



# Overture

The Pretty Much  
Fortnightly Newsletter of

## Old Orchard Church

December 16, 2012

### Welcome!

Guests, we welcome you and thank you for coming! 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.

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 meets at 9 a.m., summer and holidays excepted.

#### *Sundays @ a glance*

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship

**\*\*Christmas Day Worship---11:00 a.m.\*\***



#### Old Orchard Church

Church Office/Milligan House ..... 314.962.3795

Church Building, 640 Amelia ..... 314.961.6932  
(no answering device at this number)

Web Site ..... [www.oldorchardchurch.org](http://www.oldorchardchurch.org)

#### Pastor Ron Lutjens

See print copy. see print copy

#### Pastor Mark Robertson

See print copy. see print copy

#### Durinda Hood, Administrative Assistant

314.962.3795 [office@oldorchardchurch.org](mailto:office@oldorchardchurch.org)

#### *Children's Ministries*

**NURSERY** is offered for infants & children through kindergarten age. Our nurseries are in the church building's basement.

**Infant nursery** for babies, crawlers, and 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 around 10:50 a.m.

**Children's Worship.** Children in grades 1-5 will be dismissed to the Milligan House, usually around 10:50 a.m. See Mark Robertson or Jessie Swigart with questions.

#### 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

It's in



the bag!

# 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, as well as January 6, 2013. We will resume classes on January 13. Adults, we'll finish our class with Will Barker teaching next Sunday. A new class will begin in January.

Please contact Margaret Killeen with any questions.



## News You Can Use



### New Faces at Old Orchard Church



We are the Gilman family: Andy (36) and Jenna (32), our daughter, Sienna (4) and our son, Shane (2). I grew up in St. Louis but left in 1994 to go to Moody Bible Institute. I completed my degree in 2000 from Kent State University in Ohio and headed to South Korea, where I lived for 12 years. I met Jenna in 2002 and we were married in 2007. For the last 5 years I was pastor of a 140-member church in Daegu, South Korea, that ministered largely to expatriate Americans.

Jenna enjoys and is skilled at manicuring nails and cutting hair. She has a real heart for the poor and would love to provide food for people if they need it. She is a really good cook, especially for Korean food. We moved back to St. Louis about 5 months ago and are currently attending Covenant Seminary for my MDiv Degree. We have no particular plans for the future. We are happy to be here and hopeful of all that God will do in our lives and in the life of the church by being together in the Word and Spirit.

Here's our contact info: Andy & Jenna Gilman

See contact info in print copy.

### You Can Make A Difference For Cornerstone!

The Cornerstone Corporation is a nonprofit organization supported by Old Orchard for many years. It's been restoring, rebuilding, and reaching out since 1976! (Find out more at [www.cornerstone-housing-ministry.org](http://www.cornerstone-housing-ministry.org).) Our current project, intended to house two graduates of the Grace and Peace Winter Shelter starting in March, is teetering on the brink of having enough money to make that schedule work.

With a recent pledge from the St. Michael's Houses, we're within \$12,000 of the \$150,000 needed for the project (which includes not only the two tiny apartments for the shelter ladies, but also an apartment for a family upstairs, already occupied). A lot of work has gone into it; it's looking good! But the downstairs isn't finished.

Celebrate this good news with us, and pray for the needed money to get this project over the top!

--Phyllis Wheeler & Jim Lowe, board members

### Directory Changes & Additions

<b>Isaac and Tanya Whitt</b>  Now sharing a phone: See print copy	<b>Cherie Woods</b> See print copy	<b>Staci King</b>  See print copy
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## Women's Bible Studies

Our two studies on Hebrews will resume Tuesday evening, January 8, 2013 and Friday morning, January 11.

Please contact Melissa Nelson with any questions:.

Ladies, if you want to join us in January, here's the info about the studies:

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

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.

## OOO 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*

## Open Letter to the Congregation

December 9, 2012

Dear Old Orchard Family,

Once in a while the Lord would reach down and touch us in a tangible way when we most need his affirmation. It happened to me last week:

Out of the blue I received a phone call from Pastor Ron. He had learned that my mother was facing possible amputation of her left leg due to repeated circulation blockage, and asked if she would agree to having the elders pray for her and anoint her with oil, as practiced in biblical time. Mother gladly accepted. Even though she seldom comes to church she covets prayers on her behalf for healing.

That Sunday after worship when the congregation was enjoying refreshments and one another's company during Parlor Fellowship, mother and I retreated to Pastor Ron's study and soon we were joined by Ron along with Elders Will, Hurvey, Greg and Nate. After everyone was updated with mother's health concerns, Ron read from Acts 3 about Peter and John healing the lame, then James 5 on prayers and anointing for healing. That was followed by the reading of Psalm 51 and a time of silent confession of sin. When Ron was ready to anoint mother with oil, he asked Will to read from Psalm 104, a psalm of praise. And then each one of us interceded for mother. In closing, we sang together Spirit of the Living God. The pastoral care, the demonstration of faith and the glorious harmony of these godly brothers moved me to tears and assure me of God's tender love and grace. My heart swells with gratitude.

What a blessing to belong to a true church! I cannot praise my God enough, nor thank my Elders enough! Whatever the outcome of my mother's physical condition, I pray that she too has been touched by God, and together our faith has been strengthened and our confidence sure. To God be the glory!

Your sister in Christ,  
Patricia Lee

## Hospitality Ministry

To all OOC women interested in participating in the Hospitality Ministry at OOC: please mark your calendars! We are having our BIG annual meeting on Saturday, January 19 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Milligan House. We will be discussing the various Hospitality events for 2013, so please come if you interested in finding out more about all the hospitality goings-on at OOC. The Hospitality Ministry covers many different areas, including Parlor Fellowships, Milligan House lunches, our Easter breakfast buffet, Christmas party, Presbytery meetings, special events at the Milligan House, and baby and wedding showers. We heartily welcome OOC "old-timers" and new members! Your presence and help will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Mohler.

### **Delivery of your Mercy Christmas Gifts**

Debbie and I were always eager to raise our kids on Jesus AND Santa--never seeing why we had to choose between them. We both had such happiness associated with the Old Saint and found it easy to transfer it all over to wonder at Jesus' birth after we were born again in our late teens. So our children got a full complement of both and seemed only to benefit from the fairy tale part once they matured out of the belief in its primary reality.

And of course central to the Santa Claus story is the delight in *giving* gifts as well as receiving. So our family Christmases have always included some kind of outreach to the underprivileged--not to demonstrate that we were good people, but because it increased our joy at Christmas time. It was selfish and altruistic at the same time; a great combination.

For some years now this has included the delightful privilege of delivering Old Orchard's gifts to families that Webster Rock Hill Ministries has contact with. We are given names and addresses and then call to set up a time to arrange with the family to bring by the gifts, food for Christmas dinner, and money toward utility bills (which is sent directly to the utility companies). After a brief visit I include a reading of the Christmas accounts in Matthew and Luke and a few Christmas carols sung with the family. I get a child or other family member to read the passages if they are willing. I also try to clarify the difference between the Bible stories and fairy tales, and say something about the life-changing power of Jesus Christ in my own conversion. Some are believers and are glad to share that with us. Of the long range impact I know nothing so far. But seed is sown, and it certainly deepens my own Christmas joy and that of our family.

The sadness of hard financial situations so often deepens our awareness of God's goodness to us, and strengthens our compassion for those whose lives are not as materially easy. This year's gifts will be delivered this week with Mark Powers and Noah accompanying me. The gifts of food and money are going this year to a disabled man and to a family of four who live here in Webster. God bless the giving and receiving with the signs of His advent!

--Hal Pendergrass

## **\*\*\*Holiday Announcements\*\*\***

### **Christmas Party With Concert Tonight!!**

Tonight, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. we will hear a brief concert given by our choir, then enjoy fellowship and food together! Thanks to Katie Mohler and Sylva Neubauer for organizing our refreshments.

### **Kids Christmas Craft Sale Today after worship!**

Thank you for sharing your gift making and thanks to our coordinator, **Mary Beth Glasgow**.

### **Caroling on December 23!**

Next Sunday, December 23, at 6:00 p.m., we'll gather at Milligan House and then go out and carol the Christmas message to our neighbors. We will provide candles inside small jars, and you provide the voices! Afterwards, we'll meet at the home of Ed & Margaret Killeen (see print copy, 63119) for hot chocolate and treats. **Please bring a platter of treats to share!**

### **Ornament Making**

Children (grades 5 and under) will be making ornaments today (December 16) during worship. Next Sunday, December 23, also during worship, the kids will come forward and decorate the trees in the sanctuary with their ornaments. Contact Mark Robertson (314.707.6050) if you have any questions.

### **Christmas Eve Worship at Grace & Peace Fellowship**

You are invited to attend Christmas Eve worship service, December 24, 10 p.m., at our "mother church", Grace & Peace Fellowship at 5574 Delmar Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63112.

### **Christmas Day Worship at Old Orchard Church**

**Tuesday, December 25, 11:00 a.m.** (later than our usual worship at 10:15 a.m.) Please join us!

### **Pastor Ron Will Be Away**

Dates: Thursday, December 27 – 29. Ron and Katherine will be in Orlando, Florida marrying Luke Bailey to his fiancée, Melissa. (Luke is the son of our first full-time youth pastor, Don Bailey, and his wife, Tracey.)

## OOO Talk

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

## Congratulations! A Soon To Be Retiree

**Kathy Nelson** is retiring at the end of December! She is Sales & Underwriting Assistant with Midwest Employers Casualty Headquarters in Chesterfield, Missouri. She's worked there since October 1995 (17 years). Her retirement (along with 2 others) was recognized at a company party in early December. Be sure to congratulate her!

## OOO Directory

If you are new and not in the OOO Directory, please fill out a form. You can do this at the church's website, at the bottom of the "About Us". You may also fill out a "hard copy" form, available from Durinda Hood; these should be returned to Durinda's mailbox.

## Men's Bible Studies & Social

### ◆ Bible Studies:

**Monday Evening** (bi-weekly). 8:30 – 10:00 p.m. (Milligan House). We will meet tomorrow night, Monday, **December 17**. We are studying the book of James. We usually 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. Will meet 12/21, but will be off 12/28.

**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.

◆ **Social Evening:** **1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month**, 5-6:15 pm at Llywelyn's Pub, 17 Moody, WG, 63119. Next one: Friday, January 4.

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

## 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, January 6. Deadline Sunday, Dec. 30. Editor: Liz Romines.

## Youth Calendar

All events on Sunday nights @ 6 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

December 16 -- Christmas concert @ church, 6 p.m.

December 23 -- Caroling, 6 p.m.

December 30 -- No Youth Group

## 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. See Greg Roig, Music Director for questions.

## Staff Gift Collection

We would like to remind the congregation about Old Orchard's tradition to collect a cash gift from the fellowship at the end of the year to provide to our paid staff (Ron Lutjens (senior pastor), Mark Robertson (associate pastor), Durinda Hood (administrative assistant), Greg Roig (music director), Susan O'Neal (custodian), and now Beverly Condray (accompanist!). If you would like to contribute, you can drop a check with "Staff Gift" in the memo in the offering plate either today or next Sundays [December 16 and 23], or get it to the church office in a labeled envelope.

If you specify one or more particular staff member(s), your gift will be given to them as indicated; otherwise, it will be distributed evenly among the staff members.

Thanks as always for your generosity and support.

--Nate McKie, for the church officers

### End of the Year Contributions

The last Sunday you can drop gifts in the collection plate and have them applied to the year 2012 for tax purposes is Sunday, December 30, 2012. Anything put in the collection plate after that will be counted as part of your giving in the year 2013, 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 2012 (if they are being mailed).

### Collection for the Philippines

You may still give to the special collection for typhoon victims in the Philippines and the work our missionaries Rene and Lani Quimbo are doing which we heard about in last week's Moment for Missions. Write your check for Old Orchard Church and designate 'Philippine Typhoon.' \$400 was collected on Sunday, December 9. Questions? See Hurvey or Dorothy Woodson.

### Praying for our Children

Pastor Mark would like to make himself available for a time of prayer for parents of children of any age. This will be a time of sharing, encouragement and prayer, from 9:30 am - 11 am on January 12, 2013 in the Milligan House. We will have special prayer meetings like this once a quarter, to share prayer requests for your own families but also to pray for others.

--Mark Robertson

### Tender Mercies Prayer Group

**"...because of the tender mercy of our Lord..."**

Join us as we ask our God to shine His light on our grown covenant children who are walking in darkness. We shall meet on Saturday, January 5, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. in the Milligan House.

--Nancy Weir

### 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 Raquelpaw  
12/27..... Ben Killeen  
12/30..... Hannah Gear

\*\*member of missionary family

# THIS SPACE AVAILABLE...

**...FOR ANOTHER EDITOR  
OF THE OVERTURE, COM-  
MENCING IN JANUARY.**

**WORK FROM THE COMFORT OF  
YOUR OWN HOME. MUST HAVE  
OWN COMPUTER.**

**OCCASIONAL EDITORS WELCOME.**

**CONTACT DURINDA HOOD FOR  
MORE INFORMATION.**