



# ACORN

## Becoming A Contagious Christian



Saturday September 29  
 Oakwood Community Church  
 8:00 AM—3:00 PM

The *Becoming A Contagious Christian* course helps ordinary Christians develop confidence and skills that enable them to effectively share the Gospel with people they know. Designed especially for those who think evangelism is not for them, this curriculum is a powerful tool for equipping those in our entire church to communicate our faith in a way that's contagious. Taking into consideration an individual's natural way of communicating, six common styles of evangelism will be explored to allow an individual to use his/her natural gifting.

If you are interested in learning how to *Become A Contagious Christian*, please register at the Information Center in the lobby or contact the Church Office—[office@oakwoodfl.org](mailto:office@oakwoodfl.org) or 813-969-2303.

The cost is \$14 for the participants guide and lunch from HoneyBaked Hams (lunch options are on the registration form). If you prefer, you can bring your own lunch and the cost for the seminar is \$8, but you still need to register so we have sufficient materials.

We will meet in the Children's Ministry building.

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.



### Inside this issue:

OCC Updates	2-5
Congregational Meeting	2
Education Opportunities	3
Senior Ministry	4
Serve The World	5
Love ~ Grow ~ Serve	6
PowerHouse News	6
Marriage Matters	7
Kids Corner	8
Calendar at a Glance	9

## Congregational Meeting

This Sunday, September 16 we will be having an OCC Family Meeting right after the Worship Service. The meeting will begin a few minutes after the end of the Worship Service and will last no longer than 45 minutes. The Elders want to allow sufficient time for questions and comments from our church family.



## Adopt A Student

The Oakwood family has the opportunity to bless some college students from USF this school year. We are asking for some families to “adopt” a student for the year. This would mean inviting them over for a meal at least once a month. Maybe even letting them do a load of laundry when they come over! That would bless their families back home!



A sign-up sheet is in the Information Center in the lobby or contact the Church Office. As soon as school gets started, we will match up students to families and get you going. This is a great way to encourage a student and connect them to Oakwood.

## 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*.

## 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** at the Carrollwood Cultural Center (4537 Lowell Road, Tampa, FL). The cost to take the class is \$85 for class materials.

## Women's Bible Studies—revised

There are two women's Bible studies beginning soon:

### Tuesday evenings—7:15—9:00 PM

*Women of the Word (WOW)*

Begins September 18. Meets in the Oakwood library in the Education Center.

The first week will be a social and the new study on the Life of Christ will begin on September 18. For more information contact Sharon Pruden at [Sharon@biblebasics.org](mailto:Sharon@biblebasics.org) or (813) 960-2522.

### Wednesday afternoons—4:45—6:00 PM

*Just For Joy*

Begins September 5. Meets in the Oakwood library in the Education Center.

Join us as we study *SEED* by Priscilla Shirer. For more details contact Sissy Saunders at [Sissy.saunders@gmail.com](mailto:Sissy.saunders@gmail.com) or 813-926-9506.

**Attention Ladies—Just for Joy** would like to invite you for a time of fellowship with appetizers and dessert on October 3, 4:45—6:00 PM, as we share a new Bible study adventure. We will be showing a promo video on a new study by Kelly Minter, entitled **Nehemiah**. We will have workbooks to look through and go over our projected calendar for the study. So please come and check it out to see if this is a study that God may be leading you to join. Your sister in Christ ~ Sissy Saunders



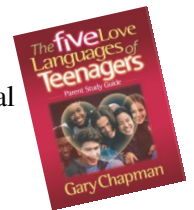
## Oakwood Mill—revised



The Oakwood Mill is the Adult Education ministry of Oakwood Community Church. This fall three classes are being held on Sunday mornings in the Education Center from 9:15—10:15 AM.

### *The Five Love Languages of Teenagers*

The teen years are tumultuous for many families. Everyone needs encouragement and effective Biblical-based wisdom to successfully navigate the many challenges of the often perplexing teen years. If you are in this season of life, please join us for an Oakwood Mill class on: **The Five Love Languages of Teenagers** by Dr. Gary Chapman



This study is designed to give parents resources to help parents more effectively communicate to their pre-teens and teens they are loved and appreciated. Some of the topics that will be addressed are Discovering Your Teenager's Love Language, Breaking Destructive Patterns of Anger, Managing the Cry for Freedom and Loving During Difficult Times.

We will begin on September 9 and conclude on November 18. The cost of the study guide is \$8.00. **For more information** contact Brian and Terri Johnson at [bcj\\_tjj@verizon.net](mailto:bcj_tjj@verizon.net). Home phone-813-909-7579, Brian's cell-813-679-1684 and Terri's cell-813-675-7608.

### *This We Believe*

Oakwood Mill is excited to announce a new elective that starts on September 23rd. Based on the Statement of Faith of the Evangelical Free Church of America, **This We Believe** will discuss topics such as who is God, who is Jesus, the Trinity, the Bible, the Church, and more. **This We Believe** will be an interactive study with heavy emphasis on application. There are no prerequisites and it doesn't matter if you're a new Believer or have followed the Lord for many years. Be prepared for lots of lively discussion that will help you grow in your faith. This class will be facilitated by Guy Sas.

**Still to come**—information on a Senior Adult Bible Study class—watch for details. The online class—**Improving Your Serve**—has been postponed until Spring 2013.

## Senior Ministry



### Potluck Luncheon

Everyone 60+ (and any spouses who are under 60) is invited to join us this Sunday, September 16 for a Potluck Lunch following the Congregational Meeting. We will meet in the Children's Ministry Building. Bring your potluck dish and join us for fun, food and fellowship.

## Clendinen Reception & Report

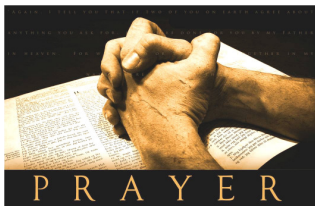


They're back! Carolynne, Anissa and Ariana have been back in Tampa for a couple of weeks, and Craig joined them this week.

Join us on Friday, October 5 in the Children's Ministry building to welcome the Clendinen family back to Tampa and hear a report on the ministry they had in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Watch for more details on this evening together.

## Sunday Morning Prayer



**Another opportunity to pray**—Every Sunday morning from 10:30 - 10:50 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 September Prayer Guide is available at the Information Center or view it on our website.

## New Message Series—*Come and See*



In the words of one of Jesus' earliest followers, I invite you to *come and see for yourself* just who Jesus is. We're going to journey through the opening chapters of John's extraordinary Gospel. As we do so, we won't be just studying a book, nor merely learning *about* a person, we will be meeting *The Man* Himself. For those of us who've already met Him, we'll marvel at His awesomeness as we get to know Him better. This will be an especially great series for you to invite a friend to explore with you. This series will begin on September 23.

~ Pastor Paul

## Bridges Small Group



### Bridges Small Group

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 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

## Opportunities to *Serve The Church & World*

### Cookies for Prisoners



Ray Ross will be going to Polk Correctional Institution with Kairos Prison Ministry International Sept.20—23.

Supplying meals and cookies during this event are part of the program. Donations of store bought non-fruit filled packaged cookies are requested; Fig Newtons are okay. No home made or fresh bakery made cookies are allowed into the prison.



If you are interested in making a donation, there will be a bin located in the lobby area this Sunday.

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



## PowerHouse Schedule

Sept 16—Regular Sunday Evening—5:00—7:30

Sept 23—Food Bag Ministry following Worship  
Fall Festival—Watch for details

Sept 30—Regular Sunday evening—5:00—7:30

Oct 7—Regular Sunday evening—5:00—7:30

Saturday, Oct 13—Community Service—Walk For Life—5:00—7:30

Oct 19—21—Oakwood/Candlewood Camping Retreat

## Walk For Life



**PowerHouse**  
Walks for LIFE!!  
Saturday, Oct 13th  
5:00 pm - 7:15 pm  
Idlewild Baptist Church

Festivities include...Food,  
Music, Bouncy Obstacle  
Courses, Video Games,  
Face Painting and More!!

On Saturday, October 13, our students will participate in the Pregnancy Care Center's Walk For Life. This is the annual fundraiser for PCP.

## Food Bag Ministry

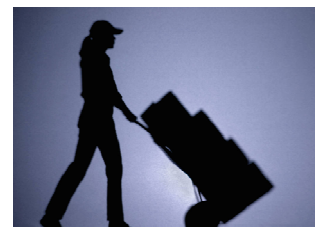
Did you know that our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven? These bags are distributed to indigent patients at the clinic to provide some basic food needs of the patients and their family.

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, September 23**, 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, September 21. 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.

## 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.





### How trouble can transform marriage

Karen O'Connor is a retreat speaker, award-winning author, and writing mentor from Watsonville, California. Visit Karen's web site: [KarenOConnor.com](http://KarenOConnor.com).

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## Surprised By Redemption—Part 1

Karen O'Connor

A news reporter once asked Joyce Rumsfeld how she and her husband Donald, former Secretary of Defense, kept their marriage of nearly 60 years together. She replied without hesitation, "He travels a lot." Her response might elicit a smile, but I imagine there's more truth in it than fiction. Staying together through tough times such as leading through war in Iraq, 10 relocations in 12 years, and rearing children largely alone, requires strength, commitment, and the grace of God. For some couples, like the Rumsfelds, trying circumstances actually transform their marriages to a level of good they never expected.

I remember speaking with an old friend after we'd been apart for many years due to various changes in our lives. The last I'd heard, she and her husband were on the verge of separation. But then something occurred in her life that prompted her to take one simple step before giving up. She began *praying* for her husband—not that he would change or be more loving or a better listener, but that God would bless him right where he was. And she asked the Lord to take away her harsh judgments about him. Over time and with the support of other praying wives, my friend's marriage was healed. Her husband didn't suddenly become someone new. He was the same man he'd always been, but she *saw* him differently and began to love him as he was. Some might consider this a miracle. She says, "No, it was my deal with God—to pray for my husband and to accept and be happy with whatever results the Lord gave me." She paused and smiled. "And I am."

I spoke with other women and men too, about their marriages and how God used the unlikely situations in their lives to transform their relationships. Here are their stories.

### Alcoholism Led to Renewal

"Hello. I'm Heidi, a recovering alcoholic. That was my problem—our problem—right there," said Heidi. "But it has brought me closer to my husband in the last 2,912 days of sober living than ever before."

How does Heidi know this precise number? Because her husband writes on a little slip of paper the number of each new day that Heidi remains sober. She carries the paper in her pocket as a reminder to stay grateful for the day—and to live it without drinking. "Dick has done this for me since the very first day of my sobriety," she said, "when I surrendered my life back to God and stopped drinking. It is a joint effort and I am accountable to myself, to my husband, and to my God."

This action alone changed Heidi and Dick's marriage, but the real transformation came when the couple's pastor invited Heidi to speak on sobriety and her faith in front of 4,500 people at three weekend services.

"Dick hadn't been in church in 50 years!" said Heidi. "But he came to all three services to support me. That weekend he was touched by the Holy Spirit through the sermon, the praise and worship music, and my testimony. He became a Christian soon after that." Not only was their marriage transformed, but so was Heidi once again.

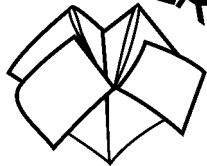
She admits that while standing in front of the crowd she was focused on herself. "I thought that whole experience was about *me* delivering *my* message, when in fact, it was about God getting *his* message to my husband through me! I am so blessed now to be able to show up sober for God's work. From that day on, Dick and I have done mission work together and we sing in the choir—Dick's idea."

Heidi can admit with a smile that God used her alcoholism to serve his purpose in their marriage. "Sobriety," she said, "is not so much about 'not drinking,' but about engagement with life, reconnecting to God and to others. Drinking was about isolation from people and separation from God. Staying sober and helping other alcoholics has now become my ministry for God."

Watch for Part 2 of this article in the next issue of the *ACORN*.

# Kids Corner

## LITTLE BITS OF PROVERBS



You will need:

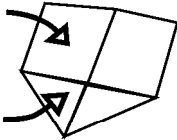
- a square piece of paper
- a pen or pencil

How to make:

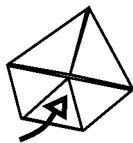
1. Fold paper in half and then again.



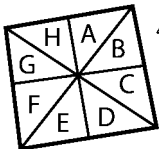
2. Open it and then fold the corners to the center.



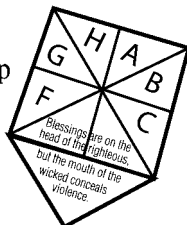
3. Turn it over and fold the new corners to the center.



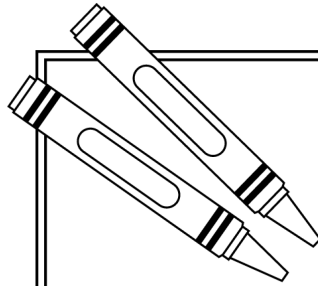
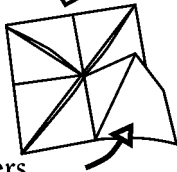
4. Write a letter (A-H) on each triangle.



5. Lift each flap and write a verse from Proverbs on it.



6. Pull out flaps on underside to make four little cones to hold your fingers.



## Just for KIDS

### What Am I?

We work on gaining this all our lives. It's especially important when we're in school! Use a Bible (NIV) to look up the verses listed below. Find a word in each verse that fits in the boxes. The heavy boxes spell the answer.

1 Corinthians 8:1		<b>N</b>					
Philippians 1:9						<b>H</b>	
2 Peter 1:5							<b>S</b>
			<b>A</b>				2 Timothy 3:7
Matthew 24:32					<b>S</b>		
John 7:15				<b>R</b>			
						<b>I</b>	Isaiah 33:6
2 Peter 3:18						<b>E</b>	
		<b>W</b>					Proverbs 24:5

“By wisdom a house is built, ... through \_\_\_\_\_ its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.”

Answer: know, insight, goodness, always, lesson, learning, foundation, grace, powers, knowledge



Oakwood Community Church  
 11209 Casey Rd  
 Tampa FL 33618-5306  
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**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 - 10:30 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**



Sept 15—Community Group Leader Training  
 Sept 16—Dave Cox Speaking  
           Compassion Offering  
           Congregational Meeting  
 Sept 23—PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry  
 Sept 29—Contagious Christian Seminar  
 Sept 30—Child Dedication in Worship Service  
           GroupLink  
           Adopt A Student luncheon



Oct 5—Clendinen Reception  
 Oct 6—Family Fun Night  
 Oct 7—Blood Pressure Checks  
           Elder led Prayer following Worship  
 Oct 13—Pregnancy Care Center Walk For Life

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...
Sept 21	Sept 26	Sept 29—Oct 12
Oct 5	Oct 10	Oct 13—Oct 26

Do you know someone at Oakwood with a noteworthy achievement? Send the information to [Office@OakwoodFL.org](mailto:Office@OakwoodFL.org) and we'll include it in a future article.

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