



Overture

The Almost Fortnightly Newsletter of
Old Orchard Church

December 2, 2012

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 for all ages usually meets at 9 a.m. (except during the summer and some holidays) Please see note below for more.

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 meeting at Milligan House. Listen for dismissal announcement, usually around 10:50 am. See Jessie Swigart or Mark Robertson.

Make Use of the Children's Activity Bags in Worship!

Parents, each week there is a new activity sheet for children in the colored bags that you can find in a box alongside the windows in the hallway. These sheets are a way to help children engage in worship; if they are not yet reading, perhaps you can assist them after the service with some of the questions, though there are also graphics and games for all to enjoy according to that week's theme. Let me know if you have suggestions, as we seek to help the whole family worship well on Sunday morning! -- Mark Robertson.

Sunday School News

Meets at **9:00 a.m.** for both adults and children. We'll take a Christmas & New Year's break: No Sunday School December 23 and 30.

Adults, meeting until Christmas, Will Barker is leading the adult Sunday School. We will explore the Westminster Confession of Faith and ask ourselves what significance a 400-year-old confession has in the life of a Christian today. We will talk about how it was formed in its historical context, and why we view the Bible as a series of Covenants between God and people. We will explore the undergirding truths of Scripture that shape our understanding of life such as predestination, assurance of salvation, Christian freedom, freedom of conscience and the grace of the sacraments and prayer. This is a class for everyone, as it will enrich and deepen your understanding of Scripture.

Great coffee and childcare provided. Come learn something! Please contact Margaret Killeen with any questions.

Men's Bible Studies & Social

◆ Bible Studies:

Monday Evening (bi-weekly). 8:30 – 10:00 p.m. (Milligan House) Our next meeting will be Monday, December 3 and the following one will be December 17. We will view and discuss Tim Keller's DVD series *The Prodigal God*. (There is no book to buy or pre-reading required from week to week.) We meet every other Monday at the Milligan House from 8:30 - 10:00 p.m. Awesome refreshments will be served! For further info contact Gary Glasgow, Currie Bishop, Greg Kern or Greg Roig.

Friday Mornings (weekly) 6:30 – 7:30 a.m. (Milligan House) The Friday Bible study is doing a study on the book of Proverbs.

Saturday morning (bi-weekly) 7:15 a.m. This Bible study on the book of Colossians is led by Hal Pendergrass. Meets the first and third Saturday mornings. Next one: Saturday, December 1. This group will meet December 15 (**7:00 a.m.**) at the home of Hal and Debbie Pendergrass for their annual Christmas breakfast.

◆ **Social Evening: 1st Friday of the month**, 5-6:15 pm at Llywelyn's Pub, 17 Moody, WG, 63119. Next one: Friday, December 7.

◆ For questions about the Men's Ministry, see Ed Killeen.

Women's Bible Studies:

We continue our two group studies: I hope you can join us as we study Hebrews!

When: **Friday mornings**, 9:15 am-11:30 am; **Tuesday Evening**, 7 pm-8:30 pm

Christmas & New Year's Schedule: Please note schedule for the studies during the next few weeks:

Morning Study: Dec. 7 is the last class. No morning classes: December 14, 21, 28 & Jan. 4. Class resumes January 11.

Tuesday Evening Study: December 4 is last evening class with no classes December 11, 18, 25 & January 1. Evening study resumes January 8.

Cost: one-time fee of \$30 for materials & supplies. Scholarships may be available if needed.

Where: Both are at Milligan House

Leaders: *Betty McCracken* on Friday mornings

Melissa Nelson on Tuesday evenings

Childcare for Women's Bible Study

--*Friday Mornings*. Child care offered. (Nursing moms welcome to have babies in class.)

--*Tuesday Evenings*: No childcare available.

Contact: Melissa Nelson with any questions!



WOMEN'S RETREAT

The Women of Old Orchard Church are invited to the 2013 Women's Retreat this coming February 15-16. We are very excited to have this time to join together for fellowship, rest, and worship. Our plan is that after a brief opening talk on the biblical meaning of hospitality, we will spend Friday night practicing community and hospitality with one another as we laugh, craft, fellowship, and enjoy the presence of our sisters in Christ. During the day on Saturday, Nancy Snyder will share on the topic of practicing hospitality, followed by an open discussion on the hindrances and encouragements of opening our hearts and lives to those around us. Opportunities to take a nature walk, pray, fellowship and rest will fill out the rest of the day. Our primary goal in this weekend is to encourage the women of the church to come together for fellowship and encouragement; the weekend will be light on organized activities but we pray will be full of fun and open hearts!

More details will follow shortly.

Heather Sparkman for the Women's Ministry

OOO Directory & OOO Talk

If you are new and not in the OOO Directory, please fill out a form. You can either fill out a form at the church's website (www.oldorchardchurch.org). It's at the bottom of the "About Us" page, or get one from Durinda Hood. Please turn in physical forms to Durinda Hood's mailbox.

If you are not receiving **OOO Talk** on your e-mail and want to join, please e-mail the church office and we will have an invitation to OOO Talk sent to you. [for OOO attenders only] --Durinda Hood



Parlor Fellowship: Please join us for a Parlor Fellowship after worship. Our hostesses: Kelli McKie & Betsy Roig. Mark Robertson will be ordained today and we are honoring him at the Parlor Fellowship.

Lunches. No Lunch at Milligan House in December.

Getting Ready for Christmas: You're Invited....

By the elders of Old Orchard Church to join us for a day of prayer and fasting **this coming Wednesday, December 5**. We do this from time to time as a fellowship, to rediscover who we really are: *those who have been given gifts*; and to remind ourselves that we do not live by bread or bank accounts alone but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God. And there's no better time to reclaim these soul-refreshing truths and have them animate our thinking, our buying and selling, our sense of security than at the beginning of the Christmas season.

We have called this day of prayer for a Wednesday, a work day, so most of you will have to be at your jobs in one "field" or another once the day begins. But we will gather in the Milligan House bright and early in the morning, at 6:30-7:15 a.m. for a time to sing and thank and praise the Lord for his love; and for any who can come, we'll be back at the Milligan House at 12 noon to sing for a half hour (so as to drown out the sound of growling stomachs), and we'll return there at 6:30 (NOT 7 p.m.!) for a brief time of worship around a warm fire, then a time of prayer together followed at 8 p.m. by the breaking of our fast with some good sandwiches and chips.

Please note: *If you are struggling with something hard, painful, or perplexing right now—no matter what it is—and would like to meet briefly with a couple of elders for encouragement and prayer over it, please let me know as soon as possible by calling my cell phone or emailing me and let me know.* Since I am trying to organize these prayer times in clusters, for the sake of the elders who are making themselves available to pray with you that day, please, if you would like to be a part of this, let me know which hours in the day on December 5, **between 7:30 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.** you CANNOT be at the church to meet with two or three elders. Then we'll take that information and once other requests come in, we'll organize a few clusters of prayer during the

day, and I will let you know the time we have scheduled you to meet time with the elders. And if you cannot be here yourself to pray with the elders, but would still like them to pray for something, please let me know.

Do note this too: that next week, in time for the day of prayer and fasting, some needs that are not sensitive will be posted online on OOC Talk. And if you'd like to show up at the Milligan House next Wednesday, and take a printed list of things to pray for on your own during the day, by all means, do it!

And lastly, if there are specific things you'd like your brothers and sisters in Christ to pray for, please contact Durinda in the church office with them, or let me know of them, and we will see to it that others hold you up before the Lord that day.

We hope you will all be encouraged to pray next Wednesday, wherever you are, thanking the Lord for his Christ, and for all that is good in the world; and interceding for your brothers and sisters in Christ at Old Orchard, and for the world with its deep, deep needs, remembering—with hopefulness!—just whose face we are seeking:

**There is none like the God of Israel, who rides the heavens to your help,
and through the skies in his majesty.
The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.
Happy are you, O Israel!
Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord, the shield of your help,
and the sword of your triumph!**
(Deuteronomy 33:26-27, 29)

**Note about Childcare: Child care will be provided for the evening time together, but only if requested. Please contact Mark Robertson if you would like to sign your child up.

--Pastor Ron

Next 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. Please place your signed articles in the *Overture* box (in the coat room) or email them to the church office. The next issue will be out Sunday, December 16. Deadline, Sunday, December 9. Editor: Jim Lowe

New Overture Editors Wanted

See Durinda Hood or e-mail the church office. You would be taking a turn in a rotation of other editors.



Baby Born! Congratulations!

Lydia

Born in November 2012. 7 lbs. 12 oz., length 21 in.

Parents: Bruce & Lily Ji



Come and Be a Blessing!

Baby shower for Kathleen Shumate

Saturday, December 8, 1 p.m. Milligan House

The women of OOC are invited to a baby shower for Kathleen Shumate. Kathleen, Jonathan and Elanor will be welcoming baby brother Calvin around February 8.

Kathleen is registered at Amazon.com or if you prefer to go to a physical store most of the items are on registries at Babies R Us and Target. If your budget is tight you can contribute to a group gift. Please give your contribution to Marci Robertson or Amy Grady by Sunday, December 2.

If you are able to bring a plate of refreshments to the shower it would be appreciated. An OOC shower is a special way to fellowship with one another and encourage our new mothers. Join us as we celebrate!

December Birthdays

- 12/1..... Brent Helton
- 12/1..... Sophie Killeen
- 12/4..... Virginia McKeon
- 12/7..... Matt Philip
- 12/7..... Bill LeFort
- 12/7..... Amanda Tevebaugh
- 12/9..... Nathaniel Gutierrez**
- 12/10..... Ted Winters
- 12/11..... Luca Zavaglia
- 12/12..... Sarah Lowe
- 12/14..... Currie Bishop
- 12/15..... Will Barker
- 12/16..... Mike Ford
- 12/16..... Csenge Futo**
- 12/18..... Ben Kraft
- 12/18..... Caileigh O'Neal
- 12/20..... Ana Helton
- 12/21..... Elizabeth Helton
- 12/21..... Nicolas Rinn**
- 12/22..... Dan Petty
- 12/26..... Hajnal Futo**
- 12/26..... Debbie Pendergrass
- 12/26..... Reneirio Quimbo Jr.**
- 12/26..... Adele Raquepaw
- 12/27..... Ben Killeen
- 12/30..... Hannah Gear

***members of missionary/ministry family*





Sunday, December 2 is the First Sunday in Advent

Advent Booklets!

If you haven't already picked up one, please take one of the Advent devotional booklets as we begin the season of Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas, that begins today, December 2. One devotional is for adults and high schoolers, "Awaiting the Wonder" (green colored), and the other one is for families with children in eighth grade and younger called "Welcome A Mighty Savior" by Mark Neilsen. (purple). Please take one or the other. Thanks!!



Ornament Making

Children grades 6 and under will be making ornaments on Sunday, December 16 during worship. On the following Sunday, December 23 during worship the kids will come forward and decorate the tree in the sanctuary with their ornaments. Contact Mark Robertson if you have any questions.

Kids Christmas Craft Sale

Kids 18 years and younger are invited to make Christmas presents that they can show and sell to others in the fellowship. Date of the sale: after worship Sunday, December 16. Our coordinator is **Mary Beth Glasgow**. Please see her, kids, if you plan to make gifts.

For everyone else! For those of you new to the church, our kids have displayed some wonderful talents and hard work in the past. Some have made candlesticks from things in the woods, wax candles, cookies, breads, note holders, marbled note paper, fire starters, wrapping paper, ornaments—lots of great gift ideas. Plan on buying a few last minute gifts!

Christmas Party With Concert: Sign up to bring food or cash!

On Sunday, December 16th at 6 p.m. we will hear a brief concert by our choir, then enjoy fellowship and food together! Sign-up to contribute food [dessert, cookies, cold appetizer/veggie tray, or cash for hot appetizers]. People to help clean-up also needed. Sylva Neubauer and Katie Mohler are hosting. Please see them for questions about the fellowship & food time together.

Caroling: December 23, 6:00 p.m.

Meet at Milligan House. Refreshments afterwards at the home of Ed and Margaret Killeen.
Bring a platter of Christmas eats to share!

Christmas Day Worship: 11 a.m. December 25.

More Calendar Notes

- **Stated Session meeting:** Tuesday, December 18, 5:30 p.m. at Milligan House.
- **Weekly Choir Rehearsal:** Meets at 7:15 p.m. on Thursdays. Meeting through December 27. See Greg Roig, Music Director for questions.
- **English Conversations** meets Fridays, 4:30 p.m. at Milligan House. See Hurvey & Dorothy Woodson or Valerie Powers for more.

Adopt a Family for Christmas & More

We are providing gifts, gift certificates and food for those who are in difficult circumstances and for whom it would be a blessing, and practical help to receive these gifts. The selection include: **(1)** 10 gifts (\$25 range) for children of parents in prison Mission Gate distributes, **(2)** small gifts (\$5 to \$10) to the children/grandchildren of the women who are guests in the Grace & Peace Winter Shelter and **(3)** contributions for small gifts [chapsticks and gloves] for the 16 women served by the Winter Shelter **(4)** providing gifts and food and (as able) utility gifts for two families we're adopting through Webster Rock Hill Ministries). One family of four includes two children ages 12 and 6; the other family is a disabled man.

Ornaments on the tree represent gifts, gift cards, cash contributions. Please take one half of the ornament and get your gift, then leave the other half of the ornament with your name on it with us (in the provided envelope) to tell us you have taken that gift or gift card. Children in the fellowship are encouraged to take a gift for a child/grandchild of the women at the Shelter. Funds are welcomed to help with the gift giving; your check can be written to Old Orchard Church and designated adopt a family.

Gifts & contributions need to be returned by Sunday, December 9.

Also, we are looking for **donations of non-perishable food** for a Christmas dinner [just think of a traditional meal; the list WRHM gave us is here], and other items to help stock the pantries for the two families.

Suggested Dinner list for the two families (suggested by Webster Rock Hill Ministries):

Corn – 3 cans
Green beans – 3 cans
Cranberry Sauce – 1 can
Yams/Sweet Potatoes – 2 cans
Canned Fruit – 1 can
Instant Gelatin – 1 box
Instant Potatoes or Fresh Potatoes
Stuffing Mix – 1 box
Cake Mix
Cake Frosting

“Stocking the Pantry”

Other non perishable foods of all varieties are welcomed. Please avoid glass containers.

Staff Christmas Gift

It's our custom to take 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 an amount to a particular staff person you may do so. All gifts left unspecified will be divided equally among the staff.)

Our paid staff includes *Greg Roig*, music director; *Susan O'Neal*, custodian; *Beverly Condray*, accompanist; *Durinda Hood*, administrative assistant; *Mark Robertson*, associate pastor and *Ron Lutjens*, senior pastor.

Foreign Missions Prayer Requests for December 2012

- 1. Jon and Tanya Coody – St. Petersburg, Russia.** There has been a leadership change in the university where Jon teaches. Pray for peace, unity and wisdom as they move forward. Pray for a Biblical Interpretation course he is teaching to area pastors, which ends Dec 20. Pray for a similar course Jon is teaching in their apartment to new Campus Crusade workers with Tanya helping. Pray for Tanya and Mark who are ill. Pray for them as they celebrate their first Christmas in Russia as a family.
- 2. Wilma Cross – Santiago, Chile.** Pray for the Christmas activities she will be involved in this month. Pray for physical strength and wisdom for Wilma as she teaches and mentors her many contacts in Chile. Pray for adequate help and support.
- 3. Rob and Tünde Futo – Budapest, Hungary.** Pray for calm and strength for Tunde as she prepares for the Christmas concerts with the usual monumental problems! Pray that they will be a blessing and outreach of the Gospel. Pray for the various Christmas activities in their church and for a blessed Christmas for their family.
- 4. Gerry Gutierrez – Huanta, Peru.** Pray for deep comfort for Gerry as this first Christmas without Ruth will be very difficult. Pray that the ministry that the Lord has for Gerry will clarify as time goes on.
- 5. L'Abri Fellowship – England and Switzerland.** Pray that the Lord will continue to work in the lives of the students as they will be leaving for the winter break in mid December. Pray for a restful time for the staff. Pray for visas and funds for two couples, each hoping to come help in one of the branches. Pray for those who care for Mrs. Schaeffer (age 98!) on a daily basis.
- 6. Dawn Miller – Madrid, Spain.** As Dawn is making plans to return to Spain (after she finished at Covenant), pray for a team of five to go with her. Pray for her witness to her family while she is here. Pray for the women (and their husbands) in the Hispanic Bible study she is teaching here. From Spain, pray for Fran and Pepe as they are looking for work while studying in Paris...that they will see their need for the Gospel.
- 7. Joseph and Elfi Muutuki – Nairobi, Kenya.** Pray that the Christmas activities in the church will be a means for outreach as they seek reconciliation among different communities (such as Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims.) Pray that Joseph will find time to finish his dissertation. Pray for Elfi as she works with the women's fellowship groups.
- 8. Luciano and Luciene Pires – Goiania, Brazil.** Praise that their trip to the north east went very well, in spite of the hurricane which hit days before they left! Pray that some of the contacts will result in substantial, ongoing financial support. Pray for their time in St. Louis until the 20th when they will fly to visit a church in Tucson and then to Austin, TX to be with family for Christmas.
- 9. Rene and Lani Quimbo – Mindanao, Philippines.** Pray for strength and protection as they will have many activities in the various branches to celebrate Christmas. Pray that the message of Christmas will enter the hearts of those who hear it. Pray for the labor intensive planting in the mountains, that there will be sustainable crops and good harvests. Also pray for funds for many repairs and projects.
- 10. Joel and Jessica Rinn – Verona, Italy.** Praise for growth in the church in Vicenza and the good relationship with the hotel where they meet for worship. Pray for the December services, that new people would come and stay. Pray for Marta, an Italian music teacher, that she would return to church this month.

OOC Income Update

Giving so far this fiscal year has been amazingly close to what we are expecting to need to date for our annual budget, and seems to be on a much better trend than this time last year:

Period	Income	Compared to previous year	Compared to expected income
October 2012	\$21,659	+\$3,141*	-\$20
Jul12-Oct12	\$97,461	+\$7,007	-\$93

* *An approximate "adjusted" amount, as there were five Sundays in October 2011 and only four Sundays in October 2012.*

Although it is very comforting that we are currently meeting our obligations, there were several areas in the budget that were cut significantly for this fiscal year, and in particular our staff and our benevolences were not given the cost of living increases we normally like to provide. We are hoping that a trend that has us covering our current budget and generous end-of-year giving will give us some extra funds to use to reassess these decisions and optimistically make some increases.

Please remember that in order to be considered for tax benefit in 2012, all contributions must be postmarked or in the church office by Monday, December 31. It would also be prudent to consider that tax law changes are currently being discussed, and may affect tax deductibility of contributions in the future.

We thank you for your generous support of our church and ask that you continue to share what God has provided you, as together we use those resources to increase His kingdom in this world. Please continue to be in prayer for our church's financial situation, and for wisdom for the Session and diaconate as we seek to make decisions in line with the Lord's will.

Nate McKie, for the Session

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.oldorchardchurch.org

Pastor, Ron Lutjens Home Study: see print copy

Ron's E-mail: see print copy

Associate Pastor,

Mark Robertson, Office: see print copy

Mark's E-Mail: see print copy

Durinda Hood, Administrative Assistant

E-mail: office@oldorchardchurch.org