



# ACORN

WHATEVER IS *true,*  
 WHATEVER IS *honorable,*  
 WHATEVER IS *just,*  
 WHATEVER IS *pure...*  
 IF THERE IS ANYTHING  
*worthy of praise,*  
 THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8, NRSV

May you set your thoughts on things that will draw you closer to Jesus in 2013.

Happy New Year from the Church Staff,

*Paul, Dave, Andrew, Martha & Melanie*

Oakwood Community Church  
 11209 Casey Rd  
 Tampa FL 33618-5306  
 813.969.2303  
[www.oakwoodfl.org](http://www.oakwoodfl.org)

The mission of Oakwood is to...

Transform ordinary people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Oakwood is a member of the Evangelical Free Church of America.



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## Blood Mobile @ Oakwood

The Blood Mobile will be at Oakwood on Sunday, January 20, 2013 from 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM. If you are at least 16 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, are in good health and haven't donated in the last eight weeks, you are eligible to donate.

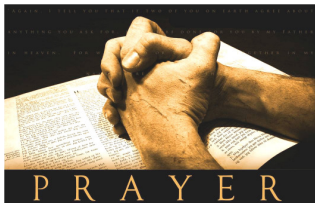
Did you know that only 37 % of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood yet, less than 10% do annually. This is why repeat donors are so vital to our blood supply. January is a critical month for blood donations as blood supplies run low after the holidays.

Will you roll up your sleeves and help us get 7 unites donated for this worthy cause?

## Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks Sunday, January 6, 2013 in the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.

## Sunday Morning Prayer



**Opportunity to pray**—Every Sunday morning from 10:30 - 10:50 in the Church Library you will find a pair of Oakwoodians leading prayer. Everyone is invited, as you feel led, to join in this guided prayer time.

## Prayer/Devotional Guide

Oakwood Community Church is fueling the **love ~ grow ~ serve** vision with prayer into the new year of 2013. Our continued focus on prayer is leading us to include two memory verses along with the prayer guide. The **first memory verse is designed to pair with the prayer focus of the month**. The **second memory verse is the same verse the TreeHouse children are learning in their curriculum**. Our hope is to continue to grow in the context of the vision as family members as well as Oakwood family in the body of Christ, further seeking His will.

**January:** We will **love God** by praying His names in order to honor and worship Him.

January Prayer Guides will be available this Sunday an on our website..



## Voting results

On Sunday, December 23, members of Oakwood approved the recommendations from the elder and deacon teams for Edson Bustamante to serve on the elder team and for Matt Fucarino to serve on the deacon team.

## TreeHouse News

We've started a new curriculum for our Nursery through 5-Year-Old children. Our 1st—5th Grade started a new curriculum the first of December. These changes will help us be more effective in partnering with parents to teach our kids about Jesus.



**We're on Facebook!** That's right, TreeHouse now has their own Facebook page. Visit us (see link below) and "Like" us to keep up with what is happening in our TreeHouse ministry.

[http://www.facebook.com/pages/Oakwood-Treehouse/355783091186462?ref=ts&fref=ts&\\_req=3m](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Oakwood-Treehouse/355783091186462?ref=ts&fref=ts&_req=3m)



## Oakwood Mill

The Oakwood Mill is the Adult Education Ministry of Oakwood Community Church.

### New class beginning on January 27—*The Five Love Languages of Children*

Just when parents think they have "got the parenting thing down," children tend to hit a new stage, leaving parents reeling and wondering how best to love on each different child at each different stage. Join Terri Johnson and Adrienne Smith for a new Oakwood Mill class to explore "The Five Love Languages of Children" from popular Christian authors Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell, M.D. This resources will be paired with "Boundaries with Kids" by doctors Cloud and Townsend to further explore and discuss how to help the children in your life to feel loved.

We know many of you are busy with your children, so the class will be light on homework but heavy on application by practicing loving on your children throughout the week! The class begins January 27 at 9:15 AM during the Oakwood Mill hour. If you are interested, please sign up at the Information Center or email Adrienne ([adriannediane@gmail.com](mailto:adriannediane@gmail.com)) so we can account for accurate materials.

### Continuing classes are:

*This We Believe*—a look at the Statement of Faith of Oakwood Community Church and the EFCA—facilitated by Guy Sas in room 102/104

*The Epistles of Peter*—led by Bill Clarke in room 106



## Thanks for *Serving The World*

Thank you for your donations through the holidays to **Pregnancy Care Center** and **Naomi's Daughters**. Your donations are a blessing and a great help to a number of families.

Please remember that we have an ongoing collection for **Naomi's Daughters**. Any gently used clothing or household items as well as non-perishable food and personal care items are greatly appreciated for this ministry to single moms. You can leave your donations on the back porch of the gray house on our campus. There are bins for you to place your donations in and you can pick up a receipt for your tax deductible donation there as well.

*Thanks*  
for your  
participation

## How will you *Serve The Church* in 2013—repeat

In several of the past issues of the Oakwood ACORN, the lead articles have focused on Oakwood's three-step mission process—*Love ~ Grow ~ Serve*. There are many opportunities to minister right here among our own Church family.

Below you will see a number of ways that you can *Serve* at Oakwood in 2013. If you are interested in serving in any of these areas, unless otherwise noted, please contact the Church Office and we will connect you with the appropriate person to help you get started.



### PowerHouse (student ministry)

Snack Bar help—serve on a rotating schedule on Sunday evenings. Contact La Verne Cluff to sign up.  
Small Group Leader—Men and women needed to meet with teens in small groups on Sunday evenings  
Senior High teacher—needed for Sunday mornings. Contact Pastor Paul.

#### Worship Arts

Slide Tech—serve by running the slides on Sunday once a month. Some computer knowledge is needed. Rehearsals on Wednesday nights are necessary.  
Lighting Tech—Run lights during the service.

#### Usher/Greeter Team

Greeters—have a smiling face to greet those coming to our services on Sunday AM.  
Ushers—Hand out the weekly Worship Program, take up offering and assist latecomers in finding seats.

### Hospitality Team Members

Providers—help provide light snacks on a rotating basis for the Sunday AM hospitality table.  
Servers—Set up and clean up the Sunday AM hospitality table

### Food Bag Ministry

Delivery Team—once a month help deliver Food Bags to clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Winter Haven and Haines City for the PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry Fundraisers.

#### Handy Person

Under the direction of the deacons, assist with various projects around the church property—property maintenance, painting, etc.

#### Naomi's Daughters

Childcare—help on a regular basis with childcare the 1st & 3rd Tuesday night of the month during the Single Moms ministry meetings.

### TreeHouse (kids ministry)

TreeHouse Greeter—a smiling face to greet people as they come to TreeHouse and help direct new people to the correct location.  
Front Desk help—register new children and register attendance in the computer.  
Resource Person—collect needed materials for crafts, etc., for Small Group Leaders  
Small Group Leader—Lead one of the Small groups of children to reinforce the weekly lesson.  
Nursery volunteers—workers needed to help with our youngest attendees—needed one service per month. Contact Lilliam Vera.



## PowerHouse Schedule

Jan 6—Regular Sunday evening—5:00—7:30 PM  
 Jan 12—Community Service—9:00 AM—noon  
 Jan 13—Night Spiker volleyball  
 Jan 19—Regular Sunday evening—5:00—7:30 PM  
 Jan 27—Regular Sunday evening—5:00—7:30 PM

## Community Service Project

## Night Spiker



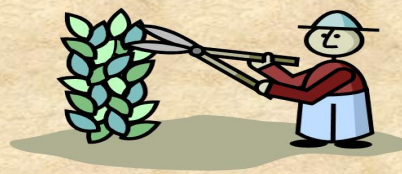
**Night Spiker  
 Black Light  
 Volleyball  
 Jan 13  
 5-7 PM**

# SAVE THE DATE!

**PowerHouse work day — an opportunity to serve!**

**Saturday, January 12th— 9:00 to noon**

**\*\* bring lunch \$ for CiCi's\*\***



## Food Bag Ministry

Did you know that our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven? These bags are distributed to indigent patients at the clinic to provide some basic food needs of the patients and their family.

PowerHouse teens can raise money for summer mission/conference trips by participating in our monthly Food Bag Ministry, typically on the third Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag Prep day is **Sunday, January 20** right after the Worship Service.

Teens can raise extra funds by helping shop for the food and/or helping with delivery of the food bags to the medical clinics. Shopping for the next fundraiser will be Friday, January 18. Meet at Aldi at the corner of Bearss & Florida Ave. at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple) if you want to help. For more details contact Sandy Clarke at 931-0668.

**Delivery drivers needed**—We are also in need of people who can help with delivery of these food bags, especially to Lakeland, Haines City, and Winter Haven. If you can help deliver, please contact Sandy Clarke at 931-0668.





*Contrary to what the world may say, our mutual surrenders are what enrich us.*

## Growth By Dependence

Phillip Yancey

Wise parents nudge their children away from dependence toward freedom. Their goal, after all, is to produce independent adults. Lovers, however, choose a new kind of dependence: possessing freedom, they gladly give it away. In a healthy marriage, one partner yields to the other's wishes not out of compulsion, but out of love. That adult relationship reveals what God seeks from human beings: not the clinging, helpless love of a child who has no choice, but the mature, freely given commitment of a lover.

I keep falling back on marriage as a picture of this mature relationship because it is one I have lived in every day for thirty years and one the Bible itself relies on. How, exactly, do I "choose a new kind of voluntary dependence" within marriage? I think of two major decisions Janet and I have made, both of which led us to uproot and move to new locations.

The first time, we moved from the far suburbs to a downtown neighborhood. After thirteen enriching years of city life, we moved to a secluded site in Colorado, the opposite of Chicago in every way.

It seems clear that we made the move to Chicago primarily for Janet's sake and the move to Colorado primarily for mine. Janet thrived in the city, building a fine church-based program that ministered to the practical needs of senior citizens, most of them poor, some of them homeless. City life, though, with its pressures, incessant car alarms, and frenetic pace gradually drained my creative energy. We chose Colorado as a more nourishing environment for my introspective work of writing.

Both moves involved major adjustments, even sacrifices. Yet as anyone in a healthy marriage knows, a couple only undertakes these changes in a spirit of mutual consent. Because I work at home, we have more freedom to make such choices than some people. But a spirit of power ("I need a change of environment, and I'm moving whether you like it or not") or retaliation ("You had your fun, now I'm going to have mine") would spell doom. Neither of us would dare impose such a decision on the other.

Marriage offers only one sure check on freedom abuse: love. In any mature relationship, in fact, love sets the boundaries. I could

point to many times in which Janet has set aside her own first preferences in favor of mine, and I have done the same for her. Neither of us wins all the time. Yet because we are committed to each other, we make the small and large adjustments necessary to live together in peace, and try to exercise power and freedom within the boundaries marked by love.

Thirty years of marriage have changed both Janet and me. We are different people from the moonstruck lovers who said "I do" when barely out of adolescence. She has taught me social skills, an appreciation for plants, a compassion for the poor and lowly. I have taught her to appreciate classical music, an awareness of natural beauty, a zest for travel and physical exercise. Our mutual surrenders have caused us to grow, rather than shrink.

Lovers understand that a lasting relationship grows in the soil of trust and grace and forgiveness, not law. Lovers know that love cannot be commanded or compelled. By nature a lover wants what the other person wants. When love requires personal sacrifice, it often seems more like a gift: "Not my will but thine be done." Lovers praise: I talk about my wife to others and boast of her accomplishments not because I feel obligated but because I want others to know her as I do. In these and other ways, I have learned from marriage how a mature relationship with God may work. Augustine described a good spiritual life as, simply, "well ordered love."

The state God wants only comes about as a result of a faithful relationship with him. We seek to please God, accept as our highest goal to know and love him, make necessary sacrifices—and in the process we ourselves change. Personal spirituality grows as a byproduct of sustained interaction with God. In the end, we find ourselves not just doing things that please God, but wanting to do them.

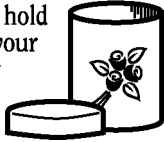
From *Reaching for the Invisible God*, by Philip Yancey

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## Kids Corner

### Make a New Year's Time Capsule

Make a container to hold your treasures and your wishes and goals for the New Year.

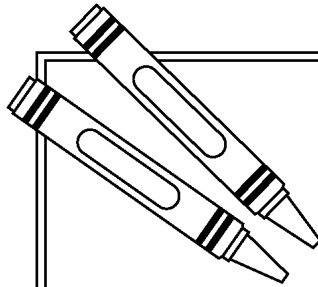


You will need:

- small storage tin (You may have a cookie-, popcorn- or candy-tin leftover from the holidays. If you don't have a tin, a shoebox will work.)
- goals for the coming year
- permanent markers ■ paper
- glue ■ tape ■ scissors ■ paint
- paintbrush
- little treasures (photos of friends or family, small toys, coins, etc.)

How to make it:

- Wash and dry the tin.
- Decorate the tin with the markers or paint. (If the tin already has a design, you can use that one. Or you can decorate pieces of paper and then glue them to the tin's lid and sides.)
- Mark your name and the date on the lid.
- On a piece of paper make a list of goals – things you would like to accomplish during the year. (For example, be a better student, be more helpful around the house, make new friends, etc.)
- On another piece of paper write some of the important things that happened last year. (For example, got a new puppy, went on a fun vacation, learned to ride a bike, etc.)
- Place the list of goals in the tin along with any little treasures you want to include.
- Tape the lid onto the tin.
- Store it in a safe place (for example, your closet, under the bed, etc.).
- Open the tin on the next New Year's Day. Did you accomplish all your goals? Did you remember what was in the tin?



## Just for KIDS

### "Who Am I?"

It's a new year and you may be thinking about time, birthdays and how old you'll be this year. Below are some people from the Bible and the ages they reached.

First, fill in the name of each person. If you need help, look up the verses in the Bible. Next, find the age of each person by matching the number under the blanks to the sum of the digits in the ages listed. For example, if the number under the line is 11, it could be 290 (2+9+0=11) or 47 (4+7=11).

Names:	Abraham	Joseph	Adam	Moses	Isaac	Noah	Jesus	Sarah
Ages:	33	110	120	127	175	180	930	950

1. I was God's first man. I lived to be \_\_\_\_\_ years old.  
Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 5:5) (12)
2. I built an ark when God flooded the earth. I lived to be \_\_\_\_\_ years old.  
Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 9:29) (14)
3. God said that my offspring would be as many as the stars in the heavens. I lived to be \_\_\_\_\_ years old. Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 25:7) (13)
4. I was close to 90-years-old when God said that I would have a son. I lived to be \_\_\_\_\_ years old. Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 23:1) (10)
5. My parents were Abraham and Sarah. I lived to be \_\_\_\_\_ years old. Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 35:28) (9)
6. My brothers left me in a pit in the wilderness. I lived to be \_\_\_\_\_ years old. Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 50:26) (2)
7. When I was 3-months-old, I was placed in a basket in the reeds along the bank of the Nile River. I lived to be \_\_\_\_\_ years old. Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_ (Deuteronomy 34:7) (3)
8. I began my life in a barn with animals. I lived to be \_\_\_\_\_ years old. Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 2:7). (6)

Answers: 1. 930, Adam; 2. 950, Noah; 3. 175, Abraham; 4. 127, Sarah; 5. 180, Isaac; 6. 110, Joseph; 7. 120, Moses; 8. 33, Jesus



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**Our Staff**

Lead Pastor - Dr. Paul B. Phair  
 Director of Ministries - Dave Dorsey  
 Director of Worship Arts - Andrew Reilly  
 Coordinator of Youth Ministry - Dr. Paul B. Phair  
 Coordinator of Children’s Ministry - Dave Dorsey  
 Office Manager - Martha Dorsey  
 Secretary—Melanie Hoglievina

**Office hours:**

Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Worship:**

Sundays - 10:30 AM

**Our Elder Team**

Edson Bustamante  
 Pete Kluck  
 Paul Phair  
 Eric Pratt

**Our Deacon Team**

Nan Duncan  
 Matt Fucarino  
 Bob Mendenhall  
 Ray Ross  
 Ben Smith  
 Dave Young

**Calendar at a Glance**



- Jan 6—Blood Pressure checks
- Jan 13—Board Meeting of elders & deacons
- Jan 15—Naomi’s Daughters dinner/study
- Jan 20—Compassion Offering  
 Blood Mobile @ Oakwood

The Oakwood *ACORN* is a bi-weekly E-newsletter from Oakwood Community Church, published to keep our church family and friends informed about events and people at Oakwood. Articles may be submitted via e-mail to [Office@oakwoodfl.org](mailto:Office@oakwoodfl.org). Article deadlines and publication schedule is:

Deadline	Publication date	News for dates including...
Jan 11	Jan 16	Jan 19—Feb 1
Jan 25	Jan 30	Feb 2—Feb 15

Do you know someone at Oakwood with a noteworthy achievement? Send the information to [Office@OakwoodFL.org](mailto:Office@OakwoodFL.org) and we’ll include it in a future article.

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