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

NOVEMBER

OCTOBER 15

NEWSLETTER **COMMITTEE:**

Rena' Brown **Carolyn Broyles**

Nancy Hylton

Josephine Keller

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARY HOURS:

THE VISITOR OCTOBER 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.

1

October Sermon and Scripture

A Specific Love Romans 12:1-8 October 1-Combined worship and Love Feast Pledge Cards due

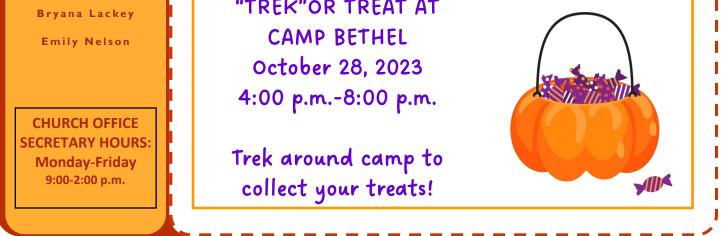
The 5-Fold Ministry of the Church October 8-Ephesians 4:11-16

October 15- The Greatest Gift: Love 1 Corinthians 13

October 22 - Death and Taxes Matthew 22:15-22

October 29- Telling the Truth Matthew 5:33-37

"TREK"OR TREAT AT CAMP BETHEL October 28, 2023



Church News

Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

- ...Roger Simpson, recovering from stroke
- ... Eleanor Brogan, recovering from a stroke
- ...Lois Sowder, recovering from fall

Phyllis Meadows has been moved to Memory Care at Terra Bella, the same facility she has been in.

John King's sister, Janet Trent passed away September 14, 2023. Please keep the family in your prayers.

We offer our sympathy and prayers to the family of Barbara Mann. Barbara passed away on September 10, 2023. Below is a poem someone anonymously sent in her honor. We will miss her poems in our monthly newsletter.

Our poet laureate has gone above, to enjoy for herself more of God's love.

She brought joy to so many here, her words, oh, so simple brought to many some cheer.

She loved her family, she loved her friends, and she was true blue right to the end.

So do not weep, and do not cry, you'll see her again way up in the sky.

We know where she's gone, no more pain to bear, if she could but tell you, to others show ears



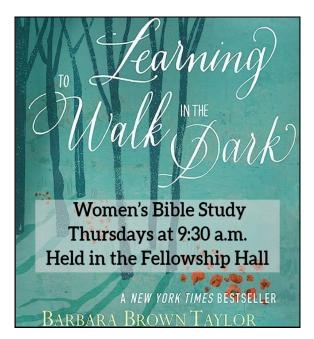
Happy Birthday

- 1– Tyler Chumbley
- 3–Brent White
- 4– Paxton Sutphin
- 4– Cooper Purcell
- 6– Julie Ann Pullen
- 9– Diane Tyler
- 10– Craig Wallace
- 12– Dan Hylton
- 15– Jan Grisso
- 16– Lowell Foutz
- 19– Clara Micolupo
- 22– Michaelia Tyler
- 25–Bobby Saul
- 27– Charlie Purcell

A belated birthday to Bill Hall on August 31, 2023. Bill's birthday got cut off in the August Newsletter.

Happy Anniversary

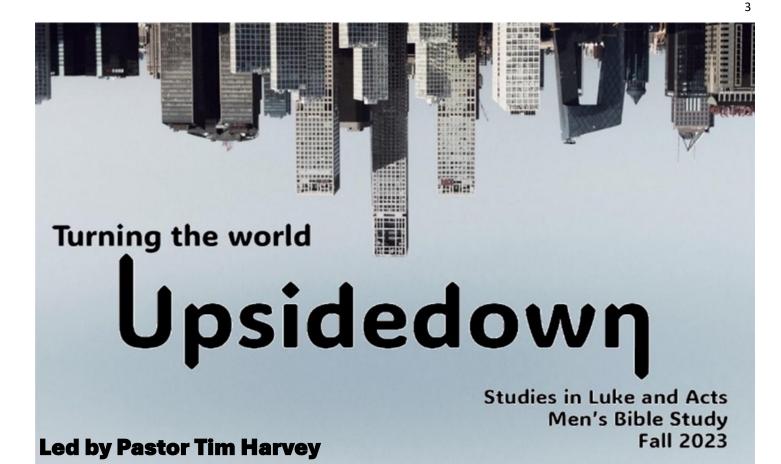
- 2– John & Betty Phillips
- 2– Mike & Diane Tyler
- 3– David & Carol Jones
- 15–Bill & Becky Fowler
- 29– Brian & Brooke Harmon



2

to others show care.

We will all cherish the "manny" lines she wrote, and the "manny" sweet memories we all have of Ms Barbara.



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!

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



I would like to thank everyone who helped with the quilt sale. I appreciate all the \hat{h} ard work as I could not have done it by myself. -Lois Sowder









Baked goods, produce and canned goods in the Country Store, pottery, quilts, wooden crafts, dog coats and various other crafts



4

Oak Grove Bazaar October 21, 2023 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.



Oak Grove's Fall Bazaar will be held Saturday, October 21, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. We will have an

area devoted to handcrafted items, from Christmas decorations to pottery. There will also be a Bake Sale, Country Store, "Next to New" area, and Kitchen Café, serving sausage biscuits and coffee for breakfast. It takes many good cooks, talented crafters, jelly makers and organizers to have a successful bazaar. A number of our crafters have been meeting regularly throughout the year, sharing their talents and fellowship. Their donations will be found in the handcrafted items.

The Country Store is always popular and there you will find jellies and jams, fresh produce and country crafts. The shifts for volunteers in the Country Store and other areas except kitchen, are 7:45 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. We will also need volunteers to help as cashiers.

We will be setting up the fellowship hall for the bazaar beginning on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, and need to have the room back in order by Tuesday evening, October 24, 2023. Rearranging the tables and moving many chairs to and from the storage closet requires time and strength.

Once again this year, the funds will support the Good Samaritan Fund here at Oak Grove. These funds are used to help members of the community with rent and utility payments, as well as payments for medications.

We have many talented people in our congregation and this is an excellent opportunity to share those talents, fellowship with others here and with guests who come to shop, and support our Samaritan Fund. Please contact Martha Gregory at (843) 926-1510 or Rena' Brown at (540) 525-8726, to reserve your time for volunteering.



Good Samaritan Hospice meets the second Thursday each month in our Fellowship Hall.





Aaron Housh, left, CEO of Good Samaritan Hospice, with Betsy Whitney, the nonprofit's chief philanthropy officer, inside the under-construction center for Caring, a \$13 million facility that will offer 16 private residential rooms for patients receiving hospice care. Currently, the closest inpatient hospice facilities are two hours away, in North Carolina and West Virginia. Housh said the center will admit its first patients by Aug. 1, 2024. They expect the hospice to move its administrative offices into the center in January.

"He was ready to write a "He was ready to write a check," Ranson recalled. Unfor-tunately, Good Samaritan wasn't in a position to accept it at that time. For one thing, a location for a hospice house hadn't yet been nailed down. (That didn't happen until the end of 2021.) So Strauss gave later, when the hospice was closer to ground-Strauss showed up at Good Sam's headquarters at 2408 Electric

He was adamant, Housh said, that "I want to see this in my lifetime." breaking.

Foundation gave \$500,000

Another key donation came from the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia, which over the years has been a stalwart supporter of "Good Sam," The foundation gave \$500,000 toward the project, Housh said. That was the largest single con-

G&H Construction of Salem. "We really wanted to keep everything local that we could, because this is the community we serve," Housh said. Besides serving as an admin-istrative headparters, and of-istrative headparters, and of-terility the new facility will sporty los spacious private nooms, each with its own bathroom, for resi-dential hospice clients receiving 24-hour care. s tribution to any cause the foun-dation has ever made, he added. The nonprofit itself has con-tributed the largest share, more than \$5 million, which it has amosed more than 30 years of support from the community, plus good financial advice and fortunate investments, Housh Now a capital campaign is underway to raise the remain-der that's needed, roughly \$2.3 million. Betsy Whitney, a former fundraiser for Carilion Clinic, is

facilities, a chapel, and outdoor and indoor spaces where loved If you're considering a do-nation, that can be as simple as clicking a button in the upper right-corner of the hospice's website, goodsam.care (there's in charge of that.

ones can spend time with pa-tients. And windows that look out onto the Blue Ridge Moun-tains. Wednesday morning, Whitney and Housh led me on a tour of the roughly half-built facility, which is adjacent to New Cov-enant Christian Church. It was designed by SFCS Architects of Roanoke and is being erected by period on the end).

no

Some of the patients will be Some of the patients will be or months of life. Others will be temporary 'trespite care" clients, cared for mostly at home by fam-ily members who need an occa-sional break. Ranson said that right now,

pretty much the only alternative for care-giving families who need a break is to find a nurs-ing home that will put them up short-term.

'It was like a home'

Hospice homes can be lifesav-ers for family members of dying people, said Kathy Baske Young. Though she lives in Roanoke now, Young's experience with residential hospice occurred more than 20 years ago. At the time, she lived in North mother was dying of liver cance Carolina, and her widowed

in a Chicago hospital. Things got to a point at which her mom was in great pain. But the hospital was unwilling to administer any more pain medication than she was ahready getting. Her closest relative was a son (Baske Young's brother) who lived about an hour

away. A hospital social worker sug-gested a nearby hospice house, which had a freer hand with pain meds for the terminally il. That made sense, Baske Young said, because nothing was going to keep her mom alive. "The hospice said, "we're going to keep her comfortable," Baske Young told me. Her mom lived there the last week of her life. "It was wonderful," Baske Young told me. "It was like a home. We could sleep there. They had a kitchen so we could warm up meals. And they had people who checked in on us, to make sure that we were OK ... I remem-

ber it so well. How can you not remember moments like that?" Early next year, the Good Sa-

maritan Hospice will give up the commercial space it's leased for decades and move its administration into the Center for

Caring. Housh said it expects to be admitting the first hospice pa tients Aug. 1.

"Our goal is the highest-qual-ity end-of-life care possible," he told me. "Since I've been here I've met families who want this level of care. It's hard to believe it's not available here."



Camp Bethel News



Camp Bethel's 39th annual Brethren Heritage Day Festival is Saturday, October 7, 2023 from 7:30 a.m. through 2:30 p.m.. This festival is FREE for EVERYONE to attend, and 100% of all sales of food, crafts, and activities benefit the programs and operations of Camp Bethel. FREE PARKING and FREE ENTRY.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023:

5:00-6:00 a.m.: Apple Butter Canning in the Cave Trail Shelter, hot off the kettles. Come and help!

7:30 a.m.: Breakfast in the Ark Dining Hall through 9:30 a.m., and Breakfast all day at booth #27 Mount Union CoB!

9:00 a.m.: Booths OPEN and Apple Butter available.

9:15 a.m.: Kids' Fishing open; child 3-12 w/ adult (suggested \$10 donation).

9:30 a.m.: Kids' Train Rides begin.

2:30 p.m.: Booths close.

Camp Bethel Fall Work Day Saturday, November 4, 2023 7:30 a.m.



7

Help is needed to prepare Camp Bethel for the winter season! RSVP for your 7:30 a.m. free breakfast and 1:00 p.m. free lunch by October 31, 2023 by contacting the camp office at 540-992-2940 or <u>CampBethelOffice@gmail.com</u>.

Below is a special thank you from one of our adopted Camp Counselors, Grayson:

Dear Yingling Family, and Dear Oak Grove Family,
the control of the set of the control of the set of the
I cannot thank you enough for
your support this summer! It has
been yet another wonderful summer at
Camp Bethel, but as one might expect,
each week came with it's own challenge
I am writing this letter with a pen
and paper that you gave me not only
because they are wonderful moterials
(which they are), but because the visits
and care packages recieved from you
this summer helped me to remember
that the love and community of this
place stretch for beyond its borders.
That feeling of community inspires
me and fills my heart, even in time
when my potience and energy are being
tested. I hope you have all had a
worderful summer, and I look former
to seeing you around next year!

the tax on you not that some has

Special Offering for Maui Fires

The District is currently receiving pass through offerings for relief following the Maui Fires.

Individuals, small groups and congregations can mail their offerings to the Virlina District Resource Center, 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012. Please place #33507 Maui Fire Offering in the memo line of the check.

All funds received will be sent to Children's Disaster Services for their Maui Fire Response, to Brethren Disaster Ministries for Maui Rebuilding or to another organization recommended by Brethren Disaster Ministries working on Maui Fire relief.

Virlina District is seeking a Coordinator of Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministries

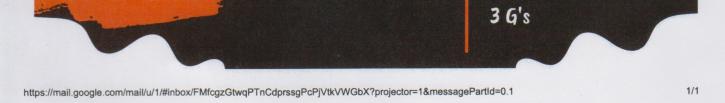
Part-time, an average of 10 hours a week. Compensation is \$7,800.00.

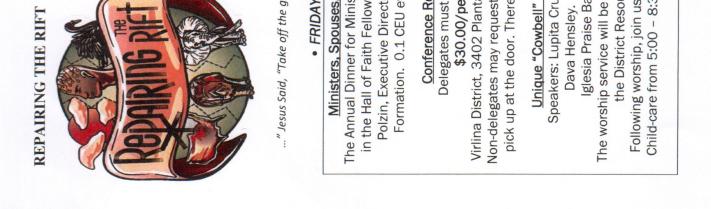
Providing opportunities for fellowship and promotion of the gospel of Jesus Christ by planning age specific retreats, picnics and other events.

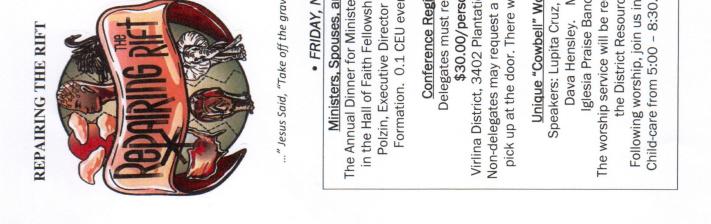
A more detailed job description is available by contacting Mary St. John at the email below: virlina.directordcnw@gmail.com.

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Virlina District Conference FAITH FELLOWSHIP 2023

and music, voting, business Brethren reports, exhibits and Join us for worship Friday night, of the November 10 & 11 fellowship on Saturday. WIRTZ, VA Church sessions,

..." Jesus Said, "Take off the graveclothes and let him go." - John 11:44

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

The Annual Dinner for Ministers and Spouses will be held on-site in the Hall of Faith Fellowship Church. Guest speaker is Nate Polzin, Executive Director of Discipleship and Leadership ormation. 0.1 CEU event. Reserve meals by Oct. 21. Ministers, Spouses, and Friends Dinner 5:15 PM

Delegates must register by September 30 Conference Registration and Check-in

Non-delegates may request a report booklet by September 30 to Virlina District, 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012. up at the door. There will be a limited number available. \$30.00/person fee made out to

The worship service will be recorded and may be borrowed from Following worship, join us in the lobby for light refreshments. Child-care from 5:00 – 8:30. Please pack snacks for children. Speakers: Lupita Cruz, Doug Diamond, Tim Harvey, Unique "Cowbell" Worship 6:45 PM - 8:30 PM the District Resource Center after Saturday. Iglesia Praise Band, Lisa Street, and 3 G's Dava Hensley. Ministry through Music:

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Registration 7:45 - 8:15 AM

seating in elevated seats behind the delegates. Everyone is Nondelegates will have ample Delegates will be sitting in the designated area on the main floor of the theater-style sanctuary.

welcome to attend District Conference. Congregations will be mailed report booklets and asked to distribute to each delegate. Delegates are expected to bring report booklets to sessions. All voting takes place on-site.

Children & Youth Activities

A separate registration form is required to reserve a place in the child-care program or nursery for infants to kindergarten. Please grade 5 who pre-register will be taken by passenger van to Camp Bethel for a day with the staff for Bible study, songs, work projects, and lunch in the ARK dining hall. Please provide car seats if g separate retreat and work project at Camp Bethel. Chaperones provide snacks, drink and lunch. Children ages kindergarten needed. Middle School and Senior High Youth will be having must provide transportation and should arrive at camp by 9:30.

Business Sessions 8:15 AM-12:00 and 1:20 - 3:30 PM

The business and worship will include commission and committee reports, voting on the 2023 ballot, budget and new business, reorganization, prayer and commissioning for Virlina's 2024 leadership and the installation of 2024 Moderator Stacy Goff. Some Brethren agencies will give reports as well. All business sessions will be recorded and may be borrowed from the District Resource Center after Saturday.

Lunch 12:00 PM- 1:15 PM

On-site lunch, prepared by Faith Fellowship, will need to be reserved by October 21. Lunch will be served in a room off of the lobby with an accessible ramp entrance. Local restaurants near Faith Fellowship are an option, as well.

2024 Officers

Clerk: Rissa Craighead, Red Oak Grove Moderator Elect: Stacy Goff, Copper Hill Moderator: Noel Naff, Mount Hermon

Prayer Walk International Day of Prayer for Peace 2023 Virlina District Peace Affairs Committee

Forgive us, Jesus, for understanding that violence is, indeed, a heart problem, but then putting into people's hands the most violent weapons ever created.

Forgive us, Jesus, for making you into a mascot for our political team, reducing you to a slogan for a cause you will not recognize.

Forgive us, Jesus, for not recognizing that hurt people hurt people; strengthen us for the long road to healing, wholeness, and peace.

With this prayer, our walk to recognize the International Day of Prayer for Peace began. Sponsored by the Virlina District's Peace Affairs Committee, the walk was a new addition to the District calendar, designed as an intentional response to both rising incidents of gun violence in the city of Roanoke and recent



efforts to understand and reverse the impacts of racism in the city. We were able to capitalize on connections that several committee members have through their District and civic work on these issues, as well as relationships with a growing network of concerned Christians from across the area who are committed to peace and justice work.

A group of approximately 30 walkers from eight Virlina District congregations, multiple Christian denominations and several civic and social justice groups participated in this twomile walk through the Gainsboro neighborhood in Roanoke. This historically Black section of Roanoke witnessed the decimation of its once-vibrant religious, civic, and arts life by the so-called urban renewal efforts of the 1960's – 1980's that destroyed neighborhoods, churches,



and businesses, while relocating citizens from homes to housing projects.

The walkers visited five historic Black churches on the route, two of which are in their current location after being forced to relocate when their original property was condemned during the urban renewal process. Pastors and church members greeted us with a brief history

of their congregation and a moving prayer for peace for our world and especially for our city, as much of Roanoke's gun violence impacts members of these congregations. This was made more real to walkers as our route passed a convenience store where one participant's son had been murdered several years prior, and then later stopped to visit a homemade memorial to a recent victim of gun violence.

Continued on next page...

Though the pain and loss that several walkers carried with them was significant, the overall spirit on the walk was one of great enthusiasm and joy. New friendships were made, laughter was frequent, songs were sung, and history was encountered first-hand through the stories of a historic neighborhood. All of this created a delightful sense of common spiritual cause with one another and the congregations we visited along the way.

Even neighbors enjoying their front porches on a beautiful September evening (whose first facial expressions conveyed uncertainty at this group of strangers walking past their home) expressed appreciation when they learned of our purpose; others who drove past on the quiet neighborhood streets slowed down to wave their hands and honk their horns in support.



Returning to our starting point nearly two hours after we had departed, many participants exchanged contact information and expressed a desire to repeat this event next year. Our hearts were touched along the way by prayers like this one that was shared along our way, and we look forward to working with one another and with God that peace would indeed prevail in our neighborhoods:

Most holy and all-wise God who sits high and looks low, we are disturbed by all the things that are happening in our community. It is not a black issue, it is not a white issue, it is a people issue, it is a heart issue, and we are praying that people's hearts would be changed so that we may have peace in our community. We thank you for son Jesus who came—peacefully—to show us what your love is like. In Christ's name, Amen. Rev. David Dickey, Loudon Ave. Christian Church.





This month we served our community by giving through our good Samaritan Fund and helping two families from our Food Pantry. There were also numerous beds our volunteers helped build for SHP.

Pastor's Column

A wealth of gifts

My cousin's wife reached out to me a few weeks ago for help with Scripture for her father's memorial service. She told me that her father was a skilled carpenter and welder—the kind of tradesman who can build or fix almost anything—and how he was always willing to use those skills to help others.

I suggested Exodus 31:1-5, which she used in his memorial service:

The LORD spoke to Moses: See, I have called by name Bezalel son of Uri son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: and I have filled him with divine spirit, with ability, intelligence, and knowledge in every kind of craft, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, in every kind of craft.

This is a passage that deserves attention in preaching, study, and—when appropriate—memorial services.

The Bible has much to say about spiritual gifts. In Paul's letters to the churches of Rome, Corinth, and Ephesus, we read how the Holy Spirit gifted people just like you and me to serve the church with gifts of leadership (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers) and gifts for the life of the church (encourager, giver, compassion, wisdom, prophecy, faith). We also celebrate gifts and abilities we might describe as "professional" or "mechanical." Our own congregation has recently benefitted from gifts like these in some significant ways:

When we wanted to create a new format for Vacation Bible School, we called a team of persons with professional degrees in education and experience as a counselor at Camp Bethel.

- When we needed to reimagine the Treasurer's position, we benefitted from gifts of accounting and business administration.
- Several recent repairs and upgrades around the church were accomplished by members with carpentry, electrical, and mechanical skills, saving the church thousands of dollars.

The list could go on!

Spiritual gifts vary in function but are equal in importance. Just as the handle end of a screwdriver makes a poor hammer, a hammer is of little use when driving in a screw. But when used for their intended purpose, the right tool (or spiritual gift) for the job enables efficiency, quality, and beauty to shine forth! The church always has a need for Bible teachers, givers, cooks, encouragers, and electricians, and more.

Thanks be to God that our congregation has spiritual gifts in abundance!

Pastor Tim

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October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:45 a.mSS 11:00 a.m Worship Love Feast	2 9 a.m Crafts 9 a.m.– ESL	3 5:30 p.m.– Handbells	4 9 a.m.– ESL 6 p.m.– Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir	5 9:30 a.m.– Women's Bible Study 2 p.mGames 5:30 p.m.– Mission & Service	6 6:30 p.m.– Peace & Justice Book Study	7 Heritage Day at Camp Bethel 7:30 a.m 2:30 p.m.
8 9:45 a.mSS 11:00 a.m Worship	 ⁹ Bed Build 9 a.m Crafts 9 a.m ESL 12:30 p.m Backpack 6 p.m Christian Education 	10 5:30 p.m.– Handbells	11 9 a.m.– ESL 6 p.m.– Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir	12 9:30 a.m.– Women's Bible Study 11 a.m.– Good Samaritan 2 p.mGames	13	14 Bed Build
15 9:45 a.mSS 11:00 a.m Worship 12:30 p.m.– Council Meeting	16 9 a.m.– ESL 9 a.m Crafts	17 5:30 p.m.– Handbells	18 9 a.m.– ESL 11 a.m.– Munch Bunch 6 p.m.– Men's Bible Study	19 9:30 a.m.– Women's Bible Study 2 p.mGames	20	21 Fall Bazaar and Community Festival Bazaar- 8 a.m 2:30 p.m. Festival- 10 a.m 2 p.m.
22 9:45 a.mSS 11:00 a.m Worship	23 9 a.m.– ESL 9 a.m Crafts 12:30 p.m.– Backpack	24 5:30 p.m.– Handbells	25 9 a.m.– ESL 6 p.m.– Men's Bible Study	26 9:30 a.m.– Women's Bible Study 2 p.mGames	27	28 Bed Build Trek or Treat at Camp Bethel 4:00-8:00 p.m.
29 9:45 a.mSS	30 9 a.m.– ESL	31	Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Builds:			
11:00 a.m		5·30 n m -	October 9: 8	3:30 a.m.– 12:30	p.mBlue Eag	le Credit Union

Worship	9 a.m Crafts	5:30 p.m.– Handbells	October 9: 8:30 a.m 12:30 p.mBue Eagle Credit Onion October 14: 8:30 a.m12:30 p.mBoxley Materials Co. October 28: 8:30 a.m12:30 p.mSt. John's Lutheran Church