

# the Oakwood ACORN

A Chronicle Of our News

## Seeds for Growth

### Random Thoughts

I am sitting at my desk trying to think of what to say to my family and am having a difficult time. Earlier this week, I was pounded by a friend. Difficult for me to hear. As our Community Group is going through Proverbs, I have been thinking much about the importance of words and the impact they have. This “sticks and stones” thing is a huge lie. Being an extrovert, I have had more than my share of problems with the “tongue.” I have said things in times past that I have regretted and apologized for. I have also tried to say the right things at the right time to encourage someone along the way. Proverbs 15 is full of verses that have challenged so many times and continue to be what I set as a goal. 15:1 says “a gentle response defuses anger, but a sharp tongue kindles a temper-fire.” 15:4 says “kind words heal and help; cutting words wound and maim.” I have experienced both this week. Proverbs 18:21 is probably the most challenging verse for me. The Message paraphrase is the most blunt way to put it, “Words kill, words give life; they’re either poison or fruit—you choose.” Words aren’t wasted. Words matter. Words hit the target directly. The effect is like being kicked in the knee when we are limping or being bolstered to help us keep walking. Of course, what comes out of our mouth is the overflow of the heart. Jesus said that in Matthew 12. I guess, in order to change my speech, I need a constant check on my heart. May Psalm 19:14 be my prayer today and tomorrow and every day.

As most of you know, Craig and Carlyne Clendinen are leaving for Tanzania at the end of this month. While it is exciting to launch out another one of our own to the mission field, it is not without some bittersweet emotions. Most of you may not know that Craig has had an office in the Oakwood office suite. I have really appreciated the conversation and encouragement from Craig this last year. We have prayed together about the trips to China and other parts of the world. It was his enthusiastic reaction to being at Angola Prison last year that got me fired up about going this year and taking along some guys from Oakwood. Carlyne has been a help to me in TreeHouse as well. And I will miss the two little cuties! Thanks Ariana and Anissa for being a part of TreeHouse. I will miss you guys.

I have also had the privilege of being a teammate with Chris Lehmann. Chris, thanks for the incredible encouragement this past 16 months. The challenge to read and understand more about who God is and how to be more effective in ministry has been a blast. Thanks for your heart for God. Thanks also for rubbing it in when you got your Kindle! Us old school guys will still keep buying books the old fashion way or until Terry Rexroad convinces me to get an iPad. May you and Shannon (and Taylor and Connor!) be blessed in South Carolina.

That’s all I am saying today.



Dave Dorsey  
Director of Ministries

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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.



### Inside this issue:

TreeHouse Volunteers	2
Move Up Sunday	3
Beach Baptism	3
Worship Leadership	4
PowerHouse News	5
Prayer	5
TreeHouse News	6
Kids Corner	7
Marriage Matters	8
Calendar at a Glance	9

## TreeHouse Volunteers needed

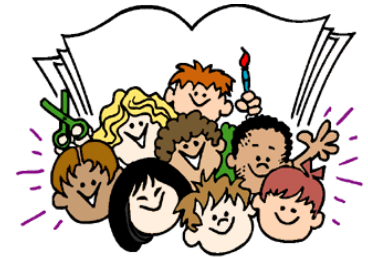


As we have mentioned in the worship program the last few weeks, we are in need of volunteers for the summer in TreeHouse. The current staff, which has worked hard during the school year, has earned a rest for the summer. The needs are for both service times on June 19 & 26 and August 7, 14 & 21. We will only have one service during the month of July, so a smaller crew of volunteers will be needed then. This Sunday, if you would like to get a taste of what we do in TreeHouse before committing, we would welcome you to come and see. There is a lot going on!

**During the 9:30 AM service**, the 2's through 4's are given the opportunity to play and a short lesson is presented about how God loves them and makes them special. If the weather permits, these little ones can go out to the playground. We need two adults that have the heart (and energy!) to play with these kids and let them hear about the Lord.

The next age group in the 9:30 AM service is the 5 year olds through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. We provide a more structured time for these kids as we begin to teach some more about the Bible, including stories of the main characters of Scripture. We need two adults (or one adult and one teen) who want to teach these kids more about the Bible.

**At 11:00 AM**, the full TreeHouse program is in place and we have a slightly different age break based on the number of kids. All of these groups have curriculum available at their age level. There are some suggested creative ideas for the kids to do or make and take home but volunteers are encouraged to be as creative as they desire.



The 2's and 3's have a fun time playing both in their room and on the playground, weather permitting. They also have a time to learn about how God loves them and how they are made uniquely. Again, we need two adults who love kids this age and are willing to get down to their level.

This summer, the 4's and 5's will be learning things from the Bible about sharing, obeying and not complaining! Two adults (or one adult and one teen) are needed here as well. The curriculum for this group is from Elevate Jr. and uses a DVD to teach the lesson creatively. There is a mix of DVD and activities that reinforce a single message to these kids. It is great for anyone who may be feeling a bit tentative about teaching or leading a group of kids.

The 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders have a different experience than any other group in TreeHouse during the 11 AM service time. We start in small groups of 4-6 kids for a review of the previous week's lesson and Bible verse. This is for 5-10 minutes. Then we all go into our "large" group time together. We have a worship time similar to what the parents are doing. We use some video to help with the lesson but we also do some creative things to get the kids involved in the story. This Sunday, we plan to teach on the Spiritual Armor of God so I expect we will have at least one of our kids looking like a Roman soldier! We also sing songs and have an offering and hear a message. The small group leaders are there to sit with the kids in their small group. After our time in large group, we break up into our small groups again for about 10-15 minutes to review the lesson and go over the verse for the day. We may also do an activity or craft that reinforces the lesson of the day. So the investment for the small group leader in the kids is about 15-20 minutes for the Sunday morning. Small group lesson plans are provided and a suggested activity is also part of the plan. We will be looking at the "The Biggest Battles of the Bible" this summer. We need 4 adults to serve as small group leaders. I would also like to have 1-2 adults to teach the large group lesson. Again, the lesson is provided and creativity encouraged!

Please consider helping us this summer in TreeHouse. If you see yourself in one of these roles or think God may be trying to stretch you in ministry, please contact Dave Dorsey in the church or e-mail at [dave@oakwoodfl.org](mailto:dave@oakwoodfl.org). Thanks for blessing our kids and the volunteers that have worked so hard this year.

## Move Up Sunday

Move Up Sunday is this Sunday, 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 5<sup>th</sup> Graders will be recognized during the 11:00 AM Worship Service on June 12. They are welcome to join us in TreeHouse and PowerHouse throughout the summer.



PROMOTION SUNDAY

## Clendinen Farewell



The Clendinens would like to thank all our friends at Oakwood who gave to the Tanzanian offering on May 8. All together, the church contributed over \$2000 to the set up account! What an incredible blessing you have been to our family.

Please join Craig, Carolyn, Anissa and Ariana Clendinen on **Sunday June 26, 2011** at 1:00 PM in **PowerHouse** to wish them farewell as they will be departing for Tanzania three days later. The Clendinens are hoping to see many special friends at this event! A lunch will be served (buffet style) so please RSVP to ensure a proper head count. There is no charge for the lunch as it is being provided by a generous couple who have worked to advance the kingdom of God for many years. Your presence will be a great blessing to the Clendinens as they prepare to set out on a new adventure serving the Lord in Africa. Come anytime between 1pm and 3pm.

RSVP to Craig at [craig\\_clendinen@sil.org](mailto:craig_clendinen@sil.org) or 813-240-0319

## Beach Baptism

What a blessing for the Oakwood family to gather at Pass-a-Grille Beach on Saturday, June 4, for the baptism of three of our church family members—Mark Giannone, one of our teens who has grown up at Oakwood and accepted Christ as a child, and Tammy Bryant and Roy Smith, who both came to know Christ as Savior through The Network, our ministry to young single adults.



L-R: Tammy Bryant, Roy Smith, Paul Phair, Mark Giannone

## Worship Leadership

“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. ... It is the ... Spirit who distributes all these gifts. The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ” (1 Corinthians 12:7-12, NLT).

Your elders are the process of determining a long range means of providing leadership to Oakwood’s worship services. In the meantime, we are delighted in God’s provision of a transitional *Worship Arts Leadership Team* (WALT). Chris Lehmann will be finalizing worship plans for worship services through July. The WALT team will be planning and guiding our worship services from August through October. Our six person team is composed of Jason Beale, Trisha Emerson, Jill Pratt, Andrew Reilly, Rick Smith and Brit White. We are so encouraged to have such a fine team. In addition to the WALT team, we have segmented the many roles of our full time Director of Worship into smaller units so that we can begin recruiting others to take on smaller, yet vitally important tasks.

Andrew Reilly is energized to accept the *volunteer* point leadership role of this team. Andrew’s expanded voluntary leadership role was spontaneously conceived from within a large gathering of worship arts servants. We all sensed God speaking through this group to affirm directly to Andrew that he has the heart and skills for worship leadership. Coupled with their encouragement to Andrew was their challenge to him to be open to expanding his servant-leadership role in worship arts at Oakwood. With prayer and discussion the elders affirmed this direction and so too has Andrew. Awesome! We have so many gifted and devoted worship servants. This is also true for so many other valuable ministries at Oakwood. We are experiencing the reality of God’s Spirit’s distribution of gifts within His church body at Oakwood to so many people – step back and think about it and you’ll be moved to praise our Lord.

During our transition period, we will be simplifying some elements of our worship music. We will all need to be especially flexible during this time. Our flexibility is required in light of three key factors: 1. Our having lost a couple of instrumentalists, 2. We had already pre-planned to give some of our volunteer worship staff a summer break, and 3. Some of our worship team members will be representing us in ministry within the Czech Republic for a couple of weeks in July.

Let’s elevate our authentic expressions of gratitude for those who lead us in worship including singers, instrumentalists and technicians. Let us also remember that worship is not so much a state of the art as it is a state of the heart. “May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,” Romans 15:5-6 (NLT). Let’s focus our humble, joyful and even enthusiastic worship upon our Lord; and may we do so in loving unity as brothers and sisters in His family.

~ Pastor Paul on behalf of Dave Dorsey & your entire elder team

## Summer Schedule



With summer vacations and travels, we will be modifying our current worship service schedule for the month of July. Beginning July 3 and going for the whole month, we will be having **one** Worship Service on Sunday morning at 10:00. If volunteers are in place, we will have a full TreeHouse ministry during this service.

Again, mark your calendars for 10:00 AM beginning July 3.



## June PowerHouse Schedule

### Sunday, June 12—BUMP training

Move Up Sunday  
Food Bag Prep  
School's Out Party - Slip and Slide, Water Balloons and Mud Wars. Students should bring appropriate clothing, a towel and a change of clothing!

### Saturday, June 18—Baseball Outing

### Sunday, June 19—Father's Day—No Youth Group

### Sunday, June 26—BUMP Training

Regular Evening Meeting + Summer Activity



**Fathers Day Rays Baseball Game**, Saturday June 18, Rays vs. Marlins @ 7:10 PM. Tickets are Upper Deck—\$15 each. Everyone is invited. If you are interested in attending, please sign up at the Information Center. We will purchase the tickets as a group. Questions? Contact Cam Whipple @ 813-265-9895 or [bayareashutters@aol.com](mailto:bayareashutters@aol.com).

Deadline to register and pay is this Sunday, June 12.

## New Website

Oakwood's website has a whole new look. Check us out at [www.oakwoodfl.org](http://www.oakwoodfl.org). What can you find on our site?

- Service times & directions, Listen to past messages, Meet the Staff, What we believe, Online Giving—**NEW FEATURE**, Oakwood Directory (we must have your email address in our system to access this info)\*, Your personal Giving Statement (we must have your email address in our system to access this info)\*



**\*Oakwood directory - online.** You can access the Oakwood Directory from our website by clicking “Member Login” under the “Directory and Your Giving History” heading on the Home Page. You will have access to your personal records, including your Giving Statement, and you can search the Oakwood directory for addresses and phone numbers. If you can't log in, we don't have your email address in our system. Please contact the church office ([office@oakwoodfl.org](mailto:office@oakwoodfl.org)) with your current email address and we will update your records so you can log in.

## 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](mailto: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. Did you know that you can use your hand to help you remember what to pray for? Pick up a copy of our June Prayer Guide from the Information Center and find out how.

## TreeHouse Summer Fun!!!

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

# TreeHouse Family Camp In

All family members welcome!

Friday June 17, 6:30 PM — Saturday, June 18, 10:00 AM

We'll be camping inside TreeHouse

**Registration Deadline—Sunday, June 12**



### Do Bring

A tent (let us know if you need one)  
Sleeping bags & pillows  
Battery powered lanterns  
and/or flashlights



### Fun



Scavenger Hunt  
Campfire Stories  
Night Hike  
Much more...

### Grub

Smokey's Hot Dog Dinner  
Campfire Smores  
Sunrise Pancake Breakfast



### Cost

\$20 per family campsite  
\$25 for premium campsite (incl private bath)

### Don't Bring

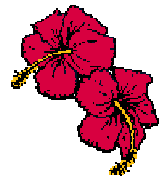
Electronics of any kind  
Propane lanterns  
Bad attitudes

Please sign up at the TreeHouse Welcome Station  
or at the Information Center in the lobby.  
Got questions? Contact Sandy Wyatt @ 813-960-8168

**On July 8**, we will be having a Game Night for all the 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> 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. We will be laughing from the time we get here at 7 PM until we finish at 9 PM.



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 soon.

# Kids Corner

## Make a Fruity Treat



Make this delicious dip to share with your family and friends.

### You will need:

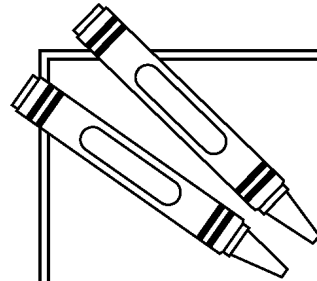
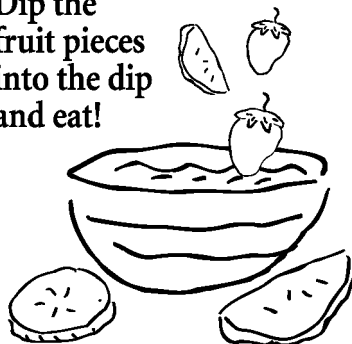
- small bowl
- spoon
- wire whisk
- cutting board
- knife
- 8-ounce carton of orange yogurt
- 1/2 of an 8-ounce package of pineapple-flavored soft cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- variety of fruits



### How to make the treats:

- Put yogurt, cream cheese and sugar in bowl.
- Mix with whisk until smooth.
- Cut fruit into pieces. (Ask an adult to help with the knife.)

Dip the fruit pieces into the dip and eat!



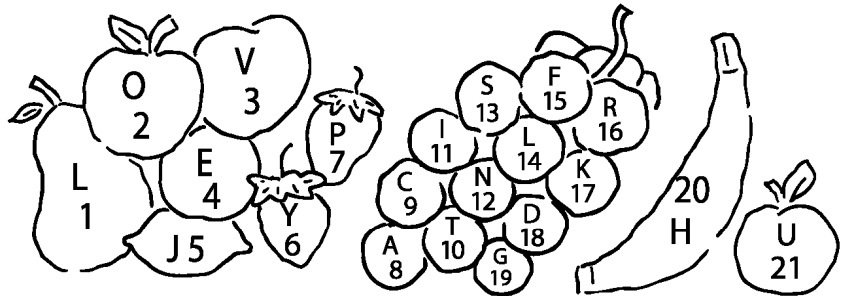
# Just for KIDS

## Fruit of the Spirit

In the summer we watch flowers, vegetables and fruit grow from tiny seeds and buds. That is also how we grow as children of God – from tiny beings. And as we grow, we need to grow “fruit of the Spirit.” In Galatians 5:22-23 we read about those “fruit of the Spirit.”

*Find the “fruit of the Spirit.”*

*Write the letter from each fruit onto the numbered lines below.*



1 2 3 4  
 5 2 6  
 7 4 8 9 4  
 7 8 10 11 4 12 9 4  
 13 4 14 15 9 2 12 10 16 2 1  
 17 11 12 18 12 4 13 13  
 19 2 2 18 12 4 13 13  
 15 8 11 10 20 15 21 14 12 4 13 13  
 19 4 12 10 14 4 12 4 13 13

Answers: love, joy, peace, patience, self-control, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness.

## For Better or For Worse By Ginger Kolbaba

*Two couples who have faced tragic, unforeseen circumstances—together.*



### Sherrill Babb On Commitment Challenges:

“Be upset at the disease, not the person. Keep focused on your spouse, not on the issues you face.”

### Blessings:

“Tragedies can actually bring you closer. There’s truth to the Scripture that says, ‘God works all things together for the good.’

“I’ve learned how to face unpleasant physical problems by watching Linda’s patient, non-complaining attitude. After one particularly harsh episode, when she discovered how I’d taken care of her, her first words to me were, ‘Thank you. I love you.’ How do you experience that without commitment?”

### Part 2—When Disease Strikes.

Sherrill and Linda Babb

Married: June 30, 1963

Hometown: Langhorne, Pennsylvania

Children: 2 daughters, 1 son

It started with a tingling sensation in her feet and legs when she played tennis. Then several years later, Linda Babb was driving when she went blind in one eye. Her physician gave the grave diagnosis: multiple sclerosis.

Linda was 34; she and her husband, Sherrill, had been married 13 years.

“We were shattered,” says Sherrill. “While I knew her diagnosis was bad news, we really didn’t understand what the disease was and how it could strike out of nowhere.”

Last June, Sherrill and Linda celebrated their 41st anniversary. Twenty-nine of those years have been lived under the dark shadow of multiple sclerosis (MS).

They’ve discovered that this progressive degenerative disease specializes in change. Within several weeks of her diagnosis, Linda’s entire right side was paralyzed. “We’re always facing a new challenge,” says Sherrill. “It isn’t something you slip into. It pops up unexpectedly.”

MS reared its ugly head again on Friday, January 31, 2003—Linda’s birthday. Because of her weakened condition, they’d decided to postpone the festivities and eat a quiet candle-light dinner at home.

While they were enjoying their meal, Linda stopped breathing. Sherrill called 911 and attempted unsuccessfully to revive her.

Fortunately, she survived, but has endured a similar episode since. And other problems continue: Linda is confined to a wheelchair and uses a breathing apparatus that doesn’t allow her to talk clearly.

“MS affects Linda’s body, but not who she is,” says Sherrill. “She’s still the woman I love.” A few weeks ago, he put on a Barry White CD of love songs and they danced—Linda in her wheelchair.

As much as possible Linda travels with Sherrill, whether it’s for his work as president of Philadelphia Biblical University, or to his swim meets. (Sherrill began swimming several years ago to build the upper-body strength he needs to physically support Linda.)

“If I ask her to go, she always says yes,” says Sherrill.

The travel is work for them, as they have to take a ventilator and all the medical equipment she needs. “Some people may wonder, *Isn’t that a bit too much?* I say, ‘No, because she’s there with me,’” says Sherrill. “It’s worth the extra effort, because we enjoy being together.”

It may look as though Sherrill is the one doing all the giving and Linda is doing all the receiving. “That’s not it at all,” says Sherrill. “Linda is my companion, my friend, my supporter. I’m dependent on her as a source of encouragement. The fact that she travels with me—even when she can’t do everything or may not feel completely up to it—shows me she loves me, that she’s committed to me.

“Linda’s disease has taught us a number of things about loyalty and commitment,” says Sherrill. “We’ve learned that prayer is our primary resource. We’ve learned that life is fragile. And we’ve learned that the best way to handle anything is to handle it together. If, through marriage, God makes two people one, then it wasn’t just Linda who was diagnosed with the disease. We both were.

“I’ve always believed that God brought us together. So God’s plan is for me to support her and help her.

“God’s allowed this to happen to us to bring us closer to each other and to him. And we are. We hope we’re modeling to others what will work in their lives. Our loyalty is a legacy to our children.”

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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**



- June 12—Move Up Sunday  
PH School's Out Party
- June 14—MISCOM Meeting
- June 17-18—TreeHouse Family Camp IN

- June 18—Father's Day Rays Baseball Game
- June 19—*Father's Day*  
Deacon Installation  
Compassion Offering
- June 26—Clendinen Farewell Luncheon

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...
June 17	June 22	June 25—July 8
July 1	July 6	July 9—July 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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