



Overture

Newsletter of Old Orchard Church ~ May 18, 2008



Your Daughter Graduates!

Tonight, at 6:30 p.m., here in our sanctuary: *Our daughter church, South City Church, in a service of praise to God, is going to be officially declared graduated, out from under our oversight, and a full-fledged church in her own right!* We will be ordaining/installing elders tonight so South City will, from that point on, under Jesus' leading, be able to govern itself.

Child care will be offered. Please bring finger foods, ready to serve, for a reception afterwards.

Tidbits Correction

A couple errors were made in last week's Tidbits: Stephen Leung's name was left off the graduate list, and graduated from Covenant Seminary with a Master of Divinity. Also, Jessica Anderson (not Pederson!) received her Master of Medical Science (Physician Assistant program). Many apologies.

Spring Art Show

When: Sunday, June 8; deadline to turn in your work: Friday morning, June 6.

Where: at Old Orchard Church

For: all ages

Media: painting, photography, sculpture, drawing, mixed media, installation, etc.

All are invited to submit something or begin working on a piece to put in. We changed the date as announced last week to June 8 to give more time to prepare, and to move the date away from a holiday weekend. Questions? See Barb Winters or Cayce Zavaglia.

Hospitality is for Everyone!

The Hospitality Ministry will have a mid-year gathering on Sunday, June 1 after worship for reflection, ideas and looking ahead to the next 6 months. Everyone who is currently involved is urged to attend and others who are interested or curious are most welcome. We need input from everyone.

A light lunch will be provided in Milligan House. Bring something extra if you like. We will finish by 1:30 pm. Promise.

(The Hospitality Ministry is the group that oversees parlor fellowships, fellowship meals, showers for brides and mothers-to-be, meals for families of newborns, church weddings and rehearsal dinners, and refreshments served at other church events.)

--Kathy Jennings, Hospitality Ministry Coordinator

Congratulations!

Adeline Anne was born on Saturday, May 10, 9:30 a.m. to Mike & Annie Kuhn. She's 8# 14 oz.

And congratulate the proud grandparents, too: Ron & Katherine Lutjens!

Congregational Budget Meeting — Mark (and change) your calendar!

We will have a congregational meeting Wednesday, evening **June 4, 2008**, 6:45 pm. This is a change from last week's *Overture* so please make a note of it!

The purpose of the meeting will be to review and give the Session feedback on the budget. Child care will be provided. Please mark your calendar and plan on coming!

Summer Babies to Be Welcomed!

Baby Shower For: Sara Dodd and Jessica Roland

Where: Milligan House

When: Saturday, May 31 at 10 a.m.

Hostesses: Amy Ruth Bartlett, Abby Bishop, & Jackie Fogas

All OOC women are invited to a baby shower for Sara Dodd and Jessica Roland!

Sara and Ben are expecting a boy on July 8 and Jessica and B.J. are expecting a baby boy on June 30!

Sara is registered at BabiesRUs (www.babiesrus.com), Cotton Babies (www.cottonbabies.com), and (www.myregistry.com).

Jessica is registered at BabiesRUs (www.babiesrus.com) and Cotton Babies (www.cottonbabies.com).

If your budget is tight you can contribute to a group gift for each expectant mother. You can give your contribution any of the hostesses by Sunday, May 25.

If you are able bring something for the refreshment table it would be greatly appreciated.

An OOC shower is a special way to fellowship with one another and to encourage our new mothers. Mark your calendars and come be a blessing.

Sunday School News

Please note the schedule as we finish up the spring classes and begin our churchwide class, "Growing Together" on Sunday, June 8.

All the Sunday School classes meet today (May 11) and next Sunday (May 18). 9:00 a.m.

Children's Classes: No Sunday School for children on Sunday, May 25 (Memorial Day weekend) and June 1.

Leviticus Class: No class on Sunday, May 25, but will meet for the last time on June 1.

New Members Class: Our dedicated potential new members will meet both Sundays, May 25 and June 1. Then they will be finished!

Growing Together

OOO Churchwide [for all ages] Sunday School, June 8th – June 29th, 9 a.m. in the Milligan House. Yes, this is the same theme from our Churchwide Retreat. Because Discipleship is one of the Priorities from our OOC Mission Document we will be spending the next four weeks learning about it...TOGETHER. This means all ages together. Be warned, it is a challenge, BUT it is really fun. As you come be prepared to engage with folks in our community who are different than you.

Topics will be:

1st week, June 8: Scripture

2nd week, June 15: Prayer

3rd week, June 22: Worship

4th week, June 29: Fellowship

Sign-up on sheets circulating to let us know you will be attending!

--Mark Tucker

Calligrapher Wanted

If this is a skill you have that you would like to use to encourage OOC families, please see Durinda Hood.

Officer Candidate Evaluation April 2008

The purpose of our apprenticeship program for potential elders and deacons is both for training and testing. As you know, Greg Roig and Nate McKie have been nominated for the office of elder, and Jan Beekman and Durinda Hood have been nominated for the office of deaconess, and Brinson Hood for the office of deacon. It's helpful to the Session to get feedback from the congregation early rather than late in the apprenticeship period; so we're asking the fellowship for feedback now as to Greg, Nate, Jan, Brinson and Durinda's maturity and gifts.

Their community groups are being given a few questions to answer, but for others of you who know these men and women: do you have any concerns about their readiness for the office that should be taken up by the elders? Do you have confidence in each person's maturity?

Of course, if there's something that's a personal offense, that should be taken up with Greg, Nate, Jan, Brinson or Durinda personally, according to our Lord's instructions in Matthew 18:15-17. But if there are any general areas of concern that you think ought to be addressed during the apprenticeship time, please talk with me.

--Ron Lutjens

Overture Deadline

The next *Overture* will be out again on Sunday, June 1. You are invited to write for it! We welcome submissions of articles, art, short essays, poetry, etc. You can send your submissions for our newsletter via e-mail to the church office (office@oldorchardchurch.org) or you can place your signed articles in the *Overture* box (in the coat room). The editor for next week is Jim Lowe.

Bring Food Any Sunday

Non-perishable food donations welcomed and will be given to a food pantry, usually Grace and Peace Food Pantry. Just leave it in the container in the parlor. Thanks!

Children's Ministries During Worship

Nursery is offered for infants & children through kindergarten age. Our nurseries are in the church building's basement.

Infant nursery for babies, crawlers, & very early walkers.

Toddler nursery for children who are walking up to three years of age. Children who turn three from January-August are invited to attend preschool worship starting September 1. Children who turn three from September-December are invited to attend preschool worship starting January 1.

Preschool worship for age 3 through Kindergarten. Three-year-olds (see above) and four-year-olds are welcome during the whole service. Five-year-olds remain upstairs in the worship service until dismissed at 10:50.

Children's Worship. For children grades 1-5... meets across the street at Milligan House from 10:50 until just before communion. Please listen for dismissal from the worship leader. Does not meet the fifth Sunday of the month.

OOO Youth Group

May 18 (Sunday) Last Sunday School Class. Teens out to eat after church. Special Service for the particularization of South City Church. 6:30 p.m.

May 25 (Sunday) 6 to 8 p.m. Hot Topix. "same sex attraction." Special guest speaker.

Summer Reformed University Fellowship in St. Louis

WHAT: Summer RUF-St. Louis. An all-area summer ministry to college students from multiple campuses and multiple Presbyterian churches in St. Louis. The theme this summer is "10 Things I Wish I Knew in College"-- each week will feature an expository sermon based in a particular passage of Scripture, as well as a music team to lead us in our favorite RUF Hymns and other worship songs.

WHO: Everyone in St. Louis anywhere close to college age. If you are a recent college grad or a graduating high school senior please join us too!

WHEN: Tuesday nights @ 7:30 - from May 27 through August 5. We will also have regular social activities throughout the summer – come to the kick-off on May 27 to find out all that we have planned!

WHERE: The Edwards House, next to Covenant Presbyterian Church (Covenant's address is 2143 North Ballas Road).

WHY: We all want and need the fellowship of believers throughout the summer for our progress and joy in the faith. This is also an excellent opportunity to engage in the beauty of being part of a presbytery, with churches cooperating together and enjoying one another.

--Submitted by Ben Porter, RCF Coordinator, Kirk of the Hills

Volunteers Wanted to Mow Lawns!

The grass is growing everywhere! But we are only asking for help for mowing the church's two properties, and the property of Willie Lee's. Willie Lee is disabled and we have been mowing his lawn

for a few years. Sign up to take a turn. See Matt Philip if you have questions about the church lawn; see Brian Curry if you have questions regarding mowing Willie Lee's.

Bethany Christian Services Update

This is one of the mercy ministries OOC financially supports. The Mercy Ministry recommended to the Session to increase our giving to Bethany by \$300 for the next year.

Debbie Pendergrass is our ambassador representative to Bethany for Old Orchard.

–Durinda Hood, Mercy Ministry Coordinator

“Bethany Christian Services, serving Missouri and Central/Southern Illinois, would like to thank all our churches who have been loyal donors—helping us help orphans around the world. We want to keep you updated as to how your donations are making a difference. Bethany of Missouri continues to go through changes as God refines us. Bethany has expanded to three offices—most recently added is Jackson, Missouri. We have been blessed to now have two rent-free offices to help Bethany to grow and serve more communities. Bethany of Missouri is committed to expanding post-adoption services for families as well—developing a counseling program at each site by 2009.”

Total new clients served to date since Jan. 2008: 61

Total number of adoptions since Jan. 2008: 11

Bethany of Missouri is in need of increased donations, showing a deficit last year, 2007. Also, the Mercy Ministry of Old Orchard Church will be announcing a diaper drive, along with various other drives for ministries soon. Newborn (only) diapers, diaper wipes, and nice baby clothing are always needed, as many of the girls that are counseled need help as they decide to parent instead of making an adoption plan.

And, don't forget to check out the Bethany bulletin board for information on older orphans that desperately need forever families. Even teenagers that are about to age out of the system, need families, as they are often released at 18 with no real roots. John Piper has an inspiring series on adoption at his "Desiring God" website, titled: *Adoption: The Heart of the Gospel: 8 Similarities Between God's Adoption of Us and Our Adoption of Children.* (Feb. 2007)

--Debbie Pendergrass (along with material taken from Bethany's local newsletter)

Webster-Rock Hill Ministries Work Day!

Webster-Rock Hill Ministries (WRHM) will be having a workday to clean up the grounds on Saturday, June 7 from 9:00 to 12:00 noon. This will involve picking up trash, clearing brush and some tree trimming. We are looking for 2-3 volunteers from OOC. You should plan to bring work gloves, and your own tools such as pruning shears, hand-saws etc. If you can help, please let Phil Patterson know at church, or he can be reached at 314 719 6570

Calendar Notes

Baby Shower for Sara Dodd and Jessica Roland on May 31, 10:00 a.m. at Milligan House.

Hospitality Ministry Meeting. After worship, June 1 at Milligan House.

Congregational Meeting: Wednesday, June 4, 6:45 p.m.

Men's Bible Study: Saturday, June 7, Milligan House at 7:15 a.m. Questions? See Hal Pendergrass.

Deacons Meeting. June 7, Saturday, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Art Show Opening: Sunday, June 8.

No Sunday School on May 25 except the New Members Class will meet! Churchwide class begins Sunday, June 8.

Parlor Fellowship (honor high school and college grads): Sunday, June 8 after worship. (Let the church office know you are graduating!)

Narnia Children's Summer Program: July 29-August 2.

Sons and Daughters

At the end of my sophomore year (I think), our parents announced to us children that they would be getting a divorce! Being so young, I did not immediately understand that there were long-term underlying issues with my parents' marriage, and I had no concept of the way in which the divorce would affect them, my siblings, and me. Suffice it to say that the home environment was unpleasant for a while.

After winter break of my junior year, my emotional state plummeted rather unexpectedly. The tension at home was taking its toll. My motivation for school and homework was no more, and I became depressed, lethargic, and indolent. As a result, I missed a lot of school, but pulled through to graduation. During this wrecking-ball period, my already somewhat apathetic tendencies overshadowed any effort to turn the situation into a time for prayer and asking of help from God. So, I never abandoned God, but I didn't move any closer to Him either. Don't follow my example. Since then I've learned that even though I know God is always looking out for me, when I actually call upon His name, it works out much better.

After graduating high school in 2006, I was in no state to begin college studies a mere three months later, and my parents had been gracious enough to honor my decision of taking some time off before going back to school. That step has proved to be a good one. I've been able to look back, assess the damage, and begin the healing process. Ample time was spent reflecting on the purpose and importance of marriage, churches, personal relationships, and life, as we know it, et al. My parents' divorce was finalized in August 2006, and that September I began to regularly attend Old Orchard with my mother and older sister, Prisca. Being part of a church with a strong Biblical foundation has been a great comfort.

As for the next phase of my life, I will begin studies this fall toward a Bachelor's Degree in nursing, a decision that has been confirmed by God in the often subtle ways He orchestrates things. I look forward to growing and learning within the Christian life each day, and since I still consider myself as "budding," I hope you will be my guides and helpers as I mature. God is good.

--*Tamara Rice*

Help for Myanmar and China

The destruction from the recent cyclone in Myanmar and the terrible earthquake in China are difficult to comprehend. But Christ calls us to reach out to our “neighbor” in mercy and compassion in his name.

To that end, the Session made a decision on Wednesday, with the concurrence of Elder Hurvey Woodson, our Foreign Missions Ministry Co-Coordinator, to take \$1000 of our budgeted money for “foreign works of mercy,” split it in half, and then channel it to these two countries for relief work there. We will use Samaritan’s Purse to get money to those devastated by the earthquake in China, and World Reformed Fellowship to get money to the anguished survivors in Myanmar.

But we would like to invite the fellowship to add to these two \$500 gifts. If you would like to make an individual contribution so that we can give more, please make your check payable to Old Orchard Church and put “Disaster Relief” in the check memo. All such checks will be divided between the two countries. If you would like to designate your gift to go to one or the other country, please add that in the memo.

If you’ve watched any of the newscasts coming out of these two places, you saw just how sobered the journalists are by the extent and depth of the suffering there. This is a great moment to demonstrate the love of Christ to fellow-human beings whose need right now, defies description. So that we can respond quickly, we will send in these two gifts **in the days following Sunday, June 1.**

--Ron Lutjens, for the Session

Old Orchard Church

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