

Pastor:
Tim Harvey

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

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**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 2026

Published by:

Oak Grove Church of the Brethren

2138 McVitty Road, SW
Roanoke, VA 24018



*Sunday School-
9:45 a.m.
Worship-
11:00 a.m.*

July Scripture and Sermons

- July 5** *Loving Enemies* Matthew 5:43-47
- July 12** *An Audience of One* Matthew 5:48 - 6:1
- July 19** *Humility vs. Hypocrisy* Matthew 6:2-8
- July 26** *The Most Important Prayer* Matthew 6:9-15



**Annual Conference 2026
June 28 – July 2 • Fort Wayne,
Indiana**

Church News

Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

- ...Beth Shearer, recovering from infection
- ...Jonna Detweiler, recovering from sepsis
- ...Rosemary Saul, received cancer diagnosis
(no questions please.)
- ...Gay Bulach, back pain
- ...Kris Tilley-Lubbs, recovering from mini stroke
- ...Vicki Turner, surgery on toes

*Sympathy and prayers to the family of Dan Brogan.
Dan passed away on June 12, 2026.*



Come Celebrate!!
Nancy Hylton's 90th Birthday

Saturday, July 25, 2026
4:00 PM
(dinner at 5:00, cake at 5:30)

Camp Bethel
328 Bethel Road, Fincastle, VA 24090
Shelter by the Spring

RSVP to Louisa Brancati 540-353-6296
by Saturday, July 11

If you are unable to attend and would like to share a Happy Birthday video with Nancy, please email a horizontally filmed video to brancati6296@gmail.com by July 11.
No gifts necessary.



June 2026 Outreach

- Three individuals assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund.
- Food for two families through our Food Pantry.
- SHP Bed Builds produced 40 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

- 5- Zach and Kate Hoyt
- 6- Stephen Shumate and Suzy Sauerwald
- 13- Garland and Rena' Brown
- 17- Ralph and Phyllis Petcher
- 27- Johnny and Elaine Thompson

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 join the Bridge Builders at the Salem RidgeYaks baseball game at the Salem Civic Center on Saturday, July 25, 2026. Each \$31 ticket includes a reserved seat and the buffet. Please see Randall Eakin for tickets.

5:30 p.m. Gates open
5:45 p.m. 2 hour picnic buffet includes hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, cookies, and soft drinks.
6:35 p.m. Game starts

Leadership Team Meeting Update

by Connie Bierly

Topics discussed at our June monthly meeting include:

Pastor Tim continues to stay very busy coordinating activities with all our commissions. He is also serving once again as Parliamentarian for our Annual Conference. And he has signed a book contract with Brethren Press to turn his Sermon on the Mount sermons series into a devotional book with an anticipated publication date of our 2027 Annual Conference.

Minister of Nature and Music also continues to stay very busy. Carol has always stayed busy with the multiple activities and educational programs offered here at Oak Grove for adults, youth, and children, and directing our wonderful music program. This year she has the additional task of serving as moderator-elect for our District Conference and as a delegate to our Annual Conference.

Christian Education Commission has begun the process of hiring one person to help with children from ages infant to third grade each Sunday from 9:30 to 12:30. Their research indicates payment of \$100 per Sunday will be appropriate.

Evangelism and Membership graciously agreed to take on the lead in planning and organizing our 125th Anniversary Celebration coming up in 2027. This will take a lot more hands than those who on our Evangelism and Membership Commission. Every commission will be expected to help as well as any in our congregation who might be available.

Finance Commission continues to meet monthly to review the overall financial health of our congregation. After significant research, much discussion and careful thought, there was a joint meeting of the Leadership Team and Finance Commission held on June 1 that concluded with the decision to begin the process of transitioning at least some of our financial management needs to Neely's Accounting Services, Inc.

Ministry and Worship has ensured our pulpit is filled each Sunday during Pastor Tim's time away for vacation and Annual Conference needs. This commission also helps with the coordination of the weekly work of our head usher, audio visual volunteers, church decorators, and music team.

Missions & Service reported on progress made with our very unwelcome visitors in the kitchen. Traps seem to have taken care of the issue and the kitchen has been thoroughly cleaned and stringent cleaning protocols remain in place.

Peace and Justice reports that every indication is that the 24-hour prayer vigil was well received with significant participation. Books for the Westside Elementary School outreach program have been purchased.

Property Commission continues to work on elevator upgrades as well as updating the air conditioning in the vestibule and the kitchen. Property is doing a great job ensuring this work stays within budget. The parsonage is expected to be occupied by the current resident through August. Working with Long & Foster, the parsonage rent will increase to approximately \$1,300 on July 1.

Bob and Bonnye Thompson
by Sharon Hanger

It is always special to see and connect with familiar faces. For years, Bob and Bonnye Thompson have lived next door to one of our family's good friends, and they live right across the street from another Oak Grove member, Connie Bierly.

We also have several threads of connection outside of Roanoke. Bob and Bonnye grew up in Staunton where Mike and I were raised. They also attended Staunton Church of the Brethren, which was my home church.

In 1968, Bob and Bonnye moved to Roanoke to make their home and raise their family. They have two adult children, Michael and Kelly, and three grandchildren. For many years they attended Central Church of the Brethren where both were very active members. Bob volunteered on the grounds committee and Bonnye directed the bell choir and sang in the choir.

Both are now retired after years of serving the public. Bob worked for the Roanoke City Police Department and Bonnye was employed at the United States Attorney's Office. In their spare time they both have a passion for gardening and enjoy taking trips to the beach.

We welcomed Bob and Bonnye as new members at Oak Grove on May 31, 2026 and look forward to getting to know them better in the coming weeks.



Greg and Teresa Broyles *by Mark and Gloria Harmon*

We welcomed Greg and Teresa on May 31, 2026. We are excited to have you back! Both Greg and Teresa are valued members of not only Oak Grove but of the community. Here at Oak Grove, we love having Greg as a Sunday School teacher. He is willing to serve in any spot he is needed. Greg retired from ministry at Brick Church of Brethren but continues to provide pulpit supply for the Virgina District – including Oak Grove.

Before Teresa left Oak Grove with Greg for Brick Church of the Brethren, she helped update our kitchen and continues to share her expertise. A devoted mother and grandmother, she also shares her gifts by serving in the church nursery and helping with Oak Grove's children wherever needed. Teresa also loves crafting and quilting and is always willing to share those talents with her church family.

Speaking of children and grandchildren, Greg and Teresa have strong family ties to the Oak Grove community. Greg is the son of lifelong members, Bill and Carolyn Broyles, and Greg and Teresa's daughter, Alli Broyles Yingling, along with her husband, Scott and children Lincoln and Gemma.



We can truly say that Greg and Teresa “get it”. “It” is something we all strive for but often fall short of. “It” is a combination of what Christ has given us as examples of how to follow him. “It” includes not only walking the walk and talking the talk but really understanding “it”. If this sounds difficult, get to know Greg and Teresa. “It” will become apparent to you.

We love you guys and are excited to have you back at Oak Grove. Welcome home!

Nancy Reichard
as given to friend Paula Smith

Nancy's parents David Kulp Webster and Hettie Bowman Webster were born in Franklin County and grew up attending Monta Vista COB. She is the third child. Her siblings are David Jr, Vicky Webster Chapman, and a brother Luke Bowman Webster that died at the age of sixteen.

Nancy was born at her father's first Pastorate in Orlando FL before Walt Disney. The family moved to Waynesboro VA, then Newport News VA, then Hagerstown, MD where they lived for 32 years. She moved to Roanoke in 2002 to take care of her mother before she died.

She has been attending Central COB since that time until feeling the need for a new church when she came to Oak Grove.

Nancy has two sons. The oldest one Luke Reichard continues to live in the Hagerstown area. Her youngest son, Jay died on January 24, 2023. Her faith in God has helped her through this most difficult time in her life.

She has worked as a Registered Nurse since 1976 and has had many experiences in nursing. She has worked in the operating room, recovery room, critical care, medical floors, Hospice, Inspector for Assisted living Facilities, and her last job was 18 years at the VA Medical Center where she worked with Veterans in their home with Home Based Primary care. All the experiences have been very rewarding. As a child she knew she wanted to be a nurse. She doesn't know if it was because her mother was a nurse, but she felt a very strong call to nursing. So, she has been a caregiver all her life.

Her hobbies are singing, sewing, flowers in her yard and traveling. Nancy wants to thank Oak Grove for being an open, welcoming church for her. We officially welcomed her on May 31, 2026.



Jack Griffin

by Todd Marcum

Jack Griffin and his son, Asher, have quickly become a familiar face in our church family. While he and his family have only recently joined Oak Grove, his journey to Roanoke has taken him across several continents and through a lifetime of experiences shaped by faith, family, and service.



Jack was born in Singapore and spent most of his childhood on Hayling Island, a beautiful island off the southern coast of England. Growing up with an older brother and younger sister, he remembers a childhood filled with freedom, bicycles, neighborhood friends, and plenty of outdoor adventures. While in college, Jack spent eight weeks backpacking across Australia—a trip that he still considers one of the turning points of his life. He later graduated from Lancaster University with a degree in economics and management science.

While searching for a career that fit his desire to help others, Jack discovered occupational therapy. He returned to school in London to earn his degree and eventually found opportunities that brought him to the United States. He started his career in West Virginia and soon met his future wife, Shannon, on a blind date. The two were married in a Baptist church and have now shared many years of life, work, and ministry together.

Both Jack and Shannon work in healthcare—Jack as an occupational therapist specializing in hand therapy and Shannon as a physical therapist. Together, they built their family through adoption, a journey that has brought both great joy and unique challenges. Today, they are the proud parents of three children and grandparents to one grandson.

One of Jack's favorite stories involves the adoption of their second child. While preparing a family scrapbook for a prospective birth mother, they were advised to leave references to their faith out of the book. Instead, they chose to be honest about how central church life was to their family. Pictures and stories of worship, church activities, and Christian friendships remained throughout the scrapbook. Later, they learned that the birth mother specifically wanted her child to be raised in a Christian home. Looking back, Jack sees that moment as a reminder that God honors faithfulness and obedience.

For two decades, the Griffin family lived on Lake Gaston, but Jack never lost his love for the mountains. Eventually, the family relocated to Roanoke, where they have now lived for several years. Although it took some time to find the right church home, Jack says that from the moment he walked through the doors of Oak Grove, he felt a sense of belonging.

Asked what drew him to Oak Grove, Jack speaks warmly about the welcoming atmosphere, the sense of community, and Pastor Tim's genuine care for people. "It just felt like home," he says. For Jack, Oak Grove reflects the love, fellowship, and family that have been important throughout his life. We are grateful that Jack and his family have found their church home here on May 31, 2026. We look forward to serving alongside them in the years ahead.

Michael and Paula Geake

by Kris Tilley-Lubbs

On May 31, 2026 we welcomed two of the newest members of Oak Grove Church of the Brethren, Paula and Michael Geake! They are two native New Englanders, Paula from New Hampshire, and Michael from Vermont. They have only been married for six years after meeting in southwest Virginia. Their meeting and marrying is no surprise when they share their stories, and it becomes apparent that they have a lot in common.

They are both instructors at Ferrum College, and at the same time, they are both working on doctoral degrees. For her first career, Paula was a phlebotomist, and Michael was a computer systems analyst. Currently they both teach at Ferrum College, and they enjoy their careers immensely.

They also share disabilities, albeit for different reasons. Paula has a pacemaker, and additional heart issues. Michael was diagnosed with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease at age 13. Nonetheless, their motorized wheelchairs allow them to thoroughly enjoy life and independence. For example, they are fans of Caribbean cruises, and take them as often as possible.

Since neither comes from a Church of the Brethren background, I was curious about what brought them to Oak Grove. Michael explained that he checked the internet when they were seeking a church. He was hooked on reading the websites for our local congregation and for the national denomination. The word “accessibility” occurred repeatedly, so they decided to give Oak Grove a try, especially since the beliefs of the church aligned with their own beliefs. The first Sunday they attended, the automatic door opener wasn’t working, but members of the congregation provided the assistance they needed. The next week it was fixed, and the rest is history.

When I asked what they would like the congregation to know, they agreed that they want people to feel free to ask questions. They are always open to explaining their disabilities and educating people about them. Also, I have heard that Paula gives awesome wheelchair rides. Just ask Halle! Personally, my favorite word to describe them is “quirky,” which I consider to be a great compliment! Sit and chat with them and you will find out what a lovely couple has joined our church.





July Happenings...

July 2026 Highlights

- 1-2-Annual Conference
- 12-Leadership Team Meeting at 12:30 p.m.
- 5-10-FaithX in Hershey, Pennsylvania
- 18-23-National Youth Conference
- 19-Deacons Meeting at 12:30 p.m.
- 22-Camp Bethel Benefit Day
- 25-Birthday Celebration for Nancy Hylton at Camp Bethel at 4:00 p.m.

FaithX

July 5-10

Hershey Pennsylvania

Representing Oak Grove at Faith X are Maddie Burton, Charleigh Jackson, Davion Jackson, Graeme Robinson, Kirsten Lubbs-Robinson, Todd Marcum, Carol Elmore.

National Youth Conference

Light within US

—Matthew 5:14-16

Gavin Robinson, Vincent Pizzullo, Carol Elmore and Don Pizzullo will be representing Oak Grove.



July 18 - 23, 2026



YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO

Camp Bethel News

BETHEL BENEFIT

07.22.2026

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
BETHEL BENEFIT DAY,
A VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER FOR
CAMP BETHEL IN FINCASTLE, VA.

Click [here](#) to donate!



REGISTER NOW!

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

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



runsignup.com/Race/VA/Fincastle/CampBethelPep5K

Pastor's Column for July 2026

**Annual Conference 2026
June 28 – July 2 • Fort Wayne, Indiana**

When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost amidst tongues of fire and miracles of speaking and hearing, the people were amazed and perplexed. Peter explained to them that the words of the prophet Joel were being fulfilled:

*In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.*
(Acts 2:17-18 NRSVUE)



Scholar Walter Brueggemann, in his classic work, *The Prophetic Imagination*, argued that the role of a prophet is to imagine new possibilities. Perhaps one reason the church remains mired in the same old patterns is that we have lost our ability to envision anything better. Paradoxically, Brueggemann suggested that a prophet's visions and dreams for a hopeful future often reappropriate themes and symbols from the past that are rooted in God's call and faithfulness—a newness that is so old, he wrote, that it has been forgotten. When I was a young man leaving for a year abroad, a mentor encouraged me to “remember who you are.” Could it be that the key to envisioning a way forward for the church is to remember where we've come from? Rather than something entirely new, what may be needed are renewed dreams and restored vision as we reclaim themes like radical discipleship, commitment to our New Testament creed, caring community, humble service, and nonviolent peacemaking.

The second verse of the hymn *What is this place* (HWB 1) suggests that “dreams, signs, and wonders sent from the past are what we need.” What's old can be new again. “What a commission it is,” wrote Brueggemann, “to express a future that none think imaginable!” Imagine!

—Don Fitzkee, Moderator

I encourage each of you to be informed about the business of this year's Annual Conference. The simplest way to do that is to check the Annual Conference website. You may find these pages/links on the website helpful:

- Check <https://www.brethren.org/ac2026/business/> for links to the reports and agenda items delegates will consider, and/or watch the delegate briefing video.
- A convenient link to the daily business schedule may be found at <https://www.brethren.org/ac2026/schedule/>.

Continued next page...

- To observe the business sessions and participate in daily worship, visit <https://www.brethren.org/ac2026/virtual/>.
- The [Annual Conference homepage](#) has much more information than this, for those who want to explore and learn more!

Pastoral Care during Annual Conference week

If you are in need of pastoral care during Annual Conference week, please reach out to Todd Marcum (Deacon Chair) or your own deacon. They will be glad to care for any needs that may arise during this time. Pastors Tim and Carol are available by phone during these days, but our availability will be somewhat limited by Annual Conference responsibilities.

Pastor Tim

Looking Ahead...

WORLD HUNGER AUCTION

*Doing what we can opens the door
for God to do much more.*

**August 8, 2026
9:30 a.m.
Antioch COB**



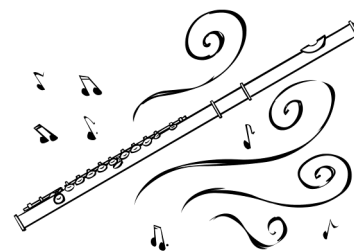
**#KIDSCONNECT
VBS**

AUGUST 1-2

sign up today

**Summer Concert in
THE GROVE
August 12, 2026
6:00 p.m.**

**Music
provided
by
Pantasia
(flute
choir)**



Save the Date!

Join us for Sleep in Heavenly Peace's Beds Across America Build on September 13, 2026 with Cave Spring United Methodist Church. Watch for more information and volunteer opportunities in upcoming church communications.

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>We are so grateful for the women of the church who created Terry's quilt. He has grown up in the warmth of Oak Grove, and his quilt will always remind him of this community of faith.</i> <i>Carol Hambleton and Gay Bulach</i>			1	2	3	4
				2 p.m.-Games 5:30 p.m.- Commissions Meeting		
			<i>Annual Conference through July 2.</i>			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship	9 a.m.-Crafts	6 p.m.-Peace & Justice on Zoom		8:30 a.m.- SHP Bed Build at Salem Rotary 2 p.m.-Games		8:30 a.m.-SHP Bed Build at Summerdean CoB
<i>FaithX July 5-10, 2026.</i>						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship 12:30 a.m.- Leadership Team	9 a.m.-Crafts			2 p.m.-Games 5:30 p.m.-Finance Meeting		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship 12:30 p.m.- Deacons Meeting	9 a.m.-Crafts		Bethel Benefit Day	2 p.m.-Games		4 p.m.-Nancy Hylton's Birthday Celebration at Camp Bethel
<i>National Youth Conference July 18-23, 2026.</i>						
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship	9 a.m.-Crafts			2 p.m.-Games		