



Overture

**The (almost) Fortnightly Newsletter of Old Orchard Church ~
December 1st, 2013**

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 offered for all ages resumed. Please see the 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 at Milligan House. Listen for the dismissal time to be announced. See Jessie Swigart or Mark Robertson for questions.

Sunday School News

Sunday School for all ages offered and begins at **9 a.m.**

No classes on Sundays, December 1, 22, & 29.

Adult Class: Come join us on Sunday mornings through December 15 for a 6 week Sunday School series entitled: "God & Money - Relational Stewardship For Eternity" based primarily on Randy Alcorn's book, *Money, Possessions & Eternity*. Ben Dodd is leading the class. We will cover two more topics during our next sessions:

Week 5: Saving, investing & borrowing (Dec. 8)

Week 6: Faithful stewardship into eternity (Dec. 15)

Childcare will be provided. --- Margaret Killeen

Children's Activity Bags in Worship!

Parents, each week there is a new activity sheet for children in the colored bags which are in a box alongside the windows in the back 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 Sunday mornings! **Please remember to return the bags to the bins in the hallway at the end of the service.** --- Mark Robertson

Next Parlor Fellowship to Honor the Shumates & Grants

Our next Parlor Fellowship to be after worship on December 8. Betsy Roig and Kelli McKie are hosting.

Jonathan (former Old Orchard intern) and **Kathleen Shumate** and their two children, members of Old

Orchard, will be leaving on Saturday, December 21, for Houston, Texas where they will continue to raise money for the teaching work they hope to begin soon at Christ's College in Taiwan under the auspices of our denominational mission agency, Mission to the World.

Ian and Christine Grant, "Kiwis" from New Zealand (and that's not a derogatory term, by the way!) have been part of our fellowship for a year and a half while studying at Covenant Seminary where he has finished his course work for a ThM. They are returning to New Zealand where Ian will take back up his part-time work as an architect overseeing 176 old buildings of historical significance in Auckland (where one-third of the population of the country lives) and as a part-time teacher at Grace Theological College, also in Auckland, a Reformed institution somewhere between what we would call a Bible college and a seminary. They leave St. Louis on Monday, December 23. --- Ron Lutjens

Day of Prayer and Fasting **Wednesday, December 4**

How wonderful--Kmart stores opened at 6 a.m. on Thanksgiving morning and stayed open for 41 straight hours!! What fantastic opportunities we now have to shop, shop, shop, buy, buy, buy. So it is, in the City of Man: What matters is security in the here and now. Katherine and I were reading this week in Psalm 17 where David prays, ***O Lord, by your hand save me from...men of this world whose portion is in this life.*** (Ps. 17:14)

That characterizes perfectly the orientation of those who have made themselves citizens of the City of Man: they live only for the here and now.

How different the mentality of citizens of the Kingdom of God. In the psalm just before Psalm 17 David says to God, ***You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.*** (Psalm 16:2)

And so the soul that truly knows the Lord as the Supreme Good knows also that no one can do anything without his power, and takes to heart the words of Jesus to his followers: ***I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener....Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*** (John 15:1, 4)

Because we are helpless apart from God and from the presence and power of the Lord Jesus, we pray—sometimes alone, sometimes with friends, sometimes as families and sometimes together as part of the body of Christ.

In this holiday season we would do well to stop and remember that Jesus clearly teaches here in John 15, by implication, that we need to commit acts that reflect our determination to "remain" or as some translations put it, "abide" in him.

There will be an opportunity to do that this **Wednesday, December 4, in a day of prayer and fasting called by the elders.** It's a work day, so we will meet at 6:30 a.m. Wednesday morning for a half hour of worship and prayer, and some orientation for the day. There will be needs outlined (and some suggested Scripture passages to guide your praying) on a couple sheets of paper that you can take with you from there and pray for through the day, as you are able.

There will also be some needs listed online that you can consult.

Even if you must work that day, you can still be "joining us" by coming in the morning and/or praying on your own at home or at the office or at school, as opportunity permits, and by praying for neighbors, co-workers, classmates and teachers around you.

At noon we will gather in the Milligan House to sing together, right when we are feeling hunger pangs!

At 6:30 in the evening we will at the Milligan House for a time of sharing and prayer, and at 8 p.m. we will break our fast and have sandwiches, veggies and chips together.

Of course, if for one reason or another you cannot fast or choose not to, that's fine—join us still! But if you want to consider fasting, then between now and Wednesday reflect on the thoughts about it below. They are found in *Prayer*, a very helpful little book written in 1931 by the influential Norwegian pastor, Ole Hallesby, converted to Christ *after* he became a pastor:

So far from the teachings of Jesus and the apostles concerning fasting have we strayed. It is no doubt high time that we feeble, weak-willed and pleasure-loving Christians begin to see what the Scriptures say concerning this element in our sanctification and in our prayer life. [This is Hallesby exhorting his fellow believers in Europe in the 1930's!]

Fasting is not confined to abstinence from eating and drinking. Fasting really means voluntary abstinence for a time from various necessities of life, such as food, drink, sleep, rest, association with people and so forth.

The purpose of such abstinence for a longer or shorter period of time is to loosen to some degree the ties which bind us to the world of material things and our surroundings as a whole, in order that we may concentrate all our spiritual powers upon the unseen and eternal things.

Fasting in the Christian sense does not involve looking upon the necessities of life, which we have mentioned, as unclean or unholy. On the contrary, we have learned from the apostle [Paul] that....food has been created by God to be received with thanksgiving (1 Timothy 4:30). Fasting implies merely that our souls at certain times need to concentrate more strongly on the one thing needful than at other times, and for that reason we renounce for the time being those things which, in themselves, may be both permissible and profitable.

Hope to see you on Wednesday. And if you would like special prayer with the elders that day, please call me [see print copy for number]. --- Ron Lutjens, for the Session

Letter to the Fellowship

Gail and I want to thank all of our brothers and sisters of Old Orchard Church for your kind and considerate care for us since my heart surgery and during my recuperation. Thanks for all of the expressions of love in cards, emails, songs, and words of concern, and for your prayers. The Lord's providence has been evident in the catching of significant blockages before a heart attack might have done serious damage. My recovery now allows me to be back in worship, and my soul wells up with love as I observe the brothers and sisters of our fellowship. Together with you all we thank the Lord for his goodness and his mercy that endures forever.
--- Will Barker

Lessons & Carols

Lessons & Carols offered on the evenings of Friday, December 13 (at Greg & Cayce Zavaglia's home, 3409 Longfellow Blvd, 63104) & Sunday, December 15 (Richard and Jane Winter's home, 5086 Westminster Place, 63108). See the advent handout for more. Time for both is 6:30 p.m. And sign-up to have a seat at one of them for you and your guests. Plan on bringing a platter of Christmas treats to the Lessons & Carols you attend.

Leaf Raking Morning, December 7th

We will be raking leaves on the morning of December 7th starting at 9 a.m. to noon. We have enough people to rake at Willie Lee's, but need more at the church properties. Please sign-up today if you plan to come. No lunch to be served.

Parents Night Out, December 7!

As a fundraiser for OOC's youth group, the teens will be babysitting at the church from 4:30 - 8:30 pm. You can come anytime during that window, and pick up any time. Cost is donation only; take the time to go shopping without the kiddos, or just have a night out! E-mail Mark Robertson to sign up.

Adopt a Family for Christmas & More

Thank you for your generosity! We have no ornaments up this week—we are now only collecting funds and gifts. Mission Gate gifts are due today and next week, **December 8** everything else is due. Please remember to bring non-perishable food for the families we are adopting: for a Christmas dinner [just think of a traditional meal; see the list below Webster-Rock Hill Ministries has given us], **and other non-perishable and household items** are welcomed to help stock the pantries for the families we are adopting. As I understand it, food stamps have been

cut back some so extra items are a help!

List given us: Corn, Green beans, Cranberry Sauce. Yams or Sweet Potatoes, Canned Fruit, Instant Gelatin, Instant Potatoes or Fresh Potatoes, Stuffing Mix, Cake Mix, Cake Frosting.

Crafty Saturday for the Ladies

Saturday, December 7 from 1 – 5 p.m. Please join us to work on crafts, holiday projects and to visit. We will have some light snacks, coffee, and tea. If you'd like to bring a snack, that would be great too. See Staci King or Sue vanHoorbeek if you have questions.

Kids Christmas Craft Sale, December 15th

Kids 18 years and younger are invited to make Christmas presents that they can show and sell to others in the fellowship. For those of you who are new to the church, it is our tradition to have a sale of Christmas wares created by our children. In the past, our kids have displayed some wonderful talents and hard work; some have made candlesticks from nature's bounty, wax candles, cookies, breads, note holders, marbled note paper, fire starters, wrapping paper, ornaments—lots of great gift ideas.

Wider fellowship, plan on buying a few last minute gifts!

Kids & parents, please let **Mark Robertson** know that you want to sell your Christmas crafts!

~Women's Ministries~ Morning & Evening Bible Studies

Ladies, we welcome you to attend either study.

We will have our regular schedule for the weeks of December 3 and 10, then we will take a break until Jan. 13.

Times: Tues. mornings 9:15-11:30 am; Thurs. – 7:00-8:30 pm

Location: Both are at Milligan House (639 Amelia)

What we're studying: The **Book of Romans**.

Leaders: **Betty McCracken**/Morning Study.

Dawn Miller/Evening Study

Format: Discussion format ending with prayer time. Fellowship time too.

Childcare: Available for morning study for \$3/family. (Confidential financial help is available, see Melissa Nelson.) However, no childcare offered for the evening study.

Questions? **Melissa Nelson** (see print copy) or **Dawn Miller** (see print copy) or **Betty McCracken** (see print copy).

~Men's Ministries~ Men's Bible Studies

☐ Bi-weekly **Monday evenings** from 8:30 – 10 p.m. (Milligan House) Next study is Monday, December 2.

Awesome refreshments will be served! For more information, contact Gary Glasgow or Greg Roig.

☐ Weekly on **Friday mornings. No Bible Study Friday, December 29**. Usually meets from 6:30-7:30 a.m., Milligan House. For more info contact Brad Smull or Ed Killeen.

Men's Social

1st Friday of the month, 5-6:15 p.m. at Llywelyn's Pub, 17 Moody, WG 63119. Next social: Friday, December 6, 2013.

For questions about the Men's Ministries, please see Ed Killeen.

Photo Directory

To view the confidential online version of the OOC photos, please see instructions on the photo board. The photo directory is available through Old Orchard's website.

OOO Directory

If you have any changes in phone numbers or address, please send them to the church office [office@oldorchardchurch.org]. Please put in the subject line: OOC Directory. Or you can use the online form at the church's website. –Thanks, Durinda Hood

Newcomers: Please submit your directory information either by completing the online form on the church's website or by filling out a paper form.

OOO Talk: If you would like to be added to our in-house, congregation-wide e-mail list, OOC Talk, please e-mail office@oldorchardchurch.org and a link to the subscriber list with instructions will be e-mailed to you. Nate McKie, one of our elders, administers this list.

Activity In Church Building

Please note that the following activity is scheduled in our facilities. A Bible Study, led by a retired pastor in the neighborhood, every Sunday evening, is using the church basement and nurseries on Sundays, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

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. You can place your signed articles in the *Overture* box (in the coat room) or email them to the church office (put in subject line: Overture). The next issue will be out Sunday, December 15. Next Editor: Jim Lowe.

December Birthdays

12/1.....Brent Helton
12/1 Sophie Killeen
12/4 Beverly Condray
12/4 Naomi Gear
12/4 Katharine Gleich
12/4 Virginia McKeon
12/7 Matt Philip
12/7 Bill LeFort
12/7 Amanda Tevebaugh
12/10 Ted Winters
12/11..... Luca Zavaglia
12/12 Sarah Lowe
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 Sean Hurley
12/26 Debbie Pendergrass
12/26 Reneirio Quimbo Jr.**
12/26 Adele Raquepaw
12/27 Ben Killeen
12/30 Hannah Gear

**member of missionary or ministry family

Old Orchard Church

OOO Web Site: www.oldorchardchurch.org

Church Office/Milligan House: 314.962.3795

Mailing Address for OOC:

639 Amelia Ave, Webster Groves, MO 63119

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

Pastor Ron Lutjens, **Home Study/Cell:** [see print copy].

Ron's E-mail: [see print copy]