

**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  
FEBRUARY  
JANUARY 15**

**NEWSLETTER  
COMMITTEE:**

- Rena' Brown
- Carolyn Broyles
- Nancy Hylton
- Josephine Keller
- Bryana Lackey
- Emily Nelson

**CHURCH OFFICE  
SECRETARY  
HOURS:  
Monday-Friday**

# THE VISITOR

JANUARY 2025

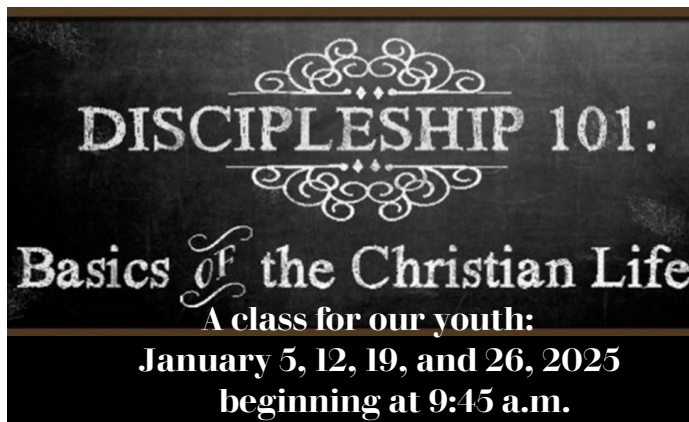
Published by:  
**Oak Grove Church of the Brethren**  
2138 McVitty Road, SW  
Roanoke, VA 24018



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

### January Sermon and Scripture

- January 5** Epiphany Sunday  
*Redemption's Quest: Conclusion*  
Matthew 2:1-12
- January 12** *Baptism of the Lord* Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- January 19** Tentative: guest preacher from Church of the Brethren staff. Stay tuned!!
- January 26** *Don't get too comfortable* Luke 4:14-21




# Church News

## Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

- ...*Garland Brown, heart issues*
- ...*Gil Henshaw, lung cancer*
- ...*Sylvia Shepherd, cancer treatment*
- ...*Dawn Thomas, headache issues*

Interested in helping rebuild homes with Brethren Disaster Ministries? The Virginia District is looking for volunteers for the week of April 27 – May 3, 2025. The location is yet to be determined.



See Mike Tyler for more info.

**Youth Bowling**  
**Lee Hi Lanes**  
**January 12, 2025**  
**12:30 p.m.**



**Youth fund pays for bowling. Youth responsible for food.**

**Join us for a fun time!!**

**MONTHLY OUTREACH**  
**December**

- Four individuals assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund.
- Food for three families through our Food Pantry.
- Backpack Ministry delivers 28 bags each week!
- Mitten Tree and Postage Donations

## Happy Birthday

- 1– Emily Nelson
- 3– Peter Lubbs
- 10– Wanda Lynch
- 11– Tyler Broyles
- 13– Danielle Craighead
- 19– Jonna Detweiler
- 22– Coulton Janney
- 24– Johnny Thompson
- 25– Holly Belcher
- 26– Dennis Ferguson
- 27– Shelly Haas
- 27– Bill Cianelli
- 28– Maggie Pizzullo
- 30– Andrew King

## Happy Anniversary

- 1– Nelson & Nancy Hylton
- 1– Dan & Kris Tilley-Lubbs
- 14– Ron & Jill Mooney
- 23– Jim & Margie Shaver

### Friendship Class



The Friendship Sunday School class will be meeting at Camp Bethel on Saturday, January 25, 2025 for a buffet meal and program. They will be eating at 12:30 p.m. The cost will be \$19. Payment will be due on Sunday, January 5, 2025.



**2025 FaithX registration opens on January 8, 2025!**

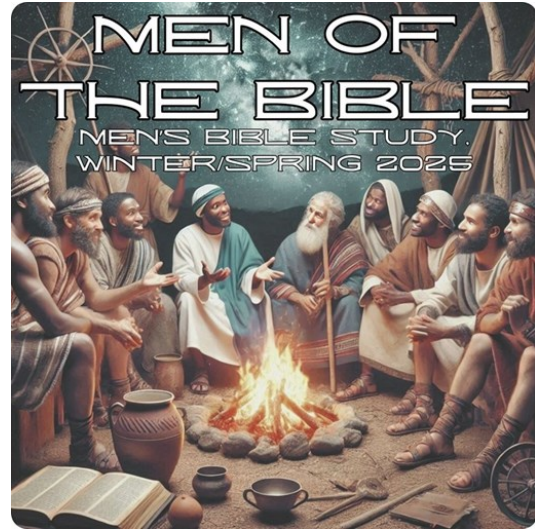
[www.brethren.org/faithx/schedule](http://www.brethren.org/faithx/schedule)

## Men's Bible Study

Look at the men gathered around the fire in this AI-generated picture of "Men of the Bible."

Who do you imagine is there? What would it be like to take a seat around this fire and listen to their stories of faithfulness and failure, of doubt and discovery, of talent and temptation as they attempted to answer God's call on their lives. What a campfire discussion this could be!

Our men's Bible study group will begin 2025 with a study of men in the Bible. We'll look at the famous, the infamous, and the obscure as we seek to grow in our love for Jesus, our commitment to the congregation, and our appreciation for the gifts each man brings to our journey to greater faithfulness. Join us on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.!



*Refresh and Renew!*  
A retreat day for Youth Advisors/Workers

**January 18, 2025 -- 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Camp Bethel, House of Pillars  
Register at: <https://bit.ly/youthadvisorretreat>

Anyone who works with young people and/or their families knows how rewarding and challenging it is. The work also involves regular change and adaptation - which can be tiring. This is a retreat day to care for YOU! You will be well fed and appreciated! You will have opportunities to connect with God, with others, and with nature! Becky Ullom Naugle, Director of Youth/Young Adult Ministries for the Church of the Brethren, will help us reflect on anxiety and how it affects those with whom we seek Jesus.

*Join us if you need encouragement!*

Many thanks to the Virlina District for providing this retreat day for you free of charge. Questions? Contact the Virlina District Office (540-362-1816).



On November 24, 2024 we welcomed our newest church members. Learn more about them in the following pages.

We also welcomed Glenn and Laura Clements and their article will be highlighted in our February Newsletter!



### **Victoria Goodman**

*by: Julie Carroll*



Victoria Goodman is one of our newer members joining Sunday, November 24, 2024. She began coming to Oak Grove, along with her family, after seeing one of our outdoor services while at Starbucks across the street! Victoria expressed that her family enjoyed what they heard and her parents began attending services the following Sunday. Victoria began attending Oak Grove shortly after her parents-she missed that first day with them because she was testing for her black belt in karate!

Victoria has been practicing karate for five years now and is currently an instructor for little children at Super Kicks Karate, where she also helps with social events and birthday parties! Victoria's other hobbies include cooking Italian food and baking- especially cookies, brownies, cakes and pies, as well as reading and singing. She quickly joined the Oak Grove choir and thoroughly enjoys Wednesday night practices and singing every Sunday!

Victoria is starting Liberty University this January to pursue her Bachelor's Degree in History. She's exploring many options for her future career but is leaning towards archaeology. If not archaeological work, Victoria would like to teach at the college level.

When asked why she chose Oak Grove as her church home, Victoria replied:

*"I love Oak Grove Church of the Brethren, and I'm so happy to be a member of a wonderful church with equally wonderful people. Oak Grove has certainly made me and my family feel welcome!"*

## **Clark and Becky Goodman** *by Lisa Newell*

I would encourage everyone to take the time to chat with Clark and Becky Goodman. When we chatted, I immediately felt comfortable and drawn to both of them! They met each other as children while attending Bent Mountain Elementary school together where Clark pushed Becky on the swings during recess! They actually connected as a couple after college. They have been married for 25 years and hope to enjoy at least 25 more!



Handy around the house is an understatement for this energetic couple! Together, in less than a week, they've repaired a dryer, a toilet, a shower head, and a sink! They love to cook together and Alice Springs Chicken, Lasagna, and a Seafood Boil are among their favorite recipes. They also enjoy spoiling their smart, and slightly rotten chihuahua, Thomas Sullivan Magnum! Thomas loves to ring a bell that commands a cookie from Clark and Becky! Together, they agreed that John 3:16 is a favorite Bible verse.

It was fun to listen to them brag about each other! Clark told me that Becky has a beautiful voice and has made some beautiful embroidery in the past. She enjoys teaching elementary school and is currently enjoying teaching VA History to 4th grade students! Becky has taught all elementary grades during the past 26 years. She and her daughter Victoria are both involved locally in Daughters of the American Revolution.

According to Becky, Clark can grow anything! This fits well with his love of cooking too! He enjoys visiting Summit Springs in Ferrum where you can shoot clay birds in a realistic setting. Clark enjoys fishing, too! He enjoys listening to audio books while he drives. He works at ServPro in Business Development so you may see him around town in a bright green truck. Clark enjoys the fellowship at our Men's Bible Study.

Throughout life, they are willing to turn obstacles into positive challenges. Their daughter, Victoria, was born weighing 1 pound, 9 ounces. Now, at 21, they cannot believe how fast the years flew by! More recently, Becky has been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Whatever the challenge, they will immediately begin tackling the news together, and making lemonade out of lemons!

I will end this introduction with a fun, true story. One summer morning, Clark and Becky were sitting in a long line at Starbucks when they began hearing the music and cheerful voices from our outdoor worship. They decided to visit our church and they loved our friendly congregation, our music, and our sanctuary. They wanted to be a part of our positive community, and they took the membership class taught by Pastor Tim. They look forward to getting to know more people and being active at Oak Grove Church of the Brethren! They became members on November 24, 2024.

**Robert & Colleen Smith**  
*by Morgan Taylor*

Robert and Colleen Smith became members of Oak Grove on November 24, 2024. Robert has a bachelor's degree in marketing from Virginia Tech. He also attended Virginia Western where he got a business associate degree. Colleen has her Masters and Educational Specialist degree from Radford University. She also has a bachelor's degree from SUNY Potsdam in New York for Psychology. Robert is the Service Manager at James River Equipment in Salem. Colleen is a School Psychologist for Roanoke City Public Schools. She also consults with the Maternal and Infant Neurodevelopment Lab at Virginia Tech Carilion on Riverside.



While Colleen was attending Radford University, she attended Unity Christian Church on Tyler Avenue where Robert's aunt and uncle were the organist and music director. Colleen occasionally did special music with people in Robert's family before meeting Robert or even knowing he existed. One Sunday, Colleen was set to sing along with Robert's aunt and two cousins. Robert's aunt suggested that her other nephew (Robert) play the mandolin that day as well with the plan for Robert and Colleen to meet. About two weeks later, Robert and Colleen started dating.

Robert and Colleen enjoy many hobbies. Robert enjoys video games, getting together with friends, and playing the guitar. Colleen enjoys knitting, putting together Lego sets, and watching The Great British Bakeoff. Currently most of their time is spent wrangling their two children; Nora who is three years old and Wyatt who is 6 months old. Sweet Nora enjoys singing and playing on the playground with friends. Wyatt is the happiest baby that loves to laugh and smile. Robert and Colleen dedicated Nora and Wyatt to the Lord on November 24, 2024.

Robert knew Pastor Tim prior to coming to Oak Grove. Robert attended Central Church of the Brethren throughout his childhood where he met Pastor Tim.

*Welcome*  
 to our  
**New Members**

**Rosie Wood**  
*by Mike Hanger*

When Rosie Wood came forward to officially move her Church of the Brethren membership on November 24, 2024 from First Church to Oak Grove, no one had to guide her. As a prominent member of Oak's Grove's music family, as both a soprano in the choir and a valued bell ringer, she was already home at the front of the church. "My sister, Julie Hall, convinced me to 'just come and try it' since we both had sung in the choir at First Church of the Brethren and played bells for many years," Wood said. "I had visited other churches, but I didn't feel the connection anywhere else but at Oak Grove. I believe I have found a home."



Rosie is a lifelong resident of the Roanoke Valley. She graduated from William Fleming High School and she has a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Roanoke College. "I thought I wanted to go to medical school until someone told me I would have eight more years after my undergraduate degree," she said.

Instead, she went to work for Fralin and Waldron and found her future husband, L.B. Wood. He was working at the company's Lynchburg branch while she was at the Roanoke office. On their first date, he picked her up and took her for a spin on the back of a Harley Davidson. The two have been cruising through life together for 44 years and now have three grown children and three grandchildren. "I was a stay-at-home mom until our youngest went to pre-K and I then went to work at Allstate in the customer service department and then in computer support and claims," she said. "I eventually retired from Allstate in 2019, but our oldest child convinced me to help in the classroom where she taught in Roanoke City Schools." She answered the call to become an Instructional Assistant at Garden City Elementary and worked in both autism and emotional disability classrooms for five years before fully retiring this past June.

Blaire is Wood's first child and after nearly 20 years of teaching at Garden City she now works in Roanoke City Schools Central Administration as a Literacy Specialist. Emily is their second child and she is a director for a privately-owned company in Roanoke that provides concierge services to major corporations with employees who are on assignments overseas. Their third child, Ben, works for the Carilion Clinic in Radford and lives in Pulaski.

*Continued next page...*

While Rosie has tremendous pride in her children, who are all college graduates with a variety of advanced degrees, it is her three grandchildren who light up her life. Grammy Wood's oldest grandson, Ethan, is a two-time VHSL State Champion wrestler at Glenvar. He is now a freshman at VMI, where he is also a varsity wrestler for the Keydets. Ethan's younger brother, Jacob, is also a grappler at Glenvar in his sophomore year. In addition to making his mark on the mat, he is also an aspiring mechanic and car enthusiast. Their youngest grandchild is Annistyn, a 5-year-old, who loves to cheer and dance. "L.B. and I love supporting our grandchildren and generally we will travel wherever they are wrestling and dancing."

Oak Grove loves having Rosie at the front of the church each week and the congregation certainly appreciates the subtle nudge sister Julie administered to get her here. "When we were little, Julie used to push me off the bench so she could practice piano," she said. "We were typical sisters growing up and it wasn't until adulthood that I realized how lucky I am to have a sister that supports me and encourages me and wants to share our time together. We have grown to be two peas in a pod and that is a good thing."

### **Carolyn Morris** *by Mary Wilson*



We welcomed Carolyn Morris to our Oak Grove Church family November 24, 2024! Her brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Julie Hall, invited Carolyn to visit Oak Grove last year and she recently became one of our newest members. Carolyn grew up in Roanoke, one of five children, and attended Radford College. She worked at KEMBA (Kroger Employee Mutual Benefits Association) for 45 years and was the CEO for 37 years. Carolyn was happily married for nearly 55 years to her late husband, Bob Morris. He was head deacon at their church, CommUNITY, and they were active in many things, including the Wheels 4 Hope ministry, which donated and delivered over 2,000 new bikes to children after devastating hurricanes in Texas, North Carolina and West Virginia. Bob was a NASCAR fan and she now has a large collection of racing memorabilia including car parts.

Carolyn has a son, Bob, in Charlotte NC who works for IBM and is fortunate to travel quite extensively with his wife, Josie, and two children, Ellery (age 14) and Clay (age 16). Carolyn also enjoys traveling and has gone on two Alaskan cruises as well as trips to the Mediterranean and Hawaii. She and a friend are cruising to the Turks Islands next March.

Carolyn still serves KEMBA as a director and attends monthly board meetings. She also enjoys reading. Carolyn enjoys our Women's Bible Study on Thursday mornings and helps with the Backpack Ministry. She likes the friendly atmosphere at Oak Grove and says everyone is so welcoming. If you haven't had the chance to meet Carolyn, please introduce yourself to her. She sits near the back in front of the sound booth and near her brother, Bill, our Head Usher. Welcome Carolyn!



**Nativity Sets borrowed from the collection of Emma Jean Woodard and displayed in the church during 2024 Advent.**





**MLK Day**  
**Honoring The Legacy**  
**Honoring The Dream**  
**January 20, 2025**  
**7 PM**  
 Sponsored by: Roanoke Justice Ministries  
 Location:  
 Hill Street Baptist Church  
 111 Madison Ave  
 Roanoke VA 24016

Guest Speaker  
 Rev. Kenneth Wright

Inspirational Speaker  
 Rev. Andrew Whaley

In honor of Black History month, the Peace & Justice group will be hosting a screening of the Netflix biographical film, *Shirley*, which chronicles the life of Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to Congress and a trailblazing candidate for U.S. President in 1972. This film sheds light on Chisholm's fearless journey as a politician, activist, and history-maker.

This event will take place on Saturday, February 15, at 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Light refreshments will be provided. This film is rated PG-13.

We hope to see you there!



## Camp Bethel News



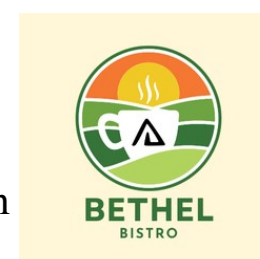
**Church pays half  
of your  
registration!**

### Winter Camp

Winter Camp is a fun and spiritual program for kids in 1st-5th grades, youth in 6th-8th grades and teens in 9th-12th grades led by our reunited summer staff and Youth Leaders from our District Churches.

### January 30, 2025

Bethel Bistro is a series of family-friendly events held one Thursday evening each quarter from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Each event provides an opportunity for food, fun and fellowship! Join them on January 30, 2025 for Trivia Night!



### Camp Supporter Luncheon, February 8, 2025

Join us in the Ark Dining Hall at 12:00 p.m. for lunch and information on 2025 summer camps, summer curriculum, our new CampWise software and registration process, and upcoming events! Ask questions you have, and receive lots of information to take back to your congregations. All are welcome - camp reps, pastors, parents, supporters! RSVP to camp at 540-992-2940 or [campbetheloffice@gmail.com](mailto:campbetheloffice@gmail.com).

# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  <i>Church Office Closed</i>	2 5:30 p.m.– Ev. & Membership 5:30 p.m.– Ministry & Worship 5:30 p.m.–Mission & Service 6:30 p.m.– Christian Ed	3	4 <i>Winter Camp at Camp Bethel January 4-5, 2025</i>
5 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship	6 9 a.m.-ESL 9 a.m.– Crafts	7 5:30 p.m.– Handbells 6 p.m.– Peace & Justice	8 9 a.m.– ESL 6 p.m.– Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir	9 9:30 a.m.– Women's Faith Bible Study	10	11
12 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship 12:30 p.m.– Executive Meeting 12:30 p.m.– Youth Bowling	13 9 a.m.-ESL 9 a.m.– Crafts 12:30 p.m.- Backpack	14 5:30 p.m.– Handbells	15 9 a.m.– ESL 11 a.m.– Munch Bunch 6 p.m.– Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir	16 9:30 a.m.– Women's Faith Bible Study	17	18 <b>Project WARM</b> 10 a.m.– Youth Advisor/ Worker Retreat at Camp Bethel
19 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship	20 9 a.m.-ESL 9 a.m.– Crafts 6:30 p.m.– Bethel Bistro 7 p.m.– MLK, Jr. Service at Hill St. Baptist	21 5:30 p.m.– Handbells	22 9 a.m.– ESL 6 p.m.– Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir	23 9:30 a.m.– Women's Faith Bible Study	24	25 12:30 p.m.- Friendship Class at Camp Bethel
26 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship	27 9 a.m.-ESL 9 a.m.– Crafts 12:30 p.m.- Backpack	28 5:30 p.m.– Handbells	29 9 a.m.– ESL 6 p.m.– Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir	30 9:30 a.m.– Women's Faith Bible Study	31 	