



ACORN

Seeds For Growth

Serve the Church & World

How many ministers does Oakwood Community Church have? We have three vocational ministry staff (two are full-time and one is part-time). However, we actually have a couple hundred ministers and leaders! The Bible essentially says that pastors and vocational staff are the *Coaches* who teach, train, deploy, and encourage God’s people who are the *Ministers*. By God’s grace, we have excellent teams of ministers who are lead by devoted volunteers. The Scripture says, “[God] also gave ... pastors ... as gifts to His church. **Their purpose is to prepare God’s people to minister**, [and here’s why:] so that the body of Christ may be built up” (Ephesians 4:11-12 GW, RSV, & NIV). As each Christ-follower at Oakwood engages in ministry on one of Oakwood’s many ministry teams, we are contributing to the love, vitality, and health of Christ’s local people. God has uniquely designed each one of His followers to make an invaluable contribution to a particular ministry (Ephesians 4:16). In a future article Dave Dorsey or I will focus our thoughts more fully on our serving the world.

Have you entered into a ministry team that serves the church and or the world? Oakwood has a three-step mission process to help everyone progress into becoming a more fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. We call this simply, *Love ~ Grow ~ Serve*. For a simple overview reminder, please view our diagram and brief description on page 5. We urge you to plug into one of our many ministry teams at Oakwood. As you do, you will grow and God will use you to bless others.

Each Christ-follower is to serve as a minister, not out of a sense of duty but out of a sense of delight; not out of a sense of obligation but out of a sense of opportunity. May we all have the mindset of the Apostle Paul, “How thankful I am to Christ Jesus our Lord for considering me trustworthy and appointing me to serve him” (1 Timothy 1:12).



~Pastor Paul

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.

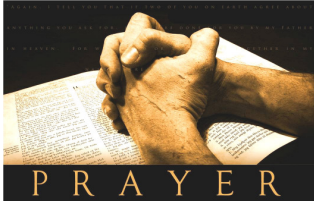


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24 Hour Fasting & Prayer

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 the Children’s Ministry building.



Following the dinner we will have time of prayer, praying through a guide for our Love ~ Grow ~ Serve 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 contacting the Church Office with the number of children and ages.

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. The November Guide is coming soon.



Let It Shine

Mark your 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.

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 also welcome any members who desire a refresher.

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:

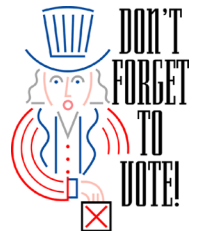
- What:** Pizza lunch and elder interaction
- When:** October 28, 12:00 – 1:45 PM
- Where:** Children's Ministry Building
- Cost:** Free! Childcare will be provided after the lunch

Please help us plan appropriately for lunch and childcare by contacting the Church Office to register by **Thursday, October 25.**

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/>



Vote wisely!

We urge everyone from the Oakwood congregation who is a U.S. citizen to vote on or before November 6. The Florida Family Policy Council (associated with Focus on the Family) has some guides that could possibly assist you with information as you prepare to vote on candidates, judges, and the 11 amendments.

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

You may also benefit from reading Wayne Grudem's "Moral and spiritual values in the 2012 election 9-28-12". is: <http://www.waynegrudem.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/party-a-and-party-b-version-03-summary-9-10-12-doc/>

In the above link, Grudem provides a summary overview of the role of government through one person's Biblical lens. In the form of a chart with contrasts, he summarizes the generally held views by most democratic politicians verses those generally held by most republican politicians. Admittedly, his framing of the issues is from a conservative Biblical view - no doubt, a more progressive Biblical view would be structured or framed differently.

Don't wait until you get into the balloting booth to make your decisions – there are many candidates, judges, and amendments to vote on.

Pastor Paul

Oakwood Mill

The Oakwood Mill is the Adult Education Ministry of Oakwood Community Church. We currently have two classes meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. They are:



The Five Love Languages of Teenagers—facilitated by Brian & Terri Johnson
This We Believe—a look at the Statement of Faith of Oakwood Community Church and the EFCA—facilitated by Guy Sas

In addition to these 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.

Work Day



The deacons will be hosting a work day on Saturday, November 10. We will be starting at 8AM and working until 3PM. You are welcome to come and go at any time. Even an hour is a help. We will have several different projects available, big and small, inside and out. All are welcome and will have something to do.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Ben Smith (bendsmith83@gmail.com) if you plan to attend so we can have an accurate count for the food needed.

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.



Daylight Saving Time Ends

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 AM on Sunday, November 4. Be sure to turn your clocks **back** one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, November 3.



Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks Sunday, November 4, in the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.

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

- 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
- Nov 18—Syper Hero Party—watch for details
- Nov 19 & 20—Service @ Metropolitan Ministries
- Nov 25—Regular Sunday evening—5:00—7:30

Metropolitan Ministries

Do you want to
make a difference
to a family in need?

Metropolitan Ministries serves
Thanksgiving food
to thousands of
Tampa Bay people in need.

Come and help serve
“Boxes of Hope”
November 19th & 20th
3:30 to 6:30 pm
Parents and teens—mark the date!
Sign up in Welcome Center.



Food Bag Ministry

Did you know that 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 Fundraisers typically on the third Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag Prep fundraiser is **Sunday, October 28** 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 26. Meet at the Save-A-Lot at 2271 E. Bearss Ave at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple) if you want to help. For more details contact Sandy Clarke at 931-0668.

Delivery drivers needed—We are also in need of people who can help with delivery of these food bags, especially to Lakeland, Haines City, and Winter Haven. If you can help deliver, please contact Tracy Sas at 931-5544.





When the candlelight dinners are replaced by soccer games and Cub scout meetings, just where does the flame come from?

Gwen Morrison, a freelance author, lives with her family in Georgia.

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Redefining Romance

By Gwen Morrison

When David and I married 11 years ago, he was looking forward to years of candlelight dinners and romantic restaurants.

Well, he was half-right. We've had a few candlelight dinners all right, but mostly they consisted of hot dogs and macaroni and cheese on paper plates. At home. In our kitchen. And the candles? Leftover stubs from my son's fourth birthday party.

And so it's been since our wedding day, when David took on the role of new husband and of father to my two preschool children from a previous marriage. It wasn't long before David's visions of spontaneous romantic moments started fading away.

While other newlyweds were dining at upscale eateries, gazing romantically into each other's eyes, we were hurrying the children through the last piece of cold pizza so we could collapse for the night. While other newly married couples snuggled in close for the late show at the movie theater, we were picking popcorn out of the hair of the child in front of us at the matinee showing of *Bambi*.

I have to give David a lot of credit, because he took it all in stride. We snuck in a hug, or stared dreamy-eyed at each other sitting in the bleachers at a dusty baseball field whenever we got the chance. It was mysterious—our romantic secret—trying to steal a few moments in those early years.

As the kids grew, life became busier and romance took a backseat to gymnastics, Boy Scouts, basketball games, school events, dental appointments—the usual parenting jobs took precedence over any mommy-daddy time. At times, it seemed the only moments we had together were in the car while taking a child from one event to another.

In the next several years we were blessed with two more babies, making our family of six complete. Our lives were full. We changed diapers, wiped noses, kissed boo-boos, tied shoelace after shoelace, and one by one we sent the little angels off to school. We watched the calendar—surely our time for romance was just around the corner.

It was a day in September, after putting the littlest one on the school bus for his first day of full-time kindergarten that my husband and I realized we were alone in our house for the first time in 10 years. It was an eerie feeling.

We thought about all those years of "lost romance." But were they really lost?

What is romance, anyway? After all those years of tending to children, had we missed out on nurturing our romantic side? Had we overlooked a key part of parenting—taking care of Mom and Dad? We sat at the kitchen table, sipping coffee, waiting for the other to say something that had nothing to do with children. The quiet of the moment was quickly shattered as our dog came barreling into the kitchen, hacking and spitting, as though he were coughing up a lung. Neither of us moved as we watched the dog vomit all over the floor, then go back to chewing the bone he'd been working on. Any thoughts of romance were obviously skirted by the mess in front of us.

I went to bed that night feeling as though our marriage was just about kids. Then it dawned on me—our marriage *was* about kids. When we married, we both knew we wouldn't be alone for a long time. And we'd spent the last 10 years proving that it was wonderful just like that. Going to ball games, camping with the Cub Scouts, volunteering at the kindergarten class, and eating at McDonald's was all worth it—because we did it together.

That's when I realized that's what romance is—simply spending time together. The more I thought about the past decade David and I spent together, the more clear my thoughts on romance became. We've been romancing each other all these years without even knowing it!

Romance is the phone call he made to me last month from the car on his way home to say, "I love you." Romance is holding our newborn baby for the first time and believing he's the most beautiful child God ever created. Romance is giving each other a high five when our son hit his first grand slam. Romance is that quick e-mail I sent David in the middle of the day to tell him he's the greatest husband in the universe. Romance is watching him teach our teenage son how to tie a necktie for his first date. Romance is having someone to hold your hand and wipe away your tears when you get the phone call that your dad's passed away.

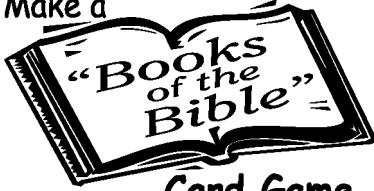
Romance is sharing a life together.

For us, marriage and family go hand in hand. Our time to be alone will come. But until then we're finding that a quick kiss, or a gentle touch in a busy day does it for us. We know we'll forever be grateful for the times we spent rearing our children—together.

And when our kids finally move out of the house, we hope they take the dog with them!

Kids Corner

Make a



Card Game

Here's a fun card game you can make and play with others or by yourself. It's a great way to learn the books of the Bible.

You will need:

- a Bible
- 68 note cards
- a marker or pen

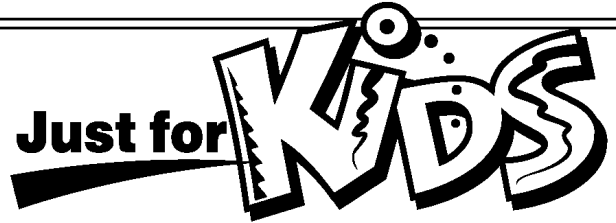
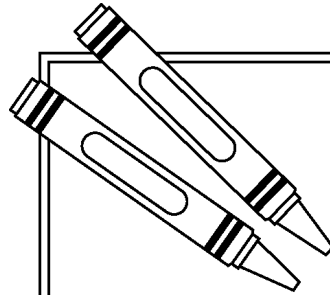


How to make the cards:

1. Write *Old Testament* on one card.
2. Write *New Testament* on another card.
3. Open your Bible to a list of the books.
4. Write one book name on each of the other cards. You should have a card for each book.

How to play the game:

1. Lay the cards marked *Old Testament* and *New Testament* face up on the table. Leave room so that columns of cards can be placed below them.
2. Shuffle the other cards and then deal them face down to the other players. Deal all the cards.
3. Take turns, starting with the dealer. Turn over the top card in your pile and place it in the correct column – *Old* or *New Testament*.
4. Continue until all the cards are in columns. There should be 39 cards in the *Old Testament* column and 27 in the *New Testament* column.
5. For added fun arrange the cards in the order they're in the Bible.
6. Use your Bible to check your answers.



The Books of the Bible Seek and Find

All of the books of the Bible are hidden in this puzzle. There are 39 from the Old Testament and 27 from the New Testament. Use your Bible to help you find the names. Circle each one. The names can go → ← ↓ ↑ ↘.

T	F	I	R	S	T	J	O	H	N	A	N	H	O	J	D	N	O	C	E	S
H	P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I	A	N	S	P	H	I	L	E	M	O	N	C
I	S	E	C	O	N	D	T	I	M	O	T	H	Y	B	C	D	E	F	G	O
R	F	G	E	N	E	S	I	S	R	U	T	H	E	S	T	H	E	R	H	L
D	I	J	X	L	S	A	R	Z	E	J	N	E	H	E	M	I	A	H	E	O
J	R	O	O	D	E	U	T	E	R	O	N	O	M	Y	S	T	C	A	Z	S
O	S	B	D	S	C	V	F	I	R	S	T	S	A	M	U	E	L	I	E	S
H	T	S	U	E	O	D	I	I	J	H	K	L	M	I	C	A	H	A	K	I
N	C	M	S	C	N	A	H	T	J	U	D	G	E	S	P	Q	E	S	I	A
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N	R	A	O	N	K	I	S	S	E	C	O	N	D	S	A	M	U	E	L	S
A	I	S	N	D	I	E	E	N	O	N	U	M	B	E	R	S	J	R	V	N
I	N	P	A	C	N	L	A	S	F	I	R	S	T	K	I	N	G	S	O	A
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D	A	H	E	T	J	A	L	S	H	A	B	A	K	K	U	K	A	B	L	N
N	T	F	I	R	S	T	T	I	M	O	T	H	Y	A	D	G	M	R	A	O
O	I	F	I	R	S	T	P	E	T	E	R	E	T	H	J	Y	E	E	C	C
C	A	F	B	V	R	E	V	E	L	A	T	I	O	N	U	P	S	W	H	E
E	N	S	R	T	B	V	H	R	E	T	E	P	D	N	O	C	E	S	I	S
S	S	F	I	R	S	T	T	H	E	S	S	A	L	O	N	I	A	N	S	A



Oakwood Community Church
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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



Oct 26-27—24-Hour Fasting & Prayer
 Oct 28—*Discovering Oakwood* seminar
 PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry



Nov 4—Daylight Saving Time ends
 Blood Pressure checks following worship
 Nov 6—Election Day
 Nov 10—Work Day
 Nov 11—Board Meeting
 Nov 17—Evening of Prayer & Praise

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...
Nov 2	Nov 7	Nov 10—Nov 30
Nov 23	Nov 28	Dec 1—Dec 14

Note—this is a 3 week edition

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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