



Overture

The Pretty Much
Fortnightly Newsletter of
**Old Orchard
Church**

August 3, 2008

Welcome to Old Orchard Church!

If you would like to find out more about Old Orchard & what we are about, please fill out one of our visitor forms.

Sundays @ Old Orchard Church

9:00 a.m. **Sunday School** for adults and children **resumes September 14.** (See article for more information.)

10:15 a.m. **Worship**

Please note: *no Youth Group Sunday evening, August 3*

Children's Ministries

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

Infant nursery for babies, crawlers, and 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.*

Calendar Notes

- ❖ **House Church.** Wednesday, August 6. 6 p.m. Pot-Luck Supper (bring your own dish). 7 p.m. Meeting.
- ❖ **OOO Mucking Flood Relief Trips:** Saturdays, August 9 & 16.
- ❖ **Parlor Fellowship.** Sunday, August 10 after worship. Sign-up to bring food!
- ❖ **Women's Ministry Meetings.** Monday, August 11 & 25, both at 6:30 p.m.
- ❖ **Men's Bible Study:** Saturday, August 16, 7:15 a.m. at Milligan House. See Hal Pendergrass for questions.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **No Sunday School** during August until September 14.
- ❖ **Staff Vacation Dates**
 - Greg Roig: Tuesday, July 29 through Tuesday, August 12.
 - Mark Tucker: Friday, August 8 through Friday, August 15.
 - Ron Lutjens: Friday, August 15 through Monday, August 25.
 - Durinda Hood: Sunday, August 31 through September 8.

KHPYΓΜΑΤΑ ΤΗ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΙ (Announcements for the Church)

Volunteer Office Help Wanted:

I am looking for someone—or maybe more than one someone—who could **fold bulletins** once a week. Jan Rau has been doing this task on a regular basis, but there are times she is not available. Perhaps we might have two people rotate. Also, Jan will be having surgery August 19 and will not be able to help for awhile. If you are interested in helping out, let me know.

Also, if you would like to help in the office to do occasional jobs, let me know. I'd like to have 2 or 3 people I could ask to do specific tasks as the need arises. Thank you.

Durinda Hood, Administrative Assistant

Photos Displayed!

The OOC Welcoming Ministry has displayed photos they've taken of OOC folks. Take a look at the board in the hallway going to the vestibule from the parlor and next to the two doors entering/exiting the sanctuary and parlor. If your photo isn't there, please see Ben Dodd.

OOC Flood Relief Trip/Work Day

What: "Mucking Out" homes flooded in Missouri

When: Saturday, August 9 **and** Saturday, August 16

Lunch provided. We will leave at 7:30 a.m. to travel to Winfield, Missouri for checking in at 8:30 a.m. Work will be from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Return back to Webster around 5:30 p.m.

Contact Mark Tucker (314.680.3670; 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.

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.

Grace & Peace Winter Shelter Rummage Sale

What: a rummage sale to benefit the Grace & Peace Winter Shelter, a mercy ministry of Grace & Peace Fellowship that provides shelter for homeless women during the winter months.

Where: 5574 Delmar Blvd. St. Louis, Missouri

When: Friday, August 15, 2008, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. & Saturday, August 16, 2008, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Contact: Deb at 314.241.4202 to volunteer to help or with any questions.

Hosts Wanted

Paul Donaldson will be bringing a group of fifteen Chinese college students, along with Professor Gu and his wife, one other vice-president, and around eight 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** for two nights to two guests, preferably. If you can host, please e-mail or phone the church office **by Monday, August 4.**

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

Transportation: Hosts pick up their guests on both evenings at Old Orchard Church, and drop them off at 8:30 a.m. the next morning. The group will depart for the return trip to Iowa City on Friday, August 8, at 9 a.m.

Meals: Hosts would provide their guests breakfast on both Thursday and Friday morning.

Upcoming Sunday School Schedule

The next Sunday School classes will begin Sunday, September 14.

Isn't that a long way off? Yes it is--and here's the explanation for it. Pastor Mark always gets his teachers for the children/teen classes together during the Sunday School hour the week BEFORE classes begin to brief them and orient them for the semester. So that we don't risk people being away, we like to stay away from having that teachers' meeting on a holiday weekend. This year the Labor Day weekend takes in Sunday, August 31--which means the teachers' meeting will be the following Sunday, September 7, from 9-10am, and so the first class will begin the following Sunday, September 14.

What about August? The past 3 years or so we did an all-church Sunday School class during August so we'd have something to plug non-churched kids into right after VBS. But it's never really been effective in drawing kids from VBS so this year we debated what to do and decided not to invest a lot of time in pulling something together that hadn't really worked well but instead just to wait for the fall term of Sunday School in September.

What about adult classes? We have one adult Sunday School class planned which we will announce next Sunday, and are contemplating a second one. That class (or those classes) will also begin on September 14. The New Members' Class will start in January.

--Ron Lutjens

Women's Ministry Notes

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 we sisters in Christ.

Address: See print copy or call church office

Ann's Cell: See print copy or call the church office

Women's Bible Study In The Fall

"Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands." Psalm 119:73

Ladies, please plan to join us Thursday evenings beginning this fall for a Bible study taught by Jerram Barrs, "The Good Life: Law and Grace." We will be exploring God's law in its many facets, including the relationship of Law to grace, to the work of Christ and to the power of the Spirit. Come grow with your sisters in Christ and learn why the psalmist says, "The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold." We will meet from 6:45 - 8:45 p.m., beginning on **Thursday, September 11**.

Please prayerfully consider inviting a friend -- The question of what it means to live a good life is a universal one. This is a wonderful opportunity to talk about true righteousness and grace with unbelievers!

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

Church Directory Update

Please update your OOC directory with the following information:

Alyssa Santoyo
8152 Bluewater Trail
Apt. #304
St. Louis, MO 63123

Sons & Daughters

I am the youngest child of Percy and Cecilia Gibbar; I was born in April of 1954. Both of my parents were Catholic and they raised us as such also. I believed in God from the start. Something about it all clicked with me and off I went.

Catechism was my bag and looking back at it I believe it was a good start. I guess that you could say that a seed was planted during this period. I hummed along all right for a number of years in this mode.

As I approached adolescent my dad became more irritable and distant to myself and the rest of the family. He somehow became afflicted with an emotional / mental problem that some of you may have heard of...Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. There was no name for it then, no real understanding of what and how the disorder was much less how to effectively treat it ...everyone just thought he was crazy so they gave him shock treatments and drugs. It ended up completely disabling him for over a year. For years my dad's condition gnawed away at my mom and made her miserable. Looking back at this I realize that they did the absolute best job that they could considering the circumstances; I also realize just how much they really loved me...but when it was all going down I just couldn't stand being in the house. I became mad at God. I thought that this Jesus loves me and wants to look out for us was a big bunch of BS. My home life was awful and I blamed Him for that. I wanted Him to play by my rules. I was young, selfish and just didn't understand.

I continued on with this mindset for many years. I ended up marrying a few years out of school and we had a baby girl early in the marriage. I never felt anything like this before in my life...he was the most perfect little girl and I found that the faith I had lost somehow returning. I decided that she should be baptized and brought up as Catholic. We started going to church again and continued to attend for a number of years. Back in the early 80's the Catholic church decided that a "revival" was in order and implemented a program called Renewal. It was kind of a small group theme with a study format that they put together. After a few meetings I quickly determined that half of these people didn't really need a small group...they needed to be medicated. I spoke to our priest and found him to be rude, odd and self-absorbed. My wife felt the same way so we checked out...if this is Christianity then I wanted no part of it. Again I had no real understanding of God or how to reach out to Him... such ignorance; I hope that these issues I had with the Catholic Church doesn't offend anyone...they really aren't meant to. I did not attend church again for many years. During this time I read and dabbled in other beliefs, mostly eastern in origin. I even read the Road less Traveled and found it along with everything else I read then unfulfilling and now see it all as just a bunch of crap.

I just continued with this gnawing feeling in my heart that something I needed and wanted was going unfulfilled, a feeling that I remembered having most of my life.

About 14 years ago I found myself divorced and single again, and, yes, it was an awful experience. I was the primary parent, and my son and daughter lived with me. What a true blessing they were to me during this time. Again I started to attend a neighborhood Catholic Church searching once again to fill this hole in my heart and tried to reintroduce my kids to it with mixed results. I went because I didn't know anything else and to a degree found some peace.

As my kids grew I found myself starting to date again and having a ball. It was something like taking the best things about being married but staying single and being very self-centered to boot. I thought I was happy, but still I felt that this couldn't be it. I continued in this lifestyle longer than I care to say.

A long term relationship I was in ended badly and I found myself questioning everything again. Another meeting with a priest was completely fruitless and futile. A good friend of mine called and asked if I would meet him for dinner later in the week; Ed, my friend, had also made his share of mistakes and was able to overcome these issues and get on with his life. A few years earlier Ed had found himself in a similar predicament as me. He was looking for something else and had become active in a Christian church in Webster. When I saw Ed I would sense changes in him...he was different but different in a good way. We had dinner together and he then shared the gospel with me and gave me this Bible.

I started to read it that very evening....I then started going to church with Ed and his wife Beth and truly received Christ about 6 months later. The pastor was preaching a series based on the book of Philippians and everything that was wrong with me and my life became the "past." I was able to move on, forgive others and myself. (See chapter 3) It seemed funny to me at the time, I thought that being a Christian would be confining and dull. I was so very wrong. It has and is the most freeing thing that I have ever experienced. I thank Christ Jesus everyday for putting Himself and eternity in my heart. I was also very fortunate that God put good Christian men in my life that helped me and supported me as I developed. They have been so important in my growth and study in Christ and His Word.

He is all about forgiveness, repentance, relationships and the mending of relationships. I realize that I belong to Him. How does that hymn go...the things of this world grow strangely dim...they really have. He has absolutely and amazingly changed my life. I love to read and study His word...It all makes such perfect sense now.

He has brought this wonderful woman Gayle into my life that wants to know Christ as I do and surrounds me with others like me who seek Him...again I'm so grateful.

I also realize that following Christ seems to take on the notion of two steps forward then one step back sometimes. I do so much better now yet I still screw up more than I'd like to admit. I think of Paul and his letter to the Romans, (by the way he will be the first person I look up when I get to heaven, the second will be the thief on the cross) chapter 7 verses 13 thru 25. Verse 25 is the kicker...our sinful nature and our one and only means of redemption.

--David Gibbar (*Editor's Note: David & Gayle Gibbar became members of Old Orchard Church in June of this year.*)

August Birthdays

8/1..... Rob Futo**
 8/1..... Dawn Harris
 8/1/92 Hannah Nelson
 8/1..... Alyssa Santoyo
 8/2..... Graham Markway
 8/2/99 Jake McKie
 8/3..... Janice Beekman
 8/3..... Dennis McKeon
 8/4/87 Jesse Cook
 8/7..... Mary Beth Glasgow
 8/7..... Sandy Walker
 8/9/05 Owen Stuber
 8/12/81 Timothy Lemen
 8/15/02 Maxwell Nelson
 8/15..... BJ Roland
 8/16..... Ross Dixon**

8/16 Timothy Wilke
 8/17 Stephen Helton
 8/19 Jeff Outlaw
 8/20 Tami Poehlman
 8/22 Angela Chu
 8/22 Heather Dryden**
 8/23/87 Caleb Gutierrez**
 8/27 Jill Storm
 8/29 Ben Dodd
 8/29 Gary Mitchell
 8/31 Melissa Nelson

**Members of missionary/ministry families.
 See directory for contact info.

Foreign Missions Prayer Requests--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 health.
2. **Rob and Tünde 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.** Give thanks for Dawn’s time at our House Church on July 16 and 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.

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 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.
11. **Anne Reitsema—Darfur, Sudan.** Keep praying for Anne Reitsema in Darfur, Sudan. We haven't heard from her parents for a couple of weeks. But the situation remains unstable and dangerous and Anne's responsibilities are huge. Anne has been chosen to be the spokesperson to the UN for all the non government relief workers in the area). Other relief groups in the area have been attacked and beaten Anne's group (Medair) has cared for them. Pray for Anne—for safety, wisdom and the ability to sleep.

Old Orchard Church Contact Info

Church Office (in Milligan House), 639 Amelia: 314.962.3795 (*fax* 314.962.8285)

Church Building, 640 Amelia: 314.961.6932

Ron Lutjens' (Home) Study: 314.962.6196 **Email:** ronlutjens@yahoo.com

Mark Tucker's Office: 314.680.3670 **Email:** maltucker@gmail.com

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