

ORCHARD LIFE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ORCHARD COMMUNITY CHURCH

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

One of the powerful images of the church in the New Testament is that of a body of Christ. Romans 12:5 says, *"in Christ we who are many form one body."* The church is made up of different kinds of people, but we're bound together by our common faith in Jesus Christ. In fact, that bond is so strong that Romans 12:5 also says that we "belong" to one another. We are, in a manner of speaking, supposed to be "joined at the hip."

Another important image of the church in the New Testament is that of a family (1 Thessalonians 4:10). This image makes it clear that we're to be bound, not so much at the hip, but in our hearts. To be a part of the body, the family, the church, means that we're never

alone, never without the support of God or of his people. This is a great promise for us and for our children as we live our lives in the good times and the bad.

Orchard is a wonderful family of faith. There is richness to our community in the way people care for and support each other and in the way we seek to encourage one another in faith. If you're newer to Orchard and are thinking of making it your home, I want to encourage you to consider taking our next New Members Class offered on Wednesday evenings in February from 6:30 to 8 pm. At each meeting we'll have dessert and a discussion about things like faith, service and doing life together in the

church. Join us and see if membership is the right step for you at this time.

Also in February we will be having our annual congregational meeting called FFFF (Food, Faces, Facts & Fun). What I love about FFFF is that it's really more of a family reunion than meeting. Sure we do have the "facts" portion of the night where we introduce the new budget and do just a little business, but for the most part FFFF is more of a celebration because all the food, faces (slide show) and fun (games and/or general craziness). So, I want to invite you to the annual Orchard family reunion on February 10th at 5pm, also known as FFFF. See you there!

Grace & Peace,
Matt-



FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

- Men's Breakfast 2/2
- New Members Class - 6:30pm Wednesdays 2/6, 13, 20, 27
- FFFF - Food, faces, Facts & Fun 2/10
- High School Winter Camp 2/15-18
- Office closed 2/18
- Soup in a bag project 2/24

WHO ARE MISSIONARIES?

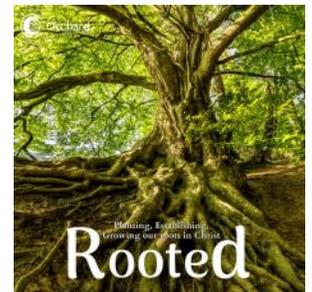
As Christ's followers, we all are. Coming August 3, 2019 we will have a very special event called "The 2019 All-Church Mission Renewal Conference." In preparation for this day, we will be praying for God's direction, working out of the details, etc. If you would like to pray with us, we meet on Mondays at 3 pm.

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

SUNDAY MORNING MESSAGES

- Feb. 3**
"Rooted" Ephesians 3:14-19
Planting. Establishing. Growing our roots in Christ. - with Melinda Hoyt
- Feb. 10**
"Your Kingdom Come, Your Will be Done" Matthew 6:10
Jesus prayed that the Lord's kingdom would prevail on earth and that His will would be done here as it is done in heaven.

- Feb. 17**
"Give us Today Our Daily Bread" Matthew 6:11
Jesus prayed that the Lord would provide for us.
- Feb. 24**
"Forgive us Our Debts" Matthew 6:12, 14-15
Jesus prayed that the Lord would forgive us as we would forgive others.
Listen to the sermon anytime!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Challenge of the Month

In January, Orchard Kids began a quest to challenge ourselves to learn and grow! Elementary students memorized the books of the Old Testament and the Preschool/Kinder children memorized the first 5 books of the Old Testament.

February Challenge: Memorize the Lord's Prayer: When a child completes the challenge he/she gets a ticket for a chance at a prize and put their name on the challenge board! Parents and Grandparents may also take the challenge!

Children's Spring Tea and Egg Hunt. Sunday, April 14th 2-3:30 pm. Join us

for fun photos, games & crafts, face painting, entertainment & refreshments! For children and their moms, grandma's, aunts. Tickets are \$3 per person and will be on sale beginning March 1st. Contact Melinda Hoyt for more information.

Melinda Hoyt
Children's Director
(805) 647-3757
melinda@orchardventura.org

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HOSTS
Tea Party
Easter Egg Hunt

APRIL 14 | WORSHIP BUILDING
2-3:30 PM

Join us for a lovely afternoon of crafts, games, face painting, treats and entertainment!

Get your tickets March 1st!
\$3

Contact Melinda Hoyt for more information at (805) 647-3757 or Melinda@orchardventura.org

Orchard

YOUTH MINISTRY



High School Winter Camp!

We are so excited about the upcoming opportunity for our high school students to be heading to winter camp February 15-18 at Thousand Pines!

Right now we have 7 students going and room for more! It will be a great weekend with tons of free activities (ARCHERY • PAINTBALL • ART SHOP • SLED HILL • ROPES & ZIPLINE • DANCEOKE • LASER TAG • OPEN MIC NIGHT • S'MORES • AND

MORE!) If you have a student interested in going please contact Cody Schulze! Forms are available on our Youth Page on our website!

Cody Schulze
Youth Director
(805) 647-3757
cody@orchardventura.org

All scripture is God-Breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16

POLARIS

SONSHINE PRESCHOOL



Is anyone else wondering where January went? We were very busy playing and learning down here. We had a lot of rainy days, but we made the most of it! We talked a lot about the weather that we get here in California and in other places. We talked about snow, and we all had fun sledding down our 15,000 pounds of "snow" on Thursday & Friday. Thank you to Geske's Hauling Services, Inc., who hauled all of the "snow"

from Superior Ice Co. in Oxnard both days! Thank you to all those that helped with shovels to create our snowy hill, that was hard work! Part of the reason we do so many fundraisers here is to do fun things like go on field trips to the pumpkin patch, get snow at preschool, and purchase big ticket items! So, thank you for supporting all our fundraising efforts! Don't forget we have opened priority registration for the 2019-20 school year and will be opening

registration up to the public on February 14th. If you hear of anyone looking for a preschool, don't forget to send them our way! It may seem like preschool isn't necessary, or like the learning that takes place during preschool isn't very important, but, it is really a crucial time in development. Between birth and 5 language grows by leaps and bounds, thinking becomes more developed, and social and emotional skills flourish. The experiences that children are having in preschool are the building blocks for who they will

become!

Do you like to weed? Do you like to volunteer your time? Would you like to volunteer to weed our new landscaping down in the preschool yard? If so, please reach out to me and I can give you more information!

Annette Walters
Sonshine Preschool Director
(805) 647-0242
annette@orchardventura.org



UNIQUE SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITY!

Becoming Michelle Obama is a hot seller. Who have you become? Want to join a small group writing a fun version of your autobiography as a gift for your family? Contact Betty Whitney (805) 647-3396

BIBLE 805—SIX REASONS TO READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

It is a big commitment to read through the Bible and here are some reasons why the time and effort is worth it.

1. We'll understand the whole story of salvation as it unfolds: for many of us, we only have bits and pieces of the story, but when you read it in chronological order you'll see God's extraordinary planning and working out of every detail over the centuries. You'll see how the entire Bible builds towards the coming of Jesus, this death, resurrection, and promised return.

2. We see how God is truly the author of the entire Bible: The Bible was written over 1600 years and yet it has one voice under all the voices and one clear theme—of God seeking, saving, and restoring his lost people.

3. It will help us understand the uniqueness of the Christian Bible: no other religion has Scriptures written over a similar time period that are as internally consistent as the Christian Bible is. There are no other Scriptures that have historically verifiable prophecies that were fulfilled in verifiable historical settings as in the Christian Bible. These are bold statements and you must read the Bible in chronological order, along with an understanding of history, to see them.

4. It will grow our trust and

confidence in our God: the same God who mercifully clothed Adam and Eve after they sinned and promised them a Savior is the same God who formed Israel, guided, and disciplined it, and who from it brought his Son into the world and who lived, died, rose, and formed his church to carry his message of salvation and his return to restore all things.

When you see that big picture and the sometimes difficult lives the Biblical characters lived in the midst of it, it can give you peace and trust to understand your part of the same great story. It will fill you with hope and assurance of our glorious ending when daily trials threaten to undermine your faith.

5. We won't be disappointed with God: When we have no idea of the contextual meaning of the passage we pull out a promise or encouragement we like, interpret it in a way that makes us feel good, and then when God doesn't do what we think he should (and that in reality he never promised to do) we get upset with him and wrongly assume he can't be trusted. The book of Job is a great example of this because if you read passages by themselves of what Job's friends say to explain his suffering, you'll get a totally distorted picture of God. They talk about how God punishes

people with suffering and rewards them with blessings based on their behavior—popular thoughts always when we aren't the ones suffering and we want to judge someone who is. But the book of Job, if you read the whole thing, shows how wrong that thinking is.

God was honoring Job, who he called the most righteous of men, before the hosts of heaven with the suffering he sent him. Job had no idea ever what was truly going on and at the end of the book God tells him to pray for his friends because He (God) was angry with them because they were so wrong. But you see if you don't read it ALL and read all the verses in context you won't know this.

One more thing about Job—when you read the Bible in Chronological order, you'll learn it took place about the time of Abraham—and that has incredible implications.....but that part of the story you'll have to listen to come to Bible 805 Class to hear about.

SIX—We won't skip the hard parts that are essential to the complete story of God's Redemption: We tend to go back to favorite passages instead of reading the entire Bible and in doing that we skip the hard parts. These are the parts that are not easy to understand, like Leviticus (but

without understanding it, the sacrificial death of Jesus won't ultimately make sense), or the difficult challenges of the minor prophets (who spell out what "to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God" really means), or the exclusive claims of Jesus as the only way to God and what his death demands of those who follow him (why we are also commanded to take up our cross and are reminded we are crucified with Christ).

It's a little like the description of Aslan, the Christ figure in C.S. Lewis book *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* when Mrs. Beaver surprises the children by saying:

"Aslan is a lion- the Lion, the great Lion."

"Ooh" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he-quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion"...

"Safe?" said Mr. Beaver ... "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

Reading the whole Bible in Chronological order isn't safe—it will shake and transform every part of your life if you will let it. But it's good.

So..... join us as we go through the Bible in chronological order in the coming year. Sunday mornings at 10:30 am in the Orchard Library! **Page 3**

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JANUARY SESSION MEETING

The Session of Orchard Community Church met on January 10, 2019 in the Library. Before the meeting was called to order with prayer by Pastor Matt Hoyt, Session had shared dinner, fellowship and a discussion of Nehemiah 1:1 – 2:10. It was decided that Session in February will be moved to February 7, at the usual time and place, so as not to conflict with Valentine's Day.

Pastor's Report

Matt gave a recap of the Christmas season and special events and services during December, all of which went very well. He shared that a New Members' class will be held the four Wednesdays in February, and that they will likely come to the Session meeting in March. The Deacons will be invited to come in April for their joint meeting. Matt will be out of town at the ECO National Gathering Jan. 28-30. He requested Study Leave to be taken at Fuller Seminary in March, but the dates are still to be worked out around the Session meeting and other obligations.

Elder Assignments

Elder assignments were decided upon for 2019:

Church on a Mission – Judy Alexandre (Global) and Randy Ringen (Local)

Worship – Corrie Verloop and Lauri Kail

Fellowship – Priscilla Anderson and Jerry Horstmeyer

Discipleship – David Pels and Jeff Pendleton

Admin. – Dave Fuhrmann and Linda Young

2018 Finances

Elder Dave Fuhrmann gave an update on 2018 finances. After being so far down in October, the total giving for the year was almost \$560,000, the same as 2017, after an amazing November and December. There was in the end a surplus of about \$17,000 more giving than expenses for the year. A detailed report is in this Orchard Life.

Budget for 2109

After going through the details in each area, the 2019 budget was approved, including 2% raises for all staff. This is in line with the Consumer Price Index. Other areas' budgets have been decreased by about 4%, but almost all are still more than what was actually spent in 2018, so the total budget remains almost exactly the same as 2018. A motion was approved to split the 10% "tithe" of Thrive funds equally between Local and Global Missions, so any reductions in their budgets will be more than made up.

Hiring for Custodian

Session approved beginning recruitment for a full-time custodian to replace Ed Narkevic when he retires in

April. The extra hours and costs will be split with the Preschool, since both entities have more needs than can be accomplished with the current 30 hour position.

Technology

Funding was approved to use ~\$7300 already donated for this purpose to upgrade and repair technology, including improving wireless access all over campus, and replacing aging computers and our server. It was also approved to form a Technology Committee to manage all of the technology on the campus, now and in the future.

Missions Motion

A motion from the Global Missions Committee was approved for Orchard's participation in the Lifewater Significant Sacrifice campaign during Lent. They will ask people to make personal sacrifices to remind them of God's presence in their lives, and to contribute that money into a water jug (empty) on the patio during Lent. The committee is identifying a specific project Orchard can fund with these donations.

Corporate Officers

Corporate Officers for 2019 were elected: President – Lauri Kail, VP – Randy Ringen, Treasurer – Dave Fuhrmann, and Secretary – Sue Hockenmaier. Sue was

also elected Clerk of Session for 2019.

Goals for 2019

The discussion of 2019 Goals and Objectives that was begun at the Session Retreat was continued. Session settled on two goals for 2019, and assigned people for each to begin forming objectives, based on Session's discussion. These goals will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting (FFFF) February 10th.

Submitted by Sue Hockenmaier, Clerk of Session

Members of Orchard Community Church may request copies of minutes from Session. Please contact Sue Hockenmaier with your request.



New Custodian Needed!

At the end of April Ed Narkevic is going to be moving to pursue

his dream of living in the Mountains on his own piece of land. While we are sad to see him go, we are happy for Ed to follow his dream! However, this means that Orchard needs to hire a new custodian. Because of the growing needs of the church, with the new hire, this will become a full time position with benefits. To apply for the position please send a resume to the Orchard Custodian Search Committee at matt@orchardventura.org A full job description for the position is available in the church office.

PARENT LIFE

Testimony Concerning Parent Life-Submitted by Jerry Horstmeyer

The Road to Worship through Parent's Life

We all come to worship from different places. My road to worship at Orchard came through the path of Parent's Life. At the time, my kids had been attending Sonshine Preschool and in passing one day down the hallway I was

invited to the Parent's Life group that meets on Sunday. I had only intermittently been attending on Sundays but the idea of a time dedicated to talking about parenting issues was not only interesting because I was struggling through a separation while taking care of two kids, but it was clear that the group would be approaching the subjects from a Christian perspective. I was eager to see what advice I would learn, and along the

way, connected with other parents at Orchard. Over time, I became more connected with the Sunday Worship Services, Orchard Kids, and eventually other volunteer and leadership positions. I would encourage everyone to consider attending a particular group at Orchard; it really helps in connecting with other people, and being focused on a specific interest area. I am still attending the Parent's Life group regularly, which meets at 9am on



Sundays in the library, and enjoy the time together talking and studying with other parents (of various age groups), using solid biblical references for guidance.

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2018



December saw expenses of \$48,800 while income was quite a bit higher at \$74,400. Both November and December were strong giving months, so we actually ended up in the black to the tune of \$17,000. Compared to 2017, expenses were up 2.2%, while giving was almost the same. Thank you for all you do in supporting Orchard's ministries! God is good!

Pete Hockenmaier
For the Finance Committee

ORCHARD'S ALL-CHURCH 2019 MISSION RENEWAL CONFERENCE

Make personal renewal happen by saving the date August 3rd for an amazing day at Orchard.

This will be an awe-inspiring time to get renewed in our walk with Christ. All our mission partners from around the world will be here at Orchard on August 3rd for our 2019 All-Church Mission Renewal Conference. We will hear

stories of challenges faced and overcome through faith. We will use Virtual Reality to experience the 360° sights and sounds of Africa. We will have large group presentations as well as your choice of workshops for families, kids, and individuals. Let's calendar it now before the summer fills up!



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Orchard

community church

Orchard Community Church is a community *passionate* about knowing Jesus Christ *enthusiastic* about sharing His love and *committed* to spreading His good news.

LOCAL MISSIONS



Breakfast in a Bag!

Thank you for once again responding to a need in our community.

Because of the assistance from so many on Dec. 31st about 800 breakfast in baggie were made and are now providing breakfast for those individuals and families using the foul weather shelter and soon the Temporary 24/7 emergency



Lauri and Priscilla making a hot lunch for those staying at the Foul Weather Shelter!

shelter.

The Temporary Shelter that is due to open soon will provide 24/7 assistance to those that are currently experiencing homelessness. Social Service agencies will be on site, referrals made and all will be working to assist people to enter permanent housing, treatment, family unification as well as meet daily needs. This is a long term effort. Volunteers are needed for all shifts, day and night. Training is provided for volunteers at both the foul weather and temporary shelter. If we have at least 5 volunteers from Orchard staff will come to provide the training on our campus...though it is good to see the facility (the old

armory in Oxnard). It is serving residents from Oxnard and Ventura. For more information contact the shelter manager, Amanda Herrera at amanda.herrera@oxnard.org or Mark Alvarado at mark.alvarado@oxnard.org. Please let Judy Alexandre know if you are interested so that we know the interest from Orchard. Thank you.

We are continuing to serve dinner on the 3rd Monday of each month at Riverhaven. If you would like to assist with a meal please contact Julie Box at juliebox@att.net.

This year Local Missions will be encouraging participation at some fun, family friendly events...

- A workday at City Center

- A workday at Riverhaven
 - Our Annual Flip-flop, Food collection and Fiesta
 - Soup in a bag
- and much more! Come join us.

If you are interested in being on the Local Missions committee, or assist in leading a project please contact Jeremy Jacob, committee chair at jeremysjacob@hotmail.com. You can also contact elders Randy Ringen at randyringen@yahoo.com or Judy Alexandre at judyalexandre@gmail.com. We welcome you to join us and make a difference in our community!

