**Pastor:**
Tim Harvey

**Minister of Nurture and Music:**
Carol Elmore

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**E-mail:**
Churchoffice @oakgrovecob.org

**Website:**
www.oakgrovecob.org

**Phone:**
(540) 774-3217

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**DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER VISITOR:**
OCTOBER 15

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**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:**
Rena' Brown
Carolyn Broyles
Jonna Detweiler
Nancy Hylton
Josephine Keller
Sarah King
Carla McCauley
Emily Nelson

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**Come Caroling**
by Carol Elmore

Join us on Tuesday, October 8, for caroling. We will meet at Firehouse Subs at noon to eat lunch, then at 1:00 we will carpool to 2-3 homes to sing a few hymns for some folks who can’t easily get out.

Come share a joyful noise!

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**Joyful Hearts**
by Jane Grisso

On Thursday, October 24, the Joyful Hearts will meet at Peters Creek Church of the Brethren at 10:30 a.m. to view their historical room. What many of you may not know is that Peters Creek is the mother church for all the CoB churches in Roanoke County. Their historical room is interesting and well organized.

David Shumate will be our speaker for this time. He has a vast knowledge of the Church of the Brethren, and we are sure to learn something new about our church’s heritage and history. Afterward, David will join us for lunch at Lydia’s Italian Kitchen.

If anyone is interested in carpooling from Oak Grove, contact Jane Grisso. We hope all Joyful Hearts will plan to join us for this event.

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**Fall Bible Study**

Have you ever been asked to put your faith into words? How do you describe this great faith that we share? What words would you use?

Now imagine what it might have been like to have the privilege of writing one of the Gospels or epistles in the New Testament. What language would you use to describe what you had experienced? The New Testament writers chose many different words to describe what Jesus has done for us, taking common words from a variety of sources and applying them to our faith.

Our study this fall will look at these words and where they came from. We’ll see words from biology (regeneration); the courtroom (justification); family (adoption); politics (citizenship) and others, all shedding light on what Jesus has done for us. Along the way, we’ll try to illustrate these Biblical terms with some of the well-known (and maybe not so well-known) hymns of salvation.

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**Love Feast**
Sunday, October 27
5:00 p.m.

For those who have difficulty kneeling or bending to wash feet, we offer the option of washing hands. Childcare will be provided.

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**Fall Bazaar**
Saturday
October 19
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
October Sermons

Our fall discipleship series entitled Margin will continue into October. Along with our financial sharing, what are other ways will we make a commitment to the Oak Grove congregation? How do these commitments nurture our spiritual lives? And what does our Brethren heritage have to say about these spiritual disciplines in our lives?

October 6  Money
October 13  Generosity
October 20  Healthy Relationships
October 27  Loving Enemies

Important Sundays:
October 6 - Pledge cards due during morning worship
October 27 - Love feast at 5:00 p.m.
November 3 - Fall Council Meeting

Kroger Community Rewards
by Carol Elmore

Did you know that our youth receive a check every quarter from Kroger, after Oak Grovers go shopping there? Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com, click on “I’m a Customer,” then register your Kroger Plus number with “Oak Grove Youth.” The money we earn through this program is used for youth ministries.
We thank you!!

NOAC 2019 News
by Carolyn Broyles

On Monday, September 2, 2019, Eleanor Brogan, Bill and Carolyn Broyles traveled to the National Older Adult Conference (NOAC) held at the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center located in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina. We traveled with the bus group from the Mid-Atlantic District. There were 682 registered for NOAC.

Our theme for the week was “Reaching into Joy.” We had an excellent Bible study leader, inspiring keynote speakers, spiritually refreshing and inspiring preachers all leading up to our theme. Ken Medema and Ted Swartz presented a very impressive Bible story through music and acting. They were well received by all of us.

On Thursday the day started with a fundraising walk around beautiful Lake Junaluska and closed with ice cream socials and a late talent night. In between we had opportunities to take bus trips, recreational activities, numerous interest groups, organ recital by Jonathan Emmons and many more events. Each day was different giving us a lot of choices.

NOAC provides an opportunity to take in as many activities as you can pack in…..or to just push the pause button as you sit by the lake…..or stop to smell the roses on your walk beside the lake.

Sister Joan Chittister was one of the favorite keynote speakers. She was dynamic and well spoken. She said “time changes nothing…people do” and “if you do not know what you are looking for in life – you will not find it."

Christy Waltersdorff, our NOAC 2019 Coordinator, said in her closing comments….”I hope you are not the same as you were when you got here.” I think we all felt a growth in our faith and are looking forward to the next NOAC in 2021.

Eleanor, Bill and I thank the church for paying half of our registration fee. We hope more can join us in 2021 for another spirit-filled Conference.

CROP Hunger Walk

The Roanoke Valley CROP Hunger Walk is a community led fundraising event to end hunger. This will be held on Sunday, October 13, 2019, starting at 1:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church. The money raised will help those in the Roanoke Valley and around the world with food and water. Our church has participated in this walk for many years. We would love to have you walk with us or donate to this project.

Brochures and donation envelopes for the CROP Walk will be provided at upcoming Sundays at church. If you would like to register for the walk or donate online, please go to crophungerwalk.org and select the team choice for Oak Grove Church of the Brethren.

Thank you for your help. Contact John King, III, with any questions.

Concert at Oak Grove
by Carol Elmore

R. U. Noteworthy, Radford University’s only co-ed a cappella group (co-founded by Amanda Marcum) will be in concert here on October 13 at 6:00 p.m. (after the CROP Walk). A reception will follow.
Come, listen, and enjoy!
Brethren Heritage Festival
October 5

Camp Bethel’s 35th Brethren Heritage Day Festival will take place Saturday, October 5. Breakfast will be from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. in the Ark. Booths will be open throughout the camp from 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. There will be lots of food, children’s fishing, wonderful crafts and sale items, plenty of Brethren Heritage items and demonstrations, live music, and fellowship!

Oak Grove will again have our cobbler booth. Volunteers are always needed!

More information on Heritage Day can be found at www.campbethelvirginia.org.

Disaster Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The annual Disaster Response Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held at Antioch CoB on Sunday, October 20, at 5:00 p.m. Invitations will be mailed to volunteers, but all persons interested in disaster response or those who have supported disaster response through making kits, financial aid, or prayers are invited to attend. Volunteers in 2018-2019 will be recognized as part of the program.

To reserve your place, contact Mary Sink St.John at the District Resource Center at (540) 362-1816 or virlina2@aol.com.

Coordinator of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries Named

Joy A. Murray began as Coordinator of Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministries for the Virlina District of the Church of the Brethren on August 1. She has been a member of Central Church of the Brethren for 14 years. During that time she has served as Youth Director/Minister. Joy brings 39 years of experience working with youth to the position. The position is funded by “Seed, Scattered and Sown: Reaching Beyond This Generation.”

Born in Chicago, Illinois, she grew up in Nebraska and graduated from South Vigo High School in Terre Haute, Indiana. She has taken college classes from Shenandoah Bible College and Virginia Western Community College. For more than twenty years she has been employed as an Instructional Assistant in Special Education at Mountain View Elementary School in Roanoke County. She has been married to Mike for 39 years. They have two married sons and four wonderful grandchildren.

Joy was fortunate to be raised in a Christian home. She spent many hours on the front pew of churches as a child. Her mother is a gifted and talented organist/pianist/musician. She became a Christian as a young child. Joy feels very strongly about helping people become all that God means for them to be, to have a growing faith, and to be comfortable sharing the Gospel with others, be it by word or deed. She may be reached at virlinayouthministries@gmail.com or at mommurray59@aol.com.

Virlina District Conference

The 2019 Virlina District Conference will take place on Friday and Saturday, November 8 and 9, at Grandin Court Baptist Church. The theme is Don’t Hide the Cross, taken from 1 Corinthians 1:10: “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

On Friday, registration and exhibit displays will open at 5:00 p.m. Hymn singing and worship will follow at 7:00 p.m. Roy Turpin, Moderator of the 2019 Virlina District Conference, will be the worship leader, and Dana Cassell, Pastor of Durham Peace Covenant CoB, will be the guest speaker. On site childcare will be provided. There will be light refreshments for all after worship.

On Saturday morning registration and exhibit displays will open at 7:30 a.m. Hymn singing and worship will begin at 8:15 a.m. Cathy Huffman, Moderator Elect for the 2020 Virlina District Conference, will lead worship. Nancy Heishman, Director of Office Ministry, CoB, will be the guest speaker.

Saturday will have two business sessions: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and 1:20 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be from noon until 1:15 p.m. The reservation deadline for lunch is October 25!

Childcare (Infant – pre-k) and Children’s activities (K – 5th grade) will be offered during the worship service and business sessions on Saturday. Youth (6th – 12th grade) activities will take place after worship on Friday (leave for Camp Bethel) and Saturday.

Mark your calendars, make your meal reservations, and plan to attend the 2019 Virlina District Conference on November 8 & 9!
October
Middle & High School Events

Sunday, October 6
5:00 p.m. — Volunteer at the Rescue Mission

Friday, October 11
7:00 p.m. — Patrick Henry vs. Salem football. Come see the PH band during halftime, led by drum major, Rose Harvey! The game is at PHHS, and we will sit on the PH side.

Sunday, October 13
6:00 p.m. — R. U. Noteworthy concert at the church (Amanda Marcum’s group)

Monday, October 14
4:00 p.m. — Senior Highs meet at Little Green Hive for coffee and games.

Wednesday, October 23
5:45 p.m. — Meal in the fellowship hall
6:30 p.m. — Youth Bible study

Sunday, October 27
11:00 a.m. — Workcamp and National Jr. High Conference reports
5:00 p.m. — Love Feast

Wednesday, October 30
5:45 p.m. — Meal in the fellowship hall
6:30 p.m. — Youth Bible study

Weddings

Brooke Ellyn Sauerwald and William Taylor Martin were married on August 10, 2019, at Smith Mountain Lake. They live in Roanoke, where Brooke is in her second year of her Doctorate of Physical Therapy program. Taylor is a project manager/site supervisor for The Branch Group.


Parents of the Bride are Susan Shober Sauerwald and Stephen Shumate. Officiant was Carol Hipps Elmore.

Special thanks to Rena’ and Garland Brown and John and Phillip King, who helped us make our day run smoothly!!

Oak Grove member, Bryan Hunger, and his longtime and often long-distance girlfriend, Agnes Chen, were married on August 24, 2019, in a small family ceremony. The service took place at the Washington City Church of the Brethren on Capitol Hill and was officiated by the church’s pastors, Nate and Jen Hosler.

Most of you know that their journey to this point was much more than just a courtship, an engagement, and a wedding. After meeting at a social gathering in D.C., when they were working as volunteers for different church organizations, they endured years of separation, months of uncertainty, and countless days of government hurdles.

Their amazing desire to be together, aided by a whole lot of Skype, helped them persevere and reach their incredible “I do” moment at the same church they attended when they first started dating.

Bryan and Agnes reside in Silver Spring, Maryland, and continue to work for peace and social justice issues.

Nursery Schedule for October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Babies</th>
<th>Preschool</th>
<th>Children’s Church</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>Stephanie Robinson &amp; Alli Yingling</td>
<td>Randall Eakin &amp; Susan Lindsey</td>
<td>Gloria Harmon &amp; Julie Ann Pullen</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>Carol Hambleton &amp; Rena’ Brown</td>
<td>Tanya &amp; Maggie Pizzullo</td>
<td>Gloria Harmon &amp; Julie Ann Pullen</td>
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<td>October 20</td>
<td>Robin Craighead &amp; Emily Nelson</td>
<td>Ellen &amp; Laura Phillips</td>
<td>Gloria Harmon &amp; Julie Ann Pullen</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>Marc &amp; Mary Wilson</td>
<td>Kate Elmore</td>
<td>Gloria Harmon &amp; Julie Ann Pullen</td>
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</table>
Regular giving

Financial sharing is an important spiritual discipline for Christians, one that we take seriously at Oak Grove. Three significant New Testament passages which shape our thinking on regular, thoughtful giving are:

- Acts 2:45 and 4:32-37, which describe financial sharing as one of several activities that took place when believers were together. Here, giving is focused \textit{locally on immediate} needs in the congregation.
- 1 Corinthians 16:1-4, in which Paul tells the congregation that they should save some of their money and bring it to worship each week, accumulating a love offering that would be taken to Jerusalem to assist in famine relief. In this case, the vision for giving is both \textit{long-term and global}: we have a spiritual connection to other believers, even if we will never meet them.

These examples highlight the active quality of financial sharing: it is a thoughtful, intentional spiritual practice that is an indication of our commitment to Christ and to one another.

At Oak Grove, we emphasize giving to regular offerings, special offerings, and other material offerings (like backpack meals or clean-up buckets) through “Moment for Mission” stories. We hope these stories call our vision to the ways our congregation impacts the lives of other persons.

In order to facilitate giving, we have several giving options (including a new option) that are available. As you consider how you give, find the method that enables you to give regularly in response to God’s grace.

- First, you may contribute weekly (or some other regular pattern) on Sunday morning. The finance committee orders numbered envelopes to help with anonymity and record keeping. These are available late each calendar year.
- Second, several Oak Grove members have set up automatic withdrawals with their bank. These checks come in the mail and are counted with the next Sunday’s offering. Talk with your bank if this seems convenient for you.
- Third, Oak Grove has set up an account with Tithely. This is a smartphone app that enables you to make a credit or bank card contribution. Simply download the app, set up an account, identify our church as the recipient, and you are prepared to give. When I used this app, it took me approximately 7 minutes from start (finding the app) to finish (making a contribution).

This service does include a small service charge. I chose to make a $10.61 contribution so that the church would receive an even $10.00. Tithely can also be set up to offer a weekly giving reminder, and helpful piece that technology makes very easy.

We will soon be placing a link to Tithely on our website, enabling people to give that way as well.

Our worship in October will continue our emphasis on discipleship through the sermon series “Margin.” As you consider your pledge to our congregation for 2020, we encourage you to take this opportunity to consider all aspects of your financial sharing with our congregation. Feel free to choose the giving method that works best for you.

Pastor Tim

Giving Report, through August
Offerings - $ 178,770
Expenses - $ 186,239
Short - $ 7,469

Upcoming Service Opportunity
Heritage Day, October 5
Fall Bazaar, October 19
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<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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<td>5:00 pm — Parkland Group Study</td>
<td>9:00 am — Crafts</td>
<td>12:00 pm — Lunch at Firehouse Subs then caroling</td>
<td>6:00 pm — Ministry &amp; Worship</td>
<td>12:30 pm — Backpack</td>
<td>7:00 pm — Youth go to football game at PHHS</td>
<td>9:30 am — Staunton Ave. Food Distribution</td>
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<td>5:00 pm — Youth at Rescue Mission</td>
<td>5:30 pm — Property</td>
<td>5:30 pm — Handbells</td>
<td>7:00 pm — Peace Group</td>
<td>12:30 pm — Backpack</td>
<td>7:00 pm — Joyful Hearts</td>
<td>8:00 am — Fall Bazaar</td>
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<td>1:30 pm — CROP Walk</td>
<td>9:00 am — Crafts</td>
<td>11:00 am — Munch Bunch @ Brambleton Deli</td>
<td>11:00 am — Meal at Antioch CoB</td>
<td>12:30 pm — Backpack</td>
<td>12:30 pm — Backpack</td>
<td>8:00 am — Fall Bazaar</td>
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<td>2:00 pm — Harmon baby shower</td>
<td>4:00 pm — Sr. Highs go to Little Green Hive</td>
<td>5:30 pm — Handbells</td>
<td>6:00 pm — Munch Bunch @ Brambleton Deli</td>
<td>7:00 pm — Choir</td>
<td>7:00 pm — Joyful Hearts</td>
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<td>6:00 pm — RU Noteworthy concert</td>
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<td>Pledge Cards Received</td>
<td>9:00 am — Crafts</td>
<td>5:30 pm — Handbells</td>
<td>5:45 pm — Meal at Antioch CoB</td>
<td>10:30 am — Joyful Hearts</td>
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<td>5:00 pm — Parkland Group Study</td>
<td>5:00 pm — Disaster Volunteer Appreciation Dinner</td>
<td>5:30 pm — Handbells</td>
<td>6:30 pm — Bible Study</td>
<td>12:30 pm — Backpack</td>
<td>6:30 pm — Caregivers Support Group</td>
<td>10:30 am — Joyful Hearts</td>
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<td>5:00 pm — Disaster Volunteer Appreciation Dinner</td>
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<td>5:00 pm — Love Feast</td>
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<td>5:45 pm — Meal at Antioch CoB</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 am — Youth reports</td>
<td>9:00 am — Crafts</td>
<td>5:30 pm — Handbells</td>
<td>5:45 pm — Meal at Antioch CoB</td>
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<td>12:30 pm — Backpack</td>
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**Setup for Bazaar**

**Pack-up of Bazaar**

**Coming in November . . .**

- November 2 — Fall Workday at Camp Bethel
- November 3 — Fall Council Meeting
- November 8 & 9 — District Conference
- November 17 — Church Board Retreat
- November 21 — Joyful Hearts Thanksgiving Luncheon
- November 24 — Community Thanksgiving Service