



ACORN

Seeds For Growth

Kindness, Tender-hearted, & Forgiving

Kindness, tender-heartedness, and forgiveness are the qualities we want to see from others toward us in our families, work or school, and in our church family, right? We are so disappointed and even anguished when we don't receive them from others in our lives. Back in April, I presented to you a biblical message from the following text,

...be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you (Ephesians 4:32).

Since delivering this exhortation, I've been pained several times when others have not granted these qualities to me in my life. How about you? We can't prevent these hurts that come our way. Nevertheless, what I ought to focus upon is **how I am doing** at authentically displaying these qualities toward others when the situation is hard. I confess, I've failed a few times, and with God's help, there are other situations where I have succeeded. How about you?

As your shepherd, there are many relationships within our local church family at Oakwood, where I observe these wonderful qualities, and I rejoice. Occasionally, I observe others in challenging situations where I see the opportunity for either God's Spirit to bring healing grace, or God's adversary to bring hurtful division. It's then, among other things, that I pray.

It's hard enough for us to be kind and tenderhearted toward others when they are granting those qualities to us – but, wow, it is a huge challenge to display them when others are unkind to us. Yet, each time that challenge comes to us, we have the opportunity, with the Holy Spirit's help, to grow in Christ-like character. Grow, Christ-followers at Oakwood – **GROW!**

The opportunities are there, and the Holy Spirit is willing and available! So humble yourself, choose to be courageous, exercise faith, and choose to step up to being kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving. **GROW!**



~ Pastor Paul

Oakwood Community Church
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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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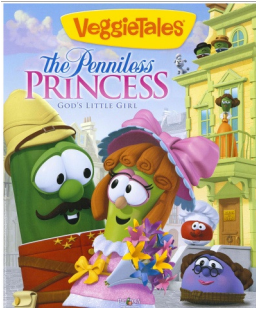
Petersen Drop-In



Oakwood will host a Drop-In Reception for Jerry & Mildred Petersen **this Saturday, August 4** from 1:00—4:00 PM in TreeHouse. Jerry & Mildred serve with Bible Basics International at Radio HRGS in Roatan, Honduras.

Stop by any time and meet them (if you don't already know them) or greet them (if you do know them) and learn about their ministry in Roatan.

Family Fun Night



Join us Friday, August 10 at 6:30 PM in The TreeHouse for a Family Fun Night.

Come enjoy a night of family fun starting with dinner together followed by the premier of the newest Veggie Tales movie, *The Penniless Princess* and a magic show performed by local Christian magician Gary Barker. Gary weaves the Gospel message throughout the magic show.

Dinner includes a slice of pizza, salad or Jell-O Fruit Cup, and soda for \$6. Please help us plan appropriately by pre-ordering your dinner at the TreeHouse Welcome Station or contact the Church Office by August 9.

If you can't join us for dinner, the movie and magic show will begin at 7:00 PM.

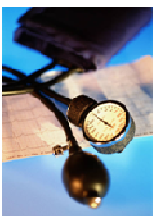
There will be snacks available for purchase for a nominal fee, a drawing for prizes and, as always, lots of fun for all.

This is always an easy way to invite family and friends to church with you. Watch for more details.



Child Dedication

On Sunday, August 12, we will be having a Child Dedication Service during our Worship Service. Anyone interested in participating in this service is asked to contact the church office. Information on Child Dedication is available on our website. Scroll to the bottom of the home page and click *Reference Documents* under *Resources*. Scroll down to *Child Dedication Information*.



Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks on August 5 the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.

Senior Ministry Luncheon

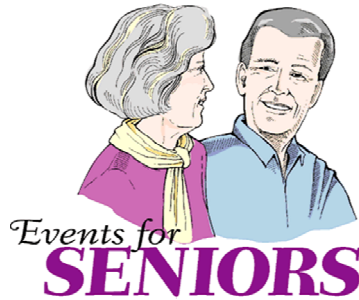
Would you like a senior moment?

How about picking on someone your own age?

If this is peaking your interest, then join us for lunch right after church on August 12 until 2:00 PM in the PowerHouse (Youth Center).

Stay longer to visit if you wish, we will be discussing a wonderful way to fellowship with your senior brothers and sisters in Christ.

Age 60 & above and spouse included.



New Message Series



It doesn't matter how much money a person makes, everybody has financial fears; especially during our global, national, regional & personal financial crisis. Join us as we discover God's promise to meet our needs when we put into practice His liberating principles. I'll begin this new series entitled *Financial Freedom* on August 12. I've entitled my kick-off message to this series, *Freedom From Money Worries*. ~ Pastor Paul

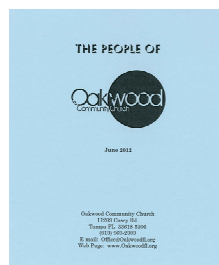
Team Tampa XIII

Be sure to join us on Sunday, August 5 as Team Tampa XIII reports on their recent ministry at the Outreach English Camps in conjunction with Brno Evangelical



OCC Directory

The new Oakwood directory is completed. Pick up a copy from the Information Center in the church lobby.



Financial Peace University



Learn God's way of handling money at Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. Oakwood is hosting this seminar September 13 – Nov 8 at the Carrollwood Cultural Center. Class preview will be held August 30.

Click the link below for more information on our website. Watch for details.

<http://www.oakwoodfl.org/ramsey/>

Harvest America

On August 26, Oakwood Community Church has the privilege of partnering with close to 1300 churches nationwide in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. We will be providing an opportunity for you to bring your friends and family to hear a message of hope that will be broadcast live from Anaheim, California.

We will enjoy an evening of singing and worship beginning at 7 PM in our Worship Center. We will then be joining the broadcast to hear a message from Pastor Greg Laurie of Harvest Christian Fellowship.

Pastor Greg was one of the keynote speakers at Promise Keepers' rallies all over the country several years ago. At the St. Pete Promise Keepers a number of years ago, some of us heard him speak on Friday as he gave a clear proclamation of the gospel. We saw many men give their lives to Christ that night. Pastor Greg will be sharing the simple gospel of Christ again at this event. Please pray about who you can invite to this event.

Our evening will start at 7 PM and end at 9PM. Plan on attending and bringing a friend! If you have any questions about this event, please contact the Church office.



Worship Arts Ministry Opportunities

We are looking for help with our Worship Arts Ministry - particularly Bass and Drum players, Sound Techs, Lighting Techs and Slide Techs. If you think that this is the ministry for you, NOW is the time to let us know. Contact Andrew Reilly at Andrew@oakwoodfl.org.

Rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM. Instrumentalist, Sound Techs and Slide Techs need to attend the rehearsals. The Worship Arts Team also practices again on Sunday mornings before the service.

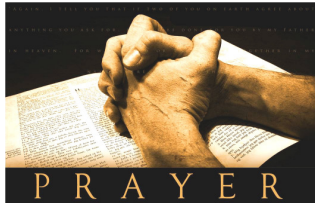
The Slide Tech Ministry is best served by those who are detail oriented and that have the ability to focus through the course of the rehearsals and services.

Training is available for all tech positions.



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, August 19**, 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 10:00 - 10:20 in the Church Library 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 August Prayer Guide is available at the Information Center or view it on our website.

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:

Food donations are needed.

Clothing for children and ladies.

Refugees in Crisis

Oakwood is a member congregation of The Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA). One of their ministry branches is TouchGlobal. Oakwood's deacons affirm our informing you of the opportunity to pray and to contribute online to this need. Bev and I did earlier this week – it was easy to do by connecting through the link below.

~ Pastor Paul

Join the response effort

Acts of compassion in times of crisis often open doors for the gospel. Let's pray this happens in the area of the world where the Apostle Paul once openly walked the streets and shared the hope that Christ had given to him.

As many as **80,000 Syrians are now living as refugees**, according to *UNOCHA Humanitarian Bulletin, Issue 01, 5 June 2012*. Many are living in primitive conditions. ReachGlobal's partners in Syria and Lebanon have opportunities to provide food and water to them during this time.

Don't sit still

Help ReachGlobal serve the Syrian refugees who have fled to Lebanon.

For those left in Syria, water and electricity have been scarce and the factories have laid off most of the people. Food and goods have more than doubled in price and in many areas there has been fighting in the streets and yet God has our partners in position to take relief into the desperate people trying to survive.

- A \$50 gift can provide food for a family for a month. ReachGlobal's goal is to raise at least \$30,000 to allow our partners to serve 600 families.
- A gift of \$10 can provide a blanket for a Syrian refugee. The goal is to raise at least \$5,000 to allow our partners to serve 500 people who have fled the country.

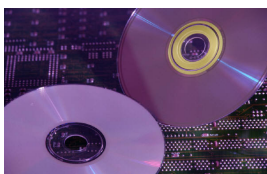
You can give online right now by clicking the link below:

<https://my.efca.org/NetCommunity/SSLPage.aspx?pid=359&des=Refugees%20in%20Crisis%2021709-3983>



Past Messages

Have you missed part of a message series or want to hear a message again? You can hear past Sunday messages on our website by going to www.oakwoodfl.org, click on "Messages" in the top bar. The login password is octree. Then search by the date, speaker or series.



Messages are also available on CD. Each Sunday the morning message is recorded and is available for purchase. Order Envelopes with instructions are at the Information Center in the lobby.



PowerHouse Schedule

Saturday, Aug 4—Pool Party—see details below

Aug 5—Regular Sunday Evening—5:00—7:30

Aug 12—Extended Activity Night: A Night of Art—5:00—8:30 PM—*Clean up on the Slip and Slide*

Aug 19—Regular Sunday Evening—5:00—7:30

Aug 26—Back To School Pool Party @ the O'Brien's (11724 Nicklaus Cir, Tampa 33624) - 5:00—7:30

Pool Party

**Saturday, Aug 4,
4:00—8:00 PM**

@ Giannone's home (13904 Amesbury Manor Ct,
Tampa 33613)

**Guys bring chips to share
Ladies bring drinks to share**

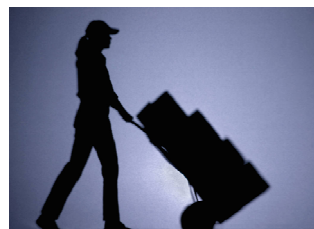
Modest swimsuits
please (one-piece
or wear a cover)

Contact Cam for
more details



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.

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, August 19**, 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, August 17. Meet at the Save-A-Lot at 2271 E. Bearss Ave at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple) if you want to help. For more details contact Sandy Clarke at 931-0668.



15 Things Wives Should Stop Doing—Pt 1

Mary May Larmoyeux

In the 1960s, The Supremes recorded their hit song “Stop! In the Name of Love!” I remember singing the words as a teenager: “Before you break my heart ... think it o-o-ver ...”

Even though I’ve been married for decades now, it’s still important for me to consider my husband’s needs. I should think about the possible effects of my careless words, attitudes, and actions before I break *his* heart. Can you identify?

I asked some girlfriends, “What should a wife *stop doing* if she wants to improve her marriage?” This list is based on their responses.

1. Stop thinking that your way is the “right” way. If he does something differently, it does not mean that it’s wrong. When a wife insists on having her own way, she is in essence saying, “I have to be in control.”

2. Don’t put others before your husband. God designed companionship in marriage so that a husband and wife can meet one another’s need for a close, intimate, human relationship. He even said in Genesis 2:18, “It is not good that the man should be alone.”

So what happens when you put your mother, a friend, or even a child before your spouse? Actually, you take a step (often unintentional) toward isolation in your marriage. If you choose, for example, to spend an afternoon shopping with your mom when your husband asked you to watch a football game with him, you may leave hubby feeling that he has second place in your heart.

3. Don’t expect your husband to be your girlfriend. Most men and women not only look different physically, but also have unique ways of processing life. One example of this is the need for conversation. I don’t know about you, but sometimes I’m guilty of wearing out my husband with countless conversational details that he doesn’t really care about. Now if he was a girlfriend, all of

those details would definitely matter!

4. Don’t dishonor your husband. Suggestions included: Stop all nagging and don’t correct hubby in front of others. If you finish your husband’s sentences, you may be unintentionally communicating, “I don’t really care about what you have to say.”

5. Stop expecting your husband to fail you as your dad failed your mom. “I spent many years waiting for my husband to give up and walk out on me, like my dad had years earlier,” said one friend. Her unfounded fears had robbed her marriage of much joy.

6. Don’t put your husband on the defensive. For example, if you are driving around a section of town looking for a restaurant and he’s obviously lost, does it really help for you to tell him that he’s been going around the same block for the fifth time? One wise wife said that she’s learned to be quiet in situations like this. Now, before she makes a comment, she weighs her words—asking herself: “Are my words needed? Would they be encouraging?” Proverbs 10:19 says, “When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.”

7. Never use sex to bargain with your husband. Some women intentionally or unintentionally say to their husbands, “When I get what I want, you get sex.” However, 1 Corinthians 7:4-5 reminds husbands and wives that their bodies are not their own. “Do not deprive one another ...”

See the conclusion of this article in the next issue of *The ACORN*.

From Family Life Marriage Memo.



Oakwood Community Church
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 813.969.2303
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
 Secretary—Melanie Hoglievina

Office hours:

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

Worship:

Sundays - 10:00 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



Aug 4—Drop-In Reception for Jerry & Mildred Petersen
 Aug 5—Czech Team Report in Worship
 Blood Pressure checks
 Aug 10—Family Fun Night
 Aug 12—Child Dedication in Worship
 Senior’s Ministry Launch Luncheon
 Board Meeting

Aug 14—Election Day—Remember to vote
 Aug 19—Compassion Offering
 Elder Led Prayer Time following Worship
 PH Food Bag Ministry
 Aug 26—Harvest America
 Aug 30—Financial Peace University Preview

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...
Aug 10	Aug 15	Aug 18—Aug 31
Aug 24	Aug 29	Sept 1—Sept 14

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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