



OVERTURE

The (Almost-Fortnightly) Newsletter of Old Orchard Church

✝ October 18, 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. Our **Sunday School** is offered for all ages and meets 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings. See announcement for next adult class. If you would like to find out more about Old Orchard and what we are about, please fill out one of our visitor forms.

Our Children's Ministry

Nursery is offered for infants & children through kindergarten age. Our nurseries are in the church building basement.

Infant nursery for babies, crawlers, & very early walkers.

Toddler nursery for children who are walking up to three years of age. Children who turn three from January-August are invited to attend preschool worship starting September 1. Children who turn three from September-December are invited to attend preschool worship starting January 1.

Preschool worship for age 3 through Kindergarten. Three-year-olds (see above) and four-year-olds are welcome during the whole service. Five-year-olds remain upstairs in the worship service until dismissed at 10:50.

Children's Worship. Children in grades 1-5 dismissed around 10:50 a.m. for Children's Worship in Milligan House.

ARTICLES FOR 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 place your signed articles in the *Overture* box (in the coat room). The editor for the next issue is Alyssa Santoyo and will be out Sunday, November 1.

Deadline is next Sunday, October 25.

CHURCH BUSINESS

Speaker: "Remember Creation"

Today, Sunday, October 18. 6:30 p.m. "Remember Creation: A Christian Introduction to Creation Care and the Ministry of A Rocha" in the parlor at the church building. Coffee & dessert provided.

You are cordially invited to hear and talk with Rev. David Anderson of A Rocha Canada. A Rocha Canada is a national conservation organization working to show God's love for all of creation.

Sunday School News

FULL TIME JOB: TEXT, IMAGE, MUSIC

Until Christmas, the adult Sunday School class will focus on that difficult book of the Old Testament, Job. In addition to wrestling with the text, I intend to explore the impact this book had on two Englishmen, one an author and artist, the other a musician. . .class begins very promptly at **9:00 a.m.** so that I may excuse myself at 9:50 to rehearse with the choir; class members can plan on using the last few minutes of each class to close in prayer. We meet in the Milligan House, and I welcome all comers to join the class.

—*Jim Lowe*

Lunch at Milligan House

Please sign-up to join us on *October 25* for a lunch after worship at Milligan House. See sign-up sheets today.

Menu: Lomein (noodle) with pork and vegetables; fried chicken; string beans in garlic sauce; rice, dessert, apple cider. Our hostesses are Patricia Lee and Linda Lemen.

"3 Nights Together"

Theme: "Beauty, a Window onto God"

Mark your calendar for:

1. Wednesday, October 28. *First Night*. Meet at Milligan House 7:00 pm
2. Wednesday, November 4. *Second Night*. Floral Designer Jane Winter's talk:
"Truth, Beauty, and Flowers" — Reception 6:30pm,
Talk 7:00 pm
Meet in sanctuary. Invite friends.
Invitations are in the parlor.
3. Wednesday, November 11. *Third Night*. Meet in Community Groups in homes for discussion.

- *Childcare is provided for the first two nights* for children up thru 3rd grade. Contact Hannah Nelson by Sunday, October 18th to reserve a childcare spot).



Continued. . .

We are encouraging the fellowship to come, *and especially bring a guest*, to Jane Winter's talk on **Wednesday, November 4** titled, "Truth, Beauty, and Flowers." Jane is the owner of Wildflowers LLC and a floral designer of some reputation here in St. Louis.

This is an illustrated talk Jane gave at the L'Abri Conference in Rochester, Minnesota a couple of years ago, and it focuses on how she uses flowers, in their remarkable beauty, to reflect what is true and good and beautiful in human life and relationships. The Bible teaches us to value and cultivate those things as good gifts from God.

Please do be praying about who you might invite. More invitations are available for you to give out, so please take a couple home with you. There will be a reception at 6:30 that night, and then Jane will speak at 7:00. Hope you can come!

—Ron Lutjens

UPDATE FROM GRACE & PEACE

Dear Friends,

As you know, the Grace & Peace Winter Shelter welcomes in homeless women every winter starting in November and continuing through March. This is largely a volunteer ministry and we are in need of some new folks to join the volunteer team, specifically evening and overnight volunteers. Evening volunteers work from 6-10 on a given night and overnight volunteers from 6-6 most nights. Overnight volunteers are adult Christians and evening workers should also be adults but may be non-Christians with compassionate hearts. We know that it is sometimes hard to step out to work in a shelter solo, so we are suggesting and asking from several churches that you advertise to see if you could send us a few volunteers "Two By Two." It could be an evening and overnight person on the same night to work together, or two overnight volunteers who worked separately on separate nights, but had each other to compare experience and pray and with whom each could debrief. Training is 9 am-3 pm on November 7 and the shelter opens on November 10 at 6:30 p.m. if we get all the workers lined up. Men or women are welcome! Please contact Sarah Taylor at 314-960-7248 or wintershelter1@gmail.com to sign up. For questions, anyone is welcome to contact me, Melody (Burke) Perkins at graceandoeace1@sbcglobal.net.

Thanks and Many Blessings to You,
Melody Perkins, Team Leader

Food Pantry of Grace & Peace Fellowship:

What follows is a report Deb Eisenbraun gave to the Fellowship on October 11 about Grace & Peace Fellowship's Food Pantry. We are printing it for those who may have missed the talk.

—Durinda Hood for the Mercy Ministry

Continued. . .

October 11, 2009

Thank you for your donations through the years to the food pantry at Grace and Peace Fellowship. Often as I think about the pantry, I think about our Lord supplying manna to the Israelites. As the pantry team leader I think in terms of cases of food, not cans. I think of which churches and schools and families regularly donate, and whether their donations been delivered. The pantry team is challenged to serve by faith in our loving generous and faithful God who loves the poor, the lonely, the lost.

The pantry at Grace and Peace Fellowship is located in the City of St. Louis, one mile east of the University City Loop. We serve our neighbors from a food closet in the basement of our church building. The resources surrounding our location are too numerous to list. They include health services, employment opportunities and services, shopping, electronics services, security, transportation, and lots of churches. In our zip code alone, there are 14 pantries open to neighbors of all ages that are listed on the web sites of the two major food distributors in the St. Louis area. This past winter our pantry costs each month doubled. Our costs went from \$250 a month to \$500 or \$600 a month. We had to look more closely at what we were doing. We had to ask ourselves and our Lord if a duplicated service is a good and useful service. The pantry is an opportunity to welcome our neighbors into our building and respond to a need they have that they have identified. They have seen or heard that free food is available and they have taken the time and energy to come. We offer each guest a choice of foods with a total value of from 12 to 15 dollars. We provide our guests with lists of pantries that may be closer to their homes, but some return to Grace and Peace. When we ask them why, they generally say they prefer our pantry. Some of our guests are hungry. Most, I'd say, are in need of supplementing their food sources. The pantry is an opportunity to invite our neighbors to participate in the life of the church. We have a Bible study that meets every Wednesday just before pantry. A handful of our pantry guests attend the Bible study. Many of our neighbors are familiar with God's justice, and are delighted to hear about God's grace and mercy.

The pantry is an opportunity to enter into the lives of our neighbors. We offer our guests free use of a phone during pantry hours. We make referrals to a Missouri Career Center location east of us on Delmar for job counseling. We've walked across the street with guests to get vaccinations needed for work in food service. We help guests fill their prescriptions and get badly needed state ids. Recently 63112, our zip code, was identified as having the greatest

number of ex-cons in the area. In the confusion of trying to re enter life in the city, a bag of food or a few free phone calls can mean a great deal.

We are closed the month of August. We reopened in September with a new schedule. The pantry changed from being open weekly to being open the first and third Wednesday of the month. At the same time, anyone can come to the church door and ask for food during office hours. We applied to the St. Louis Area Foodbank and were trained on how to order and pick up food from their facility in Bridgeton. Our Foodbank representative then explained that many weeks their food is non nutritional. They can only offer us what their donors give. As we skimmed what was available this past week we saw baby food, soda, powdered drinks, and a couple of soups in 8 pound bags or some such large quantity. So, we find that the Foodbank is going to be one of several resources for us, rather than a major source as we'd expected.

As we sit with some of our guests and hear their stories, we can respond by faith or unfaith. Usually my response is some combination of both. A guest this week explained that this past summer through an array of circumstances he became a single father of his five children, ages 3 through 11. They lived for a short time with his mother in a two bedroom home, and then moved into a family shelter. They are now in an apartment just north of Grace and Peace. They are terrified of the neighborhood, and terrified of the schools. I'm sitting with this man and feeling more and more fearful for him and his children. Our sweet Lord knows that I need to sit with this man and seek the Lord. The team was able to give this man food along with a working telephone that he needed. We weren't able to pay his utility bill of over \$1000 or purchase his requested bus passes or school uniforms for over \$300. Paying his bills for him would be easier than hearing and feeling his fear. I shared his requests with the Board of Deacons this week. Please continue to know that we at Grace and Peace appreciate your donations to the pantry. Continue to donate nutritional food as you are able. We appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness through the years. Please pray for us to serve to love our neighbors by faith, to continue to be involved in the lives of our neighbors, and to continue to invite our neighbors to be involved in the life of the church. Pray that our guests know that they are sought after by a loving Lord.

Deb Eisenbraun
Pantry Team Leader
Grace and Peace Fellowship

STORIES AND SUNDRIES

Hi OOC,
[from Chris O'Neal]

I have been attending OOC since 1992. I became a member when? How old am I? Don't remember. Anyway, this is my first article submission to the Overture. On 8/3/2009 my family and I visited the Creation Museum at 2800 Bullittsburg Church Rd, Petersburg, KY 41080 (www.creationmuseum.org) located close to where the states of Kentucky, Indian, and Ohio meet

(about 20 minutes southwest of Cincinnati), about seven hours non-stop driving from Saint Louis. Let me say up front I was impressed! For sure, impressed enough to write and submit this, my first article for the Overture.

We spent about four hours in the museum. That was the maximum amount of time my 5 year old son could take being inside a building full of things he could not touch. Cool things, like dinosaurs! We did not visit the planetarium or see the “Men in White” show. Susan and I could have spent a lot more time reading, watching and studying the exhibits. Exhibits included; dinosaurs, part of the Noah’s ark at full scale, the “Six Days theater”, Tower of Babel, and, excerpts of modern history of man’s turning from creationism to evolutionism.

The exhibits do not mock or insult people who believe in evolution. The first exhibit inside the main hall has two people in it, a creationist and an evolutionist, and explains how two scientific people can review the same evidence and come to different conclusions. The exhibits clearly explained to me how “natural selection” in a post-fallen world is biblically and scientifically correct and how it cannot be a mechanism that propels evaluation or even makes evaluation possible (bring dead {more correctly; unconscious/inanimate} things together to form life).

I do want to give you a “heads-up” about some of the things presented by the Creation Museum as biblical which were new or different to me and some of it left me scratching my head. To speak of these things, I need to give you a heads-up about myself, because maybe to you, I am “all wet” about the heads-up I am about to give.

I grew up in the Roman Catholic Church where I was taught that Genius and Revelation is to be believed but not fully understood. I was taught that God created the world, period. God’s heaven, his angels, all made by God. But God’s heaven, his temple, his throne and his angels may or may not be included in the six day time line presented in Genesis, and nobody knows what a “day” is to God. The big ticket item for lay people was; it was all created by God in six of his days. If you want to argue how many angels can dance on the head of a pin, go away and become a theologian. This outlook similar applied to the rise and fall of Lucifer (son of the dawn, the accuser, the slanderer, the wanderer, the corruptor, our adversary, the true enemy of mankind and creation) and 1/3 of angels now known as demons. The big ticket item for lay people was that ultimately the Devil was evil and bad for you, and wants bad for you (to join him against God / to take you away from God). And by the way, if you want to argue how many angels can dance on a pin, you are doing the Devil’s work. That was the RCC I was brought up in.

I was “born again” when I accepted Jesus Christ as my only mediator to God, my salvation in full and alone belongs to Christ, and is only through, the Son of God the Father can you enter heaven. This happened to me as an adult.

I was first exposed to “evolution” as a young child watching the Japanese’s TV show Ultraman. I thought it was a word they made up to explain where the Godzilla monsters came from that Ultraman had to fight in each episode. It was not until my reading disability forced my parents to move me from RCC Saint Matthews school to public education at Mark Twain that I learned that “evolution” was a real word and people believed in it (But they did not believe in

Ultraman!?! Things that make you go hmm...) and that man and dinosaurs never lived at the same time and it took millions of years for the Earth to get to where it is at today. My new second grade classmates believed this and thought I was crazy to think all of the Earth was created in 6 days. So, in second grade, I “created” my own “logic” to explain my belief to them (boy, can a second grader sin). It went like this...

Day 1, what God really created was time. There was no yesterday, today, or tomorrow before day one. Just some type of pre-eternity. Before day one, there was no time. No day, no hours, no minutes, no seconds. So the universe could not be as old as evolutions say it was because time did not exist before day 1.

What is a “Day” to God? I don’t know, have not a clue. My God is all powerfully, and if he wanted to create all of creation in six seconds, he could do that. That the Earth we are standing on existed and had plants on it by the end of the third day and that God created our Sun and Moon on the Fourth day, so the “light” that God separated from the “darkness” on day one was not coming from our Sun which man measures a 24 hour day by. And that the “evening and morning” separating “the days” was not based off of the Earth’s rotation in orbit around the Sun because the Sun did not exist until day four (no orbit, no rotation, no morning and no evening, basic first grade science stuff here). Ultimately I told my classmates, I don’t know, and not knowing what a day was, was not a “big deal” to me, just that God created it all, and he did it in what he called six days.

Heaven, angels, and demons, when where they made? Other than God, all other things mentioned in the six day story of creation are physical. God’s heaven and his angles are spiritual, are not physical, so they are not included in the six days. Again, ultimately I told my classmates, I don’t know and not knowing was not a “big deal” to me. Well, it was a “little deal” to me, and still is, I wanted to know, but I did not want them to know that.

I am thankful none of my new classmates asked my tough questions like: Why did God make the Devil? OR Why did God allow Adam & Eve to sin? OR Why did God not protect man while he was in his garden? I am glad they did not ask these questions because I had no answers to provide. I still don’t. I was fortunate; they wanted to talk about dinosaurs and how the existence of dinosaurs proved things did not happen as stated in the Bible, because if man and dinosaurs had existed at the same time, the dinosaurs would have eaten all the people. As the playground proved, beyond a shadow of a doubt, the people were here and the dinosaurs were not.

This, my second grade mind could “create” an answer for. God made man and placed him in his garden. A garden is a special place, a place separated from the rest of the world, were the gardener controls things and keeps unwanted things out. I asked them, is that not how your Mom gardens? Fencing off a piece of the yard and giving it extra attention, removing the things she does not want in it, preventing their return? And the garden had a name “Eden.” You don’t name something to make it unique unless there is more than one. So the dinosaurs lived outside of the Garden of Eden. Maybe they had their own garden made just for them. When God kicked man out of the Garden of Eden it was a worldwide disaster as sin perverted the world(s) outside

of the Garden of Eden. Possibly God killed all of the dinosaurs all at once OR kept them separated from the humans so that the dinosaurs would not eat the people.

I tell you the above background to prepare you for what I am about to say. I still don't have Genius, Revelation, dinosaurs, Lucifer, his demons and how all this relates to a single timeline sorted out yet in my head (big news, ha!). The Creation Museum presents itself as if they do have all this sorted out into a single time line of six days where a day is a earthly human 24 hours. That man lived and worked side by side with dinosaurs. That dinosaurs or their eggs were included with the other animals in Noah's ark. That dinosaur existed in human history at least up to the time of the book of Job in the Old Testament (Job 40:15). That what others call "the mass extinction by meteorite" was Noah's flood cause by the break-up of a single super-continent into seven continents. I was not prepared to see exhibits which were claimed to be "biblical correct" where dinosaurs witnessed Cain's killing of Abel or Noah's grandchildren planning with baby dinosaurs near the beached ark. The Creation Museum presents itself as if they have the single timeline sorted out, yet they leave out God's creation of Lucifer and the fall of 1/3 of the angles. The Devil is just "there" with no explanation given in the exhibits as to when or where he came from (yes, the Devil is in two exhibits in serpent form {no mention that he is or was an angle}). I was disappointed that the Creation Museum did not mention the birth of angles, the creation of God's heavenly temple, throne, or the heavenly city in their creation timeline.

My "heads-up" is not to discourage you from go. I encourage you to go. I just want you to know that even in the a place like the Creation Museum, that a Christian, a Christian who believes in God as the creator, a Christian who believes in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God the Father, and who believes in the Holy Ghost who provides intercessor for my prayers, still will do some head scratching.

It was not until my visit to the Creation Museum that I realized how much of my "second grade" thinking that I had "created" was still in my head and how it had become accepted by me as "religious fact". I am a man, and man without God is foolish. The Creation Museum visit awakened this in me and made me realize, yet again, I don't know as much as I had previously presumed. Yes, I strongly encourage everyone to go visit the Creation Museum. It will compel you to read Genesis, chapter one, again, a new, and wonder in awe. Glory be to God, and to the Lamb, and to the Holy Ghost!

In Jesus' name, Amen
Chris O'Neal

A Quaker-Style Wedding

by Patricia Lee

Sunday, September 13, 2009

The groom was beaming, the bride radiant. Hand in hand they exchanged vows on the grassy knoll under a *chuppah*, a canopy of embroidered cloth stretched over four bamboo poles traditionally used in Jewish weddings, a symbol of God's presence over the covenant of marriage. Above them a few fluffy clouds adorned the bright blue sky.

Behind them sail boats dotted the river which flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Friends and relatives smiled and nodded with approval. Then it was their turn to speak.

This was to be an adaptation of a Quaker ceremony in which the guests would be invited to share. One by one people stood up, came to the microphone, and spoke, offering poems, reflections, advices, and certainly blessings. One young man stood up but refused the microphone. As he spoke, another stood up and chimed in, then another, until an entire group of the groom's childhood friends formed a chorus to present a parody of a musical they once performed, in sixth grade, in which the groom had a lead role! Laughter was mixed with tears. The next person who spoke said it would be a hard act to follow, but she reminisced and offered her well wishes. Others followed.

What could the mother of the bride offer to her daughter who had decided to follow her beloved who subscribes to no religious faith although he was brought up in his mother's Jewish tradition while his father had put aside his Protestant upbringing? And to her new son-in-law who is kind and thoughtful, and who loves her daughter dearly? There was so much I wanted to say. But in the wee hours before the wedding I still had no idea where to start or which direction to go. Then I remembered what my Quaker friend had said about the Quaker meeting: people sit quietly until the *Spirit* moves, then they follow the guidance of the Spirit. Ah, that's what I would do, wait for the Holy Spirit.

I stood up and explained my quandary, and paused. Then these words came out:
I was given two tasks for this wedding. The first was to pray for the weather. (Everyone applauded and cheered.) *The second was to stand and look pretty.* (Again they cheered.) *I think I can manage the second task. As for praying, yes, I did pray, but I had no control over the outcome. Yet I know the One who holds the wind and the rain, who holds the itsy bitsy baby, indeed, who holds the whole world in his hand...*

At this point I turned to face the congregation and started singing: *He's got the whole world in his hand, he's got the whole world in his hand...* and everyone joined in and sang:

He's got the wind and the rain in his hand...

He's got the itsy bitsy baby... (and there were several infants in the audience)

He's got Hanna and Zack in his hand...

He's got the whole world...He's got the whole world in his hand!!

That was all. And that was the only publicly offered 'prayer' or hymn of praise that day, but everyone joined in and sang, Jews and gentiles, believers and agnostics, old and young. I know our Lord God has answered our prayers (as many have been praying for this wedding and this union), and I believe he has accepted our worship. For me it would have been fine if it had rained; I know he loves me just the same. But that day God demonstrated to all his grace and his power. One non-Christian friend, after crossing the Bay Bridge to her hotel in Annapolis that evening and realizing that there had been a shower there earlier, left me a telephone message singing, "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!"

Indeed our Lord God is the same Good Shepherd who seeks the one lost sheep, the same loving Father who waits for the return of his prodigal son. So I will continue to pray for my daughter, that she will remember the goodness of her Father and return; and for my son-in-law, that God will grant him saving faith to desire and claim the portion

promised to the descendents of Abraham. May we look back to that beautiful day, the beginning of their union, and give God the praise and glory.

ADVERTISEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Presbytery-wide Reformation Day Service:

All invited to this year's Missouri Presbytery Reformation Service.

Sunday, October 25 at 6:00 p.m. at Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Bryan Chapell, President of Covenant Theological Seminary will be preaching.

Michael Card Concert

Sunday, November 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Chesterfield Presbyterian Church. 15037 Clayton Road.

Tickets \$12 and \$16 available at door or in advance by calling 636.394.3337.

See poster on bulletin board.

OOC Calendar

October:

Sunday 10/18

Deadline for the "Food & Diapers Drive" collection.

6:30 p.m. "Remember Creation: A Christian Introduction to Creation

Care and the Ministry of A Rocha" in the parlor of the church building.

Wednesday 10/21 Community Groups meet in homes in the evening.

Friday 10/23 **Women's Bible Study.** 9:15 – 11:30 a.m. at Milligan House.

English Conversations. 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. at Milligan House

Saturday 10/24 Grace & Peace Fellowship will be using Milligan House 8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.

Sunday 10/25 **Lunch** at Milligan House after worship.

Tuesday 10/27 **Stated Session Meeting** at Milligan House. 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday 10/28 First of "**3 Nights Together**" meets at Milligan House 7:00 p.m.

Theme: "Beauty, A Window Onto God"

Thursday 10/29 **Adult Choir Rehearsal** 7:15 p.m.

Friday 10/30 **Women's Bible Study** 9:15 – 11:30 a.m. at Milligan House.

English Conversations 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. at Milligan House

November:

Sunday 11/1 Sunday School. Worship 10:15 a.m.

Wednesday 11/4 Second of "**3 Nights Together.**" Floral Designer Jane Winter's talk:

"Truth, Beauty, and Flowers." Meet in sanctuary. Invite friends.

Wednesday 11/11 Third of "**3 Nights Together.**" Meet in Community Groups in homes.

A few other November dates to note:

Wednesday 11/18 Congregational Meeting. Election of Officers/Deaconesses.

Wednesday 11/25 Community Groups can meet if they wish.

Thursday 11/26 Thanksgiving Day Worship. 10:00 a.m.

Sunday 11/29 No Sunday School. Also, **First Sunday in Advent.**

Women's Bible Study will meet November 6-20, but will *not* meet Friday, November 27. Meets 9:15-11:30 a.m. on Fridays.

¡Teen Calendar!

November 6-8. OOC Fall Teen Retreat

Teen Fall Retreat, originally scheduled for this weekend, has been postponed until November 6-8. OOC Fall Teen Retreat. Where: Camp Trinity (www.camptrinity.org) (heated rooms!) Matt Morginsky is still scheduled to speak. See Mark for details.

For tonight (October 18) all teens are welcome to meet for dinner at 5 p.m. (bring about \$6) and then return to the church for the Creation Remembered talk at 6:30 p.m.

Directory Updates

Jessie Swigart

Please see the print copy for address.

Nancy Weir

Please see the print copy for address.

Sue van Hoornkbeek's e-mail is: See print copy.

Old Orchard Church

Church Office/Milligan House: 314.962.3795; **Fax:** 314.962.8285

640 Amelia/Church Building: 314.961.6932

Ron Lutjens' (home) Study: 314.962.6196; **Ron's E-mail:** see print copy.

Mark Tucker's Office: 314.680.3670; **Mark's E-mail:** see print copy.

Church Office E-mail: office@oldorchardchurch.org;

Web Site: www.oldorchardchurch.org

*This Overture made possible by the stimulating contributions of the Rockwell font,
and by faithful readers like you.*

Thank you.