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Tim Harvey

**Minister of Nurture
and Music:**
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**DEADLINE FOR
JULY
JUNE 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

JUNE 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.

June Scriptures and Sermons

June 4 *God in Three Persons* Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a
Trinity Sunday – Communion

June 11 *The Meaning of Faith* Romans 4:13-25

June 18 *Saved from the Power of Sin* Romans 5:12-21

June 25 *Making Peace* Matthew 5:38-44

Summer Connect

All children up through those who will have just completed 5th grade, along with a parent or grandparent are invited to stay in touch over the summer each Wednesday, **beginning June 14 from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.**



We will simply share free playtime, a story, and a snack! Bring a water bottle. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the flat grassy area outside the fellowship hall door.

Let Carol know if you have questions!

Friends are ALWAYS welcome!

Church News

Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

- ...Misty King, heart issues
- ...Sylvia Shepherd’s son, Kevin, eye trouble
- ...Dea Underwood, fracture in vertebrae
- ...Laura Parrish Clements, eyesight issues



On May 7, 2023, our youth led a meaningful worship service full of scripture, heart, music, and challenges. The graduates received a beautiful, personalized quilt handmade with love by some of our members. They were handtied by the congregation as a prayer was said over each graduate.

“Stand Up, Even if You Stand Out” - Romans 12:2



Munch Bunch
June 21, 2023
11:00 a.m.
Mission BBQ

April 2023 Financials

Offerings YTD	93,702
Expenses YTD	98,398
Offerings to Expenses (Short)	(4,696)

Happy Birthday

- 1– Laura Phillips
- 4– Alesea Wimmer
- 6– Judy Baker
- 7– Kris Tilley-Lubbs
- 8– Becky Widdowson
- 8– Graeme Robinson
- 10– Spencer Knox
- 13– Don Pizzullo
- 13– Cash Woodard
- 14– Julie Hall
- 16– Terrie Brogan
- 16– Taylor Sutphin
- 17– Jonathan Wilson
- 17– Carole Ferguson
- 20– Phyllis Meadows
- 20– Ben Harmon
- 20– Brian Harmon
- 23– Deven Musselman
- 25– Gary Gregory
- 25– Gerald Gregory
- 26– Mike Elmore
- 28– Patricia Ronk

Happy Anniversary

- 4– Marshall & Terrie Brogan
- 9– Mark & Gloria Harmon
- 13– Fred & Becky Widdowson
- 21– Ed & Emma Jean Woodard

Heaven

by Barbara Mann

There is a land where I can be
that’s safe and happy and pain free.
It is called Heaven and I know
if I trust God, that’s where I’ll go.

God freely gives this gift to all
who trust Him and accept His call.

Dear Oak Grove Church,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Bridgewater Academic and Social Experience Program! Your gift is helping students on the autism spectrum see their educational dreams to the finish line, and all of us at Bridgewater College are so grateful. Your gift today has an impact that can last a lifetime.

Sincerely,
The BASE Program
Staff & Students

Zed

Emily ~~and~~ Jordan ~~and~~ Peyton ~~and~~ June

Margaret Benavides

Mackenzie

OUTREACH



Dear Oak Grove Church of the Brethren,
Thank you for your gift to us. It will help us live into our values which includes Jesus-Centered Spirituality and beloved community. This year, we continue to offer Kingian Violence training for all ages and are accompanying Church of the Brethren organizing efforts on gun violence and racial justice. As Development manager, I can share how your donation makes our work possible.

Thank you for being a part of our community.

With Gratitude and Peace,
Kaliyah (Intern, On Earth Peace)



Backpack Ministry: That's a wrap!

We delivered 537 food bags this school year for students in need at Oak Grove Elementary School. On a biweekly basis, we also sent home gently used books that matched the students' grade level. If I have calculated accordingly, that would make around 268 books in total or around 18 books per student! Many thanks for the monetary and book donations and for the packers, they are key to the program's success.

Camp Bethel News



Summer Staff Commissioning Service June 9, 2023 5:00 p.m.

Lend your voice and show your support to the Summer Camp Staff at the Ark Dining Hall. With your help the newly trained Summer Staff will be commissioned for their Summer of ministry and mission to over 1,000 children and youth during seven weeks of Experiential Faith Formation and Outdoor Christian Education.

RSVP to campbetheloffice@gmail.com.



Parent-Child Overnight and Day Camp (ages 4-7 years old + parent)

Friday, June 2 - 2:30p.m.,
Saturday 9:00am - 2:30p.m.
or 5:00 p.m.

Take your first step into Summer Camp TOGETHER. This camp offers upcoming campers an exciting Camp Bethel experience with the security of an adult relative for 2-days and 1-night of games, hiking, singing, swimming, creek-play, Bible study, crafts, a nature lesson, and a campfire (day-only option available).

Campers lodge in cabins with like pairs: mother-daughter; mother-son; father-daughter; father-son. OR, you can come for Saturday only from 9:00am-2:30 p.m. for a full day of great fun.

Fun for all!

Overnight Fee = \$90/pair (\$45 for each add'l person).

Day-Only Fee = \$30/pair (\$15 for each add'l person).

Go to www.campbethelvirginia.org for more information or to register.



HANNAH JARRETT CALLED AS NEXT CAMP DIRECTOR

The Outdoor Ministries Committee and the Virlina District Board of the Church of the Brethren has called Hannah Jarrett to serve as the next Director at Camp Bethel in Fincastle, Virginia. Hannah will begin on June 5, 2023 and she will overlap through July 31 with Barry LeNoir who is stepping down after 21 years as the Camp Director.

WELCOME REBECCA DUNCAN, FOOD SERVICES COORDINATOR

Rebecca is a 2020 Bridgewater College graduate, and she served in 2016 as a Summer Camp Counselor and in 2017 on our Summer Kitchen Staff. Rebecca brings a love for cooking to her new role at Camp Bethel. Rebecca began on May 22, 2023.



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 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

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference July 4-8, 2023

Duke Energy
Convention Center-
Cincinnati, Ohio

Living God's Love
Ephesians 5:1-2

For more information, click [here](#).

Viviendo el amor de Dios
Viv Lanmou Bondye A
Rayuwan Kaunar Allah
Living God's Love

Ephesians 5:1-2
Languages: Spanish, Creole, Hausa, English

National Older Adult Conference

September 4-8, 2023
Lake Junaluska, NC

Click [here](#)
to register!

NOAC is a Spirit-filled gathering of adults 50 and older who love learning and discerning together, exploring God's call for their lives and living out that call by sharing their energy, insight, and legacy with their families, communities, and the world.

"God is Doing A New Thing"

"I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert."
—Isaiah 43:19



Pastor's Column

The Weaponization of Self-Defense

The Blue Ridge Marathon (and related races) is an annual highlight for many runners, myself included. While participating in this year's half-marathon, I was told by a course marshal along 27th Street in South Roanoke that the race had been canceled due to a thunderstorm. Being over 10 miles into the race, I elected to continue running and did not become concerned about the conditions until the rain became sharply colder as I ran along Cornwallis Avenue. I briefly considered taking shelter on someone's front porch just in case the icy cold rain turned to hail, a precaution that never became necessary.

It does not occur to me that this would have been a problem. Sadly, we know that not everyone can make that assumption. Recent shootings across America teach us that ringing the wrong doorbell, or pulling into the wrong driveway, or retrieving a ball from the wrong yard, or mistakenly getting into the wrong car, or asking your neighbor to hold off on target practice until the baby wakes up is reason enough to shoot to kill.

Gun-rights advocates insist that “an armed society is a polite society.” But where is the politeness in these tragedies? The motivations for recent shootings in both America and in Roanoke reveal the limits of reducing the debate about guns and gun violence to platitudes that look good on a bumper sticker but fail to engage actual experience.

These recent shootings are products of the weaponization of self-defense. The presence of a gun did not diffuse these situations, as the gun myths would have us believe; the presence of the gun created the problem. None of these victims were causing trouble or behaving in a threatening manner. They either made a mistake or a request of someone who assumed their mere presence justified a potentially lethal response.

The assumption behind the “armed society is a polite society” myth is that someone being armed will change the other persons' behavior. These shootings reveal how being armed changes one's own behavior. When the gun is viewed as the first response to a situation that is not fully understood—especially when a gun owner is disinclined to identify alternative responses—then people are killed or maimed unnecessarily. It is the tragic realization of the old proverb, “when your only tool is a hammer, everything looks like a nail.”

Americans hold a wide range of opinions on gun ownership. Within that range of opinions, I recognize reasons someone may choose to own a gun. But it is time to reject the myth that we are safer with more people carrying guns. Self-defense is a right, but it is not a weapon or excuse to shoot to kill at the slightest provocation.

As a pastor, I am regularly offered another gun myth: we don't need more laws, we need changed hearts. I largely agree with this sentiment, but not in the way it is offered. We need our hearts changed to allow us to see through gun myths to the deeper truths they mask. We need our hearts changed to enable our escape from the cesspool of fear and mistrust created by hyper-partisan political echo chambers that teach us to instinctively fear people we do not know and situations we do not understand. We need our hearts changed to learn more deeply one of the greatest lessons of the Christian tradition, "Love your neighbor." Welcoming people onto our front porches is a lovely way to begin.

Pastor Tim

Father's Day Offering

Our Father's Day offering benefits FEDUP: Families Expecting Deliverance Using Prayer, a 501(c)3 organization that ministers to families who have lost someone to gun violence.

FEDUP was organized by Rita Joyce after her son, Joey, was murdered in July 2004. This tragedy taught Rita that everyone in such a situation needs someone to say, "I've got you. Call me when you're ready." Someone did that for Rita, and now Rita and her team of volunteers at FEDUP do that for others in our community. When there is a shooting in Roanoke, Rita and others show up at the home of the victim's family to offer their services. FEDUP offers gift cards for food and gas for family members in crisis, and sponsors grief-counseling sessions for survivor's families, seeking to not only provide healing but also end the cycle of revenge and retaliation.



Families Expecting Deliverance Using Prayer

We hope to have Rita Joyce with us in worship on Sunday, June 18 to share with us about the work FEDUP is doing in our community. Our Evangelism and Membership Commission will make a \$100 donation to FEDUP from their budgeted funds. The congregation is invited to share as well, either through a gift in our offering, or through or Tithely app.

