



## *Overture*

**The (almost) Fortnightly Newsletter of Old Orchard Church ~  
June 5, 2011**

### **Welcome!**

Guests, we welcome you and thank you for coming! 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. Sunday School meets at 9 a.m. and is offered for all ages (but not for children during the summer). See notes about the Adult Sunday School 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 in the lavender or blue pads on the chairs or in the hymnal rack.

### 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**. For children in grades 1-5. Won't meet during the summer until September 18.

### CALENDAR NOTES

#### **Sundays**

- Sunday School: 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School in June & July.
- No Children's Sunday School in June and July.
- Worship: 10:15 to 10:50 a.m.

#### **Regular Meetings**

- Taking a break!

#### **Fellowship**

- Parlor Fellowship: June 12, 2011. In honor of high school graduates. See announcement.
- Next Lunch at Milligan House: June 26 after worship at Milligan House. See announcement.
- Ladies, Bridal Shower for Anna Cushman: Saturday, June 25 at 10:00 a.m., Milligan house. See announcement.

#### **Other Meetings & Notes for June**

- **PCA General Assembly**: June 7 – 10 (Ron will attend in Virginia Beach, Virginia)
- **Children's Coordinators Meeting**. Tuesday, June 7 at 6 p.m. at Milligan House. See Mark Robertson.
- **Movie Night** hosted by Nelson & Kathy Jennings on June 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Milligan House. See article.
- **Session Meeting**. Tuesday, June 14, 6 p.m.
- **Congregational Meeting**. June 15. 6:45 p.m. See announcement.

### Our Library

Please browse our selection of books in the vestibule by the kitchenette. More books are in our library rooms, located in the Milligan House on the first floor by the kitchen and bathroom. Enjoy!!

### New Sunday School

No Sunday School for children through the months of June & July. Intergenerational Sunday School Class. In August, after Summer Narnia (VBS), there will be a 3 week intergenerational Sunday School to which we will invite attendees of Summer Narnia, which will have just finished.

### Summer Adult Class

There **will** be one summer Sunday School class for adults (that runs during June and July and the last week in August), **Disciplines for Disciples—A Simple Introduction**. This class will focus on some of the classic spiritual disciplines we need to be learning and practicing if we are to keep our communion with God intimate, authentic and growing. We will focus in particular on learning how to meditate on God's Word—not simply on how to read it or study it but on how to *meditate* on it. What's that all about? Someone who has spent the past year going deeper in the discipline of meditation on Scripture recently wrote,

*"The Word of GOD is truly powerful.*

*I found it strong enough to stop me in my tracks."*

Come and join us on Sundays (starting June 5) at 9 am in the Milligan House to find out more. Childcare will be provided, but you will need to let us know ASAP if you need it (please call Mark Robertson for this.) *This would be a great way to refresh your relationship with the Lord and renew your love for him in this 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.* -- Ron Lutjens

### Congregational Meeting

Congregational meeting scheduled for Wednesday, **June 15** (6:45 p.m.) is to vote on Currie Bishop, standing for the office of elder, and to get feedback from the congregation on the proposed 2011-2012 budget. Child care will be offered. (Let Mark Robertson know if you will be using child care.) Members, we will need a quorum to vote!

### Parlor Fellowship

June 12 with Margaret Wilke and Amy Grady hosting. The fellowship is in honor of our high school graduates, Niko Skrainka and Hannah Nelson. Sign-up sheets circulating today after worship.

### Youth Group

**High School Only! Summer Bible Study—Every other Friday! Began June 3 @ 9 am @ Einstein's. Marvelous! Stupendous!**

- Thursday, June 16—Shakespeare in the Park
- Sunday, June 26—Serving @ Dell Haven w/ Grace & Peace 2 pm (we'll just stay after church, go to lunch then on to Grace & Peace
- See Mark Robertson with questions.

### Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study will be taking a break for the summer until September. See Hal Pendergrass for questions.

### Summer Narnia—Please Register!

Tuesday, July 26 - Saturday, July 30, 2011

9:00am – noon. OOC'ers, please register your kids.

Registration is now on the OOC website. Be thinking about volunteering. See Kelli McKie for questions.

### Lawn Mowing— Please sign-up!

We're at that season again—looking for people to mow the lawns at the church building/Milligan House and at the home of Willie Lee, disabled who lives in Rock Hill. **Bill Grady** coordinates lawn mowing at the church/Milligan

House, and **Mark Robertson** is currently coordinating lawn mowing at Willie Lee's, but we are looking for a new coordinator for Willie's lawn mowing. Interested? See Mark Robertson.

Sign up sheets are circulating today! For questions, please contact Bill Grady or Mark Robertson.

### **Bring Food Any Sunday**

We invite you again to bring canned vegetables, fruit and tuna any Sunday and drop it off to the box in the foyer. We learned recently that Webster Rock Hill Ministries is low on these items so we'll pass along to them what we receive. Thanks! --Mercy Ministry Team

### **ZUMBA at OOC!!!**

FUN and exercise at the same time!! Tuesdays in June, 6-7 PM in the parlor. It's not too late to join this motley crew; plenty of room! Take advantage of this opportunity. No charge. Bring your friends and neighbors, too! Contact Becca Skrainka with any questions.

### **OOC Anniversary Funds**

We are taking up three collections in conjunction with our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. *Please make checks payable to Old Orchard Church and designate it for which fund you want to give to.*

(1) 30th Anniversary Fund. To help defray costs of the various things we are doing for our anniversary celebration. Designate: "Anniversary Fund."

(2) Love Gift. Recipients to be determined. One will be a be split between a far and a near-home missionary/ministry as a kind of thank-offering to the Lord for his mercies to us over these first 30 years. Designate: "*Anniversary Love Gift*".

(3) Copper cross. We're setting up a fund that folks can contribute to so that we can hire an artist/craftsman to build us a copper cross to go on top of the bell tower at the church. We are in the process of talking with people to get an idea of the cost of this. *Designate to: "Copper Cross"*

So as the Lord leads, we do encourage the fellowship to give to one or more or all of these funds but cheerfully, with thankful hearts, and *above and beyond what you are already giving to help support the work of Old Orchard Church.*

Warm thanks to you all,

Ron Lutjens, on behalf of the Session and the 30th Anniversary Committee

### **Next Lunch at Milligan House & Hosts Needed!**

Sunday, June 26 after worship. Hosting: Betsy Tevebaugh who is looking for a co-host for this meal. Barrs Community Group are helpers. Sign up to attend. Menu: Pizza, salad and dessert. Also, two hosts/hostesses needed for August 28 lunch and one co-host needed for the October 23 lunch. See Betsy Tevebaugh if you can help host any of these dates.

### **OOC 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

#### **"Numbering Our Days, Finding Our Wisdom"**

**Weekend of September 23-25:** Anniversary Celebration on OOC grounds. Mark that calendar!

### **Photo Albums – Your Help Is Wanted!**

We have 3 projects in the works—and we need your contributions!

--**General Photo Albums**. If you have photos of OOC people/events, please get them to either Barb Winters or Durinda Hood.

--**Photo Book**. In development. We may be looking for specific photos for it—watch for announcements.

--**Scrapbook of OOC 2011 People**. Each household attending OOC is invited to contribute two photos: one of your household around the time that you first came to OOC and a second photo of your household now, in 2011. You may include grown children even if they do not attend OOC. The third item is to answer two questions: (1) When and how did the Lord bring you to Old Orchard Church? and (2) How has the Lord used Old Orchard Church in your lives? These are meant to be brief of course! See sample page on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

Thanks for your help!! --Durinda Hood for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

### Summer RUF 2011

**Who:** All college students in St. Louis, including rising freshmen who have just graduated from high school.

**What:** A 4-part series of Large Group meetings featuring great musical worship, preaching from ordained pastors, food and fellowship. This summer our theme will be "4 Miles Deep: The Ground that Christianity Stands On."

**Where:** The Chapel, at Memorial Presbyterian Church

**When:** 7:00 pm, Wednesday nights – June 15, June 29, July 13, July 27

**For more info:** [www.summerruf.blogspot.com](http://www.summerruf.blogspot.com)

--Submitted by Ben Porter, Assistant Pastor, Kirk of the Hills

### Need Help around the House?

Contact Jessica Burdette for occasional, monthly, bi-weekly or weekly cleanings. I have nearly 2 years of professional cleaning experience and am committed to using eco-friendly products in your home.

Contact Drew Burdette for your lawn care and/or "odd jobs" needs. Feel free to pass along our info to neighbors, friends or family that may be interested.

Jessica:

Drew:

### Psalm of Praise

Praise be to GOD, our Lord and Savior!

He does hear all our trust-full prayers.

For the Spirit of the Lord has moved about in our hearts,

& in his transforming power softened & humbled us.

As we wrestled with our thoughts & anxiously pleaded for justice & healing,

You set wise counsel & faithful friends around us.

Thanks be to GOD who sets our feet in a broad place!

Thanks be to GOD who lovingly stays with us!

Thanks be to GOD who is for us & presents us with the desires of our hearts!

Thanks be to GOD who is the One who heals & reconciles!

You truly are a GOD of mercy!

Oh Father, may we never forget Your work on our behalf.

With praise, honor & glory to our risen Savior,

the LORD Jesus Christ,

AMEN

- Written and submitted by Dot Branson

### Walking Empty

I confess, Creator and Consoler

That often all your offers—

They seem empty to me.

It is not knowledge I need,

For Scripture says your Son was sent.

I know it, but it feels empty!

This half a heart inside hates

My own over-weak hopes.

Am I just an empty shell still walking?

Where lives the longing for love

That impassioned practice with purpose?

Am I now empty of it?

I recall a real romance,

And feeling that my Father fetched his finest.

But tonight it seems empty.

And so with wanting I will wait.

This selfish soul, it sits.

Come soon, and fill my emptiness.

- Written and submitted by Kirk Norris

### Sonnet

To meditate on the divine is bliss,  
rich food to satiate a hungry soul.  
Yet common, busy folk may often miss  
that time, quiet time, which best makes the heart whole.  
Too often we despair of growing close  
to Him who is our life, our help, our love;  
the tasks abound, to-do list overflows,  
our minds too weary for thoughts of Above.  
Yet moments of silence throughout the day  
or brief pauses in morning, or at night,  
are pools of peace to reflect and to pray.  
These times God gives to refocus our sight.  
He's also found in the work of our hands  
when we freely surrender to His plans.  
- Written and submitted by Alyssa Catlin

### Jessie Swigart's New Address: put in your directory!

See print copy.

### Letter from Bethany Christian Services

Dear Old Orchard Church,  
Thank you for all you do to help vulnerable children through Bethany. Your partnership makes a tremendous difference! Blessings, Donna Nicholson, St. Louis Director of Bethany Christian Services, May 2011  
(Please see the story about a little boy affectionately called "Little Snuggle Bug" on the bulletin board.)

### Thank you note

I would like to say a special thank you to all the ladies that showered me with so much love, warmth (and gifts!) in my bridal shower at Old Orchard Church! Thanks for blessing me with your words and wisdom; they are so much needed and appreciated! Thanks for sharing this special moment with me. May God bless you all!  
--Sandra Ribeiro Schulte

### Teaching Positions Available

- Promise Christian Academy, a school for children with special needs, is accepting resumes for the 2011–12 school year for a Special Education Teacher (minimum 4 years experience) and a Teacher Assistant. All resumes should be sent to [mheintz@promisestl.org](mailto:mheintz@promisestl.org).

- Westminster Christian Academy in St. Louis, Missouri, a Christian secondary school with 872 students in grades 7-12, is accepting applications for a part-time high school math teacher (one period per day) for the 2011/2012 school year. Visit our website at [www.wcastl.org](http://www.wcastl.org) for application information and/or contact Becky VanValkenburg, Assistant to the Head of School, 314-997-2900.

### The Value of a Mentor

On the television show "Seinfeld," Jerry is confounded by the fact that his girlfriend feels the need for a mentor. "I can tell you what to do," he quips. She breaks up with him, as he has no respect for the mentor-protégé relationship. A mentor is not someone who tells others "what to do" but rather lives as an example for the younger generation and also explains their choices through teaching. The Bible shows us that the story of God's redeeming work is passed down from generation to generation (Dt. 6:7; Joel 1:3). The primary unit for this is the family, but there is great value in the whole community of God coming together to teach our younger generations both through practice and through conversation. Mentoring relationships in the Bible are frequent, with Moses and Joshua, Elijah and Elisha, Christ and his disciples, and Paul and Timothy. We should be encouraging our young people in godliness and challenging them in areas that need growth. Roger Smalling, in

his book, *Christian Leadership*, identifies two important tools that a mentor can use: modeling and teaching. Modeling godly living is perhaps the most effective way to teach others, and if we allow younger generations into our lives, they will see the good that comes from it and seek to emulate. The mentor then explains through teaching why some things have gone well and other things have gone poorly.

Our young people need you. Your investment into their lives shows them that you care greatly for them, and also gives them various sounding boards on which they can analyze and construct their own identities. Our young people see you in our congregation, perhaps even know your name, but it will take a conscious effort on your part for them to get to know you in a significant way. Please prayerfully consider how you can invest in the life of a young person in our congregation. Consider your own life as a Christian, and think about those in your life who had the greatest impact. Perhaps you can make a similar difference in the life of a young person, who will remember you and be inspired to mentor young people in the coming generations.

--Mark Robertson

### **Dear OOC family**

First, I want to thank you for countless ways that you have enriched my life over the past 12 years that my family has been a part of this church. It was good to reminisce with many of you at the picnic a few weeks ago, and I reiterate how thankful I am for your continuing love and encouragement to my family and me. Just because my parents are moving to Connecticut doesn't mean that you can get rid of me that easily, though. So don't be surprised whenever I show up in the pew behind you, because I still consider OOC my church family.

I have already talked with many of you about my upcoming internship in the Middle East. I wanted to make sure to tell all of you the details of this exciting opportunity and ask for your prayers for me. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, I am leaving for Amman, Jordan where I will be doing Arabic studies for a month. I took an Arabic class this past semester, but this school will be an intensive, speaking-focused time to help me get a better grasp of the language. Then, on July 1<sup>st</sup> I am going to Bethlehem in the West Bank to intern with a Palestinian organization called Holy Land Trust (you can google them and look at their website for more info). Holy Land Trust (HLT) was founded by Palestinian Christians but people from all different faith traditions work there. I will be doing research on the evangelical Christian community in Bethlehem. Additionally, I will be living with a Palestinian family during my five and a half month stay. Once my internship ends on December 9<sup>th</sup>, my mom is going to come visit me for about a week! So it should be a great time.

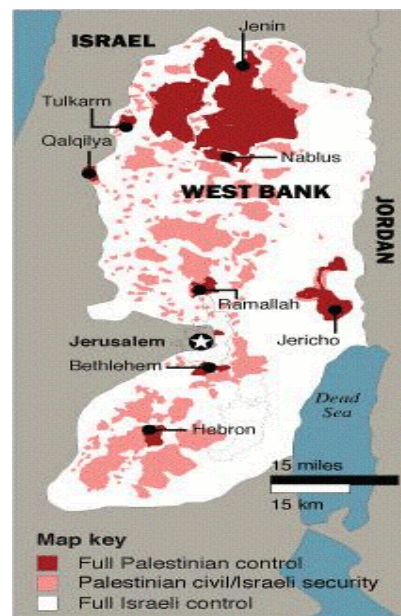
Please pray for my safety and for God's provision with visa stuff. Getting a visa to enter the West Bank can be very tricky, so please pray that the Lord will guide me through that process with patience and faith. Above all, please pray for the Lord to further open my eyes to the diversity of the body of Christ and to challenge me to be ok with complexity and seemingly unsolvable conflicts. He is a God of Peace; I want to truly believe that.

Thank you again for your support and love. I love you all and will be praying for you as your lives continue and as the Lord keeps stretching you and growing you as His church and His children.

Love,  
Wendy Jennings

P.S. Here is a map of the Israel/Palestine to help you be more familiar with where I will be

P.P.S. My blog link:  
<http://wendyonhng.blogspot.com>



### **LET'S SHOWER THE BRIDE**

All OOC women are invited to a bridal shower to honor Anna Cushman. Anna and Kirk Norris will be married at Old Orchard Church on August 6th.

WHERE: Milligan House

WHEN: Saturday, June 25 at 10:00 am

HOSTESSES: Lina Gentry and Sandra Schulte

Anna is registered at Bed, Bath and Beyond, Pottery Barn, Macy's, and Home Depot. If your budget is tight you can contribute to a group gift. Please give your contribution to Lina or Sandra by Sunday, June 19th. It would be greatly appreciated if you could bring something for the refreshment table.

Please join your sisters in Christ in a time of prayer and celebration for Anna.

### **News from Heather Sparkman**

Dear Friends,

As fierce spring storms whip their way across the Midwest and South, I pray this email finds you well and safe. Here in Fayetteville we waited for severe weather well into this morning, and continue to wait for the next round, though we have seen little that compares to the destruction that has happened in St. Louis, Birmingham and Joplin. I drove a van of students to Summer Conference last week and we saw the destruction ravaged in the outskirts of Birmingham. The loss and the devastation were near impossible for us to process as we passed by leveled homes and interrupted lives.

I sat with a student today over lunch and we discussed a particular heartbreak in her life, one that left her wondering how to reconcile the good she had experienced with the pain and disappointment that now make up part of her reality. As she shared her particular fears, I found myself looking in to her face and voicing my own fears and disappointments, and encouraging her to remember that though we are tempted to believe otherwise, the Lord is truly for us and wants good for us, though that does not always look like what we want. She smiled and said words that I have been thinking for the last month: I know it is true, but that doesn't make it any easier. Many of you know that I have decided to leave my position with RUF at Arkansas. There several factors to this decision, but the overwhelming factor was financial. As I looked at the sustainability of my support base, and the honest truth that I was hurting my own financial situation, I could see that my skill set did not include fundraising and I was not helping myself, my students or the church by trying to continue to eek out another year. Other factors include a growing sense that I wanted to continue to pursue teaching English as a vocation, a possibility that excites me. Still, this has been a hard and painful decision. I love my students and the University of Arkansas. I have loved worked with Ted and Melyna Wenger over the past three years. I have dear hopes and dreams for my students and this ministry. It is hard to let go of these things and to see how that loss can be "good" when it feels so very hard.

All of these things remind me of several lines from William Cowper's hymn, "God Moves in a Mysterious Way": Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take/the clouds ye so much dread/are big with mercy and shall break/in blessings on your head. Judge not the Lord by feeble sense/but trust Him for His grace/behind a frowning providence/He hides a smiling face. His purposes will ripen fast/unfolding every hour/the bud may have a bitter taste/ but sweet will be the flower. Blind unbelief is sure to err/and scan His work in vain/God is His own interpreter/and He will make it plain.

I wait to see how God interprets these things, and what he will make plain in the coming days. I know that the Lord is for me, that he is for his people and will work good out of this situation. I have a feeling a lot of us are in the midst of waiting to see just how He will make it plain. May He give us grace to wait until then.

My immediate plans are to stay in Fayetteville and to work for a year or two before pursuing a masters in English. I am eager to see where the Lord will take me over the next few years. I am especially eager to see what sort of a job he will provide. My last day with RUF will be May 31st and I would very much like to start working soon. I would appreciate your prayers for provision of the right job. Pray, too, for this time of transition. Though I intend to continue my ministry with RUF at Arkansas, it will necessarily look different. Pray that I will have patience and a willingness to let things be different (I do not enjoy change).

A couple of housekeeping issues:

- Please note that my email account with RUF will be deactivated at the end of August. You can now contact me by email (see print copy) and my phone number will remain the same.
- My support account with RUF will be deactivated on May 31st. If you are still interested in RUF at Arkansas, I would love for you to consider giving Ted Wenger your financial support. You can contact him at or call the office in Atlanta at [\(678\) 825-1070](tel:678-825-1070).

- Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions.

Let me express my deep thanks, if you've read this far, for your many prayers, for your friendship, and for your support over the past three years. You have been instruments of the Lord in this ministry. Please continue to lift up God's work amongst the students at Arkansas!

In His Grace, Heather R. Sparkman

### **A Movie Night**

Everyone is invited to a "Movie Night" at Milligan House on Saturday, June 11 at 6:30 p.m. hosted by Nelson and Kathy Jennings. We will watch a documentary entitled "Little Town of Bethlehem" on the non-violence movement in the West Bank. Three men's stories are interwoven together—one Christian Palestinian, one Muslim Palestinian, and one Jewish Israeli helicopter pilot. All three are now involved in the non-violence movement. The first two work for Holy Land Trust, the organization with which our daughter Wendy is doing a 6-month internship this summer and fall. Please come if you want to learn more about what Wendy will be doing or if you are interested in becoming more informed about the Israeli-Palestinian issue. The movie is only 80 minutes long, but we will start with a brief review of the historical events leading up to today and leave time for discussion afterwards.

For any really ambitious folks, here are three books that Wendy has put on our "must-read" list as we try to get up to speed:

*Blood Brothers* by Elias Chacour

*You Have Heard it Said* by Jonathan McRay

*Pens and Swords* by Marda Dunsky

--Kathy and Nelson Jennings

### **Old Orchard Church**

**Church Office/Milligan House:** 314.962.3795

**Church Building, 640 Amelia:** 314.961.6932

(no answering device at this number)

**OOC Web Site:** [www.olderchardchurch.org](http://www.olderchardchurch.org)

#### Church Office

**Durinda Hood**, Administrative Assistant

E-mail: [office@olderchardchurch.org](mailto:office@olderchardchurch.org)

#### Senior Pastor

**Ron Lutjens'** (Home Study): (see print copy)

Ron's E-mail (see print copy)

#### Director of Ministry to Youth and Families

**Mark Robertson**, see print copy for contact info