

**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  
MARCH  
FEBRUARY 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

FEBRUARY 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.***

### February Sermons and Scripture

**February 5-** Brian Messler preaching; retreat conclusion

**February 12-** Great Prayers of the Church – Morning  
Prayers – Lamentations 3:22-30

**February 19-** Great Prayers of the Church – Evening  
Prayers – Psalm 141

**February 22-** Ash Wednesday Services  
12:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

**February 26-** First Sunday of Lent  
*Jesus is Tested* – Matthew 4:1-11

## 2023 Church Retreat February 3-5 *Jesus in the Neighborhood*



**Brian Messler, Pastor**  
**Ephrata Church of the Brethren**



# Church News

**Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:**

- ...**Dennis Shearer**, declared cancer free!
- ...**Betty Phillips**, arm and leg pain
- ...**Sherry Milliron**, recovering at home
- ...**Vicki Turner**, running tests

*We want to thank everyone for the cards, calls, visits, prayers and attendance after my mother's passing on January 3, 2023. We are both so thankful for our wonderful church family here at Oak Grove.*

*With love and appreciation,  
Susan A Simmons and Evan Jacobs*

*Sympathy and prayers to the family of Cindy Grant who passed away January 19, 2023. She is the daughter of Phyllis Meadows, the mother of Jenny Grant, and the niece of Dea Underwood.*

Alice Foutz has moved to:  
Brookdale Memory Care  
1127 Persinger Rd. SW, Room 31  
Roanoke, VA 24015

**Our Shelter**  
by Barbara Mann



No one will ever be as true  
as our dear God for me and you.  
He helps us when we ask for aid  
and listens to each prayer we've prayed.

Our Shelter is our God above  
Who looks upon us with great love.

**Wednesday Night Bible Study**  
**February 1st and 8th**  
**Meal at 5:45 p.m.**  
**Study at 6:30 p.m.**

**Women's Bible Study**  
**Thursdays**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Fellowship Hall**

# Happy Birthday

- 1– Michael Craighead
- 2– Rhonda Marcum
- 5– Norm Pullen
- 6– Sam Phillips
- 7– Mark Detweiler
- 10– Rose Harvey
- 12– Emma Jean Woodard
- 12– Sylvia Shepherd
- 14– Dayna Cook
- 15– Nelson Musselman
- 17– Ben Phillips
- 18– Lincoln Yingling
- 19– Kathie Robinson
- 20– Gabriel Wimmer
- 20– Gina Wright-Hawkins
- 24– Jamie Knox
- 24– Carol Hambleton
- 28– Lucy Pullen

# Happy Anniversary

- 9– Gil & Vada Henshaw
- 19– David & Eowyn Hernandez
- 20– Brent & Sherrie White

**Offering Envelopes**

Because congregational giving patterns have evolved over the years—with more people giving through newer methods like the Tithely app or direct payments from bank/retirement accounts, the Finance Commission did not order offering envelopes for 2023.

If you would like to have offering envelopes, we have plenty left over from previous years. Contact [Emily Nelson](#), and she will prepare a box for you.

**December 2022 Financials**

Offerings YTD	\$270,661.17
Expenses YTD	\$288,252.14
Deficit	(\$ 17,590.97)





Speaker:

**Michaela Alphonse**

Pastor, Miami First Church of the Brethren



**Contact and Follow us:**

iyroundtable@gmail.com

<https://iyroundtable.wixsite.com/iycbc>

@interdistrictyouthcabinet



Interdistrict Youth Cabinet





**PLEASE JOIN THE VIRGINIA RACE EDUCATION TEAM FOR AN AFTERNOON AT ROANOKE COLLEGE AS PART OF OUR "NECESSARY CONVERSATIONS" SERIES.**

**What:** *a conversation featuring Dr. Jennifer McCloud and Professor Karin Kaerwer*

Our discussion will examine the "colorblind" attempt at inclusion, which tends to ignore or obscure diverse racial and ethnic identities. While often well-intentioned in an attempt to love through and across differences on spiritual grounds, not "seeing color" ignores the material and concrete experiences of individuals, particularly people of color. We will discuss alternative approaches to inclusion in our schools and communities.

**Who:** *All are welcome!*

This event is free

Please allow time to park in either Visitor Parking Lot 10 at the corner of Perry Drive and Maxey Way or East Parking Lot on Market Street. Colket is accessible and there is an elevator to the second floor.

Follow this link for directions to campus and an interactive campus map: [https://www.roanoke.edu/about/visit/maps\\_and\\_directions](https://www.roanoke.edu/about/visit/maps_and_directions).

**Why:** *to educate ourselves on how to love our neighbors*

The "Necessary Conversations" series was developed by the Virginia Race Education Team to talk about topics in the church that might seem scary. Through these conversations we aim to learn more about servant leadership and how we may minister to those who are racially marginalized in our community.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH AT 3:00 PM**  
**ROANOKE COLLEGE: WORTMANN BALLROOM, COLKET CENTER**



## *Camp Bethel News*



### SOLO Wilderness First Aid Training, February 25-26, 2023 at Camp Bethel

*This certification (along with CPR/AED) meets the American Camp Association Standard ST.3.1 and ST.3.2.*

*Training by SOLO-Wilderness Emergency Medicine. [www.soloschools.com](http://www.soloschools.com)*

**Dates:** February 25 (Saturday 8:30am) through February 26 (Sunday 5:00pm), 2023.

**Place:** Camp Bethel, 328 Bethel Road, Fincastle, VA 24090.

**Cost:** \$218/person for WFA only (includes Sat lunch, Sat dinner & Sun lunch).

**Optional:** February 24 (Friday 6:30pm-10:00pm) Adult/Child CPR w/ AED training; \$48/person.

**Registration Deadline for both courses is February 15, 2023!**





# Camp Bethel News



## Sounds of the Mountains Storytelling Festival

March 31-April 1, 2023 at Camp Bethel in Fincastle, VA  
[www.SoundsoftheMountains.org](http://www.SoundsoftheMountains.org)

### 2023 Summer Camp info & registration is OPEN!

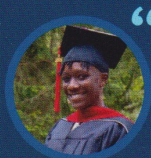
Go to  
[campbethelvirginia.org/camps](http://campbethelvirginia.org/camps)  
for more  
information!

### 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	
<b>Week 1</b> 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		<b>Week 1</b>
<b>Week 2</b> 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	<b>Week 2</b>
<b>Week 3</b> 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	<b>Week 3</b>
<b>Week 4</b> 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	<b>Week 4</b>
<b>Week 5</b> 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	<b>Week 5</b>
<b>Week 6</b> 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	<b>Week 6</b>
<b>Week 7</b> 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	<b>Week 7</b>



an Anabaptist and Radical Pietist witness, Bethany Theological Seminary  
faith-filled thought, and transformative practice — so that the world flourishes.



“When I was considering graduate school programs, I didn’t want to put additional financial burdens on my parents. I have lived in community for most of my life, so that was an attractive aspect of the Neighborhood as well. Bethany has been a wonderful choice for me.”  
/SUSUYU LASSA, MASST 2022



“I consider The Neighborhood a type of ‘deep community’ that allows students to build something bigger than themselves. It’s nice to put work into something and see it grow.”  
/PHIL COLLINS, MDIV STUDENT



“I follow each student’s financial journey closely to ensure that they have the resources needed to make smart financial choices now and in the future.”  
/TERRI MITCHELL, FINANCIAL AID AND ENROLLMENT ASSISTANT



“At Bethany, we believe that financial concerns should not be an obstacle to students answering a call from God to ministry and service. Providing an education that is exceptional, accessible, and affordable is our core mission.”  
/REV. DR. JEFF CARTER, PRESIDENT

## Making Seminary Affordable

### 85 PERCENT TUITION DISCOUNT

Thanks to the generous support of alumni and friends, and the careful investment of our resources, Bethany is very affordable.

### GENEROUS FINANCIAL AID

Most students pay only the base tuition of \$1,100 per semester, qualifying for enough financial aid to cover the remaining costs.

### TYPES OF AID AVAILABLE

- Academic Excellence Scholarship
- Church Covenant Grant
- Pillars and Pathways Residential Scholarship
- Need-based grant
- Federal Work-Study
- Federal Stafford Loans
- International student aid







January 09, 2023

Roanoke, Oak Grove Church of the Brethren  
2138 McVitty Rd SW  
Roanoke, VA 24018

Dear Oak Grove Friends,

Grace and peace to you. I give thanks for your ministry and the hope you carried throughout this year. Bethany Seminary continues to provide a home for innovative and creative biblical and theological education. Through a vibrant residential program and a robust commitment to distance education technology, Bethany prepares leaders to serve the church and the world. We count on the support of congregations to ensure that this vitally important work can continue.

Roanoke, Oak Grove Church of the Brethren's giving to Bethany Theological Seminary for calendar year 2022 totaled \$2,000.00. The gifts calculated in this total were processed between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022. On behalf of all students, faculty, and staff, thank you for your financial support.

I encourage you to share in the education you are helping to provide by reading *Wonder & Word* magazine and visiting Bethany's website for news, information, and educational opportunities as well as sharing this information with members and friends of your congregation. We appreciate your recommendation of individuals in whom you see the gifts of ministry so that we may be in conversation with them about their journey.

Support from Church of the Brethren congregations demonstrates that our combined gifts can accomplish more than any of us could on our own. Thank you for sharing your resources with Bethany ... so that the world flourishes.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam".

Sam Locke  
Executive Director of Institutional Advancement

**Oak Grove Church of the  
Brethren Build  
Retreat Build**

**Saturday, February 4, 2023  
8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.**

**Bed Build Site:  
1409 Colorado St  
Salem, VA 24153**





# *Pastor's Column*

**Congregational Retreat – February 3-5, 2023**

Nearing the end of his life, the Apostle Paul offered this reflection on his ministry:

I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7).



This is a tremendous affirmation of faith. Paul's dramatic encounter with Jesus transformed him from a persecutor of the church into its greatest missionary and theologian. Paul gave the remainder of his life to travelling throughout the Roman world, sharing the gospel, planting churches, calling leaders, and confronting unrighteousness. Importantly, he can pass the baton to the next

generation *because* those churches and leaders will continue the work.

Like a compelling Olympic relay race, the baton of faith has continued to be passed down through the generations. Our own congregation has witnessed the baton being passed from a group of Brethren from the Peters Creek congregation who began ministry in the Oak Grove community in the early 1900's, to some of your hands in the 1960's when our congregation built our current meeting house. Now the baton is in our hands. As we run our leg of the relay of faith, how are we preparing to pass the baton to those who will follow us?

In a sermon last fall, I posed the following scenario as one way for us to consider the work of this generation. As we approach our congregational retreat, I share it again for your consideration:

Imagine it's the year 2048—25 years from now. Think about the children and youth who are part of our congregation today, and imagine that they're still here in 2048, serving as deacons, board chairs, preachers, and music leaders. As they prepare for a congregational retreat, what decisions might we make *now* that will be celebrated *then*?

There are a few of you here who might reasonably expect to be here with your children in 25 years. Can you imagine a Sunday dinner when one of your now adult children asks, "How did our church come to make the decisions that brought us here?" Your answer might go something like this: "Let me tell you about 2020—when we had an encouraging congregational retreat that was followed by a pandemic and some very divisive politics in our nation. When things returned to normal, we realized that much of what we had been so excited about in early 2020 wasn't working so well, and we came to see we had some decisions to make: we could continue in the pattern and rhythms that had served us so well for so long, or we could recognize that what got us to the first quarter of 2020 was not going to take us into the future.

*continued on the next page...*



We chose to seek the leading of the Spirit in a new way; to trust God and one another; to risk change; to be a church that would serve the needs of our children and grandchildren, even if we would not be alive to see them. We continue to value the traditions that served us for so many years, but our legacy to you was to learn how to be the church in a challenging season. We followed the lead of the denomination to prioritize being Jesus in the Neighborhood, and your presence in church is a testimony to that hard work. Our love for Jesus gave us the strength to embrace our moment and give him the glory forever and ever.”

Many of us have different ideas and perspectives and thoughts on this matter. We should hear them all. For me, the most pressing question for today is, “How can we be a church where our children and grandchildren find faith?”

*Pastor Tim*

#### **Congregational Retreat Schedule Friday, February 3**

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. **Congregational meeting** and *Chocolate Extravaganza* (coffee and dessert).

Saturday, February 4

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Church Board retreat session**

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Congregational Potluck meal

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. **Congregational session**

Sunday, February 5

9:45 a.m. **All-church Sunday School session**

11:00 a.m. **Worship**, (Brian Messler preaching) including communion





<div>February 2023</div> <div>LENT</div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<div>February 15, 2023</div> <div>11:00 a.m.</div> <div>Join the Munch Bunch</div> <div>at 611 Steakhouse this</div> <div>month!</div>		<div>1</div> <div>9 a.m.-ESL</div> <div>5:45 p.m.-</div> <div>Dinner</div> <div>6:30 p.m.-</div> <div>Bible Study</div> <div>7:30 p.m.-</div> <div>Choir</div>	<div>2</div> <div>9 a.m.-Bible Study</div> <div>2 p.m.-Games</div> <div>5:30 p.m.-Evan. &amp;</div> <div>Membership</div> <div>5:30 p.m.-Mission</div> <div>&amp; Services</div> <div>7:15 p.m.-</div> <div>Christian Ed.</div>	<div>3</div> <div><div>Congregational Retreat</div><div>(times on previous page)</div></div>	<div>4</div> <div>8:30 a.m.-</div> <div>SHP Bed</div> <div>Build</div>
<div>5</div> <div>9:45 a.m.-SS</div> <div>11:00 a.m.-</div> <div>Worship</div> <div>1 p.m.-</div> <div>Deacons</div> <div>Meeting</div>	<div>6</div> <div>9 a.m.- Crafts</div> <div>9 a.m.-ESL</div> <div>12:30 p.m.-</div> <div>Backpack</div>	<div>7</div> <div>5:30 p.m.-</div> <div>Handbells</div> <div>7 p.m.-Peace</div> <div>&amp; Justice</div> <div>(Zoom)</div>	<div>8</div> <div>9 a.m.-ESL</div> <div>5:45 p.m.-</div> <div>Dinner</div> <div>6:30 p.m.-</div> <div>Bible Study</div> <div>7:30 p.m.-</div> <div>Choir</div>	<div>9</div> <div>9 a.m.- Women's</div> <div>Bible Study</div> <div>11 a.m.-Good</div> <div>Samaritan in</div> <div>Fellowship Hall</div> <div>2 p.m.-Games</div>	<div>10</div>	<div>11</div>
<div>12</div> <div>9:45 a.m.-SS</div> <div>11:00 a.m.-</div> <div>Worship</div> <div>12:30p.m.-</div> <div>Executive</div> <div>Committee</div> <div>2 p.m.-</div> <div>Brethren Bowl</div>	<div>13</div> <div>9 a.m.- Crafts</div> <div>9 a.m.-ESL</div>	<div>14</div> <div>5:30 p.m.-</div> <div>Handbells</div> <div>7:30 p.m.-</div> <div>Youth Zoom</div>	<div>15</div> <div>9 a.m.-ESL</div> <div>11 a.m.-</div> <div>Munch</div> <div>Bunch</div> <div>7 p.m.-Choir</div>	<div>16</div> <div>9 a.m.- Women's</div> <div>Bible Study</div> <div>2 p.m.-Games</div>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div>
<div>19</div> <div>9:45 a.m.-SS</div> <div>11:00 a.m.-</div> <div>Worship</div> <div>3 p.m.- Peace</div> <div>&amp; Justice at</div> <div>Roanoke</div> <div>College</div>	<div>20</div> <div>9 a.m.- Crafts</div> <div>9 a.m.- ESL</div> <div>12:30 p.m.-</div> <div>Backpack</div>	<div>21</div> <div>5:30 p.m.-</div> <div>Handbells</div>	<div>22</div> <div>9 a.m.-ESL</div> <div>12:00 p.m.</div> <div>&amp; 6:30 p.m.-</div> <div>Ash</div> <div>Wednesday</div> <div>Services</div>	<div>23</div> <div>9 a.m.- Women's</div> <div>Bible Study</div> <div>2 p.m.-Games</div>	<div>24</div> <div><div>Youth at Roundtable at</div><div>Bridgewater</div><div>February 24-26, 2023</div></div>	<div>25</div> <div>7:30 a.m.-</div> <div>Project WARM</div>
<div>26</div> <div>First Sunday</div> <div>of Lent</div> <div>9:45 a.m.-SS</div> <div>11:00 a.m.-</div> <div>Worship</div>	<div>27</div> <div>9 a.m.- Crafts</div> <div>9 a.m.-ESL</div>	<div>28</div> <div>5:30 p.m.-</div> <div>Handbells</div> <div>7:30 p.m.-</div> <div>Youth</div> <div>Zoom</div>				