



# ACORN

## Seeds For Growth

### The Power of Connecting

*“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”* Hebrews 10:23-25

**The basis for our fellowship with one another is the Gospel** – “the confession of our hope.” We need to help each other remember the truth that Jesus has paid for our sin and through His sacrifice we have “confidence to enter the holy place” (v. 19). On our own, we may lose this “assurance of faith” (v. 22) and we might compromise on our convictions instead of having “our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience” (v. 22). But together we can celebrate God’s amazing grace “without wavering,” continually pointing each other to the Gospel promise that “he who promised is faithful.”

**The purpose of our fellowship with one another is to build each other up** – “encouraging one another.” The central encouragement is the Gospel that not only teaches we have been justified by Jesus’ past work but also looks ahead to “the Day” in the future when Christ will return and finish what he started in us. As we see this day approaching, there should be an increasing urgency to exhort and challenge each other for the work Jesus has called us to do.

**The result of our fellowship with one another is ministry** - “to stir up one another to love and good works.” The natural realities of life cause our zeal for the Lord and our service to others to settle down, like the white flecks in a snow globe. Gathering with other believers for worship and fellowship has the effect of stirring up our affections for the Lord and for one another. Nothing spurs on action like a friend beside you who says, “Let’s do this together.”

Larry Crabb, a prominent Christian counselor, wrote a ground-breaking book in 1997 called *Connecting*. After twenty years of Christian counseling, Crabb concluded that most counseling would be unnecessary if believers in the church simply learned how to effectively encourage and challenge one another.

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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.



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## Fall Festival

Oakwood Church's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual

# FALL FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup>**  
**4:00 – 7:00 PM**

Family Fun Games & Prizes  
Hay Ride | Obstacle Course  
Dunk Tank | Bounce House



**TRUNK OR TREAT AT 6:00PM**  **PIE EATING CONTEST AT 5:45 PM**

**FOOD TRUCKS**



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### The Fall Festival needs everyone's support!!!

Please help us by bringing in bags of candy and dropping them off in the barrel in the Worship Center lobby.

If you have any interest in helping or questions about the Fall Festival please see Luke Piazza, or contact him by email- @ [lukepiazza@yahoo.com](mailto:lukepiazza@yahoo.com).

Thank You!!

## Operation Christmas Child



Oakwood Cares is sponsoring Operation Christmas Child (OCC), a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, and we would like you to participate.

- You can join us by picking up a box (or 2) and brochure, filling it with toys, hygiene items and school supplies and bringing it back to Oakwood on or before Nov. 19th.
- Or you can join us for a pizza packing party on Nov. 4th! We'll pack boxes for children around the world as we listen to the sounds of Christmas. Invite a friend to this event!
- Need more info? Check out the display in the worship center or visit <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

## Communication changes

Beginning in October, you will see some communication changes from the Church Office.

Our bi-weekly newsletter, the *Oakwood ACORN*, will now be a monthly publication, covering happenings for an entire month.

You will receive a weekly *Oakwood Update* via email that will give you important information about what is happening "this week" at Oakwood.

Announcements with details on events will be available on our website and in printed format at the Information Center. Pick up your copy on Sunday.

## Blood Pressure checks



Blood pressure checks on October 1 in the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.

## Oakwood Mill



The Oakwood Mill is the Adult Education ministry of Oakwood Community Church. Three new adult education classes and one resuming class are being offered this fall on Sundays at 9:15 AM.

It isn't too late to join a class. [Click here](#) for class descriptions or pick up a flier from the Information Center in the lobby.

## Women's Fall Gathering

*All the Time We Have*  
 Saturday, October 14  
Note date change  
 8:30 AM-3:00 PM  
 TreeHouse Building



This mini workshop is based on Psalm 90:12 and includes in-house speakers from the Women's Ministry Team. It promises to be time well spent. All ladies +18 can RSVP with \$15 at the Information Center. A continental breakfast and box lunch are provided. Contact Sandy Wyatt or Cindy Gerrard if you would like additional information or to request a scholarship.

## Just For Joy Women's Study

*Just for Joy* Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesdays from 10:15-11:45 AM in the Adult Education Building. *The Holiness of God* by RC Sproul is an 8 week examination into God's character that will lead you to a fresh understanding of sin, justice and grace. Workbooks are free. For more info, email Sandy Wyatt @ [slwyatt7@gmail.com](mailto:slwyatt7@gmail.com).



## Assure Women's Center

### Baby Bottles of Love



During the month of October, we will be supporting Assure Women's Center by filling baby bottles with loose change. Pick up your bottle in the lobby on Sunday, October 1. Please return them to Oakwood by October 29.

Your change can make a difference for a mom and a child. All proceeds will directly benefit women visiting Assure Women's Center.

Assure Women's Center is supported through the Missions giving at Oakwood and ministers to women who are pregnant and in difficult life situations.

## Seeds for Growth—*continued*

“When two people connect, when their beings intersect... something is poured out of one and into the other that has the power to heal the soul of its deepest wounds and restore its health... Connecting is the kind of relating that happens when the powerful life of Christ in one person meets the good life of Christ in another.” Larry Crabb

This month we are challenging men to be “iron sharpening iron” with other men through our *Courageous Bible Studies*. Similarly the women have scheduled opportunities to encourage and challenge one another. Later this month our regular Community Groups will start up again. Whatever venue works for you, please don't walk alone. Experience the power of connecting



with other believers for your own encouragement and growth and take these opportunities to pour the life of Christ in you into the people God has placed around you.

Darin Anderson  
 Lead Pastor

## Do you order from Amazon?

Your orders can benefit Oakwood by shopping through AmazonSmile. Just go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2436827>, place your order, and 0.5% of your qualifying purchase will be donated to Oakwood through the AmazonSmile Foundation.

## Financial Update

2017 Financial Update for June:		
	Actual	Budget
YTD Offerings Received	276,640	
YTD Expenses	287,280	305,025
Offerings Over/(Under) Exp	(10,640)	(28,385)



## PowerHouse Schedule

- Oct 1—Regular Evening Meeting
- Oct 8—Outreach Party
- Oct 15—Regular Evening Meeting
- Oct 21—PowerHouse Work Day
- Oct 22—Regular Evening Meeting
- Oct 29—Regular Evening Meeting

## Outreach Party

**Sunday, October 8**  
**Leaving Oakwood at 5:20,**  
**returning at 7:45**



**Laser Tag**

**Watch for more details**

## 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 and Jacksonville. 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. Due to Hurricane Irma, our vendors are having difficulty getting food. Watch your email for and update on the next Food Bag Ministry day.

Teens can raise extra funds by helping shop for the food and/or helping with delivery of the food bags to the medical clinics. Again, watch your email for details on the next shopping day. 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.



## Winter Camping Retreat

**Our Winter Camping**  
**Retreat**



**will be held**

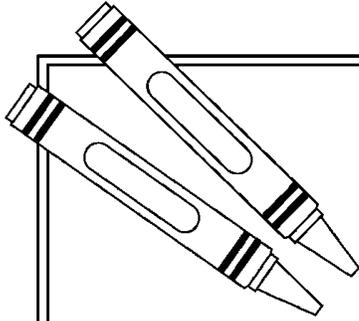
**December 1-3 @**



**Pick up your information/  
registration forms in  
PowerHouse.**



**Kids Corner**



**Just for KIDS**

**Changes**

*There are many changes in the season of Autumn. The leaves may change color, the air may become cooler and we may go to a new classroom or school.*

Find the Bible verse below. First fit the words from the list into the crossword puzzle squares. Then transfer the words in the boxes to the matching blank lines below. To learn more, read Ecclesiastes 3:1.

The crossword puzzle grid consists of 10 numbered starting points for words:

- 1: 4 squares across, top row.
- 2: 3 squares down, second column.
- 3: 5 squares across, third row.
- 4: 5 squares across, fourth row.
- 5: 4 squares across, fifth row.
- 6: 5 squares across, sixth row.
- 7: 3 squares across, seventh row.
- 8: 2 squares across, eighth row.
- 9: 3 squares across, ninth row.
- 10: 3 squares across, tenth row.

**Word List**

is	under
for	season
and	heaven
time	activity
every	everything
There	

\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
 1 down    6 down    1 across    10 across    3 across

\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_  
 9 across    2 down    10 across    8 down    5 across

\_\_\_\_\_ ”  
 7 across    4 down



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**Our Vocation & Volunteer Staff**

Lead Pastor—Darin Anderson  
Director of Ministries & Coordinator of Children’s  
Ministry—Dave Dorsey  
Director of PowerHouse Ministry—Cam Whipple  
Office Manager—Martha Dorsey  
Secretary—Melanie Hoglievina

**Our Elder Team**

Darin Anderson  
Mark Beale  
Edson Bustamante  
John Schneider  
Rob Weyand

**Our Deacon Team**

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

**Office hours:**

Monday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Education Classes :**

Sundays - 9:15 AM

**Worship:**

Sundays—10:30 AM

**Calendar at a Glance**



Oct 1—Communion  
Blood Pressure checks  
Welcome Reception for Kristin Anderson  
Oct 8—Deacon team Meeting  
Oakwood Cares Team Meeting  
Oct 9—Elder Team Meeting  
Oct 10—Missions Team Meeting

Oct 14—Women’s Gathering  
Oct 15—Compassion Offering  
Oct 16—Elder/Deacon Teams meet  
Oct 21—PowerHouse Work Day  
Oct 23—Elder Team Meeting  
Oct 28—Fall Festival

The Oakwood *ACORN* is a monthly 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:

<b>Deadline</b>	<b>For events during...</b>
Oct 22	November
Nov 22	December

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