



ACORN

Seeds for Growth

Living off God’s Word

I don’t have to be purposeful and disciplined to eat – do you? I don’t need an alarm on my smart phone to remind me to stop my activities in the day to eat something to keep me going. No, all on its own, my stomach constantly cries out, “Feed me!” long before the appointed hours of the day. Yet I do need to be reminded that there is more to sustaining my life than my physical needs – likely you need this reminder from time to time too. There is a spiritual component, our souls, that is far more important that must be feed regularly. As Moses instructed God’s people, and as Jesus quoted, “People do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the “LORD” (Deuteronomy 8:3 – NLT).

Out of a heart of love, we need to be purposeful, yes even disciplined to feed upon God’s Word to nurture our relationship with God and to grow in faith and loving obedience. As we strive to *Love God* through Worship, one of the six spiritual practices we ask every member to engage in is to spend time in regular reading of the Bible and in personal prayer. For many of us this will be first thing each morning, for others of us it will be at another time of the day.

There are a great many ways to do this. One suggestion is to have a planned Bible reading plan where you read the Bible with a loving and teachable heart and will. There are many excellent resources to guide you in this - take a look at the LifeWay Book Store or online. Here are two of my recommendations among others:

- Life Application Study Bible or Student Life Application Bible , NLT
- The Daily Walk Bible, NLT

For those of you who have a smart phone, download a Bible Reader, a Bible translation, and a Bible reading plan or daily devotional. I’ve used them all, and currently use the last two. My overall favorite is “You Version.”

- Olivetree.com
- Laridian.com – (I like it now, but had a “bear of a time, installing it on my BlackBerry).
- Youversion.com – most all of it is free!! It’s awesome! You can even listen to

a professional reading as you follow along, all according to a reading plan that logs your readings. Installation was a snap.

Jesus states, “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. ... (John 15:5, NLT).

May we all excel in Loving God through weekly public worship and daily personal worship.



~ Pastor Paul

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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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Great News!

We are delighted to announce that Andrew Reilly has enthusiastically accepted our invitation to serve as our Director of Worship Arts! Praise God! He will do so part-time while continuing his university studies at USF. Andrew will officially begin this Sunday, October 16.

Andrew has served as a volunteer worship team member at Oakwood for seven and a half years now. We have watched him grow in his musician and leadership skills, and his maturity of faith.

Andrew and the elders first envisioned Andrew's serving in this role back in May. It was just after Chris Lehmann announced his resignation. We gathered all our worship team members, instrumentalists, singers, and techs together to grieve, and to discuss and pray about transitional leadership and future direction for our Worship Arts ministry. What we observed was rather exceptional and wonderful. I wish you all could have witnessed the spontaneous enlightenment that came from God to us. One person after another in unique yet complementary ways urged, "Andrew, we think you should consider that God is calling you to step up into leadership of our worship team. We see your heart and your giftedness to do so. God has been molding you for this role, and we will follow you." The vision was birthed. And while only a few of us were present on that occasion, most of us have experienced the fruit of Andrew's effective and heart-felt leadership in guiding our team and congregation into adoring God through awesome lyrics of truth and uplifting music.



Two questions may arise for some of us – we elders know, because we've asked them ourselves:

1. Can we afford to fund this position? We elders are trusting God, that with His provision, we can. Since last November we have significantly reduced our "payroll" and cut back on the salary of those who remain, and our overall budget too. We believe compensating this now part-time position is a prudent decision and also a faith-filled response to what we believe to be God's direction for us.
2. Why this position and not another? An excellent case could be made for hiring a Director of Children or Director of Youth, or re-funding our secretary position (Mary-Lynn Reilly now voluntarily donates her ministry with love for God and Oakwood). A partial response is we have shifted oversight leadership responsibilities for children to our Director of Ministries, Dave Dorsey and for our teens to our Lead Pastor, me. Furthermore, we are greatly encouraged that these two ministry areas are very healthy with God's blessing and due to an awesome team of volunteer staff in both of these ministries.

The best way to support Andrew and our entire worship leadership team is to prepare your heart each week before you come to *focus your worship on God*. Remember worship is not so much a state of the art as it is a state of our heart. Pray as you drive to our Sunday service. Worship style and even music skill can be valuable vehicles to assisting us to worship – but they are trivial compared to what Jesus says our Heavenly Father is looking from us when we worship. He is seeking those who worship with their minds focusing upon what is true about Him and with their hearts full of earnest love for Him (John 4:23-24). Over a century ago, Spurgeon once said, "God does not regard our voices, he hears our hearts, and if our hearts do not sing we have not sung at all."

~ Pastor Paul on behalf of our entire elder team

Oakwood Work Day



The deacons will be hosting a work day at Oakwood [this Saturday, October 15](#), starting at 8:00 AM. The main focus of this work day will be improving our grounds, but we also have several items that need to be addressed on the interior of our buildings. We have jobs for everyone! The jobs will include everything from washing windows, replacing light bulbs and cleaning to tree trimming, weed pulling, mulching, and pressure washing. Please bring gloves as many of the jobs will require them.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please feel free to come and go as your schedule dictates. We will be working into the mid to late afternoon, so even if you can only come out after lunch, you'll still be able to help for a couple hours. To register your interest in helping (we need to know how much food to provide), please contact Ben Smith at bendsmith83@gmail.com or 813-968-4422.

Tools needed for various projects:

Chain saws with supplies (gas, oil)
 Pressure washers
 Weed whacker with supplies (gas, string, oil if necessary)
 Pitch forks
 Leaf rakes
 Wheel barrows
 Shovels
 A-frame ladders
 Loppers

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day services

What? Talking of Christmas in October?

With Christmas Day falling on Sunday this year, the leadership is considering what our services will be during the Christmas season. We plan to have our Christmas Eve Bonfire service, as we have done for the past several years, but wonder about a service on Christmas Day.

We would like to get input from the church family. For the next two Sundays (October 16 & 23), we will have a response sheet in the Worship Program for the church family to give input as to what service or services you would likely attend. Please consider with your family and at one of the upcoming two Sunday services fill out the response sheet (one per family unit). Please note that we plan to have nursery & childcare during both of these services for children up through 4 years old, for those who would like to take advantage of this. Older children will attend the services with their parents.

The response sheet will have the following questions:

- I/my family plan to attend the Saturday night Christmas Eve Bonfire Service—6:00—7:00 PM
- If offered, I/my family plan to attend the Sunday morning Christmas Day Service—10:30—11:30 AM
- If offered, I/my family plan to attend both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services

Thank you for your input.

Opportunity to *Serve The World*



This year, Oakwood is being given the privilege to *Serve the World* by helping at Metropolitan Ministries during the holiday season. This Thanksgiving, we have been asked to provide some of the volunteer work. Needed are people to help with parking, shopping, loading the cart and getting the goods to their cars. We need 10 volunteers on each of the following days: Monday, November 21, 3:30 – 6:30 PM; Tuesday, November 22, 1:30 – 4:00 PM; and and 3:30 – 6:30 PM.

Also, we will be collecting non-perishable food for their holiday food distribution effort. Their most needed items are canned fruit, boxed cereal, beans, and yams. They can also use donations of crib and stroller toys, make-up, jewelry, watches, sports clothing or hats.

These are great opportunities to show compassion and give a sense of hope to those who may not know The One who is Hope. The volunteer signup sheet is in the Information Center. Please join us as we give thanks by giving time.

Pregnancy Care Center—*Walk For Life*

The Pregnancy Care Center's 18th Annual *Walk for Life* will be held on Saturday, October 22, at Idlewild Baptist Church. This year's theme is *He Knows Our Name*. - Registration begins at 8:30 AM with the walk at 9:00 AM. You can help by volunteering the day of the walk and by getting sponsors and participating in the walk. Call (813) 978-9737 for additional information.

The Pregnancy Care Center is an outreach ministry dedicated to presenting the Gospel both in word and in action to women in unplanned pregnancy situations. We emphasize the need to minister to both the mother toward eternal life and the baby toward a healthy live birth. We are committed to integrity in serving our clients and earning their trust. The Pregnancy Care Center is a non-profit, interdenominational Christian organization and is supported through the Missions giving at Oakwood.

Elder Recommendations

Oakwood Community Church desires to follow the guidance of God the Holy Spirit in the selection of our church elders (Acts 20:28; 13:1-3; 6:1-6). You can be helpful in discerning the Lord's guidance by prayerfully recommending a prospect to our current elders for their consideration. The following are necessary qualifications for prospective elders. (1) A man of proven godly maturity as prescribed in Scripture; (2) Philosophical alignment with elders (values, vision, & philosophy of ministry); (3) Positive relational chemistry with current elders; (4) Active, local membership at Oakwood for a minimum of two years.

As you consider recommendations, we offer you a tool we've developed to guide you. It is entitled: *Elder Qualification Descriptions, Evaluation & Recommendation Form I* and is available at our Information Center. You can write your recommendation on the back of your Connection Card on Sunday or contact one of the current elders.

Prayer 2011

Oakwood is focusing on prayer in 2011. Did you know that you can **BLESS** others with your prayers? Pick up a copy of our October Prayer Guide from the Information Center or check it out on our website and find out how.

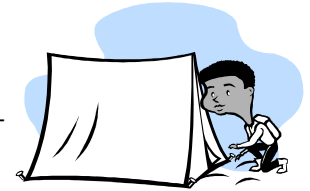




Youth Retreat & Family Campout—October 28-30

Bring your friends and join us for a fun weekend at Lakewood Retreat in Brooksville. We'll leave Oakwood on Friday at 5:00 PM and return Sunday at 2:00 PM.

What to bring: sleeping bag, pillow, Bible, notebook, pen, chair, flashlight, toiletries, towels, 1-piece bathing suit, plastic bag, clothes for Saturday & Sunday, Jacket, bug spray, sunscreen, camping gear, pocket money (\$10-20) for meals on the road Friday night, Sunday lunch & snack shack.



Early Registration and payment are due this Sunday, October 16. Registration and Medical Release forms are available on our website—www.oakwoodfl.org. On the front page under “Church News” click “Youth Retreat/ Family Camp Out, then click “Youth Retreat/Family Camp Out Forms” for more details.

PowerHouse Schedule

Sunday, Oct 16—Regular Evening Meeting—The Flood

Sunday, Oct 23—Food Bag Fundraiser, right after morning Worship
Regular Meeting—God’s Proven Control (Job)

Oct 28-30—Campout—No Regular PowerHouse Sunday Evening Meeting

Student and Parents

Mark your Calendar

Challenge 2012, New Orleans, July 1-6, 2012

<http://www.efca.org/reachnational/reachstudents-/challenge-2012-conference>

Recycle Bin at Oakwood—Repeat

Did you know that your newspapers, magazines, junk mail, etc., can earn money for Oakwood? Collect your recyclable items during the week and bring them when you come to church. Look for the blue Mixed Paper Recycling Bin on our property. Thanks for doing your part to help earn extra funds for Oakwood.

Acceptable items:

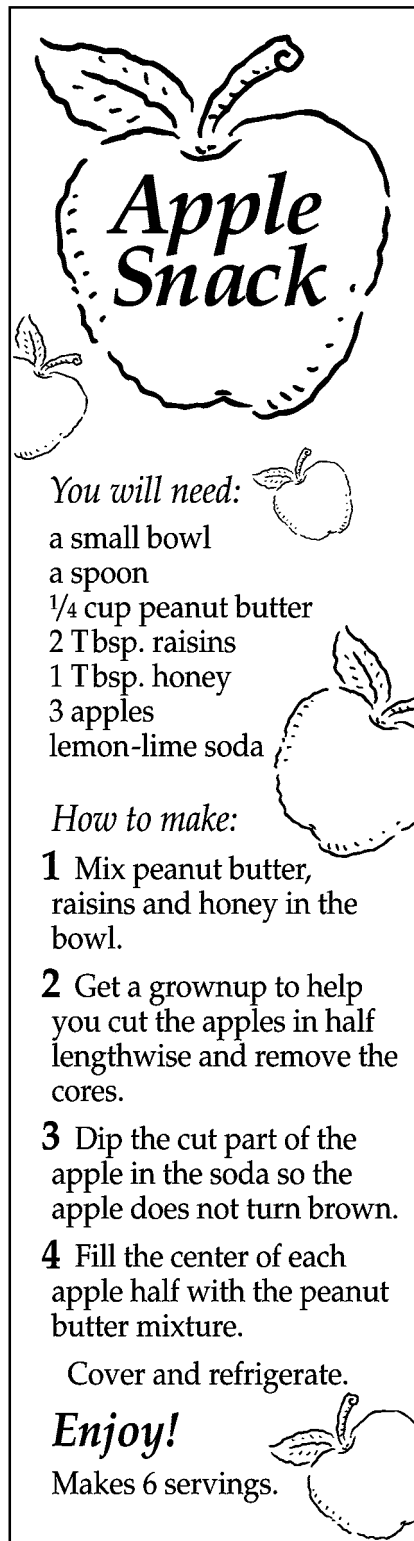
Newspaper & inserts, phone books, white paper, colored paper, glossy paper (without food residue), junk mail & envelopes, catalogs & magazines, cereal & cake mix boxes (liners removed), computer & plain fax paper, NCR paper, paper reams wrappers, construction art paper (less than 50% painted), paper egg cartons, non-metallic gift wrap and greeting cards, manila folders, hanging files, shredded paper, paper bags, self-stick notes, paperback books, frozen food boxes/cartons (no food residue), shoe or clothing boxes, store receipts, thermal fax paper or carbon paper, hardback books, tyvek mailing envelopes, padded envelopes.

Not Acceptable items:

Food contaminated paper, plastic or foil; milk, soy, juice cartons or pouches; film plastic (e.g., plastic bags, bubble wrap); beverage cups, coffee cups, donut boxes, fast food cups, take out containers/wrappers, foam egg cartons, foil, food and candy wrappers, snack or potato chip bags, ice cream cartons, paper covered with paint or pet waste, pizza boxes, tissues, paper towels, paper plates.



Kids Corner



Apple Snack

You will need:


- a small bowl
- a spoon
- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- 2 Tbsp. raisins
- 1 Tbsp. honey
- 3 apples
- lemon-lime soda

How to make:

- Mix peanut butter, raisins and honey in the bowl.
- Get a grownup to help you cut the apples in half lengthwise and remove the cores.
- Dip the cut part of the apple in the soda so the apple does not turn brown.
- Fill the center of each apple half with the peanut butter mixture.

Cover and refrigerate.

Enjoy!
Makes 6 servings.



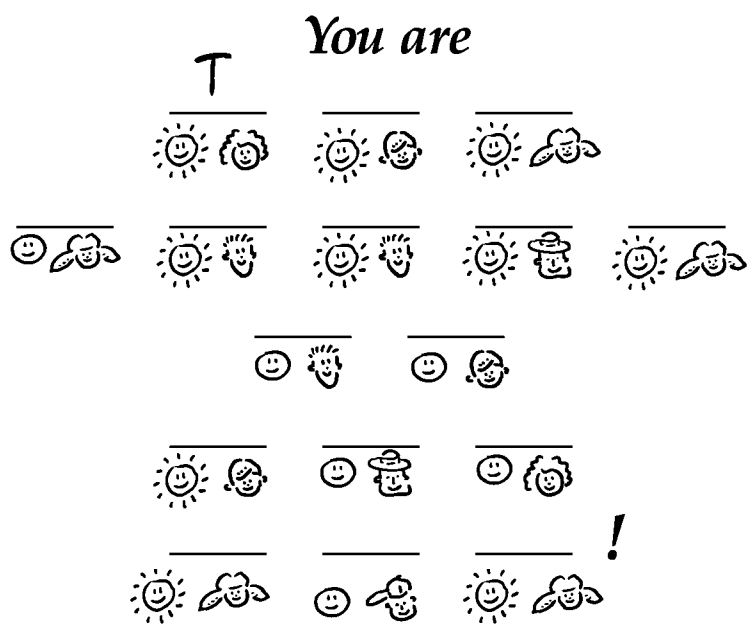
Just for KIDS

You are very special and important to God!

In Zechariah 2:8, Deuteronomy 32:10, Proverbs 7:2 and Psalms 17:8, we find an expression that describes how special and important you are to God. Use the picture graph to fill the blanks.

You are

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4 Communication Firecrackers—Pt 1

And how to avoid them—by H. Kent Hughes



Many couples argue like that burning leaf pile. There's a conflict (fire) between them.

Late one fall evening while my sons and some neighborhood boys were busy burning leaves, a creative idea flashed into my sometimes-immature male mind: *Why not throw firecrackers into the fire to see what happens?*

I went into the house, found our unused Fourth of July firecrackers, filled my pockets, and nonchalantly walked back outside.

The boys were throwing acorns into the fire and watching them explode. As they'd turn away to find more acorns, I'd slip a firecracker into the fire.

Of course, it made a much better explosion than the acorns. The boys thought the acorns were creating the spectacle, which only motivated them to scour the ground for more acorns. As the fire intensified with each explosion, I had fun watching the boys' reactions.

I admit it wasn't a smart parental move. (My wife was not pleased.) But later as I was thinking about the scenario, I realized there's a connection between those firecrackers and marriage—one I see happen with dozens of couples in my work as a counselor.

Many couples argue like that burning leaf pile. There's a conflict (fire) between them. Then they throw in some communication firecrackers, which serve only to spread and intensify the conflict by putting their spouse on the defensive.

Firecracker #1: Threats

John and Sara were blending two families and had established certain rules for the children. One rule was that food and drink must stay out of the living room.

One day Sara came home from work to find John and his son drinking sodas as they put together a desk in the living room. Sara was infuriated. She yelled, "If you can't respect me instead of favoring your kids, then I want out."

In the heat of a discussion, one or both partners may say, "If you ever ... then I'll ..." (fill in the blanks). Or maybe one will say, "Don't you ever say (or do) that again or I'll leave (or divorce) you." We rarely resolve anything when one or both partners act out of a threatening posture.

Better Choice:

Sara would have had better success by pulling John aside and simply asking for clarification. Did he forget? Did he change his mind? She could then follow up with a concise feeling

statement such as, "I felt betrayed when I saw you in the room drinking after we'd decided not to. Is that what you meant to communicate?" Then she would have discovered John simply forgot their conversation and was caught up in the moment working with his son.

Instead of threats, a preferable approach is inquiry. Genuinely seeking to understand what the other person is feeling or doing, and why, is a great way to de-escalate an argument.

Firecracker #2: Name Calling

Jennifer and Kyle were locked in an ongoing argument about money. Kyle was upset over the excessive amounts Jennifer spent on the children.

Late one night as the discussion was escalating, Kyle said, "You're just like your mother. She spoiled you, and now you're spoiling our kids."

Kyle identified a negative trait or behavior of his mother-in-law and called his wife that name. If his attempt was to force Jennifer to see the "error of her ways" and repent, he failed miserably. Instead, he put Jennifer on the defensive—not only for herself, but for her mother!

Other common phrases include: "That's just stupid!" "That's silly!" "Don't be ridiculous!" When one partner spits out these statements, it's the same as calling the other "stupid," "silly," or "ridiculous." It degrades that person's character. Those kinds of statements are cruel.

Better Choice:

Keep the main thing the main thing. If the problem is money, keep the conversation on money. Resist the temptation to make it personal. Kyle could have said, "Honey, I want the kids to have everything you want. I just get nervous when I look at the checkbook. Can we come up with a plan so we don't have this argument again?" Recognize the feeling and communicate it. Commit not to use profanity or call your spouse names.

Part 2 with Firecracker #3 and #4 will be in the next issue of *The ACORN*.

H. Kent Hughes, a psychologist, speaker, and author, lives in Tennessee. www.hkenthughes.com. Copyright © 2006 by the author or Christianity Today International/Marriage Partnership magazine.



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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 - Mary-Lynn Reilly

Office hours:

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

Worship:

Sundays - 10:30 AM

Calendar at a Glance



Oct 15—Work Day
 Oct 16—Compassion Offering
 Oct 22—Pregnancy Care Center’s *Walk For Life*
 Oct 23—PowerHouse Food Bag Fundraiser
 Oct 28—30—Youth Family Campout @ Lakewood Retreat



Nov 6—Daylight Saving Time Ends
 Blood Pressure checks following Worship
 Nov 8—MISCOM Meeting
 Nov 13—Evening of Giving Thanksgiving

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 21	Oct 26	Oct 29—Nov 11
Nov 4	Nov 9	Nov 12—Dec 2

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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