



ACORN

Seeds For Growth

Grow In Community

Oakwood’s Mission is *to transform ordinary people into fully devoted-followers of Jesus Christ*. Our mission process to accomplish this is a 3-step progression of commitment and growth. We call this simply, *Love ~ Grow ~ Serve*. Each step builds upon the previous step. As we do so, we seek to grow deeper within each step as well. As each one of us faithfully pursues this process, we will come into a living and growing relationship with Jesus Christ who transforms us in character and conduct. We urge everyone at Oakwood to enter into this process and to progress. For a simple overview, please view our diagram and brief description on page 5

The first step is to **Love God**. I addressed this in my previous ACORN article.

The second step is to **Grow in Community**. This means we connect with other Christ-followers at Oakwood in a small group, which we call Community Groups. We believe that sustained life change happens best in the context of a small group where we choose to experience authentic community and spiritual growth. You and I simply cannot grow in Christ-like character apart from intentional relationships. That means we have to choose to make this a priority in our lives or it simply won’t happen. We’ll miss God’s best for our lives and the joy of our blessing others.

In our community groups, people grapple with God’s truths for faith and living. It’s where we encourage each other to grow in faith and character. It’s also a community in which we pray and care for one another and where we are missed if we don’t show up and when a special need arises - our fellow community group members arises for each other too.

One of the Biblical portraits of the church is *a family*. As family members, we are to promote healthy relationships based on love. Jesus lays out the critical challenge to us when He says, *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you...* (John 13:34 NAS).

The New Testament gives us many commands concerning ways we are to love one another. Believers sometimes refer to these as *The One Another’s*.

- **Serve** one another
- **Encourage** one another
- **Bear** with one another
- **Forgive** one another
- **Confess** your sins to one another
- **Accept** one another
- **Instruct** one another
- **Honor** one another
- **Support** one another
- **Pray** for one another



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.

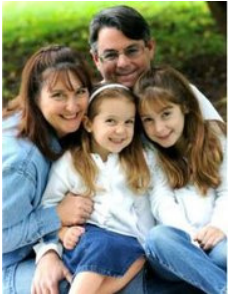
Oakwood is a member of
 the Evangelical Free
 Church of America.



Inside this issue:

OCC Updates	2-6
Glendinen Family Report	2
Senior Ministry	3
Voters Information	4
Pregnancy Care Center	5
Education Opportunities	6
PowerHouse News	7
Marriage Matters	8
Kids Corner	9
Calendar at a Glance	10

Clendinen Reception & Report



They're back! Craig, Carlyne, Anissa and Ariana have returned to Tampa.

Join us on Friday, October 5, 7:00 PM in the Children's Ministry building to welcome the Clendinen family back to Tampa and hear a report about the ministry they had in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



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 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 30.

~ Pastor Paul

Family Fun Night

Join us on Saturday, October 6, 7:00 PM for the latest Veggie Tales movie—*The League Of Incredible Vegetables*.

There will be lots of family fun and snacks available for purchase for a nominal fee.



Contagious Christian Seminar



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 contact the Church Office—office@oakwoodfl.org or 813-969-2303 by **Thursday, September 27**.

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.

Seeds For Growth—*continued*

I thank God to see these qualities being lived out in Oakwood! Story after story could be told of these wonderful qualities being experienced here in our larger church family. I will tell you plainly, however – these dynamics are far more likely to occur within the context of relationships within a community group than they are when we are merely gathering in a larger Sunday morning worship service.

If you aren't in a community group, call the church office – we'd love to help you connect! If you are, then press in even more earnestly to enrich healthy relationships and apply God's truths into your lives. In the words of the Apostle Paul, *I pray that your love for each other will overflow more and more ...* (Philippians 1:9 NLT).

~ Pastor Paul

Senior Ministry

The World of Experiences group enjoyed a potluck lunch after the congregational meeting on September 17 with Art Williams telling us some of his world of experiences and Eileen Hawk giving us a devotional talk on separation and reconciliation. She also favored us with a very enjoyable reading. Nan Duncan and Luis Noguera shared the concern for their nephew, who is imprisoned in Venezuela for a crime he didn't commit and we were able to join in a prayer for his safety and release.



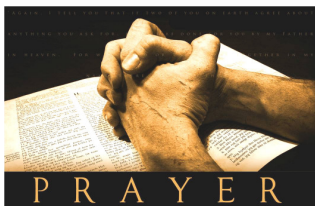
Our next event will be an afternoon of snacks and board games with the date to be determined.

Everyone over 60 (and anyone else who wants to be) is a member of the World of Experiences group and is invited to join us in any of our activities.

If you'd like more information about this ministry, please contact Al & Pat Conner or Bill & Kathleen Clarke.

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 October Prayer Guide is available at the Information Center or view it on our website.

Don't Forget To Vote

The deadline to register to vote in the November 6 General Election is October 9. You can contact the Supervisor of Elections in your county to find out where you can register, or go to their website and register online.

There are 12 Proposed Constitutional Amendments on the ballot this year. If you would like to get an overview of these amendments and what your vote for or against the amendment will mean, visit the website at the link below:



<http://collinscenter.org/2012flamendments/proposed-constitutional-amendment-summary-information/>

A Mormon President?

It's now official, for the first time in American history; a Mormon has been nominated by a major political party for the office of President of the United States. Many thoughtful Christ-followers are now asking two inter-related questions. 1. Is the Mormon religion a Christian religion? 2. Is it wise for Christ-followers to vote for a Mormon?

The day after the Republican Party nominated Governor Mitt Romney, I read a clear, insightful, yet straightforward article by Kevin Bywater that provides a response to those two questions. He is a resident scholar of Summit Ministries based in Colorado Springs. The mission of Summit Ministries is to help Christian youth to stand strong in their faith and to defend the truth in a post-Christian culture. Bev and I enrolled our two children in one of their summer training programs when they were in high school to further prepare them for entering into a secular university. I think many of you will find Bywater's article to be of benefit to you. In my role as your pastor, I am not endorsing any candidate or any political party. Below is a web link to this article. <http://www.summit.org/blogs/summit-announcements/rapid-response-can-christians-vote-for-mormons/>

There is another intriguing debate taking place. Is President Barak Obama an evangelical Christian? *Christianity Today's Magazine* ran two opposing responses to that question. The "Pro" position may be found at <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/juneweb-only/barack-obama-evangelical-in-chief.html?paging=off> The "Con" position may be found at <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/juneweb-only/why-we-should-reexamine-the-faith-of-barack-obama.html?paging=off>

~ Pastor Paul

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.

Currently, this ministry opens once a month, typically on the 3rd 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.

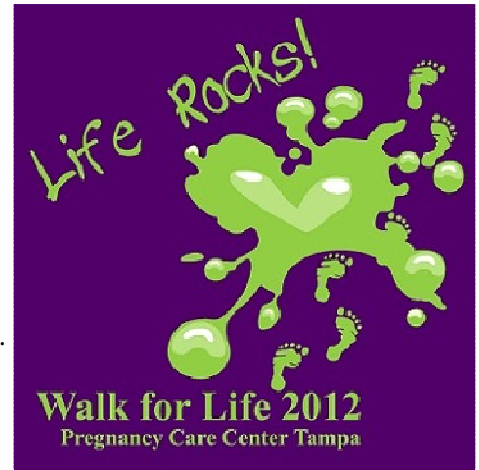
Pantry needs: cereal, canned goods, rice, pasta

Pregnancy Care Center's *Walk For Life*

If you can walk, run, skip, or rock in a rocking chair, you and your family can join us in this year's *Twilight Walk For Life*, a walk with tons of Family Fun! Bouncy houses, face painting, food, and senior's Rocking For Life. The Center provides help to women and families by showing the love of Christ. See you October 13, 4:30—7:15 PM at Idlewild Baptist Church Campus. Step-by-step we can make a difference. Remember to register online at www.pregnancycaretampa.com. One Can, Two Can, Who Can? YOU CAN!

Our teens are participating in this fundraiser, but families can participate, too.

Pregnancy Care Center is supported through the Missions giving at Oakwood.



Love ~ Grow ~ Serve

Mission Process

Love God

1 According to Jesus, loving God is our first priority. At Oakwood, we also consider this the first step in living as a follower of Jesus. Our weekly worship service is the primary place for this, whether we come searching for God and investigating the claims of Christ, or as followers of Jesus seeking to express our love and devotion along with other believers.

Action Point: *Worship God at our weekly worship services.*

Grow in Community

2 At Oakwood, community groups are prime opportunities within our church family to grow in our faith through the study of God's Word. In addition, these groups provide an intimate and safe setting for us to build authentic relationships, reflecting our love for God as we love and care for one another.

Action Point: *Connect with other Christ-followers in a community group.*

Serve the Church & World

3 As we take our devotion to God a step farther, we demonstrate our love by serving others. Our families, neighborhoods, and workplaces are our 24/7 mission field. At the same time, our gifts are needed within the Oakwood family to reach out to the community and the world.

Action Point: *Discover your God-given gifts and use them to serve others.*



Continue the Cycle

Our mission process repeats again and again. Through our lives of service, God uses us to reach out to others as we invite them into our fellowship of faith at Oakwood. Just as it did for us, so it starts for them with loving God, the One who first loved us!

Action Point: *Invite others to join you in loving and worshipping God at our weekly worship services.*

Women's Bible Studies—repeat

There are two women's Bible studies beginning soon:

Tuesday evenings—7:15—9:00 PM

Women of the Word (WOW)

Meets in the Oakwood library in the Education Center.

The study is on the Life of Christ. For more information contact Sharon Pruden at Sharon@biblebasics.org or (813) 960-2522.

Wednesday afternoons—4:45—6:00 PM

Just For Joy

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 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



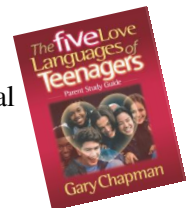
Oakwood Mill—repeat



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. 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.



PowerHouse Schedule

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 14—Regular Sunday evening—5:00—7:30

Oct 19—21—Oakwood/Candlewood Camping Retreat—No Sunday evening meeting

Oct 28—Regular Sunday evening—5:00—7:30

Walk For Life



PowerHouse
 Walks for LIFE!!
 Saturday, Oct 13th
 5:00 pm - 7:25 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.

Pick up more information in PowerHouse

PowerHouse Camping Retreat

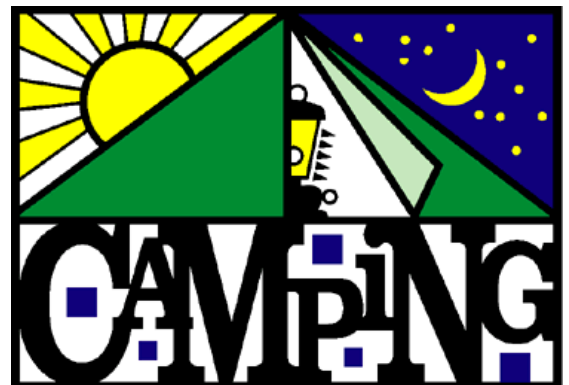
What: Camping retreat with Oakwood and Candlewood youth

When: October 19-21

Where: Lakewood Retreat, Brooksville

Cost: \$45 per student if registered by September 30, \$50 after September 30

Info Packets: Available in PowerHouse or at the Welcome Center in the Worship Center or contact the Church Office and one can be emailed to you



Early Registration Deadline—September 30



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.

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Surprised By Redemption—Part 2

Karen O'Connor

Part 1 of this article on how trouble can transform marriage is available in the last issue of the *ACORN* on our website.

Disability Changed Their Marriage for Good

Joseph and Lynn have a unique story, too. "I was declared disabled six months after we were married, due to issues with my back," said Ellen. "It was a complete game-changer for us. We had both worked full time and planned to continue doing so—until this happened."

The couple had known that eventually Ellen might be limited in what she could do, but they weren't expecting it that soon. Ellen wondered how her husband would deal with it. Her situation meant they couldn't be as social as they had been. But instead of allowing a rift, they made Ellen's disability work for them.

Joseph is quick to admit, "Because we have so much time to spend together, we have become physically and emotionally closer than I ever thought possible."

Ellen said her husband is grateful to have a shoulder to cry on, "knowing I will love him no matter what and I know he'll love me no matter what. Being together more now than ever enables us to bounce ideas off one another and to talk about opportunities for our future. It's a real blessing that many couples who've been married more years than we have only dream about."

A Case of Shingles Deepened Their Love

"After 62 years of marriage, my mother came down with a severe case of shingles," said Sandra. "She was in excruciating pain, lost 20 pounds, and was bedridden for almost a year because she couldn't tolerate pain medication." This was a most difficult time for a woman who had always been independent. But God used this unusual circumstance to heal the estranged relationship between Sandra and her

mother, and to knit her parents together in a new way.

"Mom had no desire to be close to me—until she got shingles," said Sandra. "Then, in desperation she started calling me several times a day, asking for prayer. Gradually, God restored my relationship with both my mother, Elaine, now 82, and with my father, Henry, age 90." The Lord also did an amazing work in her parents' marriage. Sandra's father closed his office when his wife became ill, so he could be with her. "He read to her every night," said Sandra. "I often watched them gaze into each other's eyes when they were together. It was obvious they were experiencing renewed love and respect. Though my mother has been free of shingles for four years, she is not free of the aftermath and still suffers from bouts of extreme pain, so my father continues to do all the cooking, shopping, and most of the cleaning. Their love is deeper than ever, despite also losing two sons due to congenital heart defects. Many couples divorce after such tragedies."

Regardless of how challenging the circumstances were, Sandra watched her father take excellent care of himself during those times. Every day he exercised, lifted weights, ate nutritious meals, and slept well. This allowed him to be at his best when his wife needed him.

According to Sandra's dad, "The love your mother and I have for each other has reached greater heights than anything I could have imagined during previous years."

"It gives me great joy to know my parents are passing on a legacy of love and devotion," said Sandra, "made all the sweeter because of what they've been through."

Watch for Part 3 of this article in the next issue of the *ACORN*.

Kids Corner

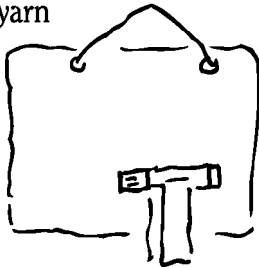
MAKE A REMINDER BOARD

Sometimes we need something to help us remember things.

A Reminder Board can help.

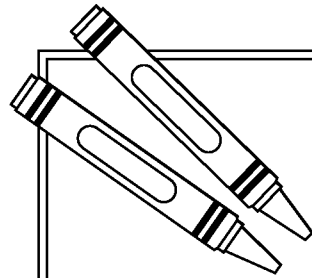
You will need:

- ✂ a piece of cardboard (one side of a cereal box works well)
- ✂ white or colored contact paper
- ✂ a hole punch
- ✂ scissors
- ✂ clothes pin (the kind with a spring)
- ✂ glue
- ✂ wipe-off marker
- ✂ yarn



How to make it:

1. Cut the contact paper a little larger than the cardboard.
2. Stick the contact paper to the cardboard, folding the edges over to the back.
3. Punch 2 holes at the top.
4. Tie yarn to the holes to make a hanger.
5. Glue the clothes pin to the front. When dry, it will hold the marker.
6. Write notes on your new reminder board!



Just for KIDS

Rules to Live By

God wants us to live our lives in His way. In Exodus 20 you will find some special rules to live by.

Use the code to fill in the blanks and see the rules.

A = ♡ E = ∞ I = ☺ O = ☹ U = ☆ Y = ☼

sh ll h v n th r g ds b f r m .
 sh ll n t m k f r rself n d l .
 sh ll n t m s s th n m f th
 L rd r G d .
 R m mb r th S bb th d y b
 k p ng t h l .
 H n r r f th r nd r m th r .
 sh ll n t m rd r .
 sh ll n t c mm t d lt r .
 sh ll n t st l .
 sh ll n t g v f ls t st m n
 g nst r n ghb r .
 sh ll n t c v t n th ng th t
 b l ngs t r n ghb r .
 *Th T n C mm ndm nts *

1) You shall have no other gods before me. 2) You shall not make for yourself an idol. 3) You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. 4) Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 5) Honor your father and your mother. 6) You shall not murder. 7) You shall not commit adultery. 8) You shall not steal. 9) You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. 10) You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor. 11) The Ten Commandments



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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 29—Contagious Christian Seminar
 Sept 30—Child Dedication in Worship Service
 Adopt A Student luncheon



Oct 5—Clendinen Reception
 Oct 6—Family Fun Night
 Oct 7—Blood Pressure Checks
 Elder led Prayer following Worship
 Oct 9—PowerHouse Leaders Meeting
 Oct 13—Pregnancy Care Center Walk For Life
 Oct 14—Board Meeting
 Oct 19-21—PowerHouse Fall Camp Out Retreat

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...
Oct 5	Oct 10	Oct 13—Oct 26
Oct 19	Oct 24	Oct 27—Nov 9

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.

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