



OVERTURE

The (Almost-Fortnightly) Newsletter of Old Orchard Church

✝ December 20, 2009 ✝



Merry Christmas to All!

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. (We are taking a break for Sunday School through January 10). 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

(The children will be decorating the trees today so listen for announcements of dismissal times.)

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.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Caroling!

Tonight! 6:00 p.m.

Meet at Milligan House. We'll carol in the neighborhood, and end up at Jerry & Sue Taussig's—see print copy for address—for refreshments (directions below).

Please bring a plate of Christmas eats, too!

Directions to the Taussigs for Caroling Refreshments: See print copy.

Christmas Eve Worship Invitation

All invited to worship at Grace & Peace Fellowship (our mother church) on Christmas Eve at 10 p.m. Location: 5574 Delmar, St. Louis 63112.

Christmas Day Worship

At Old Orchard Church

Friday, December 25. 11:00 a.m.

All invited!

CHURCH BULLETIN

Staff Christmas Gift – Last Call!

As is our custom, we are 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.

End of the Year Contributions

The last Sunday you can drop gifts in the collection plate and have them applied to the year 2008 for tax purposes is Sunday, December 27, 2009. Anything put in the collection plate after that will be counted as part of your giving in the year 2010, even if you back-date the check. IRS rules for tax deductions stipulate that gifts must be given by December 31—in the hands of the church by midnight, December 31, or postmarked in 2009 (if they are being mailed) though not received by the church until 2010.

Sunday School News

Today is the last day for the Adult class on the Book of Job.

We'll take a Sunday School Break: No Sunday School December 27, January 3 & 10.

Classes resume Sunday, January 17.

Hospitality Ministry Meeting

Saturday, January 16, 2010

9:00-11:00 am in Milligan House

Any regular attendee is welcome to come and share ideas for how to better serve the congregation in 2010. If you cannot come on Saturday, please talk with Kathy Jennings about how you can be involved. We organize monthly parlor fellowships, lunches in Milligan House, showers for brides and new moms, meals for newborns, and refreshments for church events.

Presbytery-Wide Sanctity of Human Life Worship Service

All invited.

Sunday, January 24, 2010

6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church

Dr. Cortez Cooper, former interim pastor at the Kirk of the Hills, will be preaching.

“Our Children and Sexuality”

Parent/Teacher Forum

Saturday, January 23rd, 8:30–11:30 am at OOC Milligan House

FREE

A forum and discussion about understanding and protecting our children led by experienced therapist Petra Blum, MA, LPC.

- ❖ **How can I protect my child from what is out there?**
- ❖ **Sometimes my child does *weird* things. Is this normal?**
- ❖ **What is a proper view of sexuality for young children?**
- ❖ **Is our current culture a safe place for our children?**

This is for all Parents, Teachers, Volunteers and anyone interested, both in our church, but also as an outreach to folks you know from your workplace, neighborhood, friends, and family. Please prayerfully consider inviting someone to this forum.

(Hot breakfast and childcare provided with RSVP to Mark Tucker by January 17th.)

A Thank-You Note

Thank you all so much for the many gifts you gave us at my baby shower. I was overwhelmed by all the love, support, and prayers and so much appreciate your generosity—both to those who came to the shower and those who gave gifts later. Thank you also Amy & Tamara for hosting. It was a lovely time!
~Abby Bishop

A Submission of Poetry

from Alyssa Santoyo

Holiday, 1967

I walk the stairs with my small feet
One step at a time.
My Hispanic and German cousins shove past
Impatiently through the doorway.
In the kitchen my grandmothers
Are shouting. The din of frying
Apple dumplings and beef tacos is enough
Without their cheerful gabbling;
Broken accents swirl into their pots
Like spice. In the living room,
My two grandfathers and numerous uncles
Roar at the television. Fútbol
Is a universal language. My mother
Sets sauerkraut onto the dinner table
Beside a dish of salsa.
Black and blonde hair tangle
In the narrow hallway for a moment;
Discord erupts: little Maria has crushed
Robert's paper hat. He was one of the Magi
In the school play this afternoon.
But he is consoled with the honor
Of helping the great bird emerge
From the stove over to its revered spot
In the center of the feast.
Suddenly the hushed murmurs
To Padre Nuestro and Herr Gott
Become a medley, sweet-smelling,
An aroma that blends us together
And pours into my folded hands.



UPCOMING L'ABRI EVENTS

January L'Abri Retreat

January 8-15 and 15-22 in Steelville, MO.
See brochures in parlor on literature table.

L'Abri Weekend Conference

February 12 & 13, 2010

Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester, MN

Theme: "Making All Things New: The Power of the Gospel to Transform All that It Touches"

Brochures are in the parlor. Conference info is also at www.labri.org.
Questions? Contact Larry Snyder at 507.536.0108.

OOC CALENDAR NOTES

- ❖ **Women's Bible Study** will not meet the rest of December through January 8. When it resumes, it meets 9:15-11:30 a.m. on Fridays. Resumes January 15, 2010.
- ❖ **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** will not meet again until Thursday, January 7, 2010, 7:15 p.m. See Greg Roig for more.
- ❖ **English Conversations.** Will not meet again until January 15, 2010.

JANUARY

- ❖ Wednesday, January 6: House Church at 7 p.m. Dinner before hand at 6 p.m. (bring a dish to share).
- ❖ Sunday, January 10: Teacher Training during the Sunday School Hour.
- ❖ Sunday, January 10: Bagel (parlor) Fellowship after worship.
- ❖ Tuesday, January 12: Arts Ministry meets, 7 p.m. at Milligan House.
- ❖ Saturday, January 16: Hospitality Ministry Meeting, 9 to noon (see article above).
- ❖ Thursday, January 21: Children's Ministry Meeting, 6 p.m.
- ❖ Saturday, January 23, morning: Parent-Teacher Training. (see article)
- ❖ Sunday, January 24, Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.
- ❖ Saturday, January 30, Prayer Opportunity, 9 to 11 a.m.

TEEN CALENDAR

- ❖ **TODAY!** Lunch after church. Church-wide caroling and party (6 p.m.; meet at Milligan House). No teen fellowship. TLT will meet at 4:30 p.m.

Overture Schedule & Articles

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, January 10 with Jim Lowe editing.
Deadline is January 3.

We usually publish the Overture the first and third Sundays of the month, but with the holidays, we decided to change January to publish January 10 & 24, 2010.

Old Orchard Church

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