

the Oakwood ACORN

A Chronicle Of our News

Seeds for Growth

This morning I prayed for Oakwood, following the pattern of Jesus’ prayer prior to His earthly departure. Several years ago I developed a simple outline of Jesus’ petition. I pasted it into my smart phone and pull it out now and again. It dawned on me today, that this is something I ought to urge us all to pray more purposefully as well. Will you join me in praying through this outline once a week (for approximately 3 months) – through September? Surely such prayers will hit the mark of God’s purposes for Oakwood too. So let’s pray earnestly for God to work in extra powerful ways in the upcoming months. ~ Pastor Paul

Praying Oakwood To It’s Potential

John 17

1st reflect upon entire chapter

1. Pray that believers & seekers would sense God's glory

John 17:22 - I have given them the glory you gave me. John 1 (beheld Jesus’ glory, full of grace & truth)

John 17:10b ... and you have given them back to me, so they are my glory!

2. Pray for spiritual protection & character transformation

John 17:11 - Now I am departing the world; I am leaving them behind and coming to you. Holy Father, keep them and care for them.

John 17:15 - I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one.

John 17:17 - Make them pure and holy by teaching them your words of truth.

3. Pray for Spiritual unity

John 17:22-23 I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are— I in them and you in me, all being perfected into one. Then the world will know that you sent me and will understand that you love them as much as you love me.

4. Pray for Oakwood's commitment to our assigned mission

John 17:17-18 Sanctify them by teaching them your words of truth. As you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world.

5. Pray for joyful intimacy with Christ

John 17:13 - And now I am coming to you. I have told them many things while I was with them so they would be filled with my joy.

John 17:25-26 O righteous Father, the world doesn't know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. [26] And I have revealed you to them and will keep on revealing you. I will do this so that your love for me may be in them and I in them.



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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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Summer Schedule—Update

With summer vacations and travels, we will be modifying our current worship service schedule for the months of **July and August**. Beginning July 3 and going through August 28, 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 both months.

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

Summer Missions

During July we have three groups from Oakwood going out to do ministry and have missions impact. Please keep them in your prayers.



July 7 – 10 – Angola Team – as you heard in the presentation from Craig Clendinen a few weeks ago, we have the opportunity to participate in an AWANA sponsored ministry at Angola State Prison. Our primary responsibility will be to support prisoners as they spend time with their kids at a special fun day on Saturday, July 9. We will also have the opportunity to worship together with these men on Friday night. **Team members:** Dave Dorsey, Ed Jurewicz, Arnie Mejias, Luke Piazza and Ray Ross.

July 16 – 23 – BUMP Team – a group of 18 – 13 youth and five adults – will be going to St. Louis, MO, partnering with Jubilee Community Church for inner city ministry with the EFCA. We will be doing work projects in the morning and afternoon, and leading Vacation Bible School in the evening.

Team members: Students – Nathanael Bustamante, Will Clarke, Suzette Cluff, Hayden Conner, Mary Conner, Isaac Cress, Mark Giannone, Abbie Kluck, Nathan Kluck, Noah Paffenroth, Taylor Sas, Whitney Whipple and Wyatt Whipple
Adults – Edson Bustamante, Doug Cress, Katie Frost, Stephanie Piazza and Cam Whipple



July 18 – August 3 – Czech Team – In partnership with the Brno Evangelical Fellowship, this group will once again lead the English Camp in the Czech Republic the week of July 23 - 30. They will share their lives, their faith, the love of God and the hope of eternal life through Christ.



Team members: Lisa Beale, Mark Beale, Jill Cariaga, Jose Cariaga, Larissa Corrales, Lauren Fucarino, Randall Huber, Dean Johnson, Kenna Kelly, Alisa Linares, Andrew Reilly, Mary-Lynn Reilly and Nicole Roman

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. 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. Watch for the July Guide coming soon.



June/July PowerHouse Schedule

Sunday, June 26—BUMP Training
Regular Evening Meeting + Dodge ball

Monday, June 27—Ladies only pool party @ Frosts—
1:00—4:00 PM

Sunday, July 3—Movie Night

Saturday, July 9—Rainbow River Tubing—contact
Andrea Cress (acress@tampabay.rr.com) or 813-760
-2444 for more details

Sunday, July 10—BUMP Training
Regular Evening Meeting + Open Gym

Saturday, July 16—BUMP Team departs for St. Louis

Sunday, July 17—Movie Night (for those not at
BUMP)

Saturday, July 23—BUMP Team returns

Sunday, July 24—BUMP Team Celebration

Sunday, July 31—Pool Party @ Giannones during
regular PH Youth Ministry time



Blood Mobile

The Blood Mobile will be at Oakwood on Sunday, July 10 from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM. If you are at least 16 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, are in good health and haven't donated in the last eight weeks, you are eligible to donate.

Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks Sunday, July 3, in the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.

TreeHouse Summer Fun!!!

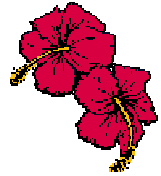
We've got some fun things planned this summer for the families of our TreeHouse kids!

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. Please help us plan appropriately by registering your children at the TreeHouse Welcome Center or the Information Center in the lobby.



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.



Move Up Sunday

June 12 was Move Up Sunday—the Sunday when all of our students were promoted to the grade level that they will be in this fall. We had 10 5th Graders that “graduated” from TreeHouse into our PowerHouse Student Ministry. They were honored during the morning Worship Service.



Outgoing 5th Graders pictured with Dave Dorsey (r): Joshua Young, Jack Wyatt, Samantha Barnes, Taylor Lehmann and Noah Torres

Not pictured: Anissa Clendinen, Noah Paparesta, Callie Beth Schneider, Tyler Tipton, Brandon White and Quinn Wills

God's grace of healing & God's grace of loving support

The following is a letter from one of our dear Oakwoodians, Cathy Arvanitopoulos. It will warm your heart, fill you with compassion, motivate you to pray for others, and stimulate you to get connected into one of Oakwood's Community Groups. If you are not presently in a community group, you will have a grand opportunity to do so in September when we launch several new groups. Sunday, September 11 is our big registration day to join a six-week starter group. Such groups enable you to experience a no obligation "test run" before you decide to covenant with a community group of your own. Community Groups are a key part of our disciple-making process that we call Love God ~ Grow in Community (community groups) ~ Serve the church & world.

June 17, 2011

Dear Pastor Paul and my Oakwood family,

I am feeling a bit better this week, so I am able to spend a few moments to give thanks to all who have been helping me and keeping me in their prayers.

And those prayers do certainly work, the first thing I want to mention is my initial diagnosis was pretty dismal. Adenocarcinoma, a type of cancer with a small chance of survival was the preliminary pathology report. When the doctor delivered the final report of a different type of cancer with a fighting chance of survival, Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma stage IV, she stated that she had never seen that happen before. I told her many people were praying for me and she looked straight at me and said I could count on those prayers, because that was a miracle.

This last month and a half have been quite difficult, but without the help and prayers of everyone it would've been far more challenging. I first want to thank those who came to my home and helped my family move my bedroom to the first floor in anticipation of the difficulty it may be for me to walk up and down the stairs during my treatment. They could not have achieved that without your help.

Most of all, I want you to use this letter to encourage all those who attend Oakwood the importance of being in a small group. Terri and Brian Johnson have been amazing, Terri has spearheaded the coordination of bringing cooked meals to me and my caregivers twice a week and that has been such a blessing! Laverne with the help of the compassion fund fixed my bathroom downstairs to become functional and she did a great job!

This is not the first time I have been blessed by the help of my small group, and I am not the only recipient of prayer and help that some of us have needed in the group. Had I not been involved in a group, my struggles –medical and spiritual- would have gone unnoticed. Additionally, I would not have had the opportunity to contribute myself to others in their time of need.

Giving is always more rewarding than receiving; however, I now look at it differently – I think of how God will be blessing those who are happily giving to me during my time of need.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

God Bless you all,
Cathy Arvanitopoulos

GroupLink



Coming in September

Watch for more details about
new Community Groups
starting this fall and how you can
Grow In Community
by joining one

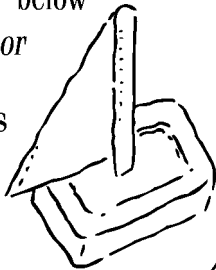
Kids Corner

Build



You will need:

- ▲ 1 bar of Ivory soap (it floats)
- ▲ 1 popsicle stick *or* pencil
- ▲ some tape *or* glue
- ▲ the "sail" below
- ▲ crayons *or* markers
- ▲ scissors



Attach the sail to the stick.

Put the stick into the bar of soap.

Float in water!

Cut out and decorate with crayon or marker.

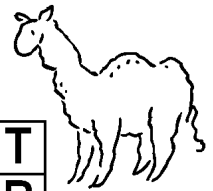
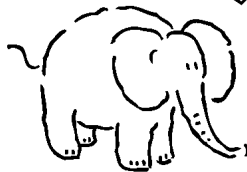
Write a Bible verse on it!

Just for KIDS

Hop on the Bus?

In Bible times it was not easy for people to travel or to transport items. There were no buses or airplanes or bicycles or cars or moving vans. So how did the people travel? How did they move things from place to place?

Find some answers in the Scriptures. Find others from hints given below. Fit the words into the puzzle.



Genesis 24:61

Genesis 22:3

Hybrids, Psalm 32:9

Acts 27:2

James 3:3

1 Samuel 6:7

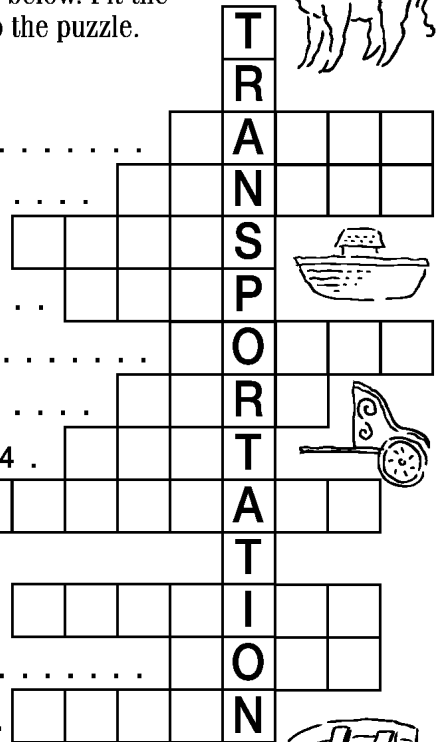
Need washing often, Genesis 18:4

Used in war and also for their ivory

Acts 8:28

Matthew 4:21

Had wheels of wood



Camel, Donkey, Mules, Ship, Horse, Cart, Feet, Elephant, Chariot, Boat, Wagon

Staying In Step—Part 1

How walking with your spouse can keep you connected

by Lorrie Orr



Our partnership on the walking trails has led to sensitivity and acceptance in other areas of our marriage as well.

"Would you like to go for a walk?"

That question, posed to me more than 30 years ago on a small college campus in Saskatchewan, began a relationship—and routine—that continue today. I hate to exercise, but I love to walk with my husband, Tim. Walking has become a free, easy way to care for our health.

And walking has also taken us to some amazing places. While serving as missionaries in Ecuador, we traversed jungle trails, climbed volcanic mountains, and strolled along tropical beaches. Now back in Canada, we love meandering through our neighborhood and hiking beside the sea. But beyond expanding our horizons and pumping up our heart rate, walking with my husband has improved our communication and livened up our marriage. Here's how to walk your way to ...

Connection.

As most couples do, Tim and I spend much of the day apart. So after dinner, we head out for a half hour of walking to reconnect. We've made this habit a priority over the years because we've seen numerous benefits in spending time together away from our house. We forget about the computer, television, and unending household chores, and simply concentrate on each other. Conversation comes naturally. We chat about our children, our jobs, or our recent reading. And we share our concerns so we can pray for each other with more focus.

When we're upset and don't feel like connecting, a walk outside provides a neutral ground. Not long ago, I was peeved by Tim's unwillingness to replace our dilapidated sofa. As we set out on our walk—in silence—my bottled-up feelings simmered to a boil. But walking released my tension, and finally my words gushed out. In re-

sponse, Tim told me he'd felt manipulated by my demands. We agreed to discuss the matter later; and although we don't yet have new furniture, we've begun to shop. Walking with someone and staying angry with him are difficult. I know—because I've tried.

Acceptance.

In our early days of walking, Tim's quick pace left me huffing and puffing in frustration. I had to stretch my five-foot, four-inch frame to keep up with my six-foot husband. But my pride prohibited me from saying anything. Over the years, I've become more accepting of my shortcomings. Now if Tim sets off at too brisk a pace, I ask, "Are we racing somewhere?" He's also become more sensitive to my shorter legs. On hiking trails, he lets me take the lead, or he stops frequently to turn and check on me. His sensitivity to my capabilities makes me feel cherished.

Our partnership on the walking trails has led to sensitivity and acceptance in other areas of our marriage as well. We've learned asking for help doesn't mean we're less capable. So instead of dragging groceries into the house by myself, or struggling alone to get dinner on the table, I ask Tim for help. And if Tim's working on a project and needs a board steadied while he saws into it, he asks me for help. As two independent thinkers, we've stopped expecting each other to read minds, and instead started telling each other when we need assistance.

Lorrie Orr is a freelance writer who lives in Canada.

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Worship Leadership—Repeat

“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

New Website—Repeat

Oakwood’s website has a whole new look. Check us out at 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, please contact the church office (office@oakwoodfl.org) with your current email address and we will update your records so you can log in.





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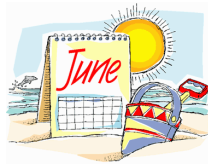
Our Staff

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 26—Clendinen Farewell Luncheon



July 3—Blood Pressure checks following worship
 July 4—*Independence Day*—Church Office closed
 July 7—Angola Team leaves for Louisiana
 July 8—Children's Game Night
 July 9— Rainbow River Tubing
 July 10—Blood Mobile @ Oakwood
 Angola Team returns
 July 12—MISCOM Meeting
 July 16—Youth Mission Team leaves for St. Louis

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...
July 1	July 6	July 9—July 22
July 15	July 20	July 23—Aug 5

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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