



ACORN

Seeds for Growth

Random Thoughts

I didn't know how much I appreciated hanging with our kids until this month. I am learning so much about being a follower of Jesus Christ being around our kids. This month we are learning about Determination. Determination is deciding it's worth it to finish what you've started. Some of you already know our key verse if you have been using the Oakwood Prayer Guide. It is Hebrews 12:1 and it challenges us to "keep on running the race marked out for us." The New Living Translation uses the phrase "run with endurance" and that endurance is measured by our determination to follow after Christ. The first week we heard the familiar story of Noah. Scripture does not record the ridicule he and his family faced but we do get picture of the culture at the time. "The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." I am confident Noah took some verbal abuse and maybe some vandalism of the ark for the work God called him to. He kept going no matter what. We all will take some verbal shots from others for following Christ. Sometimes those shots come from those who do not yet know the Savior and sometimes those shots come from other Christians. Either way, may we be determined to stay the course and be obedient to the instruction of God's Word.

I am so proud of the work Beth Ross is doing with Naomi's Daughters. This is the ministry to single moms that happens right here on the Oakwood campus. I'm also proud of what God has done through the Oakwood family in supporting the Clothes Closet the moms and kids get to take advantage of each month. Late in 2012, Beth started meeting with the moms every other Tuesday nights for Bible Study and worship. For some of these moms, this is the only time they have to worship and fellowship as they work on Sundays to support their families. Great stuff!! Thanks Beth (and Ray!) for blessing these moms and kids. There are some great opportunities to help in this ministry. Please talk to Beth or contact the church office if you would like to help.

This Sunday, Oakwood is participating in the Day to Pray that was initiated by Mike Huckabee. There is no event to attend or agenda to follow. It is a time to ask God for forgiveness and healing for our country. Please mark out some time any time on Sunday to join thousands around the country in praying for those who lead to have the wisdom they need for the road ahead.



It is not too late to pick up a January Prayer Guide. Thanks, Prayer Team, for putting this together. It has been especially encouraging to me this month. To be reminded of many of the attributes of God and His Son, Jesus Christ, is a great way to start the year!

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:

Blood Mobile	2
TreeHouse News	2
Oakwood Mill	3
Serve The Church & World	3
New Women's Study	4
Year-End Financial Report	4
PowerHouse News	5
Marriage Matters	6
Kids Corner	7
Calendar at a Glance	8



Blood Mobile @ Oakwood

The Blood Mobile will be at Oakwood on Sunday, January 20, 2013 from 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM. If you are at least 16 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, are in good health and haven't donated in the last eight weeks, you are eligible to donate.

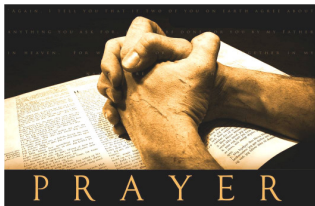
Did you know that only 37 % of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood yet, less than 10% do annually. This is why repeat donors are so vital to our blood supply. January is a critical month for blood donations as blood supplies run low after the holidays.

Will you roll up your sleeves and help us get 7 unites donated for this worthy cause?

Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks Sunday, February 3, 2013 in the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.

Sunday Morning Prayer



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 **love ~ grow ~ serve** vision with prayer into the new year of 2013. Our continued focus on prayer is leading us to include two memory verses along with the prayer guide. The **first memory verse is designed to pair with the prayer focus of the month**. The **second memory verse is the same verse the TreeHouse children are learning in their curriculum**. Our hope is to continue to grow in the context of the vision as family members as well as Oakwood family in the body of Christ, further seeking His will.

January: We will **love God** by praying His names in order to honor and worship Him.

January Prayer Guides are available at the Information Center and on our website.

TreeHouse News

We've started a new curriculum for our Nursery through 5-Year-Old children. Our 1st—5th Grade started a new curriculum the first of December. These changes will help us be more effective in partnering with parents to teach our kids about Jesus.



We're on Facebook! That's right, TreeHouse now has their own Facebook page. Visit us (see link below) and "Like" us to keep up with what is happening in our TreeHouse ministry.

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Oakwood-Treehouse/355783091186462?ref=ts&fref=ts&_req=3m

Oakwood Mill

The Oakwood Mill is the Adult Education Ministry of Oakwood Community Church.



New class beginning on January 27—*The Five Love Languages of Children*

Just when parents think they have “got the parenting thing down,” children tend to hit a new stage, leaving parents reeling and wondering how best to love on each different child at each different stage. Join Terri Johnson and Adrienne Smith for a new Oakwood Mill class to explore “The Five Love Languages of Children” from popular Christian authors Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell, M.D. This resources will be paired with “Boundaries with Kids” by doctors Cloud and Townsend to further explore and discuss how to help the children in your life to feel loved.

We know many of you are busy with your children, so the class will be light on homework but heavy on application by practicing loving on your children throughout the week! The class begins January 27 at 9:15 AM during the Oakwood Mill hour. If you are interested, please sign up at the Information Center or email Adrienne (adriannediane@gmail.com) so we can account for accurate materials.

Continuing classes are:

This We Believe—a look at the Statement of Faith of Oakwood Community Church and the EFCA—facilitated by Guy Sas in room 102/104

The Epistles of Peter—led by Bill Clarke in room 106

Opportunity to *Serve The Church & World*

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.

This ministry is now meeting the 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month in PowerHouse and TreeHouse. There are some specific needs that the Oakwood family can potentially help with:

- Someone with HR skills who could help put together a resume for single mom's as well as help with interview skills.
- Someone who has taught school that could help as a tutor for the children (and the mom's)

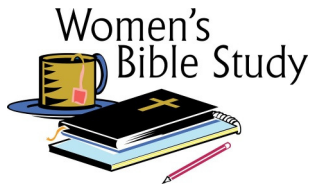
If you have experience in these areas and would like to volunteer some time, please contact Beth Ross at (813) 879-5231



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. **Pantry needs:** cereal, canned goods, rice, pasta, paper goods, personal care items.

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 our doors.



New Women's Study

Just For Joy will begin a new Beth Moore study soon on the book of Revelation. Watch for more details in the *ACORN* and the Worship Program or contact Sissy Saunders.

This group meets at Oakwood on Wednesdays from 4:45—6:00 PM.



2012 End of Year Giving Update



In the middle of December, before we closed the year, we emailed you that we had to tap into our modest reserves by approximately \$17,000. Do you know what God supplied to Oakwood through you? We met that need with \$17,934! How awesome! We praise our Lord and we thank you!

2012 was a year where, in addition to funding and accomplishing important Oakwood ministry activities and goals, we also achieved our goal of saving for the staff health care fund, facility maintenance and our ministry vision and that is a significant achievement.

Your tithes and offerings, including your special end of the year gifts, have allowed us to close out 2012 in a healthy financial position and enter 2013 with these accounts funded.

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

Volleyball

Interested in participating in some regular recreational volleyball on the Church grounds? La Verne Cluff is interested in organizing games if there is enough interest. Contact La Verne @ (813) 968-8784 for more details and to indicate your interest.



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.



PowerHouse Schedule

Jan 20—Food Bag Ministry following Worship
Night Spiker Volleyball
Jan 27—Regular Sunday evening—5:00—7:30 PM
Feb 3—Super Bowl Party—Connors home
Feb 10—Regular Sunday evening—5:00—7:30 PM
Feb 15-17—*Be Last*—PH Winter Retreat in Orlando

Winter Retreat



PowerHouse youth will participate in the *Be Last* Student Life Conference February 15-17 in Orlando. The cost is \$75 per person and includes the conference (Fri-Sat), hotel for 2 nights, and breakfast for 2 mornings. Sunday will be spent at Universal Studios.

For more details and a registration form, pick up a flier 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? 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 third Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag Prep day is **Sunday, January 20** 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, January 18. Meet at Aldi at the corner of Bearss & Florida Ave. at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple) if you want to help. For more details contact Sandy Clarke at 931-0668.

Delivery drivers needed—We are also in need of people who can help with delivery of these food bags, especially to Lakeland, Haines City, and Winter Haven. If you can help deliver, please contact Sandy Clarke at 931-0668.

Night Spiker



**Night Spiker
Black Light
Volleyball
Jan 20
5-7 PM**

Spring Break Ministry Trip

**March 9—15
Cedine Ministries
Spring City, Tennessee**

Middle and High School students can spend their Spring Break helping get Cedine Ministries, a Christian Camp/Conference Center, ready for summer campers. Cost is \$80 per person.

For more details contact Luke Piazza @ (813) 451-4265.

There is a need for drivers to transport the students to and from Tennessee. If you can help, please contact Luke.





Just for Laughs

The following stories are from *Church Laughs* and are intended to bring a little humor to your day.

Four-Part Hummony

The plans for the wedding service I was performing were as grand and elegant as the church in which it was taking place—except for one flaw. The appointed time for the service arrived, but the organist did not. With hundreds of guests waiting, I frantically tried to find an organist.

The uncle of the bride, a retired pastor, asked about the delay. I explained the situation, and he suggested we begin. Opening the door to the sanctuary, I saw the same uncle at the front with arms raised. A hush fell on the crowd. When the uncle brought his arms down, two hundred people began to hum—in four-part harmony—the Bridal March.

—Steven Poole, Issaquah, Wash. *Christian Reader*, "Rolling Down the Aisle."

Honesty of Children

My sister, Ann, a third-grade teacher, invited her class to her wedding. The wedding was at 3:30 p.m. on a weekday, so the substitute brought Ann's class to the church.

The music started, the attendants took their places, and the bride came down the aisle on the arm of her father. At this point one alarmed student exclaimed, "She's not going to marry that old man, is she?"

—Cheryl A. Paden, Nebraska. *Today's Christian Woman*, "Small Talk."

Nothing to Wink At

In Bible college, I began dating a fellow. During our first month of dating, we decided we should study the Bible together.

With my plot well set, one night I opened my Bible to (Proverbs 18:22) and read, "He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord." I looked up, winked, and said, "Couldn't you use a little favor from the Lord?"

My boyfriend, a Bible scholar, was quick with his reply from (Proverbs 10:10)—"He

who winks the eye causes trouble."

—Carolyn Kempf, Jackson, Mo. *Christian Reader*, "Lite Fare."

Washing Your Own Hair

My 7-year-old often asks for help in washing her long hair. One day I said, "You really need to learn to do this by yourself."

"I know," she replied. "I don't want my husband to laugh at me when you have to come over and wash my hair every day."

—Jeanne Martin, Springfield, Ill. *Christian Reader*, "Kids of the Kingdom."

A Thief in the Dark

Before performing a wedding, my father spent a few minutes explaining to a reluctant 6-year-old ring bearer how important his job was—the wedding couldn't happen without him. All went well, despite a heavy snowstorm outside. But near the end of the ceremony the electricity went out. Everyone decided to continue in the dark.

Just as the groom was about to kiss the bride, the lights came back on. The ring bearer looked at his pillow, horrified. "All right," he yelled, "who stole the rings?"

—Debbie Sparrow, Vernon, British Columbia. *Christian Reader*, "Rolling Down the Aisle."

Happiness in Black and White

At a wedding we were attending, my granddaughter Melissa asked, "Why is a bride always dressed in white?"

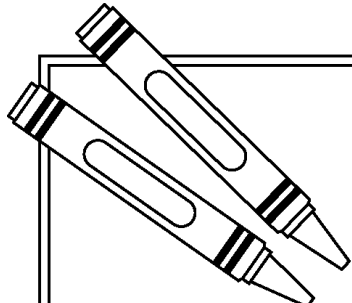
"Because white represents happiness and today is the happiest day of her life," I replied.

Her next question was: "Then why is the groom dressed in black?"

—Clara Null, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. *Christian Reader*, "Rolling Down the Aisle."

From *Church Laughs* from ChristianityToday.com
Used with permission.

Kids Corner



Just for **KIDS**

“A New Year – A New You”

Find the words from 2 Corinthians 5:17.

A	D	F	H	L	N	R	T	Y
C	E	G	I	M	O	S	W	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

“ e ’ 4,5 3

8 4 2,3 7 2,3 3 6,7 7 2,3

1 6 9 6,7 6 2,3 4,5 7,8 4,5 6

1,2 4 7 4,5 7,8 8 ’ 4 2,3 4,5 7,8 1

6 2,3 8,9 1,2 7 2,3 1 8 4,5 6,7 6 ;


8 4 2,3 6,7 5 2 4 1 7,8

3,4 6,7 6 2,3 ’ 8 4 2,3

6 2,3 8,9 4 1 7,8

! ”

1,2 6,7 5,6 2,3



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!



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 - 10:30 AM

Our Elder Team

Edson Bustamante
 Pete Kluck
 Paul Phair
 Eric Pratt

Our Deacon Team

Nan Duncan
 Matt Fucarino
 Bob Mendenhall
 Ray Ross
 Ben Smith
 Dave Young

Calendar at a Glance



Jan 20—Compassion Offering
 Blood Mobile @ Oakwood
 Day to Pray
 PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry
 PowerHouse Night Spiker Volleyball
 Jan 22—Naomi’s Daughters dinner/Bible study



Feb 3—Blood Pressure checks
 Feb 5—Naomi’s Daughters dinner/Bible study
 Feb 15-17—PowerHouse Winter Retreat—Orlando
 Feb 17—Board Meeting for elder & deacon teams

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...
Jan 25	Jan 30	Feb 2—Feb 15
Feb 8	Feb 13	Feb 16—Mar 1

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.