



THE OLIVET BRANCH

Olivet Presbyterian Church

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*"Called together by the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus
and express God's love to all."*

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FROM THE PASTOR

When I was a child, the local Winn Dixie grocery store gave out Green Stamps in proportion to the size of your grocery purchase. And the store distributed little books that you would put the stamps in, and a catalog of items that you could redeem your filled books of stamps for. I remember studying that catalog and circling those sports items I really wanted and working to fill up the necessary number of stamp books.

It is tempting to go through life filling the pages of our stamp books with ones, fives, and tens proportionate to the good things we do. But how many books are needed in exchange for salvation? And isn't it a bit selfish and unloving to be doing our little one, five, and ten stamp actions for others and God when our ultimate aim is our salvation?

But to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ is to believe that our God came among us in love; and for us and our salvation suffered and died. We no longer do for God and others in order to meet our needs or gain some benefit by filling up our stamp books. We begin to live for God and others simply because we have been drawn into the dance of love at the heart of the universe where the Father, Son and Holy Spirit give themselves to one another in love.

I suppose they still have big circle dances on Thursday nights at Montreat, a Presbyterian conference center. And there are probably still teens like me, standing against the walls while everyone in the dance is moving joyfully, whooping and hollering. And then someone spins by, and swoops their arm in yours, and swings you into the swirling movement of humanity. And that is what God has done for us in coming among us in love in Jesus Christ.

"Salvation is all about grace," Reformation era theologian and church leader John Calvin writes. It is God's doing, God's work, the result of God's unmerited favor, arising out of God's steadfast love for God's children. Of course you can't be drawn into the heart of love at the center of the universe without being changed. "Ethics," John Calvin continues, "is all about gratitude." To believe on the Lord Jesus Christ necessarily involves a life-directing, life-transforming gratitude. Worship of God, service of God, loving of neighbors, sharing of our resources, transformation of our character are not necessary for salvation. But they are the fruits of salvation. They are the expressions of gratitude of those who discover they have been saved, redeemed at great cost by God in Jesus Christ.

In his book, "Wishful Thinking," Frederick Buechner writes, "A crucial eccentricity of the Christian faith is the assertion that people are 'saved by grace.' There's nothing you have to do. There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you'll reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift too."

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PRESCHOOL NEWS

To better meet the childcare needs of families in our church and surrounding community, the Olivet Preschool is expanding! Please contact Betsy Dishman at the church office: 295.1367 or email: betsy@olivetpresbyterian.org. For more details, please visit www.olivetpreschool.org.

VBS REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Join us this summer for Vacation Bible School, June 20-24 from 9:00am-12:00pm, for **Cave Quest: Following Jesus, the Light of the World!** by Group Publishing. Children will be spelunking from Sing and Play Rock, to Deep Bible Quests, to Spelunker Sports and Games, to Cavern Cafe, to Imagination Station with Meaningful Missions! All children 3 years old - 5th grade are welcome! Please turn in registration forms by Sunday, June 5.

VBS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Our VBS leadership is growing! Rotation leaders are in place, and we are ready to invite Crew Leaders to serve. Crew Leaders are adults or senior high youth who can attend VBS June 20-24 from 8:45am-12:15pm. Mid-high youth can also serve as Assistant Crew Leaders. Each Crew Leader is assigned 5-6 children. Crew Leaders shepherd the children from station to station and remain present with them to assist the rotation leader.

SUMMER SUNDAYS WITH KOW

On Sunday, June 5, we will begin the summer schedule offering two worship services at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall and 11:00am in the Sanctuary. In lieu of Sunday School, children and youth are encouraged to attend worship with their families. Children, Pre-K through 5th grade, may go out with adult leaders and youth helpers before the sermon for *Kids Own Worship* (KOW). Summer is the perfect time to introduce your child to worship, prayer, confession, assurance of pardon, and hymns of the faith. Nursery will be available during both services. There will be a time for fellowship between the worship services.

DATES FOR FAMILIES

May 29 - Sunday School Classes conclude
May 31-June 3 - Preschool Camp at Olivet
June 5 - Summer Worship with KOW begins
June 20-24 - Vacation Bible School (9:00-12:00)
June 26 - VBS Singers share in 11:00 worship

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Children's Sunday School classes conclude for the summer on Sunday, May 29. Thank you to our teachers, Linda Reaser, Linda Edenfield, Gavin and Alison MacCleery, and Ann Bush and assistants for another wonderful year of Christian nurture! Classes will resume next fall on Rally Day, September 11.

♪♪ MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES ♪♪

THANK YOU, WORSHIP LEADERS!

A special dinner will be held on Wednesday, June 15, at 6:00pm to thank our many leaders who volunteer regularly to enhance our worship.

I WANNA BE IN THE BAND!

A Vacation Bible School Band is forming to accompany the opening and closing VBS sessions each day with rocking music! Singers, drums, guitars, piano will make up the core group and strings, brass and winds are welcome, too. Rehearsals begin this month.

DR. TONY CAMPOLO TO SPEAK AT: Massanetta Springs

Bible and Church Music Conference

This year's theme is "Celebrate! We are the Church!!" Come and stay for the week (July 24-29) to attend the Bible Conference or Church Music Conference. It's great for folks who enjoy choir singing; perfect for families with children and youth who enjoy camp activities! Come for an evening of worship any night at 7:00pm in Hudson Auditorium. The guest preacher for Sunday night is Dr. Tony Campolo. For more information, please visit the website under "programs" at www.massanettasprings.org.



From the Youth Director

YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIP



On Sunday, June 26th, a group of youth and adults from Olivet will travel to Belize for a week of service with PathLight International. The group will be working to help fulfill Pathlight's mission of: "inspiring hope by partnering with schools, churches, and residents of under-resourced

and overlooked communities so that young people become steadfast followers of Christ, receive a quality education, and pursue pathways that lead to a meaningful vocation." The group will once again be serving in the village of Armenia, where the team served two years ago. Many of Olivet's team members are returning for their second trip to Belize, and are excited to renew relationships that were built two years ago. The group will be participating in repair projects within the schools, and also helping to lead a Reading Camp, aimed at helping the children with their English language learning, which is a requirement in the local school system.

Please keep the entire team in your prayers for safe travel, fruitful ministry, and a blessed experience.

OLIVET PIE AUCTION



Every year, families of youth attending the mission trip bake homemade pies to sell during Olivet Day. This annual tradition helps raise funds for the Youth

Mission Fund that helps with group costs for the mission trip. This year the youth made close to \$3,000 selling homemade pies, a Pie Auction record! A special thank you to all the families who made pies, and to all those who made the auction successful by bidding on the pies! Also, a special thanks to Mac McRaven for serving once again as the pie auctioneer.

ANNIE LORENZONI AND EMILY RAYLE TO SERVE AS SUMMER INTERNS



We are blessed to have both Annie Lorenzoni and Emily Rayle serving as Summer Interns for Youth and Children's Ministry. Annie and Emily both finished their first years of college, Annie at JMU and Emily at VCU. Emily and Annie will work in youth and children's ministries in a variety of ways, helping with Vacation Bible School, Kids' Own Worship, helping lead the Belize Mission Trip, and a variety of other activities.

Please welcome Annie and Emily as they join the Olivet staff for the summer.

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

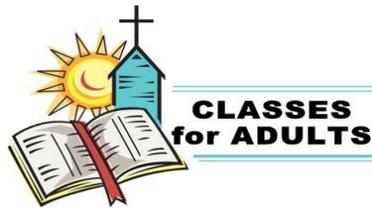


Olivet would like to express **CONGRATULATIONS** to our 2016 high school graduates.

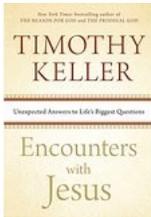
We have graduates from Albemarle, Charlottesville, Covenant, Miller, Monticello, St. Andrew's, St. Anne's, and Western Albemarle High Schools.

The following are graduates we have heard from, along with their plans for further education:

Benjamin Baker	Vanderbilt University
Darius Bowles	Southern Virginia University
Olivia Callahan	VCU
William Dagli	Elon University
Carrie Edenfield	VCU
Lydia Eisenberg	Univ. of Mary Washington
Mark Ferguson	UVA
Grace Gilbert	College of William and Mary
David Hatter	UVA
Daniell de Jong	Christopher Newport Univ.
Ny-Jhee Jones	George Mason University
Lauren Kearns	Univ. of British Columbia
Alexandra King	Vanderbilt University
Ruffin King	Elon University
Brian Purdy	Bridgewater College
Caroline Riordan	Virginia Tech
Molly Servine	Clemson University
Ashley Taylor	College of William and Mary



WEEKLY BOOK GROUP



The Friday book group is beginning to discuss a new book in June, so it is an excellent time for newcomers to join the group which meets each Friday morning at 9:00am. The new book is "Encounters with Jesus", in which renowned pastor and New York Times bestselling author Tim Keller shows how people were changed when they met Jesus personally—and how we can be changed today through our own encounter with him.

What is my purpose in life? What is a good life? Why is there so much wrong with our world? What can I do to help make it right? These are some of the big questions that everyone must answer. And any lasting change in our lives will start with a change to one or more of our answers to these questions.

Jesus changed the life of every person he met in the Gospels, through experiences and words that led them to unexpected and transforming answers to their big questions. These conversations can still address our questions and doubts today.

JOINING THE CHURCH



Formalizing and making public our faith commitment through uniting with a church is a significant and meaningful step in our journey of faith with God and discipleship in the way of Jesus. The next meeting of the Olivet Session to receive new members is scheduled for June 26th at 7:00pm. An orientation session led by Pastor Albert that reviews the basics of our faith, Christian life, and church will be held on Saturday, June 25th, from 9:00am to 12:00 noon. If you would like to take this step of joining Olivet, speak with Albert at the church office, 295.1367.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Olivet Session met Tuesday, May 17th, for its monthly stated meeting, beginning the meeting with the sharing of a meal, joys and concerns, opening devotion, and prayer.

During the Clerk's report, Session elected Gary Hatter as commissioner to June's meeting of Presbytery of the James, called a meeting of Session for May 22nd to receive four High School Seniors into membership, approved April minutes, and entered into May's minutes the action of a quorum of elders meeting on Sunday, April 24th, to receive the following youth into membership upon confirmation of their faith in worship on May 1st : Lucy Abell, Caroline Allison, Alexandra Dagli, Kate de Jong, Cheney Knight, Meredith Martin, and Carter Spilman.

Session received, discussed and accepted committee minutes and financial reports, endorsing the ministries they reflected and approved the following recommendation:

That the Administrative Assistant position be divided into two half-time positions, one focused on church communications and the other on administrative duties.

During Old Business, Session learned that David Hatter had completed his Eagle Scout Project of creating an outdoor worship area on the wooded knoll above the west parking lot. Session learned that a long range planning task force had met with Pastor Albert to begin work of synthesizing and summarizing work begun at Session's April planning retreat.

During New Business, Session heard a report from Amy Efland, Chair of our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, learning that the committee had completed its work and was ready to make a recommendation of a candidate that the congregation would be delighted with, following approval by Presbytery of the James' Committee on Ministry on Thursday, June 9th. Session called a meeting of the congregation for Sunday, June 19th, at 10:15am to hear and vote on the recommendation of the APNC.

Session also approved designating money donated by a member's mother's trust fund to the purchase of new office computers.

The meeting was closed with a round of prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Session has called a meeting of the congregation for the purpose of voting on a recommendation from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, and electing congregational members to the Church Officer Nominating Committee.

At the meeting, three members of the congregation need to be elected to the Nominating Committee. The Committee will bring nominations forward for the offices of Deacon and Elder to be elected by the congregation in late August.

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee reported to Session last month that they were ready to present a candidate to the congregation, contingent upon endorsement by Presbytery's Committee on Ministry on June 9th. Olivet's APNC will send a letter to the congregation with information on their pastor nominee that they believe the congregation will be pleased with, and the process they have gone through this year to select this person.

NEW OLIVET OFFICE STAFF



As it turns out, it will take two people to replace Deanna Hammond who, following her serious accident in February, is retiring from 16 years of service as Olivet's secretary and then Administrative Assistant.

Session approved dividing the church Administrative Assistant position into two half-time positions, one focused on communications and the other on administration.

In late May, Tracey Daniels began working as our new Director of Communications. A native of Waynesboro, Tracey lives in Charlottesville with her husband, Tim Schoch. She has worked in non-profit communications for more than 10 years, including five years at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in McLean, Virginia. Outside of her communications work, she enjoys nature, the arts, and contributing to her family antique business. Tracey is a graduate of Mary Washington. She will be in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Please help us welcome Tracey as she gets settled into this community and ministry.

MEN'S BREAKFAST



The monthly Men's Breakfast gathering will be held for the last gathering before a summer break on June 3rd at 7:00am. The group meets in the upstairs Youth Room.

All men in the Olivet congregation are invited to this shared breakfast, prayer time, and short devotional and discussion.

WOMEN'S SUMMER GATHERING

All women of the congregation are invited to a summer celebration gathering at 12 noon on June 3 at Timberwood Grill in Forest Lakes.

WEEKLY PRESENTATIONS

During our community gathering time from 10-11am each Sunday, we will include a special presentation on an Olivet mission, a member's ministry, or an area of discipleship. These weekly presentations will begin at 10:15 following a time for fellowship and refreshments. They will conclude around 10:45 to allow those arriving for the 11:00 service to share a time of fellowship and refreshments. The presentations during June are as follows:

June 5th --- Our Christian Education Ministry and Recognition of our Sunday School Teachers

June 12th --- Lily Baker, who will be in town for her sister's wedding, will speak about the ministry of the International Justice Mission and her involvement with it in the Philippines.

June 19th--- Albert Connette will share pictures and talk about his time in Scotland, particularly his stay with the religious community on the island of Iona.

June 26th --- Jim Avery, CEO of Hospice of the Piedmont, will speak about the Biblical roots of hospice care.

THE CHRISTIAN ROOTS OF HOSPICE



On Sunday, June 26th, at our 10:00am Summer Gathering Hour, Dr. James Avery, CEO of the Hospice of the Piedmont, will speak about the Christian roots of the Hospice movement. He will

dispel misunderstandings about the work of Hospice and inform us of the many services it provides, both to the dying and to their loved ones. Hospice is rooted in the Christian faith and it serves people of all faiths and backgrounds.

Dr. Avery is a board certified physician who practiced for 14 years until deciding to dedicate his life to Hospice and Palliative Care. Before joining Hospice of the Piedmont in 2012, he was Senior VP and Chief Medical Officer of a nationwide senior care company. Prior to that, he was the Senior Medical Director for the largest hospice organization in New York City.

Dr. Avery is a highly respected leader in his field and has received many awards for providing quality care, particularly to patients and their families at the end of life. He was named "One of the 50 Most Powerful Physician Executives" by Modern Physician magazine and "One of the 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare" by Modern HealthCare magazine. Most importantly, Dr. Avery is a wonderful Christian man.

The Congregational Care Committee is sponsoring this event. If you have any questions or comments, please contact John Effland or Dale Dealtrey. Also, please feel free to bring any friends or guests who might benefit from learning about Hospice.

NEW COFFEE FELLOWSHIP TIME



Each Sunday during the summer, we will hold our Fellowship Time at 10:00am, between the two services. Join your church family to get to know someone new, or strengthen old friendships.

As always, we need refreshment providers for this ministry. You only have to provide three plates of nut-free snacks, and bring them to the Kitchen by 9:30am. Members of the Fellowship Committee serve as hosts for the Fellowship Time. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the wall in the Fellowship Hall by the window into the kitchen.



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beginning Sunday, June 5th, and continuing through Labor Day Weekend, Sunday, September 4th, we will hold two worship services on Sunday mornings: a more contemporary service at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall, and a more traditional service at 11:00am in the Sanctuary. Families are encouraged to worship together for the opening of our worship before children up through 5th grade are dismissed to participate in a children's worship and worship skills time.

WORSHIP IN JUNE

SCRIPTURE AND SERMON TITLES

- 5th 3rd Sunday after Pentecost; Sacrament of Holy Communion at all services
 Summer Worship begins
 10:00am - Sunday School Teacher Recognition
 Scripture: 1 Kings 17:8-16; Gal. 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17
 Sermon: "From Death to Life"
- 12th 4th Sunday after Pentecost
 10:00am – Lily Baker presentation on IJM work in Philippines
 Scripture: 1 Kings 21:1-10, 15-21a; Gal. 2:15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3
 Sermon: "Don't Nullify the Grace of God"
- 19th 5th Sunday after Pentecost; Father's Day Commissioning of Belize group at 9:00am and 11:00am
 10:00am – Albert Connette – Scotland Presentation
 Scripture: 1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7) 8-15a; Gal. 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39
 Sermon: "An Antidote to Despair"
- 26th 6th Sunday after Pentecost
 10:00am - Jim Avery, Hospice Presentation
 Scripture: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Gal. 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62
 Sermon: "Freed to Be a Servant"

8:30AM WORSHIP MODIFICATIONS

In early May, a gathering of early service worship leaders and attendees was held to discuss ways to enhance the flow and transitions of the 8:30am service and a few ideas Albert brought back from his time worshipping with the Iona community in Scotland. Following sharing and discussion, the group agreed to implement several minor changes including incorporation of a song into the offering dedication time, receiving the offering later in the service, including a healing liturgy, and incorporating more variation in the prayers of petition and intercession. These changes will be introduced as we begin our summer worship schedule on the first Sunday of June.

WORSHIP LEADERS' APPRECIATION DINNER AND TRAINING

Members of the choir, music team, ushers, flower arrangers, musicians, banner makers, liturgists, communion servers, and offering counters are all invited to a dinner in their honor on Wednesday, June 15th. This annual dinner, sponsored by the Worship Committee, is an opportunity to recognize and thank the many volunteers who make our worship of God on Sunday mornings possible and glorifying of God. The dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:00pm. A brief program will follow the dinner, then, training sessions will be held for ushers and liturgists.

GREETING CARDS

You will find Father's Day and Graduation cards in the baskets outside the office and in the Fellowship Hall for \$2.00 per card. The proceeds of every card purchased support the training of church leaders in Olivet's partner Synod in Ethiopia.

DEACONS ON-CALL IN JUNE

Sherry Purdy and Marv Reese will be on-call for the month of June to respond to needs, as they arise.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE MAY DIAPER DRIVE

The Mission Committee extends a big thank you to the Olivet community for supporting the May Diaper Drive. Your donations enable Diaper Ministry volunteers to deliver diapers to local families struggling to make ends meet. Although the drive has ended, the Diaper Ministry accepts donations year-round. Donations may be placed in the crib in the Fellowship Hall. The Diaper Ministry also welcomes new volunteers. For more information, or to get involved, please contact Christine Martin at cparkermartin@gmail.com.



VOLUNTEER WORKDAY

Olivet is working with other Charlottesville area Presbyterian churches on our 20th sponsored house with Habitat for Humanity collectively providing over \$40,000 in support, and up to 15 volunteers for a workday every 2nd Saturday. The next "Presbyterian" workday is scheduled for June 11th. Habitat crew leaders give direction and support so volunteers of any skill level and experience are welcome. Contact Tom Thompson, tom@cville.net, if you would like to volunteer for the June workday.

RECYCLE METAL FOR LOVE INC



The Olivet Mission Committee has set up a collection box in the church Kitchen, where you can leave recyclable metals for Bill Roberts to carry over the mountain each Sunday to support the ministry of Love INC, of Augusta County. For more information about the ministry of Love INC, talk to Bill.

TIME AND TALENT STEWARDSHIP

One of the joys of the life of faith and discipleship is sharing in the ministry of the church, and finding our small contributions being drawn into something bigger, more lasting, and more impactful than we could do on our own. A greater blessing still is discovering that through sharing our talents and time in ministry through the church, we have drawn closer to fellow Christians, to Christ's eternal kingdom, and to God. Indeed, we find Jesus' words fulfilled: *our hearts have been drawn toward that in which we have invested our treasure.*

Each May, we are invited to reflect on how we will offer our time and talents as followers of Christ at Olivet. God has uniquely gifted each of us for particular forms of service, and we are encouraged to prayerfully consider our gifts and passions, and communicate through a *Time and Talent Commitment Form*, those new or on-going commitments of time and talent we feel called by God to make.

Time and Talent forms may be found in the hallway information racks. If you have not done so yet, prayerfully consider how God is calling you to use your gifts and time in ministry, and place your completed Time and Talent form in the offering plate on Sunday.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dear Olivet,
Thank you very much for your prayers and support for assisting me through the loss of my son. I appreciate it so much. It meant a lot to have your support. I am happy to have Olivet as my church. I love you all.

Peace,
Mensah Gagble and Faustina Kpodo

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To You Dear Young People,  
Thank you so much for my lovely Easter basket filled with goodies. They all taste good, too. It was very thoughtful of you.

Love,  
Ann Harris

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Dear Kids Connection,
What a yummy very unexpected surprise you gave me for Easter. I could not guess who you were, KC, until my daughter suggested I call the church, which I did

I thoroughly enjoyed every little treasure in the basket.

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness.
God Bless each of you.

With love,
Sandy Russell

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Dear Friends,  
Thank you so much for your generous contribution! Your financial support helps to sustain our home-delivered meals program and ensures that we can continue to provide meals to all our neighbors who need them, regardless of their ability to pay. We are so grateful to you for choosing to make a difference in the lives of our fellow residents of Charlottesville and Albemarle County.

Warm regards,  
Leigh R. Trippe, Executive Director

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To My Dear Church Family,
And I do mean family. Who else but family would do all the things that you have done for me in the past month or so? On reflection, maybe not even family would do all that you have done. There is ramp building, door sill modifying for a wheel chair, mowing, vacuuming, cooking, visiting, holding hands and praying, writing notes and cards, all of these things and more are the things that kept me going. You are amazing! May God bless each of you. He is probably smiling and nodding and saying, "Well done."

Love and Blessings,
Lucille Brown