

Pastor:
Tim Harvey

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and Music:**
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(540) 774-3217

**DEADLINE FOR
MARCH
FEBRUARY 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

FEBRUARY 2024

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.*

February Sermon and Scripture

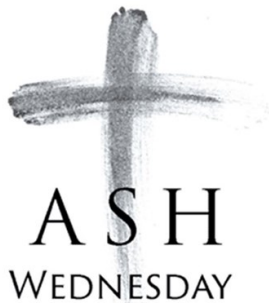
February 4 *First Things: Prayer* Mark 1:29-39

February 11 *Transfigured* Mark 9:2-9

February 14 *Ash Wednesday*
Worship services at 12:00 noon and 6:30 p.m.

February 18 First Sunday of Lent
Ah, Holy Jesus! John 19:17-30

February 25 Second Sunday of Lent
Our Kinsman-Redeemer Ruth 3:9 – 4:6



Children's Talent Sharing
February 18, 2024 12:15 p.m.



Children's Talent Sharing and Singalong **DURING** After-
Church Fellowship! Our kids will share their talents, as well
as invite **YOU** to sing some familiar songs.
Come for the food and fun!

Church News

Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

- ...*Carol Jones*, recovering from surgery
- ...*Gladis Lehman*, pneumonia
- ...*Ralph Petcher*, health issues

Sympathy and prayers to the family of Emma Jean Woodard. Emma Jean passed away on January 10, 2024.

Sympathy and prayers to the family of Betty Phillips. Betty passed away January 15, 2024.

Sympathy and prayers to the family of Thelma Gilmore (Garland Brown’s sister.) Thelma passed away on January 23, 2024.

Sympathy and prayers to the family of Charlie Kurtz. Charlie passed away on January 30, 2024.

Congratulations!

Paul and Chelsea Shumate welcomed a new baby boy, Stephen Paul Shumate, Jr. (PJ) on January 29, 2024.



Grandparents are Steve Shumate and Suzy Sauerwald. Great-Aunt is Kathie Robinson.

January Outreach

- Three individuals assisted with rent through our Good Samaritan Fund.
- Food for three families through our Food Pantry.
- Split and delivered wood with Project WARM.
- Backpack Ministry is now distributing 23 backpacks weekly!
- Youth volunteered at the Rescue Mission on January 15, 2024.
- Helped build 54 beds with Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

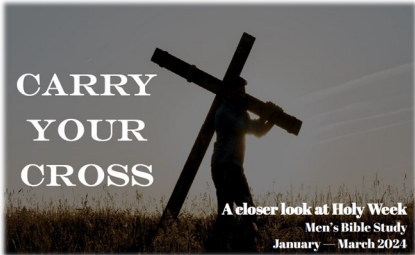
Happy Birthday

- 1– Michael Craighead
- 2– Rhonda Marcum
- 5– Norm Pullen
- 6– Sam Phillips
- 7– Mark Detweiler
- 10– Rose Harvey
- 11– Vicki Turner
- 12– Sylvia Shepherd
- 14– Dayna Cook
- 15– Nelson Musselman
- 17– Ben Phillips
- 18– Lincoln Yingling
- 19– Kathie Robinson
- 20– Gabriel Wimmer
- 20– Gina Wright-Hawkins
- 24– Jamie Knox
- 24– Carol Hambleton
- 28– Lucy Pullen

Happy Anniversary

- 9– Gil & Vada Henshaw
- 19– David & Eowyn Hernandez
- 20– Brent & Sherrie White

*Men’s Bible Study
Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.*



*Women’s Bible Study
Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.*

*The Women’s Lenten Study begins
February 15, 2024. We will
highlight a Spiritual each week.*



2:00 P.M.

BRETHREN BOWL
FEBRUARY 11, 2024
WASENA PARK



Crafters/Artists

Are you interested in crafts or quilting, but have no experience? Are you a big crafter full of ideas? Either way, we would love to have you join us!

The Oak Grove CoB Craft Group meets Monday mornings from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (late comers are welcome). Come, bring a friend if you would like (you don't have to be a member of the church to participate). Share a morning of fun, fellowship, laughter and creativity.

Our craft items are sold at our Fall Bazaar. All money raised goes to the Good Samaritan Fund which helps families in need.



February 21, 2024
11:00 a.m.
611 Steakhouse

EVERYONE is welcome!

Contact Jan
(540) 378-4038 to
RSVP.

Oak Grove's 2024 Youth Yard Sale will be held Friday, March 15, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., and Saturday, March 16, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

There will be breakfast sausage biscuits on Friday and on Saturday lunch of hot dogs and chips will be available. Also on Saturday we will have a Bake Sale. Rhonda Marcum and Clara Micolupo will be organizing and have information about the baked goods.

Youth and helpers will set up in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 3, 2024. This is also the day donations of items for the sale can start to be placed on, or in front of, the stage. There will be many tables and chairs to be moved. Pizza and drinks will be provided for the volunteers.

The first day of spring is March 19, 2024 and everyone can have their "spring cleaning" completed in advance. The Yard Sale is the perfect place to share your items ready to move on to new homes. The youth and their families appreciate the support of their church family.

There will be more information in bulletin inserts concerning many volunteer opportunities.



Just Mercy
February 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

The Peace & Justice group will host a showing of the movie *Just Mercy* in the fellowship hall on February 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served, and you are welcome to bring your favorite snack. A brief discussion will take place after the movie.

Just Mercy is the powerful true story that follows Bryan Stevenson, a graduate of Harvard law school, and his battle for justice as he defends a man, Walter McMillan, who has been sentenced to death, despite evidence proving his innocence.

Background:

Bryan, in his second year as a law student at Harvard, signed up to take a course on Race and Poverty Litigation. In 1983 he flew to Atlanta, GA to take part in an intensive one-month internship with an organization (Southern Prisoners Defense Committee) seeking to provide legal counsel to prisoners on death row. (Most of the people on death row had no lawyer and no right to counsel.) This experience gave Bryan the determination to return to law school with an intense desire to understand the laws and doctrines that sanctioned the death penalty and to commit himself to help death row prisoners.

After graduating from Harvard, he went back to the Deep South to represent the poor, the incarcerated, and the condemned. In 1989 he founded the [Equal Justice Initiative](#), a nonprofit organization that provides legal representation to people who have been illegally convicted, unfairly sentenced, or abused in state jails and prisons. They challenge the death penalty and excessive punishment and provide re-entry assistance to formerly incarcerated people.

Note: the Peace & Justice group will also host a showing of the documentary 13th on March 2, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. Keep an eye out for additional information.



Camp Bethel News



Come enjoy a meal (\$20/plate) and program. Donations accepted! All costs and donations from the evening directly fund "camperships" and Summer camp ministries. Give the gift of CAMP: an experience that can change a life forever!

RSVP before February 28, 2024 or call 540-992-2940.

**2024 Staff
Applications
are OPEN!**

**Click [here](#) if
interested.**





Camp Bethel Summer Camp Registration is open!
Click [here](#) for more detailed information and registration!

PILGRIMAGE XXV
March 15-17, 2024

Pilgrimage XXV will be held March 15-17, 2024, at Camp Bethel. Hundreds of people from 60 churches in our district have attended this event which is a spiritual retreat for adults of all ages. It is for the young and old, for the new Christian and the one who has been a Christian for decades.

Pilgrimage is for everyone because no matter where a person is on his or her faith journey, it is always good to take another step and draw closer to God. The basic structure of the weekend is the same each year with talks, small groups, fun times, inspiring worship services, and much more. Yet God continues to work in wonderful ways through this ministry, and we give Him all praise and honor! **The only way to truly understand what Pilgrimage has to offer is to experience it.**

Prayerfully consider if this is your year to attend. If you would like more information, please contact Karen Haynes at haynesmk1986@yahoo.com or go to www.experiencepilgrimage.com. There is a registration form below.

PILGRIMAGE XXV REGISTRATION FORM

Complete and send with \$25 non-refundable registration fee by February 17, 2024 to: Pilgrimage, c/o Karen Haynes, 3660 Fraternity Church Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27127. Make checks payable to Pilgrimage.

NAME _____ PHONE # () _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

CONGREGATION _____ AGE _____ M F

SPECIAL DIETARY/OTHER NEEDS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ RELATION _____ PHONE # () _____

HOW OR FROM WHOM DID YOU HEAR ABOUT PILGRIMAGE? _____

Good Samaritan has been meeting monthly here at Oak Grove on the second Thursday. They offer bereavement groups that you may be interested in.

Good Samaritan Hospice Ongoing Bereavement Offerings

These groups occur each month, and no reservation is required.

Coffee and Conversation

Join us for our monthly drop-in group as we support each other on our grief journeys. This program is free and open to the public. Participants are responsible for their own beverage.

Roanoke, 4th Tuesday of each month, 10-11am

Chris's Coffee and Custard
1824 9th St SE, Ste B, Roanoke, VA 24013

NRV, 1st Wednesday of each month, 10-11am

Brew Da Bean
135 Scattergood Dr. NW,
Christiansburg, VA 24073



Guys, Grief and Grub

Gather with other grieving men at our monthly drop-in group as we support other men in our grief journeys. This program is free and open to the public. Participants are responsible for their own meals.

Roanoke, 2nd Tuesday of each month, 11:45am

McAlister's Deli
Towers Shopping Center
2063 Colonial Ave #132
Roanoke, VA 24015

Our bereavement counselors are available for individual grief counseling and support. Please call for information or to speak with one of our grief counselors at 540.776.0198 or email us at bereavement@goodsam.care.



Good Samaritan Hospice

2024 Grief Relief Workshops



January:

Grief Relief through Mindfulness

This workshop will offer techniques to help us calm the mind and spirit and live in the present moment, as we walk through the journey of grief.

Roanoke, Thursday, January 25, 1-3pm

Raleigh Court Library Community Room
2112 Grandin Rd SW, Roanoke, VA 24015

NRV, Friday, January 26, 10am-12pm

Jesse Peterman Memorial Library
321 W Main St, Floyd, VA 24091



February:

Grief Relief through Movement

The muscles and cells of our body hold emotions and memories that the conscious mind may have difficulty accessing. This workshop helps to connect with our body through breath work, chair yoga, and authentic movement to express and release what is buried deep within.

Roanoke, Thursday, February 22, 10am-12pm

Glenvar Library
3917 Daugherty Rd, Salem, VA 24153



March:

Grief Relief through Art

Sometimes words are not enough to express the depths of grief. Using creative expression through art can be a powerful tool to help express our feelings, especially when we have trouble verbalizing our inner experiences. All supplies for creating this painting will be provided. No artistic ability required.

Roanoke, Thursday, March 21, 1-3pm

Oak Grove Church of the Brethren
2138 McVitty Rd SW, Roanoke, VA 24018

NRV, Wednesday, March 20, 1-3pm

Good Samaritan Hospice
1160 Moose Dr.
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Reservations are required. Please RSVP for these workshops by calling 540-776-0198 or emailing us at bereavement@goodsam.care

Pastor's Column

*Ah, holy Jesus,
how has thou offended, that mortal judgment hath on thee descended?
Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?*

Alas, my treason, Jesus, has undone thee.¹

What sort of predicament are we in that we should require the crucifixion of the Son of God? When you consider the cross of Christ, do you sense that it was for your sin that Jesus died? Can you say, like David in Psalm 51, “my sin is ever before me”?

Increasingly, the answer to this question is, “no”. Throughout 25 years of ministry, I’ve heard many say, “I may not be perfect, but I’m not as bad as _____”, filling in the blank with someone or something they deem to be worse. We feel many things about ourselves. Guilt, however, doesn’t often seem to be one of them.



At the same time, though, I’m having conversations with more people who sense that something is badly wrong with our world. Here again, we have our lists, but this concern about our church and our culture comes from people of all ages and theological starting points. Could we be on to something?

When we reduce sin to various misdeeds, we miss a crucial understanding. Sin does involve “missing the mark”—something David surely did in his actions toward Bathsheba. But the root cause of David’s sin was much deeper. David lived at the top of a system that enabled him to take who and what he wanted without protest or fear of consequences. It literally took an act of God to call him to account for the wreckage left in the wake of his sexual misconduct.

The power of sin traps us into a corrupt system that favors some and abuses others, denying all of us the fullness of life God intends. At our best, we are separated from God and one another. This is the predicament that required the crucifixion of the Son of God. Our journey with Jesus from Ash Wednesday through Easter and beyond is designed to help us consider how Jesus came to set us free from the power of sin into fullness of life in Christ. Each Sunday in worship from the first Sunday of Lent (February 18) through Easter Sunday (March 31) will focus on a different aspect of the cross of Christ. The topic is a heavy one, because sin is powerful and pervasive. But even the darkest moments of Holy Week had no choice but to make way for the stunning brightness of amazing grace.

Pastor Tim

¹*Ah, holy Jesus.* Hymn # 254 in Hymnal: A Worship Book

February 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div> LENT</div>				1 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games 5:30 p.m.- Min. & Worship 5:30 p.m.- Evan. & Mem. 5:30 p.m.-Mission & Serv. 6:30 p.m.- Christian Ed.	2	3 Friendship Class Party at Camp Bethel
4 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.-Worship 1 p.m.-Deacons	5 9 a.m.- ESL 9 a.m.- Crafts 12:30 p.m.- Backpack	6 5:30 p.m.- Handbells 6 p.m.- Peace & Justice	7 9 a.m.- ESL 6 p.m.- Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.- Choir	8 9:30 a.m.- Women's Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games	9	10 8:30 a.m.- Bed Build at Salem Rotary 10 a.m.-Old Testament Survey course
11 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.-Worship 12:30 p.m.- Executive Committee 2 p.m.- Brethren Bowl	12 9 a.m.- ESL 9 a.m.- Crafts	13 5:30 p.m.- Handbells	14 9 a.m.- ESL 12 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.- Ash Wednesday Service	15 9:30 a.m.- Women's Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games	16	17  8 a.m.- Project WARM 3 p.m.- Peace & Justice movie <i>Just Mercy</i>
18 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.-Worship 12:15 p.m.- Family Ministries Activity	19 9 a.m.- ESL 9 a.m.- Crafts 12:30 p.m.- Backpack	20 5:30 p.m.- Handbells	21 9 a.m.- ESL 11 a.m.- Munch Bunch 6 p.m.- Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.- Choir	22 9:30 a.m.- Women's Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games	23 Roundtable at Bridgewater February 23-25, 2024.	24 10 a.m.-Old Testament Survey course
25 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.-Worship	26 9 a.m.- ESL 9 a.m.- Crafts	27 5:30 p.m.- Handbells	28 9 a.m.- ESL 6 p.m.- Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.- Choir	29 9:30 a.m.- Women's Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games	