

# the Oakwood ACORN

A Chronicle Of our News

## Seeds For Growth

### Soarin'

One of the most amazing and exhilarating amusement rides I have ever ridden is *Soarin'* at Disney's Epcot. It's a multi-sensory attraction that awesomely simulates a peaceful yet majestic hang-gliding flight over some of California's most panoramic and beautiful sites. In the past few years, as I've read and studied the message of Isaiah, I've been soarin' over breathtaking views of God's glorious promises for an awe-inspiring future – all through our glorious King Jesus. To be sure, there are some necessary hard-hitting challenges from God to us – but those too He intends for our welfare. I want to take you on that soarin' ride with me beginning February 13.

In the meantime, let me offer you a foretaste of one of God's promises for when we are runnin' on empty and we realize we're no match for the demands of this hard life we're livin'.



**Isaiah 40:30-31 (NLT)**

*<sup>30</sup> Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. <sup>31</sup> But those who trust in the LORD [ & live in expectancy ] will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.*

~ Pastor Paul

### God's Breath-taking view through Isaiah

Where do you turn for courage & strength when....

- Circumstances frighten you?
- Your foolish choices make you feel guilty?
- All your plans fall apart?
- The future of America, the world, & your life holds no hope?



When we run out of strength & hope, God promises that He is willing to energize us with a power source that is beyond ourselves. God's only requirement is that we turn to Him in humility and trust that His glorious promises are true. Come and soar with me as we look into God's message through his prophet Isaiah so we may gain a breath-taking view of God's glorious plans for you and me. ~ 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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## Two Services

At our Congregational meeting on January 23, the elders communicated that **beginning March 6**, we will be having two Worship Services. Below is information about each service and what will be offering during the service:



### 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM - *Moderate Contemporary service*

#### Other ministries offered during this hour:

- Oakwood Mill (Andrea Cress & Guy Sas)
- Nursery (infant up to 2 years old)
- Children's Ministry (ages 2 through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – Bev Phair & Mary Ellen Kluck)
- Children's Ministry (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade – Sandy Wyatt)
- Middle School (6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Sandy Clarke & Katie Frost)
- High School (9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade – Cam Whipple & Val Brand)

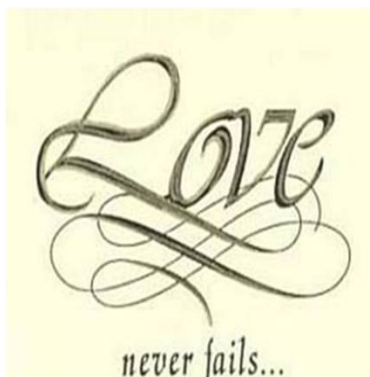
### 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM - *Contemporary service (current style)*

#### Other ministries offered during this hour:

- Nursery (infants up to 2 years old)
- TreeHouse (ages 2 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Middle School & High School in worship service
- Oakwood Mill (Terry Rexroad) see description of this new class below

**Exodus** - Why did God need 10 plaques to get the nation of Israel out of Egypt, couldn't He have done it without any deaths? Why was Moses threatened to be killed by God before He returned to Egypt? Why wasn't Moses allowed to go into the promise land? What does all of this history have to do with us? Jews are God's chosen people, what does that mean, aren't we also chosen? The nation of Israel is called God's firstborn son in Exodus, why? The nation of Israel is a type of the church, maybe we can learn something about ourselves by studying the nation of Israel. These and many other issues will be addressed in this study. This class begins March 6. To register, contact the Church Office @ 813-969-2303 or [office@oakwoodfl.org](mailto:office@oakwoodfl.org).

## Prayer in 2011



### ***"Love as God Loves"*** ***Prayer Guide***

February 2011

*Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us.*  
*Love like that. ~ Ephesians 5:1-2*

This guide provides you with verses to read and questions to ponder for Monday through Thursday. On Fridays we strongly urge you to be still, listen to what God is telling you and then endeavor to obediently respond.

*"Be still, and know that I am God!  
I will be honored by every nation.  
I will be honored throughout the world." ~ Psalm 46:10*

A prayer table is set up at the back of the worship center. On Sundays, you are encouraged to post a brief written reflection of how God is leading you to bear witness out of the overflow of your "witness" with him?

Visit <http://www.oakwoodfl.org/ministries/prayer-ministry/> to view the prayer guide.

## Tribute to Dick Reed



**Dick Reed**, 86 of Tampa went to be with the Lord on January 26, 2011. He is survived by Jane, his wife of 61 years, four grown children, eleven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Born in 1924 in Chicago, Illinois, he gave his heart early on to Jesus. That set the trajectory for his entire life. Dick was a gospel singer, a pastor, a college professor and president and a missionary at ELWA in Liberia, Africa. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 12, 2011 at 1:30 pm at University Village in Tampa. As a Navy veteran of WWII, he will be interred at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida.

Dick and his wife Jane have been very active members of Oakwood for nearly sixteen years now. Dick's most significant ministries have been leadership to some of our small groups and providing wise and experienced leadership to our missions commission for most of his years with us. Dick also was a part of Oakwood's pioneering efforts into Moldova that eventually led us, with his guidance, into forming our mission partnership with Brno Evangelical Fellowship in the Czech Republic. Both he and Jane were on our very first outreach team there some eleven years ago and we've continued this ministry ever since. I have often told Dick and others that I look to him as an inspiring mentor of what it means to faithfully serve Christ to the fullest of his God-given giftedness and opportunities; I still do. Dick and Jane are dearly loved and esteemed by our congregation. We extend to Jane and the entire Reed family, our sincere sympathy and prayers for God's comfort, strength, and guidance. ~ Pastor Paul



## Family Fun Night



Join us Friday, March 4 at 7:00 PM in The TreeHouse for a Family Fun Night. We will be showing a premier of the newest Veggie Tales movie, *'Twas The Night Before Easter*. This is always an easy way to invite family and friends to church with you.

## TreeHouse Yard Sale

On Saturday, February 19, 8:00 AM - 12:00 noon, we will host a Yard Sale to benefit TreeHouse. If you have items you would like to donate for the sale, please drop them off at the Church Office. Please have your items priced. If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Piazza.



## Blood Mobile

The Blood Mobile will be at Oakwood on Sunday, March 6 from 8:30 AM – 12:30 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.

## WIN Update - Rifiki needs

Dear Oakwood Family,

In a couple of months, Brenda and I will again have the opportunity to return to West Africa to assist the orphanage in Liberia. We will again be providing medical assistance, teaching, and helping with the day to day needs at the Rafiki Village.

If you are led and wish to donate we will be taking children's raincoats and shoes (sneakers, croc style shoes and flip flops) with us on our return due to the difficulty of ensuring shipped items reach the village. The children range in age from 2 to 12 years. To donate either of the above items, please see us or drop off in the box in the Worship Center lobby before March 20, 2011.

The Rafiki Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization that builds and operates orphanages and schools in ten of Africa's poorest countries. The foundation's home office, located in Eustis, FL, provides orphaned and vulnerable children a home and quality Christian education. Throughout these ten countries, Rafiki also operates a Widows Program to give widows and impoverished women the ability to provide for themselves. In Africa, a widow often loses everything – her possessions, her house, her dignity – when her husband dies. To help their plight, the Rafiki Foundation created this program in partnership with African church denominations to give widows a place to work and an opportunity to provide for the spiritual and social well-being of the children in their care. Currently, Rafiki has 680 orphans living at its Villages, and 1,043 students attending its schools in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.



Thank you in advance for your prayers.

In the Journey,

Rick and Brenda Smith



[www.rafiki-foundation.org](http://www.rafiki-foundation.org)

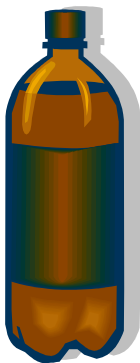




### Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 6, PowerHouse teens will have a Super Bowl Party at the Conner home - 15008 Hutchison Rd.

Doors open at 5:30 and the game begins at 6:30. There will be door prizes, lots of food and the legendary Conner bonfire. So plan on lots of fun, food, smores and fellowship.



Students only need to bring the following to enter:

All Young Ladies - bring soda

All Young Men - bring a bag of chips

All are welcome to stay for the entire game, but you can leave early if necessary.



### (Bridging Urban Mission Project)

New York City July 23-30

- Serve an urban church for a week...
- Gain ministry skills that last a lifetime...
- Return home...
- Change your world.

BUMP is a week-long urban mission experience for junior and senior high students, partnering with urban EFCA churches across the U.S.

Registration begins Sunday, Jan 30

\$100 deposit due Sunday, Feb 13

Visit [www.oakwoodfl.org/youth](http://www.oakwoodfl.org/youth) for important parent information.



## The Art of Marriage - presented by FamilyLife Coming to Oakwood February 11-12, 2011

**The Art of Marriage** brings together some of the most respected and influential pastors and experts on marriage and family all in one setting. It also brings a fresh approach to a video event by weaving together some of the following elements to help couples fully experience God's design for marriage:

- engaging stories
- real-life testimonies
- man-on-the-street interviews
- humorous vignettes

**The Art of Marriage** consists of six video sessions and an accompanying manual that provides couples with projects to help apply the principles taught during each session. The manual is also designed for couples to use after the event by offering articles, date night ideas, and useful tips for continuing to strengthen their marriage.

### Topics Covered

**Session 1: love happens (purpose of marriage)**

**Session 2: love fades (drift to isolation)**

**Session 3: love dances (roles)**

**Session 4: love interrupted (communication)**

**Session 5: love sizzles (romance and sex)**

**Session 6: love always (legacy)**

**The cost is \$40 per couple if registered before February 4. After February 4, registration is \$50 per couple. Registration includes two seminar manuals, snacks and continental breakfast on Saturday.**

**Register today at the Oakwood website - [www.oakwoodfl.org](http://www.oakwoodfl.org).**

### Seminar Schedule:

#### Friday

7:00 - 9:30 PM - Session 1 & 2

#### Saturday

8:30 AM - Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Sessions 3 & 4

12:00 - 1:45 PM - Lunch Break

1:45 - 4:00 PM - Sessions 5 & 6

**Just for fun...**

### Husband Learns Love Is More Than Words

For the first 15 years of my marriage, I was a terrible husband. Diane held down a full-time job, became my secretary, mothered our daughters, and waited on me hand and foot without ever demanding that I lift a finger to help. I loved my wife very much, but I hadn't yet learned how to show my love. I had a lesson to learn, and God used a vacuum cleaner to teach it.

I learned many things about vacuuming one day. First, I learned that our cat was terrified of vacuum cleaners. That kept me entertained for about an hour.

As I vacuumed in one direction, a stripe would appear. Going the opposite direction would create a stripe of a different shade. Entranced, I striped the whole room. Then I went crossways, creating a checkerboard pattern. I got so carried away that I dusted the furniture and straightened the entire house.

I was once again embedded in the easy chair, working on my crossword puzzle, when Diane came home. She struggled through the door with a bag of groceries under each arm, kicked the door shut with one foot, and then took in the house with an expert glance. Her mouth dropped open. Slowly the bags slipped from her grasp and dropped to the floor. "Who did this?" she asked.

"I did," I said. Without warning, she attacked. Diving on me before I could get out of the chair, she smothered me with kisses and hugs, showering gratitude on me for helping her. The kisses grew more passionate. We broke the chair. It was wonderful!

The vacuum cleaner taught me an important lesson that day. Love is expressed with more than just words.

—Ken Davis, *Lighten Up! Great Stories from One of America's Favorite Storytellers* (Zondervan, 2000), pp. 123-124



Kids Corner

# Let Your Light Shine

Make a heart-shaped candleholder for a special person.

*You will need:*

- ♥ wax paper to work on
- ♥ air-dry clay
- ♥ candle (6" or votive)
- ♥ paint
- ♥ paintbrushes
- ♥ glitter
- ♥ glue



*How to make it:*

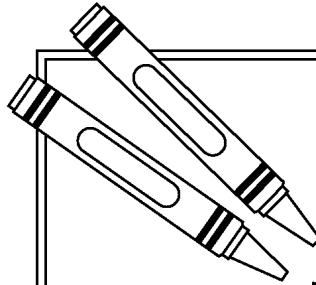
- ♥ Use the wax paper as a working surface.
- ♥ Mold a 3" ball of clay into the shape of a heart. (Make sure it will lie flat on the table.)
- ♥ Press the base of the candle into the center of the heart.
- ♥ Let the clay dry.
- ♥ Paint the heart and decorate with glitter.



Give your valentine to someone you love.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Please don't light the candle unless there is an adult with you to help.



# Just for KIDS

## The Bible Speaks of Love



The words found in 1 John 4:16 are important for everyone every day.

To find out what the verse says, find a word that fits each description and write the letters in the boxes. Next, write the letters on the lines below (use the numbers to match the letters to the correct lines). Read the verse.

A place to live

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   |   |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Opposite of dark

|   |   |   |   |    |
|---|---|---|---|----|
|   |   |   |   |    |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

Companion

|    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |

Hand greeting

|    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |

Male adult

|    |    |    |
|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |
| 21 | 22 | 23 |



“ 8 2 16   13 4   6 2 19 5 ”

17 9 2 5 19 5 12   6 7 19 5 4

13 15   6 2 19 20   6 7 19 14 4

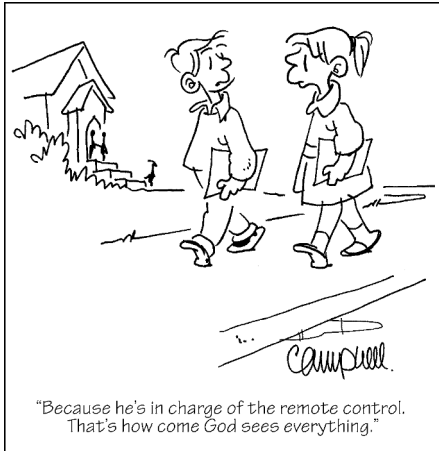
13 15   8 2 16 ,   18 15 16

8 2 16   13 23   1 7 21 ”

Answers: house; light; friends; wave; man; “God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”



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 Tampa FL 33618-5306  
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 www.oakwoodfl.org



**Our Staff**

- Lead Pastor - Dr. Paul B. Phair
- Director of Ministries - Dave Dorsey
- Director of Worship Arts - Chris Lehmann
- 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:**

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

**Calendar at a Glance**



- Feb 6 - Youth Super Bowl Party
- Feb 8 - MISCOM Meeting
- Feb 11-12 - The Art of Marriage - seminar
- Feb 12 - Memorial Service for Dick Reed @ University Village

- Feb 13 - Board Meeting
- Feb 15 - Missions Strategy Meeting
- Feb 19 - Community Garage Sale for TreeHouse
- Feb 20 - Compassion Offering

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](mailto:Office@oakwoodfl.org). Article deadlines and publication schedule is:

| Deadline | Publication date | News for dates including... |
|----------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Feb 11   | Feb 16           | Feb 19 - Mar 4              |
| Feb 25   | Mar 2            | Mar 5 - Mar 18              |

Do you know someone at Oakwood with a noteworthy achievement? Send the information to [Office@OakwoodFL.org](mailto:Office@OakwoodFL.org) and we'll include it in a future article.

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