



# ACORN

## Seeds For Growth

### *Your First Ten Minutes & Ten Feet*

Five times in the New Testament those who are in the Christian community are commanded by God to *Greet one another with a holy kiss* (such as Romans 16:16). Oh my! Hold on! In many cultures, family members and close friends exchange a kiss on the cheek. For most of us, this would not only make us uncomfortable, but the Christian brother or sister who receives our kiss as well. But oh what a warm handshake and smile or hug can do to warm another person’s soul.

As Bev and I drive to Oakwood for Sunday Worship each week, we pray together that God will use us to authentically express tender-heartedness to as many of our dear church family as we can. We also pray for those who are looking for God and or a church home – that God will use us to express a warm welcome.

Why is this one of my weekly prayers? It is born out of my own experience years ago. When I was actively seeking God, I went, uninvited, by myself to a Christian group. That’s not easy to do. I came and then left without one person expressing any personal interest in me. I never returned, yet remained a seeker without a relationship with God and His people.

I urge you to practice Oakwood’s *Ten Minute Rule & Ten Foot Rule*. For the first ten minutes following one of our Sunday morning Worship Services, before you connect with people you already know (though very important), reach out to people who may be new. Be especially aware of people who are within ten feet of you. It is only within those first few minutes that you will likely be able to communicate the love of Christ to our guests and newer people. After that, it will likely be too late.

Obviously, we want to respect those who want to check us out without making personal connections. However, many first time visitors who are seekers of God want to feel that God’s people personally value them. We want them to feel they are more than visitors but our guests who matter to us and to God. Introduce yourself and graciously ask them questions such as the following:



- Are you new to Oakwood?
- How did you happen to come to Oakwood today?
- Have you been in Tampa long?
- Do you have any questions about Oakwood I can attempt to answer for you?

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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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## Beach Fun & Baptism Day



Everyone is invited to join us for an afternoon and evening of fun at the beach. Bring chairs, and your own picnic meal. This is a relaxed way for us to enjoy fun and fellowship together. It will be on **Saturday, June 2 (note date change)** beginning mid afternoon through evening (“come and go as you please”). The location is at Pass-a-Grille Beach (St. Petersburg).

At 4:00 PM we will also baptize those who have stepped across the line of faith to trust Jesus as their Forgiver and Leader. This is the key ceremony that Jesus prescribed to us to publicly declare and mark the beginning of our trusting Christ and our intention to be one of His fully devoted followers. If you desire to be baptized at the beach, please contact the Church Office by May 25 at the latest. Information about the meaning and procedure for baptism is available on our website at [www.oakwoodfl.org](http://www.oakwoodfl.org) – scroll to the bottom of the home page and choose Reference Documents, then scroll down to the Special Observances section and choose the age appropriate information on Baptism. If you don't have web access, contact the Church Office and we will provide you with the information.



You may also be baptized at just about any time of the year in conjunction with your Community Group or a special gathering that we can assemble with you at someone's pool or lake. (That's right; you get your choice of salt water, fresh water, or chlorinated water!) Ask your Community Group Leader, Pastor Paul, Dave Dorsey, or one of our elders to arrange this significant event with you.

Watch for more details for our *Beach Fun & Baptism Day* for more details on directions and specifically where we will meet at the beach.



## TreeHouse Volunteers needed

We have a number of TreeHouse volunteers who give of their time every week to minister to our wonderful children. We like to give this team of workers a break for the summer. Will you give us a hand and teach for a week, a month, or the summer? Please contact Dave Dorsey at 813-969-2303 or [dave@oakwoodfl.org](mailto:dave@oakwoodfl.org) if you are interested in volunteering your time.



PROMOTION SUNDAY

## Move Up Sunday

Move Up Sunday is June 10 for all children of the TreeHouse. What is *Move Up Sunday*? All children will move up to the school grade that they will be in this August. This allows them to develop relationships with children that they will be worshipping with through High School.

Graduating 5<sup>th</sup> Graders will be recognized during the Worship Services on June 10. They are welcome to join us in TreeHouse and PowerHouse throughout the summer.

## Seeds for Growth—continued from page 1

Introduce your newly discovered friend to others you know around you. If they appear interested, invite them to join your for lunch or into your home for coffee that evening.

Several years ago, one of our newer people to Oakwood wrote on our Connection Card the following:

Just wanted to say that I was a little down today, when [one of your people] ... stopped by my chair and chatted for a minute. I smiled and felt better suddenly. Thank you for the joy and fellowship I've never failed to receive here. I thank God that in coming here, I can be so blessed.

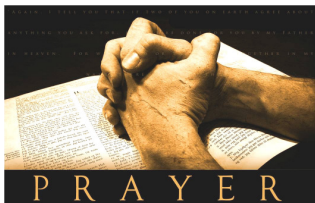
Each week before you come to an Oakwood Worship Service, pray not only that you will worship God and be receptive to His truths, but also that God would use you to greet others with kindness and care, including those who are searching for God. You can be difference maker in someone's day and even someone's eternity!

~ Pastor Paul

### Angola Team

May 17—19 a team of four men from Oakwood will be traveling to Louisiana State Penitentiary to participate in the *Returning Hearts Celebration*—chaperoning prisoners and their children for a fun day together. Please remember to pray for these men and their interactions with those they are connected with during this day.

Those going are: Jeremy Davis, Dave Dorsey, Eric Pratt and Tom Raynor.



### Sofia Noguera

Please pray for Sofia Noguera as she leaves this week for a Missions/Ministry trip with CRU to east Asia.



### Sunday Morning Prayer

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

### Prayer Guide

Oakwood Community Church is *fueling* the new vision of **Expanding Our Territory, Together** united with **Love ~ Grow ~ Serve**. In May, we will be focusing on how we can Love God, the Holy Spirit and how that will affect our service for the church in the world both for those who are near and like us or far and unlike us.



Your May Prayer Guide is available at the Information Center or view it on our website.

## Czech Team Update

### Team Tampa XIII

We have 10 team members, airline tickets have been purchased, and training has begun!

Our team members are: La Verne Cluff, Shelley Cooke, Steve Cooke, Dean Johnson, Alisa Linares, Allison Malouf, John Saunders, Kelsey Weyand, Rob Weyand, and Marcia Whipple. There will also be three to four English-speaking interns from the Prague church to help at the camps.

Please be in prayer for this team as they determine which level they will teach and prepare lessons.

## Men of Oakwood

On Friday, June 15, we will be meeting here at the church to enjoy a simulcast presented by the leadership of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia. This is the church that has produced a number of recent movies including *Facing The Giants*, *Fireproof* and their most recent, *Courageous*. We will hear challenges from Stephen and Alex Kendrick, the creative team behind Sherwood Pictures as well as from the starring cast of *Courageous*. We will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs starting at 6 PM and the simulcast will be from 7 PM to 9 PM. Start off your Father's Day weekend by joining us in learning how to continue to grow in your faith. We have a signup sheet in the Information Center in the church lobby.



## Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, May 20 we will be having an OCC Family Meeting right after the Worship Service. The meeting will begin a few minutes after the end of the Worship Service and will last no longer than 45 minutes. The Elders want to allow sufficient time for questions and comments from our church family.

If you need childcare please register your children on the sign-up sheet in the Information Center in the Worship Center lobby or at the TreeHouse Welcome Station.



## Blood Pressure checks

**Blood pressure checks** in the kitchen following the Worship Service on June 3. Don't miss this important health screening.

## GroupLink

### GroupLink Sunday

On Sunday, June 10, you are invited to sign-up for a Community Group immediately following the Worship Service -- this is our next step to *Grow in Community!* These new Starter Groups will begin in June. Groups will initially meet for 8 weeks to begin to taste the benefits of community and to allow each person or couple to determine if this particular group fits them well. After 8 weeks, if the group members gel, they will be invited to make longer-term commitments to grow in faith together. This is your opportunity to experience authentic community and spiritual growth through fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. Don't miss out!



## Opportunity to *Serve The Church & World*

### Pregnancy Care Center

Since the Supreme Court decision to legalize abortion, more than 53,000,000 abortions have been performed. In the midst of this tragedy, there is a beacon of hope. Thousands of Pregnancy Resource Centers have emerged to provide counseling and support to pregnancy women in turmoil, creating real alternatives to abortion.

Friday, May 18, 7:00—9:00 PM, The Pregnancy Care Center (supported through Oakwood's Missions giving) will host *The Great Turnaround*—a national movement to support pregnancy centers. You are invited to attend this desert fundraiser at Glazer Children's Museum. For info call 813-978-9737 or visit [www.pregnancycaretampa.com](http://www.pregnancycaretampa.com).

### Naomi's Daughters

Many of you know that we provide a ministry for single moms in the gray house. It is our *Naomi's Daughters* ministry that provides clothing to the moms as well as the children. The Oakwood family, along with others in the community, provides donations of clothing, food and money to keep this ministry moving forward.



Currently, this ministry opens once a month, typically on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, for any single mom in need. ***We have now added a small food pantry of non-perishables for the moms as well.*** Your continued donations of new or gently worn clothes and non-perishable foods are greatly appreciated. Donations can be left on the screened area in the back of the gray house. There are bins provided along with tax deductible forms. If you are aware of a single mom that could benefit from this ministry, please have them contact the church office. Please pray that we can continue to reach people in this ministry and show the hands and feet of the Lord to those who come through the door of the gray house.

## Compassion Offering

We will collect a Compassion Offering in the Worship service on May 20. These funds are primarily used to meet the special financial burdens faced by those within the Oakwood Church family.



## Community Group Olympics

Our 2nd Annual Community Group Olympics proved to be a night of fun and laughter. The evening included mental games (trivia about Moses, figuring out word pictures and logo recognition) and physical games (dangling doughnuts, bouncing ping pong balls, a marshmallow catch and passing Life Savers with toothpicks)!





## PowerHouse Schedule

May 13—*Mother's Day*—No Youth Group Meeting

May 20—*Grad Olympics*

May 27—*Regular Youth Group Meeting*—*A Powerful Death (Samson)*

June 3—*Regular Youth Group Meeting*—*Risk and Grace (Rahab)*

June 10—*School is OUT Party!*

## Party!

# School's Out Party

**Sunday, June 10**

**For all Middle &  
High School Students**

**Don't miss it!**

## PH Food Bag Fundraisers

PowerHouse teens can raise money for summer mission/conference trips by participating in our monthly Food Bag Fundraisers typically on the third Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag Prep fundraiser is **Sunday, May 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, May 18. Meet at the Save-A-Lot on Bearss Ave at 5:00 PM if you want to help. For more details contact Sandy Clarke at 931-0668.

## Food Bag Delivery Drivers Needed

Our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland and Haines City. We are in need of people who can help with delivery of these food bags, especially to Lakeland and Haines City. The food bags are usually assembled on the third Sunday of each month, and need to be delivered on the Monday or Tuesday following assembly.

If you can help with delivery or would like more information, please contact Sandy Clarke at 813-931-0668.



## Your Gift or Mine? - Pt 3

Kirsetin K. Morello

In the last two issues of the *ACORN*, we looked at:

### Start at the Beginning

- *Begin with prayer.*
- *Be receptive.*
- *Analytical assessments.*
- *Share your insight*
- *Encourage one another*

If you missed these, you can read them on our website.

**Schedule Your Time and Prioritize.** We moved forward and began to use our spiritual gifts, but it wasn't all peace, joy, and love. My husband and I ran into more than a few scheduling snafus along the way. Our calendars exploded with social, personal, and volunteer commitments. We had one too many arguments that revolved around "But I didn't know you'd agreed to do that today!" While any type of miscommunication can cause discord, there's a twist when the argument involves a service commitment: When this happened, it was nearly impossible for me joyfully encourage my spouse. The key to clearing this hurdle, for us, was writing our commitments down and reviewing them together regularly.

As you look at your own calendar, you'll have to make decisions about when and where to serve. Although God calls us to serve others, he doesn't ask us to serve so often and for so long that we neglect other needs in our life. One way to make wise use of your resources is by prioritizing your commitments around your spiritual gifts. As difficult as it can be to say no to a request for help, remember that there is a season for everything. Although you're saying no now, God can use you to serve that ministry or person in another way, at

another time. Doing these two things—communicating our commitments and prioritizing service around our gifts—has been revolutionary for us. We haven't entirely avoided the "You have to go *where* tonight?" scenario, but we've made significant progress.

**Celebrate Your Differences.** Couples can also run into trouble when they don't understand how one another's gifts manifest in their daily interactions. One of my gifts is administration, which means, among other things, that I'm good at supervising projects. It would be fair to say that my husband doesn't always appreciate this gift, since my tendency is to try to supervise him as well.

Emerson Eggerichs, Ph.D., author of the national bestseller *Love and Respect*, and founder and President of Love and Respect Ministries, explains that we're all created uniquely and with different gifts. But what Dr. Emerson finds in his ministry is that "opposites attract and then opposite attack." For example, says Dr. Emerson, "If you have the gift of teaching you may come across as lecturing even though you're speaking out of your helping gift." Or "if your spouse has the gift of administration," he says, "you probably sometimes feel like they're being judgmental." Recognizing one another's spiritual gifts, and the potential pitfalls of your own, can help. "Once you understand your spiritual gifts," he explains, "it takes a tremendous weight off of misunderstanding."

The conclusion of this article will be in the next issue of *The ACORN*.

*[Editor's note – Oakwood has a Spiritual Gifts Assessment tool. Contact the office for more info.]*

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is a writer who lives  
in Michigan. She is  
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to Teach My Child  
About Media  
(Standard Publishing).

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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 - Mary-Lynn Reilly

**Office hours:**

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

**Worship:**

Sundays - 10:30 AM

**Our Elder Team**

Jose Cariaga—Chair  
 Pete Kluck  
 Paul Phair  
 Eric Pratt

**Our Deacon Team**

Nan Duncan  
 Arnie Mejias  
 Bob Mendenhall  
 Ray Ross  
 Ben Smith  
 Dave Young—Chair

**Calendar at a Glance**



**MAY**

May 6—Blood Pressure checks  
 May 13—*Mother’s Day*  
           No PowerHouse Meeting tonight  
 May 20—Compassion Offering  
           Congregational Meeting  
           PowerHouse Food Bag Fundraiser  
 May 28—*Memorial Day*—Church Office Closed



**JUNE**

June 2—Beach Fun Day & Baptism  
 June 3—Graduate Recognition  
           Blood Pressure checks following Worship  
 June 10—Move Up Sunday  
           GroupLink  
           Board Meeting  
           PowerHouse School’s Out Party  
 June 15—*Men of Honor*—Men’s Fellowship  
 June 17—*Father’s Day*

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... |
|----------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| May 18   | May 23           | May 26—June 8               |
| June 1   | June 6           | June 9—June 22              |

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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