



ACORN

Seeds For Growth

Random Thoughts

It seems I start most of my articles referencing how time is moving very rapidly. Summer is almost gone (at least by the school calendar) and the fall schedule is closing fast. I spend a good bit of my time trying to look ahead for the ministry opportunities that might be good for the church family to engage. I also want to be looking ahead personally to see what the next thing the Lord has for me to do. Sometimes, it is also good for me to remember some very significant things that have happened in my spiritual journey to challenge me in the next thing. Some of us have been Christ-followers for a while. Do you remember the moment you heard the Good News for the first time? I mean really understood your need for a Rescuer and Someone who could give direction to your life? Do you remember hearing how much God loves you by sending His Son to die on a tree for you? I was blessed to hear this at an early age from some men who told me this Good News and also lived the truth of the Gospel in front of me. I am so grateful for these men. When I think of that time in my life, I can again feel the sense of being so thankful for a God who loves me. He leads, comforts, encourages, disciplines, forgives, instructs and heals us. All with a desire for us to be the best we can be (Phil. 1:7). How can we not be forever grateful for all of this?

When I think of this, I am reminded there are so many living around us who have never been introduced to the One who loves them as well. Sometimes, in the rush of life and work, I forget this. As you may know, Oakwood is hosting a special event on Sunday evening, August 26, where we will hear a clear presentation of the Gospel message from Pastor Greg Laurie. For many of us, it will be good to come and remember the sense we had from the Jesus the day we recognized Him as the Lord of our life. In the first part of Revelation 2, we are told to do this to keep our love for the Lord focused. This will also be a good time to invite someone to come with you to hear just how much God loves and cares for them. The message will come in the form of music led by the Harvest Band from Harvest Christian Fellowship. Contemporary Christian artist Jeremy Camp along with Mercy Me will also be leading much of the time of worship before Pastor Greg speaks. The evening will start at 7 PM and will conclude at 9PM. There is more information on Page 2 of the *ACORN*. Please plan on attending and bringing a friend or family member.



As Pastor Paul is leading us through a series on Sunday morning dealing with our finances, we are also sponsoring a Financial Peace University that will be held at the Carrollwood Cultural Center beginning in a few weeks. This is a great opportunity to get our personal finances in order and invite a friend as well. More information is also on Page 2 of the *ACORN*.

That is all I am saying today

Dave Dorsey
Director of Ministries

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:

OCC Updates	2-6
Harvest America	2
Financial Peace Univ.	2
Bridges Small Group	5
Oakwood Mill	5
Refugee Crisis	6
PowerHouse News	7
Marriage Matters	8
Kids Corner	9
Calendar at a Glance	10

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 9 PM. Plan on attending and bringing a friend! If you have any questions about this event, please contact the Church office.

Nursery care will be provided.



Financial Peace University



How would you feel if you had no debt and a solid plan for what to do with your money each month? Would you make different choices? Have different priorities? Many people find themselves slaves to debt, struggling to make ends meet each month. Poor financial decisions steal peace of mind and destroy relationships.

"The borrower is servant to the lender."

There is a solution ...

Financial Peace University

Oakwood Community Church is offering a program through Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University that could be your most important step to changing your financial future. Personal finance is 20% head knowledge and 80% behavior. You probably already know what you "should" be doing with your finances...DOING it is another matter entirely! FPU takes that head knowledge and turns it into real action. FPU is a 9-week life-changing program that will be held on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30PM starting September 13th and ending November 8th. The cost to take the class is \$85 for class materials. You can come and sit in on a free preview class with no obligation to see if you think it will work for you. The free preview is on Thursday, August 30th at 6:30PM at the Carrollwood Cultural Center (4537 Lowell Road, Tampa, FL). For more information, call (813) 969-2303 or visit oakwoodfl.org.

Opportunity to *Serve The Church & World*

Project 3

The JOY FM and Feeding Children Everywhere are hosting a charity meal packaging event called **Project 3**, which includes over 20,000 people joining together to package 3 million healthy meals for hungry children on August 27–30, in Tampa. There will be fun, entertainment, and everyone participating will make a meaningful difference. Meals will be distributed to crisis food pantries in schools throughout the U.S. Get more info and register online at www.florida.thejoyfm.com/event/project3



Naomi's Daughters

Naomi's Daughters is a ministry for single moms 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. 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 on our property. 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.

***Especially needed:** clothing for boys and girls, middle to high school ages.

Senior Ministry



SENIOR HIGHLIGHTS

Well, we did it!!!!

We had a great day Sunday, August 12, with over 30 people who claim to be over 60 get together for lunch and to share some great ideas for future events and services.

If you missed the luncheon, it isn't too late to join us for some fun and fellowship. Watch the ACORN and the Worship Program for information on upcoming get-togethers or contact Al Conner or Ray Ross.

Financial Report

Through July, Oakwood's monthly expenses have exceeded our undesignated offerings. Budget needs require \$8,747 per week.



Our current average weekly offering is \$7,256. On average, our offerings are below budget by \$1,492 per week. Due to lower than anticipated expenses, our expenses have exceeded our undesignated offerings by only \$9,273.

Our year-to-date offerings have not been meeting our budgeted expenses and the leadership team asks you to prayerfully consider this matter. These are difficult economic times for our nation and Oakwood, we are trusting God for his provision.

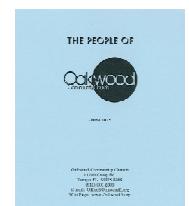
Praise God for your partnership in the ministry of Oakwood! Praise God for gifts given in faith, joy and love! Praise God for his many blessings.

– Whatever you give honors God if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have (2 Corinthians 8:12).

Oakwood's Deacon Team

OCC Directory

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



Fall Schedule



Beginning September 9

9:15 AM—Education Classes—Children’s Ministry,
Middle & High School, Oakwood Mill
10:30 AM—Worship Service & Full TreeHouse Ministry

Blood Pressure checks



Blood pressure checks on September 2 the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don’t miss this important health screening.

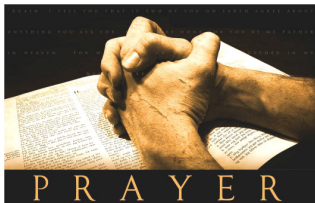
Child Dedication



On Sunday, September 30, 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*.

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.

Bridges



Pastor Paul & Bev lead and host a small group in their home for those who are newer to Oakwood. This is one great means by which you can bridge into connecting more personally with Oakwood, and eventually into one of Oakwood's future Community Groups.

Our Bridges small group has no commitments. You may come once, or many times. Most weeks we will have a relaxed, simple discussion based on one of the Psalms or an event or teaching from Jesus' ministry as recorded in the gospels. No preparation or "home-work" is involved, nor will I expect you to

be familiar with the Bible or to pray aloud. Do come however, with the expectation to bridge into new connections with Oakwood and with God Himself.

~ Pastor Paul

When: Most Tuesdays, 7:00—8:30 PM—check the Oakwood website to verify meeting dates. Currently set for August 21, 28; September 4, 11, 18, 25—<http://www.oakwoodfl.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Bridges-Group-info.pdf>

Where: Phair's home—15109 Lynx Dr, Tampa FL 33624 (Carrollwood Springs, near Dale Mabry & Ehrlich)
813-961-7258

Oakwood Mill



The Oakwood Mill is the Adult Education ministry of Oakwood Community Church. One adult education class is being offered this fall and it is an online course.

Improving Your Serve

Online (Facebook group) book study, 15 weeks: In the day-to-day grind, of our busy, self-seeking world, it's easy to lose track of what's really important.

In this classic volume "Improving Your Serve: Art of Unselfish Living," Chuck Swindoll offers a fresh perspective on authentic *servanthood* as a way of life for every believer. In this challenging study we will discover why a straight-from-the-heart generosity brings richer rewards than mere money or position will every buy. "Improving Your Serve" offers a case for unselfishness and shows why serving others can be a much more fulfilling way to live. We will also learn how a radical application of the biblical principles of *servanthood* can transform a life from the inside out—and make a real and lasting difference in today's world.



Facilitated by Arnie Mejías; email nblm2000@msn.com if interested.

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.



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 to this need. **This Sunday, August 19, in place of our regular Compassion Offering (which usually goes to help those within the Oakwood family), we will be taking a special offering to help with this crisis.** You can also give through the link at the bottom of this article. Please also keep in mind that Oakwood is facing low ministry funds at this time as well.

~ 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.

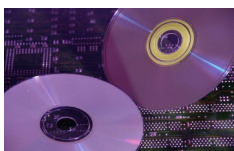
- A \$50 gift can provide food for a family for a month. ReachGlobal's goal is to raise at least \$30,000 to allow our partners to serve 600 families.
- A gift of \$10 can provide a blanket for a Syrian refugee. The goal is to raise at least \$5,000 to allow our partners to serve 500 people who have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

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

Sept 2—Regular Sunday Evening—5:00—7:30—*The Dangers of Prosperity*

Sept 9—Regular Sunday Evening—5:00—7:30—*The Provision of God*

Pool Party

Back to School Pool Party

Sunday, Aug 26

5:00—7:30 PM

@ O'Brien's home (11724 Nicklaus Cir, Tampa 33624)

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



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.



The first seven things wives should stop doing are:

1. **Stop thinking that your way is the “right” way.**
2. **Don’t put others before your husband.**
3. **Don’t expect your husband to be your girlfriend.**
4. **Don’t dishonor your husband.**
5. **Stop expecting your husband to fail you as your dad failed your mom.**
6. **Don’t put your husband on the defensive.**
7. **Never use sex to bargain with your husband.**

15 Things Wives Should Stop Doing—Pt 2

Mary May Larmoyeux

Part 1 of this article was in Issue 16 of *The ACORN*, which is available on the Oakwood website.

8. Stop reminding your husband about things over and over. Don’t make him feel guilty or nitpick him about small stuff. One friend said that when we constantly remind our husbands about diet, weight, medication, picking up the dry cleaning, etc., we are actually acting more like his mother than his wife.

9. Don’t make your husband earn your respect. Many women think, *I’ll respect him when he earns it.* But there’s a reason that Ephesians 5:33 says, “Let the wife see that she respects her husband.” As one friend said: “If women could learn to understand that respect is a man’s native tongue, that it absolutely heals his heart and ministers to him like nothing else, it would make the biggest difference in the world.”

10. Stop giving your husband your long term to-do list. A colleague warns against overwhelming your husband with too much information. You may unintentionally cause him to feel like a failure, thinking that your long list means you are discontent. Or, he may incorrectly assume that you want him to do something immediately.

11. Don’t act like your spouse is a mind reader. Instead, be specific about your requests. One busy mom said that she used to feel overwhelmed with household chores, wishing her spouse would help her. She now realizes that the only way he knows her needs is when she tells him. “Most often,” she says, “when I simply say, ‘Honey, will you tuck the kids in tonight while I get the kitchen cleaned up,’ he is glad to help.” She’s discovered that a few words are all it takes “to change a resentment-filled, stressed-out night into a team-effort bonding time.”

12. Stop putting housework ahead of hubby. One young mom told her husband that she didn’t want to make love one night because she had just changed the sheets and she wanted them to stay clean. What do you think that response said to her husband? Another woman, who puts her husband ahead of the housework,

said: “Do not leave the unfolded laundry on your marriage bed.”

13. Put an end to taking the lead because you think he won’t take it. “The first many years of our marriage,” one wife said, “I would see what needed to be done and get frustrated that my husband would not take charge and get it done.” She went on to say that she’s changed by learning to wait on her husband’s leadership. “I really believe,” she says, “that our men don’t lead because we women are too quick to jump in and take care of it all.”

Ephesians 5:23 says, “For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body”

14. Do not expect your husband to be Prince Charming. After all, the perfect husband only exists in fairy tales and your marriage exists in real life. One young wife said that instead of focusing on her husband’s shortcomings, she’s learned to recognize the wonderful things about him. What’s been the result? He’s been encouraged to do even more to be the man of her dreams.

15. Never look first to a book, a plan, or a person to fix a problem in your marriage. Instead go to God’s Word and believe and act on the things that He says. “He will lead me to any resources I need,” one woman said. “God has already given us everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3) but we have to live according to the promises and expect Him to show up for us.”

A question

The Bible paraphrase *The Message*, says in 1 Corinthians 13, “Love never gives up . . . isn’t always ‘me first,’ . . . doesn’t keep score of the sins of others . . . trusts God always, always looks for the best.”

What do your words and actions say to your sweetheart about your love? Do you need to stop doing something in your marriage?

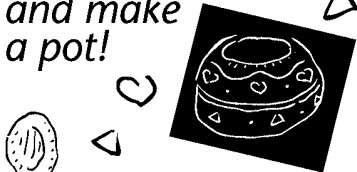
Before you answer, think it o-o-ver.

From Family Life Marriage Memo.

Kids Corner

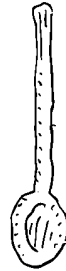
Be a potter

Make some clay and make a pot!



In a bowl, mix:

- 1 1/2 cups of salt
- 4 cups of flour
- 1 teaspoon alum (if not baked)



Gradually add:

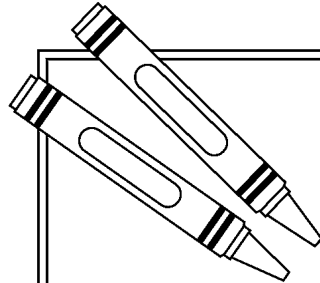
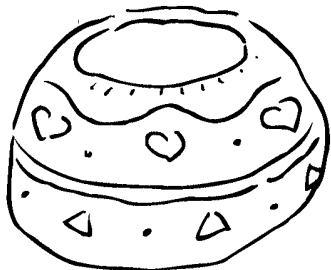
- 1 1/2 cups water

Stir until dough forms a ball, then knead it with your hands.



To make a "pinch pot":

- Roll the clay into a ball.
- Stick your thumb in the center to make an opening.
- Pinch the opening wider.
- Turn ball to form a pot.
- Dry completely.
- Paint with poster or tempera paint.

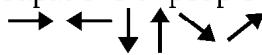


Just for KIDS

Work ... Work ... Work!

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." (Genesis 2:15)

Ever since Adam, people have worked! Here are some occupations of people who lived in Bible times. Find them in the puzzle. Circle them.



APOTHECARY
BAKER
BARBER
BUTLER
CARPENTER
CHAMBERLAIN
CLERK
CONFECTIONER
COPPERSMITH
DYER

FARMER
FISHERMAN
FULLER
GUARD
HUNTER
JUDGE
LAWYER
MASON
MUSICIAN
NURSE

PHYSICIAN
PORTER
POTTER
PREACHER
RECORDER
SAILOR
SALESWOMAN
SCHOOLMASTER
SCRIBE
SERVANT
SHEPHERD



SILVERSMITH
SOLDIER
SPINNER
STEWARD
TANNER
TEACHER
TENTMAKER
TILLER
WEAVER
WRITER

A C O N F E C T I O N E R B A B C F D D
S P H Y S I C I A N U S E E U F G U H Y
C I O A B B A R B E R A C I J T K L L E
O M L T M A S O N C S L O L T I L L E R
P P S V H B K N O L E E R F A R M E R S
P C O P E E E E Q E G S D I N W R R R T
E A L R S R C R R R D W E S N E Y T U E
R R D V T T S A L K U O R H E A P E W W
S P I N N E R M R A J M W E R V O E R A
M E E H X N R M I Y I A Y R Z E T B I R
I N R U A T B U C T D N E M F R T I T D
T T G N H M I S J K H T E A C H E R E L
H E M T W A T I H M A N N N O P R C R I
Q R R E S K S C N G E R G U A R D S Y Z
A B C R D E E I S H E P H E R D F A B C
S A I L O R D A R E T S A M L O O H C S
S E R V A N T N G H I J P R E A C H E R



Oakwood Community Church
 11209 Casey Rd
 Tampa FL 33618-5306
 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



August

Aug 19—Special Offering for Syrian Refugees
 Elder Led Prayer Time following Worship
 PH Food Bag Ministry
 Aug 26—Harvest America
 Aug 30—Financial Peace University Preview



September

Sept 2—Blood Pressure checks
 Sept 3—Labor Day—Church Office closed
 Sept 9—Fall Schedule Begins
 Board Meeting
 Sept 11—Women of the Word—Bible Study begins
 Sept 13—Financial Peace University begins

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 24	Aug 29	Sept 1—Sept 14
Sept 7	Sept 11	Sept 15—Sept 28

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.

If you have received this email in error or want to be removed from our e-newsletter distribution list, please hit the reply button and put "unsubscribe" in the subject line and you will be removed immediately.