...small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Matthew 7:14

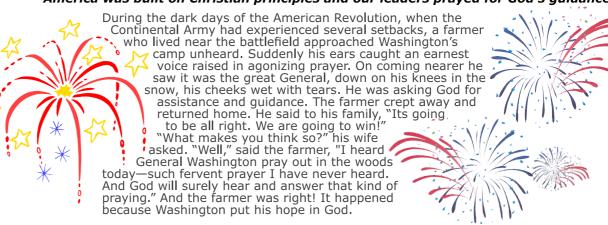
"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." George

Contributors: **Belinda Hiemstra** Janice Alexander

Washington

July 16, 2022

The following story gives us a glimpse into our history and our Christian heritage. America was built on Christian principles and our leaders prayed for God's guidance.



PRAYER: Lord Almighty, we praise You and Your holy name today, as we celebrate our right to live as a free country. Without You we are nothing, and so ultimately, our freedom and independence are Yours, dear Lord. It is You who is our true leader, for it is You who will lead us into paradise. May we never forget that we are Your followers first and foremost. Our mission in our mortal lives is to praise Your most holy name. Let all our actions be directed by Your will. We know as we live in Your we live generously in Your blessings. Our history has proven that. We pray that this nation remembers and returns to revere You every day of our lives. This country is Yours to lead until the end of time. In Jesus' name, Amen.



**Issue Twenty-Four** 

We are collecting and will be collecting items all year for shoe boxes. A drop-off box is in the vestibule of the church for your donations. The next packing party will be announced soon.

## A House of Prayer

"... for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations" (Isaiah 56:7).

Every Wednesday afternoon, 4:30 - 6 pm the church doors are open to anyone who wants to spend time in prayer. Come and go as your schedule allows. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for anyone willing to help host a day of prayer. This person will be in charge of unlocking and locking the doors.

to all who played a role in this year's Vacation Bible School program. from cooks to greeters from teachers to drama roles from song leaders to game directors

AND a HUGE THANKS TO Steven and BriAnne Hall, this year's directors. We love you and appreciate all you do for our church and our children's programs.

and the list goes on.

wages of the righteous is life, but the earnings of the wicked are sin and death.

Proverbs 10:16(NIV)

"Freedom is the last, best hope of earth."

> - Abraham Lincoln

### **ELDERS** Joel Stamper

336-813-2929 Daryl Simpson 336-359-8327 540-424-8007 Steve Mason Tim Stamper 336-770-6654

## **DEACONS**

Mark Parker

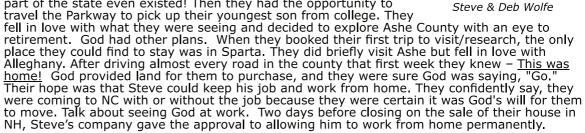
Kathy Abernathy 336-200-1357 Tammy Mason 540-845-5474 Winkie Clifton 336-363-9189 Randy Miles 336-657-2036 Darryl Evans 336-467-4486 704-239-6659 **Grady Morris** Dale Jones 727-244-0095

704-641-1615

# This is My Story: Steve @ Deb

Steve and Deb have been here in Sparta about one year. They are from NH. This move has been quite a culture shock as you will see as you read on. In NH they were without a church for a long time. It is the least churched state in the country and there are VERY FEW true Biblical churches there.

Several years back they visited family in Cary with no idea this part of the state even existed! Then they had the opportunity to travel the Parkway to pick up their youngest son from college. They fall in lave with what they were social and decided to explore Asha



When their building plans fell apart, they began to feel very desperate. Still, God proved His faithfulness by providing them with a lovely rental home. Now they are waiting for God's provision in finding a builder and His timing for the next steps ahead of them.

Steve and Deb have been married twenty-six years; they have four children currently living in four different states. The youngest two children were completely home-schooled and are now college graduates working in their chosen (and God gifted) fields. Steve works from home (engineering), for a company headquartered in the Boston area. Deb stopped working outside of home in 1997, became a homeschooling mom, and had a quilting business in NH. Homeschooling is Deb's passion, and she loves to "talk shop" about being at home with your family.

When asked if there was a major event in their lives where they saw God at work, they gave this "There have been so many events where we know God was at work in our lives when you look for God's fingerprints you can see them. Usually in hindsight, but often in the process as well. It never gets old to see God answer prayer and direct the course of things in your life.'

They give God praise for bringing them to Alleghany County and especially for Grace Church. They wonder if local folks realize what a warm and welcoming place this is. They came from the Northeast where everyone is conditioned to keep isolated, "independent", distant, and "cold" – to a place where people are kind, open, friendly, warm, and loving; and to a church group that prays for them, offers to help, gives words of encouragement, and makes TIME to sit and visit.

"It was easy for us to see the people at Grace were shining with Jesus' love and their prayer support is astonishing," Deb shared. "While this might sound sad, we have felt more love from this community in our first year here, than we did in all our years in NH. (And I'm sure there will be some who may say, 'Bless their hearts,' as they read that statement.)"

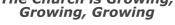
**UPCOMING EVENTS:** 

Men's breakfast on July 16th @ 8:00 am **Talent Show on August 27th** 



Why aren't there any Independence Day knock knock jokes? 'Cuz freedom "Rings'





Our building is scheduled for construction to begin in the near future - an addition to the our building for more

needed facilities.



