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

JULY 15

**AUGUST** 

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

**JULY 2024** 

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.

## **July Sermons and Worship Services**

**July 7** Annual Conference Sunday; sermon will be provided by Cindy Laprade Lattimer, the Sunday morning Annual Conference preacher.

July 14 A plan for the fullness of time Ephesians 1:3-14

July 21 Worship at Camp Bethel.
Pastor Tim on vacation; Horace Light preaching.

July 28 Pastor Tim on vacation; Drew Purcell preaching.



Worship at Camp Bethel July 21, 2024 11:00 a.m.

Worship at Shelter by the Spring at 11:00 a.m. followed by a potluck and swimming from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Please bring a dish to share with everyone and any games you would like to play.

# Church News

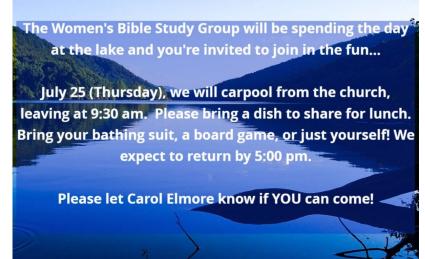
### Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

- ...Beth Shearer, recovering from surgery ...Jonna Detweiler, medical procedure
- ... Gay Bulach, shoulder surgery

There will be a Celebration of Life for Bill Lewis on July 12, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. here at Oak Grove. A reception will follow.



2138 MCVITTY RD SW, ROANOKE, VA 24018 RSVP TO LISA 540-493-2696 BRING A RECIPE FOR THE COUPLE CARD AND MONEY TREE AVAILABLE (NO REGISTRTY)



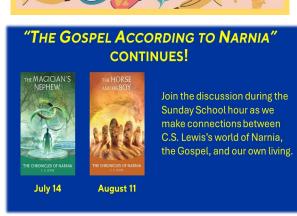
# Happy Birthday

- 5– Ralph Petcher
- 5– Isaac Hernandez
- 9– Bill Pugh
- 10– Mary Jo Burris
- 12– Marianne Pittman
- 13– Daren Haas
- 14- Rachel Mabe
- 17– Mary Wilson
- 21 Jenny Grant
- 22– Roger Simpson 23– Deanna Knox
- 24 Jane Grisso
- 25- Nancy Hylton
- 25- Madison Cianelli
- 29-Keith Robinson 31– Joyce Harmon

# Happy Anniversary

- 5– Zach & Kate Hoyt
- 6- Stephen Shumate & Suzy Sauerwald
- 13- Garland & Rena' Brown
- 17– Ralph & Phyllis Petcher
- 27– Johnny & Elaine Thompson





# Meet New Member Holly Belcher by Sara Blaha

On Sunday afternoon, June 2, 2024, Holly and I sat in the Oak Grove Library and had a wonderful conversation about her relatively short life—well, it's short compared to mine! But during our chat, I discovered we have a lot in common. We're both Brethren (okay, that's a given); we both love winter and snow (that was a surprise); we both have connections to Roanoke College (see below—I don't mention I worked in the library there for 24 years); we both have men in our lives who are really into jazz; and perhaps most importantly, we both love dogs! (Her sweet girl is Emma.)

Holly Renee Belcher was born on January 25<sup>th</sup> during The Blizzard of '96 (remember that?) at the hospital in Martinsville. She is the first-born child of Bennie and Michele Belcher. Her brother Eric arrived six years later. The family lives in the valley near Woolwine in Patrick County which is about 34 miles west of Martinsville. Her grandmothers, aunts, uncles and cousins lived nearby, so she always had playmates ready, willing, and able to hang out and have lots of fun together. It meant/means a lot to Holly to have that close family connection.

Holly's mom is an elementary school teaching assistant. This past year she had first graders. And here's something I learned about Holly's dad that put a smile on my face. He's a mechanic/machinist for the Wood Brothers Racing organization. That's right; he works with NASCAR! I googled them when I got home. Wood Brothers Racing holds the Guinness World Record for the longest active NASCAR racing team. They're the oldest continuously operating NASCAR Cup Series team, and they've always raced Ford cars (which probably explains why Holly is a "Ford girl"). Holly's dad helped build several scale model racing cars that are in the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.

Holly attended elementary school K-7 and high school 8-12. Patrick County High School was one of the first schools in the commonwealth to offer two years of college in high school, and Holly chose to participate in that program. Understandably, it meant she and the other ten participating classmates would need to take more classes and study a lot harder. But all that hard work paid off; she was able to enter college as a junior and finish in two years.

For years, Holly knew she wanted to be a Virginia Tech Hokie. But God had other plans for her. The necessary paperwork did not make it to Tech on time. She wasn't denied admission; they just didn't have everything they needed to accept her for the fall of 2014. Luckily, Roanoke College was a backup and they accepted her as a transfer student. Holly and her mom toured the campus and she fell in love with it. Her friendly, outgoing personality was noticed by President Mike Maxey. In the fall, even after graduation, she would take boxes of apples to him, something he always looked forward to with pleasure.

Continued next page...

Since graduating from Roanoke College in 2016 (I was in the band for her commencement ceremony), Holly has worked as a paralegal at various law firms in the Roanoke Valley. She loves what she does and most enjoys working with criminal law cases. She is considering law school (the LSAT is done) but isn't in a hurry to go there. I'm confident, should she make the decision to follow that dream, she'll blossom into a fabulous attorney.

And now for the *really* good stuff.

When Holly was in second grade, she made the decision to dedicate her life to Christ and was baptized at Smith River Church of the Brethren, her family's church for many years. In my view, it's both astounding and impressive that she could make that important decision at such a young age. During our conversation in the Library, I was taken by her understanding of God's grace, her confidence in it, and her devotion to living a good life that would make him proud.

Her decision was not easy. She cried—a lot. Her pastor told her, "This is your decision to make when you're ready. No one will make you do this." The next Sunday, the call to the altar was a song that had been played at her great grandmother's funeral a few months earlier. According to Holly, "It just felt right. Every day since then has been different. I've known a long time about God's power. As I got older, I learned about the things that really matter and the things that don't." Later in our conversation about her grandfather's death—she had a premonition about that, or maybe it was God's whisper—Holly said, "It reminded me that the church is pure. If I hadn't accepted God years before, I would not have known about all this. I never regretted anything. I am reminded how amazing God's grace is. Listen to it, what He's telling you. It's breathtaking, what he can do for you."

After Holly graduated from Roanoke College, she set out to find a church in the Roanoke area. She knew Tim and Lynette Harvey from their time at New Hope CoB in Stuart, and in fact, their daughter Emily (who is just six weeks younger than Holly) was/is a good friend. The girls were in the same kindergarten, first and second grade classes, and they also enjoyed their time at Camp Bethel together.

And here's something I really loved hearing. When Holly first started attending Oak Grove, Alton and Mildred Hipps (Carol Elmore's parents) were still with us. One Sunday, they approached Holly and asked, "Would you like to have lunch with us?" She thought about it for a second, then said, "Okay, why not." They went to lunch and had a wonderful time. "They were great people. I'm not sure I would have had that experience if I'd gone to a different church. Oak Grove is a very special place. I feel very at home here. It's like it was growing up in my church at home. I felt welcomed as I joined the church in May 2024. I can count on people here."

So, seek out Holly on Sunday morning. Take time to get to know this special young woman. And maybe invite her to lunch. I bet she'll say, "Okay, why not!"

to our church family

## Ron & Jill Mooney

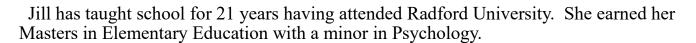
by Susan Lindsey

Please welcome our newest members, Ron & Jill Mooney. Jill is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. (deceased) Richard Gottshall and joins several other P.K.'s (preacher's kids) here.

From their first visit they felt right at home at Oak Grove. Jill is drawn to the music program and is a member of the choir and handbells.

Jill has spent most of her life here in Roanoke while Ron comes from Delphos, Ohio. He entered the Army and after three years at the time of his discharge he joined his parents who had moved to Roanoke where his father was employed at N&W. Ron began his

career in Roanoke working at various times with O' Reilley's and Advanced Auto managing several stores.



Ron was attemding a picnic along with his date at Ingersall Rand and spotted Jill. He knew "he had to get to know her", got a telephone number from a friend and the rest is "history." They have been married for 47 years and have two children, Ryan and Emma and two grandchildren, Jules and Emma. Following the death of Dottie last year, Ron and Jill have revamped their own home to care for Dick.

#### Save the Date – September 14, 2024

Oak Grove will be sponsoring a Sleep in Heavenly Peace "Bunks Across America" Bed Build with Cave Spring UMC and Laurel Branch CoB (Floyd, Va) again this year. 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.



This event will take place at Cave Spring UMC's parking lot/church grounds on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Since Oak Grove is helping sponsor this build, we need lots of volunteers to help build beds. Anyone 12 and older is eligible to help. 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 in the memo section "Sleep in Heavenly Peace". If giving through the Tithe.ly online app, remember to select "Sleep In Heavenly Peace" to designate it to the build.



Watch for more information in the August newsletter.



# FREE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING!

Become a certified mental health first aider for 3 years through National Council for Mental Wellbeing.



Identify. Understand. Respond.

Mental Health First Aid is a
skills-based training course
that teaches participants about
mental health and substanceuse issues.



August 1, 2024 10AM-5PM Williamson Rd Library 3837 Williamson Rd Roanoke VA 24012



Nearly 1 in 5 American adults will have a diagnosable mental health condition in any given year. – Mental Health America



REGISTER <u>HERE</u>OR BY CONTACTING mjames@brbh.org 540-982-1427 ext. 5117 Register by 7/19/24

Complete 2 hours of pre-work before attending the training.





Randall Eakin is one of the instructors for this class.

If you have any questions, please contact him.



1240 Third Street, SW | Roanoke, VA 24016 540-344-5156 | 540-342-0220 www.bradleyfreeclinic.com help@bradleyfreeclinic.com

#### MEDICAL | DENTAL | PHARMACY | MENTAL HEALTH

EYE CLINIC | OPS CLINIC | DIABETIC EDUCATION | WELLNESS/NUTRITION | CASE MANAGEMENT | MEDICATION MANAGEMENT | HOPE INITIATIVE

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Owen Weaver

May 21, 2024

Pastor Tim Harvey Oak Grove Church of Brethren 2138 McVitty Road, SW Roanoke, VA 24018

Dear Pastor Harvey,

First, let us just say, thank you!

Oak Grove also collected a Father's Day offering of \$200.00 for Bradley Free Clinic on June 16, 2024!

Your recent generous gift of \$250.00 to Bradley Free Clinic means that you understand how important it is to help the underserved in our community. Our patients often struggle with finding health care and wonder how they can afford their medications.

Let me tell you what the services at the Clinic mean to some of the patients we serve.

- Reggie now has the medications and care that he needs to manage his diabetes and its associated complications.
- Stephanie has the needed behavioral health support, counseling, and medications that have kept her employed, in her home, and out of the Emergency Room.
- Alma found her medical home at Bradley when she arrived as a refuge from

  Bosnia
- Barry came to our dental clinic to resolve major dental issues that were left untreated for years; now, he is happy to smile again.

All these stories and many more like them are possible because of donors like you. Your support allows Bradley to continue to be a critical safety net in the Roanoke Valley.

We could not do this without you. We sincerely appreciate your commitment to Bradley's mission and our patients.

Kindest Regards,

Rondall A. Alea, M.D.

Randall R. Rhea, M.D. Board President Janine L. Underwood
Executive Director

Because we are a registered 501(c)3 organization, your donation is entirely taxdeductible. In compliance with IRS regulations, this letter also confirms that you received no goods or services in connection with this donation.









Abby Brubaker and Elizabeth Brancotti, granddaughters of Nelson & Nancy Hylton, are also on staff. Abby as Summer office staff and Elizabeth is year round Director of Guest Services.



Above: On June 2, 2024 our Camp Bethel adoptees enjoyed lunch with the Yingling family, Evan Jacobs and Joyce Harmon.



## August 1, 2024 6:30 p.m. Guided Hike with Trail Mix Bar

Join the Camp Bethel staff for a guided hike on August 1 at 6:30 p.m.

As you are gathered at the ark, help yourself to our trail mix bar. You can snack as you hike or save your snacks for later!

Registration is NOT required, but encouraged. Event is free; donations requested!

### Camp Bethel News

Goodie Bags: Here are some items our Camp Adoptees enjoy. If you'd like to donate items for their goodie bags, leave them in the basket in the Fellowship Hall with the "Camp Bethel News" trifold. I'm sure they would appreciate anything you'd like to include. If you'd like to make a financial contribution, please see Alli Yingling or Don Pizzulo

#### Ben Riddle

Favorite Candy: M&Ms & Gummy Clusters

Favorite Snack: Doritos Favorite Food: Bacon

#### Maggie Pizzullo

Favorite Candy: Anything Sour

Favorite Snack: Chips Favorite Food: Pasta

#### Jaxson Leddy

Favorite Candy: Nerdy Gummy Clusters

Favorite Snack: Lays Sour Cream & Onion Chips

Favorite Food: Original Pringles

#### Cards

Name of person receiving letter (ex: Lauren Naff) C/O Camp Bethel 328 Bethel Road Fincastle, VA 24090

#### **Tree Cookies**

Used as name tags for campers, recognition for achievements, participation in special events. Over 4000 used for year round events. If you have downed limbs or small trees and can make some it would be greatly appreciated! Bring them to church and we will see they get to camp.

- Hardwood, cross cut (to show rings) 3+" in diameter
- Less than ½" thick
- ¼" hole
- Sanded



## **Annual Conference 2024**

DeVos Place Convention Center Grand Rapids, Michigan July 3-7

Carol Elmore and Deanna Knox are delegates. Pastor Tim is Conference Parliamentarian.

# **Worship Livestream**

Annual Conference worship services can be viewed online at <a href="www.brethren.org/ac2024/webcasts">www.brethren.org/ac2024/webcasts</a> live or later via the recording. Services start Wednesday evening, July 3 at 6:45 Eastern Time. They continue at the same time on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings as well as Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

For the worship schedule, bulletins, and how to help defray the cost of the livestream, go to <a href="https://www.brethren.org/ac2024/webcasts">www.brethren.org/ac2024/webcasts</a>.

## Did you know??...

Greg Broyles is the preacher for the Thursday worship service at Annual Conference!



Greg Broyles (Thursday)

Affirmation ... It Can Change the World!

Luke 1:46-49 (NIV)

Go to <u>www.brethren.org/ac</u> for more information about Annual Conference.

### Oak Grove Worship Service July 7, 2024

Our Sunday, July 7, our worship service will have a definite Annual Conference flair! The liturgy is adapted from resources provided by the Annual Conference Office, and the sermon will be delivered (via video recording) by Cindy Laprade Lattimer, the Sunday morning Annual Conference preacher.

Cindy grew up in Franklin County, and was very active at Antioch Church of the Brethren and the Virlina District. She and her husband, Ben, are parents to 3 kids: Everett, and twins Ezra and Cyrus. They are also co-pastors of Stone Church of the Brethren in Huntingdon, PA and co-chaplains at Juniata College. Cindy enjoys reading, coaching her kids and their friends in sports, playing strategic board games, and hiking the wooded trails behind their home.

#### **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

#### 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

**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

### 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.





# Pastor's Column

Some years ago, I came across a helpful way of categorizing congregational outreach into *charity, service,* and *justice* ministries. I have found these categories to be a helpful framework for us to think about the many ways a congregation can engage the needs of people in our community.

Charity describes programs where one person or group meets another person's need. Paying a utility bill, offering a bag of groceries, or providing a night in the Rescue Mission are illustrations. The strengths of charitable outreach are that many people offer contributions that address an immediate crisis. Some drawbacks are that charity does little to impact long-term needs and is almost exclusively one-directional, offering little opportunity for relationship building.

**Service** opportunities are those where relationship happens and our understanding of the community begins to expand. When we work together with people we're helping—through ministries like Brethren Disaster Ministries or Habitat for Humanity—we can build relationships to address both immediate and long-term needs.

**Justice** ministries address the larger, systemic issues that leave people in difficult or desperate situations. To borrow from Bishop Desmund Tutu's famous quote, justice ministries are those that "prevent people from being pushed into the river" in the first place. The work is long, slow, and far removed from the individuals involved, working instead at the policy or program level. A seat on a board of directors or serving on a civic commission are examples of justice ministry.

Over the last several years, our congregation has maintained a significant number of charity-type mission engagements while also expanding mission work into the service and justice areas. Much of this has come through programs that seek to educate people on racism and gun violence. These include:

Oak Grove members Ellen Phillips and Randall Eakin serve on the Virlina District Race Education Team. That group has sponsored book studies and other educational events that teach people about the true nature and form of racism.

A new ministry in Roanoke is *Roanoke Justice Ministries*. Led by Ray Higgins, a local, trained, community organizer, RJM is seeking to build a 500 – 1000-member coalition of concerned Christians who will then lobby city leaders to fund an as yet to be determined need. Led mostly by clergy from the NW part of our city, our first large meeting gathered approximately 50 concerned church members, Black and white, from across the city. Pastor Tim and Deanna Knox have joined in meetings with this group.

Ellen Phillips and Deanna Knox also work with the *Roanoke Reparations Group*, a coalition of church members initiated by Central Church of the Brethren. The group's next project is a summer book study of Robert Turner's book, *Creating a Culture of Repair*.

Continued next page...

Pastor Tim continues to serve on the Gun Violence Prevention Commission in Roanoke. Among other things, we have come to know the work of FEDUP through this connection. Pastor Tim and Lynette, along with Sylvia Shepherd and Deanna Knox, recently attended FEDUP's annual prayer breakfast.

Having many church members engaged in a wide range of mission and outreach is like a good potluck meal: there truly is "something for everyone" with this model. How do you participate in the wide offerings of mission and outreach opportunities in our congregation? In what ways would you like to learn more?

# Paster Vin

-Four individuals assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund.

June Outreach

- -Food for one family through our Food Pantry.
- -Helped build 40 beds with Sleep in Heavenly
  Peace
- -Father's Day Offering of \$200.00 to Bradley
  Free Clinic

From Sleep in Heavenly Peace Roanoke Chapter:

From January to the present, we made 140 deliveries and delivered 255 beds. Overall, in 4 1/2 years, this chapter is responsible for delivering 1,587 beds!

Over the past year, our *Strategic Task Team* (Connie Bierly, Tim Harvey, Horace Light, Sam Phillips, Todd Marcum, Marc Wilson, and Alli Yingling) has taken a close look at our congregation's financial stewardship. This includes the creation of a new endowment: the Oak Grove *Acorn Fund*. The *Acorn Fund* is designated by the Church Board to supplement the annual church budget by funding program and/or salaries at the Board's discretion, in consultation with the Finance Commission. In cases where the church's finances are sufficient to cover the ministry and program of the congregation, special consideration for funding new mission and ministry projects would be considered. Capital improvement and maintenance needs will not be covered by this fund.



This fund begins with a balance of approximately \$40,000, which comes from budget surplus, special funds, and last fall's Quilt Auction. It will take time to build up a balance sufficient to fund any ministry or program needs. Oak Grove members are encouraged to remember this fund through their regular giving and their estate planning.

# **July 2024**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pastor Tim on vacation June 30-July 7, 2024 and July 17-31.	9 a.m.– Crafts	6 p.m.– Peace & Justice	9:30 a.m.– Summer Connect	Church Office Closed	Annual Confe	ence July 3-7 in ds, Michigan.
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:45 a.m Sunday School 11:00 a.m Worship Cindy Laprade- Lattimer preachi	9 a.m.– Crafts		9:30 a.m.– Summer Connect	2 p.mGames	2 p.m Celebration of Life for Bill Lewis	1 p.m.– Bridal Shower for Nicki Wilson & John McCormick
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:45 a.m Sunday School 11:00 a.m Worship 12:30– Exec. Meeting	9 a.m.– Crafts		9:30 a.m.– Summer Connect 11 a.m.– Munch Bunch	2 p.mGames		
21 11:00 a.m Worship at Camp Bethel Potluck and swimming	9 a.m.– Crafts	23	9:30 a.m.– Summer Connect  Camp Bethel Benefit Day	9:30 a.m.– Women's Group at lake 2 p.mGames	26	27
9:45 a.m Sunday School 11:00 a.m Worship	9 a.m.– Crafts	30	9:30 a.m.– Summer Connect			MMER ime!