

Pastor:
Tim Harvey

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

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**DEADLINE FOR
JUNE
MAY 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

MAY 2024

Published by:
Oak Grove Church of the Brethren
2138 McVitty Road, SW
Roanoke, VA 24018

Come
Worship
With Us

Join us on Sundays
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.

May Sermons and Worship Services

May 5 *Even death on a cross* Philippians 2:5-11

May 12 *She has done what she could* Mark 14:3-9
Mother's Day Special offering for *Families*
Expecting Deliverance Using Prayer (FEDUP)

May 19 Graduation/Youth Sunday
Pentecost Sunday

May 26 *Three Persons at work in salvation* John 3:1-17
Trinity Sunday



On June 30, 2024, we will worship with all music and stories. Let Carol Elmore know if you have a hymn that has touched you in some way, brought you closer to God, helped you experience God in a new way, or spurred you to a new commitment to follow. Then join us on June 30, 2024 for this special service.

Church News

Sympathy and prayers for Jan Grisso on the loss of her mother, Mary Jane, on March 28, 2024.

Sympathy and prayers for the family of Dennis Shearer. Dennis passed away March 31, 2024.

Sympathy and prayers for the family of Lynne Meredith. Lynne passed away April 25, 2024.

SUMMER CONNECT Begins on June 19, 2024



From June 19 - July 24, children 5th grade and under and their parents and/or grandparents will gather for informal playground time, a story, and snacks each Wednesday morning from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. during the summer!

Last summer was a blast and we look forward to lots more fun together!

April Outreach



- Four individuals assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund.
- Food for two families through our Food Pantry.
- Backpack Ministry is now distributing 23 backpacks weekly!
- Helped build 20 beds with Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Happy Birthday

- 2- Carol Winners
- 3- Bryan Hanger
- 3- Eowyn Hernandez
- 3- Eli Young
- 4- Dawn Thomas
- 4- Joan Simpson
- 5- Eleanor Brogan
- 6- Alli Yingling
- 6- Tess Anderson
- 7- Kate Hoyt
- 11- Dan Lubbs
- 12- Toria Knox
- 15- Kirsten Lubbs-Robinson
- 16- Dan Brogan
- 16- Dotty Smiley
- 18- Elsie Wertz
- 21- Mike Hanger
- 22- Gay Bulach
- 22- Ed Woodard
- 22- Joe Lankford
- 23- Karin Musselman
- 23- Judy Saunders
- 23- Hannah Trent
- 25- Sarah King
- 25- Jodi Zabo
- 26- Garland Brown
- 26- Rex Robinson
- 27- Margie Shaver
- 27- Tim Harvey
- 30 - Rebecca Eggleston
- 30- Gilbert Henshaw

There will be a Birthday Card basket set out for Elsie Wertz on May 5, 2024. Elsie is Oak Grove's oldest member at 97 years old this year!



Happy Anniversary

- 10- Don & Tanya Pizzullo
- 21- Neal & Karin Musselman
- 26- Brent & Jessica Ballew



Congratulations

Here is a look at our 2024 graduates...

Olivia Hawkins
by *Jonna Detweiler*



It takes a village to raise a child. Nearing university graduation on May 19, 2024, Olivia Hawkins is truly grateful that Oak Grove was her village, especially during the adolescent years. She appreciates how she “felt so much love and support”! Hopefully, we played a role, even if small, in guiding Olivia to let her light shine and to start her future path of service.

Never having attended public school, Olivia believes that home schooling played a large part in figuring out her own interests. Her parents, Gina and David, helped to guide her in her scholastic endeavors. Attending church camp as a child, Olivia was informed by a 10-year-old peer that she “should be a therapist.” Then, at the age of 13, Olivia was excited to discover the field of psychology. She describes that as her “ah-ha moment”! She knew what she was meant to do!

Starting Virginia Western in 2020, Olivia’s experience as a home-schooled student aided her in maintaining the independent and self-motivated work that the pandemic required. After she graduated with an Associates of Science in Social Science, Olivia transferred to Hollins, a wonderful experience as she could participate as an assistant researcher for her advisor. The research focuses on the representation of mental health in social media, such as TikTok with its short and pithy videos. Researching and compiling data, Olivia was asked to give a presentation on their findings to area clinical psychologists. Bravo, Olivia!

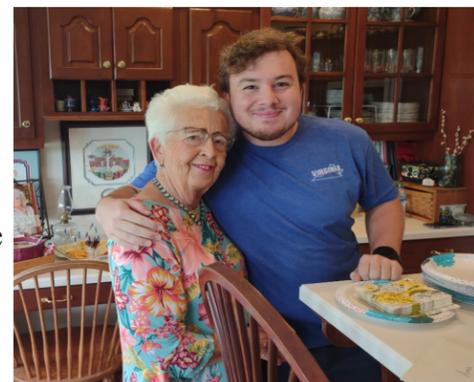
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Other contributions include interning at the Virginia Institute of Autism since January, 2024. Olivia emphasizes how meaningful this work is and how much she has learned from the clients, especially regarding the myriad of ways that autism can present. ABA Therapy, or Applied Behavior Analysis, is often employed at this institute to increase behaviors that are helpful and decrease behaviors that are harmful or affect learning, empowering children and adults to become positively functional in their situations.

What does the future hold for Olivia? She is hoping to find a job for a year. After that she plans to frequent a university to attain a Master's degree. She aspires to become an LPC, or Licensed Professional Counselor and "to jump into a career doing counseling". Selfishly, I hope that she remains in the area, so we can continue to benefit from her gentle, accepting and confident presence. Whatever her future might be, I am certain that she will make a sizable, loving contribution to God's world. We wish her many blessings as she dives into the next chapters of her life!

Philip King
by Sarah King

On May 3, 2024 Phillip King will receive his Masters Degree of Science specializing in education from Radford University.



Phillip hopes to teach in the Roanoke valley, but is open to other areas; of course, we hope he lands here close to home, but wherever he chooses we know Phillip will be a real asset to any school.



Needless to say our family is very proud of his hard work and we hope the education system is ready for the **BEST TEACHER EVER!**

Laura Phillips
by *Mike Hanger*

When COVID-19 shut down the world as we once knew it, Laura Phillips lost her high school graduation, her senior prom, and any chance of normalcy her first year of college at the University of Virginia. But now, the soon to be University of Virginia graduate is truly making up for lost time.

On May 19, 2024 Laura will formally graduate on the lawn in front of the historic rotunda and her family members. In four eventful years, she has earned her Bachelor of Science degree in systems engineering with distinction with minors in data science and mathematics.



“Time has definitely flown by, especially with the first two years being part of the pandemic,” she said. “COVID created many challenges including online courses and lots of isolation, but I believe she made the best of the situation,” said Ellen Phillips, Laura’s mom. “From that experience, I think Laura discovered she is happiest when she is out and about.”

Laura traveled to Argentina through the university’s study abroad program and she spent last summer in Florida as a research assistant. She also made the trek to California last fall for a women’s engineering conference, and she has immersed herself in a variety of activities on the grounds at Virginia. “I enjoy going to different UVA sporting events, especially basketball,” she said. “I work for UVA Recreation, and I have enjoyed taking their spin classes, other group fitness classes, and meeting people through their events.”

She also joined the Engineering Student Council this year as part of the service committee and helped plan events on campus and with the Charlottesville community. “I have been impressed with her eagerness to try new experiences,” said her mom. “I think she will look back fondly on her time at UVA and the friendships she made, especially her hallmates from that first year.”

But now that she has reached the final year lots of new experiences await. Laura has accepted a job as a project manager for a cutting-edge healthcare company called Epic that is located just outside of Madison, Wisconsin. “The job includes going on-site a lot to help implement different healthcare software, so I am excited to be able to travel and work with lots of different people,” she said. “I am definitely going to miss the Roanoke area and the people, but I am excited to explore a new city and get involved in the Madison community.”

Several of her Virginia classmates who have ties to Roanoke County and Hidden Valley High School also will be starting their working careers with the same company, and Laura will also be leaning on the lessons learned at Oak Grove as she begins this new journey.

Continued next page...

“I’m grateful for the sense of community I experienced growing up at Oak Grove, especially the youth group with Carol and Mike Elmore,” she said. “Our weekly meetups and trips were a lot of fun. I appreciate all the support from Oak Grove over the years and am grateful for the role models and friends I met along the way. Whenever I return for a visit, Oak Grove always makes me feel a sense of belonging.”



Laura will begin her new Wisconsin job in August, but before then there will be many milestone moments that will make her mom and dad, Sam and Ellen, her brother, Ben, and her grandparents, especially paternal grandfather, John Phillips, very proud. “I really appreciate everything they have done and their support throughout the years,” she said. “There's no way I could do anything without them, and I will definitely miss having them close by next year.”

Troy Ark

Troy Ark is graduating from Virginia Western Community College on May 10, 2024, with an Associate in Services degree. He plans to attend Radford University in the fall majoring in Social Work. Congratulations Troy!



Congratulations to our High School Graduate, Charlie Purcell! Charlie will be highlighted in our June Newsletter!



JOIN US FOR
**SEEKERS
IN SNEAKERS
VBS**

August 17 at Camp Bethel and August 18 & 24-25 at Oak Grove Church of the Brethren

Let's discover Jesus together!
We will have crafts and games,
Bible story time, and many
adventures!

REGISTER NOW!



Camp Bethel News



May 24-27, 2024

Please click [here](#) for a schedule of events (including a barn dance, wagon ride and pool) and registration for this fun weekend! Meals need to be reserved by May 20, 2024.



Bring Your Big Camp
(for ages 4-7 with parent or adult guardian)

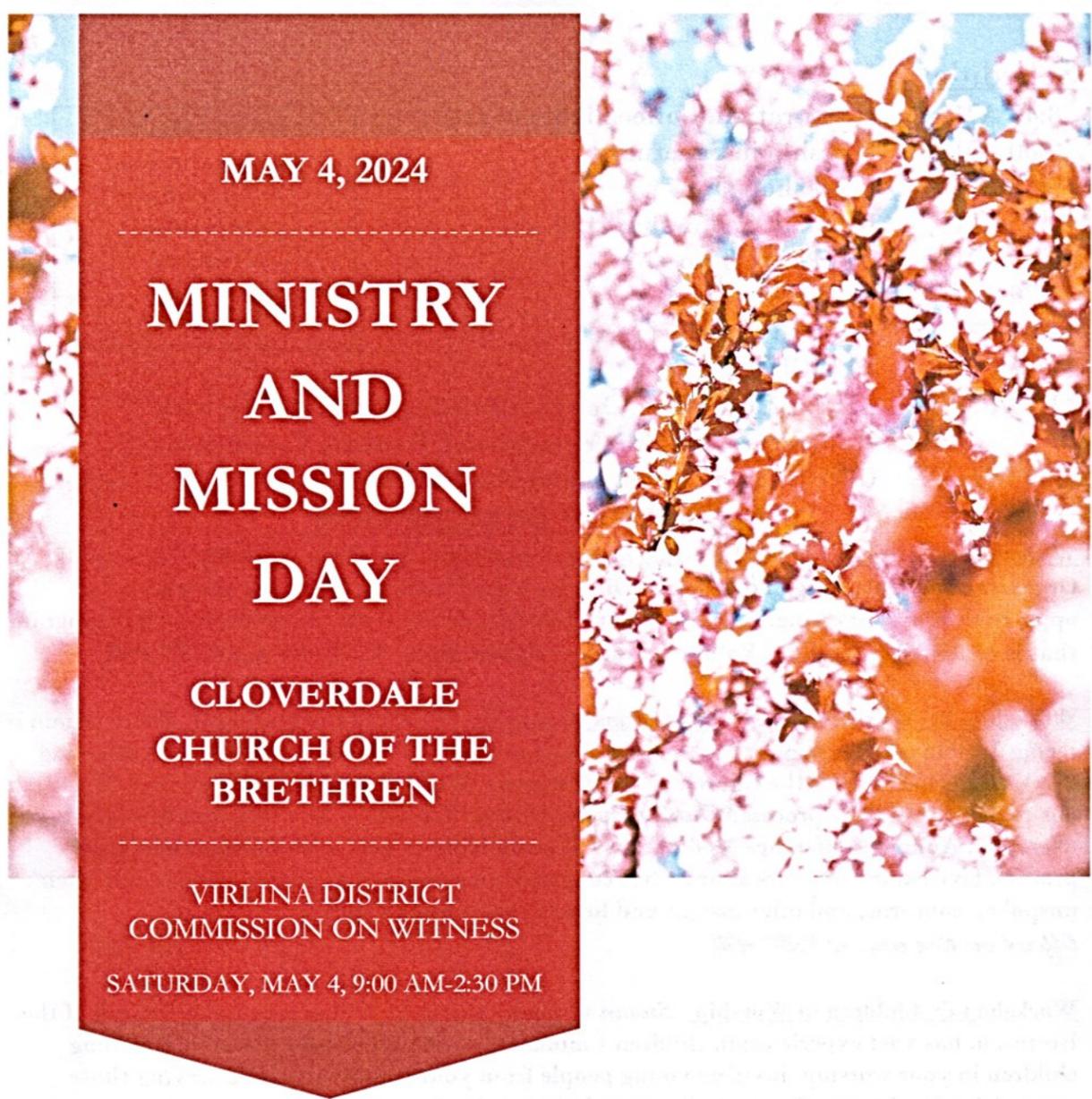
May 31-June 1, 2024

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

Check-in at 5:00 p.m. Friday; check-out at 2:30 p.m. Saturday. Campers lodge in cabins with like pairs: mother-daughter; mother-son; father-daughter; father-son. Any adult relative or guardian is welcome with creative combos possible. Fun for all! Click [here](#) for more information.



Click [here](#) for
more
information!



MAY 4, 2024

**MINISTRY
AND
MISSION
DAY**

**CLOVERDALE
CHURCH OF THE
BRETHREN**

VIRGINIA DISTRICT
COMMISSION ON WITNESS

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 9:00 AM-2:30 PM

WORSHIP with 2024 District Conference moderator, STACY GOFF, and hear the theme "Who Knows?" **MEET** 2024 Annual Conference moderator, MADALYN METZGER. Attend **WORKSHOPS** to aid in leadership education for your congregations. **EARN CEU. FELLOWSHIP** at the catered lunch. Be **BRIEFED** in Annual Conference business. **INVITE** Annual Conference delegates and church leadership to a day of learning and spiritual growth. Something for **EVERYONE.**

**CLOVERDALE CHURCH
OF THE BRETHREN
4708 READ MOUNTAIN RD**

**\$20.00 for lunch and
workshops.**

**Free Annual Conference
Delegate briefing.**

**RSVP TO MARY ST. JOHN
540-362-1816 OR
virlina.directordcnw@gmail.com**

Schedule:

| | |
|----------|---|
| 8:45 AM | Registration, Coffee, light snacks |
| 9:00 AM | Worship in Sanctuary |
| 9:30 AM | Workshop One |
| 10:15 AM | Break in Fellowship Hall |
| 10:35 AM | Workshop Two |
| 11:20 AM | Workshop Three |
| 12:05 PM | Move to Lunch |
| 12:15 PM | LUNCH |
| 1:15 PM | Annual Conference Delegate Briefing in Sanctuary with Moderator, Madalyn Metzger and Standing Committee |
| 2:30 PM | Conclusion of Ministry and Mission Day |

LUNCH MENU:

Chicken Croissant
Or Garden Salad
Pasta salad
Fruit Cup
Chips
Dessert

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Workshop A: Organizational Investing and Deferred Gifts Join *Dan Radcliff*, Director of Organizational Investing and Deferred Gifts for Eder Financial, and learn the variety of opportunities for investing. Also hear about Eder's individual charitable deferred gift program that is consistent with Eder Values Investing. *Offered twice. 9:30 AM and 10:35 AM.*

Workshop B: Why are some congregations leaving the Church of the Brethren? There is pain in seeing Virginia congregations vote to leave the Church of the Brethren. How is this affecting the Virginia District and the Church of the Brethren? What reasons are they giving? What is our role in the healing process? *Daniel Rudy*, District Executive Minister, and *Madalyn Metzger*, Annual Conference Moderator, will be on hand to help with understanding the process, give candid answers about what congregations are saying, explore deeper and often unspoken concerns, and offer insight and hope about Virginia's future.

Offered one time only. at 9:30 AM.

Workshop C: Children in Worship *Susan Gibson*, pastor at Williamson Road Church of the Brethren, has vast experience in children's ministry. Come get unique ideas for including children in your worship, inviting young people from your community, and serving those young friends who are often a challenge to keep involved.

Offered twice. at 10:35 AM and 11:20 AM.

Workshop D: Shared Ministry, How does that work? Listen in on a discussion featuring *Amber Harris*, of *Peace Covenant* and *Dewey Broyles*, of *Spruce Run*, as they share the blessings, struggles, and hope of shared ministry. Hear about this new "old way" of meeting congregations' pastoral needs.

Offered one time only. at 11:20 AM.

FYI: PASTORS

All workshops are valued 0.1 CEU

Pastor's Column

Our Spring Council meeting on Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 12:30 p.m. is a fantastic opportunity to put our Christian faith into practice. I encourage you to prepare for the meeting by reading the materials which will be provided a few weeks from now. Come to the meeting and engage with our pastors, commissions, and other leaders as they give their ministry reports. Help us consider several items of new business that have emerged from our 2023 budget surplus. And if you have additional thoughts, comments, questions, or observations, bring those and ask them during the Q&A time.

I expect this to be an uplifting meeting. But why do I call it an important spiritual practice? We live in a world where mistrust, cynicism, sarcasm, and broken relationships are becoming the default position. By embracing the Christian practice of talking to one another openly, honestly, and directly, we reject the way the world conducts business. The way of Jesus is simply a better way to live. We ask questions out of curiosity, not judgment. We assume the best of one another, not the worst. We seek to move forward together, not grabbing what is best for “me” at the expense of others.

It is easy to look forward to our Council meeting and encourage your participation because we are already faithful in these areas. Let's continue to live out our faith by seeking Jesus together in our Council meeting.

Pastor Tim

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
|  <p>Philippians: Living for Christ</p> | <p>Men's Bible Study Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.</p> | <p>Munch Bunch</p> |  |
| <p>May 1: Philippians 2:1-11 May 8: Philippians 2:12-3:1a May 15: Philippians 3:1b-11 May 22: Philippians 3:12-4:1 May 29: Philippians 4:2-23</p> | <p><i>Jesus, our exalted Lord!</i> <i>Working out our salvation</i> <i>The things we leave behind</i> <i>Continuing on to the prize</i> <i>Final encouragements</i></p> | <p>The Munch Bunch group is meeting May 15, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. They are dining this month at Cracker Barrel in Troutville. All are welcome!</p> | |

Mother's Day Offering

On Mother's Day we will receive a special offering for FEDUP: *Families Expecting Deliverance Using Prayer*. We have supported FEDUP's vital work in caring for families who have lost someone to gun violence, and are glad to support their work through this special offering and in our regular budget.

FEDUP is a Roanoke, VA 501(c)3 non-profit, and works to accomplish several goals:

- To educate the people of our community on the ways to make our neighborhoods safe.
- To make known the available resources for teens and educate the public on their rights as citizens.
- To empower families to believe in the true purpose of the community and youth to develop skills to grow positively.
- To encourage residents to notice neighborhood problems and take a unified stand to make a change.
- To embrace each victim's loved ones with accepting encouragement, support, and prayer.

You may learn more about FEDUP on their website by clicking [here](#).



HERMITAGE

ROANOKE

Grief Support groups sponsored with
Good Sam Hospice

Location: 1009 Old Country Club Rd. Roanoke, VA 24017

Dates:

- Thursday April 18th: 10:00-11:30 AM
- Thursday April 25th: 10:00-11:30 AM
- Thursday May 9th: 10:00-11:30 AM
- Thursday May 16th: 10:00-11:30 AM

Growing together through grief is a structured group for adults who have experienced the death of a loved one and are seeking support and education about grief and loss.

Please join Michelle Topi, Good Samaritan's Bereavement Counselor, where she will combine information, discussion and activities that encourage a level of participation persons may choose or need.

Light Refreshments Provided



**Good
Samaritan**

Advanced Illness Care • Hospice

The right care for the right reasons.

If you are interested in attending any of the seminars, please email
or call: PBECKLEY@pinnacleriving.org

540-767-6815

| <h1>May 2024</h1> | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Navigating Grief & Guilt</p> <p>On Sunday, May 5 we will hear from several of our own members as they share their experiences with grief, loss, and the challenges of caring for those in the last stages of life.</p> | | | 1 9 a.m.– ESL 6 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir | 2 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. | 3 | 4 9 a.m.– Ministry & Mission Day Sleep in Heavenly Peace at Mt. Pleasant UMC |
| 5 9:45 a.m.- Navigating Grief & Guilt 11:00 a.m.- Worship | 6 9 a.m.– ESL 9 a.m.– Crafts | 7 5:30 p.m.– Handbells 6 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 1 p.m.-Games 6:30 p.m.– Christian Ed. | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Mother’s Day 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship | 13 9 a.m.– ESL 9 a.m.- Crafts 12:30 p.m.– Backpack | 14 5:30 p.m.– Handbells | 15 9 a.m.– ESL 11 a.m.– Munch Bunch at Cracker Barrel 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 Sleep in Heavenly Peace at Bethel Baptist |
| 19 Youth Sunday Handbells 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- 12:30– Council Meeting | 20 9 a.m.– ESL 9 a.m.– Crafts | 21 5:30 p.m.– Handbells | 22 9 a.m.– ESL 6 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir | 23 9:30 a.m.– Women’s Bible Study 1 p.m.-Games | 24 Memorial Day Family Camp at Camp Bethel May 24-27. | 25 |
| 26 9:45 a.m.-Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship | 27 Church Office Closed | 28 5:30 p.m.– Handbells | 29 6 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir | 30 9:30 a.m.– Women’s Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games | 31  happy mother's day | |