The 51st Letter of Lee to the Olivet Church:

I was recently given a copy of a great book, *A Man Called Peter*. I have another copy of it, but the one I was just given is from its first printing in 1951. The “new to me” copy of the first run of the book came from one of my mother-in-law’s best friends who died a couple of years ago. Alice knew that I have a lot of respect for the life and ministry of Dr. Peter Marshall, who died many years before I was even born. She loved the movie that was made about his life. I was honored that she wanted me to have her copy of the book.

In addition to telling the story of his life, this great publication contains some of his sermons and prayers. Dr. Marshall was the pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C. and also served as the chaplain of the US Senate until his death in 1949. He became well known for his beautiful prayers that often packed a powerful punch. I decided to share one of those prayers with you this month. Remember that this prayer was written and prayed in the 1940’s, so the language is a little different, but it is still a great and appropriate prayer for the times in which we live.

“Lord God of Heaven, who hath so lavishly blessed this land, make us Thy people, to be humble. Keep us ever aware that the good things we enjoy have come from Thee, that Thou didst lend them to us. Impress upon our smugness the knowledge that we are not owners—but stewards; remind us, lest we become filled with conceit, that one day a reckoning will be required of us. Sanctify our love of country, that our boasting may be turned into humility and our pride into a ministry to men everywhere. Help us to make this God’s own country by living like God’s own people. Amen.”

Grace and Peace,
Children's Message

Thanks for giving the Children’s Messages in January:
Wil Reid
Kodi and Rex Frye
Judy Hatcher
Alexis Reid

Eye Missions

Registration is open for the 2017 Baja Mission Trip which is scheduled for July 16-22, 2017. The first team meeting is set for Sunday, February 12, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at Olivet. Anyone interested in going is asked to contact Rhonda Richie at 540-290-3404 or Laura Floyd at 540-290-7309.

Thanks for giving the Children’s Messages in January:
Kodi and Rex Frye
Kim and Rick Smith

In February for SACRA we will be collecting laundry products such as soap powders and liquids, fabric softeners, etc. Please leave your donations in the social hall for delivery at the end of the month. Thank you for your continued support.

Thanks to our greeters for January:
Pat and David Balsley, Shirlene and John Charbeneau, Laura and Jerry Argenbright and Jean Ann and Charles Clemmer.
The next Session meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 12 Noon.

For the month of January our weekly attendance averaged 97 and our total contributions averaged $6,183.00. The Sunday School average attendance was 46 and contributions averaged $60.00.

Circle 3, Pat Hunter, Chairman, will meet at the church at 12 Noon on Monday, February 13, 2017.

Circle 4, Mary Helen Thorne, Chairman, will meet on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 with Kim Miller at 6:00 p.m.

Circle 6, Esther Ann Walton, Chairman, will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 with Janna Milstead.

A reminder for those who ordered Super Bowl Hoagies from Circle 4 they will be available for pick up on Sunday, February 5, 2017 at 12 Noon. Hoagies are $4.50 each and available in Italian or low-fat turkey.

There is a 2017 Flower Calendar on the bulletin board in the vestibule. Please sign if there is a specific Sunday you would like to put flowers in the sanctuary, and give Pat Balsley dedication information for the bulletin.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Bible Study held on Tuesday evenings (except for the second Tuesday of the month) at 7:00 p.m. The study is on the Parables and study guide books are available. Please see Lee Thomas if you would like to reserve a book.

The congregation is invited to attend the Adult Fellowship Sunday School class at 11:00 a.m. New lessons have begun on the New Testament with a 30 minute video led by Professor Bart D. Ehrman of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, This is followed by a 30 minute discussion session.
2017
February 19  Session 12—Baptism and Communion (Sunday School hour)
March        Mission Work
April 16 (Easter)  Confrirmands become Church members
April 30  Confirmation Class leads Sunday worship

God’s Conversation Hearts

Those familiar conversation hearts that show up every February can be more than just trite romantic or friendly sayings. Use them to remind you—or to teach a child—of the greatest love of all: God’s love for us, which empowers our love for others. For example:

TRUE LOVE: What love is truer than giving up one’s only Son so people might have everlasting life? (John 3:16).

MINE: Jesus knows us intimately, as a shepherd knows his sheep. No one can snatch us from him (John 10:27-29).

FOREVER: God loves us with an “everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3).

LOVE ME: The greatest commandment is to love God with our whole being (Luke 10:27).

TRUST ME: “Let not your hearts be troubled.” We can count on Jesus, now and for eternal life (John 14:1-3).

SWEET TALK: God’s words are sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:103).

BE GOOD: We show our love for Christ by keeping his commands (John 14:15).

CALL ME: God longs to be in fellowship with us. We can talk to him anytime in prayer (Jeremiah 33:3).

FRIENDS: The greatest love involves laying down your life for your friends (John 15:13)—precisely what Jesus did.

#1: “We love because God first loved us” (1 John 4:19).