

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
MAY
APRIL 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

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

APRIL 2023



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

April Scripture and Sermons

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

April 6- **Maundy Thursday**
Love Feast, 6:00 p.m.
Love. John 13:1-15


April 7- **Good Friday**
Prayer services, 12 noon and 6:00 p.m.
Finished. John 19:30

April 9- **Easter Sunday**
Sunrise Service, 7:00 a.m. Jennifer Fletcher, Windsor Hills
UMC Pastor, preaching
Easter Egg Hunt and Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Duck Donuts, 10:30 a.m.
Easter Sunday worship with choral cantata, 11:00 a.m.

April 16- *Scars.* John 20:24-29

April 23- Harvey Leddy preaching

April 30- **Children/Camp Bethel Sunday**
Wear a Camp Bethel T-Shirt
Fruits of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23



Church News

Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

...**Waylon McDaniel**, discharged from ICU
 ...**Sherry Milliron**, recovering from knee surgery
 ...**Leland Flora**, recovering from back surgery
 ...**Makai Nop** (Joyce Bolender's great-grandson), in the NICU at RMH
 ...**Wilma Twigg**, treatment for blood clot in leg
 ...**Rebecca Eggleston**, rotator cuff surgery
 ...**Betty Phillips**, Myelofibrosis has returned
 ...**Joyce Harmon**, heart issues

If you would like to receive a *Messenger* subscription, please send in payment or put in offering with a **LABELED ENVELOPE**. Please write **MESSANGER SUBSCRIPTION** on the envelope and put in the **EXACT** amount of the subscription. Also, if you could send a quick email to the [church office](#) that you have paid then that would also be helpful! Renewals need to be paid by **APRIL 15, 2023**.

Below are the renewal amounts:

1 YEAR: \$14.50
 2 YEAR: \$27.00



Majestic Lord

by Barbara Mann

Majestic is our Holy Lord
 and wonderful is his Holy Word.
 He tells us how our lives should be
 and stays beside us constantly.
 No other friend is quite so true
 and always ready to bless you.




Happy Birthday


4- Sharon Flora
 4- Alice Foutz
 4- Madelyn Ballew
 5- Joe Blaha
 7- Jonathan Eakin
 10- Andrea Foutz
 11- Sherrie White
 12- Hannah Bolender
 13- Dave Jones
 14- Marge Montgomery
 15- Wilma Twigg
 16- Jim Montgomery
 16- Matt King
 19- Suzy Sauerwald
 19- Marc Wilson
 19- Bernard Morgenstern
 21- Maggie Young
 23- Sara King
 26- Susan Simmons
 27- Robin Craighead
 27- Susan Lindsey

Happy Anniversary

3- Leland & Sharon Flora
 4- Marc & Mary Wilson
 11- Norm & Julie Ann Pullen
 28- Todd & Rhonda Marcum



DISCIPLESHIP 101:



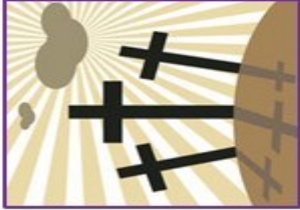
Basics of the Christian Life

**APRIL 16 - JUNE 11, DURING THE
SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR**

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2023
OAK GROVE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



MAUNDY THURSDAY
LOVE FEAST
6:00 PM.



GOOD FRIDAY
NOON AND 6:00 PM.
(IN PERSON AND FACEBOOK LIVE)



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE
7:00 A.M.
OUTDOOR CHAPEL (AND FACEBOOK LIVE)



EASTER EGG HUNT
9:45 A.M.



EASTER CANTATA
11:00 A.M.
SANCTUARY (AND FACEBOOK LIVE)

Oak Grove Church of the Brethren
2138 McVitty Rd SW
Roanoke VA 24018-1642

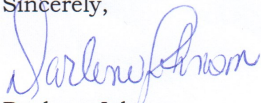
Dear Friends,

Thank you for supporting the ministries of On Earth Peace. **Because of you, we're making a difference.**

Your gift of \$350, received March 2, 2023, ensures the message of justice and peace continues. Your steadfast support of our ministries enables On Earth Peace to bring powerful programs of training and accompaniment to the individuals, groups, and congregations we serve.

We thank you for your generous and continued support. Every dollar, every prayer, and every volunteer hour is valuable to us. We are grateful for all you do to help as we work for justice and peace in our nation and in our world.

Sincerely,



Darlene Johnson
Administration Director



Re: Financial Contribution to
Staunton Avenue Church of God

Dear Rev. Tim Harvey, Officers, leaders, and members,

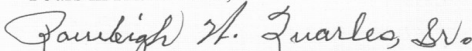
The Pastor, Officers, Leaders, and members of the Staunton Avenue Church of God would like to express our appreciation, gratitude, and thankfulness for your wonderful kindness, thoughtfulness, and your gracious spirit of giving/sharing such an abundant financial gift to our church. We really don't have adequate words to say thank you. We know the decision to do this was led of and by the Holy Spirit. This was definitely motivated and directed because of the love of your church and the grace of God.

We are also thankful for the fellowship, association, and friendship that exist between our churches and its members, your faithful assistance for the Food Bank Ministry without which it would not be possible, and the brotherly love that is only possible because of the Spirit of God that dwells within and makes us one in Christ Jesus.

We are still faithfully distributing food on a regular/weekly/monthly basis. Our special thanks for the love and generosity of our brothers and sisters of the Church of the Brethren for making this a reality. We could not have accomplished this without you.

Continue to keep us in your prayers as we will continue to pray for your church. "Be ye faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life".

Yours in His Service,


Dr. Rawleigh W. Quarles, Sr., Pastor and

Officers, Leaders, and members of Staunton Avenue Church of God.

Lois Sowder made Oak Grove's quilt square for the Annual Conference quilts this year. Tess Anderson did the embroidery. Thanks, Lois and Tess!



Backpack Ministry

The Backpack Ministry delivers 18 food bags each week to students in need at Oak Grove Elementary. We also send home gently used books in the bags every other week. Many thanks to our congregation and the Oak Grove community for supporting this ministry. If you would like to join us or would like more information, contact [Ellen Phillips](#).



Church Board Happenings:

Report by: Alli Yingling

Our Church Board met Sunday, March 12, to discuss the wonderful things that have been going on and are yet to come in our church life. There was a lot of great discussion! Please see below for a quick overview of our meeting:

- New! Development of a “Gifts” Survey is in the works. We want to know where you feel led to serve in our congregation and connect people with similar gifts and passions to pursue ministries together.
- Save the Date! Church Picnic will be at Camp Bethel on July 16, 2023. The pool will be open from 3 – 5 p.m.. More details to come.
- Heritage Day Discussion – At this time, we do not know if Camp Bethel will be hosting Heritage Day or if congregations will sponsor individual events to support camp this year. It has been significantly challenging to find a coordinator for our Cobbler Booth at Camp Bethel for this event, making our Baked Goods Auction a more manageable event this past fall. Please ponder our contribution to Camp Bethel/Heritage Day moving forward.
- Constitution Up-Dates – Conversations around restructuring our church leadership model began at the Congregational Retreat in February. We are excited to share some new models with you at the Spring Council Meeting. Be on the look out for more information to come.
- New! Ellen Phillips was enthusiastically affirmed with her involvement in the Roanoke Reparations Group as a representative of Oak Grove.

Strategic Task Team Progress Report:

The Strategic Task Team met four times this winter and offers this progress report. With this report, we will pause meeting to allow this work to be done, and will reconvene later in the year as necessary:

- Highlighted the importance of every member's financial contribution and acknowledged the accumulated impact of many smaller gifts.
- With help from the Financial Secretary and the Finance Commission, we plan to distribute a quarterly Stewardship report to each member of the congregation that provides year-to-date updates on both congregational expenses and the individual person or family's year-to-date giving. The first of these should be available in mid-April.
- Heard a report from the Finance Commission on plans to:
 - Update the church accounting software.
 - Examine the numerous special funds we manage and eliminate those that are redundant or are no longer a focus of our ministries. From available unrestricted funds, create a "Longevity Fund" to sustain the program of the church.
- Considered a potential proposal to the church board to authorize a special offering in September if there is a significant shortfall of giving at the end of the summer. No action has been taken on this proposal at this time.
- Discussed various ways of encouraging our members to continue faithful giving and to consider occasional special gifts to the church as the circumstances allow.
- Investigated ways to add a "give now" option to our Facebook Live broadcasts.
- Add Venmo as a second online means of giving.



Virlina District News

Installation service for Daniel Rudy, District Executive Minister, is on April 29, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren in Floyd County.

District Conference Moderator Noel Naff and Moderator-elect Stacy Goff will be going on tour presenting insight sessions of interest in various locations throughout the district centered on the District Conference theme of *Repairing the Rift*. Location and date for April is at First Church of the Brethren, April 30, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Gina Wright-Hawkins has been called to serve the Monte Vista Church of the Brethren. More installation details to come.

Camp Bethel News



WELCOME ELIZABETH BRANCATI, GUEST SERVICES COORDINATOR!

After helping in our office since March 2022, Elizabeth began full-time on February 1, 2023. She is excited to meet you! Elizabeth will manage all Guest Group reservations, Summer Camp registrations, and general office needs. Contact Elizabeth at CampBethelOffice@gmail.com or 540-992-2940.

Also, Elizabeth is Nancy Hylton's granddaughter!

**Sounds of the Mountains
Storytelling Festival**
March 31-April 1, 2023 at Camp Bethel in Fincastle, VA



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.

Camp Bethel is seeking a new Camp Director and Food Service Coordinator. Go to www.campbethelvirginia.org for more information if interested.

Ark Dining Hall Renovations Begin

With generous gifts from the Cassell/Stultz family, Robertson Family and an anonymous family, new roofing is in place over the auxiliary kitchen and new flooring has been installed in the Ark Dining Room and Ark Conference Room. Next is restroom and entrance renovations, then plumbing and lighting fixtures.

Go to www.campbethelvirginia.org/donate if you would like to give towards these projects.



There will not be an in-person Sow the Seed Banquet, so please give instead. Camp Bethel annually grants Camperships to an average of 108 children for an average total of \$ 27,165. If you would like to help a child attend camp, please go to www.campbethelvirginia.org/donate.

Summer Staff Adoption

Camp Bethel is seeking groups, congregations, and individuals to adopt one of the 54 Summer Staff with a commitment of prayer, letters, and a \$100 + “end of Summer” bonus. If interested, go to www.campbethelvirginia.org/adopt.

Pastor’s Column

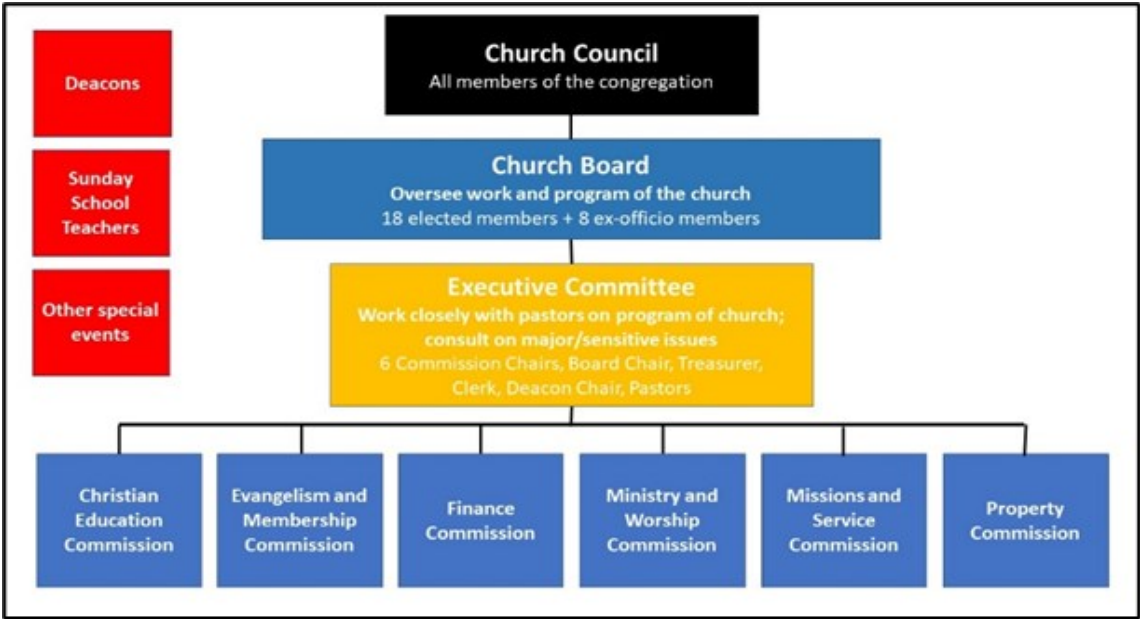
Updating the Church Constitution? Proposal for Spring Council Meeting

Our congregation has many reasons to be thankful for those who serve in leadership. Whether called as Commission members, Sunday School teachers, Deacons, or volunteers for various events, our leaders work hard and are not afraid of asking if the way we do things is the only or best way to continue the ministry of our congregation.

One of these concerns is our system of church governance. At our February and March Board meetings, the Board heard a proposal to consider revising our Constitution. There are several significant pieces in this discussion:

- Would we be better served by changing to the “Leadership Team” model of church governance approved by the Annual Conference in 2000? That is the subject of this month’s article.
- Would it be helpful to reassign the responsibilities of the Evangelism & Membership and Missions & Service Commissions so that we have one outward-focused Commission and one inward-focused Commission? This is a subject for next month’s article.
- As the work of the Peace and Justice Group is increasingly relevant to the interests of the congregation, Virlina District, and the Church of the Brethren, how should this group relate to our governing bodies? This also is a subject for next month’s article.

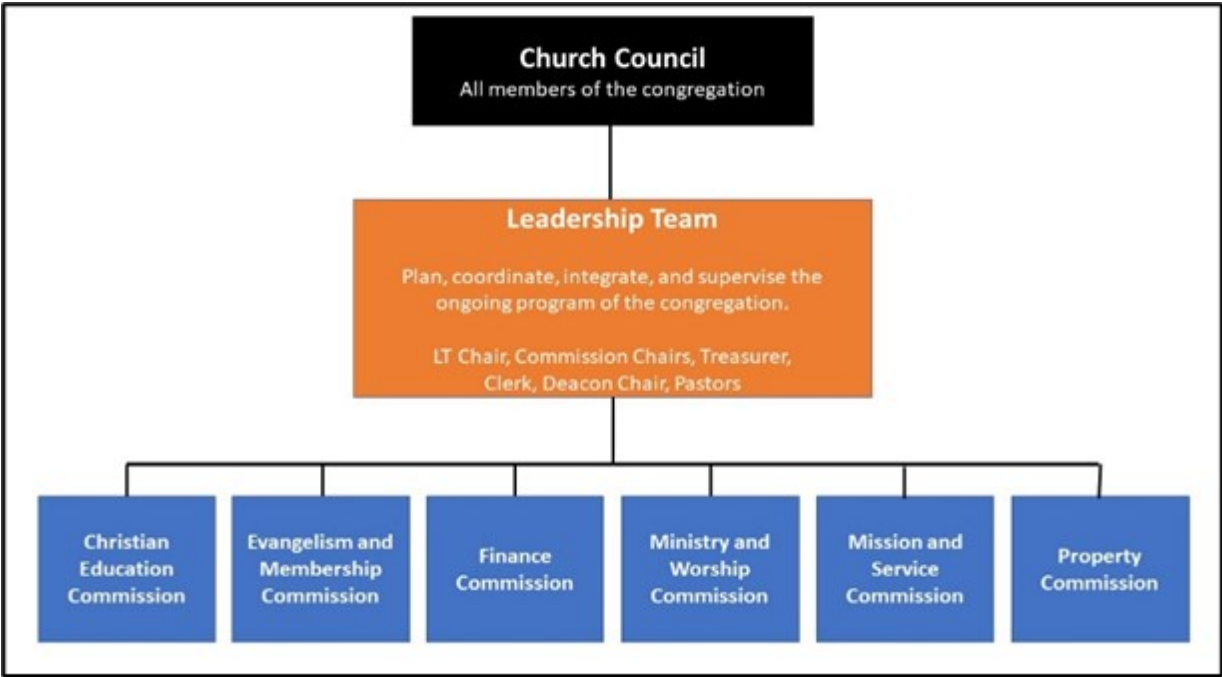
The picture included here shows our current church governance structure, which includes a 26-member church board and a 12-member Executive Committee. (A larger copy of this picture is available upon request.) These two groups oversee the work of the various Commissions as they carry out the program of the church and report back to Church Council. We also need persons to serve as Deacons, Sunday School teachers, and help out with other occasional opportunities. Filling all these positions has become more challenging in the last several years, often requiring persons to “wear multiple hats” to ensure the important ministries of our congregation continue.



Our board is to be commended for asking the uncomfortable question:

Is there another way to organize ourselves that might be more effective?

The Annual Conference dealt with this question in 2000 and approved another model of church governance. The major change is that this newer model *eliminates the Church Board and assigns those responsibilities to the Leadership Team*. If you look closely, you'll see that the Leadership Team has the same membership as our Executive Committee.



This seems like a major change, and on paper, it is. In my previous congregation, however, I led the board from the old Executive Committee - Board structure to the new Leadership Team structure. We found that in practice, this change was virtually seamless and served the needs of the congregation well.

The Church Board asked me to include this information in the Newsletter so that you will be informed ahead of our May Council meeting. Here are a few questions you should consider about this proposed change:

- Our current Church Board has 26 members. This is approximately 25% of our worship attendance. Do we need this many people overseeing the program of the church?
- The proposed Leadership Team is a group of 12 members. Is this enough to adequately oversee the program of the church? If not, how large should this governing board be?
- Who should be on it? What other ways might we ask people to serve our congregation, instead of being on our governing board?

Continued on next page...

Moving forward, here is a timeline of what you can expect:

- May Newsletter:** an article describing some other potential changes with this proposal.
- May Council meeting:** consider a motion from the Church Board to revise the Church Constitution. **If that motion is approved, these next steps would in order:**
 - Call a Constitution Revision Committee to begin work.
 - Schedule Council Meetings/Information session for approximately late June and late August to report progress and answer any questions.
 - Schedule a called Council Meeting sometime in September to potentially approve changes.

It is likely that you will have questions about this. Please feel free to reach out to Pastor Tim for more information.

Pastor Tim



MEN'S
BIBLE STUDY

**Keep watch for more info
about future plans!**

Women’s Bible Study

We invite all women to our new study, beginning on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 9:30 a.m., at the home of Kris Tilley-Lubbs. Kris will take us through a creative exercise (writing/drawing) on that date.

Soon we will advertise our next book study that we’ll begin on April 27, 2023. Join us!

Oak Grove Church of the Brethren
Financial Report - February 2023

Funds : Checking, CD & MM	Balance
Checking Account	109,543.98
Hometrust Bank - CD	190,394.56
Hometrust Bank - MM	<u>5,254.62</u>
Total Funds	305,193.16

Restricted Funds : Memorial, Gifts, Other Receipts, Taxes

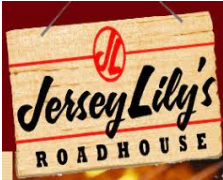
Memorials & Remembrances	56,674.96	
Special gifts	80,545.22	
Rental receipts	60,687.72	
Land/Building Fund	5,518.49	
Taxes & pension	0.15	
Reserve Fund	8,070.66	
Longevity Fund	1,289.00	<u>212,786.20</u>

Unrestricted Balance (25.1% of budget - target 25%) 92,406.96

YTD Operating (Short) or Extra (1,374.00)

Outreach Budgeted Items	Budget	Sent	% Sent	Remaining
	25,900.00	4,316.00	17%	21,584.00

Offerings YTD	47,935
Expenses YTD	49,309
Offerings to Expenses (Short)	(1,374)

April 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Palm Sunday 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.-Worship	3 9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL 12:30 p.m.-Backpack	4 5:30 p.m.-Handbells 5:15 p.m.-Peace & Justice	5 9 a.m.-ESL 7:00 p.m.-Choir	6 6 p.m.- Love Feast	7 12:00 p.m.- Good Friday Service 6:00 p.m.- Good Friday Service	8
9 Easter Sunday 7 a.m.- Sunrise Service 9:45 a.m.-Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 a.m.-Worship	10 9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL	11 5:30 p.m.-Handbells	12 9 a.m.-ESL 7:00 p.m.-Choir	13 11 a.m.-Good Samaritan in Fellowship Hall 2 p.m.-Games Pastor Carol on vacation, April 13-16	14	15 Camp Bethel Workday
16 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.-Worship 12:30 p.m.- Church Board	17 9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL 12:30- Backpack Pastor Tim on vacation, April 17-23	18 5:30 p.m.-Handbells 6 p.m.- Christian Education	19 9 a.m.-ESL 11 a.m.-Munch Bunch 7:00 p.m.-Choir	20 2 p.m.-Games	21	22 1 p.m.- Daniel Rudy installation
23 Camp Bethel Sunday 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.-Worship	24 9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL Youth Christian Citizenship Seminar April 22-27.	25 5:30 p.m.-Handbells	26 9 a.m.-ESL 7:00 p.m.-Choir	27 2 p.m.-Games	28	29
30 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.-Worship	MUNCH BUNCH April 19, 2023 11:00 a.m. This month they are dining at Jersey Lily's. 			Dennis and Beth Shearer have new contact info NEW phone number is: 540.655.9163 NEW address is: 5604 Orchard Villas Circle, Roanoke VA 24019		