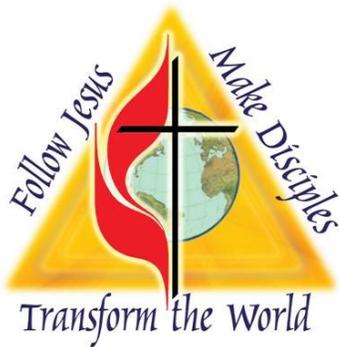




**Burkhead
United Methodist Church
5250 Silas Creek Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC 27106**

**Rev. Julie O'Neal
Pastor**



**Worship Service is
at 10:00 am each
Sunday in the
fellowship hall.
Wearing a mask
is your choice.
Virtual worship is
available through
our website and
Facebook page.**



Volume 7-2021



Burkhead News

GOD, PLEASE BLESS AMERICA

In Honor of July 4th with thanks to Irving Berlin

**God, please bless America
land that we love.**

**Stand beside us in this hour
and guide us as we travel this bumpy road
of sickness and of hate – but seemingly, not of love.**

God, please bless America.

**Help us remember, God, how you taught us to love
to find the good in all people -
the black, white, brown and green
(that's for all the Martians just flying thru the trees).
Please help us to remember, God,
that we are all equal in your eyes.**

God, please bless America, land that we love.

**We have lost you – please help us find you
so that we may once again live in love and harmony.**

**So that from the mountains to the prairies
and the oceans white with foam**

we can all together sing:

God bless America

and make it for us again, our home sweet home.

- adapted by Betty Bewley

Concerning Independence and Freedom

Freedom is a Christian concept. But would it surprise you to learn that “independence” isn’t really a Christian concept? It might even be considered antithetical to the faith. Our faith tells us about our need first for a Savior and then for one another who will become companions on our journey of faith, to be made into disciples of Jesus Christ.

But freedom is something we can claim and something we can proclaim. Paul launches the fifth chapter of the letter to the Galatians with the word freedom. “For freedom Christ has set us free.” For freedom. What does that mean exactly? For Paul, freedom is not simply a gift we are given, but a responsibility placed in our hands.

The question isn’t really “Are you free?” or “How free are you?” For Paul, the question is, “What are you going to do with your freedom?” There is a choice to be made. What will you choose? Here again, Paul talks about what his understanding of what a gift that comes from the Spirit, or from Christ, really is and what it isn’t. First of all, a true gift of the Spirit isn’t for you. It isn’t about making the recipient better or more whole or more holy. A gift is given to build up the community of faith. That’s the test of the spiritual gift: Is the whole body of Christ enhanced by this gift? If it makes the receiver somehow better but doesn’t affect anyone else, then it isn’t really from God. God’s gifts are meant to be shared. They are meant to be used for others.

The gift of freedom is to be used in service to others. Paul even goes further; we are to become slaves to one another. That seems like the opposite of freedom. And this grows out of the law, which Paul sums up as, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (5:14). Of course, he understands that is only half of the law, but it is the half he is dealing with now. How do we live in human relationships or in community with one another?

The ongoing battle we fight is not the war for independence, but the battle against self. We are certainly behind enemy lines in the culture in which we live, a culture of self. Day after day, we are told to think first about ourselves, but the Spirit invites us to think first of who and how we can serve. Paul describes this battle as one between flesh and spirit. But he doesn’t mean that we should mortify the flesh, that any attempt to find pleasure or satisfaction in our bodies or in the world in which we live is a negative thing. This sort of interpretation of this battle between flesh and spirit is what led to the idea that Christians can’t have any fun, that there is no joy in our faith, that it is all about the drudgery of service that feels like slavery.

On the contrary, Paul claims that it is the self-centered life that leads to drudgery, isolation, and brokenness. Compare the lists that are presented here in our text: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these (5:19-21). That’s quite a list. Take a second look and you will see the inevitable selfishness behind these words. They are about pleasing the self at the expense of others. (As an aside, that word “sorcery” comes from a Greek word that also gives us words like pharmacy or pharmaceutical. It’s about potions and substances that are supposed to give wisdom and inner vision. If you want a text about mind-altering substances, here it is.)

All of those words divide, or they take, or they abuse. This is what Paul means about pleasures of the flesh. Those actions and behaviors and attitudes that push people away separate self from others. They are words of individualism. “It’s all about me.” In contrast, the second list is about joining together, about relationships and about building up the other. Words like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (5:22-23) are about interdependence and caring, building up the community of faith and the wider world. This way of living is full of joy, full of pleasures of all sorts. But they are pleasures shared; they are joys experienced in community.

At the end of the second list of attributes, Paul writes “there is no law against such things.” Supposedly, Augustine said in order to sum up the law, “Love God and do as you please.” That seems a risky premise, that “do as you please” thing, except that the proviso to first “love God” means that what pleases you is what pleases God; therefore, there is no need of a law since your every motivation is to please the one you love. Paul’s argument is if you love yourself most, then you will do what pleases you, regardless of how it affects everyone else. But if you love God most, then you will do what pleases God, which includes loving neighbor.

This is the freedom Paul celebrates in this text. And, it could be the freedom we celebrate as we commemorate Independence Day. It is the freedom to care for others, the freedom to see all people as equals in the sight of law and the eyes of God. It is the freedom to serve not because you have to but because you get to; not because you have a duty to fulfill, but because you have a love to put into action. We are free not to live independent of one another, caring only for ourselves, but we are free to acknowledge our interdependence and how our own personal good comes to us from many others, even as we contribute to the good of others.

Julie O’Neal, with thanks to UMC Discipleship Ministries for direction.

1 For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. 2 Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. 3 Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire law. 4 You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. 5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working[a] through love. 7 You were running well; who prevented you from obeying the truth? 8 Such persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. 9 A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough. 10 I am confident about you in the Lord that you will not think otherwise. But whoever it is that is confusing you will pay the penalty. 11 But my friends,[b] why am I still being persecuted if I am still preaching circumcision? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. 12 I wish those who unsettle you would castrate themselves! 13 For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters;[c] only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence,[d] but through love become slaves to one another. 14 For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. 16 Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, 21 envy,[e] drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

Galatians 5 NRSV

July Lectionary Readings

These scriptures are used during our Sunday Worship Service. They are offered so everyone may read and study them throughout the week.

(*Lector reading; Sermon lesson)

- 4th 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48;
*2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13
- 11th 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; *Psalm 24;
Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29
- 18th 2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37;
*Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
- 25th 2 Samuel 11:1-15; *Psalm 14;
Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

Burkhead News

Burkhead United Methodist Church

5250 Silas Creek Parkway

Winston-Salem, NC 27106

Website: burkheadumc.org

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Rev. O'Neal's cell - 336-929-6001

Rev. O'Neal - joneal@wnccumc.net

Darlene Davis, Church Secretary extn 3

Church Office - burkheadumc@gmail.com

Michelle Calderon, Financial Secretary extn 4

Financial Office - burkheadfinance@gmail.com

Office Hours: Closed Monday

Tuesday through Friday: 10 am to 2 pm

From the Financial Secretary's Desk:

Financial Report:	May	Year-to-Date
Total Received	\$ 26,221	\$ 95,167
Total Spent	\$ 18,376	\$ 92,105

This month we used \$7,550 from the PPP Grant/Loan. This amount is included in the column "Total Received".

We received memorials for Paula Miller Zolty from Murry & Gale Sink, Taylor Crane, and Daryl & Beth Dixon.

We received memorials for Gwen Burns Santaniello from Murry & Gale Sink, Taylor Crane, and Daryl & Beth Dixon.

We received memorials for Betty Powers from Taylor Crane, Daryl & Beth Dixon, Sylvia Allen, Betty Bewley, Bill & Peggy Bishop, Barry & Joan Crotty, Arthur & Frances Disher, Thelma Girard, Katrina & Johnny Hewitt, Royce Hough, Nany Michael, Julie O'Neal, Larry Parks, Murray & Gale Sink, Barry & Marcy Gullet, Betty Stoltz, and Rick & Connie Mende.

Our Deepest Sympathies are extended to Paul Powers and Susan and David Disher on the death of Paul's wife and Susan's mother, Betty Powers, Friday, June 4, 2021. **We also extend our Deepest Sympathies to Lynn and Dr. Terry Blumenthal** on the death of Lynn's father, Rev. Dr. James H. Holmes, Tuesday, June 29, 2021. Please keep both families in your hearts and prayers!

Prayer Concerns and Praises

June 6th

Prayers: family of Betty Powers, graduating students, Amber & SPARK

Praises: Brenda Barlow, enjoying outdoor activities

June 13th

Prayers: Juan Vance, Lynn Blumenthal's father fell, Bobbie & Ralph Futrell, Amber & the SPARK program

Praises: WNCC's new bishop - Bishop Kenneth Carter

June 20th

Prayers: Marilyn Baird, Mary Lib Shoaf, Jerry Sullivan, refugees around the world, those who lost their fathers, Lynne Jones, Chuck Vermillion, family of Hollis Powell

Praises: Nicholas Delgado

June 27th

Prayers: Chester Robinson, the family of Rev. Dr. James H. Holmes (Lynn's father), Marilyn Baird, Bobbie Leab, Spencer Willard, Surfside condo disaster/families/first responders, Ella Mir, Amber Harris & SPARK, David McBride

Praises: Juan Vance, wonderful to see people in person

A Note of Appreciation

*Dear Burkhead Family,
Thank you so much for the many kind expressions of sympathy to our family during this sad time.*

Your thoughtfulness and prayers are deeply appreciated.

With love,

The family of Betty Powers

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 4th Joan Crotty
- 6th Gloria McGurk
- 9th Katherine Hedrick
- 10th Mary Carpenter
- 10th Daryl Dixon
- 11th Betty Friddle
- 12th Shirley Hedrick
- 13th Beth Dixon
- 15th Rachel Brown
- 17th Dr. Terry Blumenthal
- 21st Don Brown
- 25th Rev. Julie O'Neal
- 30th Mats Hugosson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 6th Ralph & Bobbie Futrell
- 16th Larry & Nancy Hurst
- 26th Keith & Theresa Raker

Please notify the church office if your anniversary or birthday has been omitted or is incorrect. Thank you!

OUTREACH In ACTION - Gale Sink, Coordinator

Habitat for Humanity Blueprint Tour

Habitat for Humanity has been building safe, affordable houses for families in our community for 36 years. Would you like to see for yourself some of the impact that has made? Sign up for the Blueprint Community Tour. This is a driving tour you take in your own vehicle. You will be given a snack, a map, and a phone number to dial in for your guided tour. **The tour will take place on Wednesday, July 21 at 11:30 am. Register at habitatforsyth.org.** You can find the registration form on the calendar listing for the Blueprint Tour. Call a friend and take a car full!

SECU Family House Dinner

The SECU Family House provides compassionate, comfortable, and economical accommodations for adult patients and caregivers traveling to Forsyth County for healthcare. In addition to being a place to stay, they provide donated meals and snacks for the people staying in the house. Burkhead has signed up to **provide dinner for the residents on Tuesday, July 20. Volunteers are needed to make individually wrapped brownies and help make casseroles at the church.** If you can help or have questions, **contact Katie Moore or Gloria McGurk.**

Open Arms Tutoring Program

With the planned opening of schools in the fall, students will be coming back to Open Arms Community for help with their homework. **Volunteers will be needed on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7 pm to help with homework, lead educational centers, and provide meals.** If you are interested in helping, or would like more information, **contact Rev. Julie Wilson at Open Arms Community 336-724-0850.**

School Supply Collection

As the children are getting ready for a more normal school year, many students will need help getting the supplies that will help them be successful in school. This month **we will be collecting school supplies for Open Arms Community and Carter High School.** Supplies will be distributed to the children at Open Arms on Saturday, July 31. There will be a box at the church to place items in. This month is a great time to find great sales on school supplies! Here is a list of the most needed items:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| * Sturdy Book Bags (no wheels) | * Pencil Pouches |
| * Composition Books (wide rule) | * #2 Pencils |
| * Washable Markers | * Pens (black, blue, red) |
| * Colored Pencils | * 3x5 Index Cards |
| * Loose leaf wide ruled paper | * Dry Erase Markers |
| * 1 inch Binders | * Bottles of Hand Sanitizer |

Spark Mission Camp

The **Outreach Committee wants to say a big thank you to the people of Burkhead for all the support you provided for the Spark Mission Camp.** Because of your generous donations of food and money we were able to provide breakfast and lunch for the campers each day. Also, thank you to those of you who came early each morning to prepare the food which helped the campers get a good start to the day. I also want to thank the volunteers who came to help at the Sink's house when the campers came for an evening of fun with dinner, games, boating and fishing. Thank you, also, to Beth Dixon who helped with one of the mission projects at the Industries for the Blind garden with the campers. It was wonderful to be a part of the camp supporting them in the work they did out in the community.

Food Drive Can Include Clothes

Please continue to support our Food Drive for the summer with nonperishable foods but clothing can now be contributed. Storehouse for Jesus has opened their facility and is now accepting clean used clothing, along with food donations. Since we weren't able to do our usual spring cleaning of closets earlier, take the time now to pull out the items you no longer wear but are still in good condition. Bags can be placed in the large basket under the mailboxes.

Thank you, Betty Bewley

July 2021

Join us Sundays at 10 am for Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>“Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.” - Anne Lammott</i></p>				1 -<SPARK -	2 -- Camp -->	3
<p>4</p>  <p>Independence Day</p> <p>10:00 am - Worship Service with Communion</p> <p><— SPARK —</p>	5 -- Youth --	6 9:30 am to 2:30 pm - SPARK Day Camp	7 9:30 am to 2:30 pm - SPARK Day Camp	8 _____	9 -- Camp -->	10
11 10:00 am - Worship Service	12 6:30 pm - Finance Committee meeting	13 10:30 am - Outreach Committee meeting 6:30 pm - Trustees Committee meeting	14	15	16	17
18 10:00 am - Worship Service with Guest Speaker	19 -<Epiphany 6:30 pm - Y.A.R.N. Ministry	20 _____	21 - Summer - 9:30 am to 2:30 pm - SPARK Day Camp	22 _____	23 -- Camp -->	24
<p>25</p>  <p>8:45 am - H.O.P.E. sandwich making</p> <p>10:00 am - Worship Service</p> <p>5:00 pm - Church Council meeting</p> <p><— SPARK —</p>	26 -- Youth --	27 Deadline for Newsletter Articles	28	29 _____	30	31
				- Summer -	-- Camp -->	