

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
OCTOBER
SEPTEMBER 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

SEPTEMBER 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.

September 3- *God is faithful.* Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

September 10- *Faith forged in fire.* Job 3:1-12; 4:1-8

September 17- *Piecing it all together,* part 1. We give to mission. Luke 8:1-3; Acts 11:29-30

September 24- *Piecing it all together,* part 2. We give to Jesus. Matthew 6:24

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
FOR PEACE**

The Peace Affairs Committee is sponsoring two events on September 17 & September 21, 2023:

The annual Peace Affairs worship service will be held at the Smith Mountain Lake Community Church of the Brethren (6675 Burnt Chimney Road, Wirtz, VA 24184) at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 17. Our speaker is Josh Brockway, Director of Spiritual Formation for the Church of the Brethren. Josh will speak on the topic *The Peace Position of the Church of the Brethren: Past and Future.*

Peace Affairs is sponsoring a prayer walk through the Gainsboro Neighborhood of Roanoke at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 21. The approximately 2-mile walk will begin at the Gainsboro Library (15 Patton Ave., NW, Roanoke, VA) and pass by several historic Black churches in Northwest Roanoke, where we will stop for prayer. For questions or more information, contact [Pastor Tim](#).



*International
Day of Peace*

Church News

Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

- ...**Jodi Zabo**, gallbladder surgery
- ...**Sylvia Shepherd**, surgery recovery
- ...**Vicki Turner**, broken arm
- ...**Emily Nelson**, back pain
- ...**Josephine Keller**, shingles

Attitude *by Barbara Mann*

When our today seems long and sad
and things begin to look all bad,
it helps to change our attitude.



Adopt a smile and sunny mood.
It may not be an easy thing,
but smiles can help remove the sting of
sadness when we pass them on
to help another's hurt be gone.

A smile is just a little thing
that takes small effort but can bring
a bit of joy into the day
of someone else who's sad today.

Hope Woodard Staton is residing in Indianapolis, IN. and in August 2022 she started New Job at Felege Hiywot Center as the Farm Manager & Instructor.



Felege Hiywot (Feh-LEH-geh HEY-what) means "Looking for Direction to Life." Our Youth Farm Initiative provides Indianapolis youth in the Martindale-Brightwood community with the opportunity to partner with us in urban farming and environmental preservation and obtain job/life skills they will carry with them into the larger community.

Happy Birthday

- 1– Trenton Marcum
- 2– David Twigg
- 3– Gavin Robinson
- 3– Tracy Anderson
- 6– Amanda Marcum
- 10– Jennifer Johnson
- 13– Kylie Young
- 30– Zach Harvey

Happy Anniversary

- 19– Dan & Eleanor Brogan
- 25– Jim & Marge Montgomery
- 28– Roger & Joan Simpson

July 2023 Financials

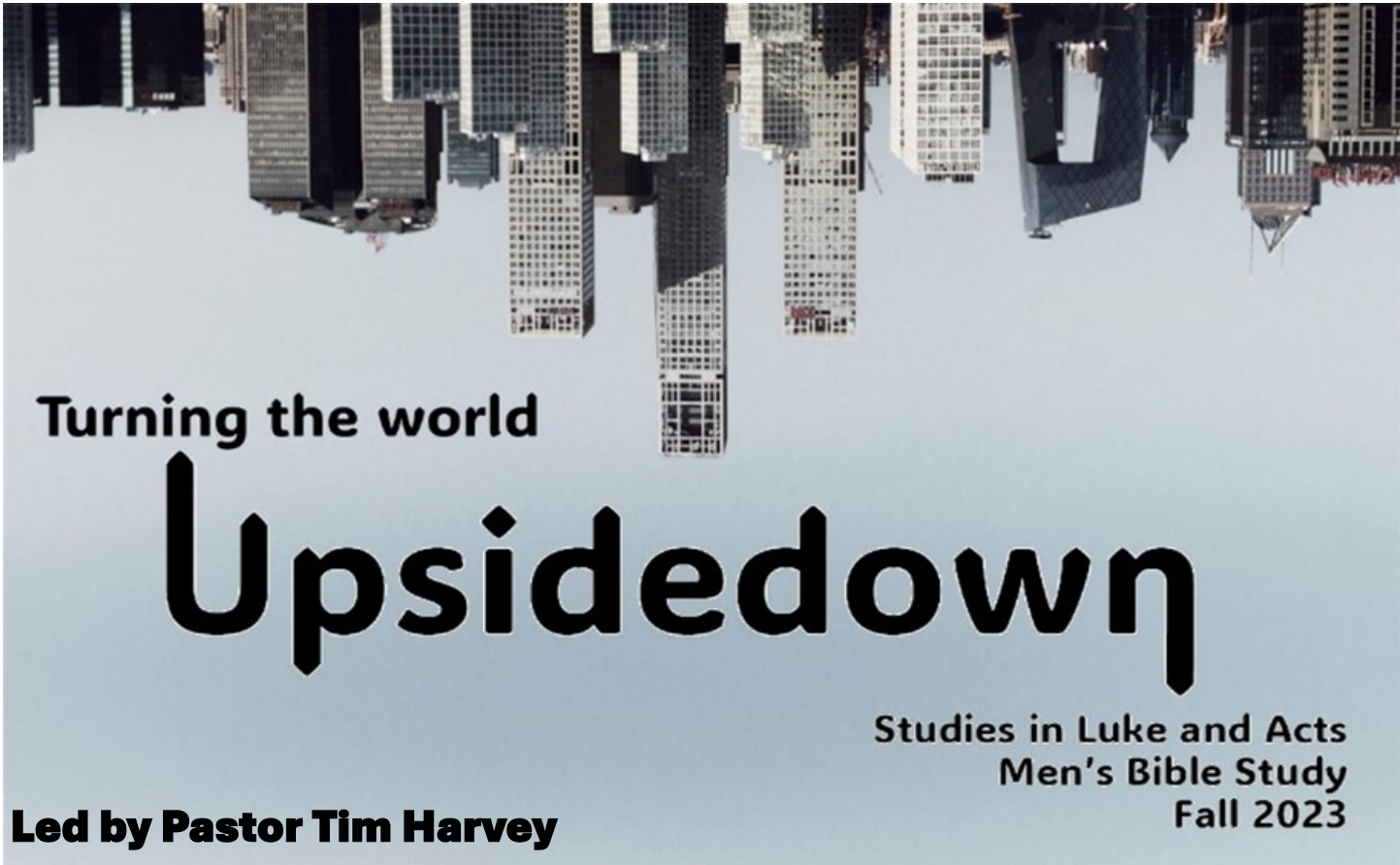
Offering YTD -	\$182,138
Expenses YTD -	\$169,127
Surplus -	\$ 13,011

SHELLY HAAS NEW FINANCIAL SERVICES COORDINATOR FOR VIRLINA DISTRICT

Shelly K. Haas, a member of the Roanoke, Oak Grove Church of the Brethren, began as Financial Services Coordinator for the Virlina District on July 15, 2023.

As she serves part-time in this position in the district, Shelly will continue her full-time employment with Marsh and McLennan, where she works in the accounting department. To contact Shelly in her new role, please email: virlinafinance@gmail.com.





Turning the World Upside Down – Studies in Luke and Acts
Fall 2023 Men’s Bible Study – Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m.

The Gospel that promises to transform our lives also contains the power to turn “the world upside down” (Acts 17:6). Throughout the New Testament books of Luke and Acts, people meet Jesus and *everything changes*. Lost things are found. Lost sons are welcomed home. Outcasts are restored to the community. Sinners are forgiven. Our hearts are filled with compassion.

Join with the men of the Oak Grove Church of the Brethren this fall as we hear these familiar stories once again and consider how the Gospel invites us to join in this “upside down” ministry. Bring your Bible, a friend, and a desire to be shaped by Scripture, and Spirit!

Introduction
September 6 : **PICNIC**; Acts 19
September 13: Luke 1-3

Temptations
September 20: Luke 4:1-13
September 27: Luke 4:16-30

Healing Mind, Body, and Soul
October 4: Luke 6:20-26
October 11: Luke 5:17-26; Acts 2:42-47; Acts 9:1-19
October 18: Luke 15:1-32

Outsiders and Insiders
October 25: Luke 8:1-3; 10:25-37
November 1: Acts 15

Wealth
November 8: Luke 16:1-8a, 19-31
November 15: Luke 6:20-26; 19:1-10; Acts 9:36-40
November 22: No meeting

Witness
November 29: Acts 7:2-60
December 6: Luke 22-23

BUNKS ACROSS AMERICA BUILD



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE®

September 9th

8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Oak Grove is once again taking part in "Bunks Across America" in collaboration with Cave Spring UMC, Laurel Branch CoB, and other area churches. This year, the bed-building event will be held on September 9th in the Cave Spring UMC parking lot (4505 Hazel Dr in Roanoke), rain or shine. Volunteers should arrive by 8:30 am. We are actively seeking volunteers to help build beds. We currently have 22 volunteers signed up and need between 40 to 60 volunteers. Given the high demand for beds in our area, we aim to build 30 beds. Volunteers aged 12 and up are welcome.

Additionally, we are planning to host a pizza lunch for the volunteers. If you are interested in providing a salad (garden, potato, pasta, etc.), and/or if you'd like to help with the setup or serving, contact Ellen Phillips. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

All volunteers need to sign up via this link before the event. www.bit.ly/shpevent.



QUILT SALE

Featuring 20 quilts of various sizes available



Saturday, Sept. 23 - 10 am - 3 pm
Oak Grove Church of the Brethren
2138 McVitty Road SW, Roanoke

Standard Quilt Sizes
 Twin 63-70" X 90"
 Double/Full 78-84" X 90"
 Queen 90" X 96-108"
 King 108" X 95-108"

Lois uses 100% cotton fabrics and batting. She loves color, and she likes the backs of her quilts to be as pretty and interesting as the fronts. Her quilts are machine washable in cold water, using the gentle cycle.

Lois Sowder, a Roanoke native, has been making quilts for 20 years. Watching church ladies quilt encouraged her to give it a try. She took a class at a local fabric store and fell in love with quilting.

Lois has made over one hundred quilts and has donated many to church and organizations like Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Come enjoy the beauty of Lois Sowder's quilts and find one that will bring joy to your home.

**All sales benefit Oak Grove Church
 of the Brethren ministries**



Camp Bethel News

7th annual Camp Bethel PEP! 5K, Saturday, September 2, 2023.

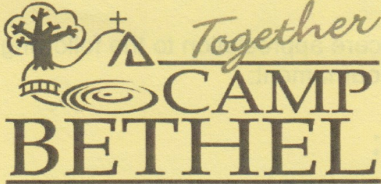


Saturday, September 2, 2023

- 7:00-7:45 a.m. *Walk-in Registrations accepted. \$35 per participant.*
- 7:00-8:00 a.m. Check-in at the Ark Lawn (parking lot side).
- 8:10 a.m. Race Meeting at the Ark Lawn (pond side).
- 8:30 a.m. **STARTING LINE.**
- 9:30 a.m. Awards!
- 10:00 a.m. Brunch! *(Donations accepted)*

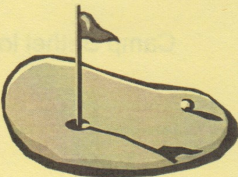


5K Trail Run (& Walk) at Camp Bethel, 328 Bethel Road, Fincastle, VA 24090



29th Annual Camp Bethel Benefit Golf Tournament

www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf




Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Course: Ashley Plantation Country Club (919 Greenfield Street, Daleville, VA 24083)

Time: 11:00 am Check-in begins, and Boxed Lunches available, grab-and-go, or eat under the shelter.
12:30 pm Shotgun Start

Format: Captain's Choice; a non-competitive day of fun and fellowship (and food!)

Cost: \$75.00 per person (boxed lunch & drinks, green fees, and cart)
\$15.00 per person for lunch guests only (lunch menu listed on back of form)
All proceeds benefit the ongoing ministries of Camp Bethel.


<p>Schedule for Wednesday, September 20:</p> <p>11:00 Lunch available & Registration begins Door prizes distributed during check-in.</p> <p>12:30 Shotgun Start</p>	<p>Registration Fees (due by September 15):</p> <p>Team of four (4) players = \$300 Single Player = \$ 75 Lunch only (menu on back) =\$ 15</p>
<p>Sponsorships:</p> <p>Gold Tournament Sponsor = \$1000 <i>Gold includes free team entry of 4 players.</i></p> <p>Silver Tournament Sponsor =\$ 500 <i>Silver includes entry of 2 free players.</i></p> <p>Hole Sponsor = \$ 150 <i>(All sponsors are recognized prominently on hole signs, on our website, and in our Tournament Program.)</i></p>	<p>Return fees, sponsorships, donations & forms by Sept 15 to:</p> <p>CAMP BETHEL GOLF TOURNAMENT 328 BETHEL ROAD FINCASTLE, VA 24090</p> <p>Register on line, or extra forms and info at: www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf</p> 

You may enter as a team or as an individual. Single entrants will be assigned to a team. The tournament is limited to 108 golfers. Entries received after the first 108 will be contacted about waiting list options.

Mulligans will be sold at registration at the course for \$5.00 each with a limit of 2/player (\$10) or 8/team (\$40).

Make checks payable to: Camp Bethel Golf Tournament
Return entry form(s) to: Camp Bethel Golf Tournament, 328 Bethel Road, Fincastle, VA 24090
OR Sponsor and/or Register on line at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf

Fees and forms due to Camp Bethel by Sept. 15. Check in at the Registration Table under the Picnic Pavilion upon arrival at the course. Arrive early to eat your boxed lunches. Be ready to play at 12:30.



Pastor's Column

Piecing it all together

The richness of congregational life impacts us through the mutual sharing of spiritual gifts, talents, and personal interests. The metaphor of the many contributing to the whole offers a significant understanding of our life together:



- Biblically, the church is described as a body where each part is essential to the functioning of the whole. We see a description of this in Acts 4:34 where we read, “There was not a needy person among them” because of the loving, generous financial sharing of the believers.
- Perhaps we imagine our congregation as a delicious stew (we do love to eat!), with each person’s gift making a significant contribution to the overall flavor.
- Our Moments for Mission this past spring gave us the chance to see the various aspects of congregational ministry as puzzle pieces. Each piece by itself is significant, yet the entire picture is only revealed as all the pieces are joined together.

Whichever metaphor you prefer, the point remains that our congregational life depends on each one’s time, talent, and treasure being offered to the benefit of the whole as we together pursue life in Christ. No one of us carries the entire load; each one contributes their portion, and together, we find much strength and love.

September and October are significant times in our church life, as we together discern the church budget for the next year. More than numbers on a page, the individual line items in the budget represent opportunities for someone to meet Jesus, grow in the faith, have a need met, and take their place in the Kingdom of God.



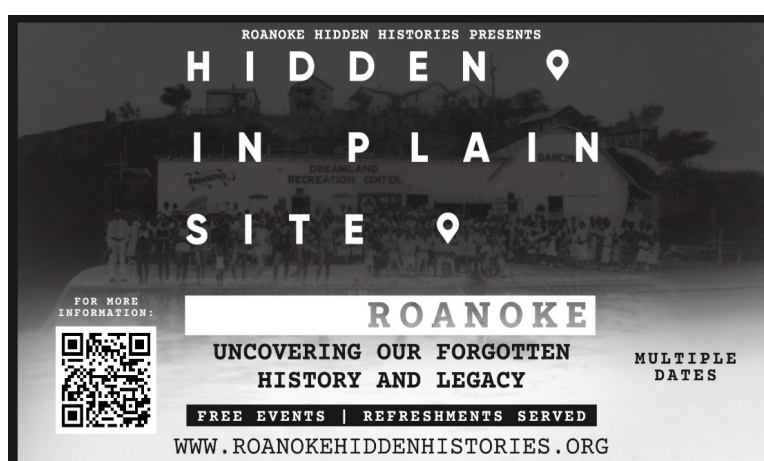
Our leadership began the budgeting process in our August Executive Committee meeting. Our six Commissions and Deacon Board are making their proposals to be considered by the full Church Board. The final budget will be presented for approval at our Fall Council meeting on Sunday, October 15.

Between now and then, be on the lookout for these things to help us with this process:

- Colorful puzzle pieces will appear at various places around the church over the next several Sundays. Each piece represents an aspect of our congregational life and will help tell the story about how our various ministries impact us. These will be shaped by the information you shared during the Moments for Mission earlier this spring.
- Pledge cards and a draft budget will go out in the next few weeks and will be due back on Sunday, October 1. This will be the second year in a row that we have asked for pledge cards to be returned prior to the Fall Council meeting. Our purpose is to build a historical record of how much our congregation pledges, so that we may better anticipate giving trends. You responded faithfully to this last year, and I hope you will do the same again this year.

I encourage you to continue your diligent prayers and service to our congregation, as we *Continue the Work of Jesus: Peacefully, Simply, Together.*

Pastor Tim



Join our Peace & Justice group for an outing to see the documentary *Hidden in Plain Site* which highlights Black history in Roanoke. We are planning on attending the September 28, 2023 show at the Jefferson Center starting at 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact [Ellen Phillips](#).

September 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>Looking Ahead...</i> <i>Camp Bethel Heritage Day is October 7, 2023!</i> <i>The Annual Fall Bazaar is October 21, 2023!</i>				1 Camp Betel Labor Day Family Weekend Sept. 1—4.	2 7 a.m.-Camp Bethel PEP 5k
3 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship <i>No after church fellowship</i>	4 NOAC September 4-8, 2023.	5 5:15 p.m.— Peace & Justice 5:30 p.m.— Handbells	6 6 p.m.— Men’s Bible Study	7 2 p.m.-Games 5:30 p.m.— Evan. & Membership 5:30 p.m.— Mission & Service	8 6:30 p.m.— Peace & Justice Book Study	9 8:30 a.m.— SHP Bed Build at Cave Spring UMC
10 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship 12:30 p.m.— Church Board	11 9 a.m.- Crafts 12:30 p.m.— Backpack	12 5:30 p.m.— Handbells	13 SHP Bed Build 6 p.m.— Men’s Bible Study	14 11 a.m.— Good Samaritan 2 p.m.-Games	15	16
17 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship 3 p.m.— Peace Affairs Service SML	18 9 a.m.- Crafts 6 p.m.— Christian Education	19 5:30 p.m.— Handbells	20 11 a.m.— Munch Bunch 6 p.m.- Men’s Bible Study	21 9:30 a.m.— Women’s Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games 6:30 p.m.— Peace Affairs Prayer Walk	22	23 Quilt Sale 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
24 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship	25 9 a.m.- Crafts 12:30 p.m.— Backpack	26 5:30 p.m.— Handbells	27 6 p.m.— Men’s Bible Study 7 p.m.— Choir	28 9:30 a.m.— Women’s Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games 5:30 p.m.-Hidden in Plain Sight at Jefferson Center	29	30 <div>Munch Bunch is September 20th at 11:00 a.m. They are dining at Mama Maria’s in Salem this month.</div>