



# ACORN

## Spring has sprung!

I love this time of year! Spring training has started and the Iditarod is this weekend. The weather has been great. Some of us have been to the beach already. With all of the other things we can do here on the west coast of Florida, we need to make sure and add fishing into the schedule. Not the kind with various forms of bait or high priced gear, but the kind of fishing that was prescribed by the Master Fisherman. Pastor Paul has been teaching from God’s Word how we can be most effective at fishing. A number of us took the Contagious Christian seminar to help us refine our fishing skills.

The first words Jesus said to the first disciples were “come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” Following Jesus is the first step in being a fisher of others. Are you and I following as closely as we can? In my previous work life, I had the opportunity to go on the production floor of a number of large manufacturing facilities. While walking from the front office to the part of the plant I needed to go, I walked with a supervisor or someone in management. Sometimes the noise was very loud with the equipment going full out and I had to wear ear protection. I had to stay close to the person I was walking with in order to hear what they were saying and understand more about their business practices. It is not any different in all our lives. There is a lot of noise and distractions around us and it is hard to hear the clear voice of Jesus Christ telling us what His “business model” is. Some of us may be wandering around this “production floor” of life trying to figure it out on our own. So, how do we follow and listen more closely? I would suggest the process you have heard from leadership for some time. We **LOVE GOD** by meeting together each Sunday to pray, sing and listen. That listening thing is a challenge. I appreciate what it says in Revelation 2. “If you have ears, listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.” Lord, help me to listen more intently!

The second thing is that we can **GROW IN COMMUNITY** by participating in a Community Group. It is hard to follow alone. I am impressed the early followers of Jesus traveled together in a group. There was mutual encouragement and accountability that benefited all those who traveled with Jesus. The time set aside each week in meeting with my Community Group helps me refocus and block out the noise.

The third thing that helps me follow Jesus and hear what He is saying is by **SERVING THE CHURCH and THE WORLD**. In the book of James, it tells us to “be doers of the Word and not hearers only so that we don’t deceive ourselves.” This is a good reminder that when I share a cup of cold water or share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those I come in contact with, I am following close to the One who fished for me!

That’s all I’m saying today.

Dave Dorsey  
Director of Ministries



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.



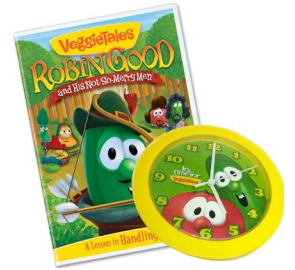
### Inside this issue:

Congregational Meeting	2
Prayer	3
OCC Updates	2-4
Team Tampa XIII	5
PowerHouse News	6
Marriage Matters	7
Kids Corner	8
Calendar at a Glance	9



## Family Fun Night

Join us **this Friday, March 2** at 7:00 PM in The TreeHouse for a Family Fun Night. We will be showing a premier of the newest VeggieTales 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.



## Blood Pressure checks

**Blood pressure checks** in the kitchen following the Worship Service on March 4. Don't miss this important health screening.



## Community Group Leaders Training

On Saturday, March 10, there is a training session for all Community Group Leaders in the Church Library at 9:00 AM.



## 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.

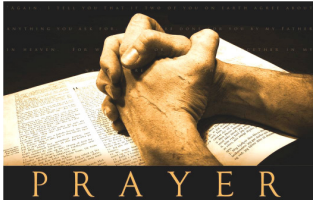
## Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, March 18 we will be having an OCC Family Meeting right after the Worship Service. The meeting will begin by 12:00 PM and end no later than 12:45 PM. We also want to allow sufficient time for questions and comments from our church family.

Childcare for infants to 5th Grade will be provided. Please help us plan adequately by registering your child(ren) at the TreeHouse Welcome Center or email Dave Dorsey at [dave@oakwoodfl.org](mailto:dave@oakwoodfl.org).

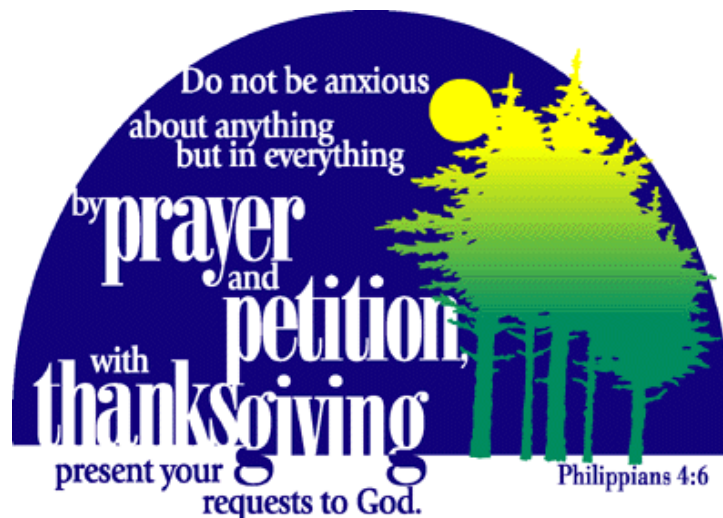
## Church-wide Prayer Event

On Saturday, March 24, there will be a Church-wide Day of Prayer at Oakwood. The Worship Center will be open from 8:00 AM—6:00 PM for the Oakwood family to stop by and spend some time in prayer for Oakwood and our vision. Watch for more details.



## Prayer Guide

Oakwood Community Church is *fueling* the new vision of **Expanding Our Territory, Together** united with **Love ~ Grow ~ Serve** in March. We will continue to pray the Prayer of Jabez, but this month's focus will be for much of the **leadership**. God can use our leadership in big ways to Expand Our Territory, Together, but it does take the involvement of us all, especially through the fuel of prayer! Pick up your copy of the March Prayer Guide at the Information Center or view it on our website.



## Work Day

The deacons will be holding a work day on Saturday, March 31. The main focus of this work day will be improving the front of the worship center by laying sod in the areas that have died. There will be several other projects, both big and small. All are welcome and will have something to do.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Ben Smith ([bendsmith83@gmail.com](mailto:bendsmith83@gmail.com), 813-968-4422) if you are able to help so that we can have an estimate for the food.

## Baptism

On February 16, through his own words and through baptism, Michael Ward publicly professed his trust in Jesus as his For-giver and his intent, with God's help, to follow Him fully as his Leader. The Scriptures that were read before his baptism were Mark 8:34-38; Acts 8:26-39; and Romans 10:9-10. We are grateful that God's Spirit drew Michael to trust Christ for salvation several years ago and that he has now chosen to express his faith in through this special manner that Jesus commanded (Matthew 28:18-20). We all rejoice with God and with Michael.



As you can see, Pastor Paul was pleased to discover a new, modified means of immersing the one being baptized. Why? The water was exceptionally cold. The frigid water made Michael's baptism doubly memorable for Michael!

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## IRS Contribution Statements from Oakwood—repeat

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

## Team Tampa XIII

### English Camp in the Czech Republic ~ July 7-14, 2012

#### ***Would you like your life to be changed?***

Consider serving with Team Leader Rob Weyand and his wife, Kelsey, as one of the 12 members of Team Tampa XIII - an outreach English Camp team from Oakwood and Candlewood Community Churches. Since 2000, Oakwood has partnered with the Brno Evangelical Fellowship in the city of Brno, Czech Republic, by providing English teachers for their outreach English camps. Candlewood Community Church, a daughter church of Oakwood, has participated since its birth in 2007. The teachers have been people like you who stepped out of their comfort zones in order to serve fellow Czech Christians as they witness to their family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors. The camp dates are July 7-14. Travel dates will likely be July 2 or 3 through July 17.

#### ***But I'm not a teacher***

Few of us are teachers, let alone teachers of English as a second language. For this reason, all lesson materials are already prepared. Team members only need to gather the teaching aids (such as pictures, objects, and so on) and practice teaching. Team members will have training meetings between March and July. During these meetings, we will learn about the Czech Republic, learn about the Biblical basis of short-term missions, practice teaching to each other, prepare an evening evangelistic program, and grow together as a team.



#### ***The cost of the trip***

Depending on travel costs, the cost of each team member going is between \$1500-2000. Team members are expected to provide for some of the cost from their own resources and from fund-raising letters. Both Oakwood and Candlewood will hold special collections for the English Camp trip. A valid passport is required.

#### ***Signing up***

Pick up an application packet at the Information Center. The application process will involve writing about your reasons for being part of the team, writing about yourself (the gifts and experiences you bring to the team). You will also need to write a short description of your faith journey and provide a recommendation from someone who knows you and your spiritual life well—a pastor, community group leader, accountability partner, and so on. Submit your application to the church office or place it in the drop box located by the doors as you exit the worship center. Applications are also available on our website. <http://www.oakwoodfl.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/English-Camp-Application-Form-PDF.pdf>



## PowerHouse Schedule

**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*

## PowerHouse Talent Show

**This Sunday, March 4,** our teens will have their Annual PowerHouse Talent Show. Everyone is invited to attend and see our talented teens. The fun begins at 5:00 PM!

## Spring Break Ministry Trip

Did you know that 13 of our PowerHouse students, along with nine adults are spending their Spring Break (March 11-18) in Tennessee helping with work projects for a Christian Bible Camp?

Please pray for this team as they travel on March 11 & 18 and as they work together during the week to help prepare the camp for ministry to youth, adults and families.

## 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.

## PH Food Bag Fundraisers

PowerHouse teens can raise money for summer mission/conference trips by participating in our monthly Food Bag Fundraisers typically on the third Sunday of each month. Due to the student Spring Break Mission trip, our next Food Bag Prep fundraiser is **Sunday, March 25**, 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 23. 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.

## A Great Date With Your Spouse

Mandy Houk



A dozen roses. Dinner at a dimly-lit restaurant. A weekend at a Victorian bed and breakfast. My husband has given me all of these things at one time or another over our 18 years together—in fact, we have a tradition of getting away for each anniversary, and that usually entails at least one night at a romantic inn.

But at times in our marriage these big-ticket romantic gestures were just not possible. A few years ago we were flat broke. We were both unemployed and living solely from what we'd tucked away in our checking and savings accounts. Each month, as I subtracted in our checkbook register—never adding a thing—the quivering pit in my stomach grew. Especially as our anniversary approached.

I realize it was selfish even to think about bed and breakfasts at a time like that—as my girls each rotated three outfits for school, and we dressed extra warm in the house to avoid jacking up the furnace. Still, I wondered how we'd manage to make the day feel special.

The morning of our anniversary, I awoke with a heaviness in my chest, saddened that things had to be so different this year, and fearful of how long this uncertainty was going to last.

When I went to wash my face, I found something odd sitting on my hand towel. It was a tiny white scroll, tied with red satin ribbon. I slipped off the ribbon and unrolled it, holding my breath.

On the scroll, in a fancy, cursive font from our computer, were the words to one of my favorite love poems. It was written by Elizabeth Barrett Browning to her husband, Robert. Only the pronouns had been changed so that it was meant for me.

I couldn't rush down the stairs fast enough to find my man and shower him with my grateful, affectionate tears. He didn't spend a cent on that anniversary gift. But it was, quite literally, priceless.

In times of economic hardship, it's easy to think that we have to discard or at least suspend our attempts to pursue romance with our spouses. But the challenges can force us into a level of creativity that was lacking before. While I'm not one to turn down a dinner at my favorite Greek restaurant, it certainly doesn't take a whole lot of imagination to put that evening together.

Here are some ideas for romantic evenings that are either free or nearly free.

### Location, location, location

You don't have to go to a restaurant to make your dinner romantic. Do you have a porch, a sunroom, or even a little space in front of your fireplace? How about shoving some sofas around and clearing a place in the middle of your apartment's living room? Grab a little patio table and throw a cloth over it (or throw the cloth on the floor with some pillows!), and serve dinner there—by candlelight, of course. Add a favorite CD and some flowers or greenery from your yard. Better yet: don't tell your spouse you're planning this—just have it ready when he or she arrives home from work or running errands.

### Memory Lane

For a bit of gas money, take a nostalgic trip to the places that have meant a lot to you. If you still live in (or near) the town where you first met and started dating, you can make little stops at each of those places. Don't even get out of the car—just stop for a few minutes and tell your loved one what you remember about that place, and what you were feeling when you went there together for the first time.

If, like me, you've moved thousands of miles away, you can still go back to some significant memories that you've made in the place you're living now. Where did you go to dinner the night you moved in? Did you get lost in the rain, or wind up with a flat tire somewhere, but things turned out all right in the end—all because you were able to sort things out and laugh together?

### When You Gotta Go ...

Sometimes you feel the need to get away from the house for a few hours, let someone else cook and clean, and just focus on that beautiful face across the restaurant table. It's possible to pull this off for less cash than usual. First, Google the restaurants in your area to look for free coupons (or you can purchase them through [MooLala](#), [Groupon](#), [Living Social](#), [Restaurant.com](#), or your local [Entertainment](#) books). The best coupons are the ones that don't require a certain dollar amount for the coupon to be valid. Then it's easy to split your meal—get an entrée to share, and perhaps an appetizer or dessert. Or do one of my favorite things: split your appetizer and dessert and skip the entrée. Less expensive, more whimsical. If the coupon requires that you buy one entrée, you've still saved nearly 50 percent off your meal (remember to tip on the pre-discounted price). Save on beverages by sticking with water—you can fancy it up by asking for lemon or lime slices.

### Supporting the Amateur Arts

If you and your spouse like plays, musicals, and concerts, you don't have to miss out because you're short on cash. Peruse community calendars in your local newspapers or online. If you're in a college town, you'll likely find oodles of recitals to choose from in the springtime (vocal, instrumental, and dance). These aren't your typical recitals—they're required for music and dance majors and graduate students, so the talent will be well worth your time. Some schools feature the professors themselves. For a more dramatic evening, you can take in a play at the local college or high school. Many large communities have concerts in the park throughout the summer. Whether these events are free of charge or close to it, they'll certainly be less of a strain on your wallet than a night at the symphony hall.

*Mandy Houk is a freelance writer and frequent contributor to Kyria's Marriage Partnership. She lives with her family and matching Adirondack chairs in Colorado.*

*Used with permission*

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.



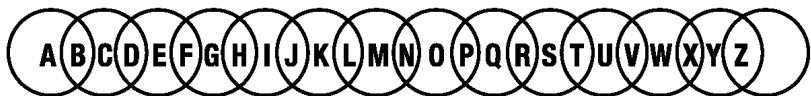
Just for

**KIDS**

## How to Treat Others

How does God want us to get along with other people? Ephesians 4:32 tells us. To find out what it says, use the code to fill in the blanks.

CODE:



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

"

1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3

2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3

10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10

3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5

8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10

5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3

3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11

"

Answer: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."



Oakwood Community Church  
 11209 Casey Rd  
 Tampa FL 33618-5306  
 813.969.2303  
[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 - Mary-Lynn Reilly

**Office hours:**

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

**Worship:**

Sundays - 10:30 AM

**Our Elder Team**

Jose Cariaga—Chair  
 Pete Kluck  
 Paul Phair  
 Eric Pratt

**Our Deacon Team**

Nan Duncan  
 Arnie Mejias  
 Bob Mendenhall  
 Ray Ross  
 Ben Smith  
 Dave Young—Chair

**Calendar at a Glance**



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

Mar 18—Compassion Offering  
           Congregational Meeting following Wor-  
           ship  
 Mar 24—Prayer Event??  
 Mar 25—PowerHouse Food Bag Fundraiser  
 Mar 31—Work Day

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 9	Mar 14	Mar 17—Mar 30
Mar 23	Mar 28	Mar 31—Apr 13

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.

If you have received this email in error or want to be removed from our e-newsletter distribution list, please hit the reply button and put "unsubscribe" in the subject line and you will be removed immediately.