



ACORN

Seeds For Growth

Going to Prison and Serving

As many of you know, I had the honor of going to the Louisiana State Penitentiary (also known as Angola) this past weekend. Tom Raynor, Eric Pratt and Jeremy Davis and I were there as volunteers for the Returning Hearts Celebration put on by AWANA. Over 300 inmates had earned the privilege of spending the day with their kids or grandkids. It had the feel of any grade school carnival you can imagine. With face painting, bounce houses, games and concession stands, the dads and kids were able to enjoy about 6 hours of fun and interaction. Some of the time, the dads and kids just sat and talked. Many prayed together. Our role was as Family Assistants (chaperones) for the inmates and their kids.



The event is based on Malachi 4:6. “And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers.” The goal is for fathers to stay connected to their children even while incarcerated. These men are encouraged to have a spiritual impact that will break the cycle of imprisonment that can go from generation to generation. It was very humbling to see men who have committed horrible crimes now living a life that displays the grace of God. There is evidence of that grace everywhere at Angola.

At the end of the day, all the kids and dads are given a balloon. On a cue, all the balloons are released all at once. It is quite a sight to see close to 1000 balloons of different colors aloft. After that, it is time for the good-byes. For some, this will be the only time this year they will see their dad. There are little prayer huddles all over the field. Dads holding their kids and praying for them. It is hard to not be moved by the scene.



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Oakwood Community Church
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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 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 beginning at 2:30 PM through evening** (“come and go as you please”). The location is at Pass-a-Grille Beach (809 Gulf Way, St. Petersburg Beach).

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.

Directions:

Take 275 South to Exit 17 – SR 682 W/Pinellas Bayway/St. Pete Beach (note – some portions toll road).

Go 4.4 miles and turn left onto Gulf Boulevard/SR 699 S.

Go 1.6 miles and turn right onto 8th Ave.

We will be in the general area where 8th Ave. ends at the beach—near the Hurricane Restaurant and The Brass Monkey Restaurant. Look for the white Oakwood canopy/tent with the Oakwood sign attached. Bring quarters or credit card for the metered parking along Gulf Way.

A flier with details for our *Beach Fun & Baptism Day*, with a map and directions and specifically where we will meet at the beach, is available at the Information Center.



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!

The leaders of the new groups forming are:

Brian & Terri Johnson

Pete & Mary Ellen Kluck

The John & Kerri Schneider group also has room to add members. They meet in Temple Terrace on Friday nights.



Office Staff Change

Mary-Lynn Reilly is stepping down from serving as our part-time secretary. She has made an exceptional investment in that role for nearly nine years now. She has served Christ, Oakwood, and our staff, with devotion and great skill. This was more than a job for her, it was a ministry. In fact, during 2011, she volunteered and sacrificed a year's compensation to serve us all. We value her as a servant and a dear sister in Christ. How grateful we all are.

~ Your Elders & vocational ministry staff

Czech Team Offering

Team Tampa XIII

Oakwood Community Church and Candlewood Community Church will be sending our 13th team to teach at the English Camp sponsored by Brno Evangelical Fellowship this summer in the Czech Republic. We will be taking a special offering to help with expenses for this trip on Sunday, June 3.

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 prepare for their ministry at the camps.

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.



Blood Pressure checks

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



Worship Schedule Change

As we have done in the past, from June 17—September 2, we will have only one hour on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM—no education classes for Youth or Adults at 9:15 AM. There will be nursery care for children birth—24 months old and a full Tree-House Ministry for children two years old—5th Graders during this service.

Be sure to mark your calendar so you don't miss this change.



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.



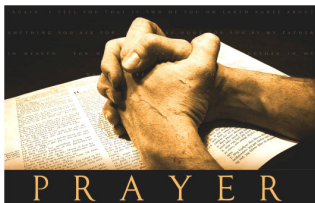
Move Up Sunday

Move Up Sunday is June 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 5th Graders will be recognized during the Worship Services on June 10. They are welcome to join us in TreeHouse and PowerHouse throughout the summer.

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. Watch for your June Prayer Guide coming soon.

Opportunity to *Serve The Church & World*

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 3rd 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.



Specific needs:

The food pantry is empty. Food donations are needed.

Boys shorts and shirts—sizes 10, 12, 14, 16 and larger

Seeds For Growth—continued

Two years ago, our own Craig Clendinen went to Angola and came back with a report of the place that I could not quite believe. But he talked me into going to see for myself. It is truly amazing to see how God has remade so many of these men and given them hope for the first time in their lives. Many are pursuing a Bible college degree set up by a seminary in New Orleans. They will graduate and become inmate pastors. Some have even requested transfers to other jails or prisons to do missionary work and church planting in the prisons. I am looking forward to serving these men and children again next year.

In talking about serving, have you been keeping up with the May Prayer Guide? Interestingly, this week, we are looking at Luke 10:25-37. This is the story of the Good Samaritan. The question being asked is “How can I serve those closest to me?” Verse 33 in that passage is a real challenge. It says that “a Samaritan, ***as he journeyed***, came to where he (the beaten man) was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.” Just as he was going about his business, the opportunity was right in front of him. In the pace of life, I probably miss some of these “divine interruptions.” Lord, please help me to have your eyes and see the occasions to bless someone along the way. It is not too late to pick up a May Prayer Guide in the Information Center. I will have more about compassion and how we can make a difference in the North Tampa area my next ACORN article.

That’s all I’m saying today.

Dave Dorsey
Director of Ministries



PowerHouse Schedule

- May 27—Regular Youth Group Meeting—*A Powerful Death (Samson)***
June 3—Regular Youth Group Meeting—*Risk and Grace (Rahab)*
June 9—Youth Work Day Outreach—*check with Mary Ellen Kluck for details*
June 10—School is OUT Party!
June 17—Bring Your Dad to Youth Group Meeting—*In Honor of Father's Day*
June 24—Extended Activity Night—5:00—8:30 PM—*Activity TBD*
July 1—NO Youth Group Meeting—*Challenge Team in New Orleans*

Party!

School's Out Party

Sunday, June 10

For all Middle &
High School Students

Annual Slip & Slide Party and
Water Balloon War

Bring a bathing suit and towel
(and maybe some dry clothes!)

Don't miss it!

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.

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, June 24**, 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, June 22. 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.



Your Gift or Mine? - Pt 4

Kirsetin K. Morello

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

Start at the Beginning

- *Begin with prayer.*
- *Be receptive.*
- *Analytical assessments.*

Share your insight

Encourage one another

Schedule Your Time and Prioritize

Celebrate Your Differences

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

Show interest. One night during our first two years of marriage, I enjoyed a spicy bowl of Pasta Puttanesca at our favorite Italian restaurant while my husband and I traded stories about the week. An older couple sat quietly nearby. As newlyweds, we didn't understand how they could spend their entire meal staring off into space. Twenty years later, I know it's not so hard, through the years, for couples to fall prey to the danger of living separate lives under the same roof. Staying close takes work.

One way you can continue to connect with your spouse over time is to share with one another your spiritual challenges and the growth that comes from using your gifts. Whether you indulge in long conversations, or simply come alongside to watch your spouse serve,

you can add immeasurable depth to your marriage by sharing these experiences. You'll also ensure that you'll have plenty to talk about at the dinner table!

I can't say that my husband and I discovered our spiritual gifts and served happily ever after. Using our gifts also presented us with challenges. My patience was often tested when volunteers were lax about showing up for events I planned or meetings I scheduled. My husband and I clashed more than once regarding his gift giving. But these challenges gave us opportunities to mature in our faith, a journey that continues today. When we use our spiritual gifts, we can choose to "let the Holy Spirit guide your lives" (Galatians 5:16). In doing so, we move toward producing "this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). I can't think of more beautiful attributes for a partner in any marriage.

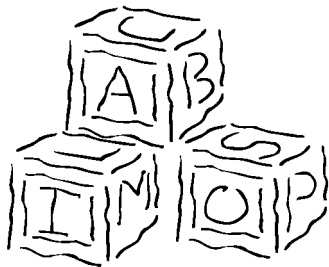
Kirsetin K. Morello is a writer who lives in Michigan. She is the author of [I Want to Teach My Child About Media](#) (Standard Publishing).

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

Kids Corner

Play an
A-B-C
Game



Number of players:
1 to?
Equipment: none!

As you travel by car or train or bus look out of the window. The object is to find all the letters of the alphabet in order, starting with A. Find them on signs, license plates, trucks, anywhere! The first player to find them all wins. Or work together just for fun!

Another ABC game to play is to find things that begin with each letter. Find things created by God or made by people through God's guiding hands!



"We Remember Parents"

In spring and summer, we remember mothers and fathers with special days. Find the parents of these Biblical children. Check the verses given for help.

Joash (2 Kings 11:2)	A	----
Obed (Matthew 1:5)	B	----
Joseph (Genesis 35:22-24)	C	----
John-the disciple (Matthew 4:21)	D	----
John the Baptist (Luke 1:13)	E	----
	F	----
Lo-Ruhamah (Hosea 1:6)	G	----
Jezreel (Hosea 1:4)	H	----
Esau (Genesis 25:28)	I	----
David (1 Samuel 16:19)	J	----
Jacob (Genesis 25:28)	K	----
Samuel (1 Samuel 1:19-20)	L	----
Gershom (Exodus 2:21-22)	M	----
Samuel (1 Samuel 1:19-20)	N	----
Jesse (Matthew 1:5)	O	----
Gershom (Exodus 2:21-22)	P	----
	Q	----
Joseph (Genesis 35:23-24)	R	----
Isaac (Genesis 21:3)	S	----
John the Baptist (Luke 1:13) ...	T	----
Jonathan (1 Samuel 14:1)	U	----
Solomon (1 Kings 2:1)	V	----
	W	----
	X	----
Jesus (Matthew 1:18)	Y	----
James (Matthew 4:21)	Z	----



Alhaziah, Boaz, Jacob, Zebede, Zechariah, Gomer, Hosea, Isaac, Jesse, Rebekah, Elkanah, Moses, Hannah, Obed, Zipporah, Rachel, Sarah, Elizabeth, Saul, David, Mary, Zebede



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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

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 28—*Memorial Day*—Church Office Closed



JUNE

June 2—Beach Fun Day & Baptism
 June 3—Graduate Recognition
 Special Czech Team offering
 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

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...
June 1	June 6	June 9—June 22
June 15	June 20	June 23—July 6

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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