

The Olivet Observer



"The little church with a big heart"



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The Rev. Lee Thomas, Pastor
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The 30th Letter of Lee to the Olivet Church,

Now that we are into April baseball players around the country have been in spring training for more than a month. We're going through a different kind of training at our house these days. Many of you know that the newest addition to the Thomas family is a little pup, a golden retriever called Stan, (full name—Staunton Fisher Thomas) who was born in Raphine on December 23rd. Our other dog, Lola, has really warmed up to Stan. Lola is a prissy four year old princess type, so it took a week or two for her to adjust. Now, at times, she even prefers his company over the warm spot beside human legs. They often wrestle and play tug of war with ropes when they are out of their separate crates, and that's fun for us all to watch.

Training Stan, however, has been quite the task. I think this could be my last puppy. I'm getting too old for this. In the beginning he was so small, and I had to sleep on the couch beside his crate and wake up every other hour to take him outside so he could do his business. When we had snow on the ground that chore was especially challenging. Now he's doing better and almost sleeps through the night. I only have to take him out once in the wee morning hours.

Anyone who has raised a pup can testify that there are so many similarities between raising canine and human babies. You feed them, clean up after them and watch them closely to keep them out of danger. Growing is growing, no matter who or what you are. Needless to say, we grow in more ways than just the physical.

In First Peter chapter 2, it is written, *"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."*

It is my firm belief that as long as we are in this world, God still has things to teach us. It's also my sincere hope that as we watch the flowers and trees and children and puppies grow this Spring, we will open our hearts and minds to what God desires to grow in our souls through the reading, sharing and exploring of His Holy Word. He's still working on me—and you.

Grace and Peace,



Donald Floyd, Sr.	April 1
Jake Balsley	April 2
Christopher Jones	April 5
Candice Guy	April 6
Susan Clifton	April 9
Maddie Lawhorn	April 9
Lynette Miller	April 10
Johnnie Miller	April 12
Meghan Hayward	April 13
Matt McKibben	April 13
Alex Coiner	April 14
William Coiner	April 14
Anita Miller	April 17
Cody Mears	April 17
Charles Clemmer	April 19
Laura Floyd	April 20
Nancy Whitesell	April 20
Sarah Hatcher	April 22
Sela Reid	April 23
Rick Eastman	April 24
Bill Leach	April 25
Nina Stewart	April 25
Faye Hemp	April 25
Jennifer Darby	April 26
Becky Roger	April 26
David Riel	April 28
Adra Reid	April 29
Sandra Floyd	April 30

Angela and Ray Leach	April 3
Kris and Ken Simpson	April 18

GREETERS

Thanks to our greeters for March: Alexis and Langdon Reid, Caroline and Davis, Faye and Joe Hemp, Carol and Nel Empet, Pat and David Balsley and Angela and Ray Leach.

Children's Messages

Thanks to those giving the Children's Messages in March:

Lee Thomas
Scott Weller
Julie Reid
Kasey Reid



We are having a Birthday Card Shower for Bill Leach who is having a birthday on April 25th. Anyone wishing to send Bill birthday greetings, may do so at Kings' Daughters', 1410 N. Augusta Street, Room 416 A, Staunton, VA 24401.



The Session will meet on April 19, 2015 at 12 Noon.

We had an average of \$4,046.00 in contributions and pledges for the month of March and an average attendance of 126.



We will celebrate the **Sacrament of Communion** on Sunday, April 5, 2015. The following Elders are assigned to serve: D. Reid, Rex Frye, Buck Robinson, Langdon Reid, Angela Leach and Don Reid.



Circle 3, Barbara Riel, Chairman, will meet on Monday, April 13, 2015, at 12 Noon at the church.

Circle 4, Kim Weller, Chairman, will meet with Alexis Reid on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

Circle 6, Sherry Herr, Chairman, will meet on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at the church at 7:00 p.m.

The Women would like to thank all those donating, helping and attending the Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast.



The Women's annual Spring Gathering will be held at Massanetta Springs Conference Center on April 11, 2015. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and is \$12.00 which includes lunch at Noon. You are asked to register by Monday, April 6, 2015. For more information see Karen Stevens or the church office. Registration forms are available online at shenpres.org/presbyterian-women/.

If you know of anyone graduating from high school, college, etc. this year, please let Kodi Frye or Brenda Reid know.



CANCER CENTER BRIDGE FUND

The Building Bridges Family Night will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 5:00–8:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. The funds raised will benefit the Cancer Center Bridge Fund, which helps provide some assistance to local cancer patients. There will be food, fun, games and cake walks. Leigh Anderson, a licensed clinical social worker with Augusta Health Cancer Center, will be there to participate and give us more information on how the Cancer Center Bridge Fund works. It will be a great night to help a good cause, and share in fellowship with other members of the Olivet family.

Cancer patients need excellent clinical care, compassion and understanding. They may also need personalized help and assistance with those things that serve as barriers or obstacles to care. The Bridge Fund is used to “bridge the gap” when a critical need arises. Gifts to the Bridge Fund make it possible to provide for the immediate needs that patients and their families face, such as medication assistance, assistance with the cost of nutritional supplements, and many other critical needs.



The answer is Easter

After the April 2013 suicide of his 27-year-old son, Matthew, pastor and author Rick Warren was often asked how he was able to keep going. His frequent reply? “The answer is Easter.”

In the Easter sermons Warren preached the following year, he emphasized that Jesus’ resurrection is the answer to discouragement, defeat and devastating trials.

“The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus happened over three days,” Warren explained. “Friday was the day of suffering and pain and agony. Saturday was the day of doubt and confusion and misery. But Easter, that Sunday, was the day of hope and joy and victory.

“You will face these three days over and over and over in your lifetime. And when you do, you’ll find yourself asking, as I did, three fundamental questions. Number one, what do I do in my days of pain? Two, how do I get through my days of doubt and confusion? Three, how do I get to the days of joy and victory? The answer is Easter.”