



ACORN

Seeds For Growth

Serve The Church & World

In two previous issues of the ACORN, I summarized the first two of Oakwood’s three-step mission process to accomplishing our mission. That mission is to *transform ordinary people into fully devoted-followers of Jesus Christ*. We call this simply, *Love ~ Grow ~ Serve*. We continually urge each person at Oakwood to enter into this process and to intentionally progress into each of these three steps. Furthermore, once we are engaged in all three, we will then strive to deepen within each individual step as well. For a simple overview reminder, please view our diagram and brief description on page 6. As we laser focus our efforts on this process, coupled with earnest and persistent prayer, we believe we will see some powerful results that will be recorded in Oakwood’s history, and more importantly, in God’s Record Book of Life!

The third step of our mission process is to *Serve the Church & World*. Every one of us who are following Jesus Christ has been called by God to enrich other’s lives by serving them. The apostle Paul expresses it this way, “Don’t be selfish; You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had [Jesus] gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave ... [to serve us]” (Phil 2:3-5, NLT). You and I are never more like Jesus than when we serve others!

We are to serve others in every sphere of our lives, 24/7, including our family, job, church, community, and world. As we make the 3rd progressive step in following Jesus, we come to realize that life isn’t about us. God gives us the capacity and the power to do what doesn’t come naturally. It’s to focus on serving others, rather than looking to people to serve us. As Jesus states, “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matt 20:28, NLT).

God has given every Christ-follower a variety of talents and abilities, and at least one spiritual gift, for the purpose of our serving others. “God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another” (1 Peter 4:10, NLT). The by-product of our using God’s gifts for others is that we often experience joy, but it is not its primary purpose. Your God-given abilities are not for your benefit, but for the benefit of others.



How do you discover your spiritual gift? The primary way is when you begin serving in various areas with a servant’s heart and teaming up with other

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Oakwood Community Church
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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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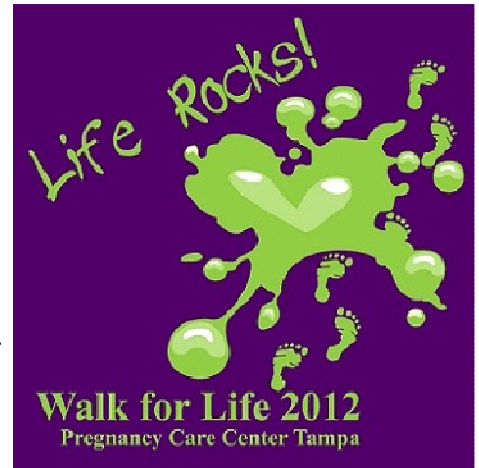
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Pregnancy Care Center's *Walk For Life*

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.



Family Fun Night—Rescheduled

Join us on Saturday, October 20, 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.



Discovering Oakwood



Sunday October 28
12:00—1:45 PM

Whether you are just curious, somewhat interested, or ready for more involvement, your leaders would like to connect with you more personally and convey to you our vision and core convictions. We'd also like to help you grasp how you can be a more fully engaged player in what God is doing through Oakwood and consider if membership is God's plan for you.

We want to assure you that *Discovering Oakwood* does not obligate you to become a member, though you will fill us with joy if you choose to do so.

Here's our invitation to you:

- What:** Pizza lunch and elder interaction
- When:** October 28, 12:00 – 1:45 PM
- Where:** Children's Ministry Building
- Cost:** Free! Childcare will be provided after the lunch

Please help us plan appropriately for lunch and childcare by filling out the registration form in your weekly Worship Program or contact the Church Office to register by **Wednesday, October 24**. Contact the Church Office if you have further questions.

Senior Ministry

The **WE** Group (**W**orld of **E**xperiences) will have an afternoon of board games on Sunday, October 21, following the Worship Service in TreeHouse.

Several people have already offered to bring their favorite games but come and bring yours. From “Acquire” to “Zombies!!!,” it will be a lot of fun. The meals team is asking everyone to bring a sack lunch and extra lunches will be provided for anyone who comes unaware of that request. We are still soliciting ideas for people who simply don’t like board games.

One of the highlights of our events is hearing someone tell a little about their life, career, family, whatever. Art Williams told a very interesting bit of his life and career at the last event and we thank him for it. I’m currently looking for someone to give us a little introduction and glimpse into their world of experiences at the next event. If you would be willing to introduce yourself to us, let Al Conner know ASAP.

We are talking about an event for November and a group trip to a Christmas program in December. If you have any ideas for an event or would consider working with us in planning events, let me know.

We’ve all had a world of experiences, let’s share them.



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 every other Tuesday 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

The Clothes Closet 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. **Pantry needs:** cereal, canned goods, rice, pasta. 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.

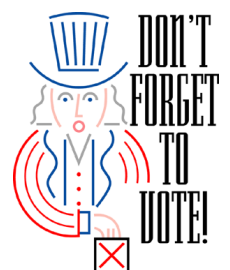
General Election—November 6

There are 11 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/>

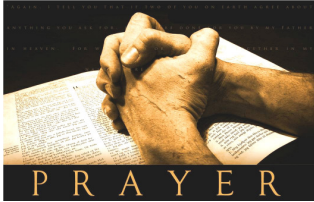
Voter Guides from the Florida Family Policy Council are available at:

<http://flfamily.org/resources/voter-guides/>



24 Hour Fasting & Prayer

The elders are asking the church family to participate in a time of fasting and prayer for Oakwood from 6:00 PM on Friday, October 26 until 6:00 PM on Saturday October 27. You are invited to join us on Saturday at 6:00 PM for a potluck dinner to “break the fast” in TreeHouse.



Following the dinner we will have time of prayer, praying through a guide for our Love ~ Grow ~ Service vision process.

Those families with the last name beginning in **A-L**, please bring a large covered dish and a dessert. Those families with the last name beginning in **M-Z**, please bring a large covered dish and a vegetable or salad. Singles may bring one main item.

Childcare will be available for birth through 5 years old. Please help us plan appropriately for childcare by registering your children at the Information Center in the Worship Center or at the Welcome Station in TreeHouse or by contacting the Church Office.

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.

Let It Shine

Mark you calendar now for our bonfire and evening of Prayer and Praise on Saturday, November 17 at 6:00 PM. This is our opportunity to pray and give praise to God for how He has *Expanded Our Territories* with blessings.

More details coming soon.



Oakwood Mill

In addition to the classes already meeting, a new Oakwood Mill class will begin on November 4 on the Epistles of Peter. This class will be held in the Education Building—Room 106. Bill Clarke will lead this class. Please contact the Church Office to register for this class.



25 Years of Faithful Ministry

On Sunday, October 7, the Worship Service was “high jacked” in order to have a surprise celebration for the 25th Anniversary of Paul & Bev’s ministry service at Oakwood. We were pleased to have their children, Josh & Julie Phair and Scott & Julie Medley, as well as their grandchildren, Brooke and Cole with us for this important day. Paul was interviewed by elder chair, Jose Cariaga, and our District Superintendent, Glen Schrieber gave a message.

Congratulations Paul & Bev and thank you for your faithful service to us.



Note of Thanks

Dear Oakwood:

Wow! This past Sunday took me by total surprise. It wasn’t until just before the service, when I bumped into Superintendent Glen and Karen Schreiber, that it occurred to me that 25 years ago we began a special relationship with you. That was when God called me, through you, to serve as your pastor along side of my wife and ministry partner, Bev. I am sorry that I was slow in thought and speech – I was on emotional overload as I was trying to process it all. Even now, words are failing me. You are such a loving church family to offer to us your words of very encouraging affirmations, along with your generous gift of an iPad and cash gift for a special “get-away”. We will think of you with love and thanksgiving as we enjoy these gifts. We were both greatly uplifted as we heard, read and pondered your in-person words and hugs, along with your notes and cards. We will treasure this for a lifetime. We are truly humbled and grateful. It is a privilege and honor from God and you, for us to serve you, and with you, in this special role.

With much love and appreciation,

Paul for Bev too

Seeds For Growth—*continued*

servants to make a difference in other people’s lives. We see a need and we seek to fill it. As we do so, we begin to note areas in which we are generally more effective than others – that points us in a direction of where we ought to focus the greater portion of our service to others.

Serving the church and the world begins with cultivating a heart that cares for the welfare of others. We look for opportunities and we choose to serve. In a future issue, I will describe more fully what it means to serve Christ’s church and the world. For now I ask you, will you affirm that life is “not about me” it’s about others? Will you strive to be a servant 24/7 in every realm of your life: family, job-school, church, community, and world?

~ Pastor Paul

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.*



PowerHouse Schedule

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—PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry
Regular Sunday evening—5:00—7:30

Nov 4—Regular Sunday evening—5:00—7:30

Nov 11—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 3

Karen O'Connor

Parts 1 and 2 of this article on how trouble can transform marriage are available in the last two issue of the *ACORN* on our website.

Bankruptcy Turned My Marriage Around

One year my husband, Charles, and I went through a season of profound financial challenge. We were down to our last few dollars when we turned to our church for assistance. The Deacons' Fund covered our rent for two months, and our home fellowship donated enough money to carry us through for another month.

But ultimately, we felt we had no choice but to file for bankruptcy. It was by far the lowest point in our marriage. I couldn't imagine how we'd ever climb back. We hadn't been spenders or gamblers. I hadn't thought this could happen to us. But it had. The company my husband worked for went out of business and he lost his job. The freelance work I relied on dwindled. Our meager savings disappeared faster than a puddle in the sun.

Then one afternoon, just before Christmas that same year, we received a money order for the perfect amount we needed for our tree, holiday food, and a few gifts for our children. It was signed, "Barnabas." A fitting pseudonym! We looked at each other in disbelief. Then came the tears. "Praise God!" we shouted. For nearly a year he had kept us going with donations of food, clothing, and money and small jobs here and there.

It was all coming clear at last. It had been our season to receive, our time to be humbled before him, our turn to acknowledge our weakness and our neediness before our Christian friends. Shortly after Christmas that year, things began to turn around. I landed a teaching job and a new book contract, and my husband received a job offer.

But just as things were looking up, our trusty compact car of 14 years collapsed and couldn't be fixed. How could we purchase a new vehicle, I wondered, with a bankruptcy on our credit report? After praying about it,

we decided to face the situation head-on. We visited a local car dealership with bankruptcy papers in hand. I would plead our case and leave the results to God.

The manager greeted us, offered us a friendly hand, and listened to our story. Then he stood up, smiled, and declared on the spot: "Everyone goes through tough times. You look like honest, hard-working folks. I'm going to take a chance on you." With that he showed us a fleet of no-frills, stick-shift cars at a whopping discount. I stood there without breathing! I was sure I saw my name written across the small blue station wagon parked against the wall. I let out a breath. "Okay, God, we'll go for it, trusting you to help us make our payments on time."

He did.

Today I realize the most remarkable aspect of our brush with financial ruin and the path to solvency that God provided, is how the Lord changed our hearts toward one another and our marriage. Instead of looking to my husband to find a decent paying job that would take care of us so I could build my writing career and manage our home, I learned to trust God for what we needed.

"I love you," I told my husband one day soon after that experience, "and I want our marriage. I apologize for my harsh thoughts and words toward you. I'm putting our relationship and our finances in God's hands. He just showed us he's more than able."

My husband's eyes lit up. His shoulders relaxed and his chin quivered. He put his arms around me and promised that from that day forward we'd work as a team, taking the lead from God, and he apologized for his part in the mess.

Next April we will celebrate our thirtieth anniversary. It has been 20 years since the experience that could have torn us apart. I never expected bankruptcy to be the means God would use to transform our marriage, but as I look back, it was just what we needed to turn from obsessing about money and blaming each other for our problems, to trusting God—the only one who can and will provide all our needs.

Kids Corner



Make a "harvest treat!"

Roasted Pumpkin Seeds

You will need:
 4½ cups raw pumpkin seeds
 2 tablespoons cooking oil
 1 teaspoon salt
 clear sandwich bags

How to:

- Rinse pulp & strings from seeds. Drain.
- Mix seeds, oil & salt in a bowl.
- Spread on a cookie sheet lined with waxed paper.
- Let stand for 24-48 hours, or until dry. Stir once in a while.
- Remove waxed paper and toast seeds in the oven for 40 minutes at 325°. Stir once or twice.
- Drain seeds on paper towel.
- Store in plastic bags for a great treat!

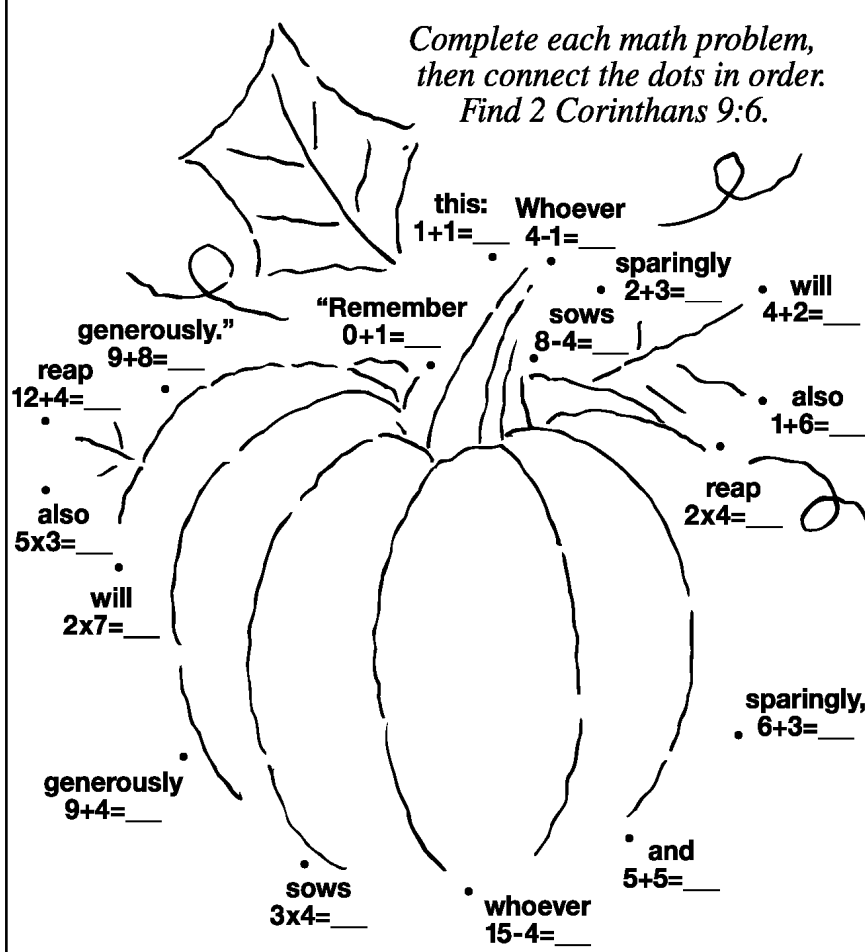



Just for KIDS

Giving and Sharing

God gives generously to us. He wants you to do the same for others. The more you give, the more you receive!

Complete each math problem, then connect the dots in order.
 Find 2 Corinthians 9:6.



this: Whoever $1+1=$ $4-1=$
 sparingly $2+3=$ will $4+2=$
 "Remember" $0+1=$ sows $8-4=$ also $1+6=$
 generously." $9+8=$ reap $12+4=$ also $5x3=$ will $2x7=$ reap $2x4=$
 generously $9+4=$ sparingly, $6+3=$
 sows $3x4=$ and $5+5=$
 whoever $15-4=$

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."



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

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



Oct 13—Pregnancy Care Center Walk For Life
 Oct 14—Board Meeting
 Oct 19-21—PowerHouse Fall Camp Out Retreat
 Oct 20—Family Fun Night

Oct 21—Compassion Offering
 Oct 26-27—24-Hour Fasting & Prayer
 Oct 28—*Discovering Oakwood*
World Of Experiences lunch & games
 PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry

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 19	Oct 24	Oct 27—Nov 9
Nov 2	Nov 7	Nov 10—Nov 30

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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