



Overture

The (almost) Fortnightly Newsletter of Old Orchard Church ~ June 7, 2009

Welcome!

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 am. 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 in the preschool room during the whole service. Five-year-olds remain upstairs in the worship service until dismissed at 10:50.

No **Children's Worship** for the summer. We will resume in the fall.

Congregational Meeting This Wednesday!

Reminder! Congregational Budget Meeting!

Congregational Budget Meeting. Wednesday, June 10 @ 6:45 pm. The congregation gives feedback to the Session. Signup today & next week for child care. Members are required to attend! (Non-members are welcome to come & listen to our deliberations.)

Today the handout for the budget is being distributed. Please read before you come to the meeting because it will answer some of your questions.

Needs!

THE HOSPITALITY MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!!

One of the hallmarks of Old Orchard Church has always been the importance we place on creating opportunities for people to fellowship over food in a pleasant setting. This is one of the things the hospitality ministry facilitates for the benefit of all who attend or visit our church. Ordinarily we have refreshments in the parlor (back of the church) one Sunday a month after worship. We also try to have a full meal in Milligan House about 8 times a year, usually on the 4th Sunday. In addition, we arrange to have refreshments for congregational meetings and special occasions. This adds up to about 24 events a year.

Do you enjoy parlor fellowships and meals in Milligan House? If so, here's what you can do to help.

- Sign up to bring food when the clipboards come around in the communion circle. Each family that plans to attend should try to contribute if at all possible. For Parlor Fellowships, please sign up for one item per family. For meals in Milligan House, please contribute one need per adult attending. Needs usually include food, cash, and clean-up help. Guests are always welcome to attend at no charge, without signing up. And of course, we want you to stay even if you didn't sign up--there is always enough food.
- Join the Hospitality Ministry and volunteer to host an event. We have detailed instructions for you to follow and we will pair you with someone who has experience. **We currently need hosts for meals in July, August, and December.** Talk to Kathy Jennings about where you can fit in. A community group is welcome to take this on as a group activity. Recently our teens hosted the Mother's Day fellowship with great success. Men are always welcome to participate. Jim Lowe has organized meals for us in the past.

With ideally 2 hosts or hostesses per event, you can see that this requires a lot of people. Currently, many of our members are having to serve as hosts for several events a year in order to cover everything on the calendar. We would like to lighten the load a bit by bringing new people in to help us. New folks may not understand how all of this wonderful food magically appears on a regular basis! Non-members are always welcome to contribute by signing up on the clipboards.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy by phone (see print copy) or e-mail (see print copy).

Trip to New Orleans with Central Presbyterian

Hey Folks,

Central Presbyterian Church has a team of 10 people going to New Orleans July 5 - 11 to work with the Trinity Community Center with Pastor Kevin and Sandy Brown from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. We need a few more folks (4 or 5) who can focus on the kids in the community and help with the VBS each morning. We also need a few more folks to help with the rehab. work, etc. but you don't have to be a "skilled" laborer and they will provide all tools. (We will meet up with other folks from around the country too.) There will be a free day to see the sights and it should be a good "bonding" trip.

Cost for the trip is **only \$285** for the week and that includes meals, lodging, transport from St. Louis. You'll need a few bucks for meals during the free day and the ride to and from New Orleans. Some scholarship help will be available from the mission office upon request.

Contact Mark Tucker as soon as possible if you are interested.

Grace & Peace Winter Shelter Trivia Night Needs

Dear Friends,

A couple of people who served supper here at the Grace & Peace Winter Shelter this past season are interested in putting together a Trivia Night Fundraiser in the fall before the Shelter opens, probably October. They have little Trivia Night experience but lots of interest in doing it and are hoping that some folks who know more and also love the shelter would join up with them to help plan and carry out the fundraiser.

Workers of all sorts would be needed, from planning the event to getting prizes to auction or sell, to serving at the event (ticket runners, etc.), to art for publicity, to question readers, to cashiers, and anything else. I would be grateful if you would pray and think about what you, your family, and really anyone else you could hook us up with might be able to do. We are looking for a venue and will need people to be players, too!

Please reply as soon as you can to me! [Editor's note: contact Melody at the Grace & Peace, 314.367.8959 or e-mail Melody at graceandpeace1@sbcglobal.net.]

Thanks!

Melody Perkins, Team Leader
The Grace & Peace Winter Shelter [a ministry to homeless women during the winter in St. Louis City]

wOmEn'S cOrNeR

Women's Ministry Crafty Saturday

Saturday, June 27, 2009 at Milligan House – 10 am to 1 pm. Ladies, come join us for a time of crafting and fellowship! Bring your knitting, crocheting, sewing, scrapbooking, origami or other projects! 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, 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! Questions, call or email Amy Butz.

Mercy Ministry Needs

Bring Food Any Sunday

The Mercy Ministry team continues to accept donations of non-perishable food throughout the year to be passed on to a Food Pantry – usually Grace & Peace Fellowship's Food Pantry. We were told recently that their supplies have been lean.

--Durinda Hood for the Mercy Ministry

Thinking About Adoption?

If you are thinking about adoption and missed the Wait No More meeting in June, Bethany Christian Services is hosting a smaller question and answer time at the Tesson Ferry library on Thursday July 9th at 6:30. An R.S.V.P. is helpful--see the flyer on the Bulletin Board for more information.

--Debbie Pendergrass

Read This!

BOOK REVIEW by HurveyWoodson

China Road: A Journey Into The Future Of A Rising Power
by Bob Gifford

Gifford is a Christian and was an NPR correspondent for six years in China. This book was published by Random House in 2007 and came out in paperback in 2008. It has received high praise from Ted Koppel, managing editor of the Discovery Channel; from The Economist, and from many others. It is highly readable, engaging, and great fun.

What the author does is to take what he calls "Route 312" clear across China like our HWY Route 66. He begins in Shanghai and ends up on the border of Kazakhstan. He gives a face to a country widely misunderstood by Westerners. Along the way Gifford reveals a rich mosaic of modern Chinese life and poses the crucial questions that many are asking about China. Will it really be the next superpower? Is it as solid and powerful as it looks from the outside? And who are the ordinary Chinese people to whom the 21st century is supposed to belong? The author refers to two Western people in the past who have really introduced China to the West: Pearl Buck's novel "The Good Earth" and the life and ministry of Hudson Taylor who was a revolutionary figure in the missionary community after 1850. Gifford speaks very openly of having read the biography of Hudson Taylor and of it having a profound influence on his own life. He also talks very clearly about the positive influence that so many missionaries had on the life of the Chinese people due to their great love for China.

After having been to China last year I wondered many times what it would be like to follow the "Silk Road" across China. I must confess that I am a little envious of Bob Gifford's trip! Reading the book was some consolation.

This was an amazing book and I cannot recommend it too highly. I enjoyed it immensely.

Commencement Address Given by Upper School English Teacher, Jill Donovan Mary Institute-Country Day School May 26th, 2009

Below is the commencement address given at Mary Institute-Country Day School, on Tuesday, May 26, by our own, Jill Donovan, who teaches high school English there. She was chosen for this honor by the senior class of 2009—congratulations, Jill! MICDS is an old and prestigious private school in Ladue. The St. Louis Country Day School, started in 1917, was the successor school to Smith Academy, a school for boys begun in 1854 and closed in 1917. Mary Institute was started in 1859 as a school for girls. Both schools were started by William Greenleaf Eliot, founder and first chancellor of Washington University and grandfather of the famous poet, T.S. Eliot. The two schools merged in 1992. Many folks in churches in our Presbytery have been at MICDS over the years, both as students and as teachers (Peter Barrs also teaches there now). It's a precious thing when God gives us the opportunity to have an influence for good in the public sphere—whether that be on our neighborhood block, in a school, as here, in some organization, or on the job as a carpenter or a computer software specialist, or whatever.

As you read Jill's speech, see if you can identify the following: words from Psalm 90:12; one of the 10 commandments; strong statements that implicitly dilute the acid of moral relativism by affirming that we live in a moral universe; the core theme of Philippians 4:8; strands of what Reformed theologians call the doctrine of "common grace;" statements that underscore the reality of the "fallenness" of human beings; a quiet but sustained rejection of the doctrine of that cynical wing of postmodern philosophy that says all human relationships are about nothing more than power; an affirmation of Jesus's teaching in Matthew 6:34; the three important italicized words in one sentence that all come from the Bible; an underscoring of the truth of what Luke reports Jesus as saying on one occasion—a truth that turns some of the values of our merit-oriented society on their head (check it out in Acts 20:35); an allusion to the assumption behind Proverbs 19:25 that the gaining of knowledge is more than mastering information; a general application, in a secular community, of the practical exhortation the Apostle Paul gives in Romans 12:16 to the church, the community made sacred by Christ; the biblical virtue of kindness, as mentioned, for instance, in Colossians 3:12; a gentle but honest acknowledgement that

death awaits us all—even the energetic, optimistic students who now might seem to “have life by the tail”(an acknowledge-ment, by the way, that famous university educator, Charles Silberman, once said is crucial for children and teenagers to grasp); and finally, some grand affirmations of the notion, woven through the Scriptures, that joy is central to full human living.

Jill probably had only some of the above-mentioned things self-consciously in mind when she wrote this speech! Or maybe she’s a better theologian than I give her credit for. But the mind, the heart, the life shaped by and steeped in God’s truth—truth that is revealed in his Word and discerned in his world—can’t help but reflect it. Well done, Jill!

--Ron Lutjens

The Speech

It is such an honor to speak in celebration of this class, the class of 2009, these 137 young men and women whom we all care about so much. They have enriched the lives of all the teachers in this room, so on behalf of my colleagues, I want to begin this talk by asking all of *you* to help all of *us* thank them for being *exactly* who they are.

I had a conversation with one of my juniors a few months ago. This conversation took place after a workshop that all Upper School students attended about safe dating practices and responsible weekend behavior. When we returned to the classroom, this young woman turned to me and said, “This school keeps making me into a better and better person.”

“I know what you mean” I told her, “because this school keeps making **me** into a better and better person.”

We are, all of us, fortunate to teach and learn at a school that educates the mind **and** the heart. In learning to stand for what is good and right, and live lives of purpose and service, we are learning to use our intellectual and creative gifts to make the world a better place. So in addition to BC Calculus and AP European History and Computer Science and Advanced Drawing, we are learning things like courage and resilience and integrity and how to be a good friend. We are learning not to throw in the towel when we’re down by 20 points at the half; we’re learning what it means to be honest with a teacher, even when it may hinder our GPA; we’re learning how to celebrate the accomplishments of a teammate who rarely leaves the bench; we’re learning what it means to play fair—in the pool and in the library and backstage and when we’re all by ourselves. In Upper School English classes, we’re learning from folks like Sydney Carton and Hester Prynne, from Pilate and Cordelia and Cash. We’re learning that words like *compassion* and *sacrifice* and *endurance* are not just hot words for the SAT, but are compasses, Mission driven values that we are--all of us--striving to live into.

I have had 72 of these seniors in class these past four years, and I’ve had the privilege of getting to know many more of them in less formal settings. What I want to do now is focus on the three principle lessons that they, the class of 2009, have taught me.

First Lesson: Find the Good

One of my favorite things about this class is their fundamental inclination toward finding the good. On gray days in February when half of us had colds and the other half were under rested; on wet days in March, when the stretch to spring break seemed endless and the crush of obligations too much to shoulder, these students reminded me every day to find the good. They reminded me with their smiles, they reminded me with their can-do attitudes, they reminded me with their willingness to work harder and “press on” and reach out to help each other; they reminded me with the astonishing rarity of their complaints, even when their backpacks weighed 60 pounds and they had three projects, two tests, a paper, three practices, two games, and play rehearsal during a single week. These students understand something that great thinkers and philosophers have been preaching for so many centuries that it has become a contemporary cliché: that orienting towards the good leads to happiness; that looking for the good leads to joy; that searching for the good—in every situation—helps to create it.

“Nothing Gold Can Stay,” says poet Robert Frost, and we might agree with this statement--that purity and beauty are fleeting, temporal. But these students have taught me that even if nothing truly gold can stay, golden moments (that is, *good* moments) can and do stay.

Just before this class entered 8th grade, the entire faculty took part in an 8-hour workshop in this very space on asset-based thinking. And while it was freezing cold in here that day and many of us felt the workshop went on too long, the lesson was on target and has stayed with me, in large part, because this class has reinforced it for the past four years: abundance mentality, learning to reframe a negative situation, searching for and thus finding the good.

Some of my favorite memories with these students involve out-of-class experiences—going over to Beasley to read and play with senior kindergarteners, taking 10 minutes to swing on the swings or toss a football behind Olson Hall, engaging in a most vigorous version of a Thoreauvian saunter. All of these experiences were good and they helped us as a class to remember that finding the good is often connected to life’s simpler moments and to maintaining our own capacity for wonder.

“I have been one acquainted with the night,” says the narrator in another Frost poem. And because they are 18 and none of us arrives at the age of 18 without having been acquainted with the night, these seniors already know something about suffering and grief. They have passed through Blake’s innocence into the realm of experience. But because they are oriented towards the good, because they have been trained and are training others to look for the good, the night that Frost’s wandering soul is acquainted with will never overwhelm them. Instead, they, like Blake’s bravest pilgrims, will pass through the sometimes bitter realities of the night, into a higher level of innocence that is born of wisdom.

Second Lesson: Celebrate this Day

One of the things I’m fond of reminding my students (and colleagues) from time to time is that today is one of our 29, 200 days. If we live to be 80, a nice goal for any of us to shoot for, that’s how many days we’ll get. Some of us may get more, some of us fewer, but somehow the use of a finite number, however arbitrary, seems to jerk all of us into attention, into the reality that our days are indeed numbered. How could we afford, then, to waste a single day in numbness or apathy or disengagement, when, as the stage manager reminds Emily in Wilder’s *Our Town*, even the most ordinary day is precious beyond belief. This, like lesson number one, is one of the oldest lessons recorded: pay attention, stay present, celebrate this day.

When I came for my interview in April 2003, I noticed as I was getting into a cab at day’s end that the little driveway in the parking lot in front of Olson Hall is called Carpe Diem Drive. Carpe Diem: seize the day. So it seems fitting that these seniors, who have taught us so much about this notion, should have taken all of their English and History classes these past four years while perched in sunny classrooms 15 feet above Carpe Diem Drive. The sentiment, as we explored during our study of the Transcendentalists and the Jazz Age in English 11, can be corrupted—corrupted to mean merely “live today, for tomorrow we may die,” or “life is short, so do what feels good without regard for the future.” What the ancients were instead teaching, and what these seniors understand deep in their core is that celebrating the day means living it responsibly, means living it with such integrity and wholeness, that both we and the world are enriched for us having lived it so.

We live in a busy world. The number of things calling for our attention grows exponentially every week. These seniors, digital natives one and all, are going to college in the midst of an information deluge. But every day these past four years, they have reminded all of the adults in their midst, that celebrating a day is about more than processing information, is about more than absorbing 40,000 bits of data. That celebrating a day is also connected to playing Frisbee in the breezeway, or building an Adirondack bench, or scoring a touchdown in the Edward Jones Dome. That celebrating a day is connected to buying a smoothie for a friend who is going through a tough time, or making preparations for the prom, or playing basketball for a packed house against Burroughs at Wash U. These seniors understand that celebrating a day involves balance and laughter and rest. I hope they never forget that lesson.

Being engaged enough to celebrate a day makes one vulnerable: vulnerable to the grief that arrives when the allotted number of days come to an end. So today, because these seniors have truly celebrated their high school days, they may be feeling grief as well as joy. And that’s okay. I overheard a senior break into tears on April 30th during the last meeting of a club that she had belonged to. When I heard her genuine outpouring of grief, I knew at that moment that the club and its members had been profoundly meaningful to her, that because she had truly celebrated her moments with that club, she was feeling sadness. Far better this response than an indifferent one, a distanced one. These seniors have reminded me that.

Final Lesson: Be a Blessing

When people outside of this school, ask me about the students I teach, I always mention their kindness. It’s almost a given that an MICDS student is bright, but what folks outside the school perhaps do not know is that these students are also profoundly kind. Largely because they have learned and have every day reminded us how important it is to be a blessing to others. Because many of them are incredible athletes, and vigorous sports do sometimes result in injury, I have had the opportunity to witness on many occasions these past four years, how they care for a classmate who is on crutches, or has a broken arm, or is undergoing surgery. No adult has to remind them in these cases, to hold open a door or help with a backpack or slow their pace—these small acts of kindness, the same acts that Wordsworth tells us are the best portions of a good man’s life, are to this group of seniors a given. Their respect for each other, their respect for their teachers, their respect for their Deans and administrators, their respect for complete strangers: in all of these ways these seniors are a blessing.

In addition to being fundamentally kind, these seniors radiate joy. Someone asked me a few months ago what my favorite movie is. “The Sound of Music,” I told them, “because Julie Andrews playing Fraulein Maria represents much of what I aspire to be as both a mother and a teacher.” She loves the kids, and she radiates joy. These seniors, likewise, radiate joy. It’s hard to spend even 10 minutes in their company without laughing. It’s hard to spend even 20 minutes in their company without being reminded that work that we love feels like play. It’s hard to spend four years in their company without wanting to adopt several dozen of them. This class has been a blessing to every single person in this room because they are kind . . . and because they radiate joy.

My mom is here today. She is an extraordinary mom, very Julie Andrews like, and I owe most of what I know about living

with joy and integrity to her. 18 months ago my dad came to campus to listen to a speech I wrote about him. Sometimes, as adults, we forget to honor our mothers and fathers. Luckily, this group of seniors, from the time I encountered them until today, has reminded me of that lesson. Your example, of being a daily blessing to your own parents, has prompted me, as an adult, to bless my own. Continue looking for opportunities, throughout your professional lives, to bless your parents—the people sitting here who have poured so much into you. You will, likewise, be blessed.

When we wake up each day with the goal of being a blessing to others, we are less fearful, less inhibited, less myopic, and less apt to lose our moral compasses. You have taught us that. We wish you all the best in the coming years. And we thank you again for teaching us these three profound lessons: to find the good, to celebrate this day, and to be a blessing.

AGONIZED GRIEF EXONERATED

Mark 16

O, poorly seekers
Of the Lord,
How sad your
Task can be.

Come, Ye now
The Body to anoint!
Your hands would gladly grasp
The Man.

This Body
Your startled
Eyes cannot
See,

For at His place
Sits a bright
Being speaking
Calming words:

“Do not be afraid,
You seekers.” The
Saga goes on
Beyond the Last account,

Crucified; Risen;
Not here - See,
He is gone?
Gone to Gallilee.

Hush, soul-grizzled
Women.
Raise those
Shrouded eyes.

Glance into
the very place
Of agonized
Grief.

The sight, that
Ruptured
Your hearts,
Is gone!

No knarled
Contorted body:
Vision of
Outrageous
Insult.
Perhaps a bee

Buzzes
O'er the cold
Stone.

A Body: you sought
To find your
Savior lain,
Awaiting sweet
Spices there.

A cold stone
Even tearfilled
Eyes see.
And do you
Hear the Herald
Say, “He is not here?”

Arise, sweet women!
Cry, Joy!
Retrace your sad steps
With gleeful feet:
Risen, our Beloved
Is risen!

Yea, Oh Nazareth:
Yeah, crucified.
Yeah, Risen!
He is not here.

By Abby Peck (2003)

Want to Submit Something to the Overture?

You are invited to write for any issue of our newsletter, the *Overture*! 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). The editor for the next issue (out on June 21) is Prisca Rice with able assistant Tamara Rice.

Baby Showers & Wedding Bells

Spring Flowers Bring Baby Showers

The women of the West County Community Group are hosting a baby shower for **Emily Wicker**. She and Matt are no longer at Old Orchard Church, as Matt has recently become the Director of Children's Ministries at Central Presbyterian Church Chesterfield. After praying Matt and Emily through their courtship, engagement, and first 2 years of marriage, we want to send them into parenthood, too, with prayer and good wishes. Anyone who would like to join us in this is welcome to attend. Details are as follows:

Saturday, June 13, 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

Kathy Jennings' home, (see print copy for address)
Manchester, MO 63021

Hostesses: Kathy Jennings, Patricia Lee, Dot Branson, Maryann Kohl, Jessie Swigart, and Suzanna McKeon

Gifts and contributions to the refreshment table are welcome.

The Wickers are registered at Babies R Us. The easiest way to find their registry is to search for Wicker in Missouri rather than to put any more details.

RSVP to any of the hostesses personally or call Kathy.

Wedding Bells in Hudson, Ohio

Aaron Bond, son of Dan and Martha Bond will marry Natalie Lodica in Hudson Ohio on June 28. Aaron attended Old Orchard Church for many years when his family lived in St. Louis and assisted with the youth group and with vacation bible school during his college years. The O'Neal family will be traveling to Ohio for the wedding. If you wish to sign a card for Aaron and Natalie, it can be found on the tall sideboard in the church parlor. If you wish to contribute to a gift card for the bride and groom, please give your contribution to Michelle Kraft by Sunday, June 21.

You're Invited

All are invited to an **open house** drop-in at the Milligan House on Saturday, June 27, from 3 until 5:30 p.m. to honor **Jenny Lowe** and her fiancé, Allen Cook, who will be married August 8 in Portland, Oregon. Jenny grew up and was active in the OOC family and always worships with us when she is in town. She will be teaching 6th grade at Molalla River Academy in the fall. Allen will continue his college studies in archaeology.

Please RSVP to Michelle to let her know if you will be coming. If you wish to contribute to a gift card for Jenny and Allen you can give your contribution to Michelle Kraft by Sunday, June 21. If you would like to bring something for the refreshment table, please contact Michelle.

Jenny and Allen have a website at (see print copy)

Congratulations College Graduates!

- Chris Catlin – Webster University (Bachelor's)
- Justin Cook – Drury University (Bachelor's degree in Architecture)
- Sam Kraft (May 09) – University of Missouri, Columbia with a Bachelor's degree in International Business
- Samuel Lemen – Lindenwood University (May 16) with a BA in Criminal Justice and has applied to the St. Louis City Police Department.
- Alyssa Santoyo – Webster University (Bachelor's degree in Music Performance, with an emphasis in classical guitar)

Thank You Note

Dear OOC,

Thank you so much for the love offering that you gave us for Currie's internship. We were very humbled by your generosity and very thankful for the opportunity you gave him to serve. We love being a part of this congregation!
Love, Currie & Abby Bishop

Free Guinea Pigs

Needed: a loving home for two adorable (Free!) guinea pigs!

These cute little creatures make good first pets for children. Both are males, brothers from the same litter, and are 1 ½ years old. Since guinea pigs are social animals, it would be better to keep them together. They come with their own cage, food bowl, food, water bottles, ramp plus other extras. These guinea pigs are also used to having dogs in the household.

With a new baby on the way, I need to find a home for them soon. If you or someone you know is interested in giving these sweet little guys a new home, please call Emily Pollihan at (see print copy) or my mom, Donna Pollihan at (see print copy). Leave a message if I'm not at home.

Thanks, Emily Pollihan

Sunday School News

9:00 am. Sunday Mornings (for both children & adults)

Adults & Kids: We'll have Church wide Sunday School in June for all ages—on Modern Day Parables.

The bulk of the class will be watching 6 films that are 15-20 minutes each. Each film is a modern re-make of one of Jesus's parables. Meets in Milligan House living room. Please join us!

No Sunday School during the month of July.

News From Old Friends

The Kuhlmanns, update

We are doing great!!!

For as long as many of you have known Sandra and myself, you've known that for the last couple of years we have been wanting to move to Germany. Well, we finally were able to achieve our dream last December and have been living in Sandra's hometown of Bielefeld, Germany ever since. The word that we could move here came one morning around 3 am from the Auslaenderamt (International Office) who stated that because Gabriel & Kristian were dual-citizens we could move to Germany "anytime we wanted to". So, based on the Auslaenderamt's word, we began to sell off everything we owned and moved ourselves from Prairie Village, Kansas to Bielefeld, Germany. This phase took a little over 30 days.

What we remember most vividly from the selling process (that is, selling off most of our worldly possessions), was that everything went incredibly smoothly. We were able to sell our two minivans and my scooter relatively fast and the estate sale we had sold off 98% of all of our household possessions. We shipped approx. 15 boxes over here and came over with 15 suitcases, and that was all! One might think we were totally crazy to have done this, but I'd say that we simply trusted that Jesus would get us here and that he'd take care of us. He has done a wonderful job... :) We had been waiting on God for quite some time and we felt that this was the right time.

The adjustment for each of us here has been without much difficulty. Because Sandra is German she has been speaking German with the children since Gabriel's birth and that alone has been the greatest gift she could have given the children - as we adjust over here. I had taken German courses in Jr. & Sr. High School as well as two years in college, so I've not suffered too greatly from the language barrier. Of course, Sandra is 100% bi-lingual, so there was no language adjustment for her at all.

Culturally, Sandra & I believe the kids are adjusting quite well. Gabriel & Kristian are currently in preschool and are taking language courses and like to tell me that their German (speaking skills) are much more advanced than my own...and, of course, I let them. :) Linnea will start preschool this August. Gabriel will go into first grade.

They are slowly making friends here and life goes on. Mostly it's the relationships they miss the most back in the U.S. When that happens, we talk with them about how great their friends back home were/are and about how nice it is to have friends & family here as well as there.

I have been teaching business English as a private University here in Bielefeld and have found teaching to be quite a rewarding experience. Once or twice a week, I travel to Cologne, Germany to teach at the University's sister school there. I really like traveling to Cologne and teaching there, I still think of it as 'international travel', you know, a kind of touristy adventure.

Probably the greatest blessing we've had since being here was that we went from having family close to us, proximity, in the U.S. to having it closer to us here in Germany. We were able to find a great apartment, literally, just down the street from Sandra's parents' house. I'd say our kids see Oma & Opa at least twice per week and the relationships are already very strong between the kids and their German grandparents.

This closeness to Sandra's parents has also been very rewarding for Sandra as well. She has been able to spend a lot of time with her mom and dad (her brother lives at home now as well - he's attending a local University). It's great being here and seeing her re-acquaint herself with her parents knowing that she doesn't have to get on a plane to fly home. I'm very happy for her that she is able to have her family close. It was one of the dearest things in my life, to have my parents close (when we lived in St. Louis) and then, to have my brother within a mile or where we lived in Kansas. Now, it's my turn to be the "in-law" and her turn to have her family back. What a great opportunity, for myself, to see. For the children, this "exchange of families" has been, like I said earlier, the greatest blessing we could have ever received. Can't say it's been an easy adjustment for my family back home...

Life here in Germany can sometimes be a little different. I remember going to the Tierpark (Zoo) on what had to be the coldest day of the year. I was dropped off with Gabriel & Kristian and had to wait at the Zoo for the rest to come (only had one car for nine people). I can still remember freezing to death while my kids and 30 other German kiddos played on the swings and climbed the ladders/slides at the Zoo's playground. It was the most absurd thing I'd ever seen. But, that was a great initiation to how things are done here in Germany. At school, the children are ever outside. There's no such thing as a snow day, let alone a rain day. Nope! The kids simply put on their rain/snow gear, which is kept at school, and off they go into the rain or snow to play in the frost, snow, rain, and puddles. You would never see this in America's schools.

Now, it's quite normal for me to see children, mine as well, playing outside, regardless of the weather. On a funny note, just last week when I picked up the boys from school, eight children were playing in water in the sand area wearing only their tighty-whities. Crazy to me, but, completely normal for them. It has been a real treat for me to be here and

experience these differences in culture.

As many of you know, in America, Sandra & I both had our own vehicles and I also drove a scooter to work. Here, we have bicycles. We got trekking bicycles with the back carriers, a bike seat for Linnéa and purchased saddlebags so we can do our grocery and other shopping via bike. The boys are riding their own bikes; Linnéa also has a 'running bike' without pedals. I'm getting into great shape riding that bike as much as I have been over here. Sandra has gone over 200km so far. Bielefeld, and especially the area we live in, has a lot of park like and wooded areas with paths around. In fact, I've just started running....

Our life has become a lot more simplified. We do not have a clothes dryer, so Sandra hangs the laundry on these metal stands. Outside on the balcony when it is sunny, inside in the living room when it is not... dishes are done by hand and our 'large' fridge for a large family would be considered dorm size in the States. We walk a lot, take buses and trams when we don't ride the bikes and generally plan more time to do the things we need to do. Shopping is done almost every day, in much smaller proportions.

All in all, we are very happy here, though miss all of you a lot! We have not found a church here and really feel the void of Christian community and teaching – this is definitely a huge prayer request from us.

Just today (22.05.2009) I received some great news!!!

A couple of weeks ago I had an interview with the Director of Foreign Languages at Bielefeld University and just today I received an e-mail from her that she wants to meet again to discuss the possibility of coming on-board at their school. This is very exciting because it will mean that I might be teaching at Bielefeld's two premiere Universities. The Lord has been soooo good to me here. This is just a perfect start to my new career here in Germany.

Well, that's quite a bit, but it's a good synopsis of our new lives here in Germany from 29.12.2008 till today (22.05.2009).

We miss all of you very much!!!!

Sincerely, Charles, Sandra, Gabriel, Kristian, & Linnéa Kuhlman

We would love to hear from you – send us a note ☺ (See print copy for the address)

Baby Announcement from Former OOC'ers

We are blessed and rejoice to announce the birth of our son, Liam Thomas Milton

Saturday, May 16th at 9:15 a.m., 6 lbs. and 5 oz. He was about 2 1/2 weeks early and is very healthy and content. He's been sleeping ever since he arrived!

Big brother Phin and big sister Adalae are in love and so proud of him.

If you are interested in photos, please visit our family blog at <http://littlestreetfighter.blogspot.com>. We'll update with more photos soon!

With much love from all the Miltons!!

Rusty & Jennifer Milton
(see print copy for e-mail address)

Foreign Missions Prayer Requests for June 2009

- 1. Wilma Cross – Santiago, Chile.** Wilma asks prayer for her health, teaching opportunities, the next Mercy School [dates not given], opportunities to present Christ to many and the continued work in the Valparaiso women's prison.
- 2. Rob and Tünde Futo – Budapest, Hungary** Pray that they would set their priorities well as they have many calls on their time. Pray for a balance every day, with time for the family, too. Among other things, Rob has a heavy counseling schedule and two conferences this month.
- 3. Gerry and Ruth Gutierrez – Huanta, Peru.** Pray for justice regarding the Presbyterian Church properties in Huanta. Pray the Gerry will be able to sleep in spite of the difficult situations he is dealing with right now. Pray for continued fruitfulness in their work.
- 4. L'Abri Fellowship – England and Switzerland.** Pray for wisdom and stamina for the workers as they interact with the students. In Switzerland, continue to pray for Mrs. Schaeffer and Prisca and for those taking care of them. Pray for

finances.

5. Dawn Miller – Madrid, Spain. Pray for Dawn as she interacts with students, that Christians will be encouraged in growth and others will be brought to saving faith. Pray that the Lord would continue to work in the hearts of the Christian students who have been reaching out to others.

6. Joseph and Elfi Muutuki – Nairobi, Kenya. Pray for safety and encouragement in this difficult work. Pray for new contacts and the protection of new believers

7. Luciano and Luciene Pires – Goiania, Brazil. Praise for very good attendance and reaction to various Colloquium activities. Pray for health and wisdom for both of them to carry on all that the Lord had placed before them to do. Pray for finances.

8. Rene and Lani Quimbo – Mindanao, Philippines. Pray for physical and spiritual protection for the Quimbos and their ministry helpers as the work there is being attacked in various ways. Pray for spiritual results from their many ministries. Pray for guidance as to where they should concentrate their efforts and for adequate help and funding.

9. Joel and Jessica Rinn – Verona, Italy. Pray that a movie night and English classes planned for the new store-front church location will attract new, fruitful contacts. Pray for solid believers to help form a core group for the church plant. Pray for contacts, Giulio, Marco and Tiziana, that they would come to know Jesus.

10. Bob and Shirley Woodson – Lima, Peru. Pray for Bob with his heavy schedule teaching and preaching. Pray for his safety and stamina as he frequently takes trips to minister in the mountains. Pray for both of them as they counsel and teach individuals and in churches.

11. Emily Roig – Dominican Republic. This is Emily's last month in the DR. Pray for a joyful, fruitful time when the OOC team is there June 20-27.

Calendar Stuff

Parlor Fellowship next Sunday, June 14 after worship. Katharine Lutjens & Sharon Kern are hosting. **Please sign up!** We are honoring our college graduates. See the list here in the *Overture*. If we don't have your name on it, let Durinda Hood know ASAP!

Men's Bible Study will meet next on **Saturday, June 20** at 7:15 a.m. at Milligan House. See Hal Pendergrass for questions. (Group usually meets the first and third Saturdays of the month.)

Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic: June 20 through June 27. 14 people are going. Team members: Mary Beth Glasgow, Mark Robertson, Marci Robertson, Hannah Nelson, Julia Dawson, Bryn McKie, Peter Barrs, Carine Barrs, Daniel Foss, Samuel Ward, Mark Tucker, Ryan Glasgow, Betsy Roig, Caroline Kern (Betsy Roig's niece). Do pray for them!

Father's Day: Sunday, June 21.

Crafty Saturday: Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Milligan House. See announcement.

Open House for Jenny Lowe, June 27, 3 to 5:30 p.m. at Milligan House. See invitation in *Overture*.

Lunch at Milligan House. Sunday, June 28 after worship. Watch for sign-up sheets next Sunday!

Birthdays

6/1 Etienne Eia Rinn**
6/1 Rebecca Skrainka
6/4 Margaret Wilke
6/4 Greg Zavaglia
6/7 Ryan Glasgow
6/7 Charlotte Maichel
6/8 David Roig
6/9 Dawn Miller**
6/10 Paula Rice
6/11 David Carter

6/11 Tanya Coody
6/11 Matthew Roland
6/12 Willie Friest
6/13 Brendan Stuber
6/13 Reid Stuber
6/14 Preston Lee
6/14 Lani Quimbo**
6/14 Triona Winter
6/15 Levi Tucker
6/21 ... Christine Raquepaw

6/23 Gretta Kraft
6/24 Jack Nelson
6/26 Prisca Rice
6/30 Esther Dundore
6/30 Lydia Foss

**Members of a missionary or ministry family

Teen Stuff

Sunday, June 7. Lunch & a Movie. Bring \$\$ to go to the Mall after church, then watch a movie at the Milligan House.

Friday, June 12. Friday Morning at Einstein's. 9-10 am

Sunday, June 14. Shakespeare in the Park (free). Meet at church at 6:30 pm or at Forest Park. Bring snacks & drinks. Bring friends!

Wed., June 17. Lost and Found #1. at Busch Stadium! 6:30 pm-late. \$16.

Friday, June 19. Friday Morning at Einstein's. 9-10 am

Sun., June 21. 6-8 p.m. 6th Annual Father's Day Ultimate Frisbee and Ted Drewes!

Sun., June 28th. No Youth Group.

Volunteers Wanted!

This Summer's Narnia Children's Program: Many volunteers are wanted. See today's insert in the bulletin and turn in the form to Kelli McKie's mailbox with your willingness to help! Questions? Contact Kelli at (see print copy) or Mark Tucker at (see print copy).

The Overture. We are looking for a replacement for one of our regular *Overture* Editors (once every two months is the rotation), and we could also use an occasional substitute. Requirements: access to a computer, typing skills, familiar with word processing and formatting, and have an e-mail account. See Durinda Hood if you want more information or to volunteer. Or e-mail the office (office@oldorchardchurch.org)

Communion Clean-up Workers. Substitutes or regulars (once a month). See Durinda Hood for more.

Old Orchard Church

Church Office/Milligan House: 314.962.3795

640 Amelia/Church Building: 314.961.6932

Ron Lutjens' (home) Study: 314.962.6196

Mark Tucker's Office: 314.680.3670

Fax: 314.962.8285

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

Opportunity!

May 22, 2009

Brothers & Sisters at Old Orchard,

I am pleased to be able to offer this series of lectures in Maplewood over the course of the summer, and I am hopeful that it will provide Christian men and women with an opportunity to grow in their faith, and also an occasion to which they can invite their non-Christian family members, friends, or colleagues. That each of the speakers will be available for a period of 'question and answer' following their lecture, promises to make this a potentially valuable time of interaction.

Life is full and I have no doubt that your own summer schedule is brimming with responsibilities and commitments already. If you are not able to join us, please do pray for us. If you can, please do consider bringing folk with you. There is no charge to attend the lectures and I am confident that the topics and those addressing them will represent the Christian faith well.

Every blessing to you, Mark Ryan, Associate Pastor, Crossroads Fellowship

The schedule is reprinted below [in print copy] and is also posted on the bulletin board.