

Pastor:
Tim Harvey

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

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(540) 774-3217

**DEADLINE FOR
MARCH
FEBRUARY 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

FEBRUARY 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.

February Sermon and Scripture

February 2 Luke 4:21-30; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
How to love an enemy

February 9 Luke 5:1-11 *The cost of discipleship*

February 16 Luke 6:17-26 *The cost of blessedness*

February 23 Luke 6:27-38 *The cost of forgiveness*

In honor of Black History month, the Peace & Justice group will host a screening of the Netflix biographical film, *Shirley* (PG-13). This movie tells the story of the first Black woman to seek the nomination for president of the United States in 1972. It reveals Shirley Chisholm's courage and dedication as she fought for change in the 20th century for women, especially Black women.



Join us on Saturday, February 15, at 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall for this event. Light refreshments will be served, and for added comfort, feel free to bring your camp chair. After the movie, we'll have a brief discussion. We look forward to seeing you there

Church News

Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

- ...**Marianne Pittman**, hospice care
- ...**Kathie Robinson**, heart issues
- ...**Dave Jones**, rehab for broken leg

Please be with the family of **Phyllis Meadows**.
Phyllis passed away January 29, 2025.

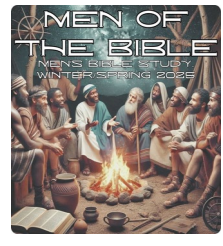
Interested in helping rebuild homes with Brethren Disaster Ministries?

The Virlina District is looking for volunteers to join the April 27 – May 3, 2025 trip to Letcher, KY, repairing and rebuilding homes damaged in a 2022 flood.



See [Mike Tyler](#) for more information.

Men's Bible Study Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.



February 5: Jonah, chapters 2-4
 February 12: Nicodemus
 February 19: topic TBD
 February 26: topic TBD

MONTHLY OUTREACH January

- Six individuals assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund.
- Food for four families through our Food Pantry.
- Backpack Ministry delivers 28 bags each week!
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace built 80 beds!
- Project WARM deliver 6 loads of wood!


Happy Birthday

- 1- Michael Craighead
- 2- Rhonda Marcum
- 5- Norm Pullen
- 6- Sam Phillips
- 7- Mark Detweiler
- 10- Rose Harvey
- 12- Sylvia Shepherd
- 14- Dayna Cook
- 14- Clark Goodman
- 15- Nelson Musselman
- 17- Ben Phillips
- 18- Lincoln Yingling
- 19- Kathie Robinson
- 20- Gabriel Wimmer
- 20- Gina Wright-Hawkins
- 24- Jamie Knox
- 24- Carol Hambleton
- 28- Lucy Pullen

Happy Anniversary

- 9- Gil & Vada Henshaw
- 19- David & Eowyn Hernandez
- 20- Brent & Sherrie White

Youth Ice Skating February 2, 2025 2:00-4:00 p.m. Blue Ridge Ice Skating



Lunch is on your own but Youth Fund pays entry fees!

Oak Grove Prayer Chain Information

Our congregation utilizes an email prayer chain to keep everyone informed about prayer needs and upcoming events. Bryana sends out an email update almost daily, Monday through Friday. Typically, we limit these emails to one per day. Urgent updates (such as a member facing a medical crisis) and after-hours updates are an exception to this.

If you would like to add something to the prayer chain:

1. During church office hours (Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.) please contact Bryana in the church office or send an email to oakgrovecob@gmail.com.
2. After church hours (evenings and weekends) call or text Ellen Phillips at (540) 761-7754. Please be aware that there may be a delay of several hours in posting after-hours prayer chain requests.
3. If there is an emergency requiring immediate attention, or if you desire pastoral care, contact Pastor Tim or Pastor Carol directly by phone or text message.
4. Please do not use Facebook to contact the church office regarding congregational needs or announcements. For multiple reasons, these are not reliable methods for urgent communication.

1/12/2025 Executive Committee Summary By Holly Belcher

The Executive Committee met on Sunday, January 12, 2025. The Committee discussed several new business items including preparing for the installation of the shelter for the playground, preparations for special services throughout the year, and the beginning stages of coordination for the Church Building Vision Team who will be having their first meeting on January 23. The Committee also approved 2025 Commission Members and approved corrections to the 2025 fiscal year budget.

The Church is off to an exciting start in 2025 with several upcoming events including “Guess Who’s Coming to Lunch?”, the Chocolate Extravaganza on February 1 at 6:00 p.m., and a movie coordinated by the Peace and Justice Commission on February 15 at 2:00 p.m.

If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to have addressed, we invite you to share your thoughts with the Executive Committee as we prepare for a year filled with much joy and fellowship!



**Chocolate Extravaganza & Talent Show
February 1, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

Oak Grove's Chocolate Extravaganza & Talent Show is making a comeback on Saturday, February 1, at 6:00 p.m. We will kick off the evening by serving hot dogs at 6:00 p.m., followed by a talent show at 6:30 p.m. We invite you to bring your favorite chocolate dessert to share and help make this a true Chocolate Extravaganza! If you could bring your dessert pre-cut into individual portions, it would be greatly appreciated. Desserts other than chocolate are also welcome!

This is an event for the whole family, and we encourage people of all ages to participate in the talent show. In previous years, we've enjoyed musical performances, storytelling, cooking demonstrations, and more. We can't wait to see what you'll bring to the stage this year!

Be sure to sign up your talent act on the sheet in the fellowship hall. Have questions? Feel free to reach out to [Ellen Phillips](#) or [Rhonda Marcum](#) for more information.

Come one, come all! We need an audience, too, even if you don't want to exhibit your talent.





Glenn and Laura Clements
by Todd Marcum

Glenn and Laura were married July 2, 2022 right here at Oak Grove COB by Carol Elmore. The couple met in July 2020. Both had lost spouses after long marriages. Between the two, they have 8 children; Laura has 6 children while Glenn has 2 children. Laura says she and Glenn feel very fortunate to have found each other and to have found Oak Grove.

They began attending Oak Grove COB New Members Class in October and we are happy they have decided to join our congregation on November 24, 2024.

Glenn retired in 2018 as a Pastor of 39 years from Christian Church Disciples of Christ. He grew up in Lynchburg and walked to church as a child with his mother and siblings. After graduating high school, he joined the Navy. He stayed in the Navy Reserve for 30 years. Glenn's hobbies are Ham radio and wood working.

Laura grew up in North Carolina and moved to Virginia in 1985. She has been a member of Oak Grove in the past and very happy to be back. Laura says Oak Grove is a very friendly church and thinks the people are like family genuinely concerned for others and people help each other out. Oak Grove goes beyond and takes God out into the community.

Welcome Glenn and Laura!

Camp Bethel News

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.



Camp Bethel Summer Camp

It's time to register for summer camp! Lots of fun is already in the making for our 2025 summer camp programs!

Click [here](#) for more information.

Click [here](#) to register.



WE ARE HIRING

FOOD SERVICES COORDINATOR

- Desire to work in Christian hospitality
- Food service and cooking experience
- Preferred supervision experience
- Moderate physical ability for lifting, standing, etc.
- Interpersonal skills with coworkers, guest groups, children, etc.
- Basic computer and internet use skills
- Self-motivated, punctual, enthusiastic, organized

CLICK TO APPLY

\$1500 SIGN-ON BONUS!

Keeping Our Voices Alive

Join us for a celebration of inspiring music and readings!

**Friday evening, Feb. 7 -
Saturday afternoon, Feb. 8, 2025
Antioch Church of the Brethren**

For more information contact Mary St. John
540-362-1816 Virlina.directordcnw@gmail.com

Sponsored by Virlina District Spiritual Development Committee



FRIDAY, February 7

5:30 – 6:00 pm Registration at Antioch Church of the Brethren entry
6:00 – 8:00 pm Rehearsal

SATURDAY, February 8

9:30 AM Gathering
10:00-12:00 pm Rehearsal
12:00- 1:00 pm Lunch on site provided with fee
1:00 – 2:30 pm Rehearsal
3:00 – 4:00 pm **Worship and Musical Celebration** for families and friends

This Choir Festival has been organized by the Spiritual Development Committee of the Virlina District's Commission on Nurture.

MARCH 21-22

SAVE YOUR STUFF FOR THE YOUTH YARD SALE!



THREE ERAS OF HENRY STREET

- PRESENTATION BY: SULLIVAN KNIGHT
- JUNIOR YEAR STUDENT AT CAVE SPRING HIGH SCHOOL; PRESIDENT OF HISTORY CLUB
 - 16 YEARS OLD FROM BENT MOUNTAIN, VIRGINIA
 - VOLUNTEERS FOR THE HARRISON MUSEUM, SMITHSONIAN, AND SERV AMONG OTHERS
 - MEMBER OF THE OAH AND VMHC, AND HSWV AMONG OTHERS.



This presentation aims to outline some of the businesses and locations in and around Henry Street from approximately 1900-1963. We will also examine events that occurred during this period which shifted the overarching historical narrative of Henry Street.

Hosted by First Baptist, Gainsboro
 Presentation on Tuesday February 11, 2025 6:30
 Social Hour at 6pm



RSVP to roanokereparations@gmail.com by Tuesday 2/4/2025

Pastor's Column

Thoughts on Knowing God

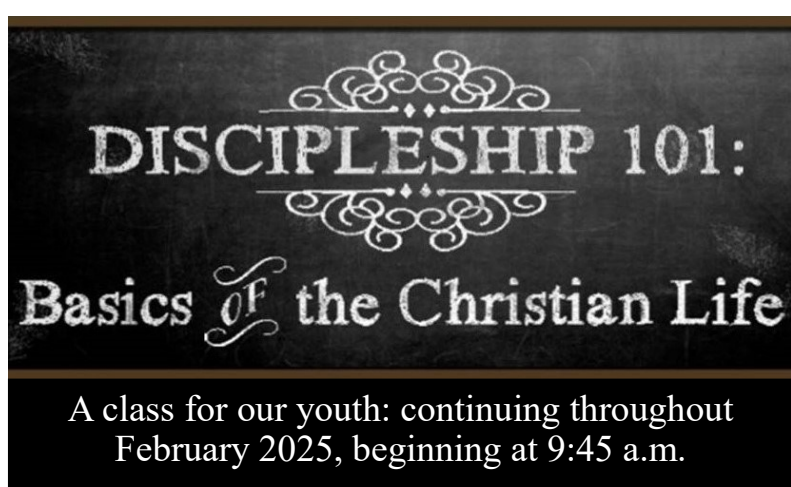
“A man who knows that he owns a tree, and gives thanks to you for its fruit, even though he may not know how many cubits high it is or how wide it spreads, is better than one who measures it and counts all its branches but does not own it and does not know or love its creator.” (*The Confessions of St. Augustine*, Book 5, chapter 4)

I love learning. We live in a time when so much information is readily available to us that, with some modest effort, we can learn a new skill, a new craft, or focus on our own personal, professional, and spiritual growth. Ours is a great time to be alive, and I am thankful for educational opportunities that abound.

It is also appropriate to give thanks to God for things we do not comprehend yet sustain and nurture our lives each day—things like fruit-bearing trees, babbling mountain streams, and skies filled with thousands of stars. These exist by the blessing of a benevolent God. We may not be able to explain the intricate processes that make them possible, but we can give thanks to God that they exist.

In the quotation above, St. Augustine looks back at his younger years when his primary motivation was pursuing the worldly wisdom of his day. As he notes, this is not inherently a bad thing. But it is far better to give thanks to God and seek to shape our lives around God's desires.

It has been bitterly cold in January. But perhaps February will warm up enough for you to step outside and take a walk. If you can, head out just before sunrise or sunset and watch with wonder these daily times of transition. How does this help you give thanks to God?



Pastor Tim

2025 FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 6 p.m.- Chocolate Extravaganza/ Talent Show
2 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship 2 p.m.-Youth	3 9 a.m.-ESL 9 a.m.- Crafts	4 5:30 p.m.- Handbells	5 9 a.m.- ESL 6 p.m.- Men's Bible Study	6 9:30 a.m.-Women's Faith Study Group 2 p.m.-Games 5:30 p.m.- Ministry & Worship 5:30 p.m.-Mission & Service 6:30 p.m.- Christian Ed	7	8 12 p.m.-Camp Supporter luncheon at Camp Bethel 3 p.m.- Antioch Music Celebration
9 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship 12:30 p.m.- Executive Meeting 2 p.m.- Brethren Bowl	10 9 a.m.-ESL 9 a.m.- Crafts 12:30 p.m.- Backpack	11 5:30 p.m.- Handbells 6 p.m.- Eras of Henry St. First Baptist- Gainesboro	12 9 a.m.- ESL 6 p.m.- Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.- Choir	13 9:30 a.m.- Women's Faith Study Group 2 p.m.- Games	14	15 Project WARM 2 p.m.- Peace & Justice movie "Shirley"
16 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship	17 9 a.m.-ESL 9 a.m.- Crafts	18 5:30 p.m.- Handbells	19 9 a.m.- ESL 6 p.m.- Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.- Choir	20 9:30 a.m.- Women's Faith Study Group 2 p.m.-Games	21 Faith Quest at Camp Bethel February 21-23, 2025.	22
23 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship 12:30 p.m.- Deacons	24 9 a.m.-ESL 9 a.m.- Crafts 12:30 p.m.- Backpack	25 5:30 p.m.- Handbells	26 9 a.m.- ESL 6 p.m.- Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.- Choir	27 9:30 a.m.- Women's Faith Study Group 2 p.m.-Games	28 Roundtable at Bridgewater February 28-March 2, 2025 	