

THE VISITOR

DEC. 2017
JAN. 2018

Published by:

Oak Grove Church of the Brethren

Pastor:
Tim Harvey

Minister of Nurture
and Music:
Carol Elmore

E-mail:
churchoffice@
oakgrovecob.org

Website:
www.oakgrovecob.org

Phone:
(540) 774-3217

**DEADLINE FOR
FEBRUARY
VISITOR
JANUARY 15**

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Rena Brown
Carolyn Broyles
Jonna Detweiler
Nancy Hylton
Josephine Keller
Sarah King
Carla McCauley
Emily Nelson

December Events at Oak Grove



Christmas Play and Children/Youth Christmas Program

Come out to Oak Grove at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 3, as we begin our season of celebrating the birth of Christ.

First there will be a short, one-act play put on by some adults in our congregation. The play is set at The Bethlehem Inn and Spa, and it "stars": Jim Shaver, Tim Harvey, John King, Judy Saunders, Joe Blaha, Todd Marcum, with Dave Jones as narrator.

After this, our children and youth will present their annual program that they have been working diligently on for the past month.

We hope you will plan to attend this evening of joy and fellowship, and stay for the potluck meal that will follow.



Special Handbell Music Sunday December 10 During the morning worship service

The Handbell Choir will also play at Fairington Village (across from Southwest Plaza Food Lion) on Tuesday, December 12, at 7:00 p.m. Joe Blaha and Sam Phillips will join them. All are welcome to attend.



Christmas Music Worship Sunday December 17 11:00 a.m.

"Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!"

The choir and instrumentalists will share Pepper Choplin's "Night of the Father's Love: The Awe and Mystery of God with Us". Come, enjoy, worship, and remember as the Good News is shared through song, scripture, and readings.



Sunday December 17

Meet at the church at 5:30 p.m., and we will go caroling to our shut-ins. After caroling, we will go to the home of Dan and Eleanor Brogan for snacks and fellowship.



Christmas Eve Service Sunday December 24 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Cards



We would like to remind everyone of the Christmas greeting board that is placed in the fellowship hall during the Christmas season. Its purpose is for you to place your Christmas cards to the church family on it instead of sending individual cards.

The board will be set up, ready for cards by the first Sunday in December. Bring your cards early so we can all enjoy them.



The youth will stuff 50 stockings for the Salvation Army after morning worship on December 10. You can put your donations in the containers outside the fellowship hall.

Stockings are given to babies and children up to 12 years old. Here are some items we can use for the stockings:

- Coloring books
- Cars & trucks
- Small games
- Action figures
- Toothbrushes
- Bath gels
- Shampoo
- Combs/brushes
- Jewelry
- Gloves/mittens
- Socks & hats
- Movie tickets
- T-shirts
- Crayons/markers
- School supplies
- Small plush toys
- Small books
- Learning toys
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Hair accessories
- Nail care items
- Purses/wallets
- I-tunes cards
- Individually wrapped candy/gum

Everything must fit in the mesh Christmas stockings distributed by the Salvation Army. This is a very meaningful outreach for the senior high youth, and they appreciate everyone's help with donations.

After the stockings are completed, they will have pizza for lunch.



Seekers Class Open House

by Jane Grisso

On Sunday, January 14, the Seekers Class will host their 5th Annual Open House at 9:45 a.m., during the Sunday School Hour. If you are not already involved in a Sunday School Class, we hope you will come by and check out our class! We are located on the 2nd floor of the education wing, and the welcome mat will be out in front of our door.

Should we have bad weather on January 14 and are unable to have Sunday School, our snow date will be January 28.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, January 13
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

You can sign up on their website, www.redcross.org, or call Karin Musselman.

Thank You Habitat for Humanity

Dear Pastor Harvey,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and Faith Relations Committee, I want to reiterate our sincere thanks to you and Oak Grove Church of the Brethren for honoring Habitat for Humanity in the Roanoke Valley with your generous support of our recently completed Apostles Build house. We were grateful and humbled to receive your lovely gift of \$1,000 on February 15, 2017, as well as your hands-on volunteer assistance on the construction site.

Since we only build an Apostles house once every two years, we are eager to remain engaged with your church between now and 2019. We were very grateful to have the opportunity to visit your church and share more information about our work with your congregation on November 8, and we hope you will keep us in mind if you are in need of a program or a "minute for mission" during another event in the future.

Once again, you have our heartfelt thanks for your generous support of the proven impact of Habitat for Humanity's program in our community. May God bless you!

—Gratefully yours,
Jenny Lee, Development Director

Project WARM

December 16 & January 13

We will meet at Chip and Jo's for breakfast at 7:00 a.m., then meet everyone at the woodlot at 8:00 a.m. Children (with adult supervision) and youth are encouraged to help.

If you would like more information about helping with Project WARM, contact Nancy Hylton.



Virilina District

“Come to Bethlehem and See...” Saturday, December 2

Travel through a live outdoor nativity program at Bethlehem Church of the Brethren at 4250 Bethlehem Road, Boones Mill. Come experience the story of Christmas as you walk by scenes of Mary and Joseph, shepherds with their sheep, angels, and wise men. Then come into Bethlehem Church for cookies, hot chocolate, and warm fellowship. Golf cart rides are available to assist your tour.

Please join us anytime between 5 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, December 2, and enjoy this Christmas story. This program will be held, rain or shine. For information or questions, contact Sharon G. Grindstaff at (540) 493-7252 or grindstaffsharon@gmail.com.

Camp Bethel Christmas TOGETHER Banquet

Join us on Thursday, December 7, 6:30 p.m., for our 2017 Christmas TOGETHER Banquet. (*All the believers were TOGETHER - Acts 2:44*). We will have an excellent dinner in our decorated Ark Dining Hall and a festive music program with “The Bahama Mamas” Steel Drum Band. Your \$50 gift (larger gifts accepted) will help rebuild our depleted “Campership” fund.

The menu will be: Pineapple glazed ham, baked chicken, roasted red potatoes and zucchini, maple and brown sugar sweet potatoes, broccoli, hot rolls with apple butter, tossed salad, red velvet cupcakes, tea, lemonade, water, coffee, and hot chocolate.

Call, email, or mail in your individual, family, class, or congregational reservation by December 2 to 992-2940, or CampBethelOffice@gmail.com. You can also register online at CampBethelVirginia.org.

In case of cancellation on December 7, we will call you. Snow date is December 14.

Pilgrimage XXII

Pilgrimage XXII will be held March 16-18, 2018, at Camp Bethel. It is for the young and old, for the new Christian and the one who has been a Christian for decades.

The basic structure of the weekend is the same each year with talks, small groups, fun times, inspiring worship services, and much more. The only way to

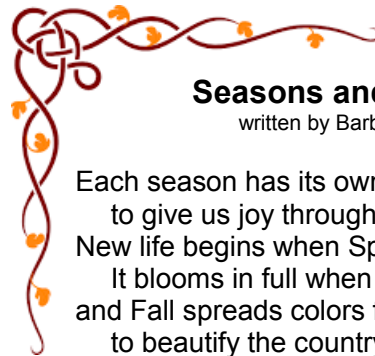
truly understand what Pilgrimage has to offer is to experience it.

If you would like more information about Pilgrimage, go to www.experiencepilgrimage.com.

Important Dates in 2018 . . .

- January 8 — Summer Camp Registration opens
- February 17 — Camp Supporter Lunch
- April 27-28 — Sounds of the Mountains

From an Oak Grove member. . .



Seasons and Blessings

written by Barbara W. Mann

Each season has its own delight
to give us joy through day and night.
New life begins when Spring is near.
It blooms in full when Summer's here,
and Fall spreads colors far and wide
to beautify the countryside.

Then Winter comes to rest the earth
before another Spring gives birth.

A human life begins like Spring.

A baby's born and everything
is beautiful and fresh and new.

Then children grow, and they change, too.
Their Summer comes when they are grown,
their Fall as they do things alone,
and Winter when they need to rest
because each day's another test.

We humans need to learn and grow.

A lot of things we need to know,
and if we think we know it all,
that's when we can begin to fall.

We need some guidance day by day
as our life's seasons pass away.

The Bible tells us what is best.

Obey it and you will be blessed.

Youth News

December 2017

Middle & High Schoolers' Events

Sunday, December 3

5:00 p.m. — Youth and Children's Christmas Program

Tuesday, December 5

Let's go to the movies to see *The Star* (theater and time TBA)

Sunday, December 10

12:15 p.m. — Stuffing Salvation Army Stockings, then pizza!

Saturday, December 16

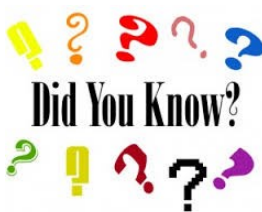
5:00 p.m. — All Youth Christmas Dinner at the home of Sarah and John King, Jr.

Sunday, December 17

8:15 a.m. — Youth and Adult Choir Rehearsal
11:00 a.m. — Christmas Music Worship
5:30 p.m. — Christmas Caroling (all church), then snacks at Eleanor and Dan Brogan's home

Sunday, December 24

7:00 p.m. — Christmas Eve Service (all church)



...that **Hannah Tyler** was crowned homecoming queen at Hidden Valley High School on Friday, September 22, 2017?
Congratulations Hannah!

College Students and Recent Grads!!



You are invited to the home of Carol and Mike Elmore on Thursday, December 21, for Christmas dinner at 6:30 p.m. We will provide the food and drinks; we just want you there. Please let Carol know you can come.

Also, the College Sunday School class will meet while you are home from college, December 17 - January 3.

January 2018

Middle & High Schoolers' Events

Monday, January 8

4:30 p.m. — Youth Fund Raiser — Prepare dinner (and clean up) for the Northern Area Ministers' Meeting

Thursday, January 11

6:00 p.m. — Junior High Workcamp pre-registration pizza party

Wednesday, January 17

5:45 p.m. meal, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Youth Scoop

Saturday & Sunday, January 20 & 21

5:00 p.m. Sat. - Noon Sun. — Senior High overnight to register for National Youth Conference

Wednesday, January 24

5:45 p.m. meal, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Youth Scoop

Wednesday, January 31

5:45 p.m. meal, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Youth Scoop



More in 2018 ...

March 10 — All Youth Yard Sale (working on it beginning 2/25)

April 6-8 — Senior High Roundtable at Bridgewater College

June 3 — Graduation/Senior High Sunday

July 21-26 — Senior High National Youth Conference, Colorado



Winter Camp at Camp Bethel



10:00 a.m., Saturday, December 30 until 2:00 p.m., Sunday, December 31

Cost of \$70 includes 4 meals PLUS lots of fun activities and a 2018 summer camp preview. The church will pay half the cost. To register, go to:

campbethelvirginia.org/winter-camp

Sunday Morning Statistics

Date	Sunday School	Worship	Budget	Special Gifts
November 5	54	112	\$5,252	\$306
November 12	77	108	\$4,604	\$992
November 19	66	148	\$3,714	\$245
November 26	71	121	\$1,097	\$140



- December 3:** First Sunday of Advent
While we are waiting, come. Isaiah 64:1-9
- December 10:** Second Sunday of Advent. Bell Choir Christmas program
Comfort, comfort, O my people. Isaiah 40:1-9
- December 17:** Third Sunday of Advent. Choir cantata
Light of the World. Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
- December 24:** Fourth Sunday of Advent
Come, thou long expected Jesus. Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 1:26-38
Christmas Eve Candlelighting and Communion (7:00 p.m.)
What are you longing for? Luke 2:1-20
- December 31:** Sermon and worship plans to be determined

A Word from Pastor Tim . . .

Advent Devotional booklet *What are you longing for?*



Time flies so quickly! It might be difficult to remember that we started talking about our Advent Devotional booklet all the way back in June, when our intergenerational Bible Study class first gathered. As I write these words on the Friday before Thanksgiving, the finished copies are being printed.

In place of my normal pastor's article, I will simply direct you to what I wrote in the introduction to this booklet, with this additional note: I offer my sincere thank you to each one who wrote for this project—especially those who are not members of our congregation, but happily said "Yes!" when I called and asked you to write.

Michael Craighead designed our cover and Emily Harvey created the word art for each of the hymn texts. Your gifts with pen and pencil enrich the beauty of the words and prayers included within. Mike Hanger and Ellen Phillips kept our website updated with information from our Sunday School classes this summer and additional information for writers. Nelson Hylton printed the covers. Carol Elmore researched the hymns included each Sunday for some interesting and helpful information behind the texts and the tunes, and I wrote prayers that accompany those.



December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 5-8 pm — Live Nativity at Bethlehem CoB
3 5:00 pm — Christmas Play, Children & Youth Christmas Program, & Potluck	4 12:00 pm — Joyful Hearts Christmas luncheon at Ruth's Restaurant	5 5:30 pm — Handbells 7:00 pm — Peace Group Time TBA — Youth go see "The Star"	6 7:00 pm — Choir	7 12:30 pm — Backpack Ministry 6:30 pm — Christmas TOGETHER Banquet at Camp Bethel	8	9 9:30 am — Staunton Avenue Food Dist. 5:30 pm — Fellowship Class Banquet @ Camp Bethel
10 11:00 am — Handbells play during worship 12:15 pm — Youth stocking stuffing & pizza	11	12 5:30 pm — Handbells 7:00 pm — Handbell Choir at Fairington Village	13 7:00 pm — Choir	14 12:30 pm — Backpack Ministry	15	16 7:00 am — Breakfast at Chip & Jo's 8:00 am — Project WARM 5:00 pm — Youth Christmas Dinner at John & Sarah King's
17 8:15 am — Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am — Music Worship Program 5:30 pm — Christmas Caroling	18	19	20 7:00 pm — Choir	21 6:30 pm — College students & recent grads at the Elmore's	22	23
24 7:00 pm — Christmas Eve Service	25 Church Office Closed	26	27	28	29	30 10 am — Winter Camp
31 Winter Camp until 2pm						



Rescue Mission Wish List for December:

\$5.00 Hardees and McDonald's gift cards, travel-sized lotions



January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <div style="background-color: #e0f0f0; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Church Office Closed</div>	2 5:30 pm — Handbells 7:00 pm — Peace Group	3 7:00 pm — Choir Practice	4 12:30 pm — Backpack Ministry	5	6
7 Communion Sunday	8 Summer Camp Registration Opens 4:30 pm — Youth prepare dinner for N. Area Ministers' Meeting	9 5:30 pm — Handbells	10 7:00 pm — Choir Practice	11 12:30 pm — Backpack Ministry 6:00 pm — Jr. High Workcamp pre-registration pizza party	12	13 7:00 am — Breakfast at Chip & Jo's 8:00 am — Project WARM 9:00 am — Red Cross Blood Drive 9:30 am — Staunton Avenue Food Distribution
14 9:45 am — Seekers Class Open House 6:30 pm — Executive Committee	15	16 5:30 pm — Handbells	17 5:45 pm — Church Dinner 6:30 pm — Winter Bible Study 6:30 pm — Youth Scoop 7:30 pm — Choir	18 12:30 pm — Backpack Ministry	19	20 5:00 pm — (through Sunday, noon) Sr. High Youth overnight to register for National Youth Conference
21	22	23 5:30 pm — Handbells	24 5:45 pm — Church Dinner 6:30 pm — Winter Bible Study 6:30 pm — Youth Scoop 7:30 pm — Choir	25 10:30 am — Joyful Hearts 12:30 pm — Backpack Ministry	26	27
28 5:00 pm — Youth Family Dinner & Bible Study	29	30 5:30 pm — Handbells	31 5:45 pm — Church Dinner 6:30 pm — Winter Bible Study 6:30 pm — Youth Scoop 7:30 pm — Choir	Coming in February . . . February 7 — Bible Study February 14 — Ash Wednesday February 17 — Talent Show February 25 — Yard Sale Setup		