

Oakwood Community Church
11209 Casey Rd
Tampa FL 33618-5306
813.969.2303
www.oakwoodfl.org



ACORN

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.



From The Interim’s Desk

We have come a long way through the IPM Process. Elaine and I are so grateful for a church family that has been patient and committed to the process for these eleven months. It has been a thrill to be able to report to the IPM Director, Tom Harris, that you have been exemplary in your involvement throughout the entire process. You are a model for all future churches who will connect with IPM.

As of the commissioning of the Pastoral Search Team on Sunday, February 19th, the final phase of the IPM Process has begun. The Pastoral Search Team has the same members as before (one Elder, two Deacons, three Women Members, and three Men Members), but their function significantly changes from evaluating the health of OCC to searching for the next Servant Leader of OCC.

On March 12th, following the morning service, three members of the Transition Team will present the strategies for strengthening the church in the areas that you, the church, concluded needed strengthening. They were identified through the interviews, NCD survey, Journey Wall, all-church survey, etc. Additionally, you will be given hard copies of the Lead Pastor Profile, Church Profile, and Community Profile that will be posted on our church website during the search process. And, we will be celebrating some signs of vitality within OCC.

There are several questions important to address in the remainder of the process:

1] How long does the search typically take?

This is always the number one question. Typically, it takes up to six months from the time the search begins. Since we will post the search on March 15th, a Pastor could potentially be in place by the middle of September. However, Elaine and I would like you to join with us in our often-repeated prayer: *“Lord, we do not want to rush ahead or lag behind what you are doing!”* Remember the words of Tom Harris, the Executive Director of IPM, *“I would rather have the right guy on December 31st than the wrong guy on June 1st.”*

2] Where are we looking for the next Servant Leader?

Our initial source for candidates is MinisterConnection.com, administered in our area by the EFCA District Superintendent, Glen Schreiber. It is the primary site through which those who are candidates in an EFCA (Evangelical Free Church of America) Church apply. Seminaries and Bible Colleges often have placement services and those whose theology is consistent with OCC’s Statement of Faith will be contacted. If, after thirty days, quality candidates are not surfacing, the search will be broadened to other websites. If you know of someone who you believe would be a good fit for the next Lead Pastor role, please feel free to contact them and have them go to our church website after March 15th for next steps.

Inside this issue:

PH Talent Show	2
Daylight Saving Time	2
PTSD Support Group	3
Financial Update	3
Day of Prayer & Fasting	4
PowerHouse News	5
Kids Page	6
Calendar	7

Continued on Page 4

PowerHouse Talent Show



Everyone is invited to join us this Sunday, March 5, in the Worship Center for the Annual PowerHouse Talent Show. Doors will open at 5:00 PM and the show will begin at 5:30 PM. Dessert will be served.

Come and support our talented teens!

Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks on March 5 the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.



Scripture Celebration

Wycliffe Bible Translators
Invites You To
Celebrate What God Has Done

Scripture Celebration on March 9 at 2 p.m. ET!

For the past 75 years, we've had the opportunity to see language communities all around the world rejoice when they receive Scripture in their own language. At our Scripture Celebration, you'll get the opportunity to celebrate with communities who have recently received God's life-changing Word in their own language. During the event, you'll hear stories about God's faithfulness, see photos and more!

Let's celebrate together the good news that can only come through God's Word.

For more details visit:

<https://www.wycliffe.org/celebrate>



Daylight Saving Time begins

Just a reminder that Daylight Saving Time begins **Sunday, March 12**. Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.



Attention Women

Ladies Painting with a Twist

If you can paint by number, you can paint with a twist. Create your own masterpiece on Friday night, March 31 at 7:00 PM in the Children's Ministry Building. Women ages 18+ RSVP with \$12 at the information desk in the lobby. Space is limited and fills up quickly so don't delay!



Just for Joy women's Bible study meets on **Tuesday mornings from 10:00—11:30 AM** in Room 106 of the Education Building.

The books of Ezra and Nehemiah focus on God restoring His holy city and His chosen people. Study guides are \$7.

Contact Sandy Wyatt at slwyatt7@gmail.com or call 813-960-8168 for more details.



I thank my God every time I remember you... Phil 1:3

Brett Pruden has been managing and working the sound system faithfully for too many years to count! LaVerne Cluff and Eileen Rexroad have been our financial secretaries for 20 years and counting!

PTSD Support Group

Supportive Arms Support Group meets every Friday from 7-9 PM in the Church Library.



This support group is for Veterans and current service members that suffer from PTSD/Trauma. Open to men and women. The goal is to give support and comfort in a group environment to those that struggle with PTSD/Trauma; to help in their daily lives with insight, support, and spiritual guidance; to show that they are loved and cared for through the Grace of God. While everyone may not have served, chances are we have a family member or friend who has and that is struggling in their everyday life. This is an opportunity for them to receive much needed care and support.

Group facilitators are Terrence Morman and Chris Schmidt.

Prayer Chain Ministry

The purpose of Oakwood's **E-Prayer Connection** is to communicate prayer requests for our fellow Oakwood members, our families, friends, others personally known to us, and the ministries of our church.



If you would like to partner in prayer for the needs of our church family, send your full name and email address to ekrex@verizon.net with Prayer Chain Ministry in the subject line. You can also send prayer requests for the Prayer Chain to this same email address.

Financial Update

2017 Financial Update for January:		
	Actual	Budget
YTD Offerings Received	37,798	
YTD Expenses	33,302	38,128
Offerings Over/(Under) Exp	4,496	(330)

Opportunity to *Serve the World*

Naomi's Daughters is a ministry for single moms that provides clothing and food to the moms and their children. The Oakwood family, along with others in the community, provides donations of clothing, food and money to keep this ministry moving forward.



Current needs –Clothing and shoes for infants to adults; school supplies

Pantry needs: cereal, canned goods, rice, pasta, paper goods, personal care items, etc.

Donations can be left on the back porch of the gray house at the front of our property. Tax Deductible receipts are available.

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.

Online Giving. Did you know that you can make financial contributions to Oakwood through our website? You can give one time or set up for recurring donations. Visit www.oakwoodfl.org and click "Give Online" on the right side of the menu on the home page.

Our Daily Bread

The excellent daily devotional guide, *Our Daily Bread*, can help you experience the presence of God throughout your busy day by helping you focus your thoughts on Him.

Pick up your free copy from the Information Center in the lobby or you can download the App on your smart phone or tablet and get the devotional sent directly to you every day.



Day of Prayer & Fasting

Calling the Oakwood Church Family to a Day of Prayer and Fasting (if you are able)

March 15, 2017, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Search Launch Day for our next Lead Pastor

Sign up on Sundays March 5 and 12
at the table in the back of the Worship Center
to commit to pray for a 15 minute segment
on Wednesday, March 15.

From The Interim's Desk—*continued*

3] Is there work going on simultaneous with the search to strengthen OCC?

Absolutely! There are always issues in the flock that need shepherding. One of the key projects is to flesh out the Flow Chart we distributed February 19th. That chart represents some significant needs in OCC. Elders are working hard at Shepherding the flock from a higher perspective. They understand that their work is not to get drawn into the trap of managing the ministries of Oakwood. Rather, their job is to empower gifted people to do the work of the ministry. Deacons are continuing to ask how they can more effectively assist the Elders in freeing up the people to serve within the Body and the community. Members, especially those who are ministry leaders, are beginning to understand the need of defining how their ministries fit within the mission of OCC without overlapping other ministries. Most importantly, strengthening the commitment to function with our God-given spiritual gifts within our roles without taking over the role and function of others is a pursuit worthy of our continued commitment.

It is to be celebrated that God continues to bring new people to our church family. New Community Groups are in process and a number have already joined existing community groups. People, some new to OCC and some who have been around for a long while, are considering application for membership. Offerings have stabilized and, while we are not meeting budget yet, income has exceeded expenses a bit. Attendance is up and people are growing in the Word and excited about being together to worship our God. New people are involved in leading us in worship, TreeHouse (children's ministry), and PowerHouse (student ministry). God is at work moving OCC in a healthy direction. To Him be the glory!

Please mark your calendar for March 15th. We are encouraging a day of fasting and prayer on that day because it is the day we are posting for the next Servant Leader. The Prayer Team is, at this writing, putting together a plan for that day. Prayer proves the depth of our dependence on God in our pursuit of Him as we pursue our next Pastor.



Thank you for the joy of partnering with you for Christ to present to the next Servant Leader a stronger church focused on the mission of “*transforming ordinary people into fully devoted followers of Christ*” through the process of “*loving God, growing in community, and serving the church and the world.*”

Enjoying the journey with you!

Larry



PowerHouse Schedule

- Mar 5—Talent Show
- Mar 12—Regular Evening Meeting
- Mar 19—Food Bag Ministry & Regular Evening Meeting
- Mar 24-26—PowerHouse Retreat at Camp Gilead
- Mar 26—No PowerHouse Meeting

Spring Retreat



**MARCH 24-26
CAMP GILEAD
POLK CITY, FL**

PICK UP AN INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE AND REGISTRATION FORM IN POWERHOUSE FOR OUR SPRING RETREAT.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 12.



PowerHouse Talent Show

SUNDAY, MARCH 5—5:00 PM

Students...
remember to bring a dessert to be served.



Food Bag Ministry

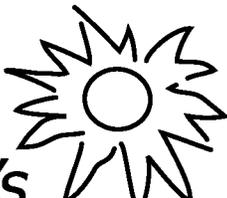
Our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven? These bags are distributed to indigent patients at the clinic to provide some basic food needs of the patients and their family.

PowerHouse teens can raise money for summer mission/conference trips by participating in our monthly Food Bag Ministry, typically on the second Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag prep day is **Sunday, March 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, March 17. Meet at Aldi at Bearss & Florida Ave. at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple—813.265.9895) if you want to help. For more details on deliveries, contact Cindy Giannone at (813) 969-4136.



Kids Corner

Play 
"God's Creation"
 Game

The goal of the game is to find things all around you that God has created. You can play alone, with friends or in teams.

You will need:

-  Friends or family members
-  God's creations

How to play:

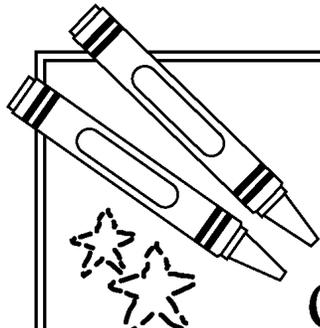
 Go outdoors – to a park, in your back yard or on a hike.

 The first person says the name of something he sees or thinks of that begins with the letter A, such as an ant or an apple. The next person says something he sees beginning with the letter B. Continue in order through the entire alphabet.

A variation:

Each player says the name of each thing that has been found so far, and then adds a new one to the list.





Just for KIDS

God's Creation 

In the spring we see God's creation coming alive again!
 Fill in the blanks below with the names of things that God created. Use the Scripture references to help if needed.

<u>G</u> _ _ _ _ _	where vegetables grow <i>(Deuteronomy 11:10)</i>
<u>O</u> _ _ _	a tree to rest under <i>(1 Kings 13:14)</i>
<u>D</u> _ _ _ _	when Mary went to the tomb <i>(Matthew 28:1)</i>
<u>'S</u> _ _ _ _ _	lights in the night sky <i>(Genesis 1:16)</i>
<u>C</u> _ _ _ _ _	provided clothing for John the Baptist <i>(Matthew 3:4)</i>
<u>R</u> _ _ _ _ _	flowing water <i>(Matthew 3:6)</i>
<u>E</u> _ _ _ _	name of a garden <i>(Genesis 2:8)</i>
<u>A</u> _ _ _ _	the first man <i>(Genesis 2:20b)</i>
<u>T</u> _ _ _ _ _	sound made by lightning <i>(Exodus 19:16)</i>
<u>I</u> _ _ _ _ _	hopping, flying, crawling creatures <i>(Leviticus 11:20)</i>
<u>O</u> _ _ _	a "wise" bird <i>(Psalm 102:6)</i>
<u>N</u> _ _ _ _ _	begins at sunset <i>(Genesis 28:11)</i>



Answers: garden; oak; dawn; stars; camel; river; Eden; Adam; thunder; insects; owl; night.



Oakwood Community Church
 11209 Casey Rd
 Tampa FL 33618-5306
 813.969.2303
www.oakwoodfl.org

Our Vocation & Volunteer Staff

Interim Pastor—Larry Chute
 Director of Ministries & Coordinator of Children’s
 Ministry—Dave Dorsey
 Director of PowerHouse Ministry—Cam Whipple
 Office Manager—Martha Dorsey
 Secretary—Melanie Hoglievina

Our Elder Team

Mark Beale
 Edson Bustamante
 Larry Chute
 John Schneider
 Rob Weyand

Our Deacon Team

David Conner
 Dave DePagter
 David Fowle
 Larry Giannone
 Brian Johnson
 Mike Wyatt

Office hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Education Classes:

Sundays—9:15 AM

Worship:

Sundays—10:30 AM

Calendar at a Glance



Mar 5—Communion during Worship
 Blood Pressure checks following Worship
 PowerHouse Talent Show
 Mar 12—DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
 Deacon Team Meeting
 Oakwood Cares Team Meeting
 Returning Hearts Orientation lunch
 Mar 13—Elder Team Meeting

Mar 15—Day of Prayer & Fasting
 Pastoral Search Team Meeting
 Mar 19—Compassion Offering
 PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry
 Mar 20—Elder/Deacon Teams meet
 March 24-26—PowerHouse Retreat
 Mar 26—Oakwood Cares Team Meeting
 No PowerHouse Meeting
 Mar 31—Painting With A Twist

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...
Mar 10	Mar 15	Mar 18—Mar 31
Mar 24	Mar 29	Apr 1—Apr 14

Missed a Sunday message? Listen online @ www.oakwoodfl.org/messages/