



# ACORN

## Seeds for Growth

### *Random Thoughts*

In the last issue of the ACORN, Pastor Paul wrote a great reminder of the importance of loving God. When Jesus was asked about the most important commandment given in Scripture, He stated very succinctly, “The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength” (Mark 12:28-31). This is a quote from the book of Deuteronomy chapter 6. Very simply, this is the most significant thing we do in this life. This is a familiar passage to many of us. Nothing is greater than loving God and loving those around us. I also know that it can be difficult to personally grow in this area with the challenges of life and the distractions we have around us. In Pastor Paul’s article, he gave some specific ways for each of us to grow in our capacity to Love God. You may want to take the time to read the article again. Good stuff.

Another area that we continue to stress here at Oakwood is the importance of growing in community. If you look at the context of Deuteronomy 6, you will see this command is given to a group of people, not just an individual. It is very difficult to grow in our capacity to love God if we are not purposing to be involved the lives of others. There are many “One Another’s” (love, admonish, encourage, exhort) in the Bible that tell us clearly that we cannot grow steadily in our relationship with the Lord if we are not connecting with each other. Each of us needs to be connected to others who will speak the truth in love into our lives and help us keep moving forward. You will be hearing more about this from the Elders in the next few weeks. Stay tuned.

Many of our students (and some crazy adults) are in Tennessee this week helping clean up a Christian camp ground in preparation for the summer camping season. The camp is for inner city and underprivileged kids and gives them an opportunity to have a week of fun and hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our students will be coming home this Friday. Please continue to pray for them to experience God’s presence as they serve and for a safe trip home.

Easter 2013 is fast approaching. This is my favorite time of the year. I still get pumped in hearing someone say “He is Risen” and also hearing the response of “He is Risen Indeed!” This is why we do what we do every Sunday. We celebrate the living Savior who died and rose from the grave to save us from our sin. Hallelujah, What A Savior!



That is all I am saying today

Dave Dorsey  
Director of Ministries

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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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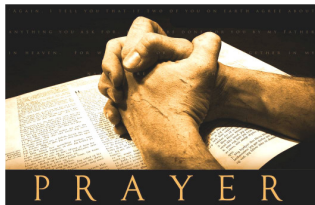
## Work Day



The deacons will be holding a work day on Saturday, March 23rd. We will be starting at 8:00 AM and ending no later than 3:00 PM. Please join us for a few hours of raking, cleaning, washing and other various jobs to keep the church buildings and grounds looking their best.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please contact Ben Smith at [bendsmith83@gmail.com](mailto:bendsmith83@gmail.com) if you can attend so we can plan for how much food is needed. Plan to attend this fun and productive day!

## 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.

## Hospitality



We are making some changes to our Sunday morning Hospitality Table. The first Sunday of the month and on special occasions, there will be snacks available, as well as coffee and water. Other weeks there will be coffee and water available.

We thank those who have so willingly provided snacks and done the set-up and clean up each week.

## Blood Mobile @ Oakwood



The Blood Mobile will be at Oakwood on Sunday, April 28, 2013 from 9:00 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.

Will you roll up your sleeves and help us with this worthy cause?

## Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks Sunday, April 7, 2013 in the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.

## TreeHouse News



**Attention Parents:** We are revising and reinstating our parent notification system—our way to let you know if your child needs you during the Worship Service.

Each family will be assigned a 2-digit **Family Identification Number (FIN)**. If you have a child in the Nursery, that number will be preceded by a **1** and if you have a child in TreeHouse, that number will be preceded by a **3**.

If you see your **FIN** on the LED Display in the right corner of the Worship Center, please proceed to the Nursery or TreeHouse Welcome Station.

We will begin distributing **FIN** numbers this Sunday, March 17. If you have a child in the Nursery, you can pick up your **FIN** there. If you have a child in TreeHouse, or have children in both the Nursery and TreeHouse, your **FIN** will be available at the TreeHouse Welcome Station.

## Magic Show

The *Magic For HIM* Conference, sponsored by The Magic Emporium, is being held at Oakwood this weekend. The highlight is “A Night of Illusion” at Oakwood this Friday, March 15, at 7:00 PM. This show is open to the public and admission is \$10 per person. Prepare to be amazed and inspired by some of the country’s leading Christian illusionists and entertainers. Come out and have a fun night of family entertainment.



## 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.

**We are especially in need of Spring clothing and pantry items to fill up the food pantry.**

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.

## Easter at Oakwood

At Easter, people gather to celebrate Jesus' coming back alive from the dead. Did you know Jesus promised that you can come alive too? In fact you can come alive this Easter to a better life than you knew was possible! What is that better life Jesus offers and how can you experience it? Come, bring a friend with you, and find out! Oh, also come expecting to celebrate! ~ Pastor Paul

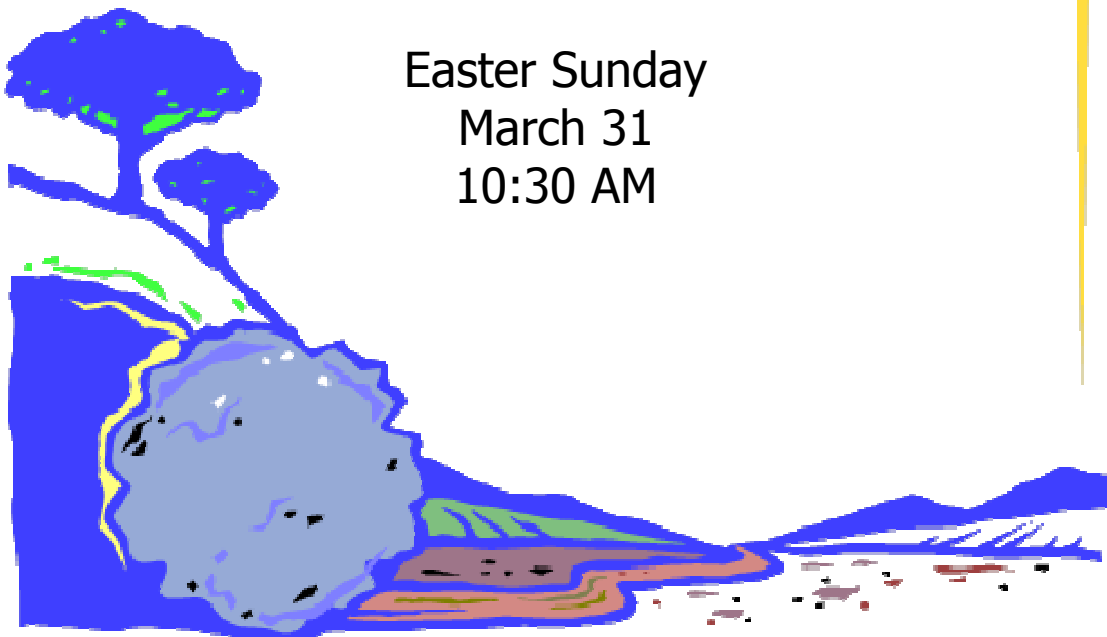


*Come Alive This Easter*

Services

Good Friday  
March 29  
7:00 PM

Easter Sunday  
March 31  
10:30 AM



## Picnic

On March 3, we had a great crowd stay after the Worship Service for the church-wide picnic. There was lots of food, fun and fellowship. Thanks to our deacon team and volunteers who saw to the details of this fun experience.





## PowerHouse Schedule

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.

## BUMP is coming...

A number of our students and adult workers will travel to New York July 20-27 to minister in an inner city church. BUMP is **B**ridging **U**rban **M**ission **P**roject and is part of the student ministry arm of the Evangelical Free Church of America.

Training for students attending will begin on Sunday, March 24. Students who plan to attend need to turn in their application and deposit by March 24. If you have questions, please contact Cam Whipple at (813) 265-9895.

Bridging Urban  
**BUMP**  
Mission Project





Family-life educators Claudia and Dave Arp are co-founders of Marriage Alive Seminars and co-hosts of "The Family Workshop" radio program. They are co-authors of *The Second Half of Marriage* (Zondervan); *The Ultimate Marriage Builder* (Thomas Nelson); and *Ten Great Dates to Revitalize Your Marriage* (Zondervan, a book and video resource).

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## Partners or Parents—David & Claudia Arp

To balance your roles as partners and parents, you need two things: advance preparation and on-the-job training. No matter what season of marriage you're in, children will affect how you relate as husband and wife. And while kids do complicate life, the shared tasks of being both partners and parents can become the most rewarding experience you'll have as a couple.

"Enriching your marriage while parenting your kids sounds like an oxymoron!" Catherine, the mother of three, told us. "I don't have enough time or energy to be a good-enough parent, much less a good-enough wife!" Catherine and her husband, Alex, are committed to their children and to each other. But these days their marriage is on the back burner.

Catherine continues, "After juggling a part-time job, trying to meet the needs of three children, figuring out what we're going to have for dinner, and then getting the kids in bed, I just want to collapse into my recliner."

Alex added, "I put in a 12-hour day at work and I'm tired, too. I try to help Catherine—especially with the kids—but by the time we are alone, I'm exhausted."

Their children's physical needs must be met, of course, but what about Catherine and Alex's needs? Since the parents' marriage is the anchor for the family, investing in your marriage is investing in your family. While it's never easy to build your marriage while parenting your kids, it's vital to the health of both! And the time to begin is before the kids arrive.

**Marriage is the anchor for your family, so investing in your marriage is investing in your family.**

### The Early Years - Time to Talk

Married in their early 30s, Kimberly and Mark know how overwhelming the thought of being totally responsible for another human being can be. Since they both came from single-parent homes, they made every effort to prepare for marriage. But feeling like they were ready for parenthood—that was a totally different matter.

To begin preparing for parenthood, they discussed such questions as "Will children come between us and hurt our relationship? Can we afford kids? Will we both continue to work outside the home? What about paternity leave? How many children do we want and how close together? If we can't have children, would we want to adopt?" All are good questions to ask, and answer, before becoming parents.

Even though outside pressures and biological clocks pushed them toward parenthood, they decided to wait a couple of years. "Having a child right now," Kimberly said, "would mean giving up much of our freedom, social life and time for

each other. Plus, since neither of us came from homes with stable marriages, we want to make sure our relationship is rock-solid before we add children to the mix."

Smart couple. The relationship skills you develop early in marriage will enhance your relationship after you become parents. Here are two areas to work on before the kids arrive.

**1. Solidify your bond.** When you have children, your marriage will become less partner-focused and more child-focused, so your relationship needs to be strong before the kids come along. Get comfortable with each other, explore your roles and work at understanding the ways you are alike or different.

**2. Learn how to really talk.** Many couples who had few problems communicating before the wedding find it difficult to talk about their feelings now that they're married. If that describes you, try some of these tips to help you discuss your hopes and fears.

—Learn to listen and not simply react. Apply the advice in James 1:19: "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." In our family, we condensed this verse to three words—"listen, don't react."

—Be aware of your total message. Nothing is worse than speaking the right words but contradicting the message with signs of underlying hostility, bitterness or anger. Make sure your words, your nonverbal cues and your tone of voice all communicate the same message.

—Stress the positive. It takes five positive statements to offset just one negative statement, so go slow in expressing your negative feelings, and emphasize the positive ones.

—Avoid finger pointing. Don't begin sentences with the words "you" or "why," since they usually lead to statements or questions that accuse or attack. Instead, take responsibility for your own feelings. There is a big difference between "I feel so alone. Can we talk?" and "You always ignore me. Why don't you ever talk to me?"

—Ask questions. It keeps the communication cycle going until you both agree that what you said is what the other person heard.

Becoming parents creates such a drastic change that most couples experience moderate, or even severe, crisis. The added stress can exacerbate any existing tension between partners and drive them farther apart. Too easily, the marriage can drop on the priority list down below washing windows and cleaning toilets. The enemies of emotional closeness, "lack of time" and "lack of energy," are firmly in place as you head into marriage's middle years.

See Part 2 of this article in the next issue.

# Kids Corner

## Paint Some Stones!

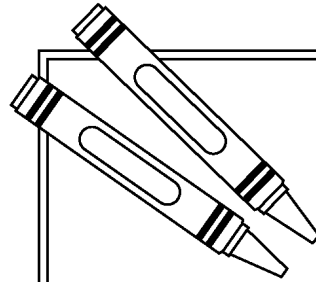
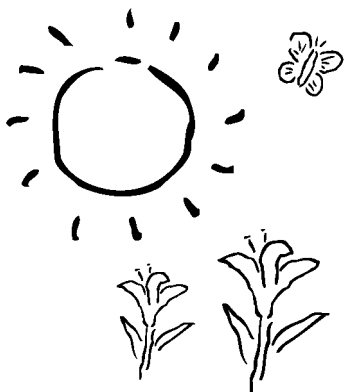


- ☼ Gather some smooth gray stones.
- ☼ Use tempera paints to paint Easter symbols on the stones.
- ☼ Some Easter symbols are:

cross  
lily  
butterfly  
sun



- ☼ After the paint is dry, brush on clear varnish.
- ☼ Let dry overnight.
- ☼ Use large stones for paper weights. Small stones can be carried in your pocket as a "Resurrection Reminder!"



## Just for KIDS

"... and on the third day"

Jesus died upon a cross and was buried in a tomb. When the women went there with burial spices on the third day, what did they find?

Follow the arrows.  
Fill in the blanks.

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→ End

Luke 24:6

Answer: The stone was rolled away from the door. An angel said to them, "He is not here, he has risen."



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 813.969.2303  
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**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 17—Compassion Offering  
 Mar 19—Naomi’s Daughters dinner/Bible study  
 Mar 29—Good Friday Service  
 Mar 31—Easter



Apr 7—Blood Pressure checks following Worship  
 Apr 14—Board Meeting  
                   PowerHouse Talent Show  
 Apr 21—Compassion Offering  
                   Discovering Oakwood seminar

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 22	Mar 27	Mar 30—Apr 12
Apr 5	Apr 10	Apr 13—Apr 26

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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