



Overture

The (Almost) Fortnightly Newsletter of Old Orchard Church – December 6, 2009

2nd Sunday of Advent

Theme: *Celebrating Messiah Jesus: Emmanuel*

Text: Isaiah 7:14; 40:1-11

Welcome to Old Orchard Church!

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

Children's Ministries During Worship

Nursery is offered for infants & children through kindergarten age. Our nurseries are in the church building's basement. **Children's Worship** is at Milligan House.

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 grades 1-5 are dismissed at 10:50 a.m.

PARLOR FELLOWSHIP

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

PLEASE JOIN US!

Sundays @ a Glance

- 9:00 a.m. **Sunday School** for adults, teens, and upper elementary (Milligan House) and pre-K and K-2nd children (basement of church building)
- 10:15 a.m. Worship
- 6-8 p.m. Youth Group/Teen Fellowship (see Teen calendar for details)

Sunday School News

The adult class on the Book of Job will continue until Sunday, December 20.

Sunday School Break: No Sunday School December 27, January 3 & 10.

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 next issue will be out Sunday, December 20 Prisca Rice as Editor with Tamara assisting. Deadline is next Sunday, December 13.

Christmas Events/Opportunities



Adopt a Family for Christmas & More Deadline to return gifts, etc. is next Sunday!

Thank you for those of you who have already taken an ornament and/or plan to contribute in food or money. We still have some ornaments left! Take an ornament (that represents a gift or gift card) and get that gift/card. Ornaments represent gifts for a member of one of the 2 families we adopted (green ones) or gifts to children prison ministry, Mission Gate, works with (angels) and we have added **purple ornaments** to the tree this week representing gifts to be given to the children/grandchildren of the women who are served by the Grace & Peace Winter Shelter. We encourage families with kids in the fellowship to take one of these. (others in the congregation can take them too) We have 29 gift requests from the Winter Shelter! (as of Wednesday, December 2, 11 were not yet taken) The purple ornament gifts are suggested to be in the \$10 range. Deadline for the return of food, gifts, gift cards, monetary gifts is next Sunday, December 13.

If you took an ornament and did not leave the second half here (9 are missing, but presumed in the hands of people to get), e-mail the church office so we can have an accounting of the gift ornaments. But more importantly, bring the gift!

--Sponsored by the OOC Mercy Ministry

Kids' Christmas Craft Sale! Next Sunday!

Kids! Christmas Craft Sale again! Kids 18 years and younger have made Christmas presents that they will show and sell to others in the fellowship. When? Next **Sunday, December 13 after worship**. Bring cash to buy what the kids have made! Questions? Contact Kelli McKie.

Lessons & Carols

We are hosting two Lessons & Carols this year: **Please sign-up to attend one!**

Next Sunday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Richard and Jane Winter in the Central West End (5086 Westminster Place, 63108), and on Saturday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Greg & Cayce Zavaglia (3409 Longfellow Blvd., 63104), we'll do our own version of the Festival of Lessons and Carols. For those not familiar with this, Lessons and Carols is an old Anglican tradition dating back to the mid 1800's in which carols, Scripture and poetry readings all highlighting the great Drama of Redemption, are woven together in a tapestry of quiet reflection on the wonder of the Incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. Limited seating so sign up to come! **And bring a platter of Christmas treats.**

Children are welcome to come to this if they are old enough to listen quietly.

We strongly encourage you to bring a guest to this event! Our Lessons and Carols is a wonderful, low key way of introducing non-Christians to the circle of warmth and light that Christ creates in the world when he gathers his people into communities known as churches.

Invitations given out last week had an error in them (We had "Sunday" instead of "Saturday" on the information for December 19th when Zavaglias are hosting. We are distributing new invitations this week.



Women's Ministry Fellowship & Crafts -

Saturday, December 19th - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at Milligan House

Ladies, come join us for a time of crafting and fellowship! Bring your knitting, sewing, scrapbooking, or even last minute Christmas cards -- whatever! Tables and chairs will be provided. Bring snacks for yourself or to share if you want to nibble on something while you craft. And feel free to invite friends from outside Old Orchard; this can be a great opportunity for outreach! Questions: call or email Amy Butz. (see print copy for contact info)

Staff Christmas Gift

As is our custom, we will be taking up a collection for all our paid staff (part-time and full-time). Checks can be written to "Old Orchard Church" and designated "Staff Gift." (If you wish to designate a specific staff person you may do so. The rest of the money collected will be divided among the staff.). Our paid staff includes *Greg Roig*, music director; *Susan O'Neal*, custodian; *Lina Stanly*, accompanist; *Durinda Hood*, administrative assistant; and *Mark Tucker*, and *Ron Lutjens*, pastors.

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 20, 6:00 p.m.

Meet at Milligan House.

We'll carol in the neighborhood,

and end up at Jerry & Sue Taussig's

669 North Forest Avenue, 63119) for refreshments.

Please bring a plate of Christmas eats, too!



CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

11:00 A.M.



December Birthdays

12/1.....Brent Helton
12/1.....Sophie Killeen
12/4.....Stacy Leonard
12/6.....Mary Carter
12/7.....Matt Philip
12/7.....Nicholas Skrainka
12/7.....Amanda Tevebaugh
12/9.....Nathaniel Gutierrez**
12/10.....Ted Winters
12/11.....Luca Zavaglia
12/12.....Sarah Lowe
12/14.....Currie Bishop
12/14.....Virginia McKeon

12/15.....Will Barker
12/16.....Csenge Futo**
12/18.....Ben Kraft
12/18.....Caileigh O'Neal
12/20.....Ana Helton
12/21.....Nicolas Rinn**
12/22.....Dan Petty
12/24.....Amy Butz
12/26.....Hajnal Futo**
12/26.....Debbie Pendergrass
12/26.....Reneirio Quimbo Jr.**
12/26.....Adele Raquepaw
12/27.....Ben Killeen

Foreign Missions Prayer Requests for December 2009

- 1. Wilma Cross – Santiago, Chile.** Pray for a special blessing of the Holy Spirit as Wilma leads two Seminars, Dec 7-12 and Jan 4-9. Two couples in Chile are considering working with Wilma. Pray for clear guidance. Wilma will be visiting the US mid-Jan to mid-April. Pray that we can arrange for her to come to OOC, for the right date and the needed funds. [See her last letter on the FM Bulletin Board.]
- 2. Rob and Tünde Futo – Budapest, Hungary.** Pray for Rob in his busy schedule of teaching in the new Bible School, preaching, counseling, etc. Pray for Tunde as she prepares the choir for the Christmas concert. Pray for guidance as they are in the process of starting a Christian school in the town where they are living. Pray for their family.
- 3. Gerry and Ruth Gutierrez – Huanta, Peru.** Pray that recent problems with their church leadership will result in repentance and greater dependence on the Lord for all concerned. Pray for encouragement and physical strength for both Gerry and Ruthie. Pray for protection as terrorist activity continues to increase in the area.
- 4. L'Abri Fellowship – England and Switzerland.** Pray for the Lord's continued working in the lives of the students as the fall term ends in both branches this month. Pray for a restful time for the staff during the break. Pray for Rodman Miller, Priscilla (Schaeffer) and John's son-in-law who is being treated for brain cancer. (This is Becky's husband. They live in Switzerland and are believers, but are not connected with L'Abri.) Pray for financial needs, especially at the Swiss branch.
- 5. Dawn Miller – Madrid, Spain.** Pray for fruit from whatever Christmas outreach is planned and that the Lord would draw to himself some of the people Dawn has been sharing the gospel with. Pray for Christian fellowship for Dawn herself, especially over the Christmas holidays. Pray for more financial support.
- 6. Joseph and Elfi Muutuki – Nairobi, Kenya.** Pray for safety and encouragement in their difficult work of planting a church among the Indian community, which consists of both Muslims and Hindus. Pray for new contacts and the protection of new believers. Pray for their adult children Tim, Matthias and Anne.
- 7. Luciano and Luciene Pires – Goiania, Brazil.** Praise for very good attendance and reaction to various Colloquium activities this year. Because of the exchange rate, their salary has decreased by almost \$1,000/mo since Feb. Pray for financial needs. Praise that there has been some help financially from Brazilian sources but they need much more.
- 8. Rene and Lani Quimbo – Mindanao, Philippines.** Praise for 10 fruitful years of ministry. Pray for Lani as she and a lady companion are staying in the primitive center in Zamboanga City, in a dangerous Muslim neighborhood. They are already holding several classes. Praise for progress in the Portal, Bajau and Hillside ministries. Pray for adequate funds and personnel as their work continues to grow.
- 9. Joel and Jessica Rinn – Verona, Italy.** Praise for increased use of the church/ministry room. Pray for various needs of young people: Philip, Luca, Anna, and Alessandro and non believing visitors to the Wed eve study class. As both Joel and Jessica are very busy with a variety of fruitful activities outside of Verona, pray that they will have wisdom to "be good stewards of [their] time and resources."
- 10. Bob and Shirley Woodson – Lima, Peru.** Pray for Bob with his heavy schedule teaching and preaching. Pray for both of them as they counsel and teach individuals and in churches.
- 11. Due to confidentiality, Anne's prayer request is not printed for the website. See print copy.**

October Budget Report

As we continue to observe and analyze how our giving patterns are proceeding through the year, we definitely want to give thanks to God for the blessings he gives us, and use the giving we are seeing as one of the indications from the Lord about what decisions He would have us make. We praise God that October's giving totals improved from the previous month, and were the second highest average per week in the fiscal year to date. However, we are still coming below our original income projections.

October 2009 Income	October 2009 Budgeted Income	October 2009 Difference from Budget	Year-to- Date Income	Year-to- Date Budgeted Income	Year-to- Date Difference from Budget
\$20,188.50	\$21,460.00	(\$1,271.50)	\$84,764.15	\$91,206.00	(\$6,425.54)

This is an improvement, as we now need just over \$400 a week to catch up to our plans; however, we are already quite a bit behind for the year, and every month we fall short increases that deficit. We are running a little below projected expenses for this point in the year (mainly due to a mild winter and a lower gas bill). This helps our situation, but only by about \$1,500.

Please continue to prayerfully consider God's leading in your life toward your church giving. The church officers, in turn, will continue to watch these trends and begin plans for how we might cut back in the first half of 2010 if we continue to fall below our original projections, so that we can fulfill our pledge to avoid another budget shortfall.

Ruling Elder Nate McKie, for the Session and deacons

Volunteers Wanted for Urbana Student Missions Conference

Urbana Student Missions Conference is to be here in St. Louis in December. This is hosted by Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship and is its 22nd one. Since 2006, Urbana has been held at the Edward Jones Dome.

As of this writing, the organizers of volunteers were seeking additional volunteer help. If interested in helping, please contact Deb Meyer at dmeyer@intervarsity.org.

Here's a list. We don't have the details of what the shifts actually are, just the general times. Some of this is before and after the actual conference (Dec. 27-31)

Book store set-up - - - - -	Dec 22 1-5pm & Dec 23 8:30am-5pm	Volunteer [216]
Hospitality - Arrival Guide - -	Dec 26 & 27, 10am-7pm	Volunteer [501]
Hospitality - Arrival Guide - -	Dec 26 & 27, 8am-5pm	Volunteer [500]
Hospitality - Driver - - - - -	Dec 26 & 27 & Jan 1, 7am - 4pm	Volunteer [516]
Hospitality Departure Guide -	Jan 1, 4:30am-10:30am	Volunteer [1092]
Hospitality Departure Guide -	Jan 1, 6:30am-2:30pm	Volunteer [1093]

--Submitted by Owen Gentry (who is a volunteer)

Calendar Notes

Women's Bible Study will not meet the rest of December through January 8. Then it'll begin to meet 9:15-11:30 a.m. on Fridays.

Men's Bible Study. Meets the first and third Saturdays of the month at 7:15 a.m. at Milligan House. See Hal Pendergrass for more.

Choir. Meets Thursdays, 7:15 p.m. See Greg Roig for more.

¡Teen Calendar!

Sunday, December 6. 6-8 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Party. At the Tucker place. Bring a treat (sweet - guys) or snack (savory - girls) and an androgynous \$10 gift (no gift cards please).

Sunday, December 13. Lessons and Carols (no teen fellowship that night)

Sunday, December 20. Lunch after church. Church-wide caroling and party. No teen fellowship. TLT will meet at 4 p.m.

(TLT = Teen Leadership Team)

Long-Term Substitute English Teacher Wanted

Westminster Christian Academy in St. Louis, Missouri, a Christian secondary school with 899 students in grades 7-12, is accepting applications for a long-term substitute English teacher for the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year—Monday, January 4, through Friday, May 28, 2010—to teach three sections of Literature of Western Civilization (10th grade) and one section of American Literature (11th grade). A letter of interest and resume should be forwarded to Becky VanValkenburg, Executive Assistant to the Head of School, Westminster Christian Academy, 10900 Ladue Road, St. Louis, MO 63141, bvanvalkenburg@wcastl.org or please contact the school at 314.997.2900.

OOC Online Photo Directory

Dear OOC Friends,

Just wanted to let you know that the online photo directory is now posted on the church website-

See print copy of *Overture* for details!

I hope you all enjoy the directory. The next photo session will likely be during the January parlor fellowship. If you need to get your picture taken or if you need an update we can do it then. Also, please let me know if there are any corrections I should make.

In His service,

Sara Dodd for the Welcoming Ministry

Old Orchard Church

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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