



OVERTURE

The (Almost-Fortnightly) Newsletter of Old Orchard Church

✙ August 16, 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 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.

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 will resume in the fall.

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: see print copy;

Mark Tucker's Office: see print copy;

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

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 is Alyssa Santoyo will be out Sunday, September 6. Deadline August 30.

CALENDAR NOTES

- ❖ August 16 – 23 & August 26-September 1: Pastor Ron is away.
- ❖ Sunday, August 16
- ❖ Sunday, August 23. Lunch at Milligan House after worship; hosted by Betsy Tevebaugh with the Bishop Community Group serving as helpers. Sign up today to contribute food.

Anticipating September....

- ❖ Wednesday, September 2. House Church.
6 p.m. Pot Luck Supper (bring a dish to share)
7 p.m. Meeting. Child care provided (please sign up for it)
- ❖ Saturday, September 5 & 19. Men's Bible Study. 7:15 – 8:30 a.m. at Milligan House. See Hal Pendergrass for questions.
- ❖ Sunday, September 6 (Labor Day weekend)
- ❖ Monday, September 7. Labor Day. Office closed.
- ❖ Monday, September 7 – Friday, September 18. Durinda Hood on vacation. Office will be closed.
- ❖ Thursday, September 10. 6:30 p.m. Stated Session Meeting at Milligan House.
- ❖ Friday, September 11. OOC Women's Bible Study begins. 9:15 to 11:30 a.m. See article.
- ❖ Saturday, September 12. Prayer Opportunity. 9 a.m. at Milligan House.
See announcement for more details.
- ❖ Sunday, September 13. Parlor Fellowship after worship.
- ❖ Sunday, September 20.
- ❖ Saturday, September 26. Women's Ministry Crafty Saturday. 10 a.m. to 1 pm. at Milligan House.
- ❖ Sunday, September 27. OOC Anniversary Celebration. Picnic after worship at Larson Park.
- ❖ Tuesday, September 29, 7 p.m. Leaders Meeting at Milligan House.

Teen Calendar

- ❖ **Sunday, August 16.** 6 to 8 p.m. Lost & Found Cookout Party with friends & live music from Ministry of Sound.
- ❖ **Sunday, August 23.** 6 to 8 p.m. Loving People.

No Sunday School in August and through Labor Day weekend, September 6. We will resume after Labor Day on Sunday, September 13 at 9 a.m. (see below for what's new for Sunday School in the fall).

ADVERTISEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

❖ **Moving Help Wanted!**

Currie & Abby Bishop are moving from their apartment (see print copy, 63130) to their new home at (see print copy), 63110 (in Dogtown). They are looking for two crews: one for the morning loading the truck, and one for the afternoon at their new house (pizza lunch at new home). If you can help either time please contact Currie.

❖ **Invitation from Bethesda Orchard for Seniors**

I wanted to let your congregation know of a FREE and FUN event that is coming up at Bethesda Orchard. Bethesda Orchard is located in your neighborhood at 21 North Old Orchard Avenue. On Thursday, August 27, 2009, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., anyone 65 and older is invited to join us for this FREE Star Spangled Evening in our garden, featuring the Pat Holt Singers performing their patriotic show with beloved World War II favorites. Complete with dinner, music, and guided tours. Please share this information with anyone that you think would enjoy coming to this event. Please RSVP by calling 314-963-2100.

Submitted by Tiffany, Webster Outreach Coordinator, Bethesda Orchard

❖ **Prayer Opportunity**

An opportunity to pray for our adult covenant children who are not following the Lord will begin in Saturday, September 12. Many of these young adults were baptized at OOC and we promised to pray for them. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Milligan House for a time of sharing and prayer. Ron Lutjens will lead us this first time. Our plan is to meet every other month for now. If you are interested, please join us. If you are interested and not able to make that date, contact Betsy Roig at see print copy.

❖ **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.

--*Durinda Hood* for the Mercy Ministry

❖ **Job's Quest**

Beginning Sunday, September 13, Jim Lowe will begin an adult Sunday School class on the book of Job at 9 a.m. in the Milligan House. Jim wants to add to the study of the text itself musical and artistic reflections on this remarkable biblical story. Job was looking for a way to make sense of his suffering, even as we do. But God's response to Job could hardly have been predicted!

Come and join us for this!

Jim teaches the Classics at John Burroughs School and is a fine teacher. Join us for this—it should be a great learning experience!

--Ron Lutjens

❖ **OOC Directory Changes**

Heather Sparkman's New Address:
See print copy

Please note that Jason & Lou Carmichael have found a church home elsewhere, and have a new address. Jason & Lou Carmichael, see print copy.

If you have any updates to the Directory, please get them to the office. We're publishing them as we receive them. If you need a binder please see me as we can get you one! --*Durinda Hood*

STORIES AND SUNDRIES

Kuhlman Update & Prayer Request

We published this last week, but just in case you weren't here, here it is again. Here's a summary of former members Chuck & Sandra Kuhlman's current situation written by Dot Branson.

August 2, 2009

Today I just learned while "chatting" with Sandra that her brain tumor is back. An MRI was done on Friday which showed a tumor in the original spot, "only 1.2 cm in size". The radiologist said that this is very, very rare.

Sandra asked that I forward this news to you....She asks for wisdom in seeking what to do next and to find a good specialist. Praise the LORD they do have health insurance!

There has been no Christian fellowship for them & the churches they've visited are so liberal. Sandra has not met many other mothers, so she feels somewhat lonely but is hoping with the onset of school there will be more potential to get to know some moms.

As far as Chuck is concerned, he is doing very well. She said that everyday he says he's glad they moved to Germany! Job is good, lifestyle suits him and so does the food. Sandra said he is much more happy & relaxed.

OOC Washer & Dryer Given Away

Since we were no longer using the washer and dryer at Milligan House on any type of regular basis, Matt Philip & I decided to give them away to a family in need. We first went to Webster-Rock Hill Ministries and were not able to identify such a family through them. So we went to Cornerstone, a ministry offering housing to low-income families, and they said they could use it. When the Cornerstone people came to pick it up, I was informed that they were going to give it to a single mom who was struggling – her car had just been stolen, and she had already expressed an interest in having a washer and dryer. So this was expected to be a real encouragement!

-Durinda Hood, deaconess & Matt Philip, deacon

FirstLight

PO Box 430142
St. Louis, MO 63143

July 2009

Dear Friends at Old Orchard Church,

As I write this, I am sitting outside the beautiful campus of Wheaton College close to Chicago, where I am attending this year's Exodus conference. Every year Exodus has a national conference, bringing together around 1000 people from all over North America who struggle with same-sex attraction. This has been a formative event for many who struggle, as they hear the testimonies and encouragement of others who have gone before them. Of particular importance to me was the presence of Dr. Robert Gagnon, professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and author of several books, including the most thorough refutation of gay theology, *The Bible and Homosexual Practice*. Besides having a healthy sense of humor and an impressive knowledge of scripture and scholarship, Dr. Gagnon reminded me of what is at stake in the ministry of FirstLight.

We live in a culture that highly values love, a love that is emptied of its significance because there is no cost, no sacrifice -- just a commitment not to hold a belief too firmly lest it offend a brother. Dr. Gagnon brought us back to the truths of Jesus' love; a love that will not allow us to leave a brother or sister on a path towards destruction, a love that, even when costly, stands firm on the conviction that sin is real and its consequences eternal. Without this truth the gospel means nothing, and the work of FirstLight is pointless. It is the knowledge of their need that brings people to seek the support of others in our groups, no matter what the sexual struggle. It is the call to die to self so that we may live in Christ that brings these men and women back week in and week out to confess, repent and seek accountability. It is these groups that you, our supporters, make possible; these groups where the gospel of grace is lived out weekly in the repentance and faith of those struggling with deep sexual difficulties. *With this in mind, I want to thank you for your second -quarter gift of \$312.* God is being glorified as his people who gather weekly at FirstLight choose the "foolishness" of the gospel over the wisdom of the world, the narrow path over the wide road.

Thanks, and God Bless,

Luke Brouwer
Ministry Director

Dear Old Orchard Family,

Amy and I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your loving support of us during this difficult time. Every casserole, card, hug and prayer that we have received have been tangible manifestations of God's care and concern for us. Please continue to pray for our family that we might grieve well and glorify God in our brokenness. Thank you again for all of your love and support. We love you and we are grateful for each one of you.

Love,
Jim and Amy Butz

Operation Clean Stream:

As many of you know, I work for an environmental non-profit organization, The Open Space Council. Our biggest event of the year is coming up towards the end of the month - **Operation Clean Stream**. Founded in 1967, Operation Clean Stream is one of America's longest and largest ongoing river restoration projects. Each year, thousands of volunteers get together to pull trash, tires and debris from the Meramec, Big, Bourbeuse, Huzzah and Courtois Rivers.

I think it would be great if a group from Old Orchard Church wanted to volunteer this year. It is a wonderful way to serve the community and to practice the stewardship for creation that God commanded to us in Genesis. This year's Operation Clean Stream will take place on **Saturday, August 22, 2009** beginning at 8:30am. Supplies and lunch are provided. For more information, go to <http://www.openspacestl.org> or email me.

- Amy Butz

Dear Old Orchard Family,

Thank you for your support of the work of RUF at the University of Arkansas! It is such a blessing to see the fruit of God's work in the lives of our sweet students and to know that you have been a part of the work of growing students in their faith and into the image of Jesus Christ.

Please keep us in your prayers as we long to meet more students and share the love of Jesus with them!

Blessings, *Heather Sparkman*, RUF Intern (31 July 2009)

"To Whom Much is Given: Major League slugger delivers from the heart"

by Brandy Campbell

(I came across this article recently and was so encouraged to read about a celebrity's genuine desire to serve & obey the Lord. It's also about a country recently near & dear to our hearts: the Dominican Republic. Enjoy. --Annie Kuhn)

Thirteen years ago, Albert Pujols left the Dominican Republic. But the Dominican Republic never left him.

In the world of Major League baseball, rags-to-riches stories are not unheard of. But for St. Louis Cardinals first baseman Albert Pujols, the story doesn't end with the riches. Every year, Albert and his wife, Deidre, journey from their home in St. Louis to Albert's native Dominican Republic. These trips are not vacations. The two have imposed on themselves the goal of chipping away at the hopelessness of this desperately poor country, hoping to make it a better place. "God delivered me from that place, and my job is now to help others," Albert, 29, says. "It is my responsibility — what God has called me to do."

When Albert and Deidre serve, it is on dusty streets. There are often no cameras, no reporters — a fact that is not overlooked by those they work with. "They have genuine hearts, and their love for the children is outstanding," says Bernard Okeke, who works for Compassion in the Dominican Republic. "Albert is not looking for publicity, and he does not just stand there and watch. He gets involved."

Beauty in a Mattress

Even at 8 in the morning, the sun is already baking the dry, cracked streets of Batey Aleman. Albert stoops his 6-foot-3-inch frame as he climbs into the back of a delivery truck. He wipes his sweaty palms on his shorts before grabbing another mattress from the stack. As he walks through town, the mattress flopping in his arms, a crowd of children joins him, forming a ragtag parade. Albert is used to the attention of young fans. But most of these children know nothing about his baseball awards, such as being named the National League's Most Valuable Player twice in his eight-year career. They've just heard that a big man in a truck is bringing them beds. On this trip, Albert and Deidre will deliver beds to more than 50 families registered with Compassion International. For many, this will be the first gift they've ever received.

When Albert arrives at the small concrete home he has been directed to, he squeezes in through the door and carefully places the mattress on the wooden frame delivered earlier. The room is crowded, the new bed filling up most of the floor. The young mother

grasps Albert's arm, tears in her eyes. "Gracias," she whispers, over and over. He squeezes her hand, and then heads back out into the sunlight to finish his deliveries.

"I know how tough it is, to grow up in poverty," Albert says later. "These families literally have nothing." Albert was raised by his grandmother in Santo Domingo, a city marred by drugs and gang violence. The average family here struggles to survive on \$4 a day, and Albert's childhood was marked with tattered hand-me-downs and constant wishes for more. But young Albert clung to something many children in poverty never know: hope.

Compassion to Passion

On their most recent trip to the Dominican Republic in February 2009, Albert and Deidre focused most of their efforts on Compassion's Child Survival Program (CSP), which provides health care, food, and nutritional training and support to caregivers and infants. This ministry is especially important in the Dominican Republic, where more than 1 million children under the age of 5 live in poverty* and have little access to these benefits.

The Pujols family began working with Compassion in 2001, when they sponsored a child. Today, their partnership has spread across the ministry. In addition to the three children they currently sponsor, they also fully fund a Child Survival Program in the Dominican Republic.

Since 2007, they have helped fund medical care at Compassion-assisted child development centers throughout the country, including vision and dental clinics. "They come to our bateys [neighborhoods] with teams of dentists, eye doctors and medical doctors, and they help everyone, Compassion or not," says Bernard. "Today many of our children have eyeglasses and healthy teeth, thanks to the Pujols. Most of the mothers in their sponsored CSP project not only can show off their beds, but their self-esteem is way up high.... We will ever remain grateful to our Lord for the Pujols family and their foundation."

Words to Action

Albert and Deidre are realistic about the overwhelming poverty in the Dominican Republic. But both feel strongly that they can – and will – make a difference. This rags-to-riches story more accurately could be called a rags-to-redemption story for Albert Pujols. "There are 9.6 million people in the Dominican Republic, and I can't reach all of them," he says. "But I want to make sure I set an example for others to follow, for my kids, my future grandkids, and for the people of the Dominican Republic."

*<http://www.unicef.org/republicadominicana/english/children.html>

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