

the Oakwood
ACORN
A Chronicle Of our News

Seeds For Growth

RANDOM THOUGHTS

I love to hear or read a good story! I think it started with my dad as he got such a kick out of telling stories of his time in high school and the Air Force. He also had some stories from his jobs and his work at the church we attended when I was young. He enjoyed them so much that he still laughed with everyone else as he was relating the story for the tenth time.

As I mentioned in my last ACORN article, we have enjoyed some good stories in TreeHouse the last two months. We have been going through some of the parables of Jesus. Jesus was a master story teller. But most of his stories were told to emphasize a point and challenge the hearers. We learned that a parable has three elements. Each parable tells us something about God or Jesus. Each parable has a “twist” in it that causes us to listen carefully. And each parable causes us to think and make a decision. Each parable spoke directly to an attitude of the heart, but the parable that had an impact on me was the first one in our series. It is the parable of the Unforgiving Servant found in Matthew 18. It speaks of how much we have been forgiven by our Father and yet seem to have a difficult time forgiving others. Our Bible memory verse for that week was Matt. 6:14. It says that “if we forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.” So, as I am asking God to forgive me of my sin, I also need to ask myself if there is anyone I need to forgive. We need desperately to learn daily the lesson of extending grace to others, especially those who are Christ-followers (Gal. 6:10). Go forgive somebody today!

I am also looking forward to hearing some more stories from Rick and Brenda Smith when they get back from Liberia. As you recall, they are at a children’s home for two weeks helping in any capacity they can. They came back last year with some great stories of how God is using Rafiki to minister to the very disadvantaged kids in many areas of Africa. Continue to pray for Rick and Brenda these next two weeks.



I have been hearing some good stories in our Community Group, particularly answers to prayer. We prayed for a specific circumstance for one of our members. He needed a speaker for a function by a certain time. We asked and God answered. I like that kind of story. Don’t forget to pick up your copy

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Oakwood Community Church
 11209 Casey Rd
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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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LOOK at THIS!

Work Day

Oakwood will be having a work day **this Saturday, April 2, starting at 8:00 AM.** Donuts, milk, orange juice, and coffee will be provided for breakfast.

The focus will be campus-wide with the goal of sprucing up our property and facilities. There are things that everyone can do.

Please contact Ben Smith (bendsmith83@gmail.com; 813-968-4422) with interest or questions. Please bring a ladder if you have one.

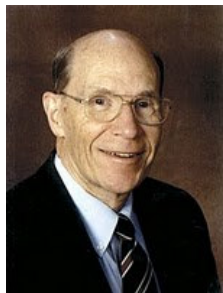


Deacon candidates

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 this Sunday, April 3.

Guest Speaker



This Sunday, April 3, we are privileged to have Christian author Dr. Jerry Bridges speaking in our Worship Services. His message title is “Abraham: Faith and Failure” from Gen. 12:1-3 and Heb. 11:8.

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. Our April prayer focus is centered on our leadership, PowerHouse youth retreat leaders & students, and our supported missionaries/ministries. Copies are available on our website (www.oakwoodfl.org/ministries/prayer-ministry) and at the information center.



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.

Seeds of Growth - *continued*

of the April Prayer Guide. I look forward to hearing some more stories from those who we are praying for in April.

I also love to hear the stories that Pete Kluck tells every time a new Bible translation team has completed its' work and another native tribe gets to hear and read the Bible for the first time in their language. I saw another video this week that showed the joy of a people group getting their shipment of Bibles and the celebration that occurred. It gives me chills every time. May we never take for granted the thrill we can get by having the Word of God in our hands.

I also know of some stories that many of you are living through right now. Some with a lot of drama; some with a bit of humor; some that seem to have no end in sight (like a school assignment to read "War and Peace!"). But I know who has seen the end of the story for you. Hebrews 12:2 says that Jesus is the "author and finisher of our faith" (NKJV). He is the master story teller and creator and the story (work) He has begun in us is not finished. He is still writing your story. For some, it may not seem to be enjoyable story now. But wait until you get to end of the story. It is going to be a thriller!

That's all I'm sayin'.

Dave Dorsey
Director of Ministries

Community Group Olympics

If you missed the 1st Annual Community Group Olympics on March 19, here is a sampling of what you missed:

Passing the flame



Lighting the torch



The smack talk begins!



The Winners

First Place (center) The Corinthians
Second Place (right) Brian and the Indelibles
Third Place (left) Pratt's Brats



Not part of a Community Group? Watch for our next **GroupLink** in the fall and get connected so you can be a part of the 2nd Annual Community Group Olympics!



Desperate Housewives? - by Cindy Sigler Dagnan

A humorous look at what Hollywood is really missing when they portray women at home.



I stumbled upon it during a recent fit of channeling surfing, brought on by the unexpected delight of actually having sole possession of the remote control. There she was, this so-called housewife—slick lips pouty with invitation (I'm guessing for all the hunky plumbers headed her way), elegantly upswept hair, silky bathrobe and (this was the kicker) no kids in sight. That was also the tip-off: she's an impostor.

Apparently that means the producers of *Desperate Housewives* need to hire me to act as reality counsel for the producers. From the few minutes I saw, their idea of reality is, um, just a bit different from mine. In fact, the disparity made me laugh so hard I snorted my Diet Coke with lime up my nose.

I put together this comparison chart, should those producers want to attempt realism.

Desperate Housewives Want: An egg-white omelet, fresh fruit, and dry toast for breakfast

Real Housewives Want: A Snickers and Diet Coke for breakfast. Don't a positive and a negative cancel each other out?

Desperate Housewives Want: Complete gardening service

Real Housewives Want: A neighborhood boy willing to mow the lawn for 10 bucks a week, including weed-eating.

Desperate Housewives Want: A live-in maid

Real Housewives Want: A monthly maid service discreet enough not to tell that they saw you throw everything in the dryer prior to their arrival so they wouldn't think your house was a wreck.

Desperate Housewives Want: A personal yoga instructor

Real Housewives Want: The ability to touch her toes without having a flabby tummy or post-nursing chest simultaneously touch her knees.

Desperate Housewives Want: Multiple illicit affairs

Real Housewives Want: The rarity of being awake long enough to make passionate love to just one man—her husband—once the Letterman monologue is over.

Desperate Housewives Want: Weekly manicures

Real Housewives Want: The hope that perhaps biting her nails while the residue of polish

remover remains might also whiten her teeth.

Desperate Housewives Want: Monthly pedicures

Real Housewives Want: She'd be okay with those.

Desperate Housewives Want: Occasional bikini waxes

Real Housewives Want: No matter what they say about losing modesty after childbirth, she can't imagine paying a stranger to view her nether parts while involving pain unless she was also paying them to extract an eight pound child from her body.

Desperate Housewives Want: Wildly fashionable coiffures

Real Housewives Want: Mildly fashionable highlights to cover either: (a) the gray hair caused by reluctantly meeting middle age, or (b) the bald spots that result from pulling out hair after six consecutive snow days with multiple children under the age of 10.

Desperate Housewives Want: Trendy clothing

Real Housewives Want: Someone to help her locate the body she had that actually fit into trendy clothing; while they're at it, could somebody tell her who is running around with her neck?

Desperate Housewives Want: Plastic surgery

Real Housewives Want: A bra that lifts, separates, and promises to permanently keep all pertinent chest parts pointing north, even while running behind the baby jogger.

Desperate Housewives Want: A shallow marriage or an "easy" divorce

Real Housewives Want: A 50th wedding anniversary with the guy she married. That wonderful man who is equally at home racing Hot Wheels with his son or having imaginary tea parties with his daughter. The man who can still make her heart race when his car pulls in the drive.

Come to think of it, that's quite a list. And there's nothing desperate about it.

Cindy Dagnan is the deliriously happy, chronically sleepy wife of one remarkable man and mother of four little girls. She is also a speaker and author of five books, including [Hot Chocolate for Couples: Practical Ways to Sweeten Your Love Life](#) (Harvest House Publishers).

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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

Late Registration: \$120 after March 20

It isn't too late to register

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.



Sunday night PowerHouse Teens Ministry

Every Sunday night students 6-12 grades are invited to the PowerHouse. Doors open at 5:00 PM and students should be picked up by 7:30. The snack bar is open at 5:00 PM. Parents are welcome to come and see what happens at our youth meetings. Our actual meeting starts about 5:30 and ends at 7:00 PM.

Kids Corner

In Spring
we see
many changes
in nature



**Make a Bug Jar to watch
a caterpillar change.**

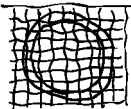
You will need:

✿ a peanut
butter jar



✿ a metal canning jar lid
to fit jar (it has a hole
in the top)

✿ a small piece of screen
cut to fit top
of jar plus
a little extra



✿ a branch that fits
in the jar

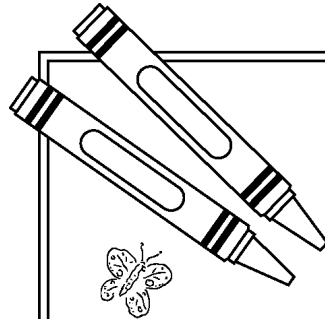
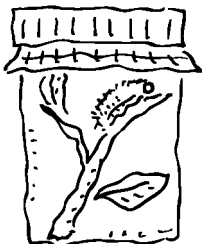
✿ a caterpillar



How to do it:

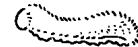
1. Put branch in jar
2. Put caterpillar in jar
3. Add some favorite leaves for caterpillar food
4. Lay the screen on top
5. Screw the lid in place
6. Watch what happens!

***You can
use your
Bug Jar
to watch
other
"bugs"
too!**



Just for KIDS

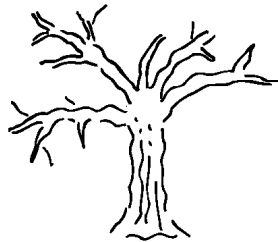
Changes



Everyone experiences changes in life.
Sometimes they make us happy - sometimes not!
What does the Bible say about this?

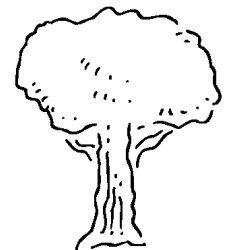


Find Ecclesiastes 3:1 below.
Change some letters - then read the verse.



Change:
L's to T's
J's to E's
Q's to I's
K's to S's

W's to N's
Z's to O's
P's to H's
X's to R's
B's to A's

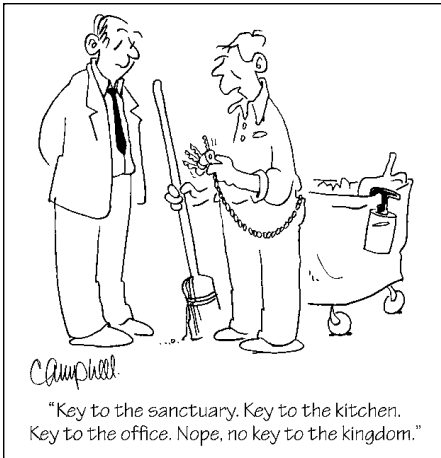


“
L P J X J Q S B
L Q M J F Z X
J V J X Y L P Q W G' B W D
B K J B K Z W F Z X
J V J X Y B C L Q V Q L Y
U W D J X P J B V J W”

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.”



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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



Apr 2 - Work Day
 Apr 3 - Guest Speaker - Jerry Bridges
 - Members vote on Deacons
 - Blood Pressure checks
 Apr 6 - Team Tampa XII training begins
 Apr 8-10 - Youth Retreat
 Apr 10 - Board Meeting

Apr 13 - MISCOM Meeting
 Apr 17 - *Palm Sunday*
 - Compassion Offering
 - *Discovering Oakwood* seminar
 - Picnic following Worship
 Apr 22 - *Good Friday*
 Apr 24 - *Easter Sunday*

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...
Apr 8	Apr 13	Apr 16 - Apr 29
Apr 22	Apr 27	Apr 30 - May 13

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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