

**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  
OCTOBER  
SEPTEMBER 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

SEPTEMBER 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.***

## September Sermon Schedule

**September 7** Dava Hensley preaching from  
John 1:1-5

**September 14** Greg Broyles preaching, *Living in the  
Present*, from Matthew 6:25-34

**September 21** *Stewardship: investing in the way God  
leads*, Psalm 1

**September 28** *Stewardship: using what the Lord has  
given us*, 1 Peter 4:10

Be on the lookout for your 2025 stewardship letter and pledge card. These will be distributed near the end of the month, in anticipation of finalizing and approving the 2026 Church Budget at Fall Council Meeting (Sunday, October 26).

# Church News

*Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:*

**...Jake Keating**, at home recovering from infection

**...Tanya Pizzullo**, recovering from infection

**...Ralph Petcher**, cardiac issues

**...Ron Mooney**, recovering from surgery

**...Laura Clements**, recovering from surgery

*Sympathy and prayers for the Hosey family with the passing of Anna's mother, Meg Weeks on August 2, 2025.*

*David Hawkins' father, Richard passed away August 19, 2025. Please keep the family in your prayers.*

*Sympathy and prayers for the family of Dwight Lambert (Wilma Twiggs' brother) who passed away..*

## Happy Birthday

- 1- Trenton Marcum
- 2- David Twigg
- 3- Gavin Robinson
- 3- Tracy (Twigg) Anderson
- 6- Amanda Marcum
- 10- Jennifer Johnson
- 13- Kylie Young
- 28- Dominique Duncan
- 28- Stephen Turner
- 30- Zach Harvey

## Happy Anniversary

- 19- Dan & Eleanor Brogan
- 11- Joe & Sara Blaha
- 20- Stephen & Vicki Turner
- 28- Roger & Joan Simpson

Choir Rehearsals will begin again on September 10, 2025, with a potluck at 6:00 p.m., followed by shorter choir rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.

The Handbell Choir is starting back up September 17 with a new day and time! Handbell rehearsal will now be Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.



*To my church family,*

*I appreciate more than words can say how much I enjoyed my retirement celebration. Your gifts, well wishes and delicious food made me feel so loved. All of you hold a special place in my heart.*

*Love,  
Betty Wills*

## MONTHLY OUTREACH August

- Three individuals assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund.
- Food for three families through our Food Pantry.
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace built 60 beds!
- VBS raised \$1760 for New Community Project!

**Munch Bunch  
September 17, 2025  
11:00 a.m.**

**The Bistro at Friendship  
Contact JANE Grisso with a  
headcount!**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

*For the next four months...*

## September

**August 29-September 1, 2025**– Labor Day Family Weekend at Camp Bethel with Pep 5k on August 30th.

**September 1, 2025**– Church Office Closed for Labor Day.

**September 1-5, 2025**–National Older Adult Conference at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.

**September 4, 2025**–No Women's Faith Study Group. Back on September 11 with Season 3 of Chosen.

**September 6-20, 2025**– Pastor Tim on vacation. Dava Hensley guest preaching on September 7th. Greg Broyles guest preaching on September 14th.

**September 7, 2025**– Youth/Parent Meeting after Worship.

**September 10, 2025**–Choir Rehearsals resume at 7 p.m. with a potluck at 6 p.m.

**September 13, 2025**–Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build at 8:30 a.m.

**September 14, 2025**– Leadership Team Meeting.

**September 17, 2025**–Camp Bethel Golf Tournament at 10:30 a.m.

**September 20– October 3, 2025**– Bryana will be on vacation.

**September 24, 2025**– Men's Bible Study resumes.

**September 26, 2025**–Drew Hart speaking at Roanoke College.

**September 27, 2025**–Drew Hart at Oak Grove CoB 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

**September 28, 2025**– Annual Conference Wrap-Up at 9:45 a.m.

## **October**

**October 4, 2025**– Heritage Day at Camp Bethel.

**October 5, 2025**– Love Feast following Worship.

**October 12, 2025**– Crop Walk at 2:00 p.m.

**October 18, 2025**– Church Bazaar and Community Fun Day!

**October 19, 2025**– Youth going to Firehouse Subs at 12:15 p.m. and then a short hike at Carvins Cove.

**October 26, 2025**– Potluck and Church Council Meeting following Worship.

**October 28–November 1, 2025**– Carol on vacation.

## **November**

**November 2, 2025**– Homecoming Service at 11:00 a.m.

**November 9, 2025**– Leadership Team Meeting

**November 14–15, 2025**– District Conference

**November 30, 2025**– The Beginning of Advent.

## **December**

**December 7, 2025**– Handbells playing during Worship.

**December 14, 2025**– Choir Cantata during Worship.

**December 21, 2025**– Children's Nativity during Worship.

**December 24, 2025**– Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m.





Help us  
raise  
\$1,500  
for the bed  
build



## VOLUNTEERS

- ✓ Anyone 12 and older is eligible to help.
- ✓ No experience necessary!
- ✓ Sleep in Heavenly Peace requests all volunteers sign up in advance of the build day.
- ✓ Volunteers are also needed on Friday Sept. 12 at 3 - 5 pm to pre-cut lumber.

# SNP

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

## BUNKS ACROSS AMERICA BUILD

**Sept. 13, 2025**  
8:30 am

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is an organization committed to building, assembling, and delivering bunk beds to children and families in need.

Friday Sept. 12  
Pre-cut Lumber  
Sign up link



Saturday Sept. 13  
Build Day  
Sign up link



### Location:

**Cave Spring UMC**  
4505 Hazel Dr. Roanoke, Va



### Sponsors:

Cave Spring UMC, Oak Grove CoB,  
Mount Pleasant UMC, and  
Rockingham Court UMC



**Two separate Rev.  
Dr. Drew Hart  
events!**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

## REV. DR. DREW G. I. HART

Guest Speaker

### **“Go and Do Likewise”: Reparations, Loving Your Black Neighbor, and the Work of Healing the Wounds of Antiracism**

This talk will expand and transform how people think about reparations, using Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan as a paradigm-shifting lens. We'll explore the multi-layered work of reparations, but with a foundation rooted in the call to genuinely love Black people by pursuing their collective healing, wellbeing, and thriving.

**September 26, 2025**

**6:30 - 8:00 pm**

**Wortmann Ballroom at The Colket Center  
Roanoke College**

**Parking: Any Faculty/Staff (F/S) lot**

Including lots near the East Center on North Market St. and lots along East Clay St., Thompson Memorial Dr., and High St.



#### **Rev. Dr. Drew G. I. Hart**

Rev. Dr. Drew G. I. Hart is an associate professor of theology at Messiah University where he has directed the Thriving Together: Congregations for Racial Justice program in central PA since 2021. He co-hosts Inverse Podcast with Australian peace activist Jarrod McKenna and is the author of *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism* (2016), *Who Will Be A Witness?: Igniting Activism for God's Justice, Love, and Deliverance* (2020), and he co-edited and contributed to *Reparations and the Theological Disciplines: Prophetic Voices for Remembrance, Reckoning, and Repair* (Nov. 2023). His newest book, *Making It Plain: Why We Need Anabaptism and the Black Church*, is available September 2, 2025. Dr. Hart is a member of Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren.

**Dr. Hart's books will be available for sale at this event.**

For more information: [VirinaRacialAdvocacyTeam@gmail.com](mailto:VirinaRacialAdvocacyTeam@gmail.com)

Saturday, September 27, 2025 • 10 am to 1 pm

## Rev. Dr. Drew Hart

will speak on

### **THE THINGS THAT MAKE FOR PEACE: RACIAL JUSTICE AND THE PATHWAY TO BELOVED COMMUNITY**

#### **LOCATION:**

Oak Grove Church of the Brethren  
2138 McVitty Rd SW  
Roanoke, VA 24018

#### **LUNCH:**

Free boxed lunch if you register by  
September 20.

Dr. Hart will talk on themes from his book, *Who Will Be a Witness? Igniting Activism for God's Justice, Love, and Deliverance*, while explicitly making the connection between racial justice activism and peacemaking.

This event is in support of **Standing with People of Color**, a Church of the Brethren denominational program.



For more information:  
[VirinaRacialAdvocacyTeam@gmail.com](mailto:VirinaRacialAdvocacyTeam@gmail.com)

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**Dr. Hart's books will be available for sale at this event.**

Register with this QR code or at  
<https://tinyurl.com/DrHartOakGrove>



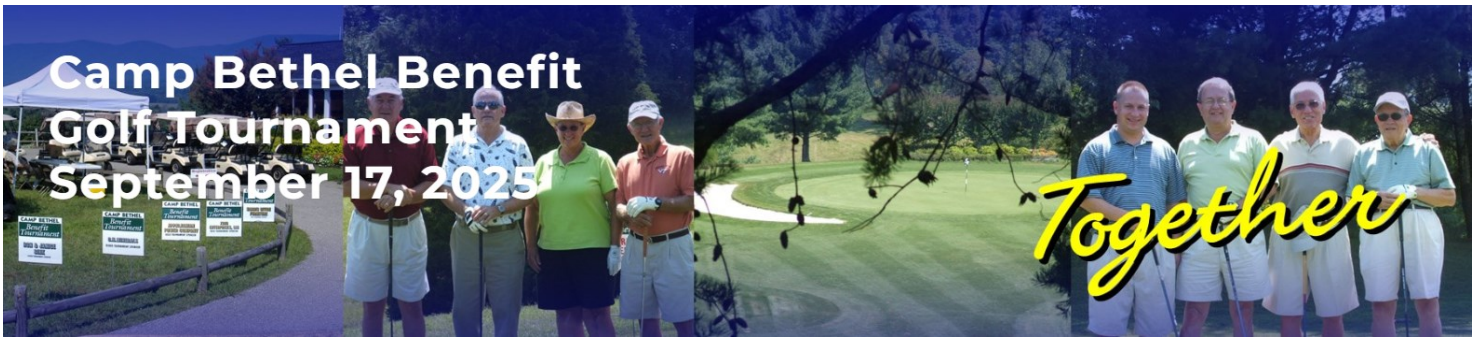
#### **Sponsors:**

Central Church of the Brethren, Virina Racial Advocacy Team, and Oak Grove Church of the Brethren

**Contact  
Ellen Phillips for  
more  
information.**



# Camp Bethel News



**September 17, 2025**, is the 31st annual Benefit Golf Tournament for Camp Bethel. Golf information is at [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf).

**Course:** Botetourt Golf Club (2414 Country Club Rd, Troutville, VA 24175)

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. Registration Opens  
 11:00 a.m. Lunch at Camp Bethel  
 12:00 p.m. Open driving range  
 1:30 p.m. Start at Botetourt Golf Club

**Format:** Captain's Choice; a non-competitive day of fun and fellowship.

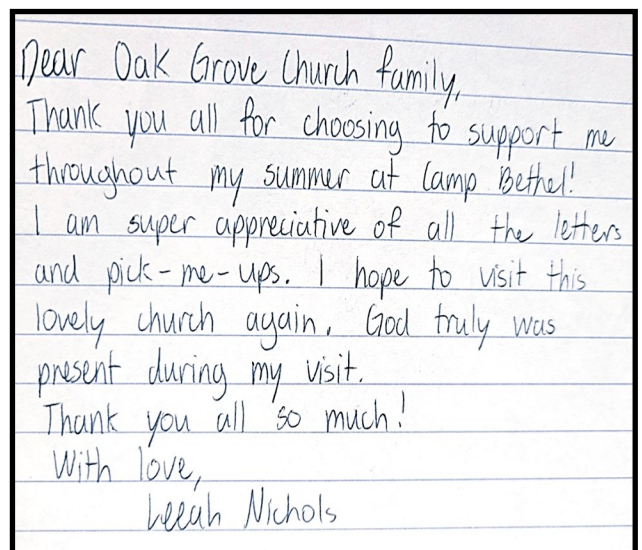
**Cost:** \$100.00 per person (green fees, cart, drinks, freebies, and buffet lunch). \$15.00 per person for lunch only (lunch is open to everyone). All proceeds benefit the ongoing ministries of Camp Bethel.

Complete the registration form using the link above **before September 12.**



The 41st annual Heritage & Homecoming Day Festival at Camp Bethel is October 4, 2025.

Contact [Kathie Robinson](#) or [Shelly Haas](#) for info!



## UPPER ROOM

For many years Oak Grove church has supplied the Upper Room Devotional to the congregation. However, because of difficulty with shipping and communication, as well as an increased cost, the Upper Room will no longer be available after October. The Christian Education commission has voted to discontinue the subscription.

Copies of The Daily Bread Devotional will continue to be available on the shelves in the hallway. The Advent and Lenten devotionals from The Brethren Press will also be purchased.



**CROP HUNGER WALK**  
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME  
BY CWS

**END HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME**

THE ROANOKE VALLEY  
**CROP HUNGER WALK**

YOU CAN HELP TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES

-  NUTRITIOUS FOOD
-  CLEAN WATER
-  SAFE HOMES

SIGN-UP, START A TEAM, OR DONATE TODAY AT  
[CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG/ROANOKEVA](http://CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG/ROANOKEVA)

 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12TH  
REGISTRATION AND KIT BUILDING: 1:30PM  
SEND-OFF: 2:00PM

 FIRST EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2101 JEFFERSON ST SW, ROANOKE VA

  
SCAN HERE

*Oak Grove will have a team this year and raising funds!*  
Contact Todd Marcum for more information.

**Bridge Builders**  
“Loving our neighbors as ourselves”  
Luke 10.27  
Community  
Worship Service  
Saturday, October 11  
At Oak Grove Church of the Brethren

**Coffee Fellowship**  
Starting at 9 a.m.  
Worship from  
9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

Bridge Builders is a Roanoke Valley group with the goal to bring people of faith together to praise God, celebrate our differences, and get to know and understand each other better. They plan different activities and events throughout the year and Oak Grove COB is always invited. Please contact Randall Eakin for more information.



**FALL BAZAAR**  
October 18, 2025

Calling all crafters, bakers and bazaar workers! We need your help!

Save the date and bring your items to sell! Contact Rena' Brown for more info!

**SAVE THE DATE!!**  
**HOMEcoming SERVICE**

**Sunday, November 2**

**11:00 a.m.**

May Peace Prevail On Earth  
Que La Paz Prevalezca En La Tierra

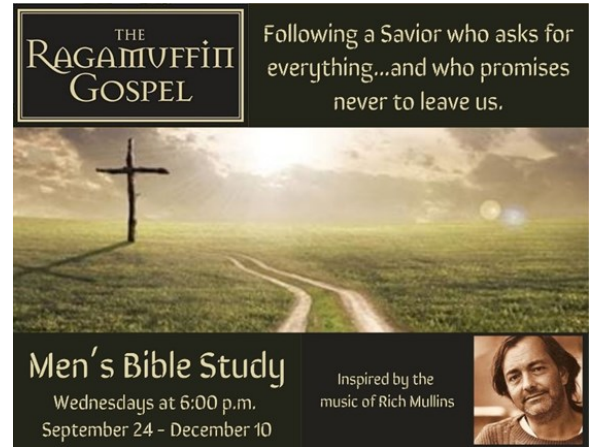


# Pastor's Column

## Men's Bible Study

When I began taking my faith more seriously as a college freshman, the music of Rich Mullins became an important part of my discipleship. I found the songs he sang—mostly from his 1988 album *Winds of Heaven, Stuff of Earth*—to be simultaneously simple and profound, easy to understand yet challenging to live out.

Rich Mullins was a musical artist with a poet's heart, a prophet's concern, and a sage's wisdom.



In the years since his untimely death in 1997 (at age 41) the world learned that his songs also came from a place of deep woundedness. Rich had a difficult relationship with his father, and he struggled with both alcohol and depression for years. But he never gave up on Jesus, in part because he believed Jesus never gave up on him. How does this relate to your experience with Jesus?

Our Men's Bible Study will be centered around Rich Mullins' songs and the Scriptures that inspired them. The schedule is below; song titles are in *italics*. We would be glad for you to join us. Be sure to notice the times: on Wednesday's we have supper, we meet at 5:30 p.m. On Wednesdays we meet for Bible study, we begin at 6:00 p.m.

<b>September 24</b>	Dinner and devotions (5:30 p.m.)
<b>October 1</b>	<i>First Family</i> — Genesis 27; Exodus 20:12; Ruth 1; Mark 3:31-35
<b>October 8</b>	<i>Creed</i> — Acts 4:32-35; 6:1-7
<b>October 15</b>	<i>Love of God</i> — Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 15:11-32
<b>October 22</b>	<i>Calling Out Your Name</i> — Psalm 19:1-4
<b>October 29</b>	Dinner and devotions (5:30 p.m.)
<b>November 5</b>	<i>Bound to Come Some Trouble</i> — 2 Corinthians 4:17; James 1:2
<b>November 12</b>	<i>Hold Me Jesus</i> — John 8:1-11
<b>November 19</b>	<i>Brother's Keeper</i> — Genesis 4:1-9; Galatians 6:1-5
<b>November 26</b>	No study—Thanksgiving
<b>December 3</b>	<i>My One Thing</i> — Matthew 19:16-20
<b>December 10</b>	Dinner and devotions (5:30 p.m.)

Pastor Tim

# September 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 <b>Camp Bethel Family Weekend</b>	2	3	4 2 p.m.-Games 5:30 p.m.- Commission Meetings	5	6
	<b>Church Office Closed.</b>	6 p.m.-Peace & Justice	<b>NOAC September 1-5, 2025</b>			
7 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship 12:30 p.m.- Youth/Parent Meeting	8 9 a.m.- Crafts 12:30 p.m.- Backpack	9	10 6 p.m.-Choir Potluck 7 p.m.-Choir	11 9:30 a.m.- Women's Faith Study Group Season 3-Chosen 2 p.m.-Games 6:30 p.m.-	12	13 8:30 a.m.-Bed Build at Cave Spring UMC
14 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship 12:30 p.m.- Leadership Team Meeting	15 9 a.m.- Crafts	16	17 10:30 a.m.- <b>Camp Bethel Golf Tourn.</b> 11 a.m.- Munch Bunch 11 a.m.- Handbells 7 p.m.- Choir	18 9:30 a.m.- Women's Faith Study Group Season 3- Chosen 2 p.m.- Games 4:30 p.m.- Building &Visioning Team Meeting	19	20
21 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship	22 9 a.m.- Crafts 12:30 p.m.- Backpack	23	24 11 a.m.- Handbells 5:30 p.m.- Men's Dinner and Devotions 7 p.m.-Choir	25 9:30 a.m. Women's Faith Study Group- Season 3-Chosen 2 p.m.-Games	26 6:30 p.m.- <b>Drew Hart at Roanoke College.</b>	27 10 a.m.-1 p.m.- <b>Drew Hart at Oak Grove CoB.</b>
28 9:45 a.m.- Annual Conference Wrap-Up 11:00 a.m.- Worship	29 9 a.m.- Crafts	30	<div>Check out page 3 for a detailed list of September events!</div> 			