



# ACORN

Oakwood Community Church  
 11209 Casey Rd  
 Tampa FL 33618-5306  
 813.969.2303  
[www.oakwoodfl.org](http://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.



## Seeds For Growth

### Let's Get Really Practical About Praying Part 1

By Dr. Bill Clarke

May I ask you to think with me about *praying*—your praying, and mine? This incomparably special privilege believers in Jesus have been given and are urged to do? I will mention only one reason of so many to pray: Jesus, God incarnate on this planet, our Savior and Lord, prayed; at times He prayed all night; He prayed before every major decision. So, He taught His disciples and followers to pray. When giving the Model Prayer, the “Lord’s Prayer,” He said, “Pray, then, in this way” (Matthew 6:9 *NASB*). And He did not say *if* you pray; He said, “*when* you pray” (Luke 11:2 *NASB*). And—wonder of wonders—He told us to address Him, the God of the universe, our Savior, as “Our *Father!*”

When you and I talk to our Father, our words go to Him as sweet smelling incense (“... the golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints ... And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God ...” Revelation 5:8, 8:4 *NASB*). Just as lovers rejoice in talking to one another, the Lord loves to hear from His children.

The Church was born in prayer, and prayer has continued to be a vital part of living the Christian life. “And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostle’s teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2:42 *NASB*) Pastor Larry preached on this passage April 24<sup>th</sup>.

But, may I ask you questions I have asked and answered myself and which have given structure to my/our praying? Questions you may never have asked? Questions about the very practice of praying, about a *plan* for this sacred activity. May I inject these questions into your very personal Christian life? Maybe—just maybe—you have never stopped in your busy life to think seriously about these questions.



Question #1 *Do you have a prayer list*—not in your head, but on paper?

It seems almost every day we receive requests to pray from faithful folks and organizations; some have requests for each day. Our church provides lists and the Oakwood email prayer chain informs us of what often are immediate and serious requests.

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## Transition Team formed

As has been communicated already, we are in a five-part process before bringing on our next Servant Leader for Oakwood Community Church. The first step was Connecting—Larry and Elaine meeting with as many people from Oakwood as possible.

We are now on to step two, which is Assessing the condition of the body. With input from the Oakwood family, a Transition Team has been formed and this team will lead us through the Assessing, Facilitating, Strategizing and Coaching portions of the process. (If you need a reminder of these steps, see Issues 8 and 13 of the *ACORN* on our website.) The following people were asked and have accepted the call to be on the Transition Team:

Rob Weyand, David Conner, Mike Wyatt, Brad Gordon, Arnie Mejias, Luke Piazza, Val Brand, Andrea Cress and Julie Minardi. Alternates are: Thomas Adams, Joe Angelo, Katie Frost and Arlene Williams.

Please keep this team in your prayers as they lead us through this important process.

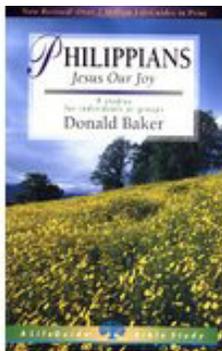
## Women's Ministry Opportunities

### *Painting With A Twist*



Oakwood women are invited to create their own masterpieces on Friday, July 22 at 7:00 PM in the Education Bldg. If you can paint by number, you can paint with a twist! Please RSVP with \$12 (to cover the cost of materials) in the lobby after church. This is the perfect event to reach out and bring a friend, relative or coworker.

### *Women's Summer Bible Study—Jesus Our Joy*



It is easy to be happy when things go well. But what would it be like to have a sense of joy that continues even in times of trouble? Such was the deep joy that the apostle Paul experienced - even in prison. His contentment was neither dependent on circumstances nor changed by difficulty. In his brief letter to the *Philippians*, Paul teaches us how to live joyfully in every situation.

This study meets in the church library from 7:00-8:30 pm on Monday evenings. Using a LifeGuide Scripture Study, participants will be encouraged to do their own personal study at home and then come prepared to share what they've learned in a small group discussion. Please contact Andrea Cress at (813-615-0838) or ([andrea-cress@outlook.com](mailto:andrea-cress@outlook.com)) if you are interested in this study.

### *Beth Moore Simulcast*

#### **Beth Moore Living Proof Ministries Simulcast**



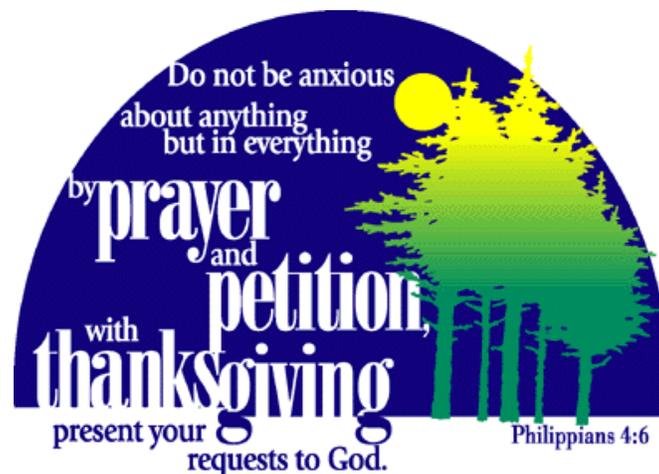
Don't miss this mini retreat on Saturday, Sept 17<sup>th</sup> 10:30am - 5:15pm! We will plan to carpool and sit together. To register, go to [www.idlewild.org](http://www.idlewild.org) and click on "Register for an event." Cost is \$25 and includes lunch.

## Opportunities to *Serve the Church & World*

**Naomi's Daughters** is a ministry for single moms that provides clothing to the moms and their children. The Oakwood family, along with others in the community, provides donations of clothing, food and money to keep this ministry moving forward.

**During the month of July we are collecting school supplies to help these single moms have their children ready for school in August. There will be a box in the lobby for your contributions.**

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 our doors.



## Seeds For Growth—continued

A letter from missionaries we have supported for years came this past week. In it were sixteen prayer requests. I wrote them, and acknowledged that I know this was their way of telling us what is of concern to them. I asked for two or three requests Kathleen and I could pray for them each time we prayed, and assured them that when very important things come up, we would add them.

**Question # 2** *What and how many prayer requests you will pray about each time?* Our VBS was just held. For us, for that week, it took precedence. A loved, old friend was close to death. Who and what should be on your special list?

Our list, at the moment, numbers 34. Since we read the Bible and a little from three other books each day (six days a week), we have made three lists and we each pray for each list three times a week (Mon. Thur., Tues. Fri., and Wed. Sat). We have spaces for additions and details. Recently, we added a missionary couple. Depending on your family situation and your schedules, your list may be shorter.

**Question #3** *Who and what is on your list?* Who do you think should be on this, your important list? Who is especially on your heart? Who do you really love? Who are individuals in a ministry that you deeply care about? Who do you think should always be on your prayer list? One another, the children, other family members, your local church/pastor, the missionaries you financially support?

What are your answers? (There will be a quiz—not really.)

Next ACORN, I will ask you three more questions.

## English Camp in the Czech Republic

### Team Tampa XVII

Oakwood is sending our 17<sup>th</sup> team to the Czech Republic to lead an English Camp for our sister church, Brno Evangelical Fellowship. You can help support the team in two ways:

1. **Give a financial gift** to help defray some of the expenses for the Czech Team. We will be taking a special offering on Sunday, July 10 or you can give online, through our website. Please write "Czech Team" in the memo portion of your check. We still need to raise \$1,000.
2. **Pray for the team – La Verne, Steve, Lori and Dean.** The biggest overall prayer requests would be for help in our preparations, for hearts to be ready and for us to make the most of the opportunities God provides.



## Prayer Focus



Our Prayer Team works each month to provide a guide for specific prayer requests. You will have a weekly Prayer Focus printed on the Announcement Sheet in your Worship Program. There is also a Summer Prayer Guide available at the Information Center.

## Elder led Prayer

Everyone is invited to join in a time of prayer with the elders for **45 minutes following the Worship Service** the first and third Sunday of the month. We meet in the Worship Center.

Childcare will be provided.

## PTSD Support Group

**Supportive Arms Support Group** meets every Friday from 7-9 PM in the Church Library.



This support group is for Veterans and current service members that suffer from PTSD/Trauma. Open to men and women. The goal is to give support and comfort in a group environment to those that struggle with PTSD/Trauma; to help in their daily lives with insight, support, and spiritual guidance; to show that they are loved and cared for through the Grace of God. While everyone may not have served, chances are we have a family member or friend who has and that is struggling in their everyday life. This is an opportunity for them to receive much needed care and support.

Group facilitators are Terrence Morman and Chris Schmidt.

## Oakwood Cares



To the Oakwood Church Family:

Below is a letter we received from the Sheriff's Department relative to the June 11 car wash held at District 3. Thank you for taking part in the mission of the Oakwood Cares ministry and Oakwood Community Church to extend the love of Christ to our neighbors and community. We look forward to ways in which we all continue to fulfill our Lord's calling to serve, now and in the future.

The Oakwood Cares Team

On behalf of Sheriff David Gee, I would like to personally thank you and your organization for the very thoughtful gesture on June 11, 2016. The lunch and goodie bags were enjoyed by the deputies at the District III Office. We also appreciated the car washes you provided to our deputies for their patrol vehicles.

At the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, the relationship with the community is what we cherish the utmost. Our partnership is vital, as no community can exist safely without capable law enforcement and equally as important, no law enforcement agency can function effectively without the community's support.

Thank you again for dedicating your time and resources to assist us on Saturday. I fully understand your organization can choose from countless worthwhile causes; I am truly humbled by your support of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. If at any time I can be of additional assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. As always be assured of our cooperation in matters of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

Chad Chronister, Major  
Department of Patrol Services  
District III

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### Blood Mobile @ Oakwood



The Blood Mobile will be at Oakwood on Sunday, July 10 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 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.

Will you roll up your sleeves and help us with this worthy cause?

### Blood Pressure checks



Blood pressure checks on August 7 the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.



## PowerHouse Schedule

**Saturday, July 9—Return from Challenge Conference**

**July 10—No PowerHouse Meeting**

**July 17—PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry following Worship;  
PowerHouse Olympic Games—ends at 8:30 PM**

**July 24—Regular Evening Meeting**

## Youth @ Challenge Conference

Please continue to pray for our students as they conclude their conference in Louisville, KY, and travel back to Tampa on July 8 & 9.



## Food Bag Ministry

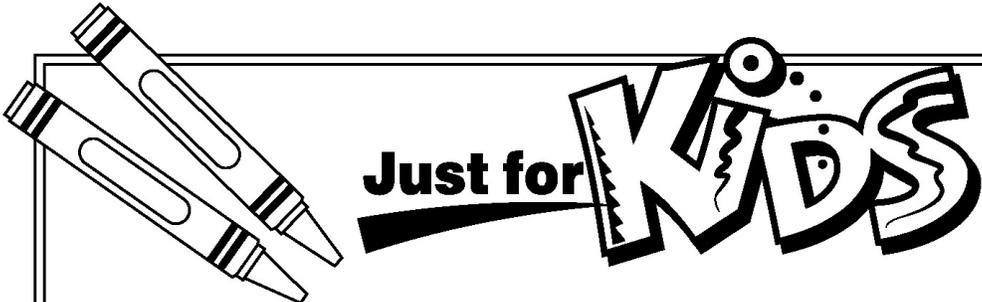
Our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven. These bags are distributed to indigent patients at the clinic to provide some basic food needs of the patients and their family.

PowerHouse teens can raise money for summer mission/conference trips by participating in our monthly Food Bag Ministry, typically on the second Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag prep day is **Sunday, July 17** 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, July 15. Meet at Aldi at Bearss & Florida Ave. at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple—813.265.9895) if you want to help. For more details on deliveries, contact Cindy Giannone at (813) 969-4136.



## Kids Corner



## TRAVEL BY DAY OR NIGHT

The way people travel has changed over time, but one thing has not changed — God was with people in biblical times just as He is with you and your family as you travel during your summer vacations.

Count the number of letters for each name, and then write the name in the spaces next to the verse that matches. (*Hint: Besides counting the number of letters in the name, also pay attention to whether the person is from the Old Testament or New Testament.*)

**NAMES** Paul Moses Joseph The Israelites Abram crowds  
Samaritan Jesus Naaman Angel of God

**VERSES**

“The \_\_\_\_\_ ... had been traveling in front of Israel’s army ....” Exodus 14:19

“And \_\_\_\_\_ went out from Pharaoh’s presence and traveled throughout Egypt.” Genesis 41:46

“Go in peace,” said Elisha. After \_\_\_\_\_ had traveled some distance ....” 2 Kings 5:19

“\_\_\_\_\_ traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem.” Genesis 12:6

\_\_\_\_\_ “traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece.” Acts 20:2

“\_\_\_\_\_ traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.” Luke 8:1

“Large \_\_\_\_\_ were traveling with Jesus.” Luke 14:25

“\_\_\_\_\_ traveled to the plains of Moab and camped along the Jordan across from Jericho.” Numbers 22:1

“\_\_\_\_\_ led Israel from the Red Sea .... For three days they traveled in the desert ....” Exodus 15:22

“ But a \_\_\_\_\_, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.” Luke 10:33

Answers: Angel of God; Joseph; Naaman; Abram; Paul; Jesus; crowds; The Israelites; Moses; Samaritan



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**Our Vocation & Volunteer Staff**

Interim Pastor—Larry Chute  
 Director of Ministries & Coordinator of Children’s  
 Ministry—Dave Dorsey  
 Director of PowerHouse Ministry—Doug Cress  
 Associate Director of PowerHouse Ministry—Cam  
 Whipple  
 Office Manager—Martha Dorsey  
 Secretary—Melanie Hoglievina

**Our Elder Team**

Mark Beale  
 Edson Bustamante  
 Larry Chute  
 John Schneider  
 Rob Weyand

**Our Deacon Team**

David Conner  
 Dave DePagter  
 David Fowle  
 Larry Giannone  
 Brian Johnson  
 Mike Wyatt

**Office hours:**

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

**Worship:**

**Sundays—10:00 AM**

**Calendar at a Glance**



July 1-9—Teens in Louisville for Challenge conference  
 July 10—Blood Mobile @ Oakwood  
 Board Meeting of elder and deacon teams  
 July 12—Serve The World Missions Team meeting  
 July 13—Czech Team leaves for Czech Republic  
 Transition Team Meeting

July 17—Compassion Offering  
 Elder led Prayer Time  
 PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry  
 July 22—Women’s *Painting With A Twist*  
 July 27—Prayer Team Meeting

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...
July 15	July 20	July 23—Aug 5
July 29	Aug 3	Aug 6—Aug 19

**Missed a Sunday message? Listen online @ [www.oakwoodfl.org/messages/](http://www.oakwoodfl.org/messages/)**