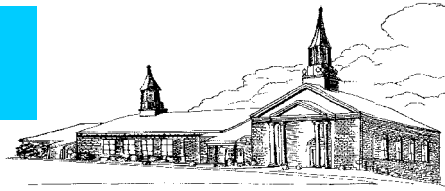


The Olivet Observer



"The little church with a big heart"

Olivet Presbyterian Church
1019 Richmond Avenue
Staunton, VA 24401

The 129th Letter of Lee to the Olivet Church:

These opportunities to share with you all through the church newsletter sure do seem to roll around quickly. It often seems like just when we're getting going good in one month, we turn around, and it's time to start a new one. As I've shared with you before, when it's time to share some words for another newsletter in a new month, I don't always know ahead exactly what I'll be saying. There are always so many things going on in the world, and there is certainly no shortage of news on which to comment. Yet because of who you are, when my mind fears it might draw a blank, you make it easy to find the words.

Sometimes a short walk down the hall will offer an inspiration for a message. For example, last week I was walking down the quiet and dark Sunday School hallway. There was no one else in the building. If you've ever had the experience of being in a church building through the week, you know that it's quite different than when there are lots of other folks around like on Sundays. As I passed all the doors, and turned the corner, I looked into the old downstairs nursery and was struck by the tables so full of boxes of diapers. I thought about how much those diapers mean to families who receive them. I realized that's only one way you all carry on faithfully the work of the gospel. I also thought about some of the words shared by one of the greatest preachers of all times. He once wrote, *"I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God that was given to you by Jesus Christ that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (1 Corinthians 1:4-8)

When I think of the many ways that this congregation reaches out to the world around us, the praises of God that Paul offered up for the good things the believers were doing resonate in my heart a little more closely.

It brings great blessings to see the body of Christ at work. As we enter into this fall, God bless you all as we work together to show and share with the world that Jesus Christ is in our hearts.

Grace and Peace,