



ACORN

Seeds for Growth

Wacko's or Wakeful's?

Inside and outside the Christian community in the United States, in recent months there has been considerable attention to a wacko “Christian” radio broadcaster who has, over and over again, predicted several specific dates for the return of Jesus Christ and the end of the world. His most recent prediction was for October 21 of this year. All of those dates have come and gone. Jesus is still in heaven and the earth is still spinning round.

There are several tragedies of such misguided soothsaying. The most notable is that many people have been lulled into sleep about the sure and certain return of Christ. They view those who wakefully anticipate Christ’s return as religious wacko’s. As the Apostle Peter says, “... I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. They will say, ‘What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created’ (2 Peter 3:3-4, ff).”

Jesus said such people will be caught unprepared for His return, to the peril of their souls. While He asserted that no person can predict with accuracy the day or the hour of His return, He taught us there is no need for any of us to be overtaken by judgment. Instead we can trust Jesus to be our Forgiver and then in gratitude, live each and every day with a spirit of wakefulness that Jesus is coming some day, and that day could be very soon, maybe even today (Matthew 24-25).

Wacko’s make foolish predictions, but we who are wakeful strive to daily honor Jesus with our loving obedience and compassionate service to others. Wakeful living also fills us with joyful anticipation for all the awesomeness of what His return will mean for us, and most thrilling of all, for what we know it will mean for Him – glory in all its fullness.



This upcoming Christmas season, as we look back on Jesus’ coming to earth, let us also look forward, and thereby, like Simeon and Anna, live righteously and devoutly as we eagerly await for our Messiah to come (Luke 2:25ff).

~ 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.



Inside this issue:

Giving Thanksgiving	2
OCC Updates	2-3
Oakwood Mill	3
Serve The World	4
PowerHouse News	5
Kids Corner	6
Marriage Matters	7
Calendar at a Glance	8



Evening of Giving Thanksgiving

Everyone is invited to the “Evening of Giving Thanksgiving” this Sunday, November 13 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. We will meet around a bonfire in the area east of the PowerHouse.



You will have opportunity to “**give thanksgiving**” **tangibly** by donating to Metropolitan Ministries. In preparation for their holiday food distribution effort the items they need most are:

Canned fruit	Boxed Cereal
Beans	Yams

They can also use these items:

Crib and Stroller Toys	Make-up
Jewelry	Watches
Sports clothing or hats	

There will also be opportunity to “**give thanksgiving**” **verbally** by sharing in 1-2 minutes your personal reasons for giving thanksgiving to God.

How has God recently answered your prayers?

What Bible passage has recently encouraged you?

How have you recently seen God at work in your life?



For family units with school age children you could ask them to answer the question “What can you be thankful for today?”

Prayerfully consider friends and neighbors you can invite to this “Evening of Thanksgiving”. For your comfort and safety you may want to bring a flashlight, a lawn chair and insect repellent.

I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.

Psalm 69:30

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 November Prayer Guide from the Information Center or check it out on our website and find out how.



Blood Mobile

The Blood Mobile will be at Oakwood on Sunday, November 20 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. If you are at least 16 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, are in good health and haven't donated in the last eight weeks, you are eligible to donate.

Blood Pressure checks

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

Annual Congregational Meeting—November 20

Everyone is invited to join us right after the morning Worship Service on Sunday, November 20. We anticipate the meeting to be from 11:45 AM—12:30 PM.

The 2012 Proposed Budget will be presented as well as other important elder communications.



Childcare will be provided for Nursery – 5th Graders for those who pre-register at the TreeHouse Welcome Station or the Information Center.

Drivers needed for Food Bag Ministry

Our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland and Haines City. We are in need of people who can help with delivery of these food bags, especially to Lakeland and Haines City. The food bags are assembled on the third Sunday of each month, and need to be delivered on the Monday or Tuesday following assembly. Our next delivery dates are November 21 & 22.

If you can help with delivery or would like more information, please contact Sandy Clarke at 813-931-0668.

New Oakwood Mill class



Winter 2011
Beginning December 4
9:15 – 10:15 AM

The Oakwood Mill is the Adult Education Ministry of Oakwood Community Church. All Classes are held in the Education Center. Contact the Church Office (office@oakwoodfl.org) to register.

Please be sure to include information on any children so we can adequately plan for childcare during that hour.

DANIEL
Location: Room 106/108
Led by Guy Sas

Much like Moses (and Joseph) at the court of the Egyptians, Daniel was from boyhood raised in noble Babylonian surroundings. His mind nurtured by scholars and, more importantly, the Holy Spirit, he would rank first among the highest offices of the Babylonian and Medo-Persian Empires. His chronicle, the portrait of a man totally committed to God, encompasses the full scope of history. Described in the account of Daniel's journey with God are some of the most exciting incidents of faith and prayer recorded in all of Scripture.

Join us as we study Daniel's walk with his God and see what we can learn and, by so doing, improve our walk with God as well.

Opportunities to *Serve The World*

These are great opportunities to show compassion and give a sense of hope to those who may not know The One who is Hope.

Metropolitan Ministries



We are collecting non-perishable food for the holiday food distribution effort at **Metropolitan Ministries**. 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.

Rafiki Orphanage

Rick & Brenda Smith are making their third trip to Liberia at the end of November to minister at the orphanage run by the Rafiki Foundation. This is the same orphanage they have previously worked with.

We have the opportunity to help provide some needed items that Rick & Brenda can take over with them. If you would like to help, donations of new clothing and shoe items can be placed in the bin in the church lobby on November 13 & 20.



Needed items are:

Underwear—great need for this:

Girls sizes 2 through 6 and 10 and 12

Boys sizes 2 through 8

Boys clothes

Sizes- 3,4,5,6, & 7

Boys sneakers

Sizes- 12,13,1, & 2

Girls sneakers and dress shoes (no heels)

Sizes- 9, 9.5, 10, 10.5, 11, & 12

Ladies sneakers and dress shoes (no heels)

Sizes- 6, 6.5, & 7



PH Food Bag Fundraisers

PowerHouse teens can raise money for summer mission/conference trips by participating in our monthly Food Bag Fundraisers on the third Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag Prep fundraiser is November 20, 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, November 18. Meet at the Save-A-Lot on Bears Ave at 5:00 PM if you want to help. For more details contact Sandy Clarke at

Recent Student Retreat/Campout



PowerHouse Schedule

- Nov 13—Churchwide Bonfire—Evening of Giving Thanksgiving
- Nov 20—PowerHouse Food Bag Fundraiser
Monthly Outreach Party
- Nov 27—Regular Meeting—Faith or Consequences
- Dec 4—Regular Meeting—Taking Faith to the Altar

Kids Corner

Make a
Biblical Snack



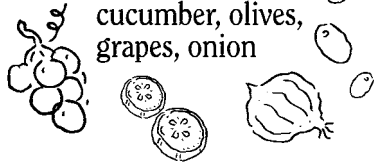
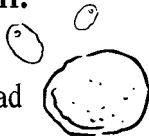
Two of the most important foods for Jesus and the early Christians were bread and fish.



Make an after-school snack or lunch.

You will need:

- a round pita bread
- can of tuna – (drain liquid)
- salad dressing (1 or 2 Tbsp.)
- your choice: cucumber, olives, grapes, onion

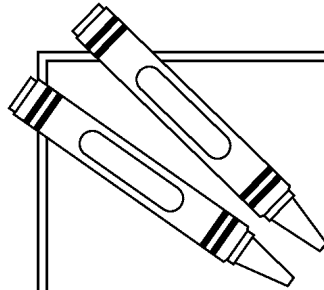


How to make:

- Cut pita in half to form 2 pockets.
- Mix tuna with salad dressing and whatever you have chosen in a bowl.
- Spoon tuna mixture into bread pockets.



Enjoy!



Just for KIDS

A Bible Time Feast!

We celebrate important events and holidays by gathering for meals – for feasts! The disciples and other people who lived in Bible times did the same. “Breaking bread” together was, and is, an important part of our lives. The early Christians often met for an Agape meal – a time of friendship and fellowship.

We might enjoy ham or turkey or lasagna and pumpkin pie or cheesecake. What would a menu from an early Christian Agape meal look like?



Look up each Scripture reference to complete the menu below.

Grilled _____

(Matthew 7:10)



(Ezekiel 4:12)

(Deuteronomy 23:24)

(Leviticus 2:4)



Loaf of _____

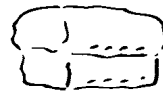
(1 Chronicles 16:3)

C

(Numbers 11:5)

(2 Samuel 23:11)

(Job 10:10)



(Deuteronomy 28:40)

M

(Genesis 25:30)

(Numbers 11:5)

O

(Numbers 11:5)

Cake of _____

(1 Chronicles 16:3)



fish, barley cake, grapes, cakes, loaf of bread, cucumbers, lentils, cheese, olives, stew (or pottage), melons, onions, cake of dates (or raisins)

Advice For My Son's Wedding by Jim Killam

Tips on how to navigate a marriage—whether you're a newlywed or an "oldywed."



Jim Killam teaches journalism at Northern Illinois University and is a freelance writer. He and his wife, Lauren, have been married 25 years.

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Just a few days from now, our oldest son, Ben, will marry the love of his life, Becky. I haven't been asked for much input on the day's events, which is probably a good thing. I have been told I have no coherent advice on how to plan a wedding. (This after suggesting pant suits for the bridal party, and a wedding cake adorned with cocktail franks.)

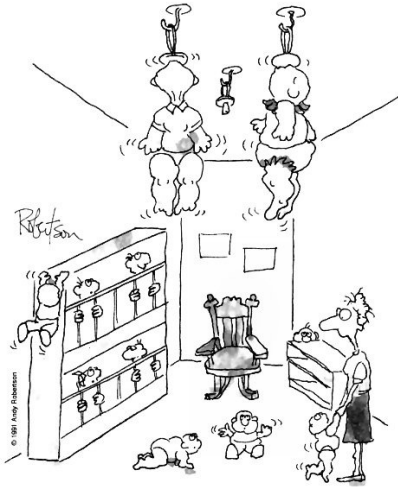
I do think, based on 24 years' experience, that I can offer my son a few bits of advice on how to navigate a marriage. So in no particular order, here goes.

- * Praising your wife in front of other people does wonders for her self-esteem.
- * If you give a compliment, mean it.
- * Criticizing your wife in front of others, even in jest, is always a bad idea. Always.
- * Sometimes, she doesn't want you to solve the problem. She just wants you to listen. I know, I don't understand it either.
- * Don't fall for that line of garbage that says marriage is a ball and chain. Think about the people who tell you that. They would give anything to have what you have.
- * Sometimes, impractical as it seems, it's better to spend \$500 on a trip than \$500 on furniture. Provided you have the \$500.
- * Credit card debt is a monster. Don't fall for it, even for the short term.
- * Don't keep financial secrets from each other. They do not remain secret.
- * Live on less than you make. In fact, learn to live on one income. Swim against the tide.
- * Tithe. Not only does it honor God, it also brings focus to the rest of your money decisions.
- * Before attempting even the smallest plumbing job, know where the whole-house water shutoff is located. Just sayin'.
- * Finding a recreational activity you love doing together will change your life. Especially if it's cheap or free.
- * Laughing together is even better for you than exercising together.
- * A cheap, used car gets you to exactly the same places in the same amount of time as a new car does. Except when it breaks down.
- * Don't be so afraid of hurting the other's feelings that you never really talk about how you feel. It took five years of marriage before I finally told your mom I didn't like grape jelly, which she'd been putting on my peanut butter sandwiches every day.

- * If you're in a store together, be careful about saying you like an item. You are likely to receive it as a gift.
- * Bubble gum is not an advisable electrical fastener.
- * Wanting a pet is a lot more fun than owning a pet.
- * Don't be too embarrassed to talk about sex together.
- * Praying together every day might be the most intimate thing you can do. Even more than sex.
- * Pray together before any big decision and most small ones. The ultimate decision is far less important than the fact you are praying together about it.
- * Be stewards, not consumers.
- * Moving every few years is a good way to take stock of how much unnecessary stuff you have.
- * Observe a no-TV week once in a while. It'll still be there when you get back ... and there still won't be anything worth watching.
- * Find regular times of quietness, both together and alone. Watching a Cubs game doesn't count.
- * Do not attempt exploratory surgery on a broken dishwasher. You can call the appliance repairman now or later. Save years of humiliation. Call him now.
- * Hold your career with a light touch. It's not who you are, it's only what you do.
- * Focus outwardly. Together, you two can impact your community and your world. Don't settle for simply entertaining yourselves.
- * Find a good church and get involved. Don't just be spectators. Churches have enough of those.
- * If you wait until you feel confident and ready to have kids, you will never have kids.
- * "Honor your father and mother" applies at all ages. And it's not just for their sake.
- * Talk together, often, about your hopes and dreams. Don't laugh at hers.
- * When you fight, fight fairly and cleanly. No yelling, no escalating, no pouting.
- * Approach each day with a thankful heart. It's a freeing thing to realize that no one owes you anything. 1 Timothy 6:6 says, "Godliness with contentment is great gain."
- * Your wife is an amazing gift from God. Treat her that way.
- * No marriage is bulletproof. Guard it with everything you have, and entrust it to God.



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First Church discovers an inexpensive solution for their overcrowded nursery.

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



- Nov 13—Board Meeting
Evening of Giving Thanksgiving
- Nov 15—MISCOM Meeting
- Nov 20—Blood Mobile @ Oakwood
Congregational Meeting
PH Food Bag Fundraiser
- Nov 24—*Thanksgiving Day*
- Nov 24-25—Church Office Closed
- Nov 27—Compassion Offering



- Dec 4—Blood Pressure checks following Worship
- Dec 11—Board Meeting
- Dec 13—MISCOM Meeting
- Dec 18—Compassion Offering
PH Food Bag Fundraiser

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 25	Nov 30	Dec 3—Dec 16
Dec 9	Dec 14	Dec 17—Jan 6

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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