

Pastor:
Tim Harvey

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

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(540) 774-3217

**DEADLINE FOR
FEBRUARY
JANUARY 15**

**NEWSLETTER
COMMITTEE:**

Rena' Brown
Carolyn Broyles
Nancy Hylton
Josephine Keller
Bryana Lackey
Emily Nelson

**CHURCH OFFICE
SECRETARY HOURS:**
Tuesday-Friday
9:00-2:00 p.m.

THE VISITOR

JANUARY 2023

Published by:

Oak Grove Church of the Brethren

2138 McVitty Road, SW
Roanoke, VA 24018

Join us on Sundays

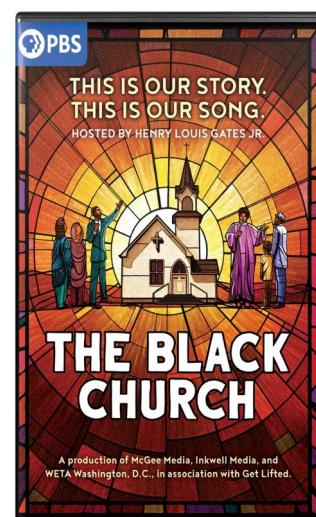
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m.

January Sermons and Scripture

- January 1** Horace Light preaching; Pastor Tim on vacation
- January 8** Bill Pugh preaching for his 51st ordination anniversary
- January 15** Great Prayers of the Church
Prayers of Orientation (all is well)
- January 22** Great Prayers of the Church
Prayers of Disorientation (nothing is well)
- January 29** Great Prayers of the Church
Prayers of Reorientation (a new wellness)

Join the Peace & Justice group for two Saturdays in January for a special showing of the PBS documentary *The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song*. Narrator Henry Louis Gates, Jr. will walk us through the history of Black church in America over the past 400 years. The documentary highlights the important role the African American religion has played in Black community and in the American story. Watch the trailer [HERE](#).

We will gather on January 21, 2023 (part 1) and 28, 2023 (part 2) at 3:00 p.m. Each meeting will start with a video (2 hours) followed by a discussion. Light refreshments will also be served.



Any questions, contact Ellen Phillips at enphillips4@gmail.com.

Church News

Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

- ...**Alice Foutz**, recovering from a stroke
- ...**Misty King**, infection
- ...**Randall Eakin**, urology issues

Alice Foutz is residing at Pheasant Ridge Nursing and Rehab Center.
Address:
4355 Pheasant Ridge Rd
Roanoke, VA 24014

Dear friends in the We Care Committee,

Thank you so much for providing a lovely and tasty spread of food after mom’s service. It was healing and affirming to be able to gather with friends and family in the Fellowship Hall.

Sincerely,
Lorrie and the rest of the family of Dolores Huffman

Strategic Task Team called

At its December 4 meeting, the Oak Grove Church Board approved the formation of a Strategic Task Team to examine Oak Grove’s budget and current levels of giving and propose strategies for funding the mission and ministries of the congregation in a fiscally responsible and sustainable manner.

Members of this team are Horace Light, Todd Marcum, Emily Nelson, Sam Phillips, and Marc Wilson, with Board Chair Connie Bierly and Pastor Tim Harvey serving as ex-officio members.

Offerings YTD	244,897
Expenses YTD	264,619
Offerings to Expenses (Short)	(19,722)

Happy Birthday

- 1– Emily Nelson
- 3– Peter Lubbs
- 8– Barbara Mann
- 10– Wanda Lynch
- 11– Tyler Broyles
- 19– Jonna Detweiler
- 22– Coulton Janney
- 24– Wallace Thompson
- 26– Dennis Ferguson
- 27– Shelly Haas
- 28– Maggie Pizzullo
- 30– Andrew King

Happy Anniversary

- 1– Nelson & Nancy Hylton
- 1– Dan & Kris Lubbs
- 23– Jim & Margie Shaver



Project WARM
January 28, 2023

Oak Grove Family ,

I want to thank you for the generous gift you gave me for Pastor Appreciation Month, in October. In other years, I have been given wonderful restaurant gift cards (which I have LOVED!). This year, the gift card was to Belk, which was a special blessing to me uniquely this year. Frankly, I have changed sizes over 2022, and being able to go and get a few new things was SO nice.

Thank you for being you...loving people who care about the individual. I'm grateful to be among you ministers.

Love,
Carol Elmore



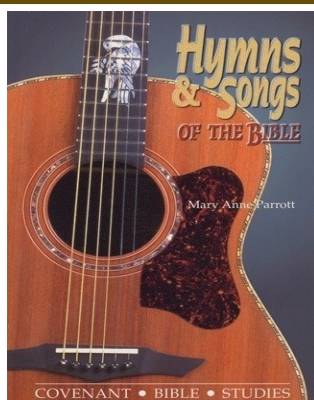
Bill Pugh celebrates 51 years as an ordained minister

On Sunday, January 8, 2023 the Virlina District will recognize Bill Pugh for 51 years as an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren. The recognition will be led by Bruce Huffman, representing the Virlina District Ministry Commission. Bill will preach that morning, reflecting on his experiences as a pastor and on Jesus' "high priestly prayer" from John 17.



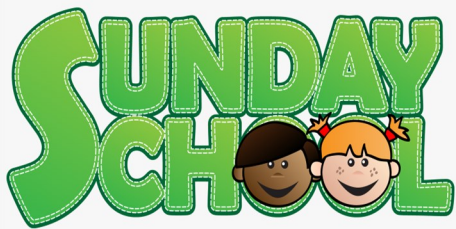
The Friendship Class(Fellowship and Disciples class combined) is having a New Year's Banquet at Camp Bethel on Saturday, January 14, 2023. The meal will be served at 12:30 p.m. The menu includes chicken parmesan, seasoned broccoli, seasoned roasted red potatoes, mixed green salad and dessert, plus rolls and beverages. The price of \$20.00 for the meal includes table service rather than going through the buffet line.

For those who would like to carpool from the church at 11:15 a.m., let us know that you are meeting us there. Reservations are due by January 1, 2023. Payments may be given to Carolyn Broyles or Rena' Brown. Friends are welcome!



Would you like to join in on a new women's Bible Study small group? We will start fresh in January 12 at 9:00 a.m. and study "Hymns & Songs of the Bible". (No, you don't even have to sing, but you can if you want!) We will meet about ten Thursday mornings in a row in our fellowship hall. The book is \$13.

Let [Carol Elmore](#) know that you would like to join!

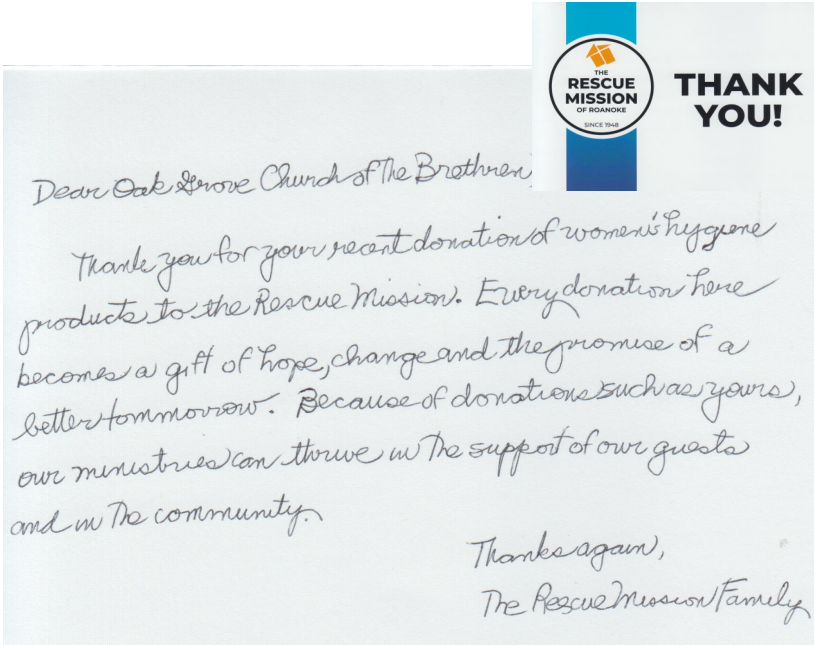


New Sunday School Class for 1st-5th Graders

Carol Elmore will be teaching a Faith Discovery Sunday School Class on what it means to follow Jesus. This will be Jan 15, 22, and 29 from 10:00-10:45 a.m. (right after Sing and Shout starting at 9:45 a.m.).

We will meet upstairs beside the youth room. We will talk about Jesus, baptism, Oak Grove, a little about the wider CoB. We will use games, charts, and stories to share Biblical understandings. Have your child bring their Bible, if they have one.

Let [Carol](#) know if you want your children to be a part!



God Helps
by Barbara Mann

As days and years go moving on
we find too soon our time is gone
and realize that every day
should have some time to bow and pray.

God up above hears every word
and helps us when our prayers are heard.

Camp Bethel News

Camp Bethel Winter Camp Youth & Kids' Retreat
January 7-8, 2023

A fun and spiritual overnight camp for kids in grades 1-5 and youth grades 6-12.

\$75 includes meals, lodging, games, Bible Study, crafts, campfire, and more!
Go to campbethelvirginia.org/wintercamp to register today! Oak Grove will help pay half of your registration fee!

2023 Summer Camp info & registration will open January 8!

Go to campbethelvirginia.org/camps for more information!

Camp Bethel 2023 Summer Camps						
	Young Elementary ages 5-8	Older Elementary ages 8-12	Middle School Resident ages 12-15	Middle School Adventures ages 12-15	Trips/Skills Camps ages 12-18	High School Resident & Adv ages 15-18
Week 1 June 11-16	Mini Camp 1 A (Sun-Tue) Mini Camp 1 B (Wed-Fri)	Elem Resident 1 Elem Resident + Tube 1 Elem 3-Day 1 (Wed-Fri)	MS Resident 1 MS Resident + Tube 1	MS Adv Canoe Cave Climb 1 MS Adventure Tube 1	James River Canoe Adv 1	
Week 2 June 18-23	Knee-High Day Camp 2	Elem Resident 2 Elem Resident + Eques 2 Elem Adventure 2	MS Resident 2 Digital Arts 2	MS Adv WWRaft Tube 2	New River Canoe Trip 2 Digital Arts 2	HS Resident 2 HS Resident + Tube 2 HS Adv WWRaft Tube 2
Week 3 June 25-30	Knee-High Day Camp 3	Elem Resident 3 Elem Resident + Tube 3 Elem Day Camp 3	MS Resident 3 MS Resident + Tube 3	MS Adv Bike Canoe Climb 3	Backpacking Trip 3 Kayaking Adv 3	HS Adv Bike Canoe Climb 3 Backpacking Trip 3 Kayaking Adv 3
Week 4 July 2-7	Mini Camp 4 A (Sun-Tue) Mini Camp 4 B (Wed-Fri)	Elem Resident 4 Elem Resident + Eques 4 Elem 3-Day 4 (Wed-Fri)	MS Resident 4 MS Res + Eques 4	MS Adventure Explorers 4 MS Adv Canoe Tube 4	Paddlesports Adv 4 Mtns-Beach-Bay Trip 4	Paddlesports Adv 4 Mtns-Beach-Bay 4
Week 5 July 9-14	Knee-High Day Camp 5	Elem Resident 5 Camp Too Sweet 5	MS Resident 5 Camp Too Sweet 5	MS Adv Cave Climb Tube 5		Camp Too Sweet 5
Week 6 July 16-21	Mini Camp 6 A (Sun-Tue) Mini Camp 6 B (Wed-Fri)	Elem Resident 6 Elem Resident + Tube 6 Elem Resident + Eques 6 Elem Adventure + Tube 6 Elem 3-Day 6 (Sun-Tue)	MS Resident 6 MS Res + Eques 6	MS Adv Bike Canoe Tube 6 MS Adventure Tube 6		HS Adv Bike Canoe Tube 6
Week 7 July 23-28			See MS Adventures & Trips/Skills Camps	MS Moonrise Adv 7 MS Adv Bike WWRaft 7 MS Adv Canoe Climb 7	Backpacking Trip 7 United Mountain Adv Trip 7	HS Moonrise Adv 7 HS Adv Bike WWRaft 7 HS Adv Canoe Climb 7 Backpacking Trip 7



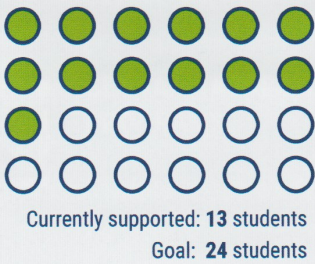
OUR MISSION: As an innovative learning community, grounded in faith, Bethany empowers every student to lead through spiritual engagement, academic excellence, and service to the world.



There’s a Place for You at Bethany!

Bethany Theological Seminary is committed to helping all qualified students to answer their call from God and receive an exceptional education without taking on additional educational or consumer debt. As many seminaries have struggled with enrollment, our vibrant community has grown — and we have room for more students, both studying from a distance or joining our on-campus community and living in our “Neighborhood” of houses a few steps from campus.

In recent years the Seminary has dramatically reduced total student borrowing, even as enrollment has grown. Participants in our Pillars and Pathways Residential Scholars program receive reduced tuition, free housing, living stipends, work opportunities, and a course in Conscious Financial Living with a goal of helping students earn Bethany degrees without taking on additional student or consumer debt.

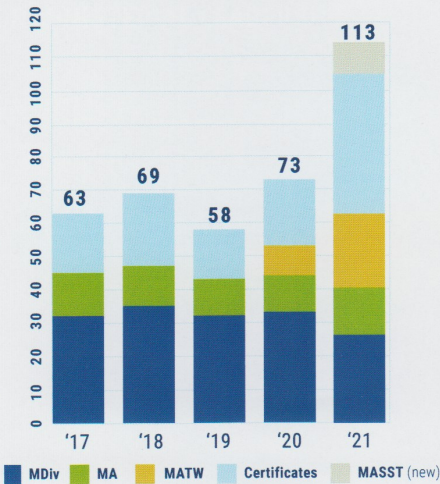


“THE NEIGHBORHOOD” AT-A-GLANCE:

- Bethany has **seven** houses with capacity for up to **24** students, living in community.
- Cost per student: **\$9,000** (tuition, housing, living stipend, and books)

5-YEAR ENROLLMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Historical Headcount



TOTAL AMOUNT BORROWED BY ALL STUDENTS, PER YEAR



Pastor's Column

SAVE THE DATE!!!! Congregational Retreat – February 3-5, 2023

Before you read any farther, reserve February 3-5 on both your appointment calendar and your prayer calendar and make plans to participate in our upcoming congregational retreat. But first, let's back up just a bit...

FEBRUARY 2023						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		01	02	03	04	05
				CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT		

I began my Pastor's Report at last spring's Council Meeting by playing a few measures of Cher's song, *If I could turn back time*. My question for you that day was, "If you could go back in time to when things were 'normal,' what year would you choose?" Many of you mentioned 2019 or 2020, as that was prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. Several persons specifically mentioned the retreat with Paul Munday held in February 2020.

That was a particularly energetic season in our life together. Our enthusiasm was high; the creation of a new young adult Sunday School class resulted in Sunday School attendance regularly touching the low 90's; and there was a growing good spirit around our Love Feast. As we all know, the pandemic has left us rebuilding congregational life. We've worked hard on that over the past 18 months, and this retreat is designed to help continue those efforts.

Our retreat leader is Brian Messler, pastor of the Ephrata (PA) Church of the Brethren. Brian has served Church of the Brethren congregations for many years—including serving as an Associate Pastor at Frederick (MD) Church of the Brethren when Paul Munday was pastor. Brian is energetic, innovative, and passionate in his love of Jesus, and the Ephrata congregation is both growing in number and is growing younger. The congregation is active in the community in ways that we will find familiar. Visit their website (<https://ecob.church/>) and their Facebook page to learn more about Brian and the Ephrata congregation.

Brian and I have had several conversations about how we will spend our time together. We will continue to fine tune the topics around several questions:

- How does the phrase *Jesus in the Oak Grove neighborhood* shape our imagination?
- What does commitment look like in post-pandemic congregational life?
- How do we connect with younger persons?
- How do we shift from service ministries to disciple-making ministries?

**CONGREGATIONAL
RETREAT**

**"Jesus in the
Oak Grove neighborhood"**

February 3-5, 2023



**BRIAN MESSLER, PASTOR
EPHRATA (PA)
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

I look forward to how God will work in and through us in the next season of our life.

Pastor Tim

January 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 No Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship	2 9 a.m.-ESL	3 5:30 p.m.- Handbells 7 p.m.-Peace & Justice (Zoom)	4 9 a.m.-ESL 7 p.m.-Choir	5 2 p.m.-Games 5:30 p.m.-Evan. & Membership 5:30 p.m.-Mission & Services 6 p.m.- Christian Ed.	6 Youth Hockey Game 	7 Camp Bethel Winter Camp January 7-8
8 9:45 a.m.- SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship Bill Pugh Recognition 1 p.m. Church Board	9 9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.- ESL 12:30 p.m.- Backpack 6 p.m.- Northern Area Ministers	10 5:30 p.m.- Handbells 7:30 p.m.- Youth Zoom	11 9 a.m.-ESL 7 p.m.-Choir	12 9 a.m.- Women's Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games	13	14 12:30 p.m.- Friendship Class at Camp Bethel
15 9:45 a.m.-SS 10 a.m.- New Faith Discovery Class 11:00 a.m.- Worship	16 9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL	17 5:30 p.m.- Handbells	18 9 a.m.-ESL 7 p.m.-Choir	19 9 a.m.- Women's Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games	20	21 3 p.m.- Peace and Justice movie
22 9:45 a.m.-SS 10 a.m.- New Faith Discovery Class 11:00 a.m.- Worship	23 9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL 12:30 p.m.- Backpack	24 5:30 p.m.- Handbells 7:30 p.m.- Youth Zoom	25 9 a.m.-ESL 7 p.m.- Choir	26 9 a.m.- Women's Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games	27	28 7:30 a.m.- Project WARM 3 p.m.- Peace & Justice movie
29 9:45 a.m.-SS 10 a.m.- New Faith Discovery Class 11:00 a.m.- Worship	30 9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL	31 5:30 p.m.- Handbells	<div>Upcoming: <i>Congregational Retreat February 3-5, 2023</i></div> <div>Happy <i>New Year</i> 2023</div>			