

**Pastor:**  
Tim Harvey

**Minister of Nurture  
and Music:**  
Carol Elmore

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**Website:**  
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**Phone:**  
(540) 774-3217

**DEADLINE FOR  
DECEMBER  
NOVEMBER 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

NOVEMBER 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.***

## November Sermons and Scripture

**November 5** *For all the Saints* Revelation 7:9-17

***The Lord is my Shepherd: Sermons on Psalm 23***

**November 12** *Path* Psalm 23:1-3

**November 19** *Comfort* Psalm 23:4

**November 26** *Host* Psalm 23:5-6 Thanksgiving Sunday

## October Outreach

- Sixty beds built for Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- Three families assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund
- Provided food for two families through our Food Pantry
- Split and delivered wood with Project WARM
- Quilt Sale made \$2,450.00 for the Longevity Fund
- Fall Bazaar made \$4,500.00 for our Good Samaritan Fund
- Backpack Ministry is now distributing 21 backpacks weekly!



# Church News

*Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:*  
...**Lois Sowder**, rehab at Pheasant Ridge, Room 602  
...**Stephen Wills**, recovering from accident  
...**Betty Phillips**, rehab at Brandon Oaks  
...**Diane Hollins**, recovering from gallbladder surgery  
...**Dennis Ferguson**, rehab at Our Lady of the Valley  
...**Norm Pullen**, recovering from surgery

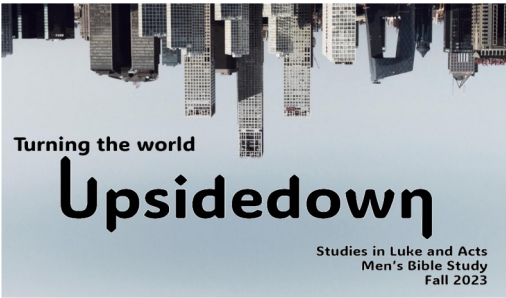
*Sympathy and prayers for the family of Patricia Ronk. Patricia passed away on October 28, 2023.*



In November, we will "prepare" for Advent for 4 sessions:

- Nov. 2 - HOPE
- Nov. 9 - PEACE
- Nov. 16 - JOY
- (Skip Nov. 23)
- Nov. 30 - LOVE

*Let Carol Elmore know if YOU can come!*



- 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

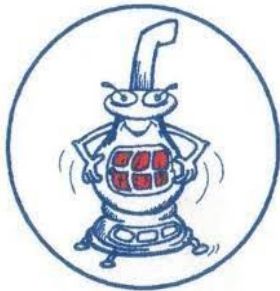
# Happy Birthday

- 1– Betty Phillips
- 2– Lois Sowder
- 3– Connie Bierly
- 7– Bill Baker
- 8– Jessy Wilson
- 11– Marshall Brogan
- 13– Brittany Frantz
- 13– Mark Harmon
- 14– Nathan Musselman
- 14– Brooke Martin
- 18– Fred Widdowson
- 19– Emma Ballew
- 22– Julie Chumbley
- 24– Doug Craighead
- 25– Eli Raymond
- 27– Elisabeth Johnson
- 27– Meg Mabus
- 27– Josephine Keller
- 28– Neal Musselman
- 28– Matt Simpson

# Happy Anniversary

- 4– Milton & Janet Hartman
- 6– Dennis & Carole Ferguson
- 12– David & Margie Twigg
- 24– Mark & Jonna Detweiler

Project WARM has resumed for the 2023-24 season! Join Oak Grove on Saturday, November 25, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. to help. If you would like to assist another time or would like more information, please contact [Marc Wilson](#).



**Time to get a little healthier?**

Grab a friend and COME on Friday, November 10, at 11:00 a.m. when Robert and Hollie Craighead Johnson will be in our fellowship hall to share tips for Nutrition and a Healthier Lifestyle! They will share snacks with us, too!

Robert is a Family Nurse Practitioner (specializing in lifestyle medicine) for Lewis Gale, and Hollie (who grew up at Oak Grove) has years of experience in administration in elder care. They bring expertise and caring hearts to this presentation.

The Johnsons have put their passion into their (soon to be) nonprofit: Navigation Nutrition. It is an evidence-based lifestyle and nutrition program that utilizes a holistic and therapeutic patient centered approach to prevent and reverse diseases that are correlated to lifestyle factors.



**Fall Church Council Meeting October 15, 2023**

It was approved that for 2024 the Oak Grove Church of the Brethren Executive Committee will serve in place of our Church Board, handling all responsibilities normally assigned to both the Executive Committee and the Church Board.

- The 2024 Slate was approved:**  
Moderator-John Phillips 2024  
Assistant Moderator-Alli Yingling 2024  
Assistant Treasurer-Sam Phillips 24-26  
Christian Education Committee-Martha Gregory 24-26  
Ministry & Worship Committee-Horace Light, Sherrie White and Julie Hall 24-26  
Missions & Service Commission-Rhonda Marcum 24-26  
District Conference-Mark Harmon and Randall Eakin 24-25  
Annual Conference-Pastors Tim Harvey and Carol Elmore 2024

The 2024 Budget amount of \$324,973.00 was approved as presented.

*If you would like a packet that was distributed at our Council Meeting, please let the Church Office know.*





*Above: Bill & Julie Hall*



*From Left: Carol Leddy, Amanda Leddy, Rachel Leddy & Harvey Leddy*



*Above: Morgan Taylor*

### **Rachel Leddy** by Carol Elmore

Rachel Leddy joined Oak Grove on September 10, 2023, and we're glad to have her here! She joined the same day as her parents and grandmother.

Rachel is a sophomore at Hollins University, majoring in Environmental Science. Her hobbies include hiking and camping.

This summer (and as needed since), Rachel served as staff in the Camp Bethel kitchen. If you take your dishes to the dish room after a meal, you'll be greeted by Rachel and find her working hard to keep things going. She takes her work very seriously!

Between college life, a part-time job, and being a great aunt to Aria, Rachel is a very busy person. But when she can come to Oak Grove, make it a point to get to know her. We're blessed to have her. Welcome, Rachel!

## **Carol Leddy** by Carolyn Broyles

I first met Carol Leddy in 1984 while working at Clearbrook School. Carol was entering her youngest son in the third grade. I had the privilege of working with Harvey in the fourth grade. The family had just moved to the Roanoke area from the Milledgeville Church of the Brethren in Illinois for her husband, Peter, to serve as pastor of the Red Hill Church of the Brethren.

Before her husband entered the ministry, he served in the military and they traveled quite extensively. Their first two children were born in Alaska. They served numerous churches in Illinois, Virginia and Florida - spending their last nine years together in Florida. Peter passed away July 6, 2022.

Carol and Peter were married 57 years. After Peter's death, Carol moved back to Roanoke and she is currently living in an apartment at Friendship North, Wellington IV, which she enjoys very much. She has four children, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Two of her children live in the Roanoke area.

One of her fondest memories of serving in the various churches was attending Annual Conference and serving as a delegate. She always enjoyed getting to reconnect with people from her past experiences and meeting new friends.

Carol loves to travel, enjoys reading, and also doing crafts. She is planning to get back into Bible study, choir and crafts here at our church as soon as she has healed from her current surgery.

One of the reasons she was drawn to the Oak Grove church was that she wanted to reconnect with Pastor Tim and Lynette. Peter was serving a congregation in Dayton, Virginia and he and Carol met Tim and Lynette while Tim was in college in that area. Peter had a big influence on Tim. Also, she knew a lot of former Red Hill members who are now attending Oak Grove. She fell in love with all the wonderful people here and for her it was very good to see a thriving church.

After attending Oak Grove for less than a year, Carol officially joined Oak Grove Church of the Brethren on September 10, 2023.

We give her a big warm welcome and look forward to many years of worshipping with her.





## Harvey & Amanda Leddy

by Mary Wilson

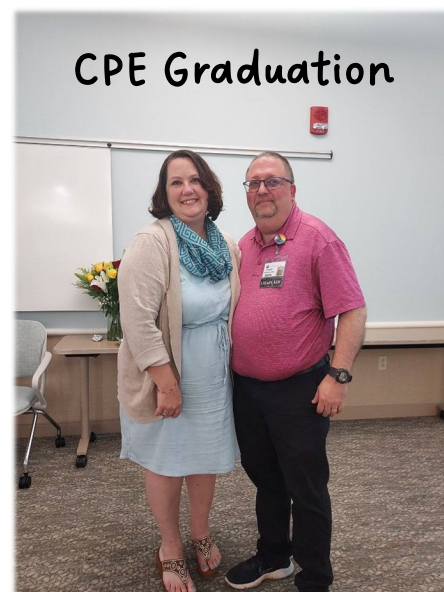
I am so happy to tell you about one of our new families at Oak Grove. Harvey & Amanda Leddy joined our church September 10, 2023. I have known and loved them for years. When I met Harvey, his dad was pastor at Red Hill Church of the Brethren back in the 80's. He was probably the age of Lincoln Yingling then. I was lucky to have Amanda as one of my campers at Camp Bethel when she was in middle school, just a *few* years ago. It was at Camp Bethel that Harvey & Amanda met and they've been together for almost 30 years.

They are blessed with four children and one granddaughter. Three of their children are still in school. Rachel is a sophomore at Hollins University studying environmental science. She enjoys reading anime and riding her bike. Stephen is a senior at Northside High School and goes to Burton Center for Visual Arts. He is very creative and enjoys creating art and making music with the computer. Jaxson is a sophomore and loves singing in Northside's vocal ensemble and mixed choir. He's in the theater club and Tri-M Music Honor Society. He played tennis for the first time last year and can't wait to do it this spring. Rebecca and her husband Dominique Duncan are the proud parents of the adorable Aria, who turns 3 years old in December.

Harvey and Amanda share the love of God with those around them in many ways, peacefully, simply, and together. During their first year of marriage they moved to Jos, Nigeria where Harvey taught middle school band and choir for a missionary school called Hillcrest. They've since lived in Danville, Christiansburg, and Eden before returning to Roanoke in 2016. Amanda has been an LPN for 19 years and has worked with folks struggling with opioid addiction for the last 6 years. Harvey recently completed a year-long CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) program at Lynchburg Hospital and is now a hospice chaplain/ bereavement counselor with Affinity Hospice in Roanoke. He enjoys providing care for patients and their families, helping them connect to their faith as part of their end-of-life journey.

The Leddy family is involved in the ministries at Camp Bethel. Harvey was the music director at Camp for several summers in the 90's. This summer, Rebecca served as the Food Service Coordinator and Jaxson was a CIT (Counselor in Training). As a youth, Harvey had many friends at Oak Grove and attended youth functions here. "It is a place," Harvey said, "I can call my spiritual home."

They have made themselves at home and are part of the music and children's ministries of Oak Grove. You may have heard Harvey's amazing tenor voice in our choir. Amanda helped with Vacation Bible School this summer and assists with children's church and the children's story. Amanda shared, "We came to Oak Grove because we know lots of good people that attend here and we felt it would be a good place to share our time and talents. It feels like a real community at Oak Grove and we are blessed to be a part of it. Thank you all for the warm welcome!"



## **Bill & Julie Hall**

by Becky Widdowson

It's my extreme pleasure to introduce two of my favorite people: Bill & Julie Hall.

Although they just recently became members of Oak Grove on September 10, 2023, they both got involved in many areas of the church soon after their first visit with us. Julie joined the church choir and handbell choir as well as the Friendship Sunday School Class and Women's Bible Study.

She has added so much to several of our worship services with her beautiful piano playing. Julie was elected to the Ministry and Worship Commission. Most recently she has volunteered to help with gift acknowledgements for Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Bill got involved with Project WARM right away, as he had been a part of it for 12 years previously at his former church. He saw a need and started helping the Property Commission with trimming, landscaping and whatever else he could do. Then he started attending bed builds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. When he agreed to serve as an Usher, I'm sure he had no idea it would lead to taking over for our dear Bill Whitlow as Head Usher.

It is not surprising that most of these involvements happened before Bill and Julie were members. They are both folks who like to keep busy, and they say they knew by the second visit that Oak Grove was where they wanted to be. Both marveled at how friendly and welcoming everyone was. Bill estimated that 85 percent of the congregation spoke to them on their first visit.

Bill and Julie are Roanoke natives. Bill graduated from Jefferson and Julie from William Fleming. In December they will celebrate 34 years together. They have a blended family with Julie's two daughters and two sons and Bill's one daughter. Sadly, Julie's daughters have passed away, but this wonderful blended family has given Bill and Julie ten beautiful grandchildren (6 girls & 4 boys) and one great-granddaughter to spoil and love! And they have time to do just that since they are both retired-Julie in 2017 from Anthem Blue Cross and Bill in 2014 from Kroger Credit Union.

Besides loving on the grandchildren, and all their church activities, Julie enjoys reading, knitting and tickling the ivories, while Bill enjoys helping older folks who need help with small maintenance jobs. He is the ultimate "handyman", so if you need help, Bill's your man!

Welcome to Oak Grove Bill and Julie! It means so much to have you join our church family.



## **Morgan Taylor**

by Kirsten-Lubbs-Robinson

Please join me in welcoming Morgan Taylor as an official member of Oak Grove as of September 17, 2023. I have so enjoyed getting to know her and her son Barnes, and know that you will love knowing them, too!

Morgan grew up in Bassett, Virginia, attending Bassett High, then graduating from Ferrum College with a major in Liberal Arts and a minor in Elementary Education. As a band mom, knowing that she marched in their band makes her extra special! She went on to earn her Master's in Communication Sciences and Disorders at Radford University. Those studies led her to a career in Speech Language Pathology, first at a Skilled Nursing Facility and later as a specialist in early intervention for children from birth to three years. Morgan says she was called to this path after shadowing a Speech Pathologist in high school.

Growing up, Morgan was active in the Bassett Church of the Brethren, being baptized there and actively participating in their children's program. Later on, she attended Mount Hermon Church of the Brethren and was active in their youth group. Her parents and grandparents still attend Bassett COB. After settling here, Oak Grove was a natural fit!

Morgan, her husband Chris, kindergartener Barnes, and their dog Lola live here in Roanoke, in the nearby Cave Spring area. Barnes is in kindergarten at Roanoke Catholic School, and Morgan works at Blue Mountain Therapy helping kids. When she's not busy at work or helping with the Christian Education Committee or as acolyte coordinator at church, Morgan and her family love spending time outdoors, visiting her family's farm in Bassett, playing in the creek, camping, kayaking, hiking, or sitting around a bonfire. She also loves watching Barnes and his dad shoot baskets and play soccer and loves a good Blue Devil game.

We're so lucky to have Morgan with us. I encourage you to get to know her and her family, too!





# Camp Bethel News



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

**Oak Grove raised over \$1,000  
for Camp Bethel at our cobbler  
booth during Heritage Day!  
Thank you to all you who  
helped!**



***Camp Bethel's 39th Annual Heritage Day was a huge success!***

*With over 500 attendees and 30 vendors and stations, our festival was a day filled with laughter and fun, scrumptious food, old friends and cool weather. The day ended with proceeds of over \$24,450. Congregations and individuals will continue to hold events and sell items to benefit Heritage Day through the end of October 2023. Thank YOU to all the vendors, shoppers, volunteers and Camp Bethel supporters who made this day possible.*



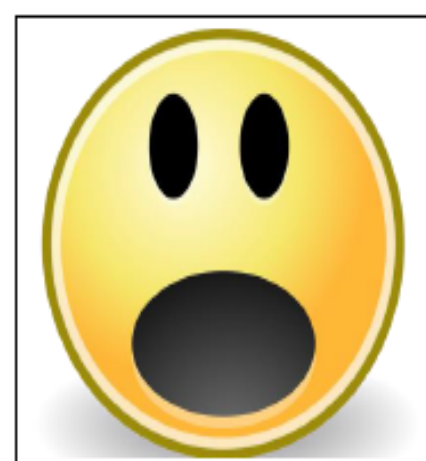
**The 2023 Christmas TOGETHER Banquet is for end-of-year expenses.  
Thursday, December 7, 2023 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Camp Bethel's Ark Dining Room  
Click [here](#) for more information.**

Where has God Surprised you?

**A DAY OF RETREAT FOR WOMEN**  
(of Virgina District, or invite a friend)

**NOVEMBER 18, 2023**  
**9am to 3pm**

**BETHANY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**  
2005 Bethany Road, Boones Mill, VA 24065



Admission: Canned goods for Thanksgiving Basket for Callaway Elementary School

**Breakfast**--light snacks provided    **Lunch Provided**--Soup and Crackers.  
Bring your own bowl/cup along with "story" of why it is special to you.  
(Let us know if you have any food allergies)

**What to expect:**

Laughter, music, sharing stories, light but fun physical activities, study of scripture, time of reflection, food, surprises, fellowship, laughter!

Linda Crumpacker (540-556-2331 or [lscrumpacker@gmail.com](mailto:lscrumpacker@gmail.com))

**RSVP by November 12, 2023 to reserve your spot.**



8/31/23, 11:54 AM

District Conference\_Cowbell Service.jpg



# COWBELL SERVICE

District Conference , Friday Night Worship  
November 10th at Faith Fellowship



**I Need More  
Cow Bell**



**Doug Diamond**



**Lupita Cruz**



**Tim Harvey**



**Dava Hensley**

**November  
10th  
6:45- 8:30**

**Ministry through Music**  
Iglesia Praise Band  
Lisa Street  
3 G's



REPAIRING THE RIFT



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

2023  
Virlina District  
Conference  
FAITH FELLOWSHIP  
WIRTZ, VA  
November 10 & 11

Join us for worship Friday night, and music, voting, business sessions, Church of the Brethren reports, exhibits and fellowship on Saturday.

• FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10 •

Ministers, Spouses, and Friends Dinner 5:15 PM

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 Formation. 0.1 CEU event. Reserve meals by Oct. 21.

Conference Registration and Check-in

Delegates must register by September 30

**\$30.00/person** fee made out to

Virlina District, 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012. Non-delegates may request a report booklet by September 30 to pick up at the door. There will be a limited number available.

Unique “Cowbell” Worship 6:45 PM - 8:30 PM

Speakers: Lupita Cruz, Doug Diamond, Tim Harvey, Dava Hensley. Ministry through Music: Iglesia Praise Band, Lisa Street, and 3 G’s

The worship service will be recorded and may be borrowed from the District Resource Center after Saturday.

Following worship, join us in the lobby for light refreshments. Child-care from 5:00 – 8:30. Please pack snacks for children.

• SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11 •

Registration 7:45 - 8:15 AM

Delegates will be sitting in the designated area on the main floor of the theater-style sanctuary. Nondelegates will have ample seating in elevated seats behind the delegates. Everyone is 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 provide snacks, drink and lunch. Children ages kindergarten – 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 needed. Middle School and Senior High Youth will be having a separate retreat and work project at Camp Bethel. Chaperones 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

Moderator: Noel Naff, Mount Hermon

Moderator Elect: Stacy Goff, Copper Hill

Clerk: Rissa Craighead, Red Oak Grove

# *Pastor's Column*

## *A Good Shepherd* A reflection on Psalm 23

When was the last time you left home only to discover that you'd left your phone on the kitchen counter? What did you do? (My guess is that you went back for it.) Do you remember what it was like before cell phones, when we just went places and were—for good or for bad—unable to get in touch with someone for a while?

Similarly, when was the last time you drove somewhere and got lost? What did you do “BGM”—Before Google Maps?

I often wonder what it was like to board a wagon train sometime in the 1840's and head west for California, or step on a ship in England in the 1640's and set sail for the New World, with only the stars and your wits to guide you. What did the American pioneers feel when confronted in the dark by a band of wild animals they could hear but not see? How did sailors and passengers react when their small, wooden sailing ship was battered by violent, stormy seas? What did the ones left behind do as they waited for a letter from their loved one letting them know they'd arrived safely and were doing well—or never heard from them again?

As much as we like to think we're in control of our lives, we know trouble and hard times can arrive without warning. We are not immune to life's uncertainties. We know fear, danger, and doubt. We face difficulties, and we cry out for God's help to see us through.

I suspect that Psalm 23 is beloved for reasons like these. And I find it significant that in times of great trouble or uncertainty, God's people find strength in a Psalm about a shepherd. This seems especially significant when you consider that the Psalms' primary metaphors about God speak of safety and protection in more military terms: shield, high tower, fortress, refuge, rock, stronghold. But when we're in trouble, we seem to prefer metaphors for God that offer comfort and care instead of victory: a shepherd, and a host who prepares a good meal.

Could it be that in our moments of greatest difficulty, we prefer someone who will accompany us rather than someone who will fight for us? Could it be that God's grace exists as a whisper in the midst of our chaos, inviting us to remember that the gift of presence and provision is more powerful than weapons of fighting and division? What does it mean to worship a God who guides us through life's dark valleys to the presence of God's table, promising to be with us and turn our enemies into our friends?

Join me in thinking about these things in November as we consider Psalm 23 in sermon, prayer, and song.

*Pastor Tim*



November 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Youth Christmas Lunch December 10, 2023  Friends are welcome!		1 9 a.m.– ESL 7 p.m.-Choir	2 9:30 a.m.– Women’s Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games 5:30 p.m.– Mission & Service	3	4  <i>8:30 a.m.-Bed Build at Crockett Springs UMC</i>  <i>Fall Workday at Camp Bethel 7:30 a.m.</i>
5  <i>Turn Clocks Back!</i> 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship	6 9 a.m.– ESL  9 a.m.- Crafts  12:30 p.m.– Backpack	7  5:30 p.m.– Handbells 6:45 p.m.- Ministry & Worship 7 p.m.– Peace & Justice	8 9 a.m.– ESL 6 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir	9 9:30 a.m.– Women’s Bible Study 11 a.m.– Good Samaritan 2 p.m.-Games	10  <i>11 a.m.– Navigation Nutrition</i>  <i>Virlina District Conference</i>	11
12 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship 12:30 p.m.– Church Board Retreat	13 9 a.m.– ESL 9 a.m.– Crafts 6 p.m.– Christian Education	14  5:30 p.m.– Handbells	15 9 a.m.– ESL 6 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir	16 9:30 a.m.– Women’s Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games	17	18
19 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship	20 9 a.m.– ESL  9 a.m.- Crafts  12:30 p.m.– Backpack	21  5:30 p.m.– Handbells	22 9 a.m.– ESL  7 p.m.– Choir	23  <i>OFFICE CLOSED FOR Thanksgiving</i>  <i>HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY!</i>	24	25  <i>8 a.m.- Project WARM</i>
26 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship	27 9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.– ESL	28  5:30 p.m.– Handbells	29 9 a.m.– ESL 6 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir	30 9:30 a.m.– Women’s Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games		