



PRESBYTERIAN LINK
 Monthly Newsletter of the Altavista Presbyterian Church

Bible Focused Exposition. Christ Centered Fellowship. Traditionally Reformed.

HIGHLIGHTS

Altavista Presbyterian Church Session highlights

September 17, 2023 Meeting

Reviewed the August, 2023 Treasurer’s Report.

Approved minutes of the August 20, 2023 Stated Session meeting & the August 28, 2023 Called Session meeting as presented.

Conducted the annual review of the Rolls. Moved Karen Blaesing, Carolyn Lees, Erika Mabry, Barbara Podrebarac, Frank Podrebarac & Travis Taylor from the Active Roll to the Inactive Roll.

Elected Kevin deBernard as Commissioner & Stephanie Moehlenkamp as Alternate Commissioner to the November 16, 2023 Stated Presbytery meeting at First PC, Lynchburg, VA.

Elected Gary Andrews & Mark Younkin as Co-Treasurers & Kevin deBernard as Assistant Treasurer effective October 1, 2023 & to the end of the 2023-24 Church Year.

Joys & concerns of the congregation were identified. Moderator Ed prayed for those listed & to close the meeting.

	August-2023	YTD
Pledges	5,361	60,163
Non-Pledges	3,050	21,939
Plate Offering	97	688.90
Total Expenses	12,323.19	92,800.18

CELEBRATIONS

October	Birthdays	Anniversaries
1	Barbie Andrews Jenny Roark	
5	John Erb	
7	Ron Coleman	
10		CE & Jean Murphy
14	Jeannie Smith	
15	Carl Cuthbertson	
18		Harrison & Kris Bell
21	Dan Kauffman	Jimmy & Diann Martin
22	Ed Soto	
23		Davis & Diane Hewett
24	Linda Janiak	
26	Jimmy Martin	
30	Kris Bell	
31	Patty Eller	

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD COLLECTIONS AND PACKING PARTY

I want to send a huge thank you to everyone for your support of our Operation Christmas Child collections throughout this year! The response has truly been amazing and we're going to be able to pack more shoebox gifts, Gospel Opportunities, this year than in the past several years.

We still need donations for the "WOW" items to go in the shoebox gifts. These will include small baby dolls or stuffed animals for the girls and balls for the boys. The OCC Christmas tree will be up in the hallway Sunday, October 1. Please choose ornaments to make purchases as you are able, to help us complete this year's mission project. I will order the deflated balls (and pumps) from Amazon for the older boys, so those ornaments will just be for monetary donations to cover the cost of those.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS- Our Packing Party for the gifts will be Thursday, November 2 at 5pm.

As always, if you have any questions or need me to shop for you just let me know.

God's blessings to you all,

Barbie Andrews, Outreach Committee

Operation Christmas Child Kick-Off Dinner

On Thursday, October 7, I had the opportunity to attend a dinner at Thomas Road Baptist Church for area Project Leaders for Operation Christmas Child. This was a wonderful time of food and fellowship, learning and sharing.

When a child receives a Shoebox Gift, they are invited to join in a 12-week Bible Study called The Greatest Journey which teaches them about Jesus and his gift of salvation. Since 2009, there have been 24 million children to “graduate” from this program. One of the speakers at the dinner was Natasha, a Liberty student, who worked as an intern for OCC this past summer. She was at a school when they distributed Shoebox Gifts to the children and the principal of the school was so moved that he invited them to come in and teach The Greatest Journey at the school! These gifts which we help provide are breaking down barriers!

The main speaker for the evening was a young man named Edouard Ndeckyl, from Senegal in West Africa, who received a Shoebox Gift from OCC when he was a teenager. Senegal is a country of about 17 million people who are 97% Islam and 3% Christian. When his parents became Christians, their families rejected them. Edouard grew up in poverty. His father was called to Pastor a church and even though they could not afford to pay him anything, he accepted. This church was 3 miles from where Edouard’s family lived and they had no transportation, but they still held programs at the church every day, even though they had to walk a total of 6 miles to attend. A friend of the family gave them a “house” to live in, but it was only 4 walls- no roof, door or windows. Fortunately, Edouard’s father had some carpentry skills and was able to make some improvements, but they still had no electricity or running water. Edouard’s mother had to go to work to help support the family. As a maid she was on her knees working all day, from 5am until 10pm, so her family could have at least one meal a day. As you can imagine, this was hard on a boy growing up. He was upset over the things, especially the necessities, that they didn’t have and couldn’t afford. As he told us, this life of sacrifice was “his parent’s calling, not his”.

When Edouard was 12, he went to camp, and it was there that he became a Christian. He says nothing changed (meaning his family’s living conditions), but his heart did. He then understood his parents’ calling and he wanted to serve too. When he was 14, he and his younger brother, Noah, each received a Shoebox Gift. Noah was anxious for them to open their gifts with the other children, but Edouard said no. He wanted their mother to be able to see them open the first and only gift they had ever received. Edouard received a toothbrush in his gift, it was the first time he’d ever had his own toothbrush. Up until then he’d had to share with his brother. He received 2 bars of soap, now they wouldn’t have to decide whether to buy food for the day or soap to wash with. The best thing was that he got a Yo-Yo. Edouard’s family was the only Christian family in their neighborhood, and he was the only child who received a Yo-Yo in his box. All the other children wanted to come over to see it and play with it. This gave him the opportunity to tell them about Jesus. This simple gift broke down barriers and changed lives!

Edouard came to the United States to train in Track & Field and prepare for the 2016 Olympics. He goes back to Senegal once a year to visit his family. I was so caught up in his story that I forgot to ask him if he made it to those Olympics. I guess that doesn't really matter, he is doing what he was called to do, helping to spread the love of Christ and sharing the Gospel with anyone who will listen.





October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 AM Worship Communion Rev. Carl Utley Preaching Children's Church Collect Two Cents- A-Meal Offering	2	3 5 PM Outreach Committee Mtg.	4 8 AM Men's Bible Study 10 AM Bible Study 12 PM - Men's Lunch – Tuscan Grill 6 PM Video Small Group Study	5	6	7
8 10 AM Worship Children's Church	9	10	11 8 AM Men's Bible Study 10 AM Bible Study	12	13	14
15 10 AM Worship Children's Church	16 12 PM - Men's Lunch – Hibachi Grill 5:30 PM Discipleship Mtg. 7 PM DAWN	17 5 PM Administration Committee Mtg.	18 8 AM Men's Bible Study 10 AM Bible Study 1 PM Session Mtg.	19	20	21 9- 10 AM Bring Casseroles for Valor Farm to Fellowship Hall
22 10 AM Worship Children's Church	23 November Link Deadline	24	25 8 AM Men's Bible Study 10 AM Bible Study	26	27	28
29 10 AM Worship Children's Church Koinonia Luncheon after Worship	30	31				