

Pastor:
Tim Harvey

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**DEADLINE FOR
JUNE
MAY 15**

**NEWSLETTER
COMMITTEE:**

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

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

THE VISITOR

MAY 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.

May Scriptures and Sermons

May 7 Youth/Graduation Sunday

May 14 *Reasons to believe.* Acts 17:22-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22

May 21 *Back to the Future.* 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

May 28 *Many and one* (Pentecost). 1 Corinthians 12:3-12



**Deacons
Meeting**
May 7, 2023
12:30 p.m.

**Spring Council
Meeting/Potluck**
May 21, 2023
12:30 p.m.


Church News

Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

- ...**Morton Witt**, recovery from broken hip
- ...**Joyce Bolender**, stomach issues
- ...**Bill Baker**, kidney issues
- ...**Dawn Thomas**, back pain
- ...**Tess Anderson**, broken disc in back

Sympathy and prayers for Lowell and family with the passing of Alice Foutz on April 24, 2023.

Oak Grove’s oldest member turns 96 on May 19, 2023!

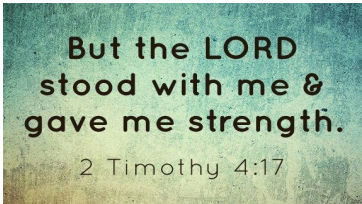


Elsie Wertz’s friends and family would love for you to send her a card to help her celebrate.

Her address:
S. Roanoke Nursing Home
3823 Franklin Rd. Rm. 116
Roanoke, VA 24014

NEED
by Barbara Mann

Our loving Lord is forever near to help us and to calm our fear. He gives us strength to carry on when we feel all our strength is gone. We need to go to Him each day and always turn to Him and pray.



Happy Birthday

- 2– Carol Winners
- 3– Wayne Cook
- 3– Bryan Hanger
- 3– Eowyn Hernandez
- 3– Eli Young
- 4– Dawn Thomas
- 4– Joan Simpson
- 5– Eleanor Brogan
- 6– Alli Yingling
- 6– Tess Anderson
- 7– Kate Hoyt
- 11– Dan Lubbs
- 12– Toria Knox
- 15– Kirsten Lubbs-Robinson
- 16– Dan Brogan
- 16– Dotty Smiley
- 19– Elsie Wertz
- 21– Mike Hanger
- 22– Gay Bulach
- 22– Ed Woodard
- 22– Joe Lankford
- 23– Karin Musselman
- 23– Judy Saunders
- 23– Hannah Trent
- 25– Sarah King
- 25– Jodi Zabo
- 26– Garland Brown
- 27– Rex Robinson
- 27– Margie Shaver
- 27– Tim Harvey
- 30– Rebecca Eggleston

Happy Anniversary

- 10– Don & Tanya Pizzullo
- 21– Neal & Karin Musselman
- 26– Brent & Jessica Ballew

March Financials

Offerings YTD	70,027
Expenses YTD	73,507
Offerings to Expenses (Short)	(3,480)



In 2017, Jon Wilson enhanced the drumline of the PEP Band at Bridgewater College. Two years ago, Bridgewater College started a Marching Band and Jon was asked to lead the drumline.

In January 2023, the band was in London to perform in the New Year's Parade. Jon is the son of Marc and Mary Wilson and the grandson of Dan and Eleanor Brogan.



Correction from April Newsletter:

Lois Sowder made Oak Grove's quilt square for the 2023 Annual Conference quilts this year. Becky Fowler did the embroidery. Thank you Lois & Becky!



**Thank you to all who
contributed to our Youth Yard
Sale on March 25-26, 2023!**

We raised \$ 6,617.47!



Maggie Pizzulo
by Gloria Harmon

When I was asked to do the senior article for Maggie Pizzulo, I was thrilled. I have watched her grow from a very delightful elementary student to the mature, independent, and responsible Patrick Henry High School Senior that she is now. Maggie and her mother Tanya have been an immense help to me as I have organized the volunteers for childcare needs at Oak Grove over the last few years. Maggie often volunteers, even when she must fit her volunteer work in between a stringent academic load and her work at Evie's Bistro and Bakery.



This summer, like the past two summers, she will be an Adventure Counselor at Camp Bethel. Her work at Camp Bethel and her volunteer work with the children of Oak Grove fit perfectly into her plans for the future. In the fall Maggie will be attending Radford University with a major in Middle Grades Education. She has been accepted into the Honors College at Radford. As a senior she received the Radford University Highlander Award which comes with a scholarship. I can say with certainty that working with children is a calling for Maggie, and I look forward to seeing where her path will take her.

Ashley Tatum

by Martha Gregory

Ashley Tatum, daughter of Renee' and Robby Tatum, and sister of Benjamin, is graduating from Hidden Valley High School on May 24, 2023. She is very happy and excited, as are her family and her church family here at Oak Grove. One of Ashley's first memories here at Oak Grove is receiving her Bible when she was entering third grade.

Ashley is as active with Youth Group as her time permits. In addition to schoolwork, she is on the swim team at Hidden Valley High School. And since the age of ten she has been very involved in gymnastics. She loves gymnastics, usually practicing four hours each weekday and six hours on the weekends, at Roanoke Academy of Gymnastics. Ashley is also a dedicated coach for her students, ages three to thirteen. She truly enjoys working with them.



In addition to other activities, Ashley is also a member of the following Honor Societies and Clubs at Hidden Valley - Beta Club, National English Honor Society, National Math Honor Society, National History Honor Society, Valedictorian Group and Key Club.

Ashley plans to major in architecture at college. She may be attending Virginia Tech, where Benjamin is majoring in computer science. She might also attend Virginia Western for her first college year and then transfer.

Presently, Ashley also has an internship every other school day at Brogan Insurance. From personal experience, I know she is working with a great staff there.

Congratulations to Ashley on her graduation. She will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers, as part of our Oak Grove family.

Youth Event May 20, 2023

Roanoke Pinball Museum (with Todd Marcum)

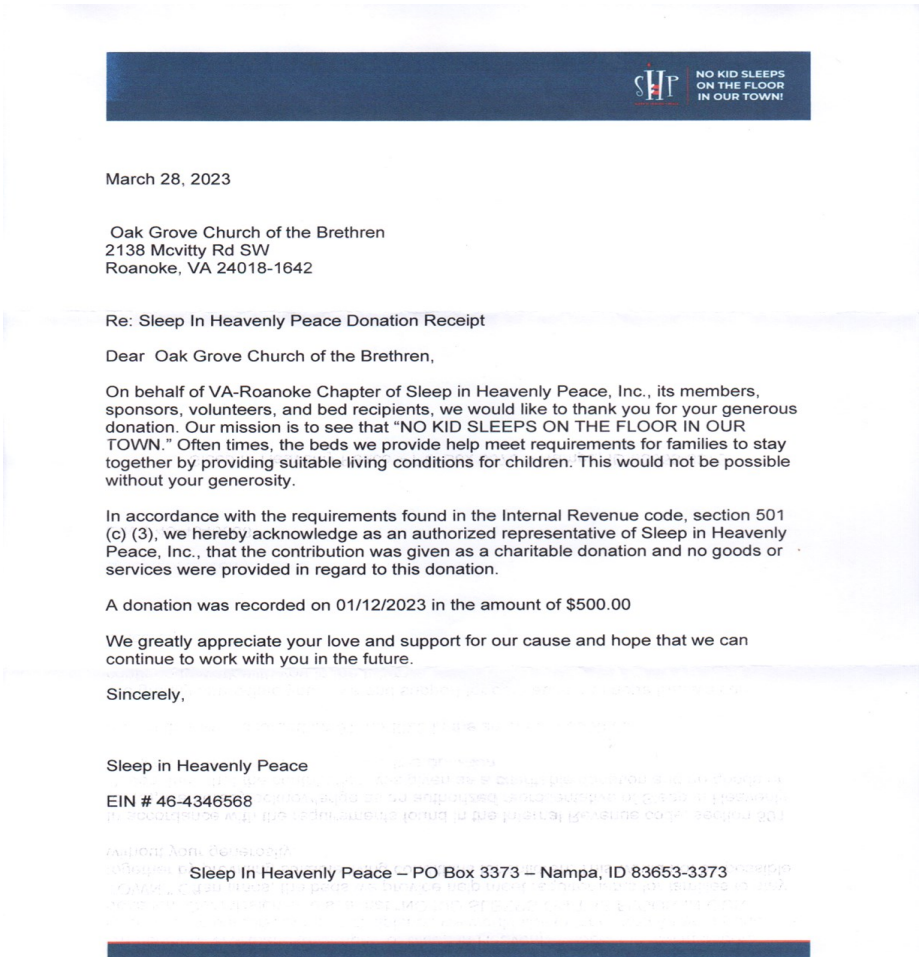
Meet AT the Museum at 3:00 p.m.:

1 Markey Square SE, Second Floor

Youth Fund will pay entrance fees for all teens.

Friends are WELCOME!





District News



Daniel Rudy
Your New District
Executive Minister
Wants to Hear
From You

What are your hopes and dreams for District ministry? How can the district support you and your church? What would help you to better connect with fellow believers around the district?

- Opportunities for conversation and sharing will be offered at the following times and locations:**
- Sunday May 7 at 4:00 pm at New Covenant COB
 - Tuesday May 9 at 7:00 pm at Mount Hermon COB
 - Sunday May 21 at 4:00 pm at Cloverdale COB
 - Sunday June 4 at 4:00 pm at Fraternity COB
 - Tuesday June 6 at 7:00 pm at Boones Mill COB
 - Tuesday June 13 at 7:00 pm at Stonewall COB
 - Tuesday June 20 at 7:00 pm at Poages Mill COB
 - Tuesday June 27 at 7:00 pm on zoom

Any additional opportunities will be shared in the E-Headliner and on the Virlina District Facebook Page

MINISTRY AND MISSION DAY

WHEN

May 6, 2023
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

WHERE

Peters Creek CoB

5333 Cove Road, NW, Roanoke, VA 24019

Registration 8:30 am · **Worship with Moderator Noel Naff** ·
Workshops · **Lunch 12:30 pm** · Annual Conference Delegate
Briefing 1:30 pm · **CEU offered**

\$20/ person for snacks, lunch and workshops
Delegate Briefing is free for those coming after lunch.
To sign up, contact Mary S. St. John 540.362.1816/
virlina.directordcnw@gmail.com

VIRLINA DISTRICT COMMISSION ON WITNESS

WORKSHOPS

Local Church Trouble
Shooting:

Discipleship and
Reconciliation vs
Ethics Committee

Jesus in the
Neighborhood:
What does your
neighborhood need?

Twelve Practical
Ways to be Brethren

Five Mindsets that
Will Revive Brethren
Churches

Learning for Life:
Continuing Education
for Ordained
Ministers

LUNCH MENU

Chicken Salad
Croissants, Pasta
Salad, Fruit, Éclair
Cake, Drinks

Camp Bethel News



The 22nd Sounds of the Mountains Story Festival was a SUCCESS! Due to the extraordinary effort of dozens of volunteers & sponsors and over 350 people in attendance the camp raised \$22,000!

Save the date for next year: April 12-13, 2024.



May 26-29, 2023

Music, worship, pool, mountain biking, disc golf and more! Head to Camp Bethel for a great weekend of togetherness! If you are interested in registering, please go to www.campbethelvirginia.org and fill out the attendance and meals form.



May 27, 2023
Family Day/
Summer Camp
Open House
1:00-4:00 p.m.



Pastor's Column

Updating the Church Constitution, part 2

The work planned and carried out by our six Commissions (Christian Education, Evangelism and Membership, Finance, Ministry and Worship, Missions and Service, Property) is a fundamental strength to our congregational life. Commission members offer much energy, talent, wisdom, and creativity to our Sunday School classes, church fellowship events, outreach, maintenance and beautification of our building and grounds, bookkeeping, and so much more. When you have a minute, find a Commission member and thank them for the gifts of time and talent to our church!

As we consider revisions to our church governance structure, it seems prudent to rethink the mission and purpose of two of our commissions. The Evangelism and Membership Commission is broadly responsible for both evangelistic outreach and incorporating persons into the life of the congregation (think here of last year's *Neighborhood Picnic* and our *Opportunities and Service Checklist*.) Our Missions and Service Commission is broadly responsible for overseeing both District/Denominational giving and service outreach (such as *Camp Bethel* and *Habitat for Humanity*) and for organizing fellowship events.

These two commissions each function with an inward and an outward focus. In the day-to-day life of their work, the inward focus tends to dominate each commission's time and energy. What might happen if we assigned the "outward focused" work to one commission and the "inward focused" work to the other? The proposal to reorganize these two commissions looks something like this:

The **Mission and Evangelism Commission** would focus on evangelistic and social action/caring ministries. Everything from a neighborhood picnic to a Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed build would fall under this commission. We would also propose that the Peace and Justice Group be promoted to a committee of the church and report to this commission.

The **Fellowship and Hospitality Commission** would take responsibility for the nurturing aspects of congregational life such as Fellowship meals and the Talent Show. This Commission would also oversee (and fund) small group ministries, as well as serve as our Nominating Committee.

This change feels logical; if approved, it would take some getting used to slightly different ministry agendas and responsibilities. But as outreach and nurture gifts are both essential to the life of the congregation and quite different from one another, we feel the change would strengthen our congregational life and help us achieve the goals we outlined at our recent congregational retreat.

These proposals will be discussed at our Council Meeting and potluck on Sunday, May 21.

Pastor Tim

Our February retreat was a time of significant conversation, dreaming, and regrouping, as we sought to refocus our energies after the turbulence of the last three years. Brian Messler, pastor of Ephrata Church of the Brethren, engaged us with great enthusiasm and joy, as we took a first step and spoke our hopes and dreams out loud in conversation with one another.

What follows are two summary documents from our retreat: a broader set of core values and a more specific set of goals.

CORE VALUES

Biblical Hospitality

Following the example of Jesus, we welcome all who desire a relationship with him. We will walk with one another on this journey of faith, undergirding each other with prayer, and finding ways to show love and support to both stranger and friend alike.

Inspirational music

Through the use of different styles, genres, talents, and instruments, we recognize that music has the ability to heal wounds, proclaim hope, and deepen our discipleship as followers of Jesus.

Sacrificial love

We will care for one another unconditionally, selflessly, and inclusively in a desire to live out Jesus’ call to love others as we love ourselves. We will live this out by actively putting the needs of others before our own, loving first, and seeking the very best in others.

Proclaiming Peace

Recognizing that we are to pursue peace in all areas of living, we seek to live and model God’s peace mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually within our personal lives, families, relationships, church, communities, and world.

Compassionate Service

Together, we express our love for Christ by reaching out and assisting others in our surrounding community. With humility, grace, and love, we seek to be the hands of Christ and meet people where they are.

Strategic Planning/goals

Biblical Hospitality

Welcome 50 new families into the body of faith at Oak Grove: enhance the facility to be more welcoming to those with physical limitations; consider the general atmosphere and appearance of our property; more functional worship space; use by outside groups. Develop milestone celebrations for children/youth/college/marriage/kids/retirement Hold two events per year focused on developing relationships with the immediate community

Inspirational music

Provide mentoring program for musicians to grow their gifts and talents with the purpose of sharing them at Oak Grove and beyond
Developing regular worship opportunities designed to highlight music both within and outside Oak Grove

Sacrificial love

Begin a conversation on how Oak Grove can better love those who have marginalized by society and the church
Grow understanding of sacrificial giving to balance our budget and maintain ministry opportunities

Proclaiming Peace

Expand the use of the prayer garden
Participate in and support community ministries/events that engage peace and justice

Compassionate Service

Picnic Shelter/replacement for the “weenie wagon”
Deliver an average of 15 beds/week through “Sleep in Heavenly Peace”
Participate in a National/Global Missions project
Creation of a green bean patch

Scripturally Bonded

Deepen the congregations Biblical literacy
Grow Sunday school options for our youngest disciples
Create a mentor/mentee ministry

Other Strategic Planning Items to Consider

Structural changes to Oak Grove’s governance structure
Highlighting the need for young adult participation
Becoming more nimble in decision making
Develop the Oak Grove “brand”

May 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL	2 5:15 p.m.- Peace & Justice 5:30 p.m.- Handbells	3 9 a.m.-ESL 5:30 p.m.– Evan. & Membership 6 p.m.– Ministry & Worship	4 9:30 a.m.- Women’s Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games 6:30 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study	5	6 8 a.m.- SHP Bed Build <i>Ministry & Mission Day 9-3 p.m. Peters Creek CoB</i>
7 <i>Grad./Youth Sunday</i> 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship 12:30 p.m.– Deacons	8 9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL 12:30 p.m.- Backpack 7 p.m.– Outdoor Ministries Commission	9 5:30 p.m.- Handbells	10 9 a.m.-ESL	11 9:30 a.m.– Women’s Bible Study 11 a.m.-Good Samaritan in Fellowship Hall 2 p.m.-Games 6:30 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study	12	13
14 <i>Mother’s Day</i> 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship	15 9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL	16 5:30 p.m.- Handbells	17 9 a.m.-ESL 11 a.m.- Munch Bunch	18 9:30 a.m.– Women’s Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games 6:30 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study	19	20 3 p.m.- Youth at Pinball Museum
21 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship 12:30 p.m.- Church Council/ Potluck	22 9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL 12:30– Backpack	23 5:30 p.m.- Handbells	24 12 p.m.– Good Samaritan Lunch	25 9:30 a.m.– Women’s Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games 6:30 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study	26 <i>Memorial Day Family Camp May 26-29.</i>	27 <i>Camp Bethel Open House 1– 4 p.m.</i>
28 <i>Pentecost Sunday</i> 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship	29	30 5:30 p.m.- Handbells	31		<div>to all the Moms, Step-moms, Grandmas, Aunts, Sisters and other women in our lives that care for us and love us unconditionally, <i>Happy Mother’s Day</i></div>	