

Pastor:
Tim Harvey

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

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(540) 774-3217

**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 2025

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 Scripture

May 4 • Third Sunday of Easter
John 21:1-19 *Where I might not want to go*

May 11 • Mother's Day
Acts 9:36-43 *How can we live without you?*

May 18 • Graduation Sunday

May 25 • Sixth Sunday of Easter
John 14:23-29 *Fear not; you have everything you need*



Interested in joining Oak Grove?
Hungry to know more about faith in Jesus?

Our next class meets May 4, 11, 18, June 1, 8 at 9:45 a.m.

Church News


Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

Prayers for the family of Bobbie Saul who passed away on April 5, 2025. Bobbie is the father of Rosemary Saul.

YARD SALE

WAS A
SUCCESS!

The Youth Yard
Sale raised
\$5,270.79! Thank
you to all who
contributed!



NEW
UPDATE

for your Church Directory!

Rosemary Saul
319 Goodwin Ave.
Salem, VA 24153
(540) 588-8608

Beth Shearer
(540) 520-8938

MONTHLY OUTREACH
April

-Four individuals assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund.

-Food for three families through our Food Pantry.

-Backpack Ministry delivers 25 bags each

Happy Birthday

- 2- Carol Winners
- 3- Bryan Hanger
- 3- Eowyn Hernandez
- 3- Eli Young
- 4- Joan Simpson
- 4- Dawn Thomas
- 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
- 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

Happy Anniversary

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



Munch Bunch
May 21, 2025
11:00 a.m.
McCallister's

**Church Council and Potluck Meal
May 18, 2025**



There will be a potluck meal after the worship service and before the Church Council meeting on May 18, 2025.

The church will provide fried chicken. Please consider bringing a generous dish—or even two—to help ensure there’s plenty for everyone to enjoy.

Kroger Community Rewards Program

Oak Grove Family - Would you do one (more) thing for our YOUTH, to help raise funds for ministries involving our young people? PLEASE sign up for Kroger Community Rewards (you can use this QR code, or go directly to the website). You have to select "Oak Grove Youth"; we are organization: IC777.

Kroger will send a check each quarter with a donation of a percentage of what you've spent that quarter. A little certainly adds up! We've received thousands of dollars from this program since we signed up about 20 years ago.

We appreciate you!



MEN'S COOKOUT

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 6:00 P.M.

SPEAKER: ANTONIO HASH, ROANOKE CITY SHERIFF

BURGERS • GAMES • FELLOWSHIP

MEN OF THE BIBLE

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

WINTER/SPRING 2025

May 7—Dinner and Devotions
May 14—Life of David, part 1
May 21—Life of David, part 2
May 28—Life of David, part 3

ROUNDTABLE 2025

Roundtable is always a highlight in our youth calendar year. It is held at Bridgewater College and led by Brethren students at Bridgewater (and now, surrounding colleges) and is for high schoolers. There are small groups, large group sessions with a keynote speaker (this year's speaker was Jeff Carter, president of Bethany Theological Seminary), workshops, free time, and good meals. This year, Gavin Robinson and Jaxson Leddy attended, along with Carol and Mike Elmore. Gavin and Jaxson also attend FaithQuest February 21-23, 2025 at Camp Bethel.

When you arrive at Bridgewater College on the Friday evening, everyone seems a little shy. But after wild games, a talk from the weekend's keynote speaker to focus us, and down time to just "hang out" on Friday evening, by Saturday morning, youth are in circles talking and laughing...becoming friends.

Gavin has participated each of his high school years and is "well known and well loved" at Roundtable. He was greeted with several youth from our 2024 FaithX (workcamp) group (we were together at Camp Mardela). A highlight for Gavin is his highly anticipated participation in the Saturday evening Variety Show! Because of his friendships over past Roundtables and FaithX adventures, he already has plans to attend a week of FaithX in Winston-Salem this coming summer, so they can be together again.

For Jaxson, this was his second year to attend Roundtable. Very quickly, he reconnected with several youth from Camp Bethel. Jaxson and I discussed "Lent" on our drive up to Bridgewater on Friday. He had already chosen what he would "give up for Lent". I told him that I usually *do* something, but hadn't made a decision on what, yet. He and I ended up at the same workshop on Saturday. It was led by Randall Eakin and Ellen Phillips, of the Virlina Race Education Team (and Oak Grove!). At the end of their very informative session, we were given a book to take home: Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Boy by Emmanuel Acho, a former NFL player. Jaxson handed me one and said, "This is what you could *do* for Lent." I took him up on it! The book was very impactful for me; I appreciated Jaxson's suggestion!

If YOU or YOUR high schoolers get a chance to go to Roundtable next year, encourage them! They'll be glad you did.

Carol Elmore

Oak Grove Church of the Brethren's

Class of 2025!

Rose Harvey *by Becky Fowler*

Rose is graduating from Virginia Tech on May 15, 2025. She majored in Ecological Restoration and minored in Spanish. Before starting college she did a year of Brethren Volunteer Service at Snowcap Community Charities in Portland, Oregon.

After graduation Rose has an internship in Roanoke with Blue Ridge Land Conservancy. During her free time she enjoys gardening, crafting (especially pottery) and reading.

Rose is the daughter of Pastor Tim and Lynette Harvey.

Congratulations, Rose!



Victoria Goodman *by Rena' Brown*

Victoria graduates from Virginia Western Community College on May 9, 2025. She will be receiving her associate degree in Social Services. Her plans are to continue her education towards a Bachelor's Degree in History.



Victoria works at Cato Fashions and Super Kicks. In her spare time she enjoys reading, writing, singing, cooking/baking, Karate and theatre. On Sunday mornings you will find her singing in the soprano section of the Oak Grove choir.

Her proud parents are Clark and Becky Goodman.

Congratulations, Victoria!



Gavin Robinson *by Joe Blaha*

6

At one of the Easter Cantata rehearsals, I saw Gavin at the lectern reading the full text of the story of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection accompanied by the choir and instruments. And all the while I heard a voice, Gavin's voice—clear and soothing, which had captured the rhythm and nuance of the moment.

It takes a family and a church to raise a child. (It helps to have parents and grandparents who live nearby and take care of each other.) In August of 2020 Gavin was facing an upcoming heart valve replacement. In February of 2021, there were medical complications; and in April, the healing was not coming. All of the Robinsons requested that we pray for Gavin and, within two months, Gavin was well enough to start participating and, later, to lead a service. Halleluiah!

Gavin Robinson joined the band at Patrick Henry High School in 2022. Immediately he realized he needed lessons (from me) on the euphonium (a school horn) and a marching baritone (personal instrument to be used for marching bands and foot ball games). At first I gave him all sorts of exercises so he would learn how to breathe, hold the instrument, push down the buttons, and develop the embouchure. This is where I began to think there was something special about Gavin that I don't think I have ever experienced before. Students who come to me for lessons usually do so because they can't get over a habit that is holding them back. This is because they have actually built their playing totally on a false notion that "I've always done it this way." Gavin learned and progressed quickly. He was a delight. He did not hide from a challenge.

We worked together for over two years, and then he chose to study other parts of life. There was still the Band Camp with the Patrick Henry Marching Band (new adventures in music). He traveled to Disney World with the band and took part in band competitions. He has participated in scouts for several years. I believe he hopes to eventually earn Eagle rank.

Then I heard him speaking the Holy Week words of sorrow and celebration on Easter. I could hear that he had learned and respected the words of the Gospels. He listened, paid attention and did a marvelous reading, clear and beautiful.

What kind of man will Gavin become? Easy! One who accepts a challenge—and succeeds.

Gavin has been very active in our youth group by attending workcamps each Summer, Roundtable and district IYC Retreats. He has helped with many youth yard sales/fundraisers and played baritone for worship.

Gavin will graduate from Patrick Henry High School on June 6, 2025. He plans to attend Virginia Western Community College this Fall and to do an apprenticeship in a field of interest. He is the son of Keith and Kirsten Lubbs-Robinson. His grandparents are Dan and Kris Tilley-Lubbs and he has a brother, Graeme.



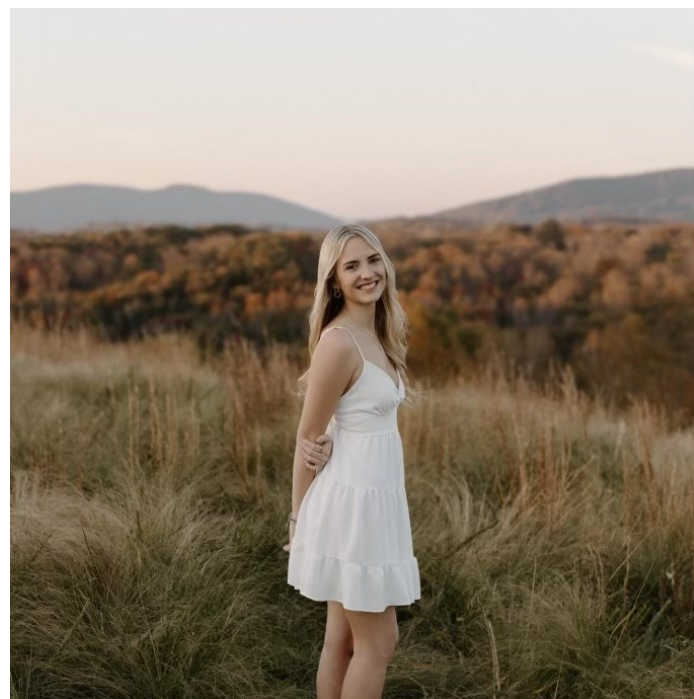
Kylie Young
by Robin Craighead

It has been said that you never know the love of a grandparent until you become one. Nothing more true has ever been spoken! Grandchildren are one of life's rewards, the icing on the cake. They fill a space in our hearts that we never knew was empty. Our world is better with them in it. It seems it was just yesterday when this precious little girl came into our lives. And now, in just a few short weeks our granddaughter, Kylie Elizabeth Young, will graduate with an advanced degree from Salem High School.

Kylie is the daughter of Robert and Hollie Craighead Johnson and Kevin and Cindy Young. From her very beginning we could tell this sweet little gift was an old soul, so thoughtful, so conscientious, with such a zest for life, making sure everyone stayed on task and instructing her family how to best care for her little sister and brother. I am flooded with memories of pink tutus, dressing up in princess dresses, dancing with her little sister, Barbies, Poppy teaching her to ride a bike without training wheels, Grandparents Night at WSE, choir concerts, searching for sea creatures hours on end on family vacations to being one of her great grandmother's , (Jane Wertz), caregivers in her final year. We will be forever grateful for these and so many more precious moments we have had with her.

It will be hard to let go but we are all watching with much pride and excitement as she takes life's next step. Kylie will be attending Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina this fall where she received the President Merit Scholarship. She plans to pursue a career in the medical field at this time, considering a focus on Physical Therapy.

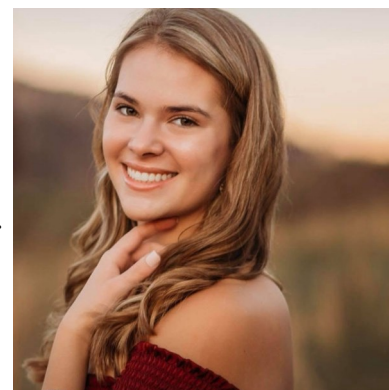
Please join us as we hold Kylie in our prayers these next four years, that her footsteps will be guided, she will be filled with wisdom, protected from harm, that her faith continues to grow and His presence will be with her always.



Madison Cianelli

by Susan & Becky Widdowson

Oak Grove member, Madison Cianelli, will graduate Summa CumLaude from Roanoke College with a degree in biology. In addition to inductions into several honor societies, Madison received the prestigious “Gary Wesley Leonard Memorial Award for Biology.” The recipient of this award was chosen by the staff of the biology department on the basis of general academic excellence, major work of high proficiency in the field of biology, and good student citizenship. Congratulations, Madison, on a job well done!



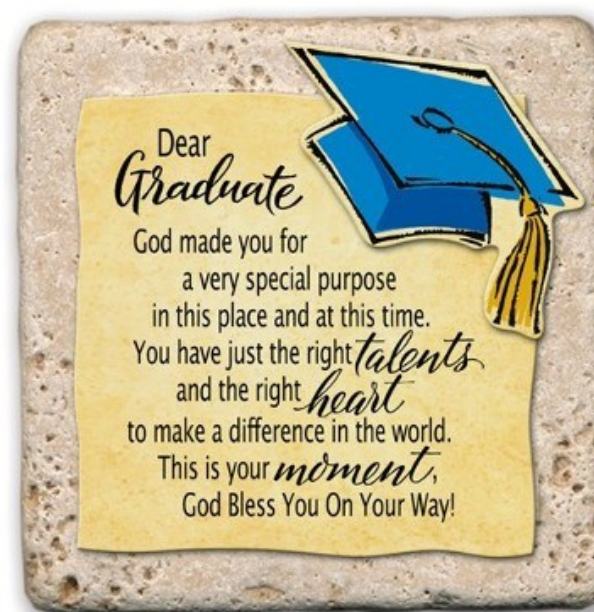
In the Fall, Madison will begin her graduate studies in Occupational Therapy at Radford University Carilion right here in Roanoke.

Madison is the daughter of Bill and the late Laurie (Pugh) Cianelli. She is the granddaughter of Bill and Bennie Pugh, with whom she resides. Madison would like to give her grandparents a big THANK YOU for all their love and support over the last few years.



Your church family is so proud of you, Madison, and our love and prayers go with you as you begin this new chapter. Don't forget to take some time to relax, have fun and enjoy your Summer. Come visit your Oak Grove family often.

***Congratulations to
all the graduates!***



We Care Committee:

Thank you so much for providing a luncheon for our family & friends. So many of them traveled a great distance so it was nice to have a lunch & fellowship time before traveling back home. I wanted not only to thank you but let you know how much you ministered to my family & friends. Your show of support & love to me spoke volumes to many that were there. Some of my friends & family no longer go to church or are non-believers. From my conversations with them, they noticed your outreach, love & support. I am so proud of my church family & so thankful for your love & support.

Blessings to all!

Love

Gil Henshaw passed away February 6, 2025.



Thank you!

March 17, 2025

Dear Oak Grove family,

Thank you so much for your continued support of Casa Latina. We appreciate the donation checks, the food and diaper drives, and the volunteers, but more than anything, we appreciate the immense outpouring of love and concern for a community that feels very vulnerable and unloved right now.

Love,

Kris and /for/ with
Casa Latina

Rev. Rawleigh Quarles Retires

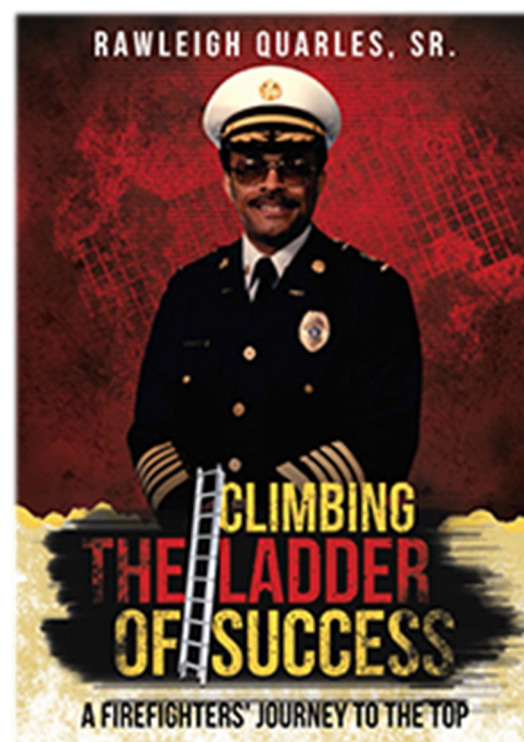
by Rena 'Brown

While Ed Woodard was the pastor at Oak Grove, a relationship was established with Rev. Rawleigh Quarles of Staunton Avenue Church of God. There were pulpit exchanges and fellowship meals between the two churches. During this time Staunton Avenue began a food ministry in their community. Many individuals from Oak Grove would volunteer to help with the food distribution held once a month on Saturday. This ministry and relationship between the churches continued when Tim Harvey became our pastor. With Covid the ministry of food distribution slowed until it had to be discontinued. Garland and I found this ministry to be very rewarding as did others from the church.

The Rev. Rawleigh Quarles, Sr. preached his last sermon at Staunton Avenue Church of God on March 30, 2025 after leading the congregation for 30 years. This was his second retirement having served the Roanoke City Fire Department in different positions for 30 years until retiring from being the Roanoke City Fire Chief.

After his years of serving God, the church and community, the congregation honored him with a celebration of gratitude, after his final sermon. Rev. Quarles stated that “It has been a rewarding, rewarding experience. Humbling to say the least, knowing that I’m being used by God and for his glory to bring about peace and a relationship with humankind and with God, our Heavenly Father.”

Mayor Joe Cobb awarded him with a golden Roanoke City Star. He also presented him with a proclamation naming March 30, 2025, W. Rawleigh Quarles Sr. Day. Rev. Quarles has written a book about his trailblazing career entitled “Climbing the Ladder of Success: A Firefighter’s Journey to the Top.”





Vacation Bible School

August 2, 2025

2:00 p. m. – 6:00 p. m.

All Ages!

**Bible Stories, Water
Activities, Food Truck
(dinner provided), then a
Concert in The Grove.**

Camp Bethel News



Memorial Day Family Weekend
May 23-26, 2025
RSVP meals by May 15, 2025
Click [here](#) for more information.



Bring Your Big Camp
(for ages 4-7 with parent or adult guardian)
May 30-May 31, 2025

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.



Pastor's Column

Of the many things for which I am thankful about Oak Grove, one is how our current areas of growth and enthusiasm line up with current priorities of the Church of the Brethren.

Consider...

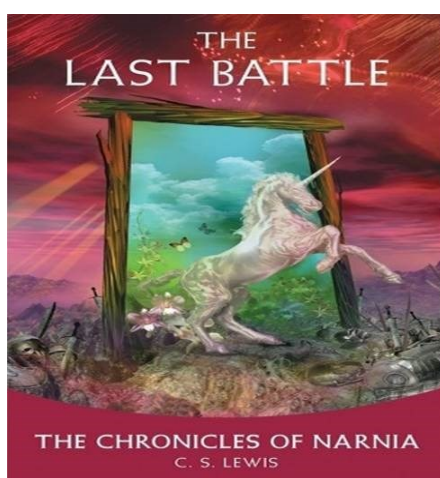
75 people attended **Love Feast** this Maundy Thursday, a tradition that for many Brethren is the high point of the worship year. By my count, 15 of those in attendance were at their very first Love Feast, or at least their very first Love Feast in a long time. We are nearly 'at capacity' with our current seating/footwashing set up, due to your faithfulness! Imagine the future possibilities when so many members are committed to the spiritual formation of the basin and towel, of pledging to humble ourselves that we might serve and be served by one another!

I will be teaching my 12th **Discipleship 101** class for new members in May and June. God continues to send people our way—and we continue to invite people to join us on the journey. Look around and notice how the people who have joined our congregation in recent years offer their time, talent, and treasure to the mission and ministry of our congregation.

Ministries related to **peace** and **justice**—including our *Peace and Justice Group* continue to grow in breadth and in enthusiasm. Whether it's a movie for Black History Month, a fundraiser for FEDUP, our upcoming book study or Oak Grove members involved in both Virlina District ministries and community programs, our congregational vision for Christian discipleship is growing alongside our denominational vision for peace and justice.

We live and serve in a season when churches around us are declining in size and vitality. Some are selling their buildings and concluding their congregational ministry. But Oak Grove is thriving! Things may look a bit different than they used to, but seeds of new life are sprouting all around us.

When you think of our congregation, what is on your "thankfulness list"?



Pastor Tim

MAY 25, 2025
THE LAST BATTLE
9:45 A.M.

