



Overture

The Fortnightly Newsletter of Old Orchard Church – July 20, 2008

Welcome to Old Orchard Church!

Welcome to our worship. We invite you to use our **child care services** for infants through children in kindergarten, located in the church building basement. Please see nursery details below. If you would like to find out more about Old Orchard and what we are about, please fill out one of our visitor forms.

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.

Please Note: No **Children's Worship** during the summer!



You are invited to a **Benefit Concert for Heather Sparkman tonight** (Sunday, July 20) at 6:30 p.m. at Old Orchard Church. Alyssa Santoyo and Deyan Bratic, classical guitarists, will perform! All donations will go to Heather Sparkman's Reformed University Fellowship Fund. A reception will be held after the concert. For more info about the concert see Alyssa Santoyo or e-mail playguitar4him@gmail.com.



Invitation to Anna Jennings' Wedding.

Nelson and Kathy Jennings invite the OOC congregation to attend the wedding ceremony of their daughter, Anna, to Nathanael Morejon on Saturday, July 26, 4:30 p.m. at Old Orchard Church.

Narnia Summer Children's Program

Tuesday, July 29 through Saturday, August 2

As of this writing, one class needs **teachers** right now and we desperately need a **music leader, adult helper** for recreation, **craft helpers** and **extra adults** for "crowd control" in classrooms. See Kelli McKie or call her or e-mail her. (see print copy)

Tissue Box Collection Still in Progress

Thank you to everyone who has brought in tissue boxes. I need about 35 more to have enough for every child to make his/her own Dawntreader. Boxes can be left on a table in the church basement. Thanks. Susan O'Neal

School Supplies for Kids!

We're collecting **school supplies** through Sunday, July 27, 2008 for children from families served by Webster-Rock Hill Ministries.

You can participate in one of two ways:

1. Purchase items from the suggested list (see list below) and bring them to church. Place them in the box in the foyer.
2. Donate money by dropping into the offering plate:
 - A check to Old Orchard Church (designate "school supplies") or
 - Cash in an envelope and designate it "school supplies"

Sponsored by the Mercy Ministry at Old Orchard Church.

Questions: See Phil Patterson, Deb Pendergrass or Durinda Hood.



School supply list

Narrow rule filler paper	Wide rule filler paper
Scissors (Fiskars)	Rulers
2" & 3" ring binders	Pencil pouches/boxes
Colored markers	24-Count Crayons
Glue sticks	Colored pencils
Blue, black and red pens	Spiral notebooks
Broad tip highlighters	Hand sanitizer
Pocket folders	Pocket dictionaries
Pencils #2	
Scientific calculators (\$10 pocket style)	

Overture Deadline

The next *Overture* will be out in two weeks, Sunday, August 3. You are invited to write for it! We welcome submissions of articles, art, short essays, poetry, etc. Send submissions for our newsletter via e-mail to the church office (office@oldorchardchurch.org) or place signed articles in the *Overture* box (in the coat room). We have a rotating crew of *Overture* editors; the editor for the next issue is Jim Lowe.

July 10, 2008

Hi, Family & Friends!

We are very pleased to announce the birth of our first child, a baby boy, Micah Gabriel Dodd! He was born at 8:02 a.m. on Sunday, July 6. He weighed 8 lbs 12 oz and was 21 inches long. We brought him home from the hospital today and have included a few pictures attached.

We are thankful to God for giving Sara strength and endurance as she persevered through almost 30 hours of labor (20 hours without pain medication!) before needing a C-section to ensure the health of Micah and herself. Micah is a very healthy boy and Sara is recovering steadily, although it will be a while before she is 100%. Now we are adjusting to our first day at home as a family. Thank you for your prayers!

With joy and love,
Ben, Sara & Micah

Hosts Wanted

Paul Donaldson will be bringing a group of 15 Chinese college students, along with Professor Gu and his wife, one other vice-president and around 8 American friends from Iowa City for a visit to St. Louis. The students are from Wuhan University in China.

We are looking for hosts who could offer **overnight hospitality** to at least one guest, preferably, if possible, 2 guests each, for two nights. Although 2 nights are preferred, if you can only host one night, please indicate that on the sign-up sheet.

Dates: the nights of Wednesday, **August 6** and Thursday, **August 7**.

Transportation: Hosts would pick up their guests on Wednesday evening, August 6 around 7 p.m. at Old Orchard Church, and drop them off at 8:30 a.m. the next morning (August 7).

Hosts would again pick them up at Old Orchard the evening of Thursday, August 7 around 7 p.m.

Hosts would then return their guests to Old Orchard Friday morning, August 8 at 9 a.m. for the group to return to Iowa City.

Meals: Hosts would provide their guests breakfast on the morning of Thursday, August 7, and Friday morning, August 8.

If you can host, please sign the sheet circulating today in the communion circle. Questions? Talk to Hurvey Woodson.

Women's Ministry

Psssst.....

Ladies check out the women's bathroom for some current news!

If you are curious just go downstairs and see the bulletin board placed in there for all the women.

Women's Swim Party

Ladies imagine a beautiful evening, great patio, perfect pool, super food, refreshing drinks, and OOC Women. If this sounds good to you, then mark your calendars for Saturday, August 9th at 5 pm for a Swim Party!!! We will be gathering at Ann Stuber's sister's home to have an evening full of fun and sharing. All you have to do is show up, bring food and drinks to share and relax. We are hoping that this will be a great event that all the women of Old Orchard can attend. There will be no children or men. It will just be us sisters in Christ.

Address: 4413 Saddle Mount Drive, St. Louis, MO 63129

Ann's Cell: 314-249-5890

OOC Women's Forum

All women of OOC (over the age of 17) are invited to join the Women's Online Discussion Forum! Share recipes, ask for advice, discuss Scripture, chat about parenting, share prayer requests and organize social activities -- all from your home computer! To sign up, just go to <http://oocwomen.goodforum.net>. If you have any questions or problems, email Amy Butz or call her (see print copy).

Women's Bible Study In The Fall

Ladies, keep Thursday evenings open in the fall! Jerram Barrs will be teaching a Bible study for women in the church on Thursday nights in the sanctuary 6:45-8:45 pm. Start date and book to be studied will be announced at a later date. Please think and pray about whom you might invite to join us.

--Megan Philip for the Women's Ministry at OOC



Grace & Peace Winter Shelter Rummage Sale

To Benefit the Grace & Peace Winter Shelter

Where: 5574 Delmar Blvd. St. Louis, Missouri

Dates of Sale:

Friday, August 15, 2008, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 16, 2008 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To donate items in very good condition, please bring them to our side entrance at 622 Clara Avenue (at Delmar) between 12:30-4:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays between July 8 and August 1—or by appointment. Contact Deb to donate large items, to volunteer help or with any questions.

PART-TIME VOLUNTEER BOOKKEEPER NEEDED

Refuge of Nations is seeking a part-time volunteer to provide the services listed below. In order to best serve our needs, the potential volunteer must have previous experience with Quick Books. The work can be done remotely. Interested volunteers must provide Refuge of Nations with character references. List of responsibilities are given below.

Quick Books Accounting (15 hours per week maximum)

Payables
Receivables
Donor Information
PayPal
Checking Account
Payroll
Follow Up (expense receipts, bank accounts, cash flow decisions)
Monthly Reports
Annual Report

Benefits Management (5 hours per month maximum)

Pension 401 k
Dental Insurance
Medical Insurance

Please email Tim Baldwin, Refuge of Nations' Executive Director, to learn more or explore (baldwinfam5@sbcglobal.net).

“Equipping All Peoples to Walk Together Freely in New Paths”



Calendar Notes

Sunday School News: No Sunday School throughout the month of July. Classes resume August 3 at 9 a.m.!

Benefit Concert for Heather Sparkman: Tonight! Sunday, July 20, 6:30 p.m. in sanctuary.

Deer Creek Clean Up: Saturday, July 26, 10 a.m. See article.

Lunch at Milligan House: Sunday, July 27, noon after worship. See sign-up sheet.

Narnia Summer Children's Program: Tuesday, July 29 through Saturday, August 2.

Greg Roig Vacation Dates: Tuesday, July 29 through Tuesday, August 12.

Men's Bible Study: Saturday, August 2, 7:15 a.m. at Milligan House. See Hal Pendergrass for questions.

Women's Swim Party: Saturday, August 9, 5 p.m. See announcement for more.

Deer Creek Stream Clean Up
Saturday, July 26th at 10:00 am

Let's serve our community and show our appreciation to God for the beauty of creation by doing our part to keep Deer Creek in Webster Groves clean! Let's meet at Deer Creek Park (also known as Rocketship Park) on Laclede Station Road. We will be conducting a litter pickup with supplies being provided by The Open Space Council. We will also be doing water quality monitoring (looking for teeny tiny bugs in the water because bugs = healthy streams!).

If you would like, bring a bag lunch and we can picnic together! If the weather is bad, we will cancel and reschedule. Look for more information on earth stewardship in an upcoming *Overture*. If you have any questions, email Amy Butz (for address see print copy).

Volunteers Wanted to Mow Lawns!

We are looking 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.

OOC Flood Mucking Relief Trip/Work Day

What: "Mucking Out" homes flooded in Missouri

When: Saturday, August 9 or Saturday, August 16

Contact Mark Tucker (314.680.3670) or e-mail him at maltucker@gmail.com for questions. Some may leave the night before to camp out nearby.) Please sign the sign up sheet if you are interested in helping, and tell us which day you are available.

Anniversary Celebration & Picnic

This year's 27th anniversary of Old Orchard Church will be celebrated on Sunday, September 28. Picnic after worship will be at Larson Park.

Old Orchard Church

Church Office/Milligan House: 314.962.3795;

Fax: 314.962.8285

640 Amelia/Church Building: 314.961.6932

Ron Lutjens' (home) Study: 314.962.6196;

Mark Tucker's Office: 314.680.3670;

Ron's E-mail: ronlutjens@yahoo.com;
Mark's E-mail: maltucker@gmail.com
Church Office E-mail: office@oldorchardchurch.org;
Web Site: www.oldorchardchurch.org



Sons & Daughters: Gayle Gibbar

I grew up in a Catholic household - well, my mother was Catholic, and my father attended twice a year, Christmas and Easter, whether he needed to or not. My mom and us kids attended church and catechism regularly.

Although I never really bought into the idea that the Catholics were the "one true religion", I nevertheless, always had great faith, as long as I can remember. I remember praying and talking to God a lot as a child, and church was a comforting place to be.

During my college years I drifted away from attending church, however always knew I wanted to re-establish that connection.

When I got married my husband and I looked for a church to attend and raise our family in. We found a Presbyterian church close to home that we fell in love with. We quickly joined a young adults group of about 10-12 couples with young families that included the pastor and his wife. We had many social gatherings with this group, and they became like family.

My husband was still not happy with his work and wanted to do something different. I supported him and said you shouldn't have to do something all of your life if you don't like it. He mentioned becoming a pastor, and I thought that was a giant leap from being a CPA. I hadn't really seen him reading the Bible and growing in this area. Nevertheless, he opted to look into it, and made a trip to S. F. Theological Seminary to check it out. When he returned, he told me about an "experience" he had while he was there that he interpreted as God telling him "Don't go if you want to be with Gayle and the kids". We didn't quite know what to make of that, so we chose another path, and moved to another city. I became the breadwinner and he enrolled in a master's degree in counseling.

While in our new city we attended another Presbyterian church and also became very active. During that time, we attended a Marriage Encounter weekend, and became very involved in that ministry. At the end of one of those weekends, we were all sitting in a circle praying with our eyes closed, and I felt someone touch my hand. My eye's opened immediately and there was no one there. I asked my husband if he'd touched me, and he said no. We talked about that later, and interpreted that as God's okay for us to go to Seminary. So we made plans, waited out the remainder of that academic year, and about 9 months later moved to San Francisco and my husband attended the Seminary there.

Fast forward 4 years, he's graduated and we've been moved to St. Louis for him to become an Associate Pastor at a local church. Life couldn't be better as far as I was concerned. I was able to be more involved with my children's school. I enjoyed the church, became a Sunday school teacher, belonged to a women's circle, we were part of another young adults group, and I became a Stephen Minister. However, my husband was still not happy, and to

make a long story short - one year later he moved back to California and married a woman that had been a friend of ours while we were in seminary.

I was devastated. I was paralyzed. I was suicidal. I didn't want to live. Divorce was not in my vocabulary. I couldn't eat; I couldn't sleep. But, there is no doubt in my mind that for about 3 to 5 years God carried me in the palm of his hand. I could not function in any manner that I was used to. I remember thinking "it is a good thing God has found this job for me", because I didn't feel that I could function or perform well in what I considered a "normal" job for my vocation. Quite ironically, I worked with a bunch of seminary wives. I woke up every morning feeling bad, and prayed through the whole day to get me through it. It basically felt like an "out of body" experience. My body would get up, see the kids off to school, go to work, come home, cook dinner, do homework with the kids, put them to bed, and then I would fall apart. I could "see" myself doing all of these things daily, but I didn't really feel like I was "there" or fully present.

I had a friend visit me from California. She had been a co-worker, we'd never really done anything outside of work, but she flew across the country to visit me. During that visit, she expressed to me how she'd never really gotten over her mother's taking her own life. I knew her message was sent from God, and I knew I could never consider suicide again because I had to live for my children.

I remember one cold night I was out with my son and daughter and my son was crying that he didn't have a warm enough coat. I couldn't bear to see him suffer, so we went to Kmart, bought him a coat, and I had no idea how I was going to pay off that credit card. The next day, a check from one of my brothers came in the mail, for \$50, the exact price of that coat. My brother didn't know about it, and has never sent me a dime since then. I knew that was from God.

I remember searching for comfort and searching for God. I visited another church one Sunday and afterwards they invited anyone that needed prayer into their prayer room with their elders. I stood in that room, in my grief, while they prayed over me, and felt God pick me up and put me in his lap. I remember them commenting about it.

I always believed that God loved me, but during that time I remember driving to work one day, in constant prayer as was my practice, and all of my sins flashed before my eyes. All of them, the big ones and the little ones like the time I brought home post it notes from the office. And in that moment is when I really came to the personal realization that over 2000 years ago, Jesus had died on that cross for **my** sins, and I was forgiven, and how much God really loved me. And that Jesus Christ was **my** Lord and Savior. And I'll never forget that moment.

And although I still don't understand everything, I do know that God knows best for me, and I seek to follow His will, and when I have decisions to make, I turn them over to Him and I trust in Him. And even though it took him 17 years, he provided me with the best mate I could have ever asked for. Dave truly loves the Lord and treats me like no man ever has in my life. God's timing is perfect.

Editor's Note: Gayle & David Gibbar are new members to Old Orchard Church.

Foreign Missions Prayer Requests for July-August 2008

Note: With the falling value of the dollar and increasing inflation in most countries, all of our missionaries are facing financial crunches. Pray for the Lord to supply their needs.

- 1. Wilma Cross – Santiago, Chile.** Pray for Wilma as she is busy with training, seminars and other teaching, that she will “present things as the Lord sees them.” Pray for various helpers who are getting further training. Pray for good health.
- 2. Rob and Tunde Futo – Budapest, Hungary.** Pray for them as they will be leading two conferences this summer. Praise that 70 people have registered for the new Bible school that starts in September. Pray for those who will be attending and teaching.
- 3. Gerry and Ruth Gutierrez – Huanta, Peru.** Pray for continued fruitfulness and protection in their ministry in their church, in mentoring young people and in various Bible studies and personal contacts. Praise that though both have serious health issues, they are under control for now. Pray that treatment will continue to be effective.
- 4. L’Abri Fellowship – England and Switzerland.** Pray for the students as they complete their studies: in Switzerland, July 21 with a new term starting Aug 19 and in England, ending Aug 16 and starting again Sept 22. Pray for restful breaks for workers and students of the Lord’s choice for the new terms. Pray for financial needs.
- 5. Dawn Miller – Madrid, Spain.** Pray for Dawn’s time at our House Church, July 16, that we will have renewed interest in supporting her in prayer and financially. Pray for her as she returns to Spain and prepares for her continuing ministry with students there.
- 6. Joseph and Elfi Muutuki – Nairobi, Kenya.** They are presently taking a six month sabbatical in Berlin (Elfi is German). Pray that they will be refreshed and be able to raise additional support. Pray for the men who will be leading the church in their absence, that the Lord will hold the congregation together.
- 7. Luciano and Luciene Pires – Goiania, Brazil.** Praise for a very successful conference in June. Pray for their time in the US, this August to January ’09. Pray for their last minute preparations, a safe trip with the two children and good adjustment to St. Louis. Pray that they will be able to raise substantial added support.
- 8. Rene and Lani Quimbo – Mindanao, Philippines.** Pray for the beginning of a new ministry in the strongly Muslim Zamboanga City, several hours travel from their present location. Pray for people to carry on their current ministries while they are absent and getting this new work established. Pray for wisdom and protection.

Foreign Missions Prayer Requests (Cont.)

9. Joel and Jessica Rinn – Verona, Italy. Pray for Joel as he counsels two women contacts who are having disagreements (See Phil 4:2-3!). Praise and prayer for Emanuele and Maria who are planning a Christian wedding for September. Pray for a new place to have the English Bible study. Pray for a restful vacation for the family before school begins.

10. Bob and Shirley Woodson – Lima, Peru. Pray for Bob as he teaches, evangelizes individuals and preaches. Pray for Shirley as she shepherds new believers, does mercy ministry and helps in women's groups.

Special Request: SOS As the situation in the Sudan and Darfur is becoming more unsettled and dangerous, please be praying especially for Anne Reitsema. Her parents write: "Pray for Anne and her team for wisdom and energy to face what each day brings. Good sleep and a clear mind are of vital importance."

SOS Update email dated July 17

Dear Friends,

We just received a call from Anne. At 2 am this morning, the team of another NGO was attacked and beaten up at their outpost in West Darfur by a group of heavily armed men. Since then, Anne and her Medair team have been working to get them cared for and evacuated.

Please pray for these injured young people. Continue to pray for special wisdom for Anne and her team as they take on unexpected levels of responsibility...especially as they decide when and when not to enter the outlying areas themselves. And pray that they continue to be able to relax and praise God together, too!

In Him who knows what we need before we ask Him,
Arie and Merrel Reitsema