

Pastor:
Tim Harvey

**Minister of Nurture
and Music:**
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THE VISITOR

MARCH 2023

Published by:
Oak Grove Church of the Brethren
2138 McVitty Road, SW
Roanoke, VA 24018

LENT

Easter
SCHEDULE

Join us on Sundays
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.

Lent and Holy Week Sermons and Worship Services

March 5- Second Sunday of Lent
Mission. Luke 10:1-12

March 12- Third Sunday of Lent
Water. Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 14:28-30

March 19- Fourth Sunday of Lent
Sibling. Mark 3:31-35

March 26- Fifth Sunday of Lent
Sword? Matthew 26:52

April 2- Sixth Sunday of Lent – Palm Sunday
Donald Davis, guest preacher

April 6- Maundy Thursday
Love Feast
Love. John 13:1-15

April 7- Good Friday
Prayer services, 12 noon and 6:30 p.m.
Finished. John 19:30

April 9- Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service, 7:00 a.m. Jennifer Fletcher, Windsor Hills United Methodist Church Pastor, preaching
Easter Egg Hunt and Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Duck Donuts!
Easter Sunday worship with choral cantata, 11:00 a.m.

DEADLINE FOR
APRIL
MARCH 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.

Church News

Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

- ...**Mary Jo Burris**, recovering from fall
- ...**Waylon McDaniel**, VCU Pediatric ICU
- ...**Betty Phillips**, having leg pain and falling.
- ...**Rena’ Brown**, sciatica pain
- ...**Bill Whitlow**, running tests
- ...**Vicki Turner**, sprained knee

Sympathy and prayers for Katie Reep on the passing of her Aunt Ruby in February.

Prayers for the family of Thelma Gilmore (Garland Brown’s sister) as she has entered hospice care.

The Munch Bunch will be dining at Gina’s “food with flavor” on March 15, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. The address is 311 W Main St, Salem, VA 24153. Join us!



MEMORIES OF KINDNESS by Barbara Mann

A memory can bring joy or pain
as we remember once again
the good or bad we have lived through
and things we did or wanted to.

God bless the kindness in our heart
and let that be the biggest part
of what our lives show through our days.
Help us be good and kind always.

Happy Birthday

- 1– Eulaela Craighead
- 2– Olivia Hawkins
- 5– Emily Bender
- 9– Elaine Thompson
- 10– Tanya Pizzullo
- 11– Pat Wright
- 15– Bill Broyles
- 17– Steve Shumate
- 18– Phoebe Hart
- 20– Todd Marcum
- 23– Josh Eakin
- 28– Logan Pullen

Happy Anniversary

- 5– Bill & Carolyn Broyles



Men’s Bible Study

Plans for our new Men’s Bible Study are shaping up nicely. We will meet on Thursday March 9, 16, 23, and 30 here at Oak Grove at 6:30 p.m. Studying either *Abraham* or *Jonah*.

An important part of this introductory study will be determining how we can best move forward as a group—topics, night of the week, and frequency.

Join us with your curiosity and questions about faith and life, and your hopes and dreams for moving forward!

Westside Elementary School Book Project

The Westside Elementary School Book Project was started last year to provide new books to the students of Westside Elementary in Roanoke City. The project has included fund raising and donations from our church to provide interesting books for the diverse children of Westside from different races, cultures, and some who have come from geographic locations around the world.


Books were first given to Westside students last spring. On February 16, 2023, three of our wonderful church volunteers visited Westside to read to the students and give out books. Other church volunteers also visited Westside in February to read to our students. During the last two weeks of February, books were given out to every student at Westside (over 700 books!!)

Oak Grove members have expressed an interest In volunteering at Westside with both reading to classrooms and helping to distribute books when we have scheduled dates. We will probably be delivering our next set of books to Westside in May or June. The goal is that this project will be an ongoing mission of our church. We have started with a few Oak Grove volunteers, but hope to get more.

If would you like to help read or hand out books at Westside, please let Randall Eakin or Patricia Ronk know. Volunteer application forms are at church on the hallway display racks. They can be given to Randall or faxed or scanned to email to Randall. (Email and fax information is on the application.)

If you would like to donate to help us buy more books for the future, please let us know as well.





Church of the Brethren


January 30, 2023

Roanoke, Oak Grove Church of the Brethren42-645'
2138 McVitty Rd SW
Roanoke, VA 24018-1642

Dear Roanoke, Oak Grove Church of the Brethren,

With gratitude for your support and appreciation for your partnership in the missions and ministries of the Church of the Brethren, below please find a summary of your giving in 2022.

Thank you,



Traci Rabenstein
Director of Mission Advancement

Total

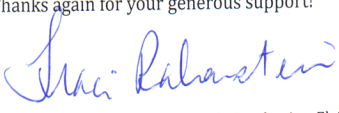
\$9,100.00

Thank you for giving to the missions and ministries of the Church of the Brethren. With gratitude, we acknowledge your support of:


12-31-2022 Core Ministries

You will receive a full annual giving statement in early February 2023. In the meanwhile, please reach out to the Office of Mission Advancement (at MA@brethren.org or 847-429-4370) with any questions.

Thanks again for your generous support!



Thank you



Church of the Brethren | 1451 Dundee Ave. Elgin, IL 60120 | www.brethren.org



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

PO BOX 116, Kimberly ID 83341 | 844-432-BEDS (2337) | www.shpbs.org

Dear Oak Grove Church of the Brethren,

On behalf of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Inc., its members, sponsors, volunteers and bed recipients, we would like to thank you for your generous donation. Many people don't know there are so many kids sleeping on the floor or in other uncomfortable situations and SHP aims to solve this crisis. This would not be possible without your generosity. Our mission is to see that **NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!**

Total: \$1,318.90

Again, we greatly appreciate your love and support for our cause and hope that we can continue to work with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Dear beloved community,


How I cherish the relationships I have with all of you. You have nurtured me for years, in all my comings and goings! I deeply appreciate your love and support.

The most recent example was your participation in my ordination service on January 29, 2023. You prayed, many of you came, the choir came and sang beautiful music, Carol lead the singing, Tim wrote and presented the Call to Worship, and many remembered me with messages and cards. I am truly blessed to have all of you along my faith journey.

May God continue to bless you in your endeavors to be Jesus in the neighborhood. You are amazing people!

May you continue to see God's presence in your lives individually and corporately!

*In Christ,
Patricia Ronk*



23 February 2023

Dear Members and Friends of Oak Grove Church of the Brethren, thank you so much for your planning and preparation of the service recognizing me for 51 years of service in the ministry. The opportunity to preach a sermon one more time was appreciated and it was nice the service included our granddaughter Madison to read the scripture.

We appreciate your efforts to plan, prepare and serve refreshments following the service and enjoying a meal at Famous Anthony's using the gift certificate you gave me.

I will always remember this day.

Bill Pugh

Camp Bethel News



Camp Bethel News



**Adam
BOOTH**

**Joe
COLLINS**

**Donald
DAVIS**

**Beth
HORNER**

**Kim
WEITKAMP**

Sounds of the Mountains Storytelling Festival

March 31-April 1, 2023 at Camp Bethel in Fincastle, VA

www.SoundsoftheMountains.org



SPRING VOLUNTEER WORKDAY IS SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023

Your help is needed to prepare camp for the Spring and Summer seasons. Jobs for all ages and sizes! Click [here](#) for a complete task list.

RSVP your 7:30 a.m. free breakfast and/or 1:00 p.m. free lunch by April 9, by calling 540-992-2940 or emailing CampBethelOffice@gmail.com.

Virlina District News

MINISTERS AND SPOUSES - MARCH 10-11, 2023

Our annual retreat is scheduled for March 10-11, 2023 at our own Camp Bethel. Leadership for the retreat will be David Radcliff, Director of the New Community Project and former denominational staff person. This retreat is sponsored by the Commission on Ministry of the Virlina District Board. It is for all ordained, commissioned and licensed ministers of the Virlina District, as well as lay speakers, and spouses. There is much time for fellowship and quiet reflection, in addition to worship and the program.

YOUTH RETREAT- MARCH 10-12, 2023

Senior High Youth there will be a high schoolers youth retreat on March 10-12, 2023 at Camp Bethel. FaithQuest had been previously announced, but isn't happening this year. For more information, contact [Carol Elmore](#) if you are interested in attending this fun and meaningful retreat!

PILGRIMAGE XXIV - MARCH 17-19, 2023

Pilgrimage XXIV (A FaithQuest for Adults) will be held March 17-19, 2023, at Camp Bethel. Pilgrimage is a weekend retreat for adults of all ages who want to spend some intimate time with our Creator and Redeemer. Filled with speakers, small groups, worship, reflection, and fun, Pilgrimage offers an opportunity for you to share and learn with others as we journey together on the road to a deeper relationship with God. God works in wonderful ways through this ministry! Prayerfully consider your personal participation. For more information, contact Karen Haynes at (336) 765- 5263.

AWAKENING SERVICES - MARCH 26-29, 2023

The Awakening Services for congregations in the Roanoke area, including Bedford, Botetourt and Franklin Counties, are scheduled to be held at the Peters Creek Church of the Brethren on March 26-29, 2023. These nightly services will feature the preaching of Jim Benedict, former pastor in Maryland and author of the most recent ethics curriculum. Bible studies will be held during the mornings of March 27-29 at selected area congregations. More information will be forthcoming.

An exceptional biblical and theological education,
accessible and affordable for all.

Bethany At-a-Glance



DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Master of Divinity
- Master of Arts
- Master of Arts: Theopoetics and Writing
- Master of Arts in Spiritual and Social Transformation



CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Certificate of Achievement in Theological Studies
- Certificate of Achievement in Biblical Peacemaking
- Certificate in Intercultural Biblical Interpretation
- Certificate in Just Peace and Conflict Resolution
- Certificate in Theopoetics and Theological Imagination



BETHANY ACADEMY FOR MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

- Education for a Shared Ministry
- Training in Ministry
- Educación para un Ministerio Compartido
- Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano-de la Iglesia de los Hermanos
- Learn more at bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy

Bethany's impact is possible because of the generosity of our friends.
Make a gift today at bethanyseminary.edu/donate

BETHANY QUICK FACTS

- **643** licensed or ordained pastors in the Church of the Brethren are graduates of Bethany Theological Seminary.
- **10 of 24** Church of the Brethren District Executives are Bethany graduates.
- We have expanded our educational partnership in Nigeria, hiring a full-time staff member to help build relationships with EYN and other denominations.
- In May, **15** students graduated with degrees from Bethany and another **5** completed training through the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership.
- This year, **114** students were enrolled at Bethany, pursuing master's degrees or certificates.
- Pillars and Pathways Residential Scholars serve more than a dozen non-profit organizations in the surrounding community, completing **312** volunteer hours per semester.
- Financial support from alumni and congregations during **2021** totaled **\$587,415.39**.



Pastor's Column

“Prequel”

Over the last several years I have enjoyed shows like *Star Wars: Andor*, *Better Call Saul*, and *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds*. Each of these shows are *prequels*, offering the back story of beloved characters. Why did Cassian Andor join the rebellion in Star Wars? How did Saul Goodman become such a sleezy lawyer? Can Captain Christopher Pike avoid the accident portrayed in the original *Star Trek* over 50 years ago? I would have loved to have been a “fly on the wall” when the writers sat down and asked the question, “What is the story that explains how this character ended up where we first met them?”

This is not a bad question to keep in mind as we nurture significant relationships within the church family. It is easy to be impressed with someone’s positive attitude, but it takes a bit more work to be patient with someone who tends toward negativity. Even as we together help one another “go on to maturity” (Hebrews 6:1) and are attentive to what the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives in the present, our past still exerts a certain control over our thinking and relating.

While grace should never be an excuse for bad behavior, there is a certain importance in recognizing that none of us have seen another’s “prequel.” There is a wisdom in knowing when to stand up to someone’s challenging behavior and knowing when to overlook things. As we journey through Lent these coming weeks, let us give thanks for the cross of Christ, which redeems us from our past and helps us each move forward into the sequel that Jesus is writing for each of us.



Pastor Tim

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9 a.m.-ESL 7:00 p.m.-Choir	2 2 p.m.-Games 2 p.m. SHP (Core Team Only) 5:30 p.m.-Evan. & Membership 5:30 p.m.-Mission &	3 8 a.m.- SHP (Core Team Only)	4 8 a.m.-SHP (Core Team Only)
5 Second Sunday of Lent 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.-Worship 12:15 p.m.-Children's Activity	6 9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL 12:30 p.m.-Backpack	7 5:30 p.m.-Handbells 7 p.m.-Peace & Justice (Zoom)	8 9 a.m.-ESL 6 p.m.-Ministry & Worship 7:00 p.m.-Choir	9 9 a.m.- Women's Bible Study 11 a.m.-Good Samaritan in Fellowship Hall 2 p.m.-Games 6 p.m.-Christian Ed. 6:30 p.m.- Men's Bible Study	10 <i>Pastor & Spouse Retreat at Camp Bethel</i> <i>Senior High Retreat March 10-12 at Camp Bethel</i>	11
12 Third Sunday of Lent 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.-Worship 12:30p.m.-Church Board	13 9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL Yard Sale Set-up	14 5:30 p.m.-Handbells	15 9 a.m.-ESL 11 a.m.-Munch Bunch at Gina's 7 p.m.-Choir	16 9 a.m.- Women's Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games 6:30 p.m.- Men's Bible Study	17 <i>Pilgrimage March 17-19.</i>	18
19 Fourth Sunday of Lent 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.-Worship	20 9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL 12:30-Backpack	21 5:30 p.m.-Handbells	22 9 a.m.-ESL 7:00 p.m.-Choir	23 9 a.m.- Women's Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games 6:30 p.m.- Men's Bible Study	24	25 7:30 a.m.-Project WARM 8 a.m.- Yard Sale
26 Fifth Sunday of Lent 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.-Worship	27 9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL <i>Awakening Services March 26-29 at Peters Creek CoB.</i>	28 5:30 p.m.-Handbells	29 9 a.m.-ESL 7:00 p.m.-Choir	30 9 a.m.- Women's Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games 6:30 p.m.- Men's Bible Study	31 	