



OVERTURE

The Fortnightly Newsletter of Old Orchard Church -October 5, 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. Also, visit our **Sunday School**, offered for all ages (9 a.m. on Sunday mornings). 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 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. Children grades 1-5 are dismissed at 10:50 a.m.

Sunday School News

Fall Sunday School for all ages. Adult class is on the book of Acts taught by elder candidate, Nate McKie. Classes meet at 9 a.m. Adults meet in the Milligan House living room.

Next Parlor Fellowship

Please plan on joining us after worship on October 12 for food and fellowship. Please sign up to contribute food on the sheets circulating today after worship. Thank you!

OOC Teens

Friday, October 10-12. Fifth annual Fall Retreat for 7-12 graders at Camp Day Spring. Sign up by today, October 5.

Saturday, October 18. Work Day: Rehab the Teen Room. Starts at 9 a.m.

Adult Choir

Meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. Will not meet October 20.

English Conversations

We meet 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. on Fridays at Milligan House.
See Hurvey or Dorothy Woodson for more information.

It's Not too Late to Come to Our Women's Bible Study

If you haven't already, we hope you will join us on Thursday nights for The Good Life: Law & Grace, a Bible study taught by Jerram Barrs, professor at Covenant Theological Seminary. We meet from 6:45 - 8:45 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to know God better by studying the goodness of His law & the beauty of His grace. Invite your friends, too. If you have any questions please contact Megan Philip or Melissa Nelson

-- *Melissa Nelson*

Come Celebrate!

All OOC women are invited to a post-wedding shower for Carol Welborn Markway, who married Graham Markway last Saturday (September 27)

WHERE: Milligan House

WHEN: Saturday, October 11 at 10 a.m.

HOSTESSES: Kathy Jennings and Dot Branson

Carol and Graham are registered at Kohl's, Target and Dillards. If your budget is tight you can contribute to a group gift. Please give your contribution to Kathy or Dot by Sunday, October 5. It would be appreciated if you could bring something for the refreshment table. Please join your sisters-in-Christ as we celebrate Carol and Graham's marriage.

Men's Bible Study.

Next time to meet: Saturday, October 18, 7:15 a.m. at Milligan House before OOC's Work Day. See Hal Pendergrass for questions.

OOO Fall Work Day—Y'all come!

Saturday, October 18, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sign up to come for the morning or the afternoon—or both; lunch is provided. Tons of work to be done—but it will be fun! Sign-up to come on sheets circulating today.

Lunch host wanted--see Deacon Matt Philip.

Youth Group Wants Help—Paint & Paint Brushes!

Hello Fellow OOC-ians!

The teens are wishing to re-paint their youth room, and we need your help! We will be having a work day (on October 18, our church's work day) to work on our youth room and paint it, but we need paint and paint brushes! SO please consider donating any old paint brushes or paint you have laying around your basement! Please contact Hannah Nelson or Adam Taussig with donations or questions. Thank you so much!

--The Youth Group

THE CHURCHES OF MISSOURI PRESBYTERY (PCA)
CALL FOR A JOINT SERVICE OF WORSHIP & PRAYER

Sunday, October 26, 6:00 p.m.
Memorial Presbyterian Church
201 South Skinker Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Rev. David Strain of Scotland
Guest Organist: Roger Lowther
Historic 1931 Aeolian Pipe Organ
Reformation Day; Evening Liturgy

Three Nights Together

It's time again for "3 Nights Together"! This year we've asked Covenant Seminary professor, Hans Bayer, to give the talk he gave at the L'Abri Conference on the modern forms of non-Christian spirituality that have been growing in our culture. Here's the schedule in brief:

- ❖ Wednesday, October 29*: *House Church*--to introduce "Three Nights Together. Stories of people who started with spirituality and ended up with Christ - 6 p.m. Meal (bring a dish to share); 7:00 p.m. meeting
- ❖ Wednesday, November 5*: *Hans Bayer's Talk* at the church (7:00 p.m.)
- ❖ Wednesday, November 12: Community groups meet to debrief Hans' talk and pray for friends and relatives, and the many in our culture who are spiritually searching.

*Child Care Provided for both House Church (meeting only) and Hans' talk. Please let us know if you are bringing your child. We will circulate a sign-up sheet or you can call Hannah Nelson (314.577.0156) and let her know you plan to bring your child.

Westminster Christian Academy Open House

Westminster Christian Academy invites interested parents and students to attend an Open House on Monday, November 3 at 7:0 p.m. Westminster is located in Creve Coeur and has a current enrollment of 870 students in grades 7-12. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to tour the school, ask questions, and receive valuable information concerning financial aid and special services for students with diagnoses learning needs. Please call 314.997.2900 to preregister or for additional information.

Update from Heather Sparkman:

We published a letter two weeks ago, and have this additional note: "I have raised 80% of my yearly budget, with about 25% of that coming from Old Orchard members and the church. I am very thankful for the generosity that has made this ministry possible. I hope to be home for my birthday (Oct. 19th) and Thanksgiving - I can't wait to see you then!"

--Heather Sparkman

Foreign Missions Prayer Requests for September 2008

Note: With the falling value of the dollar and increasing inflation in most countries, all of our missionaries are facing financial crunches. Some are looking for ways to cut back their ministries (such as the Quimbos). 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. Praise for a strong beginning of the Budapest Bible School. Pray for the Married Couples Meetings. Pray that intimacy can be maintained in spite of the large group attending.

3. Gerry and Ruth Gutierrez – Huanta, Peru. Pray for Ruthie as she teaches five Bible studies for women of very diverse backgrounds and needs. Pray for the Lord to work in the hearts of the many non-Christians who attend. *Take time to read her interesting letter on the Foreign Missions Bulletin Board.

4. L’Abri Fellowship – England and Switzerland. Pray for the workers that they will know how to address the many difficult issues the students are struggling with. Pray for strength and patience. Pray for financial needs.

5. Dawn Miller – Madrid, Spain. As classes begin this month, pray for good contacts and a strong beginning to the programs planned for this year. Pray that a full campus team would be developed consisting of full-time staff and Spanish volunteers in connection with local churches.

6. Joseph and Elfi Muutuki – Nairobi, Kenya. Joseph and Elfi will be in the US October 11-November 10. Pray that they will be able to visit a number of churches, including OOC. Pray for good visits with their children Matthias and Anne who are studying here.

7. Luciano and Luciene Pires – Goiania, Brazil. They will be in the US until Jan ’09. Pray that the Lord will touch the hearts of churches and individuals to begin or increase financial support, (in spite of the uncertain financial situation in the US). Pray for safety and health as they travel.

8. Rene and Lani Quimbo – Mindanao, Philippines. Praise that a tiny, simple structure was completed in the new city where they are working and that various programs have begun. Pray for Maribeth, the teacher who has moved there in spite of being very fearful. *See their letter, pictures and maps on the Foreign Missions Bulletin Board.

9. Joel and Jessica Rinn – Verona, Italy. Praise that a temporary location has been found to hold the weekly Bible studies. Pray for new people to attend. Pray for Joel as he continues to look for rooms to rent for church services and a ministry center. There are some very promising places he has seen recently.

10. Bob and Shirley Woodson – Lima, Peru. Pray for Bob with his heavy schedule teaching and preaching. He has a trip planned to the mountains Oct 10-12. Praise for two professions of faith made at the women’s retreat.

11. Anne Reitsema – Darfur, Sudan. We have had no news from Anne, but the situation remains volatile. Keep praying.

Please Join Us for Our Fall 2008 Men's Leadership Breakfast

I am pleased to announce the Men's Leadership Breakfast! *Mark your calendars and prepare to join us for another season of uplifting fellowship and inspiring teaching.*

We will examine the foundation of God's grace represented throughout the Old and New Testament. The title for this series will be *Grace Foundation for Daily Living: How grasping grace transforms daily life*. Covenant faculty members, Bryan Chapell, Jay Sklar, Jimmy Agan, and Anthony Bradley, will be among those teaching this powerful series.

The 2008 dates are as follows: September: 9, 23
October: 7, 21
November: 4, 18
December: 2

We will meet at **7 a.m.** in **Buswell Library classroom B111**. As always, **a light breakfast will be provided** and everyone is welcome to attend.

Feel free to pass along this invitation to anyone who might enjoy and benefit from our time together.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact our **Development Office** at **314.434.4044**.

Yours in the service of Christ,

John Ranheim

Director of Development, Covenant Theological Seminary

PS: If you missed some of our previous sessions or would like to review some of the material covered in a previous session, please visit the [Ministry Resources](#) section of the [Seminary's Web site](#) and search "Men's Leadership Breakfast" or "Men's Bible Study." You'll find free downloadable audio files of these sessions as well as hundreds of other useful print and audio resources.

ROOTED IN GRACE FOR A LIFETIME OF MINISTRY

(Submitted by Nelson Jennings; announcement revised and updated from the original)

Counseling Services Offered by Covenant Seminary Students

Free counseling services are offered to anyone in need through students who are in Covenant Theological Seminary's Master of Arts in Counseling (MAC) program. The MAC program trains counselors with a "biblical approach that rigorously examines theories of human nature and counseling techniques in the context of biblical truth. Rather than dehumanizing or deifying human beings, the program seeks to train students to see every human being as a person made in the image of God, yet affected by the Fall—living both in dignity and depravity....students are trained and equipped to demonstrate God's grace and to help hurting people grow and change."

Counseling is on the Covenant Seminary campus in Creve Coeur. The students are in their final year of study and are in internships. They are supervised by one of four professors or supervisors: Dr. Richard Winter (Director of the Counseling Program); Dr. Dan Zink (former assistant pastor and social worker); Dr. Diane Powell (Visiting Instructor and Licensed Professional Counselor; or Janet Burns (Visiting Instructor and counseling at Wellspring Christian Counseling).

This is a resource for those who are in need of counseling, but cannot afford the fees normally associated with such services. For more information or to set up an appointment, please contact Sabrina Hickel at 314.392.4208 or sabrina.hickel@covenantseminary.edu.

Grace & Peace Winter Shelter News

The Winter Shelter operated by Grace & Peace Fellowship (PCA) will open November 9 for the winter season to serve homeless women in the City of St. Louis. Please take a look at their latest newsletter posted on the Mercy Ministry bulletin board.

They are looking for **volunteers**. See below for whom to contact if you want to volunteer:

Meal Providers provide the evening meals at the Shelter (preparing for 20 people). If interested, please contact Karen Morton.

Both Evening and Overnight Volunteers: contact Marianne Kearney. They are praying for at least 20 new overnight volunteers.

For Sunday morning Breakfast teams, contact Melody Perkins. (breakfast teams can get back to our church in time for Sunday School)

Please note the Shelter's "Wish List":

- Flat-screen computer monitor
- Replacement computer/CPU
- Coats for guests (size SL and larger)
- Bus/MetroLink tickets
- Upright Freezer with Energy Star rating
- Sofa with vinyl/washable surface
- DVD player

We will be hearing from Melody soon during our Moment for Missions.

Submitted by Durinda Hood for the Mercy Ministry

Have You Reserved Your Spot for the Women's Retreat Yet?

Please reserve February 27 & 28, 2009 on your calendar for our Women's Retreat! We are looking forward to a wonderful time together of fun, fellowship, and mutually encouraging each other of the goodness of God in our stories.

We will be staying at Todd Hall in Columbia, IL for Friday night through the afternoon of Saturday. (<http://www.toddhallrc.org>)

Cost for this event (one night stay in a double room with Sat. breakfast and lunch provided) will be \$60.

Sign-up with \$10 to hold your spot. This also goes towards our deposit in reserving the date with Todd Hall. You can place your registrations in the big blue mailbox labeled "Women's Ministry" which is in the coat room.

Private rooms are available for an additional fee. Anyone holding back because of financial or other issues is encouraged to talk to Dot Branson or Ann Stuber.

--Dot Branson for the Women's Ministry

Sons & Daughters

We moved to St. Louis from Maryland in June of last year mainly to attend seminary. Seminary has proven almost impossible to do given that we have three small children and I have a full-time job. I am slowly learning what it means to put my family's needs ahead of my own. However, my selfish nature doesn't make that easy to do on a consistent basis. Seminary is on hold and the plan is to stay put and to stay still for awhile. My schedule in Maryland used to be packed. Now I read with my 6-year old Theodore, play "Bear Cave" with my almost 4-year old Virginia, and tickle my 1-year old Quentin. I've also spent a lot of time trying to grow my grass and smoking cigars with the new friends I meet at the local cigar place where I go a few times a week.

When I was 23 I moved to Washington, DC to work on Capitol Hill. During the first few months I found myself very lonely and thinking about the meaning of life. I came to Christ in June 1996. This was after wrestling with the nature of sin and the prevalence of the thousands of religions expressed throughout the world. I also wrestled with my own motives in thinking that it would be nice and comforting for this to be true. But truth is truth because it is true not because it is comforting or what's been passed down for generations or because the alternative to God is so horrifying to me. I personally find the challenge of post-modernism to be daunting at times because it observes the world and cowers under the sheer weight of the massive diversity in an increasingly small world. It also plays to my own tendency to sometimes be apathetic about what I hold to be certain. It replies who can make a judgment in such a world? What means are available to even make a moral or "this religion is right and those are all wrong" judgment in such a world? When I was 23 I looked at the world and saw many different faiths and asked how could Christianity, alone, be true?

Usually the answer to this question is presented as a logical explanation. It can be proofs for Christianity or arguments against other religious claims. For me there was a logical component. I had always been very interested generally in religious questions and in deeper meaning. It was pretty easy to see that, at least to me, that most other religions had very little basis in logic or objective truth. Most seemed to be practiced simply because they were handed down or ordered life in some way for a given people group. Often they are rooted in something other than what God actually would have the people do. Some religions are slightly more credible than others. But for the most part you could see how a given religion was invented at different times in different contexts over the last several thousand years. Christianity certainly had a context as well but it is different in many ways. It's not as easy pass off because starting with the person and work of Christ. It is a very different religion. This is the type of brief judgment that makes my non-Christian friends so uncomfortable, and once made me uncomfortable.

The other non-logical component of me coming to Christ was that I felt God did a great work in my life in ways that I couldn't easily explain. I prayed for various things and I had

a strong feeling that God answered my prayers. He was very actively working in my life in many ways since I became a Christian over 12 years ago.

I continue to see God work in my life. But it is in ways that appear blurry to me at times. I am not always seeing clearly these days. During the last year I've been very challenged by many of the events in my life. I have had hopes disappointed and prayers that were not answered directly or as I expected. I felt strongly called to go to Seminary with the aim of entering a full-time Pastoral ministry. I had felt through my experiences within the local churches I had been a member of that it was pretty obvious that God was clearly leading me in that direction. In the past several years I have served as a Trustee, taught adult Sunday schools on a weekly basis, led an outreach ministry, and was an elder.

It's becoming clear that despite all this I am not called to Pastoral ministry anytime soon, if ever. I'd ordinarily love to go to seminary but I don't feel energetic, it's not best for my family to have an absentee father, and I can't really afford it financially at this time. God has blessed me abundantly with a wonderful wife who loves me in spite of myself; three beautiful, healthy children who are growing up before my eyes every day; a steady job to provide for my family; and now a good church to be a part of here in St. Louis. I have not been successful in counting all the blessing around me. I have not appreciated His blessings in the lives of those around me.

I am praying that in the next year God will restore me. I want to deepen my relationship with Him but I am tired. I have hope that He will do so in the future since He has not disappointed in the past.

--Dennis McKeon

❖ October Birthdays

10/3	Sylvia Mitchell	10/20.....	Jerram Barrs
10/4	Julie Peck	10/20/07.....	Ian Mohler
10/5	Peter Barrs	10/21.....	Kristy Mitchell
10/6	Kevin Raquepaw	10/23/85.....	Emily Roig
10/6/04	Emma Mohler	10/24/04.....	Isaac Tag
10/8	Marny Bielefeldt	10/24/04.....	Maria Tag
10/9	Amy Lutjens	10/25.....	Michael Fogas
10/11	Tünde Futo**	10/26.....	Susan Bayer
10/11	Michelle Kraft	10/26.....	Ruth Gutierrez**
10/11/87	Enrique Quimbo**	10/27.....	Hans Bayer
10/14	Carol Markway	10/27/05.....	Rocco Zavaglia
10/14	Elizabeth Romines	10/29.....	Jack Easterling
10/14/03	John Raquepaw	10/29/03.....	Gavin O'Neal
10/19/07	Gabriella Fogas	10/30.....	Megan Philip
10/19	Heather Sparkman**	10/30.....	Alice Tucker

**Member of missionary or ministry family

Calendar & Calendar Notes

Sundays:

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship

6-8 p.m. Youth Group/Teen Fellowship

Sunday Fellowships & Meals

October 12: Parlor Fellowship after worship

October 26: Lunch at Milligan House after worship

Weekly

Choir: Monday evenings, 7:15 p.m. in church sanctuary. Will not meet October 20

English Conversations: Fridays 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in Milligan House

Scheduled Session Meetings

Thursday, October 16, 2 – 5 p.m.

Thursday, October 30, 2 – 5 p.m.

Special Events or Dates

October 11, Saturday, Post-Wedding Shower for ladies in honor of Carol Welborn at 10 a.m.

October 18, Saturday, Work Day at Old Orchard Church, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Three Nights Together: Wednesdays, October 29 (House Church), November 5 (Hans Bayer's Talk at church), November 12 (meet as community groups). See separate article for more.

November 11, Leaders' Meeting at 7 p.m. at Milligan House

November 19, Wednesday, Congregational meeting for officer elections.

November 27, Thanksgiving Day Worship, 10 a.m.

Sunday, November 30, No Sunday School

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: See print copy

Mark's E-mail: See print copy.

Church Office E-mail: office@oldorchardchurch.org

Web Site: www.oldorchardchurch.org