



# ACORN

## Seeds for Growth

### *Loving God Through Worship*

If you were able to worship with us last Sunday, February 24, you experienced an impactful and meaningful worship service. Most importantly, we trust that God received our expressions of love through a variety of prayers and celebrations of His worthiness through singing. We worshipped Him with a bow and a kiss. May all of us who seek to follow Jesus with full devotion strive to love God more and more through worship, both corporate and personal.

David expresses this focus of his life when he writes,

**Psalm 27:4 (NLT)**

*The one thing I ask of the Lord—  
the thing I seek most—  
is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,  
delighting in the Lord's perfections  
and meditating in his Temple.*

When David wrote this Psalm, there was no temple. His emphasis here is not on a place, but a relationship. His lifelong aspiration was to enjoy a growing personal relationship with God. He purposed to have a disposition of worship 24/7 throughout his entire life. With loving God as our motivation, let us express this through four avenues:

- Weekly corporate worship
- Daily personal worship
- Continuous awareness of God’s presence
- Continuous trusting obedience

**Weekly corporate worship:** Make weekly worship of God a priority for your life. Don’t wait until Sunday morning to see if your schedule is open and you’ve had enough sleep. Pray as you come that you, and our entire congregation, will worship God with your heart as you sing and absorb.



**Daily personal worship:** Make it a pattern to spend a minimum of 10 minutes a day alone with God. I find it helpful to do this before I eat breakfast; otherwise, I am less likely to “get around to it.” My present Scriptural guide is a Kindle version of *Daily Light on the Daily Path*. Another resource of immense enrichment for me is the *YouVersion* Bible app – on my BlackBerry and iPad. They offer many

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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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## Mark Your Calendars—We're Having a Picnic

**What:** Immediately following the Worship Service this Sunday, March 3, the Deacons will be hosting a barbecue picnic

**Where:** Outside on the lawn or if it's too cold or raining, inside the PowerHouse/TreeHouse building.

**Who:** EVERYONE. Bring the whole family and your friends, too, as there will be plenty of food for everyone.

**Why:** To enjoy time together as a church family—spending time with old friends and making new ones.

We will have tables and chairs set up, a kickball field, corn hole and other fun games for the "competitors."

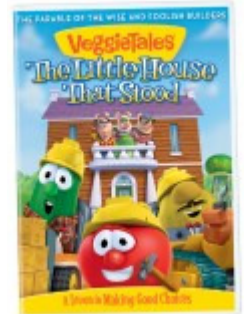
We are asking each family unit to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please help us plan appropriately by letting us know which you will bring by calling the Church Office @ 813.969.2303 or email @ [office@oakwoodfl.org](mailto:office@oakwoodfl.org).

So remember—whether it's warm or cool, sunny or rainy, join us for an afternoon of fun.



## Family Fun Night

Join us **this Friday, March 1** at 7:00 PM in The TreeHouse for a Family Fun Night. We will be showing a premier of the newest Veggie Tales movie, *The Little House That Stood*. There will be food available for purchase for a nominal fee, 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.



## In Search Of...

**LOST** The TreeHouse laminator has been misplaced. If you know of its whereabouts, please contact the Church Office. Thank you.



## Senior Ministry

The **WE** Group (**W**orld of **E**xperiences ) will have a potluck lunch on Sunday, March 10, following the Worship Service in TreeHouse.



If you are 60+, you are a member of **WE** and are invited to join us for some food, fun and fellowship. If you're married and your spouse is under 60, they are invited as well. Please bring a dish to share for our potluck lunch.

## Seeds for Growth—*continued*

awesome reading guides. It's really quite incredible. Oakwood's monthly prayer guide is a great tool that joins us in unity of prayer with our church family.

**Continuous awareness of God's presence:** Keep an ongoing conversation with God throughout your day with brief moments of praise, thanks, requests for wisdom and guidance, God's blessings for others, and more.

**Continuous trusting obedience:** Choose to obey God throughout your day. When you and I do so with love and trust, we are offering ourselves to God as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2).

May loving God through worship be the one ultimate thing we seek in life.

~Pastor Paul

## Thanks to the Prayer Team

Last Sunday's special and unique service of *Loving God* through prayer and song was the creative idea of Oakwood's Prayer Team. They also mapped out the thematic flow, recruited various people to lead in prayer, and guided the process, along with our Director of Worship, Andrew Reilly. We give you thanks, Terri Johnson, Alisa Linares, Eileen Rexroad and Adrienne Smith. We also thank so many of you who led us in prayer. In addition, we thank our weekly teams of techs and musicians.

~ Pastor Paul

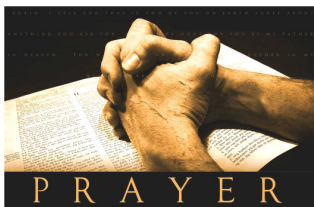


## Prayer Guide

Oakwood Community Church is fueling the **love ~ grow ~ serve** vision with prayer in 2013. Our continued focus on prayer is leading us to include two memory verses along with the prayer guide. The **first memory verse is designed to pair with the prayer focus of the month**. The **second memory verse is the same verse the TreeHouse children are learning in their curriculum**. Our hope is to continue to grow in the context of the vision as family members as well as Oakwood family in the body of Christ, further seeking His will.

**March:** We will **love each other** by praying for our leadership at Oakwood.

You can find a copy of the March Prayer Guide at the Information Center or on our website.



## Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks Sunday, March 3, 2013 in the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.

## Daylight Saving Time



Just a reminder...

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 10. Be sure to turn your clocks **ahead** one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

## Opportunity to *Serve The Church & World*

**Naomi's Daughters** is a ministry for single moms 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.

**This ministry meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month in PowerHouse and TreeHouse.** If you would like to volunteer some time, please contact Beth Ross at (813) 879-5231



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 on our property. There are bins provided along with tax deductible forms. **Pantry needs:** cereal, canned goods, rice, pasta, paper goods, personal care items.

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 our doors.

## Trinity International University

For the past three years, Pastor Paul has annually served on one committee, among others, that reviews, interviews, and determines whether or not to recommend faculty candidates for tenure at Trinity International University. The university comprises an undergraduate college, a graduate school, a theological seminary (Trinity Evangelical Divining School), and a law school. It's main campus is located North of Chicago, Illinois. This outstanding university is operated by the Evangelical Free Church of America with whom Oakwood is a member. On February 12 & 13, the committee interviewed and recommended four excellent faculty members for tenure. Pictured to Paul's right is Richard Parker. Richard was Oakwood's church planter and pastor from 1983 to 1986.





## PowerHouse Schedule

- Mar 3—Regular Sunday evening—5:00—7:30 PM
- Mar 9-15—Tennessee Mission Trip
- Mar 10—No Sunday evening meeting
- Mar 17—Regular Sunday evening—5:00—7:30 PM
- Mar 24—Youth lead Sunday AM Worship  
Regular Sunday evening—5:00—7:30 PM
- Mar 31—Easter - No Youth Group Meeting

## Food Bag Delivery Drivers Needed

Our PowerHouse students have a monthly ministry assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven.



We are in need of people who can help with delivery of these food bags, especially to Lakeland, Haines City, and Winter Haven. 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.

## 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 third Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag Prep day is **Sunday, March 24** 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, March 22. Meet at Aldi at the corner of Bearss & Florida Ave. at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple) if you want to help. For more details contact Sandy Clarke at 931-0668.

## Spring Break Ministry trip

March 9—15, 23 PowerHouse students and adult chaperones will spend Spring break in Spring City, Tennessee. They will be working at Cedine Ministries—a Christian Bible camp, retreat and conference center—preparing it for summer campers.

Please be in prayer for this team for safety as they travel and work and that this will be an enriching bonding time for the group.





## Out There, In Here—Cecil Murphey

### *Understanding marriage between extroverts and introverts*

I'm an extrovert, a fountain where water constantly flows. Shirley is an introvert, an artesian well. When there is enough pressure—after she's reasoned through her feelings—water gushes to the surface.

When I don't know how I feel about an issue, I talk it out (often to Shirley) until I hear my own answer or the other person points it out. Concepts don't seem real to most of us extroverts unless we can discuss them; reflecting on them usually isn't enough. We may not have depth—and we probably don't know that—but we communicate on the level of most people.

I have to speak to know what I think; Shirley has to think before she knows what to say. When she faces a serious issue, she goes inside herself and pulls from her rich inner world.

For example, Shirley was an editor for a denominational publishing house and the workload became intense. On the bus to and from her job, she edited. She brought manuscripts home at night and sometimes went into the office on Saturday mornings.

"Why don't you take an early retirement?" I asked.

She shrugged and that was the end of the conversation. About four months later, she complained about the workload and I said, "Why don't you take an early retirement?"

"Okay," she said.

It was settled. Just that simple. Because I know my wife, I didn't have to ask, "Are you sure?"

That's one way we differ in our marriage because I'm the extrovert and she's the introvert. To be clear on my terms, introverts go inward to make sense of issues or solve problems; extroverts relate to the outside world. We find answers by interacting with others.

Many healthy marriages function on the principle that introverts attract extroverts. Genesis 2:24 explains marriage after God created a wife for Adam. "This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." Jesus quoted this same passage in Matthew 19:6.

Shirley and I have long understood that it takes people of two different temperaments to function as one whole, healthy unit. Shirley provides qualities I lack and I do the same for her.

Carl Jung, who originated the terms "introvert" and "extrovert," referred to them as *preferences*. That means we're not prisoners of our personalities. I'd call them our default modes, because that's our normal, natural way of making decisions. We can choose to move out of our customary modes of action.

Here's how I see these differences in Christian marriage. First, if you're an introvert, your spouse is probably an extrovert. It's a natural attraction in relationships—you unconsciously seek another person who complements your personality.

Second, introverts can function as extroverts—it may exhaust them to expend so much social energy, but they can do it. In her work world, those who knew Shirley pegged her as an extrovert because she functioned well around other people. Once she returned home, Shirley wanted solitude and to get away from people. She needed to refocus and recharge her energies.

If you're an extrovert, you can learn to go inward, but it's more difficult. (Or perhaps, as an extrovert, it seems that way to me.)

Extroverts don't do well in solitude and can become bored without others around. When given the chance, many will talk with strangers rather than sit alone and think.

By looking at default modes, we can understand our commitments to God. In many ways, introverts have the richer, more spiritual life, even though they may not be as good at communicating their faith.

Outward-oriented people mix well, and reaching out toward others at church or on the street seems natural. They may do well in teaching, speaking, and singing in church. They do less well in private Bible study and prayer. Those two spiritual disciplines may actually be a chore to them.

Above, I said these are our preferences and we can adapt. I'm an adapted introvert. As a professional writer, I work at home all day—alone—and that's an introverted function. The most difficult adjustment for me in becoming a fulltime writer was to stay in my home office all day, five days a week, with no one around. Some of my extroverted writer friends practice their craft in cafes or coffee shops. They need people around even if they don't talk to them.

As an alone-all-day-writer, when Shirley came home at 5:00, I wanted to go out—to eat, to be with friends, to see a film. I yearned to be around people; she was ready to read or watch TV after dinner.

Through our more-than-50 years together, I've learned to value her inward life. She's far deeper spiritually than I am. She often sees depth in things I'd hurriedly overlook. I've learned to move inward and she's opened up a little to the extroverted world.

Our goal is to be "one" as God intended. Becoming one means not remaining who we are, but slowly embracing the less-preferred side of ourselves.

*Cecil Murphey, whose books have appeared on the New York Times' bestseller lists, is the author or co-author of 125 books, including 90 Minutes in Heaven and Making Sense When Life Doesn't.*

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Kids Corner

**In Spring**  
we see  
many changes  
in nature



**Make a Bug Jar to watch  
a caterpillar change.**

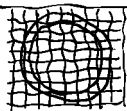
**You will need:**

- \* a peanut butter jar



- \* a metal canning jar lid to fit jar (it has a hole in the top)

- \* a small piece of screen cut to fit top of jar plus a little extra



- \* a branch that fits in the jar

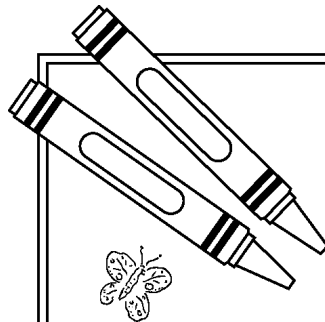
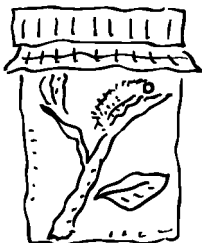
- \* a caterpillar



**How to do it:**

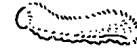
1. Put branch in jar
2. Put caterpillar in jar
3. Add some favorite leaves for caterpillar food
4. Lay the screen on top
5. Screw the lid in place
6. Watch what happens!

**\*You can use your Bug Jar to watch other "bugs" too!**



**Just for KIDS**

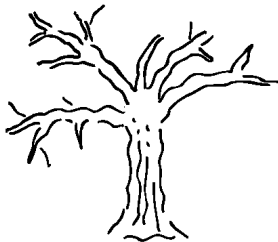
**Changes**



Everyone experiences changes in life.  
Sometimes they make us happy – sometimes not!  
What does the Bible say about this?

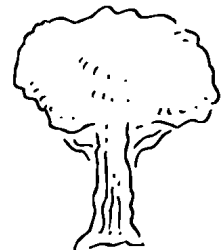


Find Ecclesiastes 3:1 below.  
Change some letters – then read the verse.



**Change:**  
W's to N's  
L's to T's  
J's to E's  
Q's to I's  
K's to S's

Z's to O's  
P's to H's  
X's to R's  
B's to A's



“  
L P J X J Q S B  
L Q M J F Z X  
J V J X Y L P Q W G' B W D  
B K J B K Z W F Z X  
J V J X Y B C L Q V Q L Y  
U W D J X P J B V J W.”

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.”



Oakwood Community Church  
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[www.oakwoodfl.org](http://www.oakwoodfl.org)

**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—Melanie Hoglievina

**Office hours:**

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

**Worship:**

Sundays - 10:30 AM

**Our Elder Team**

Edson Bustamante  
 Pete Kluck  
 Paul Phair  
 Eric Pratt

**Our Deacon Team**

Nan Duncan  
 Matt Fucarino  
 Bob Mendenhall  
 Ray Ross  
 Ben Smith  
 Dave Young

**Calendar at a Glance**



Mar 1—Family Fun Night  
 Mar 3—Blood Pressure Checks following Worship  
 Picnic following Worship  
 Mar 5—Naomi’s Daughters dinner/Bible study  
 Mar 9—15—Youth Tennessee service trip  
 Mar 10—Daylight Saving Time begins  
 Board Meeting  
 WE Potluck Lunch

Mar 17—Compassion Offering  
 Mar 19—Naomi’s Daughters dinner/Bible study  
 Mar 29—Good Friday Service  
 Mar 31—Easter

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...
Mar 8	Mar 13	Mar 16—Mar 29
Mar 22	Mar 27	Mar 30—Apr 12

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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