



ACORN

Seeds For Growth

Who's On Your Throne?

If you know God through personal trust in Jesus Christ – then you have God, the Holy Spirit living within you. Jesus sent Him to you to be your “Helper” to guide and empower you to live a life that honors God and enriches other people. The question I ask you is, to what extent are you (and I) allowing Him to do this on your life? A couple of Sunday’s ago I presented a very important message on this from Ephesians 5:18-20. If you were unable to be present for it, I urge you to listen to it on our web site at www.oakwoodfl.org/messages. The password is *occtree*. The message title is *The Spirit’s Transforming Power*.

Bill Bright provides us all with a helpful illustration that I am adapting slightly. Every person has a throne within them that gives direction and influencing power to their life. The one who sits on the throne is either *Sinful Self* or *God’s Holy Spirit*. The one we permit to sit on that throne exercises a powerful influence that is either destructive or healthy for our own beings, and our relationships with God and others (Galatians 5:13-26). The apostle Paul commands authentic Christ-followers, to continually allow God’s Holy Spirit to be on that throne. Paul calls that being continually filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

How do we put God’s Holy Spirit onto our throne? First we must trust Jesus to forgive us our failings (sin) and to come into our lives to lead and empower us through His Holy Spirit. Secondly, for those of us who have become God’s children, yet we have chosen to allow our sinful selves to re-take the throne of our lives, we need to confess our recent sins and re-invite God’s Holy Spirit to freshly direct and empower us. Once we’ve done those two things, then we need to daily and sometimes by the hour, continually confess and re-appropriate God’s ruling presence and power within our lives.

Jesus didn’t leave this earth saying, “You now have all my commands. I’m expecting a lot from you. Good luck to you, you’ll need it!” No, He sent into the life of every one of His followers, the presence and power of His Holy Spirit to guide and empower us. Therefore, let us continually welcome Him onto the throne of our lives and see the transforming difference He makes!



~ Pastor Paul

Oakwood Community Church
 11209 Casey Rd
 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.



Inside this issue:	
GroupLink	2
Summer Schedule	2
Men's Event	2
OCC Updates	2-4
Beach Baptism	5
PowerHouse News	6
Marriage Matters	7
Kids Corner	8
Calendar at a Glance	9

GroupLink

GroupLink Sunday

This 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!* 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 (estimated start date –June 18)

Pete & Mary Ellen Kluck (estimated start date—early September)

John & Kerri Schneider (Summer dates—July 13 & 27, Fall Launch—August 17)



Worship Schedule Change

In response to our recent survey, 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 TreeHouse Ministry for children two years old—5th Graders during this service.

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



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.

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.





Grateful for Missions Commission

Oakwood continues to progress in strengthening our strategic mission process we call, Love God → Grow in Community & → Serve the Church & the World. We are nearing the completion of forming what we are calling Oakwood's *Serve the World Commission* (StW). This commission is comprised of four teams: Missions, Local Evangelism Outreach (LEO), Compassion in Action, & Help a Family.

As we prepare to advance our vision further of *Expanding our Territory, Together*, we express our gratefulness to our recent past Missions Commission members and those who preceded them. The most recent devoted individuals of this former commission are: Maria Cariaga, Margaret Reifsnnyder (our faithful chair for many years), David and Mary-Lynn Reilly, and John Saunders. They have lovingly served our Lord with the goal to guide, inform, and assist all of us to be active participants in our regional and global Great Commission endeavors. We publicly express to them our gratitude.

~ On behalf of all of us at Oakwood, your elders & vocational ministry staff.



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.

Recycle Bin at Oakwood

Did you know that your newspapers, magazines, junk mail, etc., can earn money for Oakwood? Because of your generous donations, we have already gotten over \$300!

Collect your recyclable items during the week and bring them when you come to church and drop them in the blue Mixed Paper Recycling Bin. Please break down any boxes to help conserve room in the bin. Thanks for doing your part to help earn extra funds for Oakwood.



Acceptable items:

Newspaper & inserts, phone books, white paper, colored paper, glossy paper (without food residue), junk mail & envelopes, catalogs & magazines, cereal & cake mix boxes (liners removed), computer & plain fax paper, NCR paper, paper reams wrappers, construction art paper (less than 50% painted), paper egg cartons, non-metallic gift wrap and greeting cards, manila folders, hanging files, shredded paper, paper bags, self-stick notes, paperback books, frozen food boxes/cartons (no food residue), shoe or clothing boxes, store receipts, thermal fax paper or carbon paper, hardback books, tyvek mailing envelopes, padded envelopes.

Not Acceptable items:

Food contaminated paper, plastic or foil; milk, soy, juice cartons or pouches; film plastic (e.g., plastic bags, bubble wrap); beverage cups, coffee cups, donut boxes, fast food cups, take out containers/wrappers, foam egg cartons, foil, food and candy wrappers, snack or potato chip bags, ice cream cartons, paper covered with paint or pet waste, pizza boxes, tissues, paper towels, paper plates.

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.



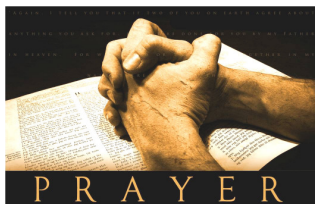
Specific needs:

The food pantry is empty. Food donations are needed.

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

Elder Led Prayer Time

The leadership of Oakwood laid out a vision plan that we can accomplish with the Lord's guidance. That guidance will come as we seek Him in prayer more diligently this year. The Elders are committed in leading us in this effort. **On Sunday, June 24**, there will be an Elder-led prayer time right after the morning worship service. The prayer time will last for 30 minutes and will be focused on the challenges of our goals for this year and next. Please join us as we ask God for great things and expect that He will answer.



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. **Beginning June 17, this prayer time will be at 10:00 AM in the Church Library.**

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

Beach Fun & Baptism Day

What a joyous occasion to celebrate with the Cress and Wyatt families with the baptism of Joseph Cress and Jack Wyatt at our Beach Fun Day on June 2. Joseph was baptized by Dave Dorsey and Jack was baptized by Edson Bustamante.

Joseph & Andrea Cress



Jack Wyatt



It was a beautiful day at the beach and a great time of fun and fellowship. Join us next year for this annual event.

You don't have to wait for this annual event to be baptized. 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.



PowerHouse Schedule

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 Ministry

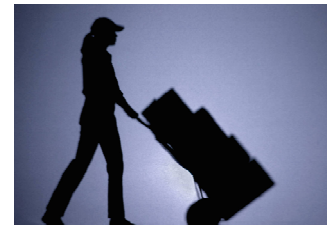
Did you know that our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven? These bags are distributed to indigent patients at the clinic to provide some basic food needs of the patients and their family.

PowerHouse teens can raise money for summer mission/conference trips by participating in our monthly Food Bag 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

Food Bag Delivery Drivers Needed

Our PowerHouse students have a monthly ministry assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and now we had added Winter Haven.



We are in need of people who can help with delivery of these food bags, especially to Lakeland, Haines City, and Winter Haven. 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.





The Purpose Drive Marriage - Pt 1

Rick Warren

I suppose you'd expect a man who's been married 30 years to a beautiful, intelligent woman would be able to share with you the intimate secrets to having a perfect marriage.

But I'm going to disappoint you! That's because my wife and I don't have a perfect marriage. Kay is without a doubt my best friend, and we have a wonderful relationship—but as far as a perfect marriage, well, there's no such thing.

What Kay and I do have is a marriage centered on Christ, specifically focused on glorifying God. We remain committed to each other because we remain committed to Christ and his work within us.

No easy road

After three decades in ministry, I've noticed that it's not unusual for couples to float through their first year or two of marriage in a love-blinded bliss.

But, frankly, that didn't happen for Kay and me. Our first two years together were the most difficult. In fact, we were ready to throw in the towel. If we both hadn't been committed to Jesus Christ and we both hadn't agreed that divorce was not an option, we wouldn't have stayed together. It was simply too difficult.

Kay even said that in those first few years of marriage, she often wished that one of two things would happen: either she'd be widowed, or God would change his mind and say divorce was now okay!

Since then, we've met many couples who were convinced their marital struggles meant there was no hope for healing. We can say from experience that's not true; there's always hope!

Part of the difficulty for Kay and me is that we were virtual strangers when we got married, but we began finding out things about each other immediately—like the fact that apart from our love for God, we were about as opposite in nature as two people could be.

We viewed life from two different angles and argued over just about everything. I remember Kay's father sat us down the night before we were married and said, "There are five areas where marriages usually have con-

flict: money, sex, in-laws, children, and communication."

He proved to be prophetic: Kay and I went five for five! We fought over every single one of those items.

Not only did we disagree over those things, we couldn't even agree about how to disagree! Kay is an intense person who needs to talk. My preferred method of dealing with problems was just to walk away. That was a volatile combination!

The single factor that kept us married in those early years was that we agreed on one thing: divorce would never be an option for us. You can't leave the door open even a little bit, or eventually one of you will try to escape.

Because we knew we were in it for the long haul, we were forced to accept each other's differences. What else were we going to do?

Slowly, over time, God helped us not only to accept our differences, but to appreciate them. Through the process we learned that any successful marriage is built upon the biblical truth that God designed each of us with five purposes in mind: worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and missions.

In other words, until you realize *you* were placed here for God's purposes, then your life—and your marriage—will be difficult, complicated, and exhausting. But once *you* understand God's plan, your life—and your marriage—take on new meaning.

And once you and your spouse *both* get this—when both of you are living purpose-driven lives—then guess what happens?

Your marriage becomes a purpose-driven marriage!

Watch for Part 2 in the next ACORN

Use these five biblical purposes to give direction to your marriage.

Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Southern California, is best-selling author of The Purpose-Driven Life (Zondervan).

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Kids Corner

Play "Who Am I?"

Play this acting game with your friends or in Sunday school class.

How to play:

1. Before you begin, agree on how many points are needed to win.
2. Choose a person from the Bible. Don't say who it is.
3. Without talking, act out something that your person did.
4. To discover who you are, the other players each ask you one question that can be answered "Yes" or "No."
5. The first person to guess the right answer gets 1 point. If no one gets it right, you get 1 point.
6. Take turns acting out parts until someone wins.



Just for KIDS
Old Testament Prophets

"Who Am I?"

Some Old Testament books are named after prophets. Discover the names of the prophets below. Use the clues to write the names on the lines. Arrange the circled letters on the bottom blanks to describe what a prophet is.

1. I was called to preach to the people of Ninevah, but I ran from God instead. *My book is number 32 in the Bible.*
I am _____○_____.
2. I spoke God's message when the temple was being built. *My book is number 37.*
I am _____○_____.
3. Israel's unfaithfulness to God is compared to my unfaithful wife. *My book is number 28.*
I am _____○_____.
4. My book predicts punishment for wickedness and promises comfort. *It is book 23.*
I am _____○_____.
5. I had dreams and visions. *My book is 27.*
I am _____○_____.
6. I was often in danger because of my predictions. I angered officials. *My book is 24.*
I am _____○_____○_____.
7. I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn to God and leave their selfish lives. *My book is 30.*
I am _____○_____.
8. *My book is 26 and contains descriptions of strange visions.*
I am _____○_____○_____.

Prophets are _____.

Answers: Jonah; Haggai; Hosea; Isaiah; Daniel; Jeremiah; Amos; Ezekiel. Messengers.



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www.oakwoodfl.org

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



June 10—Move Up Sunday
 GroupLink
 Board Meeting
 PowerHouse School’s Out Party
 June 12—PowerHouse Leaders Meeting
 June 15—*Men of Honor*—Men’s Fellowship

June 17—Summer Schedule Begins—Worship @ 10AM
Father’s Day
 Compassion Offering
 PowerHouse Bring Your Dad to Youth Group
 June 24—Czech Team Offering
 Elder led Prayer following Worship
 PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry

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 15	June 20	June 23—July 6
June 29	July 5	July 7—July 20

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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