

the Oakwood
ACORN
A Chronicle Of our News

Seeds For Growth

March Madness

Today as I write this, we've just entered into a period that energizes college men's basketball sports fans - it's called, *March Madness*. Oakwood, too, is entering into our month of *March Madness*, as we launch a second service. This gives us a wonderful opportunity, as Jesus' essentially exhorted us, to *Go out [into your place of work, recreation, or school] and urge anyone you find to come, so that my house may be full* (Luke 14:23).

At the close of last Sunday's message, I read to you from Isaiah 26:18. Isaiah lamented that the nation of Israel failed to fulfill a vitally important mission "... *we have not given salvation to the earth.*" (See also Isaiah 49:6). In Isaiah 42:6-7, Isaiah announces a coming era, where God's people will "... *be a light to guide the nations, and will open the eyes of the blind, and free the captives from prison, releasing those who sit in dark dungeons.*"

As one of God's local churches, Oakwood is responsible to carry out God's mission to lovingly communicate God's grand news to people who are still spiritually blind and in spiritual captivity. Let us be found faithful. To do so it will take love, courage, and intentionality.

My wife, Bev, and I have realized this is an area in which we need to grow. We are thus praying and striving to be more intentional in our personally extending God's grand news to others. For example, next fall we plan to join an Iowa Hawkeye fan club that meets in a local sports bar. Our objective is to expand our interaction with people who may not know Christ.

Last week, we again stepped out of our comfort zone with some relationships we've been developing. We were surprised by the degree of joy we experienced as we spent another evening with these new friends. They are Muslim guests in the U.S. from Turkey & Kyrgystan. We shared a meal together, our common values and hopes, laughter, and more. I also briefly touched on the core message of Isaiah and what the coming of the Messiah Jesus has meant and will mean when He returns. Bev communicated that what is essential to God is not religion but a relationship. We sowed some seeds and pray to sow some more.



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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Two Services

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) see class descriptions below

Nursery (infant up to 2 years old)

Children's Ministry (ages 2 through 3rd grade – Bev Phair & Mary Ellen Kluck)

Children's Ministry (4th & 5th grade – Sandy Wyatt)

Middle School (6th thru 8th grade – Sandy Clarke & Katie Frost)

High School (9th thru 12th 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 5th grade)

Middle School & High School in worship service

Oakwood Mill (Terry Rexroad) see description of this new class below



Co-Ed Classes

Foundations of Apologetics - led by Guy Sas - 9:30 AM. This class on Apologetics uses the Ravi Zacharias' DVD series titled "Foundations of Apologetics." The series is designed to introduce a comprehensive range of apologetic arguments and strategies and features lectures by members of Ravi's Ministry team of apologetists, including Ravi Zacharias himself, Michael Ramsden, Alister McGrath, Amy Orr-Ewing, John Lennox, Stuart McAllister, and L.T. Jeyachandran.

Exodus - led by Terry Rexroad - 11:00 AM. 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 first-born 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.

Women's Class

Journey Through The Bible - led by Andrea Cress - 9:30 AM. Women are invited to join us for a guided tour as we journey through Acts and the epistles. Using a simple reading plan, participants will be encouraged to read through these New Testament books. We will explore key elements of each book, see how they fit together into the larger picture of God's story and discover what they mean for our lives today.

Seeds of Growth - *continued*

We can all step up our relational efforts to open the eyes of the blind. This month, during *March Madness*, we can all **take a 3-point shot**. **1. Remember** those whom God used to bring us to faith in Christ. **2. Pray** for someone you can invite to an Oakwood service. **3. Invite!** – then meet them at our service, take them out to lunch afterwards, and continue to develop a loving, redemptive relationship with that person.

~ Pastor Paul

Potluck & Congregational Meeting

The Oakwood family is encouraged to join us on Sunday, March 20 at 5:30 PM for a Potluck Dinner. Those families with the last name beginning in **A-L**, please bring a large covered dish and a dessert. Those families with the last name beginning in **M-Z**, please bring a large covered dish and a vegetable or salad. Singles may bring one main item.

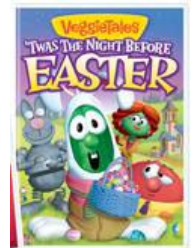
At 6:30 we will hold our congregational meeting. Watch the Worship Program for more details on the business to be covered at this meeting.

Childcare will be available for children up through 5th Grade. Please help us plan appropriately for workers by registering your child/children at the TreeHouse Welcome Station



Family Fun Night

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



Child Dedication

On Sunday, March 20, we will be having a Child Dedication Service during our 11:00 AM Worship Service. Anyone interested in participating in this service is asked to contact the church office by March 14.

Information on Child Dedication is available on our website - www.oakwoodfl.org. Go to the *About Oakwood* tab, choose *Reference Documents*, scroll down to *Special Observances* and you will see the document entitled *Child Dedication Information*.



Prayer in 2011

Oakwood is focusing on prayer in 2011. The March Prayer Guide is available on our website and at the Information Center.



Daylight Saving Time

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 13. Be sure to turn your clocks **ahead** one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, March 12.



Community Group Olympics

All Community Groups are invited to The TreeHouse, Saturday, March 19 at 7:00 PM, for Oakwood's first Community Group Olympics. This will be a fun night of friendly, non-athletic competition and team building as each Community Group will work together to win "gold" medals. Childcare will be provided by our B.U.M.P. (Bridging Urban Mission Project) team for a small donation to help support our teens participating in summer missions. For more information contact Lindsey Ernst, ernstl@us.ibm.com.



Blood Mobile

The Blood Mobile will be at Oakwood on Sunday, March 6 from 9:00 AM – 1:00 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.



10 Foot Rule

HEY OAKWOODIANS

With the start of two services, this may be a good time to pull out the "10 foot rule" and dust it off. As some of us will be sitting in different places in the Worship Center and, quite possibly, near some folks we haven't met, this would be a good time to get acquainted. So, after the service, look around you (say... a 10 foot radius!) and introduce yourself to someone you don't know or recognize. Some may be long time attenders of Oakwood and some may be new to the OCC family. Either way, make someone feel special and welcomed. See you Sunday!

Outreach English Camp - In the Czech Republic



Oakwood's and Candlewood's leadership have affirmed Chris Lehmann as the Team Tampa XII leader of this summer's Outreach English Camp in the Czech Republic. In partnership with Brno Evangelical Fellowship, and with the enthusiastic support of his wife, Shannon, Chris will lead a team of 8-12 members to teach conversational English and share God's love and our faith.

The dates of the camp are July 23-30 with additional travel dates before and after, approximately 2 full weeks. Applications are now being accepted and must be received in the office by March 27. Applications are available at the Information Center as well as on our website, www.oakwoodfl.org/missions. Finalizing the team will take place by March 31. Regular training meetings will begin April 6 and will meet weekly through July 6. Those considering joining the team who may have questions may contact Chris@oakwoodfl.org or speak with a team representative after the service at the Information Center.



Czech Team 2011



Will you take a spot?
Oakwood/Candlewood Team 2011

Raincoats & shoes



Very soon, 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.

Missions Updates

Dear Praying Friends,

Debbie and I are very encouraged right now, but ask for your prayers:

- I am praying about offering a discussion time to the Army cadets, to look at what Scripture says about life, death and an eternal relationship with our Creator. Please pray for this possibility.
- Debbie and I are considering taking on the role of Regional Shepherd Leader for Europe as well as Florida. It would involve at least one trip to Germany each year, and sometimes two. Please pray for this decision for us and our supervisor.
- Debbie and I have been asked to be part of a small group doing a marriage retreat for two Hungarian churches May 13-15 (actually in Hungary 10-17). Please pray for good preparations and a leading of the Holy Spirit in what we should do and share with these good folks. We would like to return each summer to Hungary, and visit Nav Military Staff at the same time, should we take on the additional shepherding responsibility.



Thank you for standing with us!

In His love,

Roy & Debbie Garren

Dear Friends,

I'd appreciate your prayers for a mission training time for three Romanian men who are looking at long-term service with Wycliffe. We're doing advanced planning for a potential August short-term vision trip to Papua New Guinea.

Please pray:

- that God would guide these young men (all 23 or 24 years old) concerning this trip as well as His plans for their future service. We hope to be able to help them discover their place in the Kingdom.
- that God would continue orchestrating the extraordinary events in the Middle East and North Africa to open new areas to the Gospel. Pray that our brothers and sisters in Christ in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Yemen, Iran, and other countries, would know Jesus' peace and boldness.
- for Bucharest Christian Academy that we'd have wisdom about director and building decisions and for new staff and students for the 2011-2012 school year.



Joyfully in Christ,

Dave and Jennifer Cox

Serving in Romania with ReachGlobal



Powerhouse Talent Show and Coffee House Sunday, March 6 from 5:00pm - 7:30pm

Singing? Dancing? Poetry? Jokes? Juggling? Our PowerHouse students will display their talents this Sunday night. All are welcome to attend.

Oakwood Community Church PowerHouse Volunteer Staff

Our Oakwood PowerHouse Student Ministry is blessed to have a wonderful volunteer staff. This staff includes:

Coordinator of Youth Ministry: Paul Phair
Administrative Assistant: Mary-Lynn Reilly
Coordinator of Worship: Chris Lehmann
Financial Manager: Martha Dorsey

Sunday AM

Bible Class Coach: Paul Phair

Middle School Teachers: Sandy Clarke & Katie Frost

High School Teachers: Cam Whipple & Val Brand

Sunday PM

Large Group Teaching Team: Doug Cress & Cam Whipple

Girls Small Group Coach: Margaret Reifsnyder

➤ **Middle School Girls**

6th & 7th Grade Leader: Mandy Frost

Assistant Leader: Ingrid Huber

8th Grade Leader: Katie Frost

Assistant Leader: Amanda Hoglievina

➤ **High School Girls**

Leader: Val Brand

➤ **Middle School Guys**

Leader: Edson Bustamante

➤ **High School Guys**

Leader: Cam Whipple

Assistant Leader: Alex Frost

Teaching Resources: Paul Phair & Doug Cress

Worship Coach: Kasey Albury

Director of Summer Mission: Edson Bustamante

Directors of Retreats: David & Cindy Conner

Food Compassion: Chris Lehmann & Sandy Clark

Special Events: Cam Whipple

Recreation: Cam Whipple & Mandy Frost

Director of Snack Bar & Volunteers: La Verne Cluff



Kids Corner

Make a



You will need:

- 30 unlined index cards
- markers
- stickers



How to make:

Write each of the words from the list below on its own card. Make a second set. Decorate with stickers or markers.



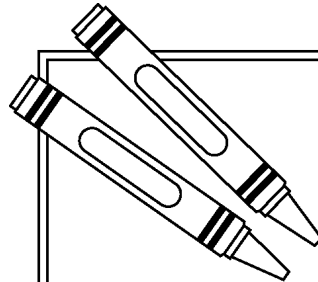
Play:

The object of the game is to find cards that match. Shuffle all the cards. Lay them face down in 5 rows of 6 cards. Choose 2 cards. Keep them if they match. If they don't, return them to their places face down. Continue until all cards have been matched.



Words to write:

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| Faith | Love |
| Healing | Help |
| Jesus | Patience |
| Kindness | Mercy |
| Gentleness | Peace |
| Generosity | Hope |
| Prayer | Joy |
| Grace | |



Just for KIDS HELP!

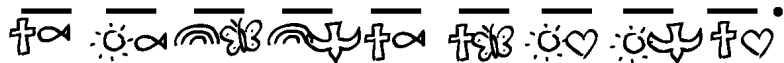
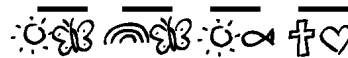
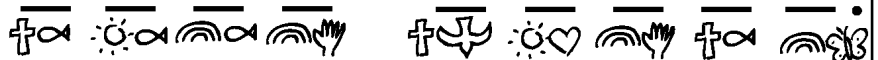
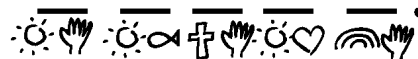
Wouldn't it be nice if we never had to make any hard decisions or choices, or face any big challenges? Sometimes we just don't know what to do! But there is help!

Read James 5:13-18.
What do these verses tell us to do?

	A	F	L	P	T
	C	H	N	R	W
	E	I	O	S	Y

Use the graph to find the answer.

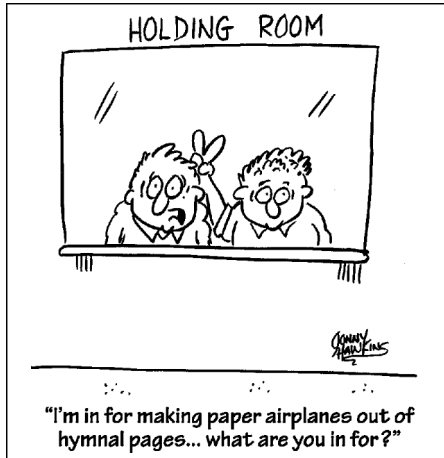
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Pray in faith. Pray for each other. Pray earnestly.



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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



- Mar 4 - Family Fun Night
- Mar 6 - Blood Pressure checks
 - Blood Mobile @ Oakwood
 - PowerHouse Talent Show
- Mar 8 - MISCOM Meeting

- Mar 13 - Daylight Saving Time begins
 - Board Meeting
- Mar 15 - Missions Strategy Meeting
- Mar 19 - Community Group Olympics
- Mar 20 - Teen Mission Trip Fundraiser - Food Bag Prep
 - Potluck & Congregational 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. Article deadlines and publication schedule is:

Deadline	Publication date	News for dates including...
Mar 11	Mar 16	Mar 19 - Apr 1
Mar 25	Mar 30	Apr 2 - Apr 15

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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