

Pastor:
Tim Harvey

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(540) 774-3217

**DEADLINE FOR
NOVEMBER
OCTOBER 15**

**NEWSLETTER
COMMITTEE:**

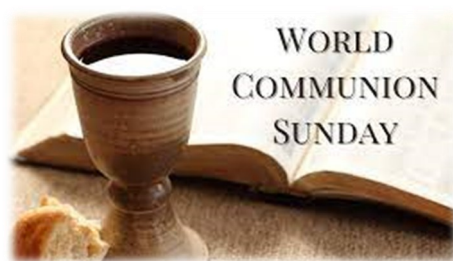
Rena' Brown
Carolyn Broyles
Nancy Hylton
Josephine Keller
Bryana Lackey
Emily Nelson

**CHURCH OFFICE
SECRETARY HOURS:**
Monday-Friday
9:00-2:00 p.m.

THE VISITOR

OCTOBER 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.

October Sermon and Scripture

- October 6** *Here comes the bride!* Revelation 19:6-9
Final Sunday of Stewardship Emphasis –
Pledge Cards Due
World Communion Sunday – Love Feast
following worship
- October 13** *The Bible tells me so* Hebrews 4:12-16
- October 20** *A Savior who understands us* Hebrews 5:1-10
- October 27** *Provoked to love and good deeds*

- Love Feast, October 6, 2024
following morning worship
- Council meeting, October 27, 2024
following worship
- All Saints Sunday, November 3, 2024
- Board Retreat, November 10, 2024
following worship

**SAVE THE
DATE!**

Church News

Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

- ...*Lowell Foutz, heart issues*
- ...*Jonna Detweiler, cancer treatment*
- ...*Rebecca Duncan, prayers for pregnancy*
- ...*Dea Underwood, health issues*

Elsie Wertz, our congregation’s oldest member, died peacefully on September 6, 2024 at South Roanoke Nursing Home. She was 97.

A graveside service is planned for a later date when family can gather from across the United States.

Sympathy and prayers to all of Elsie’s family and friends.

Two bed builds with Sleep in Heavenly Peace this month at the Colorado St. location:

October 4, 2024

October 19, 2024



MONTHLY OUTREACH September



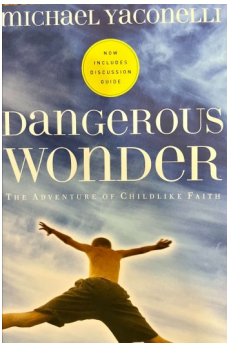
- Three individuals assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund.
- Food for two families through our Food Pantry.
- Backpack Ministry delivers 27 bags each week!
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Builds produced 80 beds this month!

Happy Birthday

- 1– Tyler Chumbley
- 3– Brent White
- 4– Paxton Sutphin
- 4– Cooper Purcell
- 6– Julie Ann Pullen
- 9– Diane Tyler
- 10– Craig Wallace
- 12– Dan Hylton
- 15– Jan Grisso
- 16– Lowell Foutz
- 19– Clara Micolupo
- 22– Michaelia Tyler
- 25– Bobbie Saul
- 27– Charlie Purcell

Happy Anniversary

- 2– Mike & Diane Tyler
- 3– David & Carol Jones
- 15– Bill & Becky Fowler
- 29– Brian & Brooke Harmon



*Women's
Faith Study
Group
Thursdays
9:30 a.m.*

Report from the September 8 Executive Committee Meeting

- Fall Council Meeting has been rescheduled for October 27, 2024 to accommodate the use of our facilities for the Bazaar and Community Festival October 19, 2024.
- We anticipate several items of business for the Fall Council meeting. More information on each of the items will be available between now and Council meeting:
 - ◊ A motion regarding the Leadership Team Model we have been trialing this year.
 - ◊ A motion originating from the Peace and Justice Group regarding funding for several out-reach opportunities in our community (see related article in this month’s newsletter).
 - ◊ The 2025 proposed budget.
 - ◊ The 2025 proposed slate of officers.
- We continue discussions on how to make our building more welcoming to all. This includes:
 - ◊ Making the building accessible on rainy days for those with mobility needs. Property has been looking into covered entrance options for our handicap accessible entrances.
 - ◊ Christian Education has been working with Property to establish a covering for the lower “Ark” playground, as it gets too hot in the summer for our littlest disciples.
 - ◊ You may have noticed the bathrooms in the fellowship hall have been converted into uni-sex facilities to increase accessibility to these handicap accessible bathrooms.
 - ◊ Non-slip strips have been added to outdoor staircases for safety.
- We are planning for a November 10th Board Retreat, including all 2024 and 2025 elected and appointed commission members. The goal will be to strategically plan for the coming year. Exciting times lie ahead!

We will commemorate *All Saints Sunday* on November 3, 2024 with a memorial tribute video. The tribute to Oak Grove members and participants who died in the last twelve months has quickly become a meaningful tradition for our congregation.

Conversations that continued after our grief seminar earlier this year have led us to expand the memorial tribute video. If you would like to add members of your immediate family who have died since November 2023 to the video, please email a photograph of the deceased with the following information to the [church office](#) by Tuesday, October 29:



- Name
- Relation to you
- Date of death

Peace and Justice Ministries in our community

Our Spring 2021 Council meeting was certainly one for the ages! Even though Covid shut down most congregational ministries throughout 2020 and into 2021, your financial support of the congregation remained unchanged. As a result of your faithfulness, the congregation ended 2020 with a significant financial surplus that was used to support our mission in the Roanoke Valley and beyond.

Part of that Council decision was setting aside \$8,000 for the **Roanoke Reparations Group (RRG)**, a project that originated from Central Church of the Brethren's Race Education Team. Their vision was to bring together churches in the Roanoke area to pursue faith-based reparations for the Black community in Roanoke. Today, the RRG is focused on raising awareness about the need to address and repair the damage done by systemic racism, while also working to recruit churches to support this cause. The RRG has hosted book studies on the topic of reparations and is currently developing a database of recommended resources to assist churches in starting their educational journey. Representatives from various churches gather monthly to work toward these goals; Ellen Phillips and Deanna Knox are involved with this group.

The Peace and Justice Committee brought a recommendation for allocating \$3,091 of this fund for three projects listed below. This proposal has been approved by the Missions and Service Commission and the Executive Committee. It is an item on the October 27th Church Council agenda.

\$1,000 to FEDUP. Our congregation is familiar with *Families Experiencing Deliverance Using Prayer*, a 501(c)3 organization connected with Roanoke's Gun Violence Prevention Commission. FEDUP volunteers connect with the families of homicide victims to provide immediate crisis and conflict-resolution resources, as well as any other support needed. FEDUP also sponsors a monthly support group for both gun violence survivors and for victims' families.

For more information see <https://www.fedupwithgunviolence.org>. See also the related article on an aspect of FEDUP's ministry by Tess Anderson.

\$1,091 to Roanoke Justice Ministries (RJM), a non-partisan, multi-leader, multi-racial, interfaith community organization seeking to end racism and poverty in the Roanoke Valley. This organization seeks to mobilize the faith community to bring attention to civic leaders about these concerns. The proposal includes a \$1,000 gift to RJM and \$91 for reimbursements for Oak Grove members who have attended training and education events.

\$1,000 to Young Doctors of Roanoke, a mentoring, education, and pipeline to health careers program for high school boys that includes intensive summer programs and Saturday academies where participants are trained in preventative medicine, mental health, and health issues in underserved communities. The program includes help with the travel arrangements and accommodations for the annual four-week Summer Academy at Howard University.

Any young man of color from grade 8 to 10 is eligible to apply to the program each year. Why only young men? The program has chosen to focus on men because statistics show the medical field is attracting fewer young men of color than young women of color.

For more information, see <https://www.youngdoctorsdc.org>. Connie Bierly is involved with this group.

Healing Crafts *by Tess Anderson*

This summer I had the opportunity to work with Robin Moorman, a participant in the FEDUP program. FEDUP is a local nonprofit that supports families who have lost a loved one to gun violence. Robin's adult son, Robbie, was killed last year.

When a family like the Moorman's experience a loss, a FEDUP team goes to their house to offer support and help with resources for things like funeral arrangements, clergy, financial assistance, food and housing. They especially offer prayer. And their support is ongoing through the months ahead. These teams are made up of people who have, themselves, experienced the kind of traumatic loss that comes from gun violence. They bring with them an understanding that goes beyond words, that can allow a person to talk if they wish or simply be with someone who has walked this same painful road.

Robin wished for a quilt she could wrap up in, made from her son's clothes, surrounded by the feel of the things her beloved son wore. Her FEDUP team contacted Tim, who then asked our craft group if anyone would be interested in making it. That's how I came to work with Robin. It was a privilege to talk with her and make the quilt, one small part of the support that has come through the FEDUP organization.



Pictured Left: Tess Anderson

Pictured Right: Robin Moorman

For more information on FEDUP, click [here](#).

Fall Bazaar October 19, 2024

Oak Grove's Fall Bazaar will be held Saturday, October 19, 2024 from 8:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m. We will have an area devoted to handcrafted items from Christmas decorations to pottery, jewelry, and wooden trees.

There will also be a bountiful bake sale, Country Store and “next to new” area.

It takes many good cooks, bakers, talented crafters, jelly makers and organizers to have a successful bazaar. A number of our crafters have been meeting regularly throughout the year, sharing their talents and having fellowship. Their donations will be found in the handcrafted items.

The Country Store is always popular and there you will find jellies, jams and fresh produce. This is also the area for potted plants and pumpkins. The shifts for volunteers in the Country Store and other areas are 7:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. We will also need volunteers to help as cashiers.

We will be setting up in the fellowship hall for the bazaar beginning on Monday, October 14, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. and need to have the room back in order by Tuesday, October 23, 2024. Rearranging the tables and moving many chairs to and from the storage closet requires time and strength.

The distribution of the funds raised at the bazaar is decided on by the Mission and Service Commission. Once again this year, the funds will support the Good Samaritan Fund here at Oak Grove. These funds are used to help members of the community with rent, utilities, and payments for medications.

We have many talented people in our congregation and this is an excellent opportunity to share those talents, fellowship with others, and with guests who come to shop and support the Good Samaritan Fund. Please contact Martha Gregory at (843) 926-1510 to reserve your time for volunteering.



FALL Bazaar

8 am - 2:30 pm



Baked goods, produce and canned goods in the Country Store, pottery, quilts, wooden crafts, dog coats and other crafts for sale!

Two fun events

**Saturday
Oct. 19**

One big day!



Community Festival!

10 am - 2 pm - FREE!

games

HOT DOGS & CHIPS

bounce house music

Everyone welcome!

Oak Grove 
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

2138 McVitty Road SW
Behind Starbucks

JOIN US FOR CAMP BETHEL'S 40TH ANNUAL
HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL

7:30 a.m.–
2:30 p.m.

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 5

328 BETHEL RD.
FINCASTLE, VA

• CRAFTS • FOOD • KIDS ACTIVITIES • APPLE BUTTER • FISHING

Camp Bethel News

JOIN US FOR CAMP BETHEL'S 2ND ANNUAL

TREK-OR-TREAT

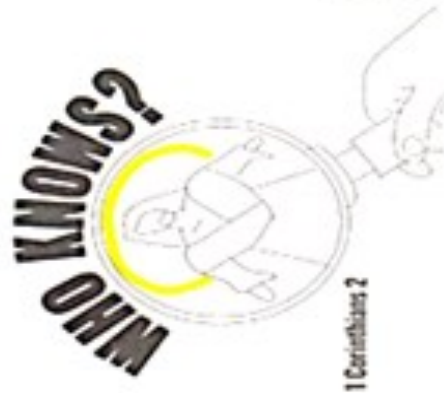
October 26 | 4PM - 7PM

Free event for all!

"Trek" around Camp along our
Trick-or-Treat trail

Free hot chocolate & cider
Food trucks






2024
Virilina District
Conference
FAITH FELLOWSHIP
WIRTZ, VA
November 8 & 9
Join us for worship Friday night, and music, voting, business sessions, Church of the Brethren reports, exhibits and fellowship on Saturday.

• FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8 •
Ministers, Spouses, and Friends Dinner 5:15 PM The Annual Dinner for Ministers, Spouses and Friends will take place at Germantown Brick Church of the Brethren (2363 Brick Church Road, Rocky Mount, VA 24151). Food is catered by Montanos. Guest speaker will be Founa Badet, Director of Intercultural Ministries for the Church of the Brethren. Reservations are due October 21 . Check-in starts at 4:45. The meal is \$23.00/person and begins at 5:15 PM. (Preregistered onsite childcare is 5:00 – 6:30 PM. Bring a packed supper and drink for an indoor picnic.)
Conference Registration Delegates register by September 30 with \$30.00 fee made out to: Virilina District 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012. Non-delegates may request report booklets by September 30. Supplies limited on-site.
Praise and Worship 7:00 PM – 8:15 PM Worship Leader: Stacy Goff, Copper Hill Worship and Praise led by Todd Reed, Cedar Bluff Skits and Songs of Praise: Susan Thomas, pianist, Outspoken Band from Bridgewater College. Iglesia Band, Skit from Copper Hill.
Child-care from 6:45 – 8:15. Please pack snacks for children.

• SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 • 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.
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 have lessons, crafts, and a service project for the local animal shelter and food pantry. After lunch, they will go by passenger van to the animal shelter and Homestead Creamery. Please provide car seats if needed. Middle School and Senior High Youth will be having a separate retreat at Antioch with Bridgewater's IVC. Chaperones must provide transportation to and from Antioch. A separate registration form is required.
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 2024 ballot, budget and new business, reorganization, prayer and commissioning for Virilina's 2025 leadership and the installation of 2025 Moderator Naomi Powers. 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 Old Oak Café, will need to be reserved by October 21 . Lunch is \$15.00 and served in a room to the left of the lobby with an accessible ramp entrance. Local restaurants near Faith Fellowship are an option, as well.
2024 Officers Moderator: Stacy Goff, Copper Hill Moderator Elect: Naomi Powers, Daleville Clerk: Rissa Craighead, Red Oak Grove

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:30 p.m.– Handbells 6 p.m.– Peace & Justice	2 9 a.m.- ESL 6 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir	3 9:30 a.m.-Women’s Faith Study Group 2 p.m.– Games 5:30 p.m.– Ev. & Membership 5:30 p.m.– Missions & Serv. 5:30 pm.-Min. & Worship 6:30 p.m.-Christian Ed.	4 SHP Bed Build	5 Heritage Day at Camp Bethel 7:30 a.m.- Breakfast 9-2:30 p.m.- Booths open
6 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship Love Feast	7 9 a.m.– Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL 12:30 p.m.- Backpack	8 5:30 p.m.– Handbells	9 9 a.m.- ESL 6 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study Picnic 7 p.m.– Choir	10 9:30 a.m.– Women’s Faith Study Group 2 p.m.-Games	11	12
13 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship	14 9 a.m.– Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL Bazaar Set-up October 14-19	15 5:30 p.m.– Handbells	16 9 a.m.- ESL 11 a.m.– Munch Bunch 6 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir	17 9:30 a.m.- Women’s Faith Study Group 2 p.m.-Games	18	19 SHP Bed Build Fall Bazaar and Community Festival 8-2:30 p.m.
20 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship	21 9 a.m.– Crafts 9 a.m. ESL 12:30 p.m.- Backpack	22 5:30 p.m.– Handbells	23 9 a.m.– ESL 6 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir	24 9:30 a.m.– Women’s Faith Study Group 2 p.m.-Games	25	26 Trek or Treat at Camp Bethel 4-7 p.m.
27 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship 12:30 p.m.– Fall Council Meeting	28 9 a.m.– Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL	29 5:30 p.m.– Handbells	30 9 a.m.– ESL 6 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir	31 9:30 a.m.– Women’s Faith Study Group 2 p.m.-Games	Fall Workday at Camp Bethel November 2, 2024 Virlina District Conference November 8-9, 2024 