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Tim Harvey

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**DEADLINE FOR  
JULY  
JUNE 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

JUNE 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.*

## June Sermons and Worship Services

- June 2**    *The Gospel According to Narnia, Part 1: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*
- June 9**    *It's all downhill from here* 1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20
- June 16**   *Mercy and grace* 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13  
Outdoor worship (weather permitting).
- June 23**   *Five smooth stones* 1 Samuel 17:32-49
- June 30**   Music worship Sunday



# Church News

## Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

- ...**Lois Sowder**, out of rehab and has returned to Terra Bella Pheasant Ridge.
- ...**Harvey Leddy**, recovering from illness
- ...**Phyllis Meadows**, in the hospital

Prayers and sympathy for the family of Bill Lewis. Bill passed away May 30, 2024.

Nelson (Karin's son) & Janet Musselman adopted a baby boy, Kai Jace. Born on May 6, he was home to them on May 9, 2024.



SUMMER CONNECT

JUNE 19-JULY 24, 2024

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Children 5th Grade & Under



## May Outreach

- Four individuals assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund.
- Food for four families through our Food Pantry.
- Backpack Ministry is now distributing 23 backpacks weekly!
- Helped build 90 beds with Sleep in Heavenly Peace.



## Happy Birthday

- 1- Laura Phillips
- 4- Alesea Wimmer
- 6- Judy Baker
- 7- Kris Tilley-Lubbs
- 8- Becky Widdowson
- 8- Graeme Robinson
- 10- Spencer Knox
- 13- Don Pizzullo
- 13- Cash Woodard
- 14- Julie Hall
- 15- Jill Mooney
- 16- Terrie Brogan
- 16- Taylor Martin
- 17- Jonathan Wilson
- 17- Carole Ferguson
- 20- Phyllis Meadows
- 20- Benjamin Harmon
- 20- Brian Harmon
- 23- Deven Musselman
- 25- Gary Gregory
- 25- Gerald Gregory
- 26- Mike Elmore

## Happy Anniversary

- 4- Marshall & Terrie Brogan
- 9- Mark & Gloria Harmon
- 13- Fred & Becky Widdowson
- 13- Ed & Pat Wright
- 24- Fred & Sara Porter



### Backpack Ministry Program



Our Backpack Ministry program has just completed its 11th year of donating food bags to students in need at Oak Grove Elementary School. We'd like to express our gratitude to all those who have contributed money and food items, as well as to the volunteers whose assistance with packing the bags has been invaluable in keeping the program running smoothly.

This year, we delivered 23 bags a week, with each bag containing around 18 items. We have spent more money this year due to the higher cost of groceries and an increased number of bags. Currently, we have around \$1,000 in the Backpack Ministry fund and would like to see this number grow before the start of the next school year. In addition to reaching out to our congregation for support, we intend to contact other churches in the Oak Grove school district.

If you know of an organization that is looking to do a charitable collection, please keep Backpack Ministry in mind. Kathy Robinson and her sorority have done food drives to benefit Backpack at their annual Christmas parties. Any support is appreciated. If you have questions, please contact [Ellen Phillips](#).

### Sleep In Heavenly Peace Build - September 14, 2024

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is an organization committed to building, assembling, and delivering bunk beds to children and families in need. Bunks Across America is an annual event where local chapters across the nation participate in the largest bed building event in a single day. Oak Grove will again be sponsoring a "Bunks Across America" Bed Build with Cave Spring UMC and Laurel Branch CoB (Floyd, Va) on September 14th at Cave Spring UMC.



Since Oak Grove is helping sponsor this build, we need lots of volunteers. Anyone 12 and older is eligible to help build beds. Dave Jones says, "No experience necessary!" If you would like to make a donation to help pay for supplies, please write checks to "Oak Grove CoB" and write "Sleep In Heavenly Peace" in the memo section. If giving through the Tithe.ly online app, remember to select "Sleep In Heavenly Peace" to designate it to the build.

Stay tuned for more information in future communications.



### Father's Day Offering

Our Father's Day offering will benefit the Bradley Free Clinic, a healthcare organization here in Roanoke whose mission is to provide compassionate and comprehensive health care services for the underserved by partnering with high quality professional volunteers.



Janine Underwood, Executive Director, will be here on Sunday, June 16, 2024 to share more about their mission. A special offering will be received during the service.

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Charlie Purcell**  
*by Todd Marcum*

Charlie Purcell is our June 6, 2024 Oak Grove graduate, receiving his diploma from Patrick Henry High School. Charlie lives with his parents, Drew and Melanie, brother Cooper, and three dogs, Landry, Bilbo, and Thor. Charlie says he's both nervous and excited about what the future might hold.



Charlie has been a regular in church since he was an infant. He has been active with our youth and occasionally assists as a worship leader in our Sunday services. Charlie said church and youth activities helped him get out of his comfort zone. He has participated in the 2019 workcamp in New York City, Roundtable and in the 2022 National Youth Conference in Colorado.

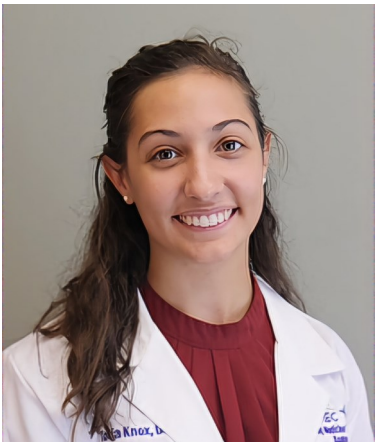
While Charlie tends to come across as quiet, he is an interesting and thoughtful young man. He enjoys reading about mythology and is a Star Wars fan, listing his favorites as Anakin, closely followed by Obi-Wan. Carol Elmore says "Charlie is an avid reader! And while he loves a good book in his room, Charlie is a wonderful conversationalist. He is kind-hearted and an encourager to others in the youth group. I look forward to seeing what God will do in his life!"



Charlie plans to enjoy the summer while looking for a job. He's also thinking about starting college in the fall.

**Toria Knox**

Toria Knox is graduating from her Family Medicine residency program in Boone, NC on June 30, 2024. She is excited to have temporary employment at the Health Department of Ashe County, NC after graduation.



Meanwhile, she will enjoy being recently married, move into her new home in Jefferson, and participate in the MAHEC Rural Fellowship to continue scholarship in women’s health procedures, lactation medicine, and medical Spanish. With her two colleagues, Drs. Stevens and Karimy, and many helpful local mentors, she is continuing to build a private practice in West Jefferson which will be her clinical home base in the years to come. Her goals for future practice are to create a medical home for holistic care of all patients, dismantle systematic barriers to equitable care, and nurture her community.

Please pray for God to mold her into a conduit for His healing. Please also pray for safe travels as she embarks on a medical mission trip in Ecuador for four weeks in July.

**OUR SHEEP NEED NEW COATS!**

This summer our beloved large nativity set will be getting spruced up a bit. The sheep are particularly in need; many of their coats are torn. Before we spend money on new materials, we are asking if any of you have any blankets made of sherpa fleece that you are no longer using. They don't have to be in perfect shape.

If you do, please contact Tess Anderson or leave them on the library table. Thank you!



**Diane Grant**  
by Joan Simpson



Diane Grant, (aka Mama-Ding-a-ling) will retire as our Handbell director on June 23, 2024. Our loyal, multi-talented director has been at Oak Grove CoB for over 15 years. From the beginning, she used her “teacher” knowledge and sense of humor to teach us new techniques, break down hard music for extra practice and support us when we were dead set to play only certain bells. She made new members feel so welcome. She encouraged each of us to “step out of our comfort zone” to play in small groups and solo ring. Her favorite saying, “Yes you can!”

She took us to different locations to perform because she thought it made us better bell ringers and always wanted to praise God and bring joy to other people. As she directed the bells during worship, it has added so much to the church services. She often would remind us that we were “playing for the Lord.”

Thank you for being a good friend to all of us and for all your hard work and tender loving care. You inspired each of us to be better bell ringers and better people! May God bless you and be with you always!!! Enjoy your retirement! Go to the beach and the “country” as much as you can but always come back and visit.

Love, your Ding-a-lings (and your Oak Grove church family)





## **Meet Sarah Ann Bowman, our new Handbell Director**

*by Julie Hall*



Sarah Ann Bowman will join us in August 2024 as our next Handbell Director, following Diane Grant's resignation at the end of June. Sarah Ann lives in Franklin County and is a member of Antioch Church of the Brethren but she was born and raised in California. When Sarah Ann was introduced to the Oak Grove Ringers for the first time, she was asked to tell us something about herself. Her response was: "I'm a dairy farmer."

She and her husband of 49 years, Laird, operate a dairy farm with their daughter, Joanna Shipp and have a son, Sam who is a teacher in Washington state. Sarah Ann has one granddaughter, Jenna who also plays handbells at Antioch CoB. Joanna's husband, Robb has been the Band Director at Hidden Valley Middle School and plays in Joe Blaha's jazz band. Robb is now the Dean of Students at Cave Spring High School.

Sarah Ann has a degree in elementary music education and taught music and band in the Franklin County School System. She plays organ and piano and has directed adult and youth choirs. She directed handbells for 15+ years and played in a bell choir for another 15+ years. Sarah Ann plays the organ for her church twice a month and plans to schedule bells to play at Oak Grove around her organ-playing time at Antioch.

Sarah Ann is an extremely gifted and talented musician and we are thrilled that she is joining us as she leads our Oak Grove Ringers in this beloved music ministry. Please welcome her to Oak Grove!





Did you know that Nancy Hylton pieced together these pillows for the rockers on the front porch of the office at Camp Bethel?



Way to go Nancy-they're beautiful!

**Congratulations to Stephanie Mitchell for receiving Teacher of the Year at Oak Grove Elementary!**

Stephanie is the daughter of Betty Wills and sister to Stephen.



BETHEL BENEFIT DAY  
JULY 24, 2024

**SAVE THE DATE**

AN ALL-DAY, VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER  
CAMP BETHEL  
FINCASTLE, VIRGINIA

### **Boones Mill CoB Hosting Retirement Celebration for Jerry Naff**

You are cordially invited to attend a Retirement Celebration for Jerry and Vonda Naff on Sunday, June 2, 2024 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Boones Mill Church of the Brethren Fellowship Hall.

Please drop in and share a memory or a laugh with Jerry and Vonda.

Join us in celebrating the many years of service by Jerry to our God, the Virgina District and most recently the Boones Mill Church of the Brethren. There will be a memory book for guests to record their well wishes.





### ***Navigating Grief and Guilt—follow up***

Our two sessions entitled, *Navigating Grief and Guilt* were significant for our congregation. Sue Ranson taught us many helpful things about grief, guilt, regret, and loss that will serve as important means to process our own feelings. Significant among those learnings is the idea that we all experience grief but mourn it differently. Telling stories, participating in funerals and other rituals, and seeking counseling are each helpful methods for understanding our grief and learning to continue on with our lives and finding joy even when grief is a constant companion.

If you would like to watch (or rewatch) the video of the first session, you may find it on Oak Grove's YouTube page [here](#).

As part of our second session, people were asked to list the resources that are available to us as a congregation to help navigate grief. This is what you said (numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of people who mentioned that item):

Deacons (4)

We Care Committee (5)

Small Groups (choir, Sunday School, Bell Choir, Men's and Women's Bible Study)

Hymns

*Amazing Grace*

*What a friend we have in Jesus*

Friends (3)

Visits, phone calls (2), checking in with one another, cards

Our pastors (3)

Good Samaritan Hospice support

Conversation

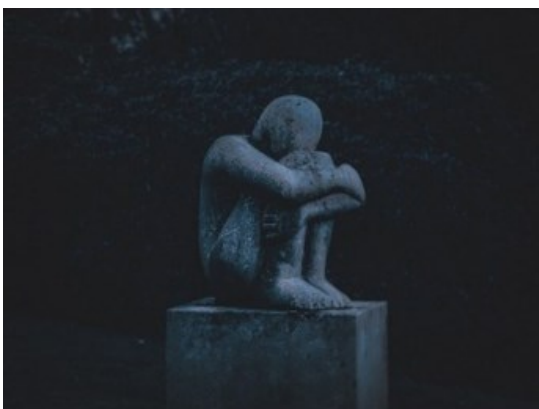
Prayer

Love (2) and caring (2)

Ritual

Smiles, hugs

Some have asked if we will have more sessions like these. Because grief and loss will always be part of our experience, the answer is certainly, "yes." Nothing is currently planned, but the pastors and the deacons will pay attention to this and plan future sessions as deemed appropriate.



PRAYER BREAKFAST

SATURDAY

JUNE 8, 2024 @ 10:00 A.M.

FREE

DONATIONS ACCEPTED & APPRECIATED

National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend





Families Expecting Deliverance Using Prayer

REGISTRATION REQUIRED:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fedups-annual-community-prayer-breakfast-tickets-906289876417?aff=oddtcreator>

HOLIDAY INN

3315 ORDWAY DR

ROANOKE, VA 24017

GO ORANGE



## Annual Conference Witness to the Host City

This year, Annual Conference is supporting two local organizations with our Witness to the Host City project: **Kids' Food Basket** and **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**.

**Kids' Food Basket** exists to increase access to healthy food for children and families. Our core belief is that food is a right, not a privilege. Because that is not yet a reality, we mobilize human and financial resources to break down barriers that cause food insecurity. Our services include our flagship Sack Supper program, community-driven farming, family food provision and educational programming. Collectively, we are working toward realizing a hunger-free West Michigan for all. **For more information:** [www.kidsfoodbasket.org](http://www.kidsfoodbasket.org)



### We will be supporting Kids' Food Basket by:

1. Collecting donations of non-perishable foods and monetary gifts
2. Decorating bags for their meals.

### To see their wish list and publicity materials go to:

[www.brethren.org/ac2024/activities/host-city-witness](http://www.brethren.org/ac2024/activities/host-city-witness)

**Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP)** believes that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support that a child needs. When it was brought to our attention that the need for beds went far beyond our own neighborhoods, we stepped up and took initiative. All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. Across the U.S., too many boys and girls go without a bed – or even a pillow – to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors. This can affect their happiness and health. That's where SHP comes in. We're a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. **NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!®** **For more information:** [www.shpbeds.org/chapter/mi-kelloggsville](http://www.shpbeds.org/chapter/mi-kelloggsville)

### We will be supporting Sleep in Heavenly Peace by:

1. Collecting donations of bedding and monetary gifts
2. Hosting a bed build event in the Exhibit Hall on Saturday, July 6, 2024.







JOIN US FOR  
**SEEKERS  
IN SNEAKERS**  
BIBLE SCHOOL

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

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

**REGISTER NOW!**



## *Pastor's Column*

*I wrote this article on behalf of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission for Roanoke churches and other non-profit organizations to include in their newsletters.*

As a suicide and gun theft prevention measure, the City of Roanoke and the Roanoke Police Department recently purchased 10,000 gun locks that are available free of charge to citizens of Roanoke. If you are a gun owner, please consider securing your handgun with one of these free gun locks.

Impulsivity is a significant factor in many of Roanoke's gun suicides and homicides. For every one gun homicide, Roanoke usually experiences one or more gun suicides. An unexpected event can fill a person with despair, fear, or anger, causing them to make an impulsive, life-altering decision for themselves and others because a gun is readily available.

Many injuries and deaths could be avoided with just the simplest obstacle—a gun lock—standing between the impulse of the moment and the act of pulling the trigger. For instance, the suicide risk for teenagers who live in a home with handguns can be reduced by 50% when guns are locked, unloaded, and the ammunition kept in a separate place. By contrast, women who live in a home where her spouse or partner owns a gun experience a 50% increase in suicide risk.

Gun locks may be obtained at the following locations across the city:

- Roanoke Police Department (348 Campbell Ave. SW)
- Department of Social Services (1510 Williamson Rd. NE)
- Fishburn Recreation Center (714 13th St. SW)
- Main/Downtown Library (706 S. Jefferson St.)
- Belmont Branch Library (1101 Morningside St. SE)
- Gainsboro Branch Library (15 Patton Ave. NW)
- Melrose Branch Library (2502 Melrose Ave. NW Suite D)
- Raleigh Court Library (2112 Grandin Rd. SW)
- Williamson Road Library (3837 Williamson Rd. NE)

More information about the program, including details about the installation of a gun lock, may be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2v-uUA4KDk>.



*Pastor Tim*

June 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Summer Staff Commissioning Dinner at Camp Bethel June 7, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.			1
2 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship <i>Guess Who's Coming to Lunch?</i>	3 9 a.m.- Crafts	4 5:30 p.m.- Handbells 6 p.m.- Peace & Justice	5	6 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.	7	8 8 a.m.- SHP Bed Build 10 a.m.- FEDUP Prayer Breakfast
9 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship 12:30- Exec. Meeting	10 9 a.m.- Crafts <i>Youth at FaithX June 9-14, 2024.</i>	11 5:30 p.m.- Handbells	12	13 2 p.m.-Games	14 6 p.m.-Men's Father's Day Cookout	15
16 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship	17 9 a.m.- Crafts	18 5:30 p.m.- Handbells	19 9:30 a.m.- Summer Connect 11 a.m.- Munch Bunch	20 2 p.m.-Games	21	22 8 a.m.- SHP Bed Build
23 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship Handbells playing	24 9 a.m.- Crafts	25	26 9:30 a.m.- Summer Connect	27 2 p.m.-Games	28	29
30 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship	9 a.m.- Crafts				 Happy Father's Day! 	