

ORCHARD LIFE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ORCHARD COMMUNITY CHURCH

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Friends,

With the coming of March we find ourselves in the midst of another busy season here at Orchard! Let me tell you about a few of the great things that are going on. As you may know, the plans for our Thrive Campaign construction projects that were submitted to the city last year and have been delayed by a backlog created by the fires, are very close to receiving final approval. Our hope is to begin scheduling the work to be done very soon!

We continue to see a lot of new faces at Orchard and we are excited to welcome them! If you are newer to Orchard or know someone who is we'd

like to invite you to our next Meet & Greet on March 24th. Our Meet & Greets are short luncheons with myself and some of our key leaders. They're an opportunity for us to get to know you and for you to get to know us. There is also a very short introduction to Orchard presentation to help give you a sense who we are and of how to find your place here at Orchard.

Also with March this year, comes the season of Lent. Lent is the traditional time of preparation for Easter. During Lent we take time to reflect on Jesus, on His life and teaching, and especially on the meaning of His death. We do this because we can't

fully understand and celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter unless we understand who He was and why He died. For this reason our series of messages for Lent this years is called "(re)focus" and it's a call for us to either focus our hearts and minds for the first time, or to refocus them on Jesus, on who He was and what He taught. I want to invite us all to use the season of Lent as a time to grow and renew our faith.

I also want to invite you to join us for our Ash Wednesday Service on March 6th at 7:00 pm., which officially begins the season of Lent.

Grace and
Peace,
Matt-



SUNDAY MORNING MESSAGES

March 6 (Ash Wednesday)
"(re)focus" Mark 2:13-17
Jesus calls us to give up our mistaken ideas about God, ourselves and faith and seek to focus or refocus on the truth.

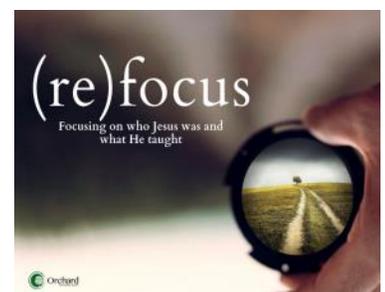
March 10
"Full of It" John 10:1-10
Focusing or refocusing on Jesus' call for us to not just to live, but to be filled with a new and powerful kind of life.

March 17
"The Chains We Choose"
John 8:31-41

Focusing or refocusing on Jesus' call for us to leave our chains behind and be free.

March 24
"Spiritual Adulting"
John 15:1-8
Focusing or refocusing on Jesus' call for us to grow up spiritually.

March 31
"The Heart of the Matter"
John 15:9-17
Focusing or refocusing on Jesus' call for us to love one another.



MARCH HAPPENINGS

Ash Wednesday Service - 7 pm 3/6

Women's Retreat 3/8-10

ONE Worship Service @ 10 am! 3/10

Breakfast Burritos 3/17

Meet & Greet 3/24

Prayer Quilt Workday 3/23

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 in the Library.

"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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Calling all grandmas, moms and aunties! Bring the little loves

in your life to the **Orchard Easter Tea Party and Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 14th 2:00-3:30 pm.** We will have activities, entertainment and refreshments. Boys and girls of all ages are welcome! Tickets available \$3 per person before April 7th or until sold out.

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

One of my favorite traditions at Orchard is when our congregation welcomes the children of our community to share

God's love in a memory making week of fun and friendship. Will you join me in providing leadership and hospitality? June 24-28, 9 am - noon on our campus. We need leaders for all the main areas: snacks, crafts, games, music, mission... as well as many adult and youth helpers in each area. We also need small group leaders to guide children through each day's activities and buddies for some of our special friends. Look for the VBS Volunteer Sign Ups on the patio or in the church office during March! Contact Sheryl Miller (sherylmiller4@gmail.com) or Melinda Hoyt for more info.

Attention Parents: Mark your calendars so you won't miss out on our Orchard Kids events this summer!

- Cheer and Dance Camp June 17-21, 9 am - 12:30 pm (ages 4-12)
- VBS June 24-28 9:00 am - noon and VBS SUNDAY, June 30 @ 10:00 am (Preschool-5th)
- Summer Camp at Forest Home July 28-August 2 (current 2nd-4th graders)
- ALL CHURCH Mission Renewal Conference August 3rd (Fun kids' activities!)

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



SONSHINE PRESCHOOL



Registration for the 2019-2020 school year is off and running!

Priority Registration was open from January 31st-February 13th and we had more than 80 students register! We opened enrollment to the public on Thursday, February 14 at 8am. We had parents lined up waiting at 7:15am! By 8:30 am we added an additional 18 students to our roster. We are feeling so thankful! And as of February 19 all spots had been filled! We have many on a waiting list as well.

At Food, Faces, Facts, and Fun, Matt talked about finding meaningful ways that Orchard can partner with Sonshine families. This is something I have been praying a lot about, and I have had some ideas about how to move in this direction. Would you join me in praying about it? If you have any ideas or suggestions, I am happy to hear them! You can always email me!

As some of you might know, we had some water damage in late January that has created some trouble in Rooms 1 & 2. We will be replacing 2 feet of drywall,

cabinets, counter tops, bathroom flooring and paint. We haven't been able to use these classrooms since the water damage. In order to maintain some normalcy, we had to rotate classrooms! Our teachers and students were incredibly flexible, but it was certainly a challenging time!

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



BIBLE 805

We've moved out of the familiar stories at the start of the Bible and are into some of the more challenging passages of the laws and rituals, sections that though they are sometimes challenging to read, give us the background and history we need to understand the rest of the Bible more fully.

In class, in addition to going over the content of the books we are reading (which is why the class will make sense even if you don't have time to read the Bible readings for the week or month), we will take about some of the tools that will help you understand the Bible better.

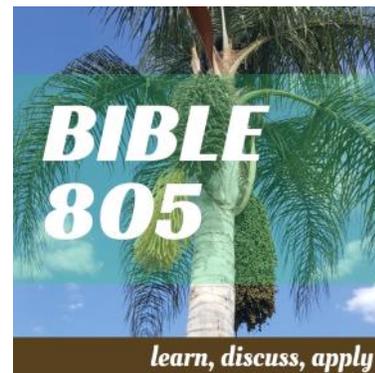
We discussed Typology in February (if you missed it, go to www.bible805.com) to listen and look at the notes. This is where we learn how many of the parts and rituals of the Old Testament were a visual lesson of what God was going to bring about in the New Testament. For example, all the sacrificial details about the lambs that were sacrificed in the Tabernacle and Temple pointed to the coming sacrifice of Jesus, the Lamb of God whose final sacrifice takes away our sins.

Not only does knowing about biblical typology help your understanding of the Bible, but we see God's creativity and

careful planning of every part of salvation history through the ages.

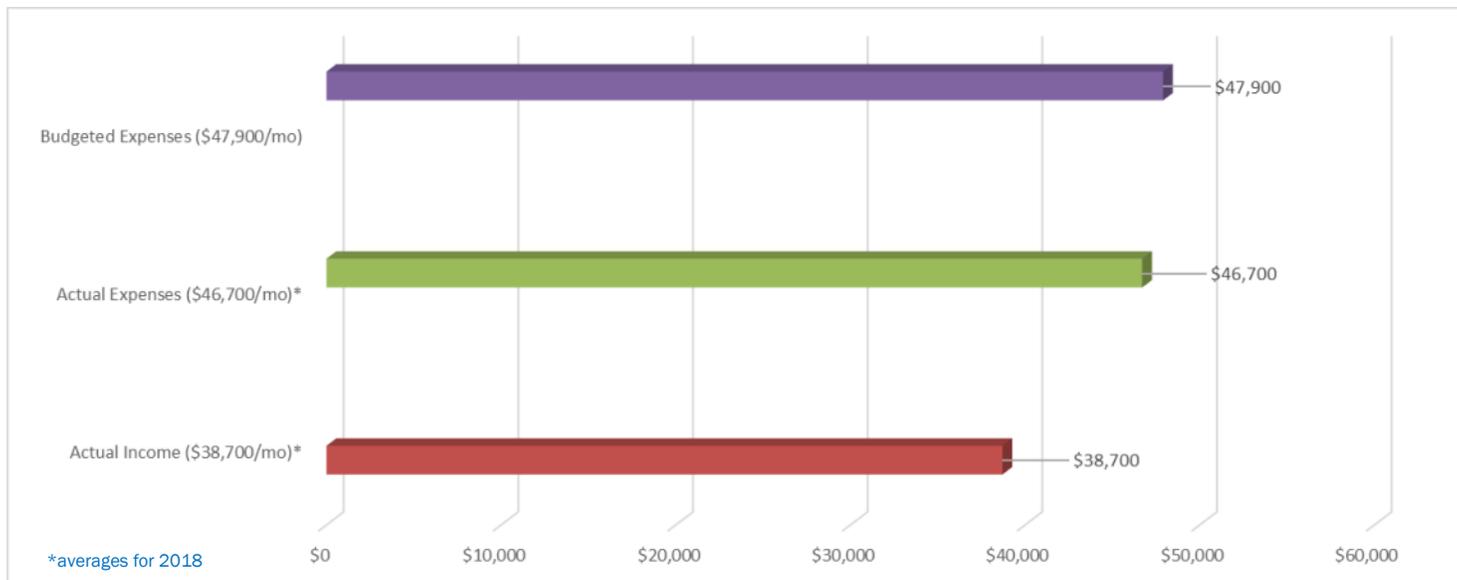
Speaking of History, the biblical understanding tool we will discuss in March as we read about Joshua conquering the Promised Land is: How to Read the Historical Books of the Bible. Many people make life application errors because they don't understand what Bible content is written to teach us something, including what to avoid and the consequences of bad decisions or actions and what Bible content is a command to follow.

Join us or listen online to learn the difference!



Our class is at 10:30am every Sunday in the Orchard Library or listen at www.bible805.com or on itunes or any podcast ap. Everyone is welcome and welcome to start or drop in anytime--the classes make sense on their own and you don't have to have been reading since the start of the year (or even reading at all to learn from the content).

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR JANUARY 2019



Scoop never likes reporting in January. It's usually one of our lower giving months and it usually follows a strong December. But a reporter's gotta report the facts. As you can see, we spent close to budget but giving was under \$40,000, so we'll start the year with a \$7,900 deficit. This is typical, and we look forward to a strong Spring with the Lord's blessing.

Thank you for all you do in supporting Orchard's ministries and missions!

Pete Hockenmaier
For the Finance Committee

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FEBRUARY SESSION MEETING

The Session of Orchard Community Church met on February 7, 2019 in the Library. Before the meeting was called to order with prayer by Pastor Matt Hoyt, Session had shared dinner, fellowship, prayer, and a discussion of James 1:1-12.

Pastor's Report

In his Pastor's report, Matt updated Session on upcoming surgeries for two members, and Session prayed for them. Matt was at the ECO National Gathering Jan. 28-30. He gave glowing reports on all that went on there and some ideas he brought back. Matt discussed Communion being one of the Sacraments, and that serving it is a privilege of being an ordained officer of the church. He encouraged all elders and deacons, and particularly seated elders, to volunteer to serve, and offered training if desired. Matt gave an update on the recent flooding in the preschool caused by excessive rain, and what is being done, possible costs and insurance impacts, etc.

Office Training

Lisa Beamer and Alisa Bossoletti came to Session to do some training on office procedures, who handles what in our church office, how to get things done, etc. It was very helpful and informative! The basic division of who to contact is:

Alisa: All communications to

the congregation (bulletins, emails, Orchard Life, publicity), calendaring, event forms, room reservations

Lisa: Finance, vouchers, money to be turned in, facilities, keys

Thrive

Elder Dave Fuhrmann updated Session on the Thrive project, which is still partially approved but waiting on ADA approval. In the meantime, funds enough for Phase 1 (without parking lot improvements) have now come in, so we won't need to consider getting a loan.

Goals for 2019

The discussion of 2019 Goals and Objectives was continued:

1) Small Group development, especially focused on giving newer people a place to plug in – Matt and Elder Judy Alexandre have begun recruiting for a small short-term team to develop strategy and trajectory. They will report again next month.

2) Outreach to and collaboration with the Preschool – Our Preschool and Children's Directors are working jointly on it and will bring objectives back to Session.

Hiring for Custodian

Session approved the Custodian Job Description and detailed duties list, as approved by the Personnel Committee and developed by the search committee (Tim Callahan - chair, Annette Walters, Larry Verloop, and Matt Hoyt).

Missing in Church

Session reviewed the "Missing in Church" (MIC) list from December, which they do every few months as one way to make sure they are aware of people in our congregation who might need help or care. Pastor Matt will be following up with a few people.

Administrative Actions

Pete Dinkler was elected as the second Session/Elder representative on the Nominating Committee, in addition to Linda Young as Chair.

Session approved Matt's vacation for the week of April 1-5, which is Spring Break for his kids. Wes Haystead will be preaching on Sunday the 7th.

A Motion was approved to move the remainder of the Steffen Memorial fund (\$2355.38) to Restricted account # 3272, for continued computer and technology upgrades.

Emergency Response

Session discussed how Orchard, as a congregation, wants to respond to emergencies in the community, which could be anything from natural disasters, fires, etc., to emergency winter shelter needs. We'd like to have general guidelines in place ahead of time for various scenarios so we are prepared to respond. An ad hoc committee chaired by Judy Alexandre with representation from Facilities, Local Outreach, the Preschool, Child/Youth Safety and possibly the Worship and Fellowship committees will be formed. That committee will work on plans for different scenarios, and will bring them back to Session for further discussion.

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.



LOCAL MISSIONS

Your local outreach committee has been very busy and is looking forward to the many ways that we can actively care for our community in Jesus' name.

When you receive this we will have just completed making soup in a bag for those staying at the temporary shelter and for our homeless neighbors that seek services from the One Stop outreach. Thank you all! The shelter in Oxnard, serving both Ventura and Oxnard is now open 24/7 serving a total of 100 homeless residents.

Volunteers are still needed. Contact Amanda Herrera amanda.hererera@oxnard.org or Judy Alexandre judyalexandre@gmail.com if you are interested. The shelter has an ongoing need for personal hygiene items (new nail clippers, new combs and brushes, new toothbrushes, clean or new men or women sweats and hoodies, socks, underwear, blankets, women's personal needed items, deodorant, flip flops). Please bring to Judy Alexandre and she will deliver.

Jean Watkins is working with the development of our prison outreach. Details are to follow. Look forward to ways that those that are interested will be able to meet with a person at the California Youth Authority 1 x per month showing care, acceptance, God's love, grace and forgiveness.

Crop Walk is coming on 3/17/19 from 1-3pm. This is a wonderful family event and as well as for anyone who

would like to take a short run/walk and raise money to address hunger both global and local. If you are interested please go to www.crophungerwalk.com/venturaca. Food and money collected supports the food pantry at Project Understanding.

On March 7 an educational presentation on Human Trafficking. We support Forever Found, who recently adding three new employees to the team to assist in the fight against child trafficking locally. As they work closely with Ventura County Probation, social services and local law enforcement, they are forming new and stronger relationships with our community partners and the survivors of human trafficking that they serve. Additionally, they have opened a new office in Ventura due to the generosity of Grace Baptist Church, where Mentors and Survivors can meet in a comfortable living room setting, as they walk through the restoration process in a loving home environment.

We continue to serve a monthly meal to the residents at Riverhaven. Volunteers are always welcome to both cook and serve. If interested, please contact Julie Box, julie.box@att.net. Look forward to a workday in June at Riverhaven.

GLOBAL MISSIONS

Nita Hanson of God's Hidden Treasures shared with 15 of us from Orchard last Monday, Feb. 4th, 2019. During the visit, she shared about both new and continuing ministries, and then

answered questions and shared more with those that could stay later.

One new ministry God is opening for her concern's about domestic violence. She told about an elderly woman repeatedly beaten by her son-in-law, which the police would only penalize with an inconsequential fine, less that the equivalent of \$10. After praying and talking with others, including government officials in Bila Tserkva, she has been able to obtain part of a hotel wing to protect such victims, along with a guard, to be opened this year. A young woman who has escaped an abusive husband, the city social services, and a local pastor will help manage the shelter.

A second major blessing has been the realization that a neighboring single-story condominium complex, recently developed, would be ideal for handicapped residents and care-givers, much cheaper than the village she had envisioned. The condos include floor heating and are unfinished. This means they can be outfitted exactly for special needs. They are small, but a "Boy's House" could be made by joining 2 adjacent condos. They are also on the ground floor, which makes them much more accessible for people with special needs. Nita has plans to buy eight in order to start a community where special needs people and their sponsors can help each other build their lives. The cost is just \$15,500 each and this model can be easily replicated and expanded.

Three other updates concerned Father Frost, A Night to Remember (II), and the summer picnic. Father Frost and the Snow Maiden visit all the new families receiving aid from God's Hidden Treasures, delivering food or toys as needed. This year over 300 families were visited! Children from local orphanages and 10 children from summer camp were taken to Kiev, where they enjoyed a master class on chocolate making, an indoor water park, and a visit to McDonalds. The Tim Tebow Foundation sponsored a second "Night to Shine" prom-like dance for God's Hidden Treasures, which just took place Friday, Feb. 9th. This red-carpet event let the guys get dressed up and the gals get a full make-up treatment including crowns to show how special they are. Pictures are on the God's Hidden Treasures Facebook page. Finally, this last summer brought another city picnic, where 400 care-givers and their charges support each other and get out of their apartments. Of course, rain always threatens, but God miraculously holds it off. Our own IMPACT team participated as well.

Many of the visits result in a "Why are you here?" query from the families and relief for caregivers and special needs alike. The support is desperately needed and the simple answer that "God heard your cry and cares about you" brings many to faith. What a great ministry to support.

<https://www.godshiddentreasures.org/> or God's Hidden Treasures on Facebook.



ORCHARD COMMUNITY CHURCH

8180 Telephone Rd.
Ventura CA 93004
(805) 647-3757
www.OrchardVentura.org
info@orchardventura.org



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.



Soroptimist CRR District 1 Annual Awareness Event

HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SEXUAL SLAVERY

If you see something, say something!

JOIN US THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019

for a Community Walk and Speakers Forum

Museum of Ventura County, 100 E Main St, Ventura, CA 93001

TIME

5:00 PM Registration
5:30 PM Community Walk
6:30 PM Speakers Forum

SPEAKERS

DARRYL EVEY, CEO/ED Family Assistance Program Victorville
KRIS HART, Founder House of Hope, 4 Kids 2 Kids, SAFE House
KARI ROTHSCHILD - Survivor/Advocate



PRESENTED by SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL of Oxnard, Ventura, Fillmore, Camarillo, and The Conejo Valley

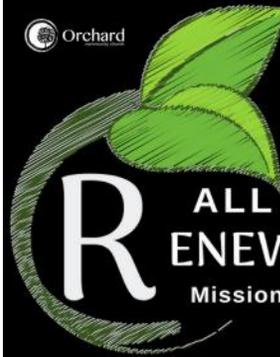
MORE INFORMATION

www.stoptraffickingventuracounty.org | Call Debbie Gohlke 805-320-5215 | f



YOU'RE INVITED

Saturday
August 3, 2019
9 am - 4:30 pm



2019 ALL CHURCH RENEWAL CONFERENCE

Mission & Spiritual Growth

Spiritual Renewal, Encouragement, and Growth.

Event Location: Orchard Community Church
8180 Telephone Rd., Ventura, CA 93004

Family friendly with kids activities & lunch included!

Online Registration begins April 1st.

www.OrchardVentura.Org/RenewalConference2019

Register Online April 1 - July 3, 2019
\$15 Adults (12 yrs and up)
\$5 Kids (11 yrs and under)
\$40 Immediate family max

Register Online July 4, - August 3, 2019
\$25 Adults (12 yrs and up)
\$10 Kids (11 yrs and under)
\$70 Immediate family max

Questions: GlobalMissions@OrchardVentura.org

