

OOO Tidbits ~ December 22, 2013 ~

Announcements & More for Old Orchard Church

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 with exceptions--please see the note below for more.

Want to find out more about Old Orchard and what we are about? Then please fill out a visitor form in the lavender or blue pads on the chairs or in the hymnal rack.

Christmas Eve Worship

6:00 p.m.-7:15 p.m.

Please join us!

Child care offered for children through the age of 4.

Caroling

Please join us to carol in the neighborhood tonight 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 at Ron & Katherine Lutjens' (416 Fairlawn) for hot chocolate and treats. **Please bring a plate of Christmas eats, too!**

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 3 years old. Children who turn 3 from January-August are invited to attend preschool worship starting September 1. Children who turn 3 from September-December are invited to attend preschool worship starting January 1.

❖ **Preschool worship** for age 3 through Kindergarten. 3-year-olds (see above) and 4-year-olds are welcome during the whole service. 5-year-olds remain upstairs in worship until dismissed at 10:50.

❖ **Children's Worship:** for kids in grades 1-5 at Milligan House. Will not meet today. See Jessie Swigart or Mark Robertson for questions.

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 are to help children engage in worship. There are also graphics and games for all to enjoy according to the 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

Sunday School News

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

However, we're taking a break!

**No classes on Sundays,
Dec. 22, & 29 and Jan. 5, 2014.**

Staff Christmas Gift

Last Call! 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.

Morning & Evening Women's Bible Studies

Ladies, we will take a break from meeting until the week of Jan. 13. See you next year!

Men's Bible Studies--Break Time

Bi-weekly **Monday evenings** from 8:30 – 10 p.m. (Milligan House) Next study is Monday, January 6. Awesome refreshments will be served! For more information, contact Gary Glasgow or Greg Roig.

Weekly on **Friday mornings. No Bible Study Friday, December 27.** Usually meets from 6:30-7:30 a.m., Milligan House. For more info contact Brad Smull or Ed Killeen.

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

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 & January 1, 2014

(Durinda Hood, Administrative Assistant won't be in the office during those dates.)

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 (next Sunday). 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).

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 2-6 p.m.**, 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

Info on Registering for this Blood Drive

Mercy Hospital is running this dedicated drive. We were informed that it helps to register online for a time slot for donating blood. This will prevent too many people coming all at once. When looking at the slots on Thursday, we noticed that there was one time period no longer open. Apparently family members have registered. Here's the place where you can begin the registration process.

<https://donateblood.mercy.net/bdrive/user>

The first step is to choose your location. Look for **"Dedicated Drive for Emily Eberle"** then click on it. Then follow the prompts to take you to the place where it shows what time slots are available that you can choose from.

The phone number for general information is 314.251.4483. When I asked for preparation, the only thing they told me was to eat well. However, we published suggestions from the Red Cross in last week's *Overture*.

OOC 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.

OOC Talk: If you would like to be added to our in-house, congregation-wide e-mail list, OOCtalk, 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.

Next Overture. Want to be an Editor?

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 January 5. Next Editor: Liz Romines.

Anyone ready to be an occasional *Overture* editor? Let Durinda Hood know.

Congregational Meeting

Brothers and sisters,

Your elders have called a congregational meeting for **Wednesday, January 22, at 6:45 p.m.** for the presentation of church officers who are up for election. The roster is as follows:

Matt Philip, first-time candidate, up for the office of elder for a 2-yr. term. Matt's spiritual autobiography will be published and distributed to the fellowship on Sunday, January 5. Matt, nominated last year, has completed the apprenticeship work and desires to stand for this office. The Session, believing Matt to be qualified for it, is willing to lay hands on him and ordain him to the office of elder if you, the fellowship want him to serve you in this way.

Nate McKie & Greg Roig, first elected in 2008, are both up for their 3rd term for the office of elder (it would be a 3-yr. term). Greg and Nate have served the fellowship well as elders, and the Session is willing to have them continue in this office, if that is the will of the body.

Please review the qualifications for the office of elder as set out in the Word of God (**1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4**), and then talk with these brothers and their wives about the work of an elder--their availability for it, their desire to do it, their insights into what it means to give spiritual oversight to the body of Christ. And above all, be in prayer that the Lord would continue to give us, and bless us with, godly leaders.

-Ron Lutjens, Moderator, for the Session

Old Orchard Church

OOC 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

Associate Pastor Mark Robertson,

Office: see print copy.

Mark's E-Mail: mark.robertson@oldorchardchurch.org

Durinda Hood, Administrative Assistant.

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