



# ACORN



On Saturday, October 29, Oakwood will once again be hosting a free Fall Festival for our Church family and as an outreach to our community.

## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP!

- We welcome all help in spreading the word to neighbors and friends. Flyers will be available at the Information Center. An electronic copy of the flyer is available by contacting Melanie Hoglievina in the Church Office and she will email it to you.
- We are looking for individuals and families to donate candy for the Trunk or Treat. There will be a bin in the Church Lobby through October 23 to collect your donations.
- As a reminder, if you signed up to volunteer you must create at least one car as a trunk or treat. If you are having difficulty with ideas just Google "trunk or treat pics" and you will get more ideas than you probably want! There is a prize for 1st place!!
- All of the games are taken and being built. Anyone who signed up to make a game and may need help, please notify [lukepiazza@yahoo.com](mailto:lukepiazza@yahoo.com)

Contact Luke Piazza if you have questions.

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.



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## Cookies For CRU

Who doesn't like homemade cookies?!? The Oakwood church family has the opportunity to help John and Kerri Schneider and their CRU team at the University of South Florida and the University of Tampa by providing homemade cookies for the Text-4-Cookies outreach.



This outreach strategy gives Residence Hall students an opportunity to get free cookies and ask their questions about God while training our CRU students in apologetics and evangelism. The students will text to a number and request some cookies. The CRU team will deliver at a set time and engage with the students about God, life or spirituality.

**Text-4-Cookies will take place at USF on October 6 and at UT on October 13.** We are asking the Oakwood family to prepare a dozen (or two if you really want to!) chocolate chip cookies and bring them to church on Sunday, October 2 AND/OR Sunday, October 9 for the outreach event that week. Thank you for your help with this ministry to college students. Pray and bake!!

## 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.

## Baby Bottles of Love...

for Assure Women's Center

We have baby bottles available in the lobby for you to pick up, fill with your loose change, and return them to Oakwood by October 9. 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.



## Women's Ministry Opportunities

### Bible Studies

**A Women's Bible Study** is meeting on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:15 AM at the home of Lorraine Watkins. Lorraine is teaching on the humanity and deity of Jesus Christ. For more information, call or email Sandy Wyatt (960-8168 or slwyatt7@gmail.com).



**Just for Joy Women's Bible Study** meets on Wednesdays at a new time 7:00-8:30 PM in the Oakwood Library. During this 12 week study we will unwrap the book of Ephesians. Study guides are \$9. For more information, call or email Sandy Wyatt (960-8168 or slwyatt7@gmail.com).

## Elder led Prayer

Everyone is invited to join in a time of prayer with the elders the first and third Sunday of the month. We meet from 5:30—6:30 PM in the Library. Childcare will be provided.

## Prayer Focus

Our Prayer Team works each month to provide a guide for specific prayer requests. You will have a weekly Prayer Focus printed on the Announcement Sheet in your Worship Program.

## Congregational Meeting recap

The Elders called a Congregational Meeting on September 18 to give an update on where Oakwood is financially.

Dave DePagter gave a financial report. Our YTD Offerings have been \$76,935 less than Expenses. The months of July and August have been better because we have finished the severance package with Paul Phair, but we are still not meeting our expenses. The anticipated monthly shortfall, if there are no changes, is \$3,500 per month.

Larry Chute, representing the elders, gave a report from the elders on their decisions to remedy this and how the Oakwood family can help.

The elders considered three options:

1. Increase Income
2. Reduce Expenses
3. A combination of the above

They looked at the possibility of reducing staff, but feel that would weaken the home base. Ministry leaders have willingly tightened their belts and will continue to do so. The office is functioning frugally. The Deacons are to be commended for skillfully stewarding the budget.

They have chosen Option 3.

1. We are asking the Church family to voluntarily increase income by \$2,500 per month. If 50 people will increase their giving by \$12.50 per week, that goal is met.
2. We are reducing the missions support from 18% of undesignated offerings to 15%, thereby reducing expenses another \$1,000 per month. This is not without precedent—we have taken this step previously in lean seasons.

We do have some rental income, but believe that the church should primarily be supported by tithes and offerings, not rental income that could end at any time. Currently, 80% of the rental income is going to undesignated income and 20% is going into a Facility Equity Fund to help with larger facility expenses (AC replacements, repairs, etc.). The 80% of rental income will help us replenish the \$77,000 deficit for the year.

Larry reminded us that in Isaiah 54:2 the Lord instructed his people to “Lengthen the cords...Strengthen the stakes.”

Will you pray about your part in helping Oakwood strengthen our base?

## Financial Update



| Oakwood 2016 Financial Update through August |          |          |
|--|----------|----------|
|  | Actual   | Budget   |
| YTD Offerings Received                       | 263,253  |          |
| YTD Expenses                                 | 338,688  | 353,314  |
| Offerings Over/(Under) Exp                   | (75,435) | (90,061) |

## 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.

## Work Day Thanks



**Big  
Thank  
You!**

to those who came out and helped with the Work Day on September 17. Some of the jobs we accomplished were:

Property clean-up

Working on lights in PowerHouse

Painting a room in TreeHouse





## PowerHouse Schedule

October 2—Regular Evening Meeting

October 9—Food Bag Ministry (AM) and Food Fight outreach party (PM)

October 16—Regular Evening Meeting

October 23—Regular Evening Meeting

## Fall Retreat—December 2-4

Our Fall Retreat for Middle & High School students will be in Orlando, including a day at Disney's Hollywood Studios.

Pick up a brochure in PowerHouse for all the details.

Deposit: \$25.00

Registration: \$125 (Sept 16 - Nov 20)

Registration Deadline & Balance Due: November 20

Registration includes Lodging at the Red Lion Hotel (near Disney) for Friday and Saturday, Disney Park ticket, 3 meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.

Each participant is responsible for their meal on Friday night and lunch on the way home on Sunday.



## Food Bag Ministry

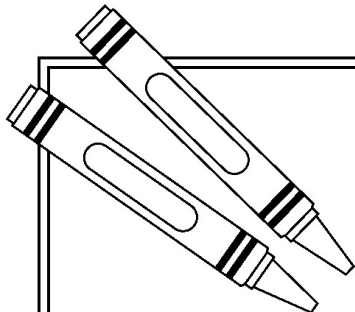
Our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven? These bags are distributed to indigent patients at the clinic to provide some basic food needs of the patients and their family.

PowerHouse teens can raise money for summer mission/conference trips by participating in our monthly Food Bag Ministry, typically on the second Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag prep day is **Sunday, October 9** 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, October 7. 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**

## THE SECOND GREAT Commandment


In the Gospels, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37, NIV). Do you remember what the second great commandment is? Use the code below to discover it.




1




2




3




4



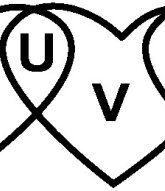
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6



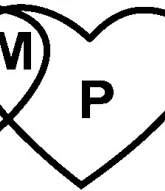
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8



9



10

“L

|     |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 4,5 | 6 | 8   | 2   |     | 8,9 | 6   | 7,8 | 6,7 |
| 5   | 2 | 4   | 3   | 3,4 | 1,2 | 6   | 6,7 |     |
|     |   |     | 1   | 7   |     |     |     |     |
| 8,9 | 6 | 7,8 | 6,7 | 7   | 2   | 4,5 | 2,3 | ”   |

*Matthew 22:39, NIV*

Answer: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”



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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

**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

**Office hours:**

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

**Education Classes :**

Sundays - 9:15 AM

**Worship:**

Sundays—10:30 AM

**Calendar at a Glance**



Oct 2—Blood Pressure checks following Worship  
Cookies for CRU  
Elder led Prayer—5:30 PM  
Oct 5—Transition Team Meeting  
Oct 9—Deacon Meeting  
Oakwood Cares Meeting  
Cookies for CRU  
PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry  
Oct 11—Missions Team Meeting

Oct 16—Compassion Offering  
Elder led Prayer—5:30 PM  
Oct 17—Combined Elder/Deacon Meeting  
Oct 19—Transition Team Meeting  
Oct 23—Oakwood Cares Meeting  
Oct 29—Fall Festival

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... |
|----------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Oct 7    | Oct 12           | Oct 15—Oct 28               |
| Oct 21   | Oct 26           | Oct 29—Nov 11               |

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