



ACORN

Seeds for Growth

Easter After Burner!

Easter 2013 has come and gone. As I mentioned before, this is my favorite time of year, even better than Christmas. I love the remembrance of the resurrection of Jesus. He is risen indeed!

A number of years ago, Martha and I were given a special gift by some friends. It is a picture of two men walking along a road with Jesus. It is the picture of the story in Luke 24. This is the story of two men on the road to Emmaus right after the crucifixion. They were walking when Jesus came up beside them. These men had witnessed the death of Jesus and with that death; their hopes seemed to be dashed. Jesus asked them what they were talking about. Not recognizing Jesus, one of the men asked an incredible question. He asked Jesus, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” Jesus continued this curious conversation by asking, “What things?” They proceeded to tell Jesus about the crucifixion and their hope that Jesus would be the deliverer of Israel. They spoke of the sorrow they felt in Jesus’ death and bewilderment by the message they heard from “some women of our company” that had been to the tomb and found it empty. The passage indicates these men had been with the disciples of Jesus when all of this occurred.

The next part of the passage is the best part. Jesus makes a direct statement to the condition of their heart. He calls them “foolish ones and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!” He then prepares to give the first known lesson of systematic theology to these two men! In verse 27 it says, “Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” How amazing! Little did these men know they would experience such a divine interruption on their trip. We may not recognize it when we have such interruptions in our day and we certainly may not get such a great Bible lesson in those interruptions but we may be missing something Jesus Christ wants to teach us through the experiences. These guys got the greatest lesson ever and they had enough sense to finally recognize it and then tell somebody. They went back to Jerusalem and found the eleven disciples and others who were with them and gave them the report.



Continued on Page 5

Oakwood Community Church
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www.oakwoodfl.org

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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Discovering Oakwood



Sunday April 21
12:00—1:45 PM

Whether you are just curious, somewhat interested, or ready for more involvement, your leaders would like to connect with you more personally and convey to you our vision and core convictions. We'd also like to help you grasp how you can be a more fully engaged player in what God is doing through Oakwood and consider if membership is God's plan for you.

We want to assure you that *Discovering Oakwood* does not obligate you to become a member, though you will fill us with joy if you choose to do so.

Here's our invitation to you:

- What:** Pizza lunch and elder interaction
- When:** April 21, 12:00 – 1:45 PM
- Where:** Children's Ministry Building
- Cost:** Free! Childcare will be provided after the lunch

Please help us plan appropriately for lunch and childcare by filling out the registration form in your weekly Worship Program or contact the Church Office to register by **Wednesday, April 17**. Contact the Church Office if you have further questions.

Beach Fun & Baptism Day



Everyone is invited to join us for an afternoon and evening of fun at the beach. Bring chairs, and your own picnic meal. This is a relaxed way for us to enjoy fun and fellowship together. It will be on **Sunday, May 12** beginning mid afternoon through evening ("come and go as you please"). The location is at Sand Key Beach, just south of Clearwater.

At 4:00 PM we will also baptize those who have stepped across the line of faith to trust Jesus as their Forgiver and Leader. This is the key ceremony that Jesus prescribed to us to publicly declare and mark the beginning of our trusting Christ and our intention to be one of His fully devoted followers. If you desire to be baptized at the beach, please contact the Church Office by May 1 at the latest. Information about the meaning and procedure for baptism is available on our website at www.oakwoodfl.org – scroll to the bottom of the home page and choose Reference Documents, then scroll down to the Special Observances section and choose the age appropriate information on Baptism. If you don't have web access, contact the Church Office and we will provide you with the information.



You may also be baptized at just about any time of the year in conjunction with your Community Group or a special gathering that we can assemble with you at someone's pool or lake. (That's right; you get your choice of salt water, fresh water, or chlorinated water!) Ask your Community Group Leader, Pastor Paul, Dave Dorsey, or one of our elders to arrange this significant event with you.

Watch for more details on our *Beach Fun & Baptism Day* on directions and specifically where we will meet at the beach.

PowerHouse Talent Night



Everyone is invited to come and support our talented teens as they perform on Sunday, April 14, 5:30 PM in the Worship Center. Desserts will be available for purchase.

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?

Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, May 5 we will be having an OCC Family Meeting right after the Worship Service. The meeting will begin a few minutes after the end of the Worship Service and will last no longer than 45 minutes. The Elders want to allow sufficient time for questions and comments from our church family.



Childcare will be available for those who sign up at the Welcome Center in TreeHouse or at the Information Center in the Worship Center lobby.

Child-care help needed



Naomi's Daughters, our ministry to single moms, meets the first and third Tuesday night of each month. We need help with childcare on these nights for the children of the moms, so they can have time for their Bible study time.

If you can help with this need, please contact Beth Ross at 813-758-2423

Pictorial Directory

We are planning to do a Pictorial Directory for the Oakwood family. This is being done in-house, so you won't have any pressure to purchase pictures—we just want to have face recognition photos to be included.

If you are interested in helping with some of the administrative aspects of this project, please contact Martha Dorsey in the Church Office.

Coming soon—details on dates for you to sign up for your photo.





TreeHouse Volunteers needed

We have a number of TreeHouse volunteers who give of their time every week to minister to our wonderful children. We like to give this team of workers a break for the summer. Will you give us a hand and teach for a week, a month, or the summer? Please contact Dave Dorsey at 813-969-2303 or dave@oakwoodfl.org if you are interested in volunteering your time.



Move Up Sunday

Move Up Sunday is June 9 for all children of the TreeHouse. What is *Move Up Sunday*? All children will move up to the school grade that they will be in this August. This allows them to develop relationships with children that they will be worshipping with through High School.

Graduating 5th Graders will be recognized during the Worship Services on June 10. They are welcome to join us in TreeHouse and PowerHouse throughout the summer.

Opportunities to *Serve The Church & World*

Cookies for Prisoners



Ray Ross will be going to Polk Correctional Institution with Kairos Prison Ministry International April 18-21.

Supplying meals and cookies during this event are part of the program. Donations of store bought non-fruit filled packaged cookies are requested; Fig Newtons are okay. No home made or fresh bakery made cookies are allowed into the prison.



If you are interested in making a donation, there will be a bin located in the lobby area through April 14.

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



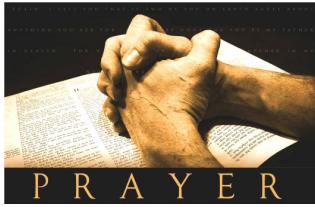
Your continued donations of **new or gently worn clothes and non-perishable foods** are greatly appreciated. Donations can be left on the screened area in the back of the gray house on our property. There are bins provided along with tax deductible forms. **Pantry needs:** cereal, canned goods, rice, 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.

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.

Your April Prayer Guide is available on the Information Center and on our website.

National Day of Prayer

The Tampa Rally for the 62nd Annual National Day of Prayer will take place Friday, May 3, 2013. Millions will unite in prayer at thousands of events from coast to coast. The theme, “**Pray For America,**” is based on the verse from **.Psalm 33:12** which states: “*Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.*”

You are encouraging to attend the city-wide prayer rally at Steinbrenner Field on Friday, May 3 at 7:00 PM. Steinbrenner Field is directly across the street from Raymond James Stadium on Dale Mabry. Special Guest Speaker Reinhard Bonnke.



Seed for Growth—*continued*

Jesus Christ is alive! For those of us who know Him, we have things that happen all the time that remind us of this fact. I am struck by the statement these two men make when they finally realized they were with Jesus. “Did our hearts not burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures?” May our hearts burn when we recognize these “interruptions” that come in our lives and also when we read the Bible and get a greater understanding of the awesome God we serve!

There is still time to get the April Prayer Guide. We are praying through the names of Jesus this month. Great stuff! Also, good to be praying for the Team Tampa XIV (this is 14 for you non-Romans) going to the Czech Republic this summer. Pray for their preparation and financial support. We are blessed to have a great relationship with the Brno Christian Fellowship that has allowed us to be a part of seeing many in the Czech come to understand who Jesus is and the difference He can make in their lives. Great stuff here too!

That’s all I’m saying today

Dave Dorsey
Director of Ministries



PowerHouse Schedule

Apr 14—PowerHouse Talent Night

Apr 21—Food Bag Ministry

BUMP Training

Regular Evening Meeting

Apr 28—Regular Evening 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 Cindy Giannone at (813) 969-4136.

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, April 21** 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, April 19. Meet at Aldi at Bearss & Florida Ave. at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple) if you want to help. For more details contact Cindy Giannone at (813) 969-4136.

Graduate Recognition



We would like to honor our graduates – whether from High School or College. Please loan us five or so pictures of your graduating student from infancy to graduation and a short bio of their future plans. These will be part of a graduation recognition video presentation on June 2. Pictures are due in to the Church Office no later than May 12. If you prefer, you may email digital photos to Doug-cress@outlook.com or put printed photos in the “Church Office” mail slot in the Worship Center kitchen. Please include what school they are graduating from and their future plans.





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—Pt 3—David & Claudia Arp

The Later Years - Marriage's Second-Half

Over a lifetime, most couples will spend as many years together *without* children living at home as they do with kids underfoot. Unfortunately, when the last child moves out many couples go through a period of major crisis.

We entered this stage with a low supply of emotional energy. While our kids were growing up, we did our best to support one another. But we were often overwhelmed by the demands of our three adolescent sons. There was little time left to devote to our friendship, let alone intimacy. So when our sons left home we had to redefine our relationship, renew the love and try to regain the close companionship that characterized the beginning of our marriage. Here are three important steps to take.

1. Redefine your marital focus. When the kids leave, you are faced with a difficult shift: the transition from a child-focused marriage to a more partner-focused relationship. As couples redefine their relationship, it either becomes more intimate or it slowly disintegrates.

In public, Frank and Sue were the happy couple; but in private, both were becoming more desperate. Sue had focused the previous 20 years on raising the children and being involved in community activities. Frank, a nuclear scientist, had concentrated on the world of atoms and particles. They loved their children, but the reality of living together without having the kids around made them apprehensive. They needed to refocus on each other and what they have in common.

In her book *The Good Marriage: How and Why Love Lasts* (Houghton Mifflin), Judith S. Wallerstein writes, "The sense of being part of a couple is what consolidates modern marriage. It is the strongest rampart against the relentless threat of our divorce culture. To become partner-focused means continually adjusting to each other."

It also requires readjusting your relationship with your now-adult children. You must become willing to let go—to release your children. If the kids being on their own makes you feel needy or insecure, lean on your mate for strength and support.

Once you let go of your kids, it's time to reconnect with them on an adult level. Your home may be emptied of children, but your love and concern for them never empties. And

when they marry, you'll need to work at expanding the family circle. Healthy relationships with your adult children, their spouses and your grandchildren will enrich the second half of your marriage. At the same time, you need a life together that is separate from outsiders.

2. Become close companions. With fewer responsibilities to your kids, your marriage can become more personal and more fulfilling. At this time of life a gender shift begins to occur that can increase your potential for building an even closer relationship. Many women become more focused and assertive, and are eager to try their professional wings—especially if they dedicated the first half of their adult life to nurturing and parenting their children. Simultaneously, many husbands decide to slow down and enjoy life more. For men over 50, work may not be so important. These changes, when handled wisely, can produce new creativity, deeper meaning and renewed playfulness to help you become closer companions.

3. Keep seeking what is best. Every day brings a new opportunity to build your marriage. As you live out your marriage, concentrate on these relationship enhancers:

—Accept each other. Let go of past disappointments, choose to forgive each other and commit to making the rest of your marriage the best of your marriage. Holding on to grudges will prevent you from developing a new, more loving marriage.

—Become best friends. Stretch your boundaries and grow together. The greatest indicator of successful marriage is the couple's friendship.

—Have some fun! You got married in the first place because you enjoyed being together. Friendship, humor and fun is serious business. So wherever you are in your marriage journey, take time to enjoy each other and celebrate your partnership.

When you look ahead to your 50th anniversary, what do you want your marriage to look like? At our 50th, we hope others will notice how much we enjoy each other, are intimate friends and are still growing, changing and adapting to each other.

Whether you've been married four months or four decades, one thing is true. The best is yet to come.

Kids Corner

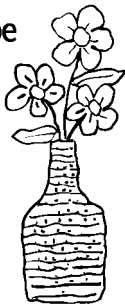
April showers
bring
spring flowers!



Make a vase to hold some of the beautiful spring flowers that you find.

You will need:

- ✿ a bottle with an interesting shape (salad dressing, juice, ketchup)
- ✿ white glue
- ✿ paintbrush
- ✿ yarn



Directions:

Brush some glue on the bottle, starting at the bottom. Work on a small area at a time. Wind the yarn around the bottle. Hold it in place until the glue begins to dry. Continue brushing on glue and winding the yarn around until the bottle is completely covered.



Isaiah 35:1-2

One sign of spring and rebirth is the appearance of flowers and plants in our yards, woods, fields and gardens.

Use the code to find this verse in Isaiah that reminds us of spring and rebirth.

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✿ H	✿ I	✿ J	☀ K	🌳 L	🎵 M	🐱 N
✿ O	✿ P	✿ Q	😊 R	🌳 S	🎵 T	🐦 U
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The desert and the parched land will be glad; it will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.



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

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



Apr 14—Board Meeting
 PowerHouse Talent Night
 Apr 21—Compassion Offering
 Discovering Oakwood seminar
 PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry
 PowerHouse BUMP Training
 Apr 23—PowerHouse Leaders Meeting
 Apr 28—Blood Mobile @ Oakwood



May 5—Blood Pressure checks following Worship
 May 12—*Mother’s Day*
 Beach Party & Baptism
 May 19—Compassion Offering
 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...
Apr 19	Apr 24	Apr 27—May 10
May 3	May 8	May 11—May 24

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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