



Overture

*The Pretty Much
Fortnightly Newsletter of*

Old Orchard Church

March 15, 2009

Welcome to Old Orchard Church!

Welcome to our worship! If you would like to find out more about Old Orchard & what we are about, please fill out one of our visitor forms. Please see below for information on children's ministries and Sunday School.

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.

Sunday School Class for Adults

Book of James—Manuscript study led by Mark Tucker.

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. See Hurvey or Dorothy Woodson for more information.

Men's Bible Study meets next on Saturday, March 21, 7:15 a.m. at Milligan House. See Hal Pendergrass for questions.

Women's Bible Study. Thursdays, 6:45 p.m. See Melissa Nelson or Megan Philip if you have questions. **Will not meet April 9 (Holy Week).**

Lunch at Milligan House. Please sign up for lunch next week (Sunday, March 22) after worship. Marie Chambers and Ann Stuber are hosting.

For Teens

Sunday, March 15: **Loving People.** Teen Leadership Team meets at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 22: 6 to 8 p.m. "**Hot Topix**"-- Sex & Dating, Part II.

Parents, talk to Mark Tucker if you have any questions or concerns.

Special Calendar Goodies

*Saturday, March 21: **Baby Shower** 10 a.m.

*Saturday, March 28: *Women's Ministry's* **Crafty Saturday.** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*Wednesday, April 1: **House Church.** Pot-luck Supper at 6 p.m. and meeting at 7 p.m. Child Care will be provided during the meeting (Let Hannah Nelson know by March 28 if you plan to bring your child.)

*Saturday, April 4: **OOC Work Day**

*Sunday, April 5: **Palm Sunday**—deadline for returning filled Easter Baskets

KHPYTMATA THI EKKΛΗΣΙΑΙ (Announcements for the Church)

Good Friday Meals—for Adults and Children

You are invited to participate in our meals in homes on Good Friday, April 10 at 5:45 p.m. The meal is simple with bread and soup as the menu.

There are two types of meals, *sharing meals* and *reciting meals*. In a **sharing meal** there is open sharing with each other how Christ's finished work on the cross is having its effect on us, right where we live. In a **reciting meal** we read to each other the dramatic story (highlighted from Genesis to Revelation) of our rebellion and God's redemption. We encourage you to bring non-Christian friends to these meals. **Sign up sheets** will be posted in the parlor beginning next Sunday, March 22.

Please also note that we will have a **Good Friday program and special meal for children** (*divided ages: 1-4; 5-11 years*) at the Milligan House during these adult meals (arrival time at 5:30 p.m.). We also are looking for **volunteers to help** with this meal. See Mark Tucker if you can help.

Extra! Extra! More OOC Babies to Arrive!

Baby Shower for Amy Ruth Bartlett and Gina Woodard
Saturday, March 21, at 10 a.m., at the Milligan House
Hostesses: Katherine Lutjens and Lois Easterling

All OOC women are invited to a baby shower for Amy Ruth Bartlett and Gina Woodard. Both first-time mothers will welcome their babies in April. Gina and Amy Ruth are registered at Babies-R-Us and Target. If your budget is tight you can contribute to a group gift for each expectant mother. Please give your contribution to Katherine or Lois by today, March 15. If you are able to bring a plate of refreshments to the shower it would be greatly appreciated. An OOC shower is a special way to fellowship with one another and to encourage our new mothers. Come and be a blessing.

Women's Crafty Saturday!

Women's Ministry Crafty Time
** Saturday, March 28, 2009 ** 9 am to 1 pm
** Milligan House **

Come join us for a time of crafting and fellowship! Bring your knitting, crocheting, sewing, scrapbooking, origami — whatever! Or, if crafting is not your thing but you still want to visit with friends, you can bring any other work you need to catch up on, or just bring yourself. Tables and chairs will be provided. Bring snacks for yourself or to share if you want to nibble on something while you craft. And feel free to invite friends from outside Old Orchard; this can be a great opportunity for outreach! Questions, call or email Amy Butz – see print copy for contact info.

House Church: An International Perspective

Our guest at house church this month will be Old Orchard Church member, Jessica Patterson (she chose to keep her connection to our fellowship, since she knew she would be moving every couple of years).

After graduating from Covenant Seminary in 2002, Jessica worked in the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons until September of 2003 when she joined the U.S. Foreign Service. She served at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv from 2004-2006 as a Consular Officer in the first year, and as Staff Aide to the United States Ambassador to Israel during the year of the Israeli disengagement from Gaza. In 2006 she moved to Chile where she was a Political/Economic Officer working on transnational crime issues, and telecommunications and civil aviation issues. She returned to Washington D.C. in 2008, and is currently serving as the State Department's Algeria and Tunisia Desk Officer.

We've asked Jessica to talk a little about what it's been like to represent our civil government in different parts of the world as a believer in Jesus Christ, and also to share her insights on current issues in the Middle East, particularly on the recent fighting between Palestinians and Israelis in Gaza.

At the house church meeting in January, Nelson Jennings challenged us to learn more about the wide world in which God is working so that we can pray with greater understanding. Coming out and listening to Jessica would be one small but very useful step in that direction.

--submitted by Ron Lutjens

OOC Work Day—Sign-up to help!

Saturday, April 4. 9 to 5 p.m. come morning or afternoon or both. Lunch provided. About 30 people signed up last week to help—including our lunch host who will be **Lois Easterling**. Thanks!! More are welcome! Let's get the church and grounds ready for Easter Sunday (April 12 this year!)

Fill an Easter Basket for a Child

Sponsored by the Mercy Ministry of Old Orchard Church

We invite you to fill an Easter basket for a child (age 3-11) in Webster Groves or Rock Hill. By doing this, you are extending Jesus' love and care to a child. Jesus reminds us that "whatever you do to the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me." (Matthew 25:40). We want to share the hope of the resurrection as well.

For those who have not participated in this annual gift-giving: you are invited to help fill Easter baskets with fun and practical items for children. You may also include your own note of Easter greetings in the basket. The Mercy Ministry will add to your filled basket a coloring book called "Jesus Is Alive" (created by Shirley Dobson) communicating the truth of the resurrection of Jesus, and we also include an invitation to our church, and to our summer's Narnia children's program in August. The Mercy Ministry team delivers the filled baskets to Webster-Rock Hill Ministries who in turn distribute them to families who have signed up to receive one for their child.

We have been told that recipients like our Easter baskets! There are 40 of them to fill, so take one today and bring it back on Palm Sunday, April 5.

Please let us know that you took a basket by signing the clipboard on the card table.

--submitted by The Mercy Ministry team

Additional Communion Cleaning Help Sought!

Interested in serving once a month helping to clean the communion ware? We are looking for a couple more people to be on the monthly rotation regularly, and also substitutes. We work in pairs. See Durinda Hood.

Narnia in the Dominican Republic-Team Formed!

Old Orchard Church is sending a team of 14 to the Dominican Republic! Team members: Mary Beth Glasgow, Mark Robertson, Marci Robertson, Hannah Nelson, Julia Scott Dawson, Bryn McKie, Peter Barrs, Carine Barrs, Daniel Foss, Samuel Ward, Mark Tucker, Ryan Glasgow, Betsy Roig, Caroline Kern (Betsy's niece). And Emily Roig, already in the Dominican Republic, is our 15th team member! Do pray for preparations. The trip is June 20-27.

Overture Deadline in Two Weeks.

March 29 is the deadline for submissions to the next *Overture*, which will be out Sunday, April 5. You are invited to write for any of our issues! We welcome submissions of articles, art, short essays, poetry, etc. All submissions should be signed by the person submitting them. You can submit articles to 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 the next issue is Susan O'Neal.

Fund-raiser Trivia Night

Covenant Seminary is sending a team of future pastors to East Asia this summer and you are invited to their trivia night "Around the World in 100 Questions." Silent auction including vases painted (with some help) by Bryan Chapell, Jerram Barrs, David Calhoun and Dan Doriani. Prizes for First, Last and Best Theme Table. First E-Free; Friday, March 20; Doors open at 6:15, trivia begins at 7; \$20/person or tables of 8 for \$140 RSVP to tea.trivia.night@gmail.com

--submitted by Nelson Jennings

Babysitting Tickets Available

I am selling babysitting tickets for \$15 each. Each ticket would be 4-5 hours of babysitting. All funds would go toward my cost of \$1200 to go on the Dominican Republic Mission Trip. Please see me to purchase your ticket.

--submitted by Bryn McKie

Good News from the Pireses

The Pireses in Brazil had been informed by their landlord they would need to move by September. We have been praying that they would find a new place to rent for their home and ministry center. Instead, their owner has now informed them that he has changed his plans for their property and they would not need to move for four years! So we praise the Lord for answering our prayers in a creative way!

Your Help and Prayers Requested

Our church has the opportunity to influence the work of the Gospel in China by befriending and helping another Chinese surgeon who is at Barnes-Jewish Hospital until June. We already had the privilege of getting to know Drs. Ma and Zhu (Chu) and their families who attended our English Conversation Classes and came to church quite often during their six month stay in St. Louis.

Now Dr. Yang has arrived and needs help with his English. We would ask for your help and advice.

First: He has said he would attend church. His English is very poor, but please be brave and welcome him to OOC. You can ask him questions about himself that you already know the answers to (because of this article) so that you can help him when he tries to understand you and answer. (He is married with a teen-age son. His wife and son are in China. His is a spinal surgeon.)

Second: We are looking for a trained ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher who could tutor him for pay, in the evening. He has a car and could drive to where-ever. (We are already contacting Kathy Jennings for ideas).

Third: We would like to find a man (or men) who would volunteer to meet with him for conversation. This would be hard at first, but we have some suggestions to make it possible. This would be in the evening; he could meet where-ever but no pay.

This will possibly be the first contact Dr. Yang has had with Christians. Certainly his first time in a Christian church. And if he takes a positive impression with him back to China, who knows what further contact with Christians the Lord might bring into his life there.

To find out more, contact Hurvey or Dorothy Woodson: [see print copy for contact info]

Not Just Another Clipboard Sign-up Sheet

Be on the look-out for a handout that will be circulating in the communion circle after worship. This message from the Session will be the primary topic of discussion at community groups meeting on Sunday, March 22 and Wednesday, March 25. See the handout for details and explanation.

A Real Talent Show

All are invited and encouraged to support our own Alyssa Santoyo as she gives her senior recital on the classical guitar. This concert will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 3, at the Music Department Hall of Webster University. Alyssa is a fine musician; it should be a delightful evening!

--submitted by Ron Lutjens

Lent: Another Perspective

It may be I plain don't get it. Could be background. Could be temperament. But there's something about it that doesn't resonate that ahhhhhh! peace of soul. Rest. Something that feels backward. Inside out.

I read my friend's email and afterward felt an inarticulate disquiet. What is it that bugged me? For Lent, she's giving up Facebook and Internet socializing. She plans to read her Bible during the time she would ordinarily spend on the computer. Another recipient hit Reply to All, and followed up, convicted by my friend's email, resolved to give up her two political blogs for the next 40 days. A neighbor of mine has given up chocolate for Lent.

What indulgences could I give up? My morning coffee? Naps? Novels that transport me so out of the here and now that I land refreshed when I place my bookmark between the pages and return to my world of diapers, laundry and sippy cups? The result would not be a holy one. Rather, a crankier, over-tired mom nursing the nasty caffeine headache would only shift the burden of sacrifice to my family's shoulders through Lent.

I admit I have enough trouble considering the trials I didn't ask for "pure joy." The assorted plumbing problems our house is lately afflicted with are working steadfastness, so I'm told. But I don't like them. I didn't go out to find them. They found our pipes.

If self-denial is at the heart of Lent, it finds this mom of young kids at every turn. There I am, making dinner, Dennis stuck in traffic, when Quentin makes off with my spatula, Virginia gives me her 9-1-1 cry to switch on the too-high bathroom light, and Theodore erupts in primal howls of frustration over the Lincoln Log roof that slides off its cabin yet again. Then, with green wood shingles in my hands, I hear a swishing toilet sound and rediscover my spatula, my toddler, and gain insight into our toilet's recent malfunctioning.

Can the self-denying moments my current lifestyle requires even compare with what Christ denied Himself? Of course not. In very nature God, He made Himself nothing. I freely admit, I just may not get this whole Lent thing, but can giving up chocolate, or Facebook or novels or naps ever begin to approach what Christ gave up?

Here's where I see the cart and the horse in the wrong places. Christ became a man and lived a human life replete with maddening interruptions, setbacks and shortcomings as well as blood-sweating emotional pain. Why? So that you and I could be raised with Him. So that He could take us back to that Land of wholeness where we knew the Father's favor, splashing in utter satisfaction, fellowship and laughter.

The last few Lord's Suppers I've camped on that thread of phrase, "On the night He was betrayed..." He 100% understands that kick in the gut pain, slap in the face sting of betrayal. This is a Category 5 trial which has me longing for the perfect, complete and not lacking anything that Distant Shores promise me.

Something in me is significantly helped when I say, "He understands what this feels like" rather than, "Now I know something of what Christ went through". Of course, I don't. He left the place I was made for but have never been to. I only know, vaguely yet profoundly, that I belong There. We all do. He emptied Himself so that we might know fullness.

So, this Lent rather than pinch off some pleasure, I hope to indulge a whole lot. I hope to stretch up high, and down deep, way out wide and long and grasp something of this love that surpasses knowledge. When I am choked by pain, howling with frustration myself, I hope to tell myself, "He knows exactly how this feels." I know He will step in, turn on the Light I am still too short to reach and calm my soul.

--submitted by Suzanna McKeon

Open Letter to the Congregation

March, 2009

To my brothers and sisters of Old Orchard Church,

It has been a year now since my dear wife Cheryl went home to her Lord. I am overdue in expressing thanks for all that you did for our family in the years of her illness and her death.

I have had great difficulty in most areas of life and setting my mind to accomplish anything has been eluding me in so many ways. The grieving, mourning, despair and depression has taken its toll, but God has sustained me and kept me afloat, using many of you to do that.

When I think back to three years ago when Cheryl first had symptoms with her voice, I can see God's hand of blessing at work continually through you all. I remember how some came together and worked very hard to meet the needs that this illness brought. The prayers, meals, and financial support that we received during her two year ordeal were truly amazing. I'm guessing that this was the most extensive ministry of mercy that this congregation has ever taken on.

It is overwhelming to think of all of you who became caregivers, or who tried and were unable to be worked into the system. The list of you who brought meals and helped in other practical ways goes on and on.

My delay in writing in no way minimizes your love and support, in my mind.

Justin, Jesse, and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

In Christ,

Bruce Cook

OOC Prayer Requests

(See articles below for further details.)

- Pray for Linda and son Leandro Lemen, as they leave for a short term missions trip to Haiti on Tuesday. Pray for protection and good service there.
- Pray for Heather Sparkman's work with girls at the University of Arkansas (via Reformed University Fellowship).

Short Term Mission Trip to Haiti

March 10, 2009

Good morning! After much planning our departure date came upon us quickly after the "Lost Ship" was finally located in Haiti's port. I also found out that Pastor Gilbert, who is hosting us, works with the missions team from Dardene Presbyterian Church! However, our little team consists of Jackie Settle, an old friend of mine that has been working in Haiti for years but lives in St Charles, an RN, Andrea Whisenton, also from St Charles, MO., Leandro and myself.

A 40 foot container filled with 200 hundred school desks, 1000 + lbs of rice, food and school supplies as well as clothes and meds and 3 sewing machines are on that ship. Our job is to distribute these things to 4 villages, set up crude medical clinics in each village for the day, and I will teach sewing classes after the machines are rigged up to a car battery, and do crafts with the street children. (It is at this point I feel like writing the old Mission Impossible slogan, "Should you decide to accept this mission this tape will self destruct in 30 seconds".) But knowing how strong voodoo and oppression in general is in Haiti, I have just given it up to the Lord and I am willing to do as much as I can during the day light hours as we know not to expect any electric, clean water or roads. We shall do what He deems important I pray.

Please lift us up in prayer. We leave 3/17/09 to 3/25/09. We are a close knit group of 4 and all are willing to do what ever it takes. Haitians at this time need so many staples, especially food and meds and everything in the schools were washed away so what we are doing won't be in vain.

--Linda Lemen

Raising RUF Awareness

Dear Friends,

Please pardon the mass invitation, but I wanted to let you know that I will be home in St. Louis next week and my parents have graciously allowed me to have a “meet and greet” this coming Tuesday, March 17, at their home. The Spring Break/Disaster Relief trip we had planned to take to Iowa next week had to be cancelled, so this seemed to be an opportune time to come to St. Louis and visit. It can be so hard to express what is happening with the ministry of RUF at Arkansas in just a few moments, and often I only have a few moments when I am in town for the weekend and see some of you at church or in passing. The idea is to take a few minutes to share what God is doing here at the university, and in the lives of the young women and men as well as my own life, and then hopefully visit with as many of you as I can!

Come around 7 and we'll visit for a bit over coffee and dessert, then about 7:30 I'll share a little about where we are in RUF--and where we are going--at Arkansas. Our address is [see print copy]. And if you would like to hear more but cannot join us Tuesday evening, please let me know a time that we could get together during that week for lunch or coffee. I love visiting over a good cup of coffee and would be more than happy to share God's work here!

Please RSVP by Monday, March 16 at noon so that we can prepare accordingly, but if your plans change and you find you can come, please do so. I would love to see you!

In His Grace,

Heather R. Sparkman
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