30th		Youth Corn Maze Outing
Sat 31st	1:00–4:00 PM	Fall Family Fun Fest • Church Shelter
Sat 31st	2:00 PM	Trunk or Treat

Weekly Schedule

Day	Time	Event
Sundays	8:30 & 11:00 AM	Worship
Tuesdays	10:00 AM–noon	Paul Bible Study
Tuesdays	5:00–6:30 PM	Praise Team
Tuesdays	6:30–7:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wednesdays	9:30 AM–1:00 PM	Pastor's Office Hours
Wednesdays	6:00–7:00 PM	Women's Bible Study
Thursdays	6:30–8:00 PM	Boy Scout Troop 63

Looking Ahead

Date	Time	Event
Nov 5	7:00 PM	Outreach Meeting • Lower Cottage
Nov 14	9:00 AM	Brothers in Faith • Fellowship Hall
Nov 15		CCAP food donations due in the narthex
Nov 15	12:00–1:00 PM	Family Promise Meals
Nov 16		CCAP donation deadline
Nov 21		CCAP Thanksgiving Dinner giveaway
November		Youth Friendsgiving
Nov 28–Dec 5		WATTS Week