

the Oakwood ACORN

A Chronicle Of our News

Seeds for Growth

Random Thoughts

As I sit here at my desk on Monday morning, I am pondering much of the message we heard on Sunday from Craig Clendinen out of Mark 5. Craig and I have been talking about this for a while but it burned in me anew to hear stories of radical transformation along with the story in the passage of the demon possessed man. Those of us scheduled to go to Angola prison have seen the videos shown during his message. But, again, it is so assuring that God is still moving in men’s (and women’s) hearts. One of the key challenges made last Sunday was about our focus. After Jesus called out the evil spirits from the man in the story, He sent them into a herd of pigs. The pigs then ran headlong off a cliff into a lake and subsequently drowned. Verses 16 & 17 are stunning in their perspective but after reading them again, I am thinking we are not much different. It reads, “Those who had seen what happened told the others about the demon-possessed man and the pigs. And when the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone.” *Had they become so accustomed to the way things were, they did not want their routine broken?* Here was a man who, at best, had been a nuisance and, at worst, a danger to the people. May it be that when we have an encounter with the God of the universe that we not focus on the cost to us but on the One who paid the ultimate price for us!

One of the ministries we are privileged to support locally is the Pregnancy Care Center. They offer a number of services to young mothers going through difficult times in their pregnancy. They offer pregnancy tests along with information related to abortion alternatives, STDs, childbirth classes, parenting classes, and post abortion counseling. As you may have seen at Christmas, OCC helps, along with other churches, with practical needs of diapers, clothing and other baby needs. This is the time of year PCC has their “Baby Bottle” drive to raise funds for operating the ministry. Beginning this Sunday, you can pick up a baby bottle in the Information Center and fill it with loose change. Once filled, you can bring it back to the Information Center. The bottles will be available through Father’s Day (June 19). We will get it to the Pregnancy Care Center via several in our church family who are volunteering their time at PCC. Thanks Nancy Ward and Lauren Fucarino for the time you put in with the women who come through the doors of PCC. Julie Minardi has also given some time in the past with this ministry. Please pick up a bottle (or two!) from the Information Center this Sunday. And, if you have your May Prayer Guide, you will be praying for this ministry on Friday, the 27th!



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Tampa FL 33618-5306
813.969.2303
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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Beach Baptism

We will have a baptismal service at Pass-a-Grille Beach (St. Petersburg) on Saturday, June 4, 4:00 PM.

If you desire to be baptized at the beach, please contact the Church Office by May 27. Information about baptism is available on our website at www.oakwoodfl.org – go to the “About Oakwood” tab, 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.

Watch for more details on directions and where we will meet at the beach.



Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, May 22, we will be having an OCC Family Meeting right after the 11:00 worship time. The meeting will begin at 12:30 PM and end no later than 1:15 PM. We also want to allow sufficient time for questions and comments from our church family. Childcare for infants to 5th Grade will be provided. Please help us plan adequately by registering your child(ren) at the TreeHouse Welcome Center or email Dave Dorsey at dave@oakwoodfl.org.



Memorial Day

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 30, in honor of Memorial Day - commemorating the men and women who have given their lives in service to our country.



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 if you are interested in volunteering your time.



Move Up Sunday

Move Up Sunday is June 12 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 5th Graders will be recognized during the Worship Services on June 12. They are welcome to join us in TreeHouse and PowerHouse throughout the summer.



May PowerHouse Schedule

Regular PowerHouse Sunday evening meetings are 5:00—7:00 PM

As the BUMP Trip to St. Louis draws closer the frequency of our training events will increase. We will have two afternoon training sessions in May.

Sunday, May 15 - Immediately after 11:00 AM service:

- Food Bag Preparation
- BUMP Training
- Band
- Regular evening meeting

Sunday, May 22 - Immediately after 2nd service, lunch and BUMP Training (*There are no food bags or band so we should be done by 2:00*).

Student out reach party—Survivor

Sunday, May 29 - Regular Evening Meeting

Please be in prayer for the Powerhouse youth ministry. On May 15 we will start a new message series (published by NavPress) that will address God's worldly mission and our role in it. We could also make use of a few world maps or globes. Please contact Doug Cress if you have something we could borrow (dcress@tampabay.rr.com).

Looking ahead—Fathers Day Rays Baseball Game Saturday June 18. Watch for details.



Graduate Recognition



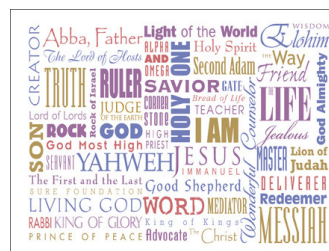
We would like to honor our graduates – whether from High School or College. Please loan us five or so pictures of your graduating student from infancy to graduation and a short bio of their future plans. These will be part of a graduation recognition video presentation on June 5. Pictures are due in to the Church Office no later than May 15. If you prefer, you may email them to marylynn@oakwoodfl.org or put them in the “Church Office” mail slot in the Worship Center kitchen. .

Team Tampa XII

Our Czech Team (Team Tampa XII) would like to send out updates and prayer requests for our team this year via a special email prayer chain. Would you be interested in being part of this prayer support team? If so, please submit your request to join this short-term special prayer chain to office@oakwoodfl.org or indicate this desire on the back of your Connection Card on Sunday.



Prayer 2011



Oakwood is focusing on prayer in 2011. During May, pray that our Oakwood church family will be encouraged as we meditate on some of the names of God and pray for one another. Copies

of the Prayer Guide are available on our website (www.oakwoodfl.org/ministries/prayer-ministry) and at the information center.

TreeHouse Summer Fun!!!

We've got some fun things planned this summer for the families of our TreeHouse kids!

As soon as school is out, we are planning a "Family Indoor Campout." **On Friday night, June 17,** you will be able to get your own "campsite" in TreeHouse and enjoy some great activities as a family. We planned to set up camp and have dinner on Friday night, then have some fun and games and "other" activities. We will spend the night here on campus and enjoy a "camping trip" breakfast on Saturday morning before we return to civilization. More details and a signup sheet will be coming in the next few weeks.

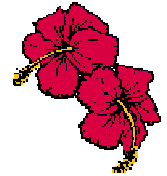


On July 8, we will be having a Game Night for all the 1st through 5th graders. You will be able to drop your kids off in TreeHouse and enjoy a date night (or a nice quiet evening) on us! While you are doing what you do(!?!), our kids will be having a blast with a night of planned activity. The time for this event will be 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.



Get prepared for July 22!! We are planning a Family Game Night. Some of our folks have been inspired by the game show, "Minute To Win It" so we have decided to have an Oakwood version of the same. I expect we will be laughing from the time we get here at 7 PM until we finish at 9PM.

Get ready to wear your best island garb as we are planning the first annual TreeHouse Luau on **August 12!** More details on that and the other dates will be coming in the next month.



Mark your calendar! Join us for some great fun!!

Seeds for Growth—*continued*

Several of us have been spending a lot of time discussing our future mission strategy and what we believe God is calling us to do long term in reaching our world for Jesus. In the mean time, we are doing something while we are discussing! Fourteen people are meeting weekly in preparation for our **12th trip** to the Czech Republic. Our student ministry is also preparing a group for ministry in inner city St. Louis during July. Rick and Brenda Smith just got back from two weeks in Liberia. Trisha Emerson went to Peru a couple of months ago. Sofia Noguera is going to inner city Miami this summer. Craig and Carolyn Clendinen (and family) leave at the end of June for Tanzania. It is encouraging to see how God is using us to reach other cultures!

It is hard to believe that we are so close to the end of the school year. I am sure some of us are planning for vacations and family trips. As you have heard me mention, I am having a blast in TreeHouse! It is so cool to see these kids get it (sometimes!) and hear them want to pray for some serious stuff. As we do every year, it would be great to give our regular teachers a rest for the summer. I am looking for some folks who will take either two or four week blocks in TreeHouse. We need people who will help with 2's and 3's, 4's and 5's, and 1st through 5th grade. We will provide the material and orientation you need. All we need is someone who will love these kids for a few weeks during the summer. Please contact me at the office or on Sunday morning. I will have the calendar and we will fit you in.

That's all I'm saying!

Dave Dorsey
Director of Ministries

Husband Appreciation Day

Ginger Kolbaba



Back in April, the U.S. celebrated Husband Appreciation Day, a time for wives to reflect on the various ways their spouses enrich their lives. I love the idea—especially since my husband does a ton of things for me, which too often I take for granted. Little things, such as taking care of the yard work, fixing leaky toilets, making me coffee in the mornings, holding doors open, watching *Dr. Phil* with me.

I was talking about this “holiday” with an acquaintance, when she said, “What about Wife Appreciation Day?”

“Um,” I said, taken aback by her snarky tone. “Wouldn’t that be Sweetest Day?”

She snorted in disgust.

“Mother’s Day?” I tried again.

“And *they* have Father’s Day,” she pointed out with a tight grin.

I could see our conversation was going nowhere.

I told her about my recent discussion with a pastor who spoke of the big difference between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. Mothers, he asserted, receive flowers, breakfasts in bed, and sermons about the blessing of having a wonderful mom. Fathers receive good meals, time to watch TV, and sermons about the huge responsibility of fatherhood and the importance of not messing it up.

As I relayed this conversation, I hoped she’d see my point—albeit subtle and slightly tangential—that husbands need kudos, too. They need to know their wives appreciate the way men carry such huge responsibilities.

That idea was a no go.

“Wives make huge sacrifices *every day*,” she continued. “We have responsibilities, too. Many women have a job outside the home *and* a full-time job inside the home.”

“I agree.”

“Where are my kudos?”

Seeing we weren’t going to agree, I changed the subject. But her words, especially about her give-to-get mentality, stuck with me. *How many times have I taken that stance in my marriage?* I wondered. (I can see my husband pointing to that question and nodding.) The idea is, *You do for me; I do for you. Equal. 50-50. 100-100. I appreciate you—so where’s my appreciation?*

It sounds right, fair, justifiable. Most women do the lion’s share of housework (statistics back this up, by the way). They’re saddled with most of the child-care issues and health care concerns and household duties and and and . . .

But when I, as a Christian, slip into the mentality of *I give, so you’d better pony up and do your fair share*, I do nothing to strengthen my marriage, or, frankly, my relationship with God.

The give-to-get argument doesn’t hold up against God’s standard for love. I shudder to think what would happen if God took that mentality with me. How could I possibly equal giving an only son to die a horrible death for an enemy? Even for a friend? I can never do enough to equal God’s blessings in my life. And yet, he keeps blessing—whether or not I reciprocate, and despite the unfairness. And God calls me to love my husband exactly as God loves me. No wonder marriage is for a lifetime. Sometimes I think that’s how long it will take for that realization to finally sink in.

So, understanding how self-centered and self-indulgent I can be, I asked God’s forgiveness for my give-to-get mentality. And I asked him to help me love my husband with God-love. Even without an official Wife Appreciation Day.



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Our Staff

Lead Pastor - Dr. Paul B. Phair
 Director of Ministries - Dave Dorsey
 Director of Worship Arts - Chris Lehmann
 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:

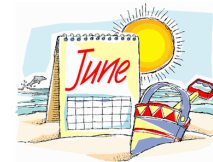
Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Calendar at a Glance



MAY

- May 15—Compassion Offering
 - Board Meeting
 - Youth Food Bag prep & BUMP Training
- May 22—Congregational Meeting following 11 AM Worship
 - BUMP training
 - Student Outreach Party—*Survivor*
- May 30—Memorial Day - Church Office closed



- June 4—Beach Baptism—Passe-a-Grille Beach
- June 5—Graduate Recognition
 - Blood Pressure checks
- June 12—Move Up Sunday
 - Board Meeting
- June 14—MISCOM Meeting
- June 17-18—TH Family Indoor campout
- June 19—*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. Article deadlines and publication schedule is:

Deadline	Publication date	News for dates including...
May 20	May 25	May 28—June 10
June 3	June 8	June 11—June 24

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

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