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Tim Harvey

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**DEADLINE FOR  
JANUARY  
DECEMBER 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

DECEMBER 2025

**Published by:**  
**Oak Grove Church of the Brethren**  
2138 McVitty Road, SW  
Roanoke, VA 24018

oh come  
LET US  
Adore Him  
CHRIST  
the Lord

Join us on Sundays  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship 11:00 a.m.

## December Sermon Schedule

### **November 30 First Sunday of Advent—Hope**

Sermon: *People look east* (Hymnal supplement, # 1036)  
Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14

### **December 7 Second Sunday of Advent—Peace**

Sermon: *Creators of the stars of night* (# 177)  
Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12

### **December 14 Third Sunday of Advent—Joy**

Choral Cantata: *Appalachian Winter*  
Homily: *Fling wide the door, unbar the gate* (# 186)  
Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46-55

### **December 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent—Love**

Sermon: *'Twas in the moon of wintertime* (# 190)  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Matthew 1:18-25

### **December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelighting and Communion**

Sermon: *Angels we have heard on high* (# 197)  
Luke 2:15, 20

### **December 28 J.D. Glick, guest preacher**

# Church News

## *Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:*

...Jake Keating, *recovering from foot surgery*  
 ...Lowell Foutz, *recovering from car accident*  
 ...Bill Fowler, *recovering at home*  
 ...Dawn Thomas, *recovering after surgery*  
 ...Tanya Pizzullo, *recovering from surgery*  
 ...Bill Hall, *recovering from surgery*  
 ...Nelson Hylton, *recovering from surgery*

Zach and Sage Harvey are ecstatic to report that Finley Oliver Harvey arrived on November 10, 2025 at 5:50 a.m. He is 7 pounds, 13 ounces and 22 inches long.

*Congratulations!*



Carol Elmore heard back from David Radcliff of New Community Project regarding our collection from Bible School 2025, "Waves of Wonder"!

*Pictured right: The new toilet constructed with our donation.*



## **MONTHLY OUTREACH November**

- Three individuals assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund.
- Food for two families through our Food Pantry.
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace built 60 beds!
- Backpack is delivering 15 bags weekly!

## *Happy Birthday*

- 2- Joyce Bolender
- 4- Phyllis Petcher
- 6- Gladis Lehman
- 7- Vincent Pizzullo
- 9- Missy Lankford
- 15- Milton Hartman
- 15- John Phillips
- 16- Ben Foutz
- 18- Nelson Hylton
- 18- Carol Elmore
- 18- Mike Tyler
- 19- Matt Musselman
- 21- John King, Jr.
- 21- John King, III
- 22- Gloria Harmon
- 23- Dea Underwood
- 26- Becky Fowler
- 29- Sara Blaha
- 29- Jennie Garrett
- 30- Sharon Hanger

## *Happy Anniversary*

- 1- Bill and Bennie Pugh
- 9- Bill and Julie Hall
- 18- John and Sarah King
- 19- Tim and Lynette Harvey
- 28- Harvey and Amanda Leddy
- 30- Mike and Carol Elmore

**CHURCH  
OFFICE  
CLOSED**

**December 25 & 26, 2025**

## Prison Postage Outreach

We are collecting postage stamps and greeting cards for the inmates of the Roanoke City Jail.

You may bring stamps and cards and place them in the mailbox in the vestibule or donate money marked "Prison Postage" in the weekly offering.



## Mitten Tree

Our Mitten Tree is an annual Advent offering to the Rescue Mission. Please bring mittens, scarves, hats and socks and place them under the tree in the vestibule. Help keep those less fortunate warm this Winter.



## After-Church Fellowship Volunteers

Our after-church fellowship time is one of the best parts of Sunday mornings — a chance to meet new people, catch up with our church family, and enjoy some snacks together. Kathie Robinson and Janet Hartman faithfully host this fellowship time each week, with help from a few others. We'd love to welcome some more volunteers to join the rotation and share in this ministry.



Volunteering for after-church fellowship involves fixing drinks (water and coffee), preparing snacks, and cleaning up afterward.

If you are interested, there's a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. We'll also have a short walk-through with Kathie and Janet on Sunday, January 11th at 12:30 p.m. This will be a great opportunity to become more familiar with the church kitchen and see how everything works.

For more information, contact [Ellen Phillips](#) or [Rhonda Marcum](#).

*Project  
WARM is  
heating back  
up!*

## Project WARM



If you would like to help with this great community service, please contact [Marc Wilson](#).

## Supporting the Virlina District

The Oak Grove congregation has a long history of supporting the mission and ministry of the Virlina District. Whether it's helping out or attending and event at *Camp Bethel*, attending a special event like *Pilgrimage*, attending a Zoom Bible study led by the *Race Advocacy Team* (to name just a few!) our ministry impact is expanded through programs supported by the 90 congregations in our district.

As of this newsletter, the following Oak Grove members share their time and talents with the Virlina District in these ways. Thank you for supporting the work of the Virlina District!

**Greg Broyles**

District Board vice-chair  
Pilgrimage Committee

**Randall Eakin**

Outdoor Ministry Commission  
Race Advocacy Team

**Carol Elmore**

District Conference Moderator-Elect  
Discipleship and Reconciliation Committee

**Shelly Haas**

Coordinator of Financial Services

**Tim Harvey**

Christian Growth Institute Instructor  
Peace Affairs Committee

**Ellen Phillips**

Race Advocacy  
Team

**Kathie Robinson**

Treasurer

**Ronald Robinson**

Outdoor Ministry Commission

**Marc Wilson**

Project WARM Coordinator

**Mary Wilson**

District Conference Program and  
Arrangements Committee

**Scott Yingling**

Outdoor Ministry Commission  
Pilgrimage Committee

**Jodi Zabo**

District Board





# A of Thanks

From  
Joe  
Blaha





Dear Church Family,

What happened last Sunday was a gift from God. That morning, when I walked into the Sanctuary, I had no inkling of what was to come. I just assumed that, aside from a piece of music I had written for Julie, Sam, and Stephen, there would be nothing unusual about the service. Even the bulletin I was given did not give away what you all had planned.

Very close to 11:00, the church filled up, but I didn't pay any attention. I was getting ready to sing with the choir. It was then that I felt a celebration was taking place, but it took me a little while to catch on to what was happening.

All of ~~this~~ us in this world should have such a moment to experience the sense of love and recognition that was given to me that morning. I shall carry it with me for the rest of my life.  
Love and Peace to all,

Joe

P.S. Both Sara and I thank  you for the very generous check.  (Sara added that. :))

# Camp Bethel News

Christmas Together Banquet  
December 4, 2025  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Your \$50 donation for a wonderful dinner and program helps with year-end expenses. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



Click [here](#) for more info!

Register today!

**WINTER CAMP**  
JAN. 3-4, 2026

**A COMMUNITY LIKE NO OTHER**  
Apply to be on summer staff at Camp Bethel

TOGETHER WITH GOD, WITH EACH OTHER, WITH CREATION

**BECOME A 2026 SUPER SPONSOR**

Click [here](#) for more info!



# Pastor's Column

Advent hymns might not be our first choice when we think about hymns for worship in December. There are certainly a few we enjoy, and we can be patient with the others for a while. But we'd rather not wait too long to get to our beloved Christmas hymns.



But let's not move too quickly! How often is it that the best experiences of our lives were possible because someone (often a beloved family member like our Grandmother) did a lot of work ahead of time so that everything was perfectly prepared. Getting ready in the right way, even when the anticipation is overwhelming, makes the experience of the event even better. It's certainly better than jumping to the end too quickly.

Advent begins in honest longing and active trust that what we see is not all there is. Hope abounds. Peace is possible. Joy shows up in surprising places. Love surrounds us. The promise of Advent—and the hymns that help us prepare—reminds us that investment, sacrifice, and risk are necessary as we anticipate that the One whose coming we celebrate will one day come again.

Our Advent worship services and sermons take their inspiration from the hymns listed on page one under the sermon schedule. Listen to them online, look them up in the hymnal, consider the words, and come prepared to worship our Savior!

## Men's Bible Study Schedule

**December 3** *My One Thing*, Matthew 19:16-20  
**December 10** Dinner and devotions



*Pastor Tim*

# December Happenings



## Appalachian Winter A CANTATA FOR CHRISTMAS

By Joseph M. Martin

**December 14, 2025**



Oak Grove  
Handbell Choir  
at Fairington  
Village

**December 17, 2025**

**11:00 a.m.**

## ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING

**December 14, 2025**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Meet at the  
church to  
carpool.**



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

**7:00 P.M.**



*Merry Christmas*





# December 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  12:30 p.m.- Backpack	2  6 p.m.-Peace & Justice	3  10 a.m.- Handbells 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.-Choir	4  2 p.m.-Games  5:30 p.m.- Commission Meetings  6:30 p.m.- Camp Bethel Banquet	5	6
7 <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship <b>12:30 p.m.- Council Meeting</b>	8	9	10  10 a.m.- Handbells 5:30 p.m. Men's Dinner and Devotions 7 p.m.-Choir	11  2 p.m.-Games	12	13
14 <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School <b>11:00 a.m.- Cantata</b> <b>5 p.m.- Caroling</b>	15  12:30 p.m.- Backpack	16	17 <b>11 a.m.- Handbells at Fairington</b>  6 p.m.-Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.- Choir	18  2 p.m.-Games	19	20
21  <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship	22	23	24  <b>7 p.m.- Christmas Eve Service</b>	25  <b>Merry Christmas!</b>  <b>Church Office Closed</b>	26	27
28  9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship	29	30	31			