



Overture

*The Pretty Much
Fortnightly Newsletter of*

Old Orchard Church

November 16, 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 @ a Glance

- 9:00 a.m. **Sunday School** for adults (Milligan House) and children (basement of church building)
10:15 a.m. **Worship**
6-8 p.m. **Youth Group/Teen Fellowship** (see below)

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 a.m.

Children's Worship: For children grades 1 through 5 at Milligan House. Dismissed from worship at 10:50 a.m.

Youth Group/Teen Fellowship

Sunday, November 16

Teen Leadership Team (TLT) meets at 4:30 p.m.

6-8 p.m.: "Hot Topix," with special guest speaker (6th grade welcome).

Sunday, November 23

5:30-8:00 p.m.: "Loving People" at Creve Coeur Manor

Sunday, November 30

No youth group (Thanksgiving Weekend)

N.B.: Guys' & Girls' Nights postponed until further notice.

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:** See print copy.

Mark Tucker's Office: 314.680.3670 **Email:** See print copy.

Church Office E-mail: office@oldorchardchurch.org

Web Site: www.oldorchardchurch.org

Calendar Notes

(An asterisk [*] indicates that more information can be found later in this issue.)

Recurring events

Adult Choir meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. See Greg Roig for questions.

English Conversations. We meet 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. on Fridays at Milligan House (no meeting, however, on November 26 and December 26. See Hurvey or Dorothy Woodson for more information.

Men's Bible Study meets next on Saturday, Nov. 15, 7:15 a.m. at Milligan House. See Hal Pendergrass for questions.

***Parlor Fellowship** next held Sunday, December 7, after worship.

Special Calendar Goodies

***Congregational Meeting** for officer elections this Wednesday, November 19, 6:45 p.m.

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

No Sunday School on Sunday, November 30.

Day of Prayer & Fasting, concluding with House Church: Wednesday, December 3 (details to follow).

Leaf Raking Day: Saturday, December 6.

***Kids' Christmas Craft Sale:** Sunday, December 14, after worship.

***Christmas Party & Caroling:** Sunday, December 21, 5 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship: Thursday, December 25, 11 a.m.

KHPYΓΜΑΤΑ ΤΗ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΙ (Announcements for the Church)

Congregational Meeting for Officer Elections

Wednesday, November 19, 6:45 p.m.

(Child-care available: please sign up or let Hannah Nelson know.)

Status	Office	Candidate
Retiring officers	Elder	<i>Jack Easterling</i> (after eight years of service)
	Deacon	<i>Graham Markway</i> (after four years of service)
Officers standing for another (3 year) term	Elder	<i>Hurvey Woodson</i>
	Deacon	<i>Matt Philip</i>
New candidates for office	Elder	<i>Nate McKie</i> <i>Greg Roig</i>
	Deaconess	<i>Durinda Hood</i> (having been declared eligible for election)

Please be sure to express your thanks to Jack and Graham for their service to us!

IMPORTANT----IMPORTANT----IMPORTANT

We need **all** members to come this Wednesday night (November 19) to vote on those up for election as deacon, deaconess, elder.

We discovered this fall that the polity (government) of the PCA specifically prohibits any kind of absentee voting *when it comes to electing officers*. This means that from now on our common practice of allowing absentee voting and voting by proxy (a spouse for a spouse) will **not** be allowed when we vote on officers.

We apologize for not having caught this years ago; but now that we know it's there in the **Book of Church Order** we need to honor it. And, of course, the rationale for it is that on something as important as electing officers, the people voting should be in on the deliberations that take place in the actual meeting. Sometimes, it's in the give-and-take of listening and debating that the Lord's will is made known.

All this means that **we need everyone there Wednesday night**. Parents, please take advantage of the childcare we provide, or arrange your own babysitting. Since we have a stiff quorum, we need 66 people there Wednesday night or we won't be able to hold the election.

We realize this will be a strain for some of you, but this is part of our commitment to each other and to Christ. So even though we'll all be tired at the end of the day on Wednesday, it will still be our privilege to do this work of electing officers together that night. If there is a reason you can't be there Wednesday that's truly unavoidable, please talk with an elder before then. Thanks for your cooperation in this.

--Ron Lutjens, for the Session

Directory Emendations

Graham and Carol Markway – See Print Copy for info. <i>Address:</i> <i>Phone numbers:</i> (home) (Graham's cell) (Carol's cell) (work: Carol) <i>E-Mail:</i> <i>Important dates:</i> Carol's birthday: 10/14 Graham's birthday: 8/2 Anniversary: 9/27/08	Mark and Valerie Powers – See Print Copy for info <i>Phone numbers:</i> Valerie's cell: 618.531.9137 Mark's cell: 314.458.8548 <i>We apologize to Mark and Valerie for incorrectly listing their phone numbers in the directory update issued in May of 2008.</i>
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Directory Assistant & Detailed Minded Proof Reader

Would you like to assist in putting out the next directory? I'd like to find someone who would like to assist with the process of getting updated information. And I'd like a second person who is gifted with details to proof the next Directory we put out. We're going to update the Directory via e-mails, phone calls, and announcements this time around. If you would like to help with either aspect, please contact Durinda Hood, 314.962.3795 or e-mail her at office@oldorchardchurch.org.

OOO Brings Narnia to the Dominican Republic in 2009!

Old Orchard Church has decided to send a team to the Dominican Republic this June to put on our Narnia Summer Children's Program with Orphanage Outreach. This is the ministry that Emily Roig will be serving with this coming Winter and Spring. We are praying that the Lord would draw in the right folks for this team. We hope to send about 15 people from OOC. Please consider joining the team for this week long mission trip. Keep your eyes open for details, or contact Mark Tucker (maltucker@gmail.com).

--submitted by Mark Tucker

Overture Submissions Wanted

The next *Overture* will be out on Sunday, December 7. You are invited to write for it! We welcome submissions of articles, art, short essays, poetry, etc. All submissions should be signed by the person submitting them. 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). We have a rotating crew of *Overture* editors; the editor for next time is Susan O'Neal.

Holiday Cooperative Meal Resurrected

You are welcome to join a small group of OOC folks and their guests for Thanksgiving dinner at Milligan house after the 10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving service at Old Orchard. It's a great opportunity to treat yourself and your friends to church and a hot meal!! Please let us know if this sounds like something you'll like to consider, and even if you are not sure yet, please sign the clipboard circulating with your name and contact info. More questions? See Linda Lemen or call Chris Carter.

ByFaith Magazine

I would like to send in a group subscription to the PCA's magazine, byFaith magazine. If you are interested, please get sign up on the clipboard circulating today and get your \$14.00 (check written to ByFaith) to me. A year's subscription at the regular rate is \$19.95. The magazine would be sent to your home address. Deadline: this Wednesday's congregational meeting, November 19. However many I have at that point will be sent in on Thursday.

--submitted by Durinda Hood

December's Parlor Fellowship

Please sign up for the next Parlor Fellowship which will be on Sunday, December 7. Michelle Kraft and Betsy Roig are hosting. Choices: (1) Bagels/Cream Cheese or Muffins or Cheese & Crackers for 10 to 12; Fruit Tray for 10 to 12; Juice; 5 Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches.

Communion Cleaner Still Wanted

We are still looking for someone to help clean communion ware once a month starting in January 2009. If you are interested or want more info, please see Durinda Hood or e-mail/call the church office. Thanks.

Mark Tucker Study Break

Mark will be taking a week's Study Break starting Thursday, November 20 through Thanksgiving Day.

Grace & Peace Winter Shelter News

The Winter Shelter operated by Grace & Peace Fellowship (PCA) has opened for the winter season to serve homeless women in the City of St. Louis. Please pray for this ministry. If you haven't volunteered in some way and would like to, please contact Melody Perkins at 314.367.8959.

Enlarged Copies of Songs

If anyone in the congregation has the need for enlarged copies of songs we sing, please let me know. We have provided this for someone in the past and already have a number of songs ready to be used. Call Durinda in the church office if this is something you would like.

Save the NEW Date, Folks!

Yes, our **Christmas Party** is still on, but, after further consideration, we have decided to merge it with our annual caroling event. So, on **Sunday, December 21**, dinner will begin at 5 p.m. with a Christmas program presented by the OOC Choir; those who wish may carol in the evening after dessert. Plan to come!

We need help in organizing the event. Please see Kathy Jennings or Lois Easterling if you can help with the advance planning, food preparation, or serving. Planning will begin before Thanksgiving.

Kids' Christmas Craft Sale! Sunday, December 14

Kids! Christmas Craft Sale again! Kids 18 years and younger are invited to make Christmas presents that they can show and sell to others in the fellowship. Date of the sale: **Sunday, December 14** after worship. If you plan to make things this year, please let Kelli McKie know.

For those of you new to the church, our kids have displayed some wonderful talents and hard work in the past. Some have made candlesticks from things in the woods, some make wax candles, cookies, breads, note holders, marbled note paper, fire starters, wrapping paper, ornaments—lots of great gift ideas. Plan on buying a few last minute gifts!

From Our West Coast Bureau

The Editor for this issue freely admits guilty to a charge of nepotism in publishing the following; he nevertheless judges it worthy of inclusion and consonant with the call for submissions to the Overture (see page 3 above). Jenny Lowe, raised in this congregation, now lives in Portland, Oregon, and teaches eighth-grade English at an independent school in the area; she had this piece published by the local newspaper, The Oregonian, on Sunday, October 19.

Election season reminds me how much everyone wants to be saved. Everyone -- agnostics, Catholics, atheists, New Agers or evangelicals -- wants a savior who will right wrongs, show mercy to the downtrodden, bring oppressors to justice and make the world a better place. The more "free-thinking" among us bristle at the idea of needing a savior. But consider what we look for in a president, and see if it doesn't sound an awful lot like what people want in a messiah.

We want someone who understands our plight: someone who is like us, only better. Many of us know that if we were president, we'd probably screw something up or that power would change us for the worse. So we want a person who is

above that: a person with a track record of 99 percent perfection, allowing for 1 percent of human error (but never in the really important things).

But we get mad at these candidates when they make those errors and gaffes because they've let us down in some way. They can't teeter on the pedestal forever, and when they slip, we let them have it. When they fail us, we grumble. If they fail us enough, we hunger for political crucifixion, screaming, "Impeach him!" Even the most loyal followers will desert, distance themselves, betray. They might write books about how deceitful and terrible that man was all along, and how they must show him for the fraud he truly was. Even those leaders whom history judges favorably will always have their vociferous detractors.

Can you imagine the kind of pressure these candidates are under? What a strain to try to convince everyone that they can save America from the trouble it's in. Not only must they keep their flock faithful, but they also have to convince and convert skeptics of several persuasions. They must also perform miracles. We ask them to deliver us from evil dictators or greedy corporations, give us our tax cuts, resurrect the economy and heal a dying planet. Can any human do these things?

Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama say they can. They are fighting each other to see who will take up the mantle of America's Next Messiah. Just listen to their language. McCain says that he "knows how to heal the wounds of war." In fact, some of his favorite words are, "I know how to . . ." Obama promises to unify Americans of every kind under his leadership as president. His slogan is, "Change we can believe in," on the understanding that we can believe in change because we can believe in who he is and what he's done.

Both men tout their records as agents of change. Both claim that America is the greatest nation on Earth -- a rather grandiose claim -- but that it has gone through what you might call a fall. Now, we are facing a "final verdict" (or day of judgment, if you like) on years of failed policies. Yet their voices cry in the wilderness, saying, "Believe in me, entrust your vote to me, and you will be saved from a bleak and destructive future and ushered into a time of peace and prosperity."

I will be voting in this election, because I'm grateful to have been born into a democratic nation, no matter how askew. I believe in having political leaders. I just happen to be voting for a president and not for Jesus, who isn't running anyway. Kings aren't up for election.

News about Missions: Update on Christianity in China

These comments are taken from an article by Rev. Werner Bürklin published in the July/August issue of *Decision* magazine. He has visited China eighty times since 1981 and was born there of missionary parents. He founded an ministry called "China Partner" and has recently written a book entitled *Jesus Never Left China*.

Pastor Kin Li Yu told me that Chinese society's impressions of Christianity have changed. "In the past when a church wanted to build a new church in the area, the people in the surrounding area were not in support of it. Now the people's opinion has changed. People say 'We welcome you to build a church in our community.'"

Recently Rev. Bürklin went to the chapel where his father preached, which holds about 80-100 people. The church leaders asked the head of the Religious Affairs Bureau for a piece of land to build a church that would hold about 500 people. He replied by saying that they needed a church that could seat 1,000, and he offered to give them a parcel of that size, free of charge. On his next visit, Rev. Bürklin visited the property that had been given to the church.

When asked why we in the West tend to hear only about persecution of Christians in China, Rev. Bürklin said this in reply: "That view is propagated by people who either do not know the situation or do not want to know the truth about the situation. I listen to a Christian radio station, and all I hear about is another wave of persecution in China and things like that. It's not that I believe that those reports are false, but they show only one small portion of the story. It's sad that we mostly hear the negative instead of the positive things that are taking place in China today."

It is illegal to hand out tracts in China; doing so results in a fine, and repeat offenders can be jailed. Rev. Bürklin asked Chinese believers how they handled such prohibitions. Their reply to him was as follows: "We are run by an atheistic government, so we have to accept that. But where in the Bible does it say that you have to pass out tracts? It does say we have to be a letter of Christ. So we are the tracts. We live our Christian lives so others see a difference in us, which draws them to Jesus Christ. We don't need paper tracts."

Pastor Shen Xue Bin of the Abundant Grace Church in Shanghai attributes the growth of the gospel to two things. (1) God is guiding the church. (2) The believers not only listen to the gospel, but they also practice what God says. People will say "My Christian neighbor looks different or his behavior is always very good—why?" This opens the way to believers to tell their friends about Jesus Christ.

I wanted to submit these excerpts to help out members have a better idea of what God is doing in China. I personally feel that we need to have a more balanced concept of what the Lord is doing in this great nation.

-submitted by Hurvey Woodson