



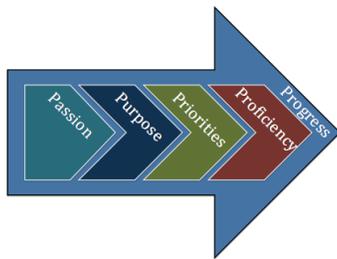
ACORN

Seeds For Growth

Joy-Fueled Progress

"Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, *for your progress and joy in the faith*, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind *striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.*" Philippians 1:25-27

Paul's prayer for the church at Philippi was that their love would abound with increasing knowledge and holiness, "the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ" (1:11). Our charge as followers of Christ is to continually pursue growth toward maturity in Him. As the mission of Oakwood states, we are striving together to become "fully devoted followers of Christ." In this life, we will never reach this goal of total commitment, but we must continually press on toward this "high calling."



The fuel for this discipline is joy in the Lord. If we rely on our own will-power or accountability alone we will consistently get stuck and will even be in danger of falling into the self-reliance Paul warns against in Philippians 3 about putting "confidence in the flesh." Throughout Philippians Paul points to the alternative: to "rejoice in the Lord," or "glory in Christ Jesus."

Saint Augustine, the faithful Bishop of Hippo (North Africa) in the early fifth Century, was enslaved to the desires of the flesh for most of his young adult years. When he arrived in Carthage as a young professor of rhetoric he called that city "a hissing cauldron of lust." Later he reflected: "My real need was for you, my God, who are the food of the soul. I was not aware of this hunger... I was at the top of the school of rhetoric. I was pleased with my superior status and swollen with conceit. It was my ambition to be a good speaker, for the unhallowed and inane purpose of gratifying human vanity" (Piper, *The Legacy of Sovereign Joy*, p. 47).

Augustine described the process of his conversion as the Lord's gentle but persistent wooing. "I was astonished that although I now loved you... I did not persist in enjoyment of my God. Your beauty drew me to you, but soon I was dragged away from you by my own weight and in dismay I plunged again into the things of this world" (50).

Continued on Page 3

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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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 November 19th.
- Or you can join us for a pizza packing party on November 4th @ 6:00 PM in the Education Building! 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/>

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Just a reminder that Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 5. Be sure to turn your clocks **back** one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.



Thanksgiving Holiday



The Church Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 23 & 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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.



Children's Christmas Musical

Oakwood TreeHouse
Children's Ministry Presents:



Sunday December 10, 2017
during the Worship Service

This special program will include the 2-4 year old class for a portion of it as well as children K-5 and Grade 6.

We need **LOTS** of support. **The following areas need volunteers:**

- Costumes/Props
- Helping stage the children
- Snack providers **Dec. 9** for dress rehearsal & **Dec. 10** right after performance
- Snack directors (Dec . 9) Set up snack for children and then clean up

Please contact Heather Campbell at hcampbell2plus@gmail.com or text 813-294-5434 with how you can help.

Blood Pressure checks



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

Missions Update

Hi Oakwood family!

We count it an honor and a privilege to be part of your sent missionary team, as you have always been part of our story, and continue to be part of our journey. We have a vision to see college students in New York City come to know Jesus, learn how to walk with Him intimately, and develop a holy passion for using their God given gifts and talents on mission to build the Kingdom of God wherever they go after graduation.

We are busier than ever but have found this year to be more fruitful than ever. Currently ministering on 9 campuses in Manhattan, our team has a goal to share the gospel 1000 times this school year, while developing the skills in our student leaders of being able to engage lovingly and winsomely in gospel conversations. We need the blessing and outpouring of the Spirit to see traction in this area. Please pray for this! Also we'd love to see 100 students go to the Cru Winter Conference, as this always seems to be a powerful way that God moves in their lives.

Thanks, and we love you.

Nick, Sofia & Ben Audas
Serving with Cru in New York City

Assure Women's Center

Baby Bottles of Love



In support of Assure Women's Center, we have been filling baby bottles with our loose change. If you forgot to return yours on October 29, please bring it by the Church Office during the week or on Sunday, November 5 and leave it at the Information Center

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.

Seeds for Growth—*continued*

“O Lord, my Helper and my Redeemer, I shall now tell and confess to the glory of your name how you released me from the fetters of lust which held me so tightly shackled and from the slavery to the things of this world” (51).

“I was held back by mere trifles... They plucked at my garment of flesh and whispered, ‘Are you going to dismiss us? From this moment we shall never be with you again, for ever and ever.’ ... And while I stood trembling at the barrier, on the other side I could see the chaste beauty of Continnence in all her serene, unsullied joy, as she modestly beckoned me to cross over and to hesitate no more. She stretched our loving hands to welcome and embrace me” (52).

“During all those years [of rebellion], where was my free will? What was the hidden, secret place from which it was summoned in a moment, so that I might bend my neck to your easy yoke? ...How sweet all at once it was for me to ***be rid of those fruitless joys*** which I had once feared to lose! ... You drove them from me, ***you who are the true, the sovereign joy***. You drove them from me and took their place, you who are sweeter than all pleasure, though not to flesh and blood, you who outshine all light, yet are hidden deeper than any secret in our hearts, you who surpass all honor, though not in the eyes of men who see all honor in themselves.... O Lord my God, my Light, my Wealth, and my Salvation” (57).

John Piper sums it up: “***The battle for holiness is a battle to be fought mainly by fueling the fires of our passion for Christ***. Sanctification is the triumph of sovereign joy. Its legacy is a legacy of love” (146). May we be so captivated by the infinite grace and all-surpassing glory of Jesus that we are propelled to



ever increasing holiness, love, service and evangelism!

Darin Anderson
Lead Pastor



PowerHouse Schedule

- Nov 5—Regular Evening Meeting
- Nov 10—Food Bag Friday (shopping for food for Food Bags)
- Nov 12—Food Bags following Worship & Regular Evening Meeting
- Nov 19—Thanksgiving Feast & Retreat Registration/Money due
- Nov 26—No Youth Group due to the holiday weekend
- Dec 1-3—Winter Camping Retreat

Challenge 2018

Our Middle & High School students will have the opportunity to participate in *Challenge* from July 2-6, 2018 in Kansas City, MO. *Challenge* is the biennial Youth Conference of the EFCA.

Cam Whipple invites all students and parents to an informational meeting following Worship on Sunday, November 5. The meeting will be in the large group room in TreeHouse.



Winter Camping Retreat

Our Winter Camping Retreat



will be held

December 1-3 @



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

Food Bag Ministry

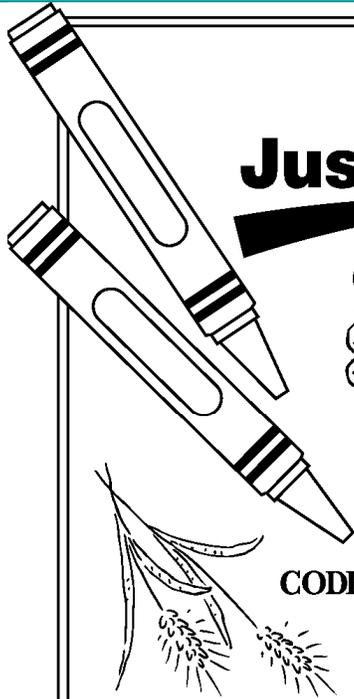
Our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven and Jacksonville. These bags are distributed to indigent patients at the clinic to provide some basic food needs of the patients and their family.

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. Our next Food Bag prep day is **Sunday, November 12** 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, November 10. 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



Just for KIDS



Harvest History

When we think of the harvest, most of us think of autumn. Well the Israelites had 3 different harvests! God told them, through Moses, how to celebrate feasts at the time of each harvest. Find out about them here.

CODE:

1	A	D	G	J	M	P	T	W
2	B	E	H	K	N	R	U	X
3	C	F	I	L	O	S	V	Y
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	

2,4 1,4 2,9 3,7 2,5 3,11
 1,4 1,9 2,9 3,6 3,7 1,8 1,4 3,11
The Feast of
 2,10 2,8 3,7 2,5 1,4 3,10 2,5 2,8 2,5 1,5
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1,11 2,6 2,5 1,4 1,10
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The Feast of
 3,6 2,8 1,6 1,4 1,10 2,6 2,5 2,9 3,6 2,8 1,6

Barley, April-May, The Feast of Unleavened Bread
 Wheat, June-July, The Feast of Weeks
 Fruits of the tree and vine, September-October,
 The Feast of Ingathering



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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



Nov 4—Operation Christmas Child box packing
 Nov 5—Daylight Saving Time Ends
 Communion during Worship
 Blood Pressure checks following Worship
 Nov 12—Deacon Team Meeting
 Oakwood Cares Team Meeting
 PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry
 Nov 13—Elder Team Meeting

Nov 20—Elder/Deacon Team Meet
 Nov 23—Thanksgiving Day
 Nov 23-24—Church Office closed for the holiday
 Nov 26—Oakwood Cares Team Meeting
 Nov 27—Elder Team Meeting

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. Article deadlines and publication schedule is:

Deadline	For events during...
Nov 22	December 2017
Dec 18	January 2018

Missed a Sunday message? Listen online @ www.oakwoodfl.org/messages/