

**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  
AUGUST  
JULY 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

JULY 2025

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.*

## July Sermons and Scripture

July 6 Annual Conference Sunday. Worship at Oak Grove will include one of the Annual Conference sermons.

July 13 Harvey Leddy preaching . *What Do You See?*  
*Luke 17:11-19*

July 20 *Supper with a Lesson* Luke 10:38-42

July 27 Stained Glass Sermons 1: *Praise Him with trumpet sound!* Psalm 150

*We will not have after church fellowship on July 13 or July 20, 2025.*



# Church News

## *Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:*

- ...**Ralph Petcher**, recovering from infection
- ...**Phyllis Petcher**, recovering from surgery
- ...**Bill Fowler**, recovering from surgery
- ...**Bill Pugh**, recovering from stroke
- ...**Claude Minnich** (Teresa Broyles' father), heart issues
- ...**Barbara Harvey** (Tim's mother), diagnosed with breast cancer
- ...**Hannah Tyler Trent**, running tests

Nancy Hylton's phone number is incorrect in the Church Directory. Her correct number is (540) 797-0318.



Gavin Robinson is participating July 6-10, 2025 with FAITHX in Winston-Salem, North Carolina!

## **THAT'S A WRAP...**

The Backpack Ministry Team packed **997** food bags this school year! Thank you to everyone who donated and supported this program - your generosity made a real difference.



## **MONTHLY OUTREACH** **June**

- Six individuals assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund.
- Food for two families through our Food Pantry.
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace built 76 beds!

## *Happy Birthday*

- 5- Ralph Petcher
- 5- Isaac Hernandez
- 9- Bill Pugh
- 10- Mary Jo Burris
- 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*

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

**Munch Bunch**  
**July 16, 2025**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
**611 Steakhouse**



## Betty Wills Retirement Party

Betty Wills is retiring the end of June from the Virgina District Office. There will be a Retirement party for her on July 13, 2025 here at Oak Grove at 2:00 p.m. Please join us as we thank Betty for all her years of service to the district.



## Camp Bethel Church Picnic July 20, 2025

Sunday School and Worship here at Oak Grove followed by fellowship time at Camp Bethel! The pool is open 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. and there will be games. Bring along your favorite board game or lawn game to share in the fun!

Later, there is a potluck at 5:00 p.m. in Shelter-by-the-Spring Pavilion and devotions. The church will provide drinks and paper goods. If you're able, please bring a generous dish (or two) so we have plenty to go around. Join us for a fun time for all!



**YOU'RE INVITED TO**



**WAVES OF WONDER**

**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.**

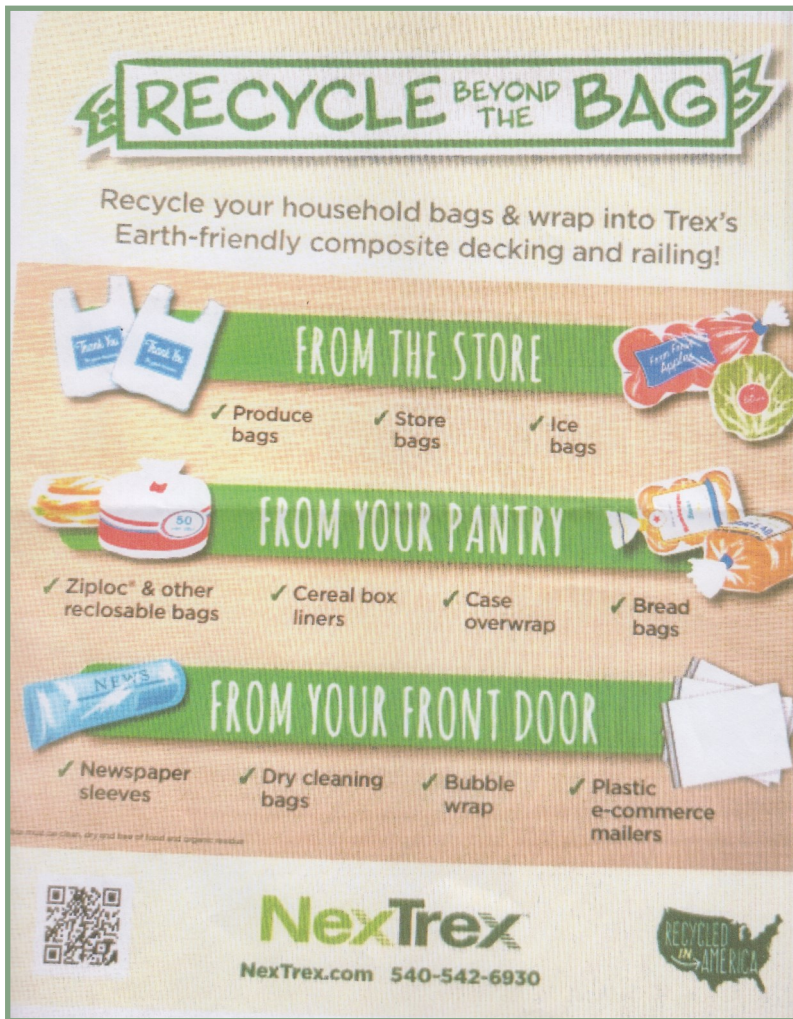


Back to Sunday School on August 24th at 9:00 a.m. here at Oak Grove!

Breakfast will be served followed by a special performance by *The Lavinder's*.

This is a fundraiser for Sleep in Heavenly Peace.





## Trex Recycling Challenge



A project started by Mike Elmore which has yielded one bench so far..

The Trex Challenge is a plastic film recycling program organized by Trex Company. Trex is a company that manufactures composite decking and outdoor furniture using 95% recycled materials, including plastic film.

### How the Trex Challenge works:

**Participants:** Schools and community organizations are encouraged to participate.  
**Collection:** Participants collect plastic bags and film.

**Goal:** The challenge is to collect at least 1,000 pounds of plastic film within a 12-month period. Some sources also mention a 500-pound goal within a six-month period.

**Reporting:** Participants weigh and record the collected plastic film and report the totals to Trex.

**Drop-off:** The collected plastic film is delivered to participating retailers for recycling.

**Rewards:** If the collection goal is met, Trex awards the organization with a bench made from recycled plastic.

*For more information, contact [Mike Elmore](#).*

On June 8, 2025, we celebrated new members joining our church!

We're glad you're here.



**Caroline Meisenzahl**  
*by Joan Simpson*

Caroline Meisenzahl recently took the New Members Class, not because she was not a member or had not been baptized, but because she wanted to renew her faith. On June 8, 2025 she came back to a church she knew and loved. Grandma Phyllis, before she passed away, wrote her a note and told her how important it was for her to get back to church for herself and to bring Colton to Sunday School! This really had an impact on her and she decided she did need it for her and Colton.

I have fond memories of Caroline when she was in school and came with her mom, Dawn. She attended my Sunday school class along with singing with the Jesus Jammers, always willing to help and participate! She was in Christmas plays, attended Bible School and Camp Bethel. She said she wanted her son, Colton, to do the things that she loved growing up at Oak Grove Church of the Brethren.



Caroline, we welcome you back and are so happy you are continuing your faith journey with us. Your Oak Grove family loves you and will nurture you along the way!





## Dominique and Becca Duncan

*by Mark Harmon*

We would like to welcome Dominique and Becca Duncan to the Oak Grove Church of the Brethren family. Dominique was baptized on June 8' 2025. His wife Rebecca - Becca - (Leddy) Duncan transferred her membership from the Williamson Road Church of the Brethren. Becca's siblings (Stephen, Jaxon, and Rachel Leddy) also attend Oak Grove Church, along with her parents (Harvey and Amanda Leddy) and her grandmother (Carol Leddy). Becca and Dominique have two children: Aria (4 ½), and Ava (7 months).

Dominique and Becca have been married 7 years. They met on a blind date arranged by Dominique's ex-girlfriend. Looks like it was a great date! Both Dominique and Becca received an Associate of Arts from Rockingham Community College. Becca also earned a BS in Political Science and Public Policy from Bridgewater College. She is currently working on a BA in Public Administration. She has completed 90% of her coursework for that degree. Her goal is to eventually get her Masters degree, but having children has slowed her down some.

Becca enjoys hiking, painting, pottery, and politics. She credits her grandfather (Pop - Peter Leddy) with inspiring her interest in politics. Dominique just started a new job with Berglund Auto. If you are looking for a vehicle, reach out to Dominique. Dominique enjoys video games, cooking, and baking. Both Becca and Dominique enjoy reading.

Dominique and Becca both appreciate the relaxed and inviting atmosphere at Oak Grove. We are excited to welcome and get to know this young family. Welcome!



## Rosemary Saul

*by Carolyn Broyles*

On June 8, 2025, we were so excited to welcome Rosemary Saul back to Oak Grove Church of the Brethren. On a Sunday in April 1967, at the age of 6 1/2 Rosemary was baptized along with friends, Debbie Whitlow and Jennie Treadway. She has held the title of being the youngest person to be baptized at Oak Grove. On May 25, 1965, she was the youngest child to help Pastor Ralph Moyer with the shovel at the ground breaking ceremony for our present sanctuary.

Rosemary is the proud daughter of Bobbie and Lois Saul and granddaughter of Mattie Mills - all former and active members of Oak Grove. She was born in Salem, VA, grew up there and graduated from Salem High School. She and her husband, Richard Moore, still make their home in Salem.

Rosemary graduated from Virginia Western Community College with an Associate Degree in Nursing, from Radford University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing, from Hollins University with a Master of Science in Liberal Studies, and from Western Governors University with a Master of Science in Nursing.

She worked for many years at the Lewis Gale Medical Center in the Operating Room and with the Open-heart Surgery Team. She is currently enjoying her well-earned retirement with her husband, Richard, and her fur baby, Copper. She decided at this time to reconnect with her original church family. We are glad you did!



*Rosemary, we welcome you back to Oak Grove  
Church of the Brethren!*





## Monica Rich King

*by Mary Wilson*

Monica has attended Oak Grove for two and a half years, first as a guest of John King's and now as his beautiful bride. They were married May 10, 2025 in our own Oak Grove Chapel. When they started dating, she lived in Radford. Monica has been the Executive Assistant for the Dean of Waldron College of Health and Human Services in Radford for 7 years and worked at Virginia Tech 10 years before as an Executive Assistant in the office of The Vice President of Research at Burruss Hall and 4 years working in the Dean's office of The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Monica grew up in Rustburg on a 50-acre farm, riding horses and motorcycles. She has a brother, Allen Thornton, who is 5 years older and lives in Mt. Pleasant, SC. One thing they did every summer was spend a week at Camp Bethel. Their grandmother, Stella Murphy, went to Pulaski Church of the Brethren and sent her grandchildren to camp every summer. Monica and Allen were friends with Greg Broyles and Ben Flora.

Her mother is Connie Murphy Thornton, who has also been attending Oak Grove since July 2024. Connie recently moved into an independent living apartment at Friendship Manor. Monica's father, James Allen Thornton, passed on March 1, 2023. Monica has two grown sons: Austin, 31 years old, lives in Radford. Garrett is 26 years old; he and his wife Kaylie are expecting a baby girl, Wrynlee, due July 29<sup>th</sup>. They live in in Barren Springs, near Hillsville. Monica and John are very excited about the new addition to their family and their first grandchild. And we at Oak Grove were delighted to add Monica to our church family when she joined the church June 8, 2025. Welcome, Monica!





# Camp Bethel News

**Camp Bethel  
Benefit Day  
July 23, 2025**

BETHEL BENEFIT DAY  
DONATE NOW!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

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

Click here!



*Donate  
Now*

## 2025 SUMMER CAMPS



Scan the QR code to learn more!

## COUNSELORS

Oak Grove is sponsoring two Camp Bethel counselors this Summer. We are collecting items for Jaxson Leddy and Leah Nichols. There is more information about them in the Fellowship Hall.



**REGISTER NOW!**

7:00-8:00am Check-in,  
8:30am Start.  
10:00am Brunch in the  
Ark!  
(brunch donations  
accepted)

\$40 includes race  
shirt, pre-and-post  
snacks, stocked  
water, brunch,  
placer medals,  
and fun!



[runsignup.com/Race/VA/Fincastle/CampBethelPep5K](https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Fincastle/CampBethelPep5K)

# Church of the Brethren Annual Conference

July 2-6, 2025 | Greensboro, North Carolina



The Annual Conference Moderator this year is Dava Hensley, retired pastor from First Church of the Brethren in Roanoke. David Shumate is Annual Conference Secretary and Tim Harvey is Parliamentarian. We are also represented by Lynette Harvey and Alli Yingling guiding children grades 3rd-5th grades in activities. The Oak Grove Bell Choir is joining Antioch Bell Choir during the opening services on Wednesday, July 2, 2025. They will be playing the Prelude and Offertory.

Our Oak Grove delegates are Deanna Knox and Carol Elmore. Please keep them and Pastor Tim in your prayers while they are at Annual Conference.

*For more information including daily schedules, please go to*

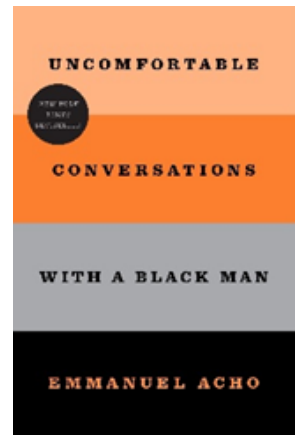
## **Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man**

July 6 Chapters 4-5, led by Sylvia Shepherd and Ellen Phillips

July 13 Chapters 6-7, led by Randall Eakin

July 20 Chapters 8-9, led by Deanna Knox

July 27 Chapters 10-11 led by Deanna Knox



## **Summer Sunday School Options**

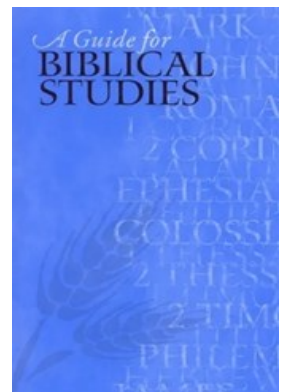
### **Guide for Biblical Studies**

July 6 *The Boy Jesus in the Temple*, Luke 2:41-52

July 13 *Lord of the Sabbath*, Matthew 12:1-8

July 20 *Cleansing the Temple*, John 2:13-25

July 27 *Jesus Predicts the Temple's Destruction*, Matthew 24:1-8





# Pastor's Column

My preaching calendar for the remainder of 2025 is filling up rapidly. We may only be halfway through the year, but—believe it or not—Advent is only three sermon series away!

Next month in this space you'll read about the songs and Scriptures for *Finding God in the Music, Volume 3*. Stay tuned (pun intended)!

September brings our annual Stewardship emphasis and pledge card commitments. It's not too early to begin thinking about your ongoing support for our congregation. But again, more about that later.



The sermon series that occupies the most Sundays between now and the end of the year is *Stained Glass Sermons*, a series that will interpret the images of the stained glass windows in our sanctuary. The idea for this came from our Men's Bible study group. One evening this Spring, I took the men into the Sanctuary to show them the windows as an illustration of that evening's text. I did not anticipate that we'd spend most of our evening talking about the windows.

It might be that we're so familiar with our beautiful windows that we've stopped "seeing" them. That's understandable, but it's also an opportunity to bring them back into our collective foreground, enabling them to inspire and encourage us in our faith.

We'll approach the sermon series in a somewhat unusual way; we'll begin on Sunday, July 29, 2025, with a worship service and sermon inspired by the window with musical horns and notes. Other emphases will intervene in August and September; *Stained Glass Sermons* will then return in October and November with eight more sermons as we work our way around the Sanctuary.



Between now and then, take a look at our windows. How many of the symbols can you explain? Which ones do you have questions about? Let me know; I'll be glad to work your questions and comments into the sermons.

*Pastor Tim*

# July 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Pastor Tim leaves for Annual Conference on Sunday afternoon, June 29, and returns on Sunday, July 6.</i></p>		<p>1</p> <p>9:30 a.m.— Summer Connect</p> <p>6 p.m.—Peace &amp; Justice</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Annual Conference July 2-6.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>2 p.m.—Games 5:30 p.m.— Commission Meetings</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>9:45 a.m.— Sunday School 11:00 a.m.— Worship</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9 a.m.— Crafts</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30 a.m.— Summer Connect</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>2 p.m.—Games  6:30 p.m.— Christian Education Meeting</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9:45 a.m.—SS 11:00 a.m.— Worship 2 p.m.— Betty Wills Retirement Celebration</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9 a.m.— Crafts</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30 a.m.— Summer Connect</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11 a.m.—Munch Bunch at 611 Steakhouse</p> <p>6 p.m.— Grill and Chill at the Harvey's</p>	<p>17</p> <p>2 p.m.—Games</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9:45 a.m.—SS 11:00 a.m.— Worship <b>CAMP BETHEL CHURCH PICNIC</b> 2-4 p.m. pool 5 p.m.—potluck and devotions</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9 a.m.— Crafts</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30 a.m.— Summer Connect</p>	<p>23</p> <p><b>Camp Bethel Benefit Day</b></p> <p>6 p.m.— Grill and Chill at the Harvey's</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30 a.m.— Women's Faith Study Group Lunch</p> <p>2 p.m.— Games</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9:45 a.m.— Sunday School 11:00 a.m.— Worship</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9 a.m.— Crafts</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30 a.m.— Summer Connect</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6 p.m.— Grill and Chill at the Harvey's</p>	<p>31</p> <p>2 p.m.—Games</p>		