



# Overture

The Pretty Much  
Fortnightly Newsletter of

Old Orchard Church

**December 15, 2013**

## 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.

### *Sundays @ a glance*

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages



#### **IT'S IN THE BAG!**



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! **Please remember to return the bags to the bins in the hallway at the end of the service.**

#### **Old Orchard Church**

639 Amelia Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119  
www.oldorchardchurch.org

Church Office/Milligan House ..... 314.962.3795

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

#### **Pastor Ron Lutjens**

[See print copy.]

#### **Associate Pastor Mark Robertson**

[See print copy.]

#### **Durinda Hood, Administrative Assistant**

314.962.3795

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** for children in grades 1-5 is held in the Milligan House; listen for dismissal time to be announced. See Jessie Swigart or Mark Robertson if you have questions.

## Christmas Eve Worship Service

6:00 p.m.

Please join us!

(Child care offered for children through the age of 4.)

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Classes for all ages begin at 9:00 a.m.

We're taking a break!

**NO CLASSES on these dates: December 22, 29 and January 5, 2014.**

**New Adult Class:** Today we're finishing the series, entitled: "God & Money - Relational Stewardship For Eternity." We'll have a break and begin a new class in January. Watch for announcements.

--Margaret Killeen



## Calendar Notes



### Lessons & Carols Tonight!

Lessons & Carols offered at 6:30 p.m. tonight (December 15) at Richard & Jane Winter's home (5086 Westminster Place, 63108). Please bring a **platter of Christmas treats**.



### Caroling—next Sunday

Please join us to carol in the neighborhood on the evening of Sunday, December 22 starting at 6:00 p.m. at Milligan House. We will provide candles inside small jars, but we do need voices! We'll meet afterwards for hot chocolate and treats. **Please bring a plate of Christmas eats!**

### **Staff & Office Vacation/Holiday Schedule**

- ❖ **Pastor Mark Robertson:** Dates off: Monday, December 23 through Thursday, December 26.
- ❖ **Pastor Ron Lutjens:** Dates off: Thursday, December 26 through Sunday, December 29; Jan. 2-4.
- ❖ **Office closed:** Noon December 24 through Friday, December 27 (Durinda Hood, Administrative Assistant won't be in the office.)

### **Stated Session Meeting**

Tuesday, December 17 at 5:30 p.m. at Milligan House.

### **Leaf Raking**

Our leaf-raking day was cancelled because of snow and cold! But if we get warmer days sometime this month, please consider putting in a few hours at the church/Milligan House or Willie Lee's (200 Lithia Ave, 63119) to rake some leaves. Bring your own rakes, blowers, etc. Leaf bags: underneath the church stairs and on Willie Lee's sun porch. Priority areas: at the Church/Milligan House--mostly on the sides and backs of each property. Willie Lee's: everywhere. Questions? See Ben Dodd.

### **End of the Year Contributions**

The last Sunday you can drop gifts in the collection plate and have them applied to the year 2013 for tax purposes is Sunday, December 29, 2013. Anything put in the collection plate after that will be counted as part of your giving in the year 2014, 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 2013 (if they are being mailed).

### **Activity at Church Building--CALENDAR CHANGE**

A Bible Study, led by a retired pastor in the neighborhood, has moved its time from Sunday evening to Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8:00 p.m. They are using the church basement and nurseries.



# News You Can Use



## 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.

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

**OOO Talk:** If you would like to be added to our in-house, subscription only, congregation-wide e-mail list, OOCtalk, please e-mail the church office at [office@oldorchardchurch.org](mailto:office@oldorchardchurch.org) and you will be sent a link to get instructions on joining. One of our elders, Nate McKie, administers the e-mail list.

—Durinda Hood

## Men's Ministries

### Bible Studies:

φ Bi-weekly **Monday evenings** from 8:30 – 10 p.m. (Milligan House); awesome refreshments will be served! For more information, contact Gary Glasgow or Greg Roig. **Next study is Monday, January 6; we shall not meet Monday, December 16.**

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

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

## Women's Ministries

### Morning & Evening Bible Studies

Ladies, we shall not meet again until the week of January 13, 2014.

**Dates:** Both studies will run from Sept 2013 - April 2014 with Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring breaks.

**Times:** Tuesday mornings -- 9:15-11:30 am

Thursday evenings -- 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) & **Dawn Miller** (evening).

**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.)

*Please note: 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).

## 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.

## 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 in January. Next Editor: Liz Romines.

Anyone ready to be an occasional Overture editor??? Contact Durinda Hood.

## Staff Christmas Gift

As always, we will be taking up a love gift for all our paid staff. Checks can be written to "Old Orchard Church" and designated "Staff Gift." (You may designate a specific staff person, but undesignated gifts collected will be divided equally among the staff.) Paid staff: *Greg Roig*, music director; *Susan O'Neal*, custodian; *Beverly Condray*, accompanist; *Durinda Hood*, administrative assistant; and *Mark Robertson*, and *Ron Lutjens*, pastors.

## Typhoon Relief

There are probably some in the fellowship who did not get to us in time their contribution for relief work in the Philippines, or got their check to us *after* we sent out what we had collected. **So we want to provide another opportunity for any who may still want to give toward this larger cause of typhoon relief.** Our own PMI missionaries in the Philippines, Rene and Lani Quimbo, sent us last week this note below. Our Foreign Missions Ministry is advising that we send any 2<sup>nd</sup> gift for relief work to the Quimbos to use on their upcoming trip to help victims in Leyte:

*“We would like to let you know that we are planning to go on a short mission trip to Palo, Leyte, **one of the towns hardest hit by the typhoon**, which left many orphans. We plan to go the first week of January 2014 and do a sort of VBS program for the kids, hoping this will help them understand God’s love despite their personal tragedy, We hope to contribute to the healing process. We will have carpenters with us to help rebuild some homes. We will bring our chainsaw, carpentry tools, our tents, food and water, and some dried fish to share with people there. We hope to share with them the Living Hope we have in Christ Jesus our Lord. **We covet your prayers; may the Lord grant us success in these endeavors. Whatever help you can contribute for this trip will be very much appreciated.** Thank you very much.”*

If you’d like to give toward this effort, please make checks payable to Old Orchard Church and designate in the check memo: “Quimbos—relief work.”

### Foreign Missions Prayer Requests for December 2013

- 1. Jon and Tanya Coody – St. Petersburg, Russia.** The Coody’s need to change apartments because of serious issues with their landlord. (See their letter elsewhere in the *Overture*.) Pray for the Lord’s own divine solution to be made apparent to them very soon. Pray especially for Tanya who is having her life seriously disrupted again, amid the dark and cold of the Russian winter. Pray for an awareness of the Lord’s love and presence with them all. Pray for physical, spiritual and emotional strength.
- 2. Wilma Cross – Santiago, Chile.** Pray for preparations for a team from OOC to visit Wilma next summer. Pray that the right people will volunteer and for Mark as he prepares them for the trip. Pray for Wilma’s spiritual and physical strength as she has a very busy schedule: she leads seminars, speaks at retreats, often traveling to other cities. She ministers to many individuals as well as needing to care for many practical tasks.
- 3. Rob and Tünde Futo – Budapest, Hungary.** Pray for the Christmas concerts that Tunde will be leading Dec. 14-15, that the Lord will protect the musicians and use the concerts to honor Him and touch many souls. Pray for them and their family in the Christmas season.
- 4. L’Abri Fellowship – England and Switzerland.** Pray for students as they finish the fall term in early December. Pray for the workers that they will have a restful break until the new terms begin in January. Pray that the Lord will bring a good mix of students. Pray especially for financial need in the Swiss branch.
- 6. Dawn Miller – Madrid, Spain.** Pray for Dawn as she finishes her final year at Covenant Seminary, that she will learn what the Lord has for her this last year. Pray for her work with the young people at OOC and as she teaches the women’s evening Bible Class. Continue to pray for her witness to her family.
- 7. Joseph and Elfi Muutuki – Nairobi, Kenya.** Pray for the Christmas activities in the church and outreach. Pray for peace and stability in Kenya. Pray for the spiritual growth and protection of a former Muslim woman in their church who has become a believer. Pray that leadership positions in the church will be filled.
- 8. Luciano and Luciene Pires – Goiania, Brazil.** Praise that the Lord is richly blessing both the work of Colloquium and the new church. Pray that the Lord will provide abundantly for their critically low personal financial support. Pray that they will be able to take a restful vacation in January, as they are very tired with the two responsibilities.
- 9. Rene and Lani Quimbo – Mindanao, Philippines.** Continue to pray for the relief efforts for the victims of the typhoon. Pray that local churches will be strengthened through help given by Christian charities. Thankfulness that the Quimbos were not directly affected though it struck nearby. Pray for them as they carry on their extensive work and are involved in some relief efforts (see top of this page). Pray for the Lord’s strength and protection in this vulnerable part of the world.
- 10. Joel and Jessica Rinn – Verona, Italy.** Pray that the Lord would supply the elders needed in Trinity Church (near the military base). Praise for opportunities that both Joel and Jessica have to interact with the people in the community where they live, both in various activities connected to their children’s schools and with individuals. Pray that they will have opportunities to share the Gospel and that it will fall on fertile ground.

## Blood Drive as Gratitude

Some of you may remember that we prayed this past summer for Emily, the 28 yr.-old niece of our neighbors, Tim and Kathy Randall, who live right next to the Wilkes. Emily contracted E. coli bacteria and nearly died. But thanks be--truly--to God: she came out of a deep coma, survived, and is doing well now!

Emily received numerous blood transfusions, and so to show gratitude for the tremendous help this was to Emily's recovery, the Randalls and her wider family are hosting a blood drive on **Monday, December 30, from 2-6pm**, and it is our privilege to serve this family by letting them use our "parlor" (back of the sanctuary) for this public-service effort. *The family has invited anyone from our congregation who is able and willing, to join them in this "pay-back" project and give blood on that day.*

This is a fine way to show solidarity with our neighbors and contribute something positive to the public good. If you're willing to participate, put it on your calendar now! And thank the Lord that he spared the life of this young woman (a former co-worker of our daughter, Susannah), who had been married just less than a year when she took sick.

--Ron Lutjens

## Tips for Giving Blood

*Here are some tips we found at the American Red Cross site for preparation for giving blood. This particular blood drive is not being done by the Red Cross, but by Mercy Hospital.*

--submitted by Durinda Hood

## Tips for a Successful Donation

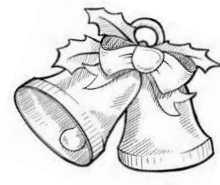
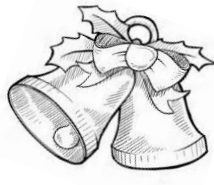
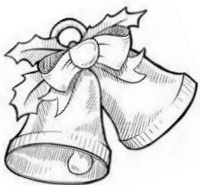
By following a few recommendations before, and during your blood donation can help you make your donation experience as safe, successful and pleasant as possible.

### Before Your Donation

- Maintain a healthy iron level in your diet by eating [iron rich foods](#), such as red meat, fish, poultry, beans, spinach, iron-fortified cereals and raisins.
- Get a good night's sleep.
- Drink an extra 16 oz. of water or nonalcoholic fluids before the donation.
- Eat a healthy meal before your donation. Avoid fatty foods, such as hamburgers, fries or ice cream before donating. (Fatty foods can affect the tests we do on your blood. If there is too much fat in your blood, your donation cannot be tested for infectious diseases and the blood will not be used for transfusion.)
- If you are a platelet donor, remember that your system must be free of aspirin for two days prior to donation.
- Remember to bring your donor card, driver's license or two other forms of ID. [We do not know yet what Mercy Hospital may require.]

### During Your Donation

- Wear clothing with sleeves that can be raised above the elbow.
- Let the person taking your blood know if you have a preferred arm and show them any good veins that have been used successfully in the past to draw blood.



**You've**

**Mail**



*This letter comes from Sterling and Ruth Ann Theobald who once worshipped with us. Cheryl Cook, now with the Lord and Sterling's daughter, is referred to in the letter.*

December 3, 2013

To all our brothers and sisters in Christ at Old Orchard Church,

We pray for a most blessed and joyful Christmas celebration from two thankful people blessed by many years of fellowship with you all.

Our hearts are truly warmed with thanksgiving for the way you ministered to us personally and as family as you ministered selflessly in caring for our dear Cheryl. We miss her deeply and remember how she blessed us by her life there.

We hope we can get to see you all sometime in 2014 as God continues to sustain our lives. We experience growing weakness, but can still travel.

Again, loving hugs to you all and may each of us bring glory to Jesus at this celebration of His birth.

In his love,  
Sterling and Ruth Ann Theobald

Warm Advent greetings from St. Petersburg!

We hope that this finds you enjoying the Advent season. We have been reflecting with our church and as a family on God's faithfulness to His promises to send a Rescuer, as well as His promise to return.

A couple of months ago we wrote about the blessing of finding a new apartment near Anna's school. The highlight of our time here has been that not just Anna, but also Tanya and Mark have made lots of new friends through the school. This has been a huge blessing, especially as Tanya had felt so isolated our first year living in another part of the city. I have very full days of serving at the university, and it is so nice to know that Tanya and the kids are able to be part of an encouraging community during the day.

On the other hand, we also wrote concerning all the problems we have had with this apartment. Well, the problems continue. After 2 months of not having a working stove, we finally decided to replace it without the help of the landlord (although he should have taken responsibility and replaced it). Through this experience, we have realized that it is no longer wise to stay here. He continues to play games with us, suggesting that we have broken things or that he carries no responsibility whatsoever, except to continue to receive too much money for rent. Though we have made numerous repairs to the apartment (toilets, pipes, electricity, etc.), he continues to accuse us of taking advantage of him.

Unfortunately, this sort of situation is all too common here, and that is one reason why we have hesitated to move. It is also complicated and expensive to make a change - realtor fees, deposit, etc. We have hit a wall, though, and we are now praying for God's direction as to where to move next. Would you please join us in praying for God's direction?

We reflected a couple of days ago on the words of the great Christmas hymn, "oh, tidings of comfort and joy." This is what we want to experience in light of our Saviour's coming. Please pray with us that we will not allow these circumstances (or landlords) to rob us of that joy and comfort.

Thank you for standing with us in praying for our family and our ministry here in Russia. We are grateful for you!

Praying that you - and Russia as well - will know the comfort and joy of the Saviour,

Jon, Tanya, Anna and Mark Coody

### REEDALLABOUTIT

Dear friends,

I was shocked when, looking at the calendar yesterday, I realized only 2 months have passed since we moved to Sumter, S.C. for Chip to begin his role as Director of Community Ministries at Westminster. In so many ways it feels much longer. But, I have the calendar to keep me honest, motivating me to get you this update before more time flows by.

We truly hit the ground running once we arrived. Unfortunately, the drama with the moving company (for those of you who knew) continued right to the end—a learning experience, for sure. Thankfully, it did not taint the sweetness of the welcome we received.

From day one, we have been blown away by the immediate connection we've had with people. It has been an intense but beautiful time of developing relationships, getting a feel for Sumter, and preparing to move from the house in Mayesville (a tiny agricultural community 20 minutes outside of town) to the home the Lord has provided for us near the church. We are so amazed! Within 4 weeks of our arrival, we had already found and put an offer on a house and been accepted. The house on Mattson is a place in which we can express hospitality both to the community around us and to any of you who might venture east. Our doors are open: please let us know if we can have the honor of hosting you and treating you our small-town delights.

The small-town setting was not what we imagined for ourselves when we underwent our time of ministry preparation. Our list originally included church planting, overseas ministry, or a large church where we could engage outreach, educational ministries and the arts. The Lord obviously had a different plan— children's continued discipleship and formation. We would appreciate your prayer as we gradually discover the Lord's design for us here: how to be who we are in a way that benefits his church here in Sumter, humbly building his kingdom, not our own.

#### In brief:

- ❖ We are thankful for a new house--we moved in on 12/7!
- ❖ Chip is taking to his role like a duck to water--such a good fit
- ❖ Chip and Kelsey lead worship 4 of 5 Sundays. We are enjoying leading together again.
- ❖ The girls are making close friends already (as are we all!)
- ❖ Thanksgiving was spent with all of Chip's family: so thankful to be near enough for frequent visits.

#### Please pray for:

12/15/2013

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- ◆ Chip as he partners with Stuart Mizelle to help lead and care for Westminster - pray for them to continue to grow in the strong and gracious relationship they've begun.
- ◆ Kelsey, who has been diagnosed with arthritis and degenerative disc disease in her neck (the result of untreated trauma from whiplash, many years back). She is undergoing treatment, but the pain has made daily activities like teaching the girls, writing, playing guitar, cooking, cleaning, and even sleeping, a struggle.
- ◆ The girls started school at Alice Drive Elementary on 12/9 in part to give Kelsey the space and time she needs to heal. Pray for this adjustment from homeschool to public school and for wisdom to know how to engage in the school system and for how long. McKenna & Murrin are already praying for their new community, longing for those who do not know Him to hear the good news of salvation!
- ◆ The posture of all our hearts as we speak, in the church and out, of the Hope that has found us.

With Love in our Incarnate Lord, in whom we have great hope,



Chip and Kelsey  
McKenna and Murrin

639 Mattison Avenue,  
Sumter, SC 29150

**Thoughts on Advent**  
**A pastoral letter\***  
*Chip Reed*

Americans are losing the ability to wait: store clerks set up Christmas on the heels of Halloween; we feed our “needs” with the immediacy of drive-thru windows; we no longer have to wait through commercials with programs like TiVo, Hulu and Netflix; road rage abounds because we have no patience for traffic.

Consider the ancient Israelite: he faithfully studied the Scriptures, endured persecution for his faith in Yahweh, waited with deep longing for promised Messiah to come. His hope: with the Messiah’s arrival, all suffering, destruction and death would pass away.

He imagined a Conquering King would come, establishing an earthly kingdom by force. God had a different plan: a plan to establish His kingdom in men’s hearts. As a result, many missed the Incarnate Lord, come in obscurity not in power, wrapped in feeble flesh and swaddling clothes, not the royal robes befitting a king.

Advent is about waiting, about expectation, like the ancient Israelite, for our Messiah to come, as He promised. In hope, we wait for Jesus to return differently this time: with power and authority. He will unite all things to Himself and establish His Kingdom forever on earth as in heaven. All things will become new (Rev. 21).

What does it mean to wait for your Savior? What will His return mean to you? What deep longing have you ignored? Meditate on the yearning of your soul, beneath the superficial appetites satisfied by a trip to the local department store or drive-thru. This hunger only The Father can satiate; this thirst quenched only by drinking of Jesus’ love for you. Keep your eyes on Our Conquering King and know that He loves you, He prays for you, and that His mercies are new every morning. He will return!

*\*written for the WPC newsletter*