



ACORN

Seeds for Growth

The Monday After

It’s Monday and I am thinking a lot this morning about the faithfulness of God. In the book of Lamentations, we read that “The LORD’S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; **Great is Your faithfulness.**” In I Thessalonians it says “Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. **God will make this happen, for He who calls you is faithful.**”

Last Sunday, we heard about the things we believe God is calling us to accomplish in the next two years. Based on the prayer in I Chronicles 4, we are being challenged to “Expand Our Territory Together.” As Pastor Paul gave the introduction to the presentation, he reminded us of some of the things God has done through Oakwood Community Church in our history. It was good for me to hear these things as it reminded me of many of the people who have been a part of this church family in times past that dared to believe God’s faithfulness and try to accomplish something great for Him. Thinking about our time at Plant High School and Gaither High School brought back memories of the family meetings that we dreamed big about ministries, staff, property and facilities and then see the LORD bring it to reality.

While it is good to be reminded of the things already accomplished, I believe God is calling us to continue the work until He says stop. There is a great passage of Scripture in Philippians 3 where the Apostle Paul recounts his past and the achievements in his life. Then he reminds the readers and himself that he hasn’t arrived yet. The Message renders it this way: “I’m not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don’t get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all



of this, but I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I’m off and running and I’m not turning back. **So let’s keep focused on that goal**, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you’ll see it yet! Now that we’re on the right track, let’s stay on it.”

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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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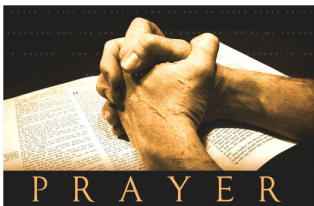
Expanding Our Territory...Together!

On Sunday, January 29 our leaders presented Oakwood's vision entitled, *Expanding Our Territory, Together!* You may listen to it on our web site (www.oakwoodfl.org password: occtree). You may also read the full written script-notes for that presentation; it also includes the guiding principles behind this vision (which were not presented at the worship service). Finally, we have a brief brochure online you may review, or pick one up at our worship center's welcome table. Please use these as a guide to praying that God would enable us to expand our territory, together.



Break The Fast Picnic

In response to the launch of the new vision, the Oakwood church family will be challenged to a week of focused prayer (see the February Prayer Guide on our website). This will culminate with a day of church-wide prayer and fasting from Friday, February 3 after dinner, until dinner Saturday, February 4. On that Saturday evening, at 5:00 PM in TreeHouse, Oakwood will be picnicking together to *Break The Fast* in response to the launching of the new vision. Bring a picnic, including beverages, to feed your family, and be prepared to share with fellow Oakwoodians about how God is personally moving you to expand your territory.



After the family picnic and during the sharing, childcare will be available for birth through fifth grade. Birth through age four will be covered. We are, however, requesting five adult volunteers for ages five through fifth grade to take fifteen minute shifts to assist in supervision. Please help us adequately prepare for your attendance by contacting the Church Office to register.

Prayer 2012

Oakwood Community Church is continuing the use of the prayer guide as we launch into 2012 and *fuel* the new vision of **Expanding Our Territory, Together** united with **Love ~ Grow ~ Serve**. In building upon our prayer focus last month of God's attributes, we are making February a time to make that love connection with God and His people based on the vision element of loving God.



Pick up your copy of the February Prayer Guide at the Information Center or view it on our website.

Seeds for Growth—continued

So, as good as the things that have been done in our church history, there are so many more things for us to do for Christ's sake. The next two years, we are asking God to help us "Expand Our Territory." He can do that as we are willing to be His hands and feet in the work. As He has been faithful to us as a church family from the beginning, we can expect He will continue in His faithfulness. May we keep our eye on the goal of reaching for Christ and helping others do the same as we "Expand Our Territory Together!"

That's all I'm saying today.

Dave Dorsey
Director of Ministries

Valentine's Celebration



Come celebrate with your sweetheart at our Annual Sweetheart Dinner on Saturday, February 11, 6:00 PM in PowerHouse. You'll enjoy a wonderful Spanish Pork Dinner and some fun interaction with other couples.

The cost is \$30 per couple. Register on Sunday February 5, in the lobby or contact the Church Office.

Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks Sunday, February 5, in the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.

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 usually assembled on the third Sunday of each month, and need to be delivered on the Monday or Tuesday following assembly.

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

Pastor Paul's ministry role nationally



Many of you may not be aware that I have the responsibility and privilege of serving on a special team with the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA). The EFCA is an association of churches which Oakwood is a grateful member. This team is called the Board of Ministerial Standing. There are fifteen men who come from all over our nation and are comprised of District Superintendents, national leaders, pastors, and one seminary professor. We are responsible to provide oversight to the credentialing, discipline, and

restoration of vocational pastors and missionaries in the EFCA movement. I have been serving on this board for approximately ten years now; the last five years I have served as its chair. I will have completed my eligible term of ministry in June 2013. The last two years I have also served on a team who review and approve or deny professors who are recommended for tenure at Trinity International University (which includes our seminary). We meet together (most often in Minneapolis) three times a year for two days each, and conduct ministry in-between meetings through email and phone calls. The picture above was taken at our meeting a couple of weeks ago in Chicago. While the role is sobering and draining at times, the camaraderie and love are very special (just as is the case for me with our elder team and ministry leaders). We even laugh a lot! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve the greater constituency of our EFCA on your behalf.

~ Pastor Paul

Opportunities to *Serve The Church & World*

Blessing Others

Many of you know that we provide a ministry for single moms in the gray house. It is our *Naomi's Daughters* ministry 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.

Currently, this ministry opens once a month, typically on the 3rd Saturday of the month, for any single mom in need. *We have now added a small food pantry of non-perishables for the moms as well.* 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. There are bins provided along with tax deductible forms. 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.

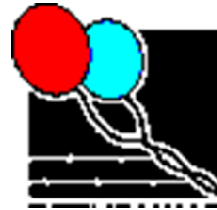


Blessing Others—Take 2

Work Day—February 25, 9:00 AM—12:00 PM.
See the PowerHouse announcements on Page 5 for details.

Angola Here We Come Again!

Many of you remember that we had a team of 5 men



Returning HEARTS Celebration

attend the “Returning Hearts Celebration” last July at the Louisiana State Prison at Angola. We are going back again this year! The experience of worshipping with the inmates on Friday night was so humbling. Then being with the dads and kids on Saturday as they were able to just have fun was so exciting to see. This year’s event will be held on Saturday, May 19. We will be traveling to Louisiana on May 17 and returning to Tampa on Sunday, May 20. The greatest need is for Family Volunteers that will chaperone the dads and their kids for the day. As this event has grown, administrative help is also needed. There were many women volunteers who came to assist dads with daughters and others came to help with the check-in process as well as work the games. So, if there are any husband/wife teams that would like to go, it would be great for both of you to see how God is doing some significant things in what was once one of the toughest prisons in America.

Projected cost for the trip is

\$630. A deposit of \$100 is requested by February 12.

Sign-up sheets in the Information Center. Please contact Dave Dorsey for any additional information.





PowerHouse Schedule

February 5—Super Bowl party at the Conner's (David and Cindy) home, 15008 Hutchinson Road, Tampa, FL. Doors will be open at 5:30. Kickoff is at 6:30. Students may stay 'til game ends or be picked up at parents convenience. Guys should bring salty snacks to share, ladies should bring something sweet (and no...just bringing yourself is not enough). Food (burgers, etc) and drinks will be provided.

February 19—Food Bag Fundraiser

February 25—Work Day

March 4—Annual PowerHouse Talent Show—get your act together

March 11-18—Spring Break Service/Ministry Trip



Work Day



Save the date
February 25
9:00 – 12:00

A chance to serve our church family and community. We'll leave the church at 9:00 to serve those who can use some

PowerHouse strength and encouragement. Bring cash if you want to go out to CiCi's (Citrus Park) for lunch after a morning of working.

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 **Sunday, February 19**, 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, February 17. Meet at the Save-A-Lot on Bearss Ave at 5:00 PM if you want to help. For more details contact Sandy Clarke at 931-0668.

Spring Break Service/Ministry Trip

March 11—18, all PowerHouse students are invited to take part in a service/ministry trip to do work projects at Cedine Ministries in Spring City, Tennessee. Cedine is a Christian Outreach/Discipleship Camp for Inner City Youth (<http://www.cedine.org/>).

Note this is a new opportunity and does not overlap with our SPRING RETREAT (in April) or our summer trip to CHALLENGE (in July). This trip will led by Luke Piazza. If any parent has questions they can contact Luke by phone 813-451-4265 or by email, lukepiazza@yahoo.com.

The total cost of the trip is \$60. Students have the option to use Food Bag funds to cover this cost or they may pay out of pocket. In addition, students will be responsible for meals on the road, snacks and any spending money that they will need. Students must give a deposit of \$30 by Sunday Feb 12 and the remaining \$30 and all necessary forms are due by Feb 19. Students using Food Bag funds should provide Luke with a note to that affect by Feb 12.

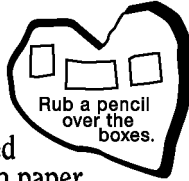
Students can earn Community Service hours for helping with this ministry project. For more details on the trip see the Fact Sheet available in PowerHouse or contact Luke.

Kids Corner

Make a Valentine for Someone Special

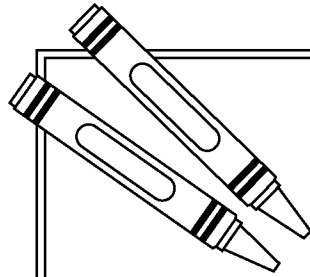
You will need:

- ♥ a sheet of red construction paper
- ♥ a sheet of white copier paper
- ♥ glue or a glue stick
- ♥ scissors
- ♥ pencil
- ♥ red marker
- ♥ fine-point black marker



How to make it:

1. Cut a large heart out of the red paper.
2. Using the leftover scraps, cut out letters (about 1 inch high) to spell "I LOVE YOU" or "GOD LOVES YOU." Glue the letters in the center of the heart.
3. Cut a heart out of the white paper. Make it about 1 inch smaller than the red one.
4. Glue the white heart on top of the red one so that a 1 inch red border shows and the letters are covered.
5. Feel where the red letters are under the white paper and draw a box around each word using the red marker. Below the last box write: Rub a pencil over the boxes to find a special message!
6. Sign your name.



Just for KIDS

A Message of Love

Luke 10:27 has a wonderful message to live by.

Find the message by writing the opposite words next to the ones given. Then transfer the letters to the numbered lines they match below.

cool	1 2 3 4	soft	20 21 22 23
under	5 6 7 8	old	24 25 26 27 28
out	9 10	after	29 30 31 32 33 34
large	11 12 13 14 15	false	35 36 37 38
quiet	16 17 18 19		

“ 14 5 6 7 35 20 7 15 17 36 23 24 5 18 8 28 17 23

1 9 35 20 2 16 14 24 5 18 3 20 7 13 8 35 2 10 23

1 9 35 20 13 14 16 24 17 37 36 11 5 18 14 2 27 19

1 9 35 20 21 15 16 24 17 18 36 11 35 3 30 10 28 35 20

2 10 23 1 9 35 20 21 14 15 24 5 37 8 4 9 10 23 ;”

21 27 23 , “ 16 32 6 7 24 5 18 22 10 34 9 28 20 29 17 33

13 11 24 25 26 22 11 7 14 31 .”

Answer: warm; over; in; small; loud; hard; young; before; true; "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind;" and, "love your neighbor as yourself."



Oakwood Community Church
 11209 Casey Rd
 Tampa FL 33618-5306
 813.969.2303
www.oakwoodfl.org

*As the Father has loved me,
 so I have loved you ...*
 John 15:9



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



- Feb 4—Break The Fast—Picnic and Prayer for our Vision 2012-2013
- Feb 5—Blood Pressure checks
PowerHouse Super Bowl party @ Conner’s home
- Feb 11—Valentine’s Dinner

- Feb 12—Board Meeting
- Feb 19—Compassion Offering
PowerHouse Food Bag Fundraiser
- Feb 25—Contagious Christian Seminar

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...
Feb 10	Feb 15	Feb 18—Mar 2
Feb 24	Feb 29	Mar 3—Mar 16

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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