

the Oakwood ACORN

A Chronicle Of our News

Seeds For Growth

Will You Go?

I recently read the book “Radical” by David Platt. It was one of those reads that God used to challenge me every time I picked it up (I highly recommend this book). In it, I was reminded to GO and make disciples, not only here at home, but that GOING included places all over the world. Once again I was challenged to give some of my time this year to making the gospel known in a context outside of my own city. In his book David Platt recommends that we dedicate at least 2 percent of our time this year to this task. That 2 percent works out to be about one week that we would travel and take the gospel to another context in the world. He also contends that 2 percent of our time living out the Gospel in other countries has a “radical effect” on the other 98 percent of our time living out the Gospel in our own context. He quotes, “I am convinced that when we open up our lives to the global purpose of God, He will show us things we have never seen and take us places we have never been before. We will realize that God has given us gifts, skills, and passions that He desires to use in unique ways.”

Looking for your next 2 percent opportunity? As many of you know we, (with God's leading), are in the process of putting together our next team to minister in the Czech Republic, Team Tampa XII. God is blessing us with a GREAT team so far, however, there are still some openings that possibly you could fill. If you have felt God nudging you in this direction, please call me so that we can talk. I will do my best to clear up your question marks. ***Time is running out and the team will must be finalized by March 27th.***

So...***Will You Go?*** Will you let God stretch you? ***Is Team Tampa XII that opportunity?*** I will be awaiting your call.



But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Chris Lehmann
Team Tampa XII

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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.



Inside this issue:

Congregational Meeting	2
OCC Updates	2-3
Membership Class	3
Czech English Camp	4
Marriage Matters	5
PowerHouse News	6
Kids Corner	7
Calendar at a Glance	8



Potluck & Congregational Meeting

The Oakwood family is encouraged to join us this 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.

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



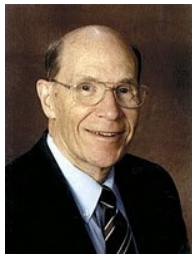
Opportunity to help

Craig & Carolyn Clendinen have sold their house and need help moving and cleaning their house on Saturday, March 26. If you can help them in the afternoon, please contact them @ Clendinens@hotmail.com or contact the Church Office @ 813-969-2303.



Community Group Olympics

All Community Groups are invited to the Worship Center this 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.



Guest speaker

On Sunday, April 3, we are privileged to have Christian author Dr. Jerry Bridges speaking in our Worship Services. Dr. Bridges is a well-known Christian writer and conference speaker. He is author of several books, including, *Respectable Sins*, *The Pursuit of Holiness*, *The Pursuit of Godliness*, and *The Discipline of Grace*. He has been on the staff of The Navigators for over fifty years, and currently serves in the Collegiate Mission where he is involved primarily in staff development, but also serves as a speaker resource to the campus ministries. Jerry and his wife Jane live in Colorado Springs, Colorado.



Prayer in 2011

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



Compassion Offering

We will collect a Compassion Offering in the Worship services this Sunday, March 20. These funds are primarily used to meet the special financial burdens faced by those within the Oakwood Church family.



Deacons

The Elder and Deacon Teams are pleased to recommend that Nan Duncan and Ray Ross serve on the Deacon Team. If you have any concerns about either of these serving in this capacity, please contact one of the current elders or deacons.

Members will vote on Sunday, April 3.



Work Day

Mark your calendars now for a work day on Saturday, April 2 to spruce up our facilities. We'll begin at 8:00 AM and hope to be done by noon.



Church Family Picnic

When: Sunday, April 17 - following the 11:00 AM Worship Service

Where: Oakwood Community Church property

Why: Family fun and fellowship

What: Bring a picnic lunch for your family and join us for a fun afternoon, spending time with old friends and making new ones. Watch for more details.



Discovering Oakwood reception

Are you interested in finding out more about Oakwood Community Church and considering membership? You are invited to join us on Sunday, April 17 @ 10:00 AM in the Church Office Lobby for approximately 45 minutes. You will have opportunity to meet some of the elders, hear about our vision and learn about the process of becoming a member of Oakwood. Light refreshments will be served.

If you are interested in attending this reception, please contact the office (office@oakwoodfl.org or 813-969-2303) or indicate so on your *Connection Card* on 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.

Gift Cards and Grace - by Amy Simpson

I couldn't understand how my husband could lose so many things, until...



My husband has a history of losing things—or at least not keeping track of them as diligently as I'd like. On one of the most legendary occasions, he lost our checkbook and couldn't find it for weeks. We scoured our house and when it didn't turn up after a few weeks, we decided we'd better close our checking account. So we went to the bank and went through the rigmarole of closing the account and opening a new one, letting the checks clear, and starting over. About a week later, we went somewhere in the car he drove to work. Guess what? There was the checkbook, sitting on the dashboard right in front of him. He'd been overlooking it for weeks. Yeah, that went over well.

This may be the most legendary of my husband-losing-things stories, but it doesn't stand alone. Stories of what he's lost and forgotten are woven through our 17-year history as a married couple. Those 17 years have been quite happy, and he's a fantastic husband. But when you need someone to keep track of something, remember something, or make sure it gets done, you might want to find someone else. For a more recent example, my mother-in-law sent \$50 gift cards to our daughters this fall so they could buy some back-to-school clothes. Guess who lost them? Yeah, that's right. He threw away \$100.

Anyway, with a history like that, can you blame me if I'm a little quick to get irritated when something goes missing? For example, last month, as we were doing some Christmas shopping, we picked up some Starbucks gift cards for our kids' teachers. A couple of days later, as we were checking our list and checking it twice, he realized he didn't know where those gift cards went. He hadn't seen them after we got home. Since my husband had bought the cards with the kids while I was playing sneaky Santa in the toy department, I'd never seen the cards at all. Somehow he'd lost them.

You can imagine my irritation at the prospect of replacing the cards—not a huge expense, but wasted money nevertheless. My husband, who of course felt pretty bad, searched the house and the cars to no avail.

Great—gone. And just to make sure he really felt the remorse he should, I made sure he felt my irritation and heard my martyr-like sighs.

Now imagine my surprise the next day when I saw an e-mail announcement at work, saying that the local community center really appreciated the toys our staff had donated, but they were wondering about the Starbucks gift cards and teacher appreciation cards that were included in the collection. Maybe they'd accidentally tagged along with someone's donation?

Yeah. A big pie in the face for me. I'd brought the donated toys—which we'd purchased at the same time as the gift cards—to work and put them in the pile without checking to see whether anything else was in the bag. Oops.

And just to make sure he really felt the remorse he should, I made sure he felt my irritation and heard my martyr-like sighs.

I'm thankful that my husband is a wonderfully forgiving man, and we had a good laugh. But I learned a thing or two anyway. Pride, indeed, "goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18). And love "keeps no record of being wronged" (1 Corinthians 13:5). Two lessons I already knew but would have done well to remember.

ber.

How beautiful that God isn't like me. For those who've embraced Christ's atoning sacrifice on our behalf, he doesn't hold our sins against us. He doesn't shake his head at our weaknesses and sigh in irritation when we fail—again. Instead, he offers us grace at his own sacrifice. He covers our sins with that grace and makes us his children. How undeserving I am—and how grateful I feel to be called his child. At the start of a fresh new year, my shortcomings and sins once again remind me of our tremendously forgiving God and the tremendous grace he gives freely to all who believe. Happy new life!



Fundraising Opportunity

This Sunday, March 20, we will be assembling food bags right after the Worship Service. We have a huge order so we need as many workers as possible.

BUMP Training Session

Mark your calendars – the first training session to prepare for ministry this summer will be **Sunday, March 20** right after food bag preparation.

Break Away Retreat 2011 April 8-10

How Would You Like To...

- Break Away from your regular routine?
- Get out of the house for the weekend?
- Spend time with friends?
- Know God more?

Join us at Camp Geneva for a weekend retreat for all Middle and High School students

Our speaker is Brody Howell. Brody has served as a Youth Pastor for over 15 years in Charlotte, North Carolina as well as in Atlanta and Fort Lauderdale. Brody currently serves as a Family Pastor at First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale. He also serves as an area director for First Priority of South Florida which allows him the opportunity to share the Gospel with teenagers on public school campuses all over South Florida. Brody has been married to his wife Kelly for 17 years and they have four children.

Brody's theme for the weekend is ***Almost Original***.

Registration Details

Registration: \$110 by March 20

Late Registration: \$120 after March 20

Final registration deadline: March 27

All deadline dates are firm.

Some scholarships may be available. See Pastor Paul

For more details about the retreat and the camp, pick up a Retreat Brochure in PowerHouse or at the Information Center. This brochure includes important information about what you need to take to the camp.

Due to budget restraints, we do not currently have a Scholarship Fund. If you are interested in contributing to such a fund to help students in need to be able to attend the retreat, please designate your gift to "Scholarship Fund."





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:

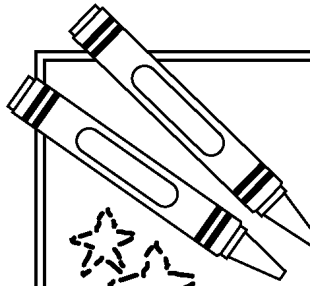
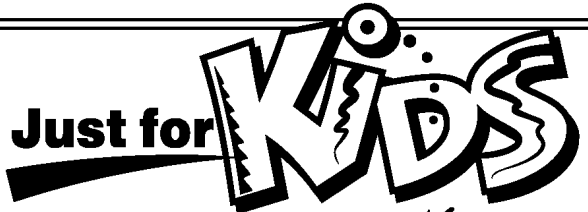
 Go outdoors – to a park, in your back yard or on a hike.

 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.



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
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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 19 - Community Group Olympics
- Mar 20 - Child Dedication in Worship Service
 - Compassion Offering
 - Teen Mission Trip Fundraiser - Food Bag Prep
 - BUMP Training begins
 - Potluck & Congregational Meeting



- Apr 2 - Work Day
- Apr 3 - Guest Speaker - Jerry Bridges
 - Members vote on Deacons
 - Blood Pressure checks
- Apr 5 - Missions Strategy Meeting
- Apr 6 - Team Tampa XII training begins
- Apr 8-10 - Youth Retreat
- Apr 10 - Board 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 25	Mar 30	Apr 2 - Apr 15
Apr 8	Apr 13	Apr 16 - Apr 29

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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