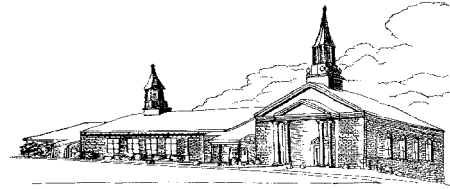


The Olivet Observer



"The little church with a big heart"

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



The 141st Letter of Lee to the Olivet Church

At our home this year we have two hummingbird feeders that we try to keep filled with homemade nectar for our warm weather outdoor visitors. One is on the front porch and the other on the back porch. We didn't see many hummingbirds this year until July, but ever since then up until now both feeders are very busy. They are entertaining little critters. Sometimes they will spar with one another and other times it looks as if they are dancing together. Last week I was sitting at our table on the back deck that is covered by an umbrella. One flew up under the edge of the umbrella flapping her wings as she stayed in place for just a few seconds. She was looking at me as she chirped. It was as if she was saying, "Excuse me, the feeder is empty." She flew away for a few minutes. I checked the feeder and it was empty. So I filled it up and within minutes "the hummers" as we call them at our house were swarming around the feeder again.

One late afternoon recently, I was inside the house while Amy was out on the back porch. She took a picture of a praying mantis that had fixed itself to the bottom of the feeder. She sent it to our family chat because it looked really cool. People have remarked and commented on what a beautiful species the praying mantis is, and I suppose it is beautiful in a way. What she didn't realize in that moment was that the praying mantis could very well be referred to as the preying mantis. Many people might not realize that the praying mantis will trap and feed on hummingbirds. So I went outside and knocked away the hungry mantis, wishing it well on a new adventure.

There are indeed so many things in the world that are captivating and enticing in appearance, but the intent they have, or the intent behind them is not good. The words of Proverbs 31 verse 30 come to mind, "Beauty is vain and charm is deceitful." Words all of us would do well to keep in mind.

It certainly seems with all that we have at our disposal these days in regard to technology and new developments that do make life easier in some ways, there is often a risk that comes with those things. As Christians we must always be aware of the old saying, "all that glitters is not gold." Our Lord warned his early disciples and the words are for us also that we should be as "wise as serpents but as gentle as doves" -Matthew 10:16

The later part of this new month will lead us into a new season. As we begin a new season let us go forth in faith looking forward to good things, but ever and always aware that there are bad things in the world around us. May we keep our eyes and hearts upon our Lord and His Word as He moves us forward in life.

Have a great month!

Grace and Peace