

Oakwood Community Church  
 11209 Casey Rd  
 Tampa FL 33618-5306  
 813.969.2303  
[www.oakwoodfl.org](http://www.oakwoodfl.org)



# ACORN

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.



## From The Interim’s Desk...What’s Happening?

“What is the Transition Team doing at this point in preparation for our next Pastor?” The team, made up of one Elder (Rob Weyand), two Deacons (David Conner & Mike Wyatt), three men members (Brad Gordon, Arnie Mejias, & Luke Piazza), and three women members (Val Brand, Andrea Cress, & Julie Minardi), along with four alternates (Thomas Adams, Joe Angelo, Katie Frost, & Arlene Williams) have functioned well with humility, passion, and relational skill.

**Humility:** The team has listened well to the church family through the assessment tools. Additionally, they have never once planted their flags so deeply on any issue that they stopped effectively listening to the wisdom that each has brought to the process. They have formulated suggestions for the Elders to consider in key areas that need to be strengthened in the body.

**Passion:** The Transition Team has enthusiastically approached their responsibility to the point that, apart from surgery, illness, or death in the family, no one has missed any of the bi-monthly meetings. They are so passionate about doing the work that they enthusiastically labor to move us toward our next Lead Pastor.

**Relational Skill:** Without exception, they have encouraged each other, valued each other’s wisdom, and lovingly challenged each other’s perspectives. Not once has anyone felt unappreciated or not needed on the team. They know how to “speak the truth in love” (Ep. 4:15).

But, what has been accomplished?

1] **Thorough Assessment of the Health of OCC:** The key areas to strengthen identified through interaction with the entire church are: **Church Structure**, which includes, but is not limited to, how the work of Christ gets done by the body. Church ministry leaders have been unclear on who they can turn to in leadership for support, help, and resources to accomplish their work. Evaluation of ministries is less than a priority. **Empowering Leadership**, which includes, but is not limited to, how to begin new ministry(ies) consistent with the mission and process of the church. People have anticipated that suggestions given to the Elders should be implemented without thought of who is gifted to lead and serve in those suggested ministries or how they would be resourced and evaluated. **Inspiring Worship**, which includes, but is not limited to, study of the Word of God, participatory worship music, testimonies, prayer, and other elements of worship.



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## Sweetheart Dinner

You and your valentine are invited to a special evening on February 11 at 6:27 PM in the TreeHouse Building.

What we need from you is:

You and your favorite valentine to sign up.

Please give us your anniversary date.

You will need to bring a framed wedding photo - wrapped in a plastic bag to protect it.

Cost is \$45 per couple (dinner catered from Olive Garden). Your registration, payment and photo are due by Sunday, January 29. You can register at the Information Center in the lobby.

It will be a special and fun night for you - all worry free!!



## Worship Arts Team

Are you interested in joining us on our Worship Team? We are looking for additional people in sound/lyrics/lighting, musicians, vocalists and for the somewhat new position of producer. Producers and worship leaders work together to plan and implement services that help us to worship God more fully together. Some level of musical skill/knowledge along with organizational, computer and interpersonal skills are very helpful in this role.

If you are interested in joining us, please come to the worship center at 7:00 PM on January 18. We will have more information available and you can interact with current team members. On January 25 at 7:00 PM we will have a "Jam Session" working with vocalists and musicians interested in being part of the Worship Team.



If you have questions, please contact Mark Beale at (813) 368-1102.

## Returning Hearts Celebration

Awana Lifeline's *Returning Hearts Celebration* is an opportunity for incarcerated men to spend a play day with their children. For this to happen, we need a volunteer base to serve in various areas.



A *Returning Hearts Celebration* will be held on Saturday, March 18 at Hardee Correctional Institution in Bowling Green, FL. If you have interest in learning how you can help with this celebration, please attend a brief informational meeting following the Worship service on Sunday, February 5, in the front of the Worship Center.

You can find out more about Awana Lifeline and the *Returning Hearts Celebration* at [awanalifeline.org](http://awanalifeline.org). If you have more questions, please contact Dave Dorsey in the Church Office at 813-969-2303 or email at [dave@oakwoodfl.org](mailto:dave@oakwoodfl.org).

## TreeHouse Parents meeting



Parents of children in Kindergarten—5th Grade are invited to an informational meeting this Sunday, January 22, right after the Worship Service in TreeHouse.

You will have an opportunity to meet the Small Group leaders that minister to your children each week, as well as hear what we do in TreeHouse and why we do it.

Please join us.

## Opportunity to *Serve the World*

**Naomi's Daughters** is a ministry for single moms that provides clothing and food to the moms and their children. The Oakwood family, along with others in the community, provides donations of clothing, food and money to keep this ministry moving forward.



**Current needs** –Clothing and shoes for infants to adults; school supplies

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

Donations can be left on the back porch of the gray house at the front of our property. Tax Deductible receipts are available.

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.

## Financial Update

2016 Financial Update through December:		
	Actual	Budget
2016 Offerings Received	423,928	
2016 Expenses	491,091	529,972
Offerings Over/(Under) Exp	(67,163)	(106,044)

**Thank you to all who partnered with Oakwood in 2016, and allowed us to end the year on a positive note. We look forward, with God's help and by His grace, to the continued strengthening of Oakwood's mission in 2017.**

**Your Elders and Deacons**

**Online Giving.** Did you know that you can make financial contributions to Oakwood through our website? You can give one time or set up for recurring donations. Visit [www.oakwoodfl.org](http://www.oakwoodfl.org) and click "Give Online" on the right side of the menu on the home page.

## PTSD Support Group

**Supportive Arms Support Group** meets every Friday from 7-9 PM in the Church Library.



This support group is for Veterans and current service members that suffer from PTSD/Trauma. Open to men and women. The goal is to give support and comfort in a group environment to those that struggle with PTSD/Trauma; to help in their daily lives with insight, support, and spiritual guidance; to show that they are loved and cared for through the Grace of God. While everyone may not have served, chances are we have a family member or friend who has and that is struggling in their everyday life. This is an opportunity for them to receive much needed care and support.

Group facilitators are Terrence Morman and Chris Schmidt.

## Attention Women

**Just for Joy** women's Bible study meets on **Tuesday mornings from 10:00—11:30 AM** in Room 106 of the Education Building. Please note day and time change.



The books of Ezra and Nehemiah focus on God restoring His holy city and His chosen people. Study guides are \$7.

RSVP to Sandy Wyatt at [slwyatt7@gmail.com](mailto:slwyatt7@gmail.com) or call 960-8168.

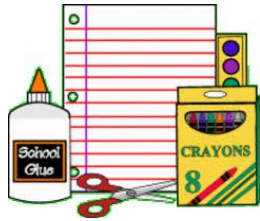
## Blood Pressure checks

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



## Oakwood Cares

The Oakwood Cares team is sponsoring several events over the next few months. Check out the details below to see how you can be involved.



**Teacher Appreciation.** The Oakwood Cares Team is sponsoring a Teacher Appreciation Day for the teachers at Cannella Elementary on January 28, 2017. We will be collecting donations of supplies to share with these teachers for use in their classrooms. Suggested supplies: box of tissues, hand sanitizer, notebooks, pencils, copy paper, or anything else that could be helpful for teachers in their classroom.

**Collection boxes will be available in the lobby through January 22 for you donations.** Thanks for helping us show teachers that Oakwood Cares.



**A Yard Sale** will be held on Saturday, February 4 from 8 AM to 2 PM. Our desire is to give our neighbors an opportunity to get to know us little bit better, while raising funds for Oakwood Cares.

If you have household goods, clothing or furniture you would like to donate, please contact Chris Schmidt (813-786-8863) for details on dropping off your donations.

*Your unwanted or unused items can become another person's treasure.*

## Lifeline Screening

Oakwood Community Church is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on Saturday, February 11, 2017. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis.



Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

**In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6450 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/advantagemembers](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/advantagemembers).**

Printed information with more details about these screenings is available at the Information Center in the lobby.

## From The Interim's Desk...What's Happening? *cont'd from Page 1*

2] **Well Thought-Out Suggestions to Improve the Weak Areas:** **Church Structure:** The Transition Team has submitted to the Elders a flow chart that attempts to reflect the Biblical role of Elders, Deacons, and Members of OCC. The chart encourages communication from the inside out and from the outside in. Roles are structured in such a way on the chart as to clearly communicate which church leader a ministry director can approach for counsel, encouragement, and resources. Additionally, the TT has submitted to the Elders a plan for establishing an approach to evaluate all current church ministries. **Empowering Leadership:** The TT has also submitted to the Elders a procedure and checklist for new ministries and ideas that issue from the body for new approaches to accomplishing the mission of OCC. It places on the shoulders of Elders the privilege of encouraging helping, and resourcing members to be responsible for new ministries that they are gifted and passionate to start. **Inspiring Worship:** One of the key recommendations from the TT to the Elders is to prayerfully consider a volunteer leadership role to coordinate the incorporation of God-stories (testimonies), systematic ministry highlights, and prayer for missionaries to regularly celebrate what God is doing through OCC. Elders will be completing their evaluation of the suggestions in a timely manner and presenting them to the Church Family.

But, what's going on now?

**January:** The TT is putting together profiles in preparation for beginning the search for our next Servant Leader. They include a Pastoral Profile, a Church Profile, and a Community Profile. The church and community profiles are simply statements of facts about OCC's history and current life in the Carrollwood and Tampa area. The Pastoral Profile will include character traits and skill sets necessary to strengthen the areas of needed (listed above).

**February:** There will be some coaching of the Transition Team, as it becomes the Pastoral Search Team. Glen Schreiber, the District Superintendent of the Evangelical Free Church of America, to which OCC belongs, will lead a training session on February 15<sup>th</sup> to help equip the Search Team. We anticipate being ready to post for the search by early spring. The post for the position will be made through Ministry Connection (a service provided by the EFCA), through selected colleges/seminaries (alumni who are in ministry frequently contact their alma maters), and if that does not yield quality candidates, we will cast the net farther by posting on broader websites.

What else?

**Leadership Development:** About 15 men consistently met through the fall to study what the Word says about leadership. The Elders have invited two men to attend Elder meetings for a three-month period as Interns for practical exposure to Shepherding. It is anticipated that two more will be given the same opportunity every three months without any commitment on their part to become Elders.

It is anticipated that our next Lead Pastor will want to continue Leadership Development.

Larry Chute, Interim

## Work Day

**Saturday, February 18—8:30 AM—Noon**

We are looking for Small Groups, families and friends to have a great time of fellowship and work together on projects inside and out at Oakwood.

We appreciate your help—whether you can come for an hour or for the morning. If you have questions, please contact Dave Fowle at davidfowle1@gmail.com.





## PowerHouse Schedule

- Jan 22—Regular Evening Meeting
- Jan 29—5th Sunday & Regular Evening Meeting
- Feb 5—Super Bowl Party
- Feb 12—Regular Evening Meeting

## Youth Missions Trip

- Where:** Haiti
- When:** July 8-15
- Who:** 6th—12th Grade students
- Why:** We will work with Greg & Maria Shepherd of RTS Missions to lead a VBS and serve the children in Lascahobas and surrounding villages. We will learn about missions and consider God’s work through us for His mission.
- Cost:** \$1,000
- Questions:** Contact Cam Whipple at 813.265.9895

An informational brochure/registration form is available in PowerHouse with more details on the trip. We are raising funds for this trip through the monthly Food Bag Ministry (see details below). **The time to register is now!**

For info on RTS Missions visit their website at: [www.rtsmissions.com](http://www.rtsmissions.com)

## Spring Retreat



**MARCH 24-26**  
**CAMP GILEAD**  
**POLK CITY, FL**

PICK UP AN INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE AND REGISTRATION FORM IN POWERHOUSE FOR OUR SPRING RETREAT.



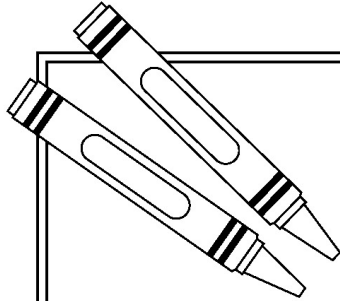
## PowerHouse Talent Show

**SUNDAY, MARCH 5**

**WATCH FOR DETAILS**



Kids Corner



# Just for KIDS

## A FAMILY OF PRAYER

The book of Acts tells about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman centurion from Caesarea who worshiped God. Through his encounter with Cornelius, Peter learned that God accepts everyone who fears him and does what is right.

Use the code below to see the example set by Cornelius and his family. Solve the math problems by using the grid. Then use the key to find the letter that matches each answer. Write the letter on the blank.

GRID	
A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

**KEY:** a=7 e=8 i=10 o=9 u=11 y=6

"H e \_\_\_nd \_\_\_ll h\_\_\_s f\_\_\_m\_\_\_l\_\_\_  
 A+C A+D A+D B+C A+D B+C A+B

w\_\_\_r\_\_\_ d\_\_\_v\_\_\_ \_\_\_t \_\_\_nd  
 A+C A+C A+C B+D C+D A+D

G\_\_\_d-f\_\_\_ \_\_\_r\_\_\_ng; h\_\_\_ g\_\_\_v\_\_\_  
 B+D A+C A+D B+C A+C A+D A+C

g\_\_\_n\_\_\_r\_\_\_ \_\_\_sl\_\_\_ t\_\_\_ th\_\_\_s\_\_\_ \_\_\_n  
 A+C A+C B+D C+D A+B B+D B+D A+C B+C

n\_\_\_ \_\_\_d \_\_\_nd pr\_\_\_ \_\_\_d t\_\_\_ G\_\_\_d  
 A+C A+C A+D A+D A+B A+C B+D B+D

r\_\_\_g\_\_\_l\_\_\_rl\_\_\_." \_\_\_cts 10:2, NIV  
 A+C C+D A+D A+B A+D

Answers:  
 "He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." Acts 10:2, NIV



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**Our Vocation & Volunteer Staff**

Interim Pastor—Larry Chute  
 Director of Ministries & Coordinator of Children’s Ministry—Dave Dorsey  
 Director of PowerHouse Ministry—Doug Cress  
 Associate Director of PowerHouse Ministry—Cam Whipple  
 Office Manager—Martha Dorsey  
 Secretary—Melanie Hoglievina

**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

**Our Elder Team**

Mark Beale  
 Edson Bustamante  
 Larry Chute  
 John Schneider  
 Rob Weyand

**Our Deacon Team**

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

**Calendar at a Glance**



Jan 22—Oakwood Cares Team Meeting  
 TreeHouse Parents Meeting  
 Jan 23—Women’s Ministry Team Meeting  
 Elder Team Meeting  
 Jan 25—Transition Team Meeting  
 Jan 28—Teacher Appreciation

Feb 1—Transition Team Meeting  
 Feb 4—Garage Sale  
 Feb 5—Blood Pressure checks following Worship  
 Feb 11—Lifeline Screening  
 Sweetheart Dinner  
 Feb 12—Deacon Team Meeting  
 Oakwood Cares Team Meeting  
 Communion during Worship  
 PowerHouse Food Bags

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...
Jan 27	Feb 1	Feb 4—Feb 17
Feb 10	Feb 15	Feb 18—Mar 3

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