

THE OLIVET OBSERVER



"The little church with a big heart"

1019 Richmond Avenue, Staunton, VA 24401
The Rev. Lee Thomas, Pastor
(540) 886-9353
olivetpres.org

The 46th Letter of Lee to the Olivet Church:

"Marsha, Marsha, Marsha!" I heard that familiar phrase early one recent morning after helping my daughters wake up and begin getting ready for school. I sat down in front of a television which was tuned in to channel 2, "MeTV, My valley television." And so I spent some quality time with the Brady Bunch.

Didn't we all feel sorry for Jan from time to time. She was the middle daughter always living in the shadow of her popular and pretty older sister Marsha. It seemed like she just really never could measure up to Marsha, at least in her own mind.

I'd be willing to bet almost every American over the age of ten is familiar with the Brady's, and knows their theme song. I read in recent news that the iconic house used in the filming of the series was burglarized. It's hard to image a happy and harmonious place such as the Brady residence coming under attack. Until I read that bit of news, I didn't know the house was a real house. I thought it was just a Hollywood set. But it was written in the particular article I read that "The shag carpets and orange countertops are long gone," but the house used for the show still stands somewhere in California.

I have to admit that Alice was always my favorite character on the show. But the series revolved around The Brady kids who were always learning lessons. As we watched their show, and continued to watch their show we learned along with them. Some of the popular lessons from the Brady's that seem to have stuck in the minds of people everywhere, are these: Just be yourself, never get a big head, watch out for bad role models, and singing fixes everything.

Those are important lessons for sure. When I think about Jan and how she so often felt like she never measured up to her older sister, I imagine many people can identify with her feelings of inferiority.

All through scripture we see God raising people who feel like they are less than they ought to be in order to be used by Him. Yet, God sees it differently. He often elevates those who seem unlikely and uses them for great things.

When Samuel was searching for the King of God's choosing for the ancient Jews, the Lord said to Samuel, "*For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.*" 1 Sam 16:7

Now there's a lesson with immeasurable value! A lesson that far exceeds even the great ones learned from the Brady family. People look at what we see with our eyes, but God looks at the heart.

Let us keep our hearts beating with His purposes, always. And by His grace may we learn to see things and people (even ourselves) the way He sees.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lee".



Lauren Leach	September 3
Ray Leach	September 4
Leah Graves	September 4
Emily Harris	September 7
John Smith	September 7
Kaitlin McKibben	September 7
John Charbeneau	September 7
Judy Swann	September 8
P.J. Sabo	September 11
Brian Argenbright	September 12
Pat Hunter	September 15
Glady Reid	September 15
Lee Thomas	September 17
Candi Smith	September 17
Aesa Wronko	September 19
Teresa Whitesell	September 22
Buck Robinson	September 27
Sonny Masincup	September 29
Joel Balsley	September 29
Ella Reid	September 30
Eddie Landes	September 30



Thanks to our greeters for August: Scott McMurrain, Tyler and Sid, Nancy Whitesell, Karen Stevens and Ashlynn and Jane and Buck Robinson.



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

Karen Stevens
Teresa Whitesell
Julie Reid
Caleb Campbell
Christel Nicklas



Heather and Michael Massey	September 1
Becky and Bob Roger	September 9
Tammy and Rick McKibben	September 12
Janna and Gary Milstead	September 27

MISSIONS

For **SACRA** during the month of September we will be collecting much needed baby products such as diapers, wipes and non-perishable baby foods. Please leave your donations in the social hall for delivery at the end of the month.



Bonnie and Johnny Guy

7385 Edmond Road
Hale, Michigan 48739



Teresa Whitesell is asking members to bring photos of their grandparents for the children's message on September 11, 2016 to display in honor of Grandparent's Day. Photos may be given to Teresa in advance.

Session News

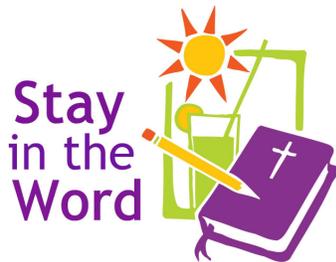
The next Session meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 18, 2016 at 12 Noon.



Circles will not meet until the joint meeting of the Women in September which will be held Sunday, September 11, 2016 beginning with a snack supper at 5:30 p.m. in the social hall. Please see Karen Stevens or Stephanie Stevens if you have questions.



Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 11, 2016. Sunday School officers and teachers will be installed and students will be promoted. This will be followed by a covered-dish picnic at 11:00 a.m. Meat and drink will be furnished. Go to your class before the picnic for count. Dress casual.



A Bible Study will begin on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. and will be held each Tuesday except for the second Tuesday of the month.



(All classes begin at 3:00 p.m.)

2016

September 11	Session 4	O.T. 2
September 25	Session 5	N. T. 1
October 16	Session 6	N. T. 2
October 23	Session 7	Doctrine 1
November 6	Session 8	Doctrine 2
November 13	Session 9	Who Am I?
December 11	Session 10	Death and Resurrection

2017

January 8	Session 11	Faith Statements
February 19	Session 12	Baptism and Communion
March	(Mission Work)	
April 16 (Easter)	Confirmands become Church members	
April 30	Confirmation Class leads Sunday worship	

On a Sunday in October we will hopefully go zip lining and hiking
-To be announced.



We celebrated the baptism of Hudson Reid Harvill on Sunday, August 7, 2016. Hudson is the son of Gwynn and Sid Harvill, the grandson of Karmen and Chip Harvill and Joanne and John Allison, the great-grandson of Brenda and Harold Reid, Becky and Bob Harvill and Judy and John Allison.



The 50th Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 31, 2016-October 1, 2016 at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds in Harrisonburg. These proceeds go to natural disaster and relief efforts, community development, and peace building around the world.

There will be special events, activities and auction items commemorating the 50th anniversary. There will be plenty of food and homemade items, music and activities for the whole family.

LABOR Day

The Bible affirms the importance of work. Adam was put in the garden “to till and keep it.” In the fourth commandment we are told to “Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.” Then we read: “Six days you shall labor and do all your work” (Exodus 20:8-9NRSV). Work is important for us. It allows us to use our talent, our minds and our strength to create and bring forth the “fruits” of our labor. Work satisfies an inner need to make a positive contribution to the world. Work helps to bring satisfaction and fulfillment to us as we use our lives for good and uplifting purposes. It is a way of exercising good stewardship of the personal gifts God has given to us: our brain power, our physical strength, our special talents.

Since we have the privilege of being “workers together with God” it seems fitting that we set aside one day a year to think about the goodness and dignity of work. Therefore, let us joyfully celebrate Labor Day.