



# *The Olivet Observer*

**Olivet Presbyterian Church  
1019 Richmond Avenue  
Staunton, VA 24401**

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## **The 127<sup>th</sup> Letter of Lee to the Olivet Church:**

A song I learned in church camp many years ago begins with the chorus, “There’s a fire on the mountain tonight.” I’m not referring to the song made famous by The Marshall Tucker Band with the same title. The song I’m remembering was probably written for youth groups in church camp and asks a question about the state of your soul. “There’s a fire on the mountain tonight, no place to run no place to hide, tell me would it be alright if you were to die tonight? There’s a fire on the mountain tonight.” Thankfully, we haven’t seen any fire on the mountains around us lately, but we sure have seen plenty of smoke surrounding us. Predictions are that the haze will be visiting us at different times throughout the summer. It’s somewhat surprising that smoke which originated with wildfires in Canada is strong enough to come south and linger a while with us who seem so far away in Virginia and even places further south. It’s also eye and ear opening to hear scientific reports of how dust from the Sahara Desert in Africa has been blowing across the ocean and landing in Texas.

These occurrences in nature reaffirm to me that this whole world is held in the hand of our God who made it. To us the world is vast and full of mysteries. To God, it is small enough to be forever under His control. This world is big, yet it is also small. Psalm 104:32 declares “He looks at the earth, and it trembles; He touches the mountains, and they smoke.” While the smoke itself is not desirable, it can serve to remind us of the power, majesty and presence of the Holy God of creation.

May the peace of knowing that this world is, indeed, in His hands and assurance of His presence with us fill your hearts this month and always.

Grace and Peace,