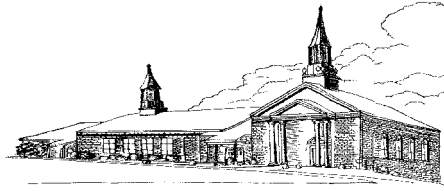


The Olivet Observer



"The little church with a big heart"

Olivet Presbyterian Church
1019 Richmond Avenue, Staunton, VA 24401
The Rev. Lee Thomas, Pastor

The 78th Letter of Lee to the Olivet Church:

In the news last week there were, as usual, some really tough things to hear and read about. Our hearts were broken to hear of another tragic event taking place on a university campus. In addition to that, sadly, three high school students were arrested in another part of the country for plotting to build bombs. The political unrest and turmoil seems to be spinning out of control in Venezuela, and a cyclone hit India. Those were just a few of the headlines in recent days.

But there were some good things to read about too. One being that a soldier survived what easily could have been a fatal fall when he stepped over a guard rail trying to get a close look inside Hawaii's Kilauea volcano. It's reported he tumbled some 60-70 feet when the ground beneath his feet started to crumble. Thankfully, someone was there to call rescue workers who propelled down into the volcano to bring the man to safety. At first he was in critical condition, but is now stable. And then there was the story of a restaurant owner in Illinois who heard that a young man undergoing chemotherapy just happened to love the soup his café serves. The owner of JC's café in Cary, Illinois noticed a woman regularly visiting his establishment and ordering the fresh, healthy soup he specializes in making. When he was told she was buying the soup for her son who is battling a difficult disease, he got her address and started delivering the soup for free. When the restaurant owner met the young patient, he told him he'd make sure he had a steady supply of good soup to eat, and told the young man to save his money for the stem cell treatment procedure he will need to have in the near future. When asked what motivated him to do this nice thing, the owner of the cafe simply stated, "It's the right thing to do for another human being."

It was refreshing to read some good news in the midst of all the tragedies we've heard about. In a world where so many people face so many tough things a little kindness certainly goes a long way. So many people in this great church are so good at spreading kindness. Kindness is listed as one of the fruits of The Spirit in Galatians 5, and I'm so glad this church does so well at practicing that one. Always remember if you're going through a tough time personally, or are just feeling down or empty, there's a place you can come at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings to find kindness and love. It's here at Olivet!

Grace and Peace,



Kim Weller	May 2
Gary Monroe	May 2
Joe Nicklas	May 7
Caroline Reid	May 8
Joe Hemp	May 10
D. Reid	May 12
Karlie Stewart	May 12
Vickey Wood	May 13
Jane Robinson	May 14
Katie Lawhorn	May 16
Alex Weller	May 18
Austin Ware	May 18
David MacMillan	May 25
Patrick Weller	May 27
Janna Milstead	May 31



Lynne and Butch Smiley	May 2
Mandie and Matt Crosby	May 16
Stephanie and Chris Armstrong	May 19
Kim and Scott Weller	May 20
Jennifer and Trey Lawhorn	May 21
Summer and Nathan Sheets	May 21
Faye and Joe Hemp	May 22
Carolyn and Ronnie Via	May 23
Candi and John Smith	May 25
Jody and Steve Elmore	May 29
Beth and Keary Bonner	May 30

Children's Message



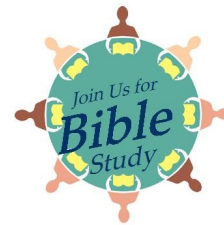
Thanks to our volunteers for giving the Children's Messages in April:

Susan Argenbright
Melanie Argenbright
Laura Argenbright
Punkie Wood



Thanks to our greeters for April:

Mary Helen and Jeremy Thorne
Caroline and Thomas
Sandra and Bill Sibert
Linda and Phil Phillips
Mary and Gail Tacy



Everyone is invited to attend the Bible study on Genesis on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. They will go through May 14, 2019 and then resume again after Labor Day.



Church Parking
Lot to be Paved

Weather permitting, Moffett Paving will begin paving our church parking lot on Monday, May 20, 2019. We will not be able to hold church services at Olivet on Sunday, May 26, 2019. The Session is looking into options.



Circle 3, Pat Hunter, Chairman, will meet at the church on Monday, May 13, 2019 at 12 Noon.

Circle 4, Mary Helen Thorne and Kim Weller, Chair, will meet with Mary Helen on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Circle 6, Esther Ann Walton, Chairman, will meet at the church at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 2019.



For SACRA for the month of May they are in need of paper products such as toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates, napkins, tissues, etc. Please leave donations in the social hall by the last Sunday of the month. They will be delivered the following Monday or Tuesday. SACRA is most grateful for your continued support.



Session News

The Session met on Sunday, April 28, 2019, at 12:00 Noon.

Various committee reports were given including Maintenance who reported the old screen and pole had been removed from the picnic area by David Wise at no charge.

New playground equipment has been installed at the picnic area.

They will be paving our parking lot beginning on May 20, 2019. D. Reid will speak to the congregation on Sunday, May 5, 2019, to inform them of the upcoming work and will be receiving any donations from the congregation to help offset the cost of the paving.

Witness Committee reported the death of Nancy Humphreys Downey on April 20, 2019. John Reid Weller has moved his membership to Fellowship Community Church in Salem, VA.

A representative from Shenandoah Presbytery Corp. was present to give an update on our account and explain our investments.

The downstairs furnace on the west side of the church needs to be replaced. This will probably be done in June or July at a cost of \$3,200.00

A donation of \$2,500.00 will be given to the Baja Mission that will take place in July.

Alexis and Langdon Reid are Elders assigned to open and close the church in May.

Financial Report

2019	Jan.	Feb.	March				YTD
Income	23729.13	10188.22	13956.76				47874.11
Expenses	18358.11	12006.24	11803.03				42167.38
Net	5371.02	-1818.02	2153.73				5706.73



Congratulations to Jean Ann and Charles Clemmer on the birth of a grandson, Douglas Charles Clemmer on April 18, 2019. Douglas is the son of Ann Merrin and Everette Clemmer and brother to Tris Kate and Eva.



IN MEMORIAM
Nancy Humphreys Downey
3/3/1930—4/20/2019



The birth of Mother's Day:

Anna M. Jarvis (1864-1948) loved her mother dearly. It was Miss Jarvis who first suggested a national day to honor all mothers. At a memorial service for her mother on May 10, 1908, Anna gave a carnation, her mother's favorite flower, to each person in attendance. Within a few years, the idea to honor mothers gained popularity, and Mother's Day was soon observed annually in many large cities of the United States.

On May 9, 1914, by an act of congress, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day. He established the day as a time for "public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country." By then, it had become customary to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living. The custom continues to this day.



During World War II, the Allies carried out amphibious assault landings on June 6, 1944. In the ensuing battle, thousands of young men and women lost their lives. Not far from the landing site, there is now a very large well-groomed cemetery with a beautiful chapel at one end. In the chapel one finds an altar of black and gold Pyrenees marble engraved with the inscription: I Give Unto Them Eternal Life And They Shall Never Perish. In graves in front of the chapel, lie the bodies of 9,387 service men and women. Each headstone identifies the person buried there, with the exception of 307 whose bodies were unidentified. Nearby there is a stone tablet telling of 1,557 men and women who died in battle but whose bodies were never found.

Walking through the cemetery is a heart-rending experience. Tears come easily. Here are generals buried beside privates, blacks beside whites, Jews beside Christians, Americans from 49 states plus the District of Columbia and Guam. Each paid the ultimate sacrifice. All died for freedom. All dies on our behalf.

As we prepare for Memorial Day, we might well ask ourselves: "Am I worth their sacrifice? Am I grateful to them? What might I be willing to give to bring peace and freedom to the world?"