



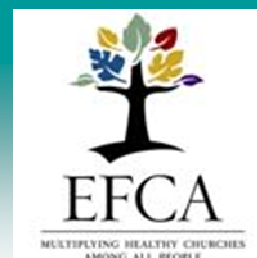
ACORN

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.



Seeds For Growth

Random Thoughts

So it begins. Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday, Give Back Tuesday and that is just the start of the season. The month of December promises to be a blur as it seems to be every year. For some, there are the plans for Christmas. Where do we go for Christmas? What do we get that relative that we don't know well? What should we prepare food-wise to take to the family/company Christmas dinner? When are we going to put up the decorations? The pull is great this time of year to be so distracted from the real reason for the season.

A King descended from heaven for a single purpose, to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). That is you and me. Many of the carols we sing speak of the coming of the King (Joy to the World) and of the Christ child (Away in a Manger). But very few connect the real reason He came. A song Martha and I heard a number of years ago still reminds me of the significance of the Christmas celebration.

*Little baby in a manger, Son of God above. Born to die for all my sin.
Yes, I believe in love!
Love has triumphed, death is finished! I cannot conceive why one so
lovely, one so kind would give new life to me.
What can this poor wounded soul give to a mighty king? Can He who
holds the world in space have need of anything?
Yet my soul shall never cease to offer gifts of praise. I kneel in spirit at
His feet; a sinner saved by grace!
Born to die to rise again; to crush the power of Satan's sin. I lift my
voice. I'll shout and sing.
Hosanna! Hosanna! HOSANNA TO THE KING!!!**

Certainly, I hope you will be able to remember the significance of the birth of Jesus in the rush of season. Even more important was the life, death and resurrection of the One who came to save.



Merry Christmas!

That is all I am saying today.

Dave Dorsey

*©1978 Tim Sheppard Music

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Women's Ornament Exchange

The Women's Ministry Team invites all women to join us this Friday, December 2, at 7:00 PM in the Children's Ministry Building for an Ornament Exchange and Sock Hop.



Wrap up a new or gently used ornament to exchange. Invite a friend and enjoy the devotional, *The Real Christmas Town*, and have fun swapping ornaments.

Don't wear your socks; just bring a new pair to donate to the Blanket Tampa Bay organization. This organization helps homeless individuals with needed items (blankets, socks, etc.) for when we do have cold weather in the Tampa area.



Pancake Breakfast

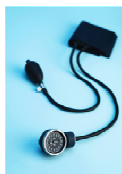
The Oakwood Cares Team invites everyone to get your day off to a great start by enjoying a hearty pancake breakfast. While you are there, you will have the opportunity to learn more about events already planned by the Oakwood Cares Team and what's ahead. We look forward to seeing--no--eating with you!



When: Sunday, December 4
Time: 8:00 - 9:15 AM
Where : PowerHouse (Youth Center)
Cost: FREE

Blood Pressure checks

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



Members vote December 4

Oakwood members will vote on a recommendation from the elder and deacon teams that David Conner, Larry Giannone, Brian Johnson and Mike Wyatt serve a second term on the deacon team and Mark Beale, John Schneider and Rob Weyand serve a 2nd term on the elder team.



Members will also vote on the Proposed 2017 Budget, which was presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 20. If you haven't voted via email, you can pick up your ballot from the table in the lobby this Sunday.

Work Day



Saturday, December 10
8:00 AM—noon

We are looking for Small Groups, families and friends to have a great time of fellowship and work together on projects inside and out at Oakwood.

One job will be some tree trimming. If you have equipment to help with this, please contact Dave Fowle at davidfowle1@gmail.com.

We appreciate your help—whether you can come for an hour or for the morning.

Elder Led Prayer

Everyone is invited to join in a time of prayer with the elders the first and third Sunday of the month. We meet from 5:30—6:30 PM in the Library. Childcare will be provided.

Opportunities to *Serve the World*

Family Medical Packs. Stop by the table in the back of the Worship Center to find out how you can partner with the Voice of the Martyrs organization. We are collecting much needed medical supplies to send to our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ.



Please remember to have your donations returned to the table by Sunday, December 18.

The Oakwood Cares Team is sponsoring a **Teacher Appreciation Day** for the teachers at Cannella Elementary on January 28, 2017. We are collecting donations of supplies to share with these teachers for use in their classrooms. Suggested supplies: box of tissues, hand sanitizer, notebooks, pencils, copy paper, or anything else that could be helpful for teachers in their classroom.

Collection boxes will be available in the lobby through January 22 for you donations. Thanks for helping us show teachers that Oakwood Cares.

Naomi's Daughters is a ministry for single moms that provides clothing and food to the moms and their children. The Oakwood family, along with others in the community, provides donations of clothing, food and money to keep this ministry moving forward.



Current needs –Clothing and shoes for infants to adults; school supplies

Pantry needs: cereal, canned goods, rice, pasta, paper goods, personal care items, etc.

Donations can be left on the back porch of the gray house at the front of our property. Tax Deductible receipts are available.

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 our doors.

PTSD Support Group

Supportive Arms Support Group meets every Friday from 7-9 PM in the Church Library.



This support group is for Veterans and current service members that suffer from PTSD/Trauma. Open to men and women. The goal is to give support and comfort in a group environment to those that struggle with PTSD/Trauma; to help in their daily lives with insight, support, and spiritual guidance; to show that they are loved and cared for through the Grace of God. While everyone may not have served, chances are we have a family member or friend who has and that is struggling in their everyday life. This is an opportunity for them to receive much needed care and support.

Group facilitators are Terrence Morman and Chris Schmidt.

Christmas @ Oakwood



Pastor Larry will continue his series, *Christmas People*, as we go through the Christmas season.

As has been our tradition, we will have a **Family Christmas Eve Service** at 6:00 PM. The service will begin in PowerHouse and will end by going outside to a bonfire (weather permitting) to sing carols. Refreshments will be served in PowerHouse following the service.



On Sunday morning (Christmas Day), join us for a short **Family Worship Service** at 10:00 AM with singing of carols and a short devotional. Childcare will be provided for children birth through 4 year olds.



PowerHouse Schedule

Dec 2-4—Fall Retreat (no Sunday School or Evening PH meeting)
 Dec 11—Food Bags following Worship & Regular Evening Meeting
 Dec 18—Christmas party—watch for details
 Dec 25—No Youth Meeting
 Dec 30—Winter Lock-In - ends at Midnight—watch for details
 Jan 1—No Youth Meeting

Food Bag Ministry

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.

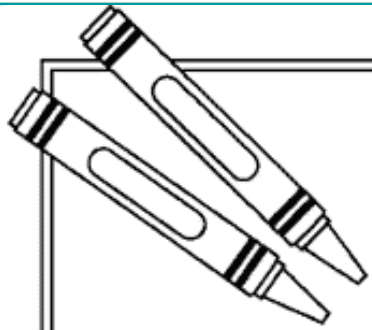
PowerHouse teens can raise money for summer mission/conference trips by participating in our monthly Food Bag Ministry, typically on the second Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag prep day is **Sunday, December 11** right after the Worship Service.



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, December 9. Meet at Aldi at Bearss & Florida Ave. at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple—813.265.9895) if you want to help. For more details on deliveries, contact Cindy Giannone at (813) 969-4136.



Kids Corner



Just for KIDS

Telling the Christmas Story

These words are all part of the Christmas story. First, find them in the puzzle below. Circle them. You may find them → ← ↗ ↘ ↙ ↚ ↛ ↜ ↝. There will be 12 letters that remain uncircled. Write them in the order found on the lines below. You will find a special Christmas message! Then use the words from the list to tell the story to someone!

joy	hay	men	inn	wise
Lord	star	baby	king	east
Mary	gold	angel	taxes	Jesus
sheep	myrrh	three	manger	Savior
donkey	Caesar	Joseph	birthday	Messiah
shepherds	frankincense	Bethlehem	Augustus	

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

“ _____ ”



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Our Vocation & Volunteer Staff

Interim Pastor—Larry Chute
Director of Ministries & Coordinator of Children's Ministry—Dave Dorsey
Director of PowerHouse Ministry—Doug Cress
Associate Director of PowerHouse Ministry—Cam Whipple
Office Manager—Martha Dorsey
Secretary—Melanie Hoglievina

Office hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Education Classes:

Sundays—9:15 AM

Worship:

Sundays—10:30 AM

Our Elder Team

Mark Beale
Edson Bustamante
Larry Chute
John Schneider
Rob Weyand

Our Deacon Team

David Conner
Dave DePagter
David Fowle
Larry Giannone
Brian Johnson
Mike Wyatt

Calendar at a Glance

December

Dec 2—Women's Ornament Exchange & Sock Hop
Dec 4—Pancake Breakfast by Oakwood Cares
Members vote on 2017 Budget
Blood Pressure checks following Worship
Elder led Prayer Time
Dec 7—Transition Team Meeting
Dec 10—Work Day

Dec 11—Deacon Team Meeting
Oakwood Cares Team Meeting
PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry
Dec 12—Women's Ministry Team Meeting
Dec 13—Missions Team Meeting
Dec 18—Compassion Offering
Elder led Prayer Time
Dec 19—Elder/Deacon Teams meet

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...
Dec 9	Dec 14	Dec 17—Jan 6
Dec 30	Jan 4	Jan 7—Jan 20

Missed a Sunday message? Listen online @ www.oakwoodfl.org/messages/