

*the* **Oakwood**  
**ACORN**  
*A Chronicle Of our News*

**Seeds For Growth**

**Random Thoughts**

Here we are well into 2011! Just passed Valentine’s Day. Still very blessed to be married to my best friend. And this is the best time of the year! Baseball’s spring training starts this week in Arizona and here in Florida. If you see me walking around with a glazed look, it is because I am getting my focus on helping “my team” win the pennant this year. Can’t wait to hear the first “Play Ball!” It is the time when every team has the same opportunity and young players have the same chance to make the team as the more seasoned veterans. The key for these guys is making the most of the opportunity. I started thinking about the opportunities we have from one end of the campus to the other for “young” players to the more “seasoned” veterans. Just some random thoughts about opportunity:

- Our teen ministry, PowerHouse, continues to challenge our students to walk with the Lord and live lives that represent Him wherever they are. Cam Whipple and Doug Cress lead a team of volunteers that are working hard in teaching our students the importance of God’s Word and how it can impact their lives. They would welcome others who have a desire to care for our teens. You can talk to Pastor Paul if you would like to be a player in this ministry.
- As I have told a number of you, I am having a blast working in TreeHouse, our ministry to our younger children. I have learned that we have a group of passionate Moms and Dads that are working in this ministry. And when I say they are “players,” I mean we are having fun as we are teaching your kids about Jesus. One of the seasoned veterans still playing at the top of his game is Edson Bustamante. You haven’t heard a Bible



story until you have experienced the story being told by Edson! He has the kids participating in the story as it is being told and they love it. Jenna Young is one of the “rookies” this year. She is doing a great job with the 4’s and 5’s. We could use some more players on our team in leading small groups of 6-8 kids of first through fifth graders. Please contact me if you have a love for kids and want to play on our team.

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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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## 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).

## Seeds of Growth - *continued*

- Each Sunday, we have the blessed opportunity to worship the One who made us! At one of the first Promise Keepers' events years ago, I saw a t-shirt that was imprinted with "Real Men Sing Real Loud." I have always liked that. I enjoy singing the songs each week and have long since stopped worrying about what those around me think about my "joyful noise!" I figured if they are more tone deaf than me, I may sound pretty good. If they sing better than me, I am giving them an appreciation of good singing. I want to be a player in worship and not a spectator.
- We have an opportunity to be a part of the ministry of Rick and Brenda Smith as they make another trip to Liberia. As you have seen, we have a box set up to collect raincoats and shoes for the kids in the orphanage they will be going to. You can be a player with them by contributing.
- To be effective as a ball player, you have to know how to use your equipment properly. Our Oakwood Mill gives you the opportunity to learn more about God's Word and how to use it well. Guy Sas is leading a class on apologetics; Andrea Cress is taking some women through an overview of the Bible; and, starting March 6, Terry Rexroad will be leading a class on the book of Exodus. This is your opportunity to get more familiar with the greatest tool to help you grow as a Christ-follower.
- Be a player and help Oakwood win in 2011!

That's all I'm sayin'.

Dave Dorsey  
Director of Ministries

## 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.

### Family Fun Night



**News**



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. 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.

### TreeHouse Yard Sale

On Saturday, February 19, 7:00 AM - 12:00 noon, we will host a Yard Sale to benefit TreeHouse. Stop by and see what we have for sale. You never know what “treasures” you might find!



### Community Group Olympics

Coming Saturday, March 19. Mark your calendar and watch for details.

## Raincoats & shoes



Next month, Rick & Brenda Smith will again have the opportunity to return to West Africa to assist the orphanage in Liberia. They will again be providing medical assistance, teaching, and helping with the day to day needs at the Rafiki Village.

Raincoats and shoes are always needed items for these children. If you are led and wish to donate, they will be taking raincoats and shoes (sneakers, croc style shoes and flip flops) with them on their 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 Rick & Brenda or drop them off in the box in the Worship Center lobby before March 20, 2011.

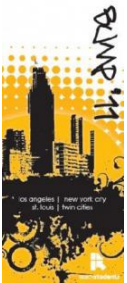
Please pray for Rick & Brenda as they make this ministry trip.

For more information about this work, visit the website for the Rafiki Foundation at [www.rafiki-foundation.org](http://www.rafiki-foundation.org).



## Student Fundraisers Opportunity

This Sunday, February 20, our youth have their next fundraising opportunity today to raise funds for their B.U.M.P. summer mission trip. They will be assembling food bags right after the morning Worship Service.



## Important Parent's Meeting

There will be a short BUMP meeting this Sunday, February 20 in the PowerHouse teen center following the morning worship service. You will receive an update on the current status of the trip.

If your student plans to participate on the BUMP team, you must turn in your registration and deposit before the meeting.



## 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.

## Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks Sunday, March 6, in the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.



## Yes, Love Is A Feeling

*But we also have to do something with it.* - by Christy Scannell

If your summer plans include attending a wedding—or five—I bet you’ll be hearing the reading from 1 Corinthians 13. In this letter to the early Christians in Corinth, the apostle Paul explains how a loving church should behave. But at some point, well-meaning ministers hijacked this chapter to use it to describe how a married couple should love. Words such as *Love is patient, love is kind* make brides and grooms gaze tenderly at each other while the congregation gets warm fuzzies.

It all feels very right during weddings—as if Paul knew he was providing sermon fodder and earning the thanks of pastors for generations.

Look closer at 1 Corinthians 13, which has become known as the “love chapter.” Paul wasn’t talking about cozy feelings. He was telling the Corinthians that their love would be known if they put it into action. In other words, at a time when being Christian wasn’t cool, Paul was instructing the Corinthians to show Christ’s love through what they did, not what they said. If they did this, he knew, skeptics would look at the devoted Corinthians and say, “See how they love one another? I want to be like them.”

When we adopt Paul’s intention and apply it to marriage rather than growing the church, we find that loving our spouses isn’t “feeling” patient or “feeling” kind—it’s doing something about the feeling. I don’t know how many times I’ve heard a married person say after he or she does something wrong toward a spouse, “But she (he) knows I love her (him)” as if that erases any obligation or liability. What if the Corinthians had said the same as an excuse for stealing or hurting people? No one would have wanted to become a Christian! In the same way, when we display poor marriages, we give people reason to say such things as, “Why get married when it just ruins your relationship?” or “I don’t want to be tied down in case I end up in a situation like *that*.”

I’m especially sensitive about action as an expression of love because my love language, according to Dr. Gary Chapman’s [The Five Love Languages](#), is “acts of service.” For me, the best evidence of my husband’s love is

when he does something for me, especially without my asking him. So if I come home and Rich has cleaned the kitchen, made the bed, fixed a broken vase, or even just made dinner reservations, I feel loved.

Rich’s love language is “physical touch.” He likes nothing better than a hug—anytime, any place. When we watch TV, he prefers to sit next to me on the sofa, our feet entangled on the ottoman. When we are in public, he often grabs my hand to hold or comes up behind me for a quick peck on the neck.

Just like those wedding readings of the love chapter, my description of how Rich and I enact our love languages might sound ideal. But here’s the kicker: It isn’t easy for us to work within each other’s languages. The initiative to take on household projects or schedules doesn’t come naturally to Rich. Similarly, it isn’t instinctive for me to open my arms for a hug or reach out to hold his hand. Sometimes we just get lazy and stop speaking each other’s languages, instead expecting the other to talk the way we want. That results in my frustration over his seeming to do “nothing” and his annoyance that I am “pulling away” from him rather than touching.

But when we start paying attention and putting that love into action, we continue to be surprised at how gigantic a small deed—when done in the right language—can be. He mows the lawn, and I tell him four times how much I appreciate it while he says, “It was no big deal.” Or I stop what I’m doing and give him a long hug and kiss, to which he displays a wonderfully serene smile that tells me he feels loved.

What is your spouse’s love language? Start speaking it. And if you aren’t sure, ask! When you speak your spouse’s love language, people will look at you and say, “See how they love each other? I want to be like them!”

*Sometimes we  
just get lazy  
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other to talk  
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want.*

Kids Corner



You will need:

- ♥ a round lid or other circle to trace-5 inches
- ♥ scissors
- ♥ 1 short (used) pencil
- ♥ cardboard or construction paper
- ♥ crayons & markers



1. Trace the round lid on the cardboard or construction paper.
2. Write "Love one another" on the circle as below. Decorate with hearts.
3. Cut out circle.
4. Push pencil through the center of the circle.
5. Spin!



## Just for KIDS

### Famous Bible Pairs

You will find 10 Biblical Pairs in the puzzle below. First fit the names from the list in the boxes. Then write the names from the boxes on the correct lines. A scripture reference is given if you need help.

Eve  
Mary  
Adam  
Moses  
Sarah  
Jacob  
Samson  
Rachel  
Vashti  
Joseph  
Salome  
Delilah  
Aquila  
Zebedee  
Abraham  
Zipporah  
Ahasueras  
Priscilla  
Zechariah  
Elizabeth

<u>(12)</u> _____ & <u>(16)</u> _____	<u>(6)</u> _____ & <u>(13)</u> _____
Exodus 18:1,2	Genesis 29:28
<u>(4D)</u> _____ & <u>(14)</u> _____	<u>(15)</u> _____ & <u>(17)</u> _____
Acts 18:2	Genesis 11:29
<u>(1)</u> _____ & <u>(4A)</u> _____	<u>(8)</u> _____ & <u>(7)</u> _____
Esther 1:9	Luke 1:5
<u>(3)</u> _____ & <u>(18A)</u> _____	<u>(9)</u> _____ & <u>(10)</u> _____
Matthew 27:56	Genesis 3:20
<u>(5)</u> _____ & <u>(11)</u> _____	<u>(18D)</u> _____ & <u>(2)</u> _____
Matthew 1:16	Judges 16:4, 5

(12) Moses & (16) Aquilla & (14) Vashti & (4A) Ahasueras, (3) Zebedee & (18A) Salome, (5) Joseph & (11) Mary, (6) Rachel & (13) Jacob, (15) Abraham & (17) Sarah, (8) Zechariah & (7) Elizabeth, (9) Eve & (10) Adam, (18D) Samson & (2) Delilah



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**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 19 - Community Garage Sale for TreeHouse
- Feb 20 - Student Fundraiser - Food Bag Prep
- B.U.M.P. Parents Meeting



- Mar 1 - Missions Strategy Meeting
- Mar 4 - Family Fun Night
- Mar 6 - Blood Pressure checks
- Blood Mobile @ Oakwood
- Mar 8 - MISCOM Meeting
- Mar 13 - Daylight Saving Time begins
- Board Meeting

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 25	Mar 2	Mar 5 - Mar 18
Mar 11	Mar 16	Mar 19 - Apr 1

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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