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and Music:**
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**DEADLINE FOR
DECEMBER
NOVEMBER 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

NOVEMBER 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.

November Sermon and Scripture

November 3 *For all the Saints* 2 Chronicles 21:20;
Psalm 24

All Saints Sunday, including the *Memorial Tribute video*

November 10 *Oak Grove Top 40 hymns—# 3*

November 17 *Oak Grove Top 40 hymns—# 2*
Bell choir Sunday;
Horace Light, guest preacher

November 24 *Oak Grove Top 40 hymns—# 1*

See pages
5-6 for list
of hymns!

Save the Date

November 8-9 Virgina District Conference, Faith Fellowship, Wirtz, Va

November 10 Church Board and Commission retreat—all elected and appointed members are invited to attend. Lunch at 12:30 p.m. We hope to conclude by 4:00 p.m.

November 24 Advent/Christmas decorating party including the Chrismon Tree, immediately following morning worship. The plan is to expand the after-church fellowship to include finger foods for the decorators to share. Watch for a sign-up sheet.


Church News

Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

- ...Carol Jones, surgery for broken leg
- ...Mel Purcell, broken leg
- ...Gladis Lehman, bursitis in shoulder
- ...Joyce Bolender, pneumonia
- ...Rebecca Duncan, safe delivery of baby Ava
- ...Dick Gottshall, difficulty breathing
- ...Jane Grisso, upper respiratory infection



PRINCE CASPIAN



THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
C. S. LEWIS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24
DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us as we return to Narnia nearly 1,000 years after the defeat of the White Witch.

Do the Narnians remember Aslan and his great purpose for their life?

MONTHLY OUTREACH October

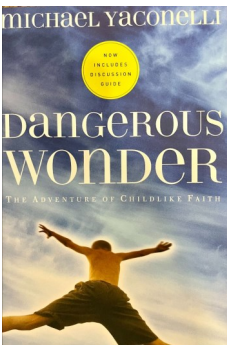
- Five individuals assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund.
- Food for three families through our Food Pantry.
- Backpack Ministry delivers 34 bags each week!
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Builds produced 40 beds this month!

Happy Birthday

- 2– Lois Sowder
- 3– Connie Bierly
- 8– Jessy Wilson
- 11– Marshall Brogan
- 13– Brittany Frantz
- 13– Mark Harmon
- 14– Nathan Musselman
- 14– Brooke Martin
- 18– Fred Widdowson
- 19– Emma Ballew
- 22– Julie Carroll
- 23– Ron Mooney
- 24– Doug Craighead
- 25– Eli Raymond
- 27– Elisabeth Johnson
- 27– Josephine Keller
- 27– Meg Mabus
- 28– Neal Musselman
- 28– Matt Simpson

Happy Anniversary

- 4– Milton & Janet Hartman
- 6– Dennis & Carole Ferguson
- 12– David & Margie Twigg
- 24– Mark & Jonna Detweiler



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

Fall Bazaar

Oak Grove's Fall Bazaar was a huge success!

A total of **\$4,506.62** was raised for our Good Samaritan Fund to help those in our community. Thank you to all the helpers and participants!



The nativity sheep have new fleece, thanks to Tess Anderson. She also refurbished the other nativity figures, which were created by former pastor Jerry Naff about 35 years ago. Your creative work is much appreciated.

Executive Committee Update *by Alli Yingling*

The Executive Committee met on Sunday, October 13, 2024. Along with our regular reports, we discussed the following items (which were also reported at Council Meeting on October 27):

- Continued planning for a November 10th Board Retreat, including all 2024 and 2025 commission members. We will begin with lunch at 12:30 p.m. and will begin our retreat at 1:00 with our retreat leader, Stan Dueck, Director of Organizational Leadership for the Church of the Brethren. Our afternoon will include consideration of leadership opportunities for engaging future generations in the church, reviewing meeting procedures and expectations, and reorganizing our committees to ensure we start 2025 strong!
- We continue to evaluate options for covered entrances to better welcome all members and provide shade on the "Ark Playground." Property is working hard to bring us a variety of ideas and different price points as we investigate the viability of this project.
- The 2025 Proposed Budget was discussed and finalized.

Camp Bethel News



Camp Bethel raised over \$22,000 with more coming in daily for Heritage Day! Oak Grove's Cobbler Booth raised \$808.00!

Thank you to all the participants!



November 2, 2024

Your help is needed to prepare Camp Bethel for the winter season! Reserve your 7:30 a.m. free breakfast and 1:00 p.m. free lunch by contacting 540-992-2940 or campbetheloffice@gmail.com. Use the worklist below to find a project suitable for you and your team. *We will provide printed copies of the worklist on tables in the Ark Dining Hall.* Call us if you need instructions or supplies. *Thank you for helping!*

General Workday projects (rain or shine; indoor and outdoor) for all skill levels and all ages, include:

- Block, haul, split, stack firewood
- Chainsaw & tree work
- Construction touch-ups & carpentry projects
- Clearing roofs, gutters and downspouts
- Deep cleaning of various buildings
- Winterizing bathhouses, shelters & front RV sites
- Medication room clean-out and organizing
- Painting
- Clearing trails
- Flower beds/landscaping
- Cutting, drilling, sanding tree cookies
- and much more!

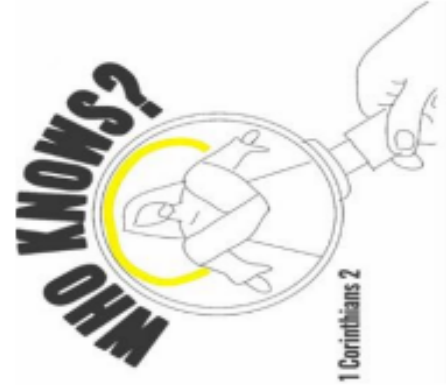
Looking Ahead...



Christmas Together
Banquet
December 7, 2024
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Your \$50 donation for a wonderful dinner and program helps with year-end expenses.

Click [here](#) to RSVP by November 30, 2024.



2024
Virlina 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 •

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| 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: Virlina 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. |
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• SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 •

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| 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. <i>Delegates are expected to bring report booklets to sessions.</i> |
| 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 IYC. 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 Virlina'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 |

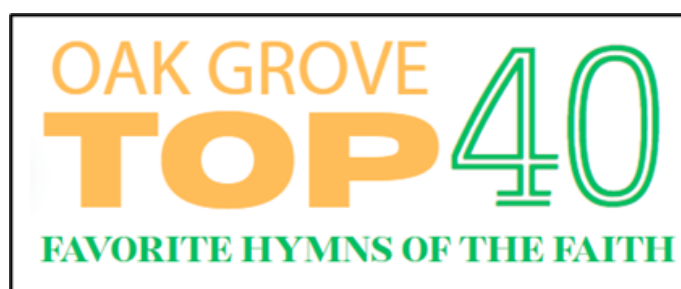
Pastor's Column

Oak Grove's Top Hymns

Oak Grove's Top 40 has been a fantastically rewarding project to work on, and I hope you share my excitement for the ways the top three hymns will shape our worship in November. We'll experience those hymns through vocal and instrumental music, while the theology and images of the hymn lyrics will inform the sermon and spoken parts of our worship liturgy.

Our favorite hymns are a non-scientific compilation of responses submitted by 52 Oak Grove members—a list of responses that generated **173 unique hymns!** Each hymn was given 10 points for first place, 9 points for second place, etc. and the total scores tabulated and ranked .

This is a rather subjective list. My hunch is that while many are certain about their favorite hymn, it is difficult to justify why one hymn might be #5 on our list, and another hymn #8. And that is just fine. Mostly this is just a great deal of fun.



It is interesting, though, to consider the hymns we chose as our congregational “favorites.” Are you surprised in any way? I am! In a sermon this summer, I mentioned that I thought the hymn *Come, Thou fount of every blessing* would probably be one of our top 5 or 10 most favorite hymns. I was wrong about that: it came in at #12! (It's #3 on my personal list.)

Here are our top 40 hymns (actually, there are 41 hymns listed here due to a tie).

- #1 Announced in worship on November 24
- #2 Announced in worship on November 17
- #3 Announced in worship on November 10
- #4 *In the bulb there is a flower*
- #5 *Be Thou my vision*
- #6 *Blessed Assurance*
- #7 *Here I am, Lord*
- #8 *When peace, like a river*
- #9 *Holy, Holy, Holy*
- #10 *Joyful, Joyful, we adore Thee*

- #11 *Just as I am*
- #12 *Come, Thou fount of every blessing*
- #13 *This is my Father’s world*
- #14 *Because He lives*
Move in our Midst
- #16 *For the beauty of the earth*
I come to the garden alone
- #18 *As the deer*
- #19 *What a friend we have in Jesus*
Will you let me be your servant
- #21 *Morning has broken*
- #22 *Christ the Lord is risen today*
Precious Lord, take my hand
- #24 *A mighty fortress is our God*
All hail the pow’r of Jesus name
- #26 *Jesus loves me*
Oh, for a thousand tongues
- #28 *All creatures of our God and King*
Brethren, we have met to worship
He leadeth me
- #31 *Down to the river to pray*
Great is the Lord
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
- #34 *Sanctuary*
- #35 *Breathe on me, breath of God*
Crown him with many crowns
My hope is built
- #38 *All things bright and beautiful*
Fairest Lord Jesus
Here in this place
Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Oak Grove CoB Bible School
Offering for Heifer International
was a huge success!

To the right is a breakdown of our
offering.

Thank you to all who donated!

Send a girl to school \$275.00
Water buffalo \$250.00
Goat \$120.00
Heifer \$500.00
Pig \$120.00
Sheep \$120.00
Flock of Chicks \$ 20.00

= \$1,405.00

November 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| <p><u>SHP BED BUILDS FOR NOVEMBER</u></p> <p>Saturday, Nov 2, 2024 with Summerdean Church of the Brethren. This will be in their parking lot - 6604 Plantation Rd NE Roanoke, VA 24012.</p> <p>Moores Electric Friday Nov 15, 2024 at 701 5th St Altavista, VA 24517. We will be pre-cutting and building on the same day. Also, at Moore's request, this is a private build.so, you can only register if you use this link: https://x.gldn.io/e/o7q3ynEzPNb.</p> | | | | | | <p>2</p> <p>7:30 a.m.-Fall Work Day at Camp Bethel</p> <p>Bed Build-Summerdean CoB</p> |
| <p>3</p> <p>9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship 12:30 p.m.- Deacons Meeting</p> | <p>4</p> <p>9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL 12 p.m.- prayer time in sanctuary 12:30 p.m.- Backpack</p> | <p>5</p> <p>5:30 p.m.- Handbells</p> | <p>6</p> <p>9 a.m.- ESL 6 p.m.- Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.- Choir</p> | <p>7</p> <p>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 p.m.-Min. & Worship</p> | <p>8</p> <p>Virilna District Conference November 8-9, 2024</p> | <p>9</p> |
| <p>10</p> <p>9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship 12:30 p.m.- Church Board Retreat</p> | <p>11</p> <p>9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL</p> | <p>12</p> <p>5:30 p.m.- Handbells 6 p.m.- Peace & Justice</p> | <p>13</p> <p>9 a.m.- ESL 6 p.m.- Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.- Choir</p> | <p>14</p> <p>11:30 a.m.-Good Samaritan in fellowship hall 2 p.m.-Games</p> | <p>15</p> <p>Bed Build-Moores Electric</p> | <p>16</p> |
| <p>17</p> <p>9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship Bell Choir playing</p> | <p>18</p> <p>9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m.-ESL 12:30 p.m.- Backpack</p> | <p>19</p> <p>5:30 p.m.- Handbells</p> | <p>20</p> <p>9 a.m.- ESL 11 a.m.- Munch Bunch 6 p.m.- Men's Bible Study Picnic 7 p.m.- Choir</p> | <p>21</p> <p>2 p.m.-Games</p> | <p>22</p> | <p>23</p> <p>Project WARM</p> |
| <p>24</p> <p>9:45 a.m.- Prince Caspian Narnia study 11:00 a.m.- Worship Advent decorating</p> | <p>25</p> <p>9 a.m.- Crafts 9 a.m. ESL</p> | <p>26</p> <p>5:30 p.m.- Handbells</p> | <p>27</p> <p>9 a.m.- ESL 6 p.m.- Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.- Choir</p> | <p>28</p> <p>Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed November 28-29.</p> | <p>29</p>  | <p>30</p> |