



ACORN



Becoming A Contagious Christian

Saturday, February 25
Oakwood Community Church
8:00 AM—3:00 PM

The *Becoming A Contagious Christian* course helps ordinary Christians develop confidence and skills that enable them to effectively share the Gospel with people they know. Designed especially for those who think evangelism is not for them, this curriculum is a powerful tool for equipping those in our entire church to naturally communicate our faith in a way that's contagious.

Cost is \$16 per person for lunch and a participants guide **or** if you prefer to bring your own lunch the cost is \$8. **Register this Sunday at the Information Center in the lobby** or by contacting the Church Office (office@oakwoodfl.org or 813-969-2303).

Lunches are from Jimmy Johns and come with a sub, chips, cookie, & pickle spear. Drinks will be provided.

Sub options are: Ham & Cheese, Roast Beef, Tuna, Turkey, Italian, or Vegetarian

The seminar will be held in TreeHouse, our Children's Ministry area.

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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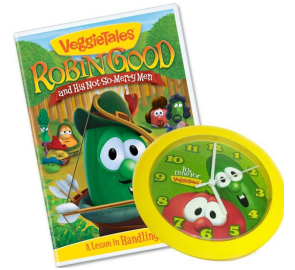
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News

Family Fun Night

Join us Friday, March 2 at 7:00 PM in The TreeHouse for a Family Fun Night. We will be showing a premier of the newest Veggie Tales movie, *Robin Good and His Not-So-Merry Men*. There will be food available for purchase for a nominal fee, a drawing for prizes and, as always, lots of fun for all. This is always an easy way to invite family and friends to church with you. Information fliers will be available at the Welcome Center in TreeHouse.

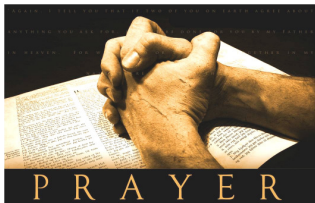


Parents Meeting

All parents of TreeHouse age children are asked to attend a brief meeting this Sunday, February 19, immediately following the Worship Service. The meeting will last 30 minutes. Plan to be there to hear what we are doing and how we can partner together in encouraging your kids in their relationship with Jesus.

Elder Led Prayer Time

As you heard several weeks ago, the leadership of Oakwood laid out a vision plan that we can accomplish with the Lord's guidance. That guidance will come as we seek Him in prayer more diligently this year. The Elders are committed in leading us in this effort. Next Sunday, Feb. 26, there will be an Elder-led prayer time right after the morning worship service. The prayer time will last for 30 minutes and will be focused on the challenges of our goals for this year and next. Please join us as we ask God for great things and expect that He will answer.



Prayer Guide

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.



Daylight Saving Time

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 11. Be sure to turn your clocks **ahead** one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

IRS Contribution Statements from Oakwood

Please note on the statement you were sent with your charitable contributions to Oakwood that if you have any non-deductible amounts listed they will still be included in the overall total. You will need to subtract the non-deductible amounts from your total giving. Sorry for any inconvenience. The issue has been corrected and it should not happen on future statements.

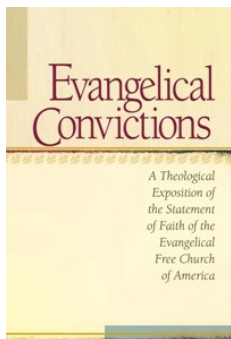
~Eileen Rexroad

Opportunity to *Serve The Church & World*

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.

Evangelical Convictions



Oakwood is a grateful member of an association of churches called *The Evangelical Free Church of America* (EFCA). In 2008 the EFCA, and Oakwood thereby too, updated and strengthened our statement of faith. You may read it on our website at <http://www.oakwoodfl.org/about/statement-of-faith/>. These are core, essential truths that bind us together as a church and larger movement. I gave a series of messages based on our Statement of Faith back in 2009. The series is entitled *Believe It ... Live It*. You may listen to these messages off our web site at <http://www.oakwoodfl.org/messages/> (password: octree). In recent months, the EFCA has published an outstanding theological exposition of our Statement of Faith, entitled, *Evangelical Convictions*. I made a small, yet meaningful contribution to this work by reviewing pre-published drafts. I urge you to purchase a copy for your personal study so you may better grasp and marvel at the glorious gospel God has provided for us, and revealed to us in the

Bible. This is a resource you will want to refer to again and again. You may purchase a copy at <http://www.nsresources.com/> or Amazon. It is also available in the Kindle version and Spanish too. Ed Stetzer, recently posted on his church research blog, his interview with Greg Strand, the EFCA's Director of Biblical Theology and Credentialing (I have the privilege of serving with Greg on the EFCA's Board of Ministerial Standing). You will find this at: <http://www.edstetzer.com/2012/01/a-theological-exposition-of-th.html>. ~ Pastor Paul

Expanding Our Territory...Together! - Repeat

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: octree). 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.





PowerHouse Schedule

February 19—Food Bag Fundraiser

February 25—Work Day

February 26—Regular Youth Group Meeting—*From Prison to Palace*

March 3—PowerHouse open 1-4 PM for Talent Show Rehearsal

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

March 11—No Youth Group Meeting tonight

March 11-18—Spring Break Service/Ministry Trip

March 18—Movie Night—movie about the life of Joseph

March 25—Regular Youth Group Meeting—*Sent by God, Reluctant To Go*

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. Questions? Contact Mary Ellen Kluck @ (813) 408-6393.

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.

Drivers needed for Food Bag Deliveries

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.



The Leap List

Dave Boehi

An automobile commercial provides an interesting reflection of the way many people view marriage today.

Honda is currently airing an interesting series of television commercials for its CR-V automobile. The campaign is focused on what Honda calls a “Leap List,” they encourage people to make a list of things they want to accomplish before a major life event such as a graduation, wedding, or birth of a child. (It’s similar to a “bucket list” of things to do before you die, or “kick the bucket.”)

It’s hard to argue with the “leap list” concept, but I do find the commercial titled “Proposal” to be an interesting reflection of how many people view marriage today. (You can view the spot [here](#).) In the ad, a couple is walking down a sidewalk when the young man suddenly blurts out, “Do you want to get married?” Not exactly the most romantic of proposals.

His girlfriend appears surprised, and she says to herself, *But there were so many things I was gonna do first. I was gonna hike the Appalachian Trail ... And I still have to learn to play the drums ... I still need to finish my short film.* This is her leap list—the things she wants to accomplish before she takes the leap into marriage.

Then she turns to the boyfriend and says, “Okay ... but we have a lot to get done first.”

Perhaps I am overanalyzing here, but I was struck by the mixed message in this commercial. Obviously the couple is excited about getting married, but somehow they have the attitude that they need to pursue their dreams before making the leap. Why does the young woman think she can’t go hiking, play the drums, or make a film *after* she’s married?

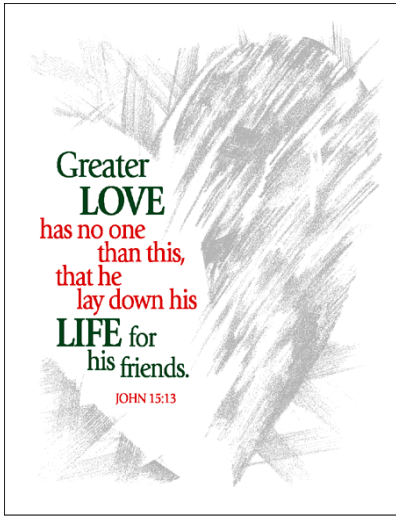
I wonder how many young people view marriage as a huge, deadening weight of responsibility that will strip away their individuality and prevent them from pursuing their passions? Is that one reason why the average age for a first marriage keeps rising? The latest figures indicate that the average age for women getting married the first time in America is 26.2 years, and for men it’s 28.2. (In 1990 it was 23.9 and 26.1.)

I keep thinking of God’s statement in Genesis 2:18: “It is not good that the man should be alone.” God did not create marriage to limit us, but to give us a partner—a companion, lover, and helper—who will make us more fruitful as we go through life. You can accomplish more together than you can alone.

And those dreams you want to pursue, those things on your leap list? They will mean much more when you pursue them with your spouse.



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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 - Mary-Lynn Reilly

Office hours:

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

Worship:

Sundays - 10:30 AM

Calendar at a Glance



Feb 19—Compassion Offering
 Communion
 PowerHouse Food Bag Fundraiser
 Feb 25—Contagious Christian Seminar
 Youth Work Day



Mar 2—Family Fun Night
 Mar 4—Blood Pressure checks following Worship
 PowerHouse Talent Night
 Mar 10—Community Group Leader Training
 Mar 11—Daylight Saving Time Begins
 Board Meeting
 Mar 11—18—Youth Spring Break Ministry Trip

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 24	Feb 29	Mar 3—Mar 16
Mar 9	Mar 14	Mar 17—Mar 30

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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