

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



ACORN

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.



From the Interim

The Search Team is in the trenches battling hard to move toward discovering God’s selection for the next Lead Pastor of Oakwood. They are to be highly commended for tenaciously wading through the piles of profiles and sermons that have landed in their laps.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 has been a driving force sustaining them: “...a cord of three strands is not easily broken...” Like many other expressions in the Wisdom Books of the Bible, that is a “*proverbial phrase*”. In other words, it does not literally mean three strands. The emphasis is simply that “*there is strength in numbers*”. It shouts out the idea of synergy; that two can accomplish more together than each working alone can accomplish.

An additional driving force for the Search Team has been Proverbs 11:14: “*In the multitude of counselors there is safety.*” Each man and woman on the team has modeled the humility that this verse implies. They each believe that the thinking of the whole is superior to the thinking of one. There is an immense relief in that no one person’s perspective is what the call of the next Lead Pastor rests on. Rather, God is at work through the thinking of the whole.

The Search Team continues to labor well looking for a leader who is not perfect, but one who is committed to the following:

- **Shepherding the Shepherds...**
Leadership Development has been identified as a key priority in Oakwood. It is critical that he be gifted at identifying men who are called men of character, competence, and chemistry and at equipping them to reach for their Bibles as a Shepherd reaches for the “*rod and the staff*” to guide and guard the flock.
- **Seeing no conflict between Grace and Truth...**
John’s Gospel records that Christ was the full expression of all the God-head in His body and clarifies that fullness as being “*full of Grace and Truth*”. In other words, He was not a balance between the two, but the full expression of both all the time. We tend to think that the presence of one at some degree necessitates the absence or the diminishing of the other. A key question – “*Was Christ acting with truth and without grace when He drove the greed out of the Temple, saying, ‘You have made My Father’s house of prayer a house of thieves’!*”? No, He was not lacking in grace.

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Easter Season Services

Be sure to invite your family and friends to join you for our Easter services.

Good Friday– April 14, 7:00 PM: “*Jesus, the Lamb*”; John 1:29-34

John the Baptist knew Who Jesus was, “*The Lamb God...The Son of God!*” The trail left by The Son of God is a bloody one. Why? Because, “*Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.*”

PLEASE NOTE: Childcare will be available for pre-school children during this service. Activity sheets will be available for elementary age children.

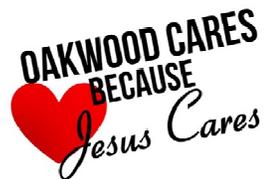
Easter Sunday– April 16, 10:30 AM: “*Jesus, the Victor*”; John 20:1-9

The women were the first to report that Jesus was alive. The disciples had to see for themselves so two of them ran to the tomb to find it empty. “*When they saw they believed.*” “*More blessed are those who have not seen, but have believed.*”

PLEASE NOTE: There are no Education Classes at 9:15 on Easter Sunday, only the Worship Service at 10:30 AM. Nursery and our full TreeHouse Children’s Ministry will be available during the service.



Oakwood Cares Event



Free Self-Defense Classes
Wednesday Nights - April 19, 26
7:00-8:30 pm
PowerHouse Building

Don't be scared. Be aware and get prepared.

Come listen and learn or participate if you'd like to learn some defensive moves in these 4 sessions. No physical requirements or concerns. Feel free to invite neighbors and friends. Those who joined us previously are encouraged to return as Mike will bring a partner to help demonstrate some new moves.



There is no charge for these classes. You will have an opportunity to purchase items or private classes if desired but there is no pressure to do so. Note: You do not need to attend all sessions.

Our instructor, Mike Kennedy, has more than 35 years of experience, as a former homeland security officer and US Army Col. (Retired). Mike is a Christian and husband to wife Tammy and father of grown daughters. Learn more about his company and services on Facebook: [Triple T Defense](#).

Questions can be directed to OakwoodCares@gmail.com.

Work Day

Saturday, April 22—8:30 AM—Noon

We are looking for Small Groups, families and friends to have a great time of fellowship and work together on projects inside and out at Oakwood.



Projects include:

- Pruning tree roots
- Light bulb replacement in Parking Lot
- Filling in pot holes
- Building a wooden cover to protect air conditioning pipes

We appreciate your help—whether you can come for an hour or for the morning. If you have questions, please contact Dave Fowle at david-fowle1@gmail.com.

Prayer Chain Ministry

The purpose of Oakwood's **E-Prayer Connection** is to communicate prayer requests for our fellow Oakwood members, our families, friends, others personally known to us, and the ministries of our church.



If you would like to partner in prayer for the needs of our church family, send your full name and email address to ekrex@verizon.net with Prayer Chain Ministry in the subject line. You can also send prayer requests for the Prayer Chain to this same email address.

Prayer Focus

Our Prayer Team provides a guide for specific weekly prayer requests for our church family and missionaries we support. You will find the weekly Prayer Focus printed on the Announcement Sheet in your Worship Program.

Attention Women

Women's Salad Luncheon



Sunday April 23 (after the Worship Service)
In the Children's Ministry Building
Bring a salad to share!

Drop it off at the info desk in the morning if it needs refrigeration.

Please RSVP on the back of your Connection Card this Sunday to help us plan appropriately.

Just for Joy women's Bible study meets on **Tuesday mornings from 10:00—11:30 AM** in Room 106 of the Education Building.

We are currently studying the book of Malachi. Study guides are \$7.

Contact Sandy Wyatt at slwyatt7@gmail.com or call 813-960-8168 for more details.

Opportunity to *Serve the World*

Naomi's Daughters is a ministry for single moms that provides clothing and food to the moms and their children. The Oakwood family, along with others in the community, provides donations of clothing, food and money to keep this ministry moving forward.



Daughters



Current needs –Clothing and shoes for infants to adults; school supplies

Pantry needs: cereal, canned goods, rice, pasta, paper goods, personal care items, etc.

Donations can be left on the back porch of the gray house at the front of our property. Tax Deductible receipts are available.

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.

Oakwood Mill



The *Oakwood Mill* class entitled Oakwood 201 has concluded.

The class led by Guy Sas on The Book of Acts will continue through the spring session. This class meets in the Library (Room 102-104) in the Education Building. Feel free to join this class if you desire to continue attending a Sunday morning education class.

Oakwood Mill suspends classes during the summer.

Our Daily Bread

The excellent daily devotional guide, *Our Daily Bread*, can help you experience the presence of God throughout your busy day by helping you focus your thoughts on Him.

Pick up your free copy from the Information Center in the lobby or you can download the App on your smart phone or tablet and get the devotional sent directly to you every day.



From The Interim—continued

Around Him were His disciples who He was preparing to be the foundation of His church. Around Him were potential worshipers who were yet far from God who were being given a wrong perspective on how to have a relationship with God. His Father’s acceptable form of worship was being replaced with a man-made form that gave no one hope of a forever relationship with God. It was an act full of Grace and Truth.

For a list of other key qualities, go to our website and click on the Pastoral Search tab and read through the Pastor Profile.

Prayer is critical all the time which is why the Apostle, full of the Spirit said, “*Pray without ceasing.*” There were times in Christ’s life when He uniquely and intentionally committed Himself to pray. I do hope you will join Elaine and me in making this one of those seasons for intentional prayer.



Enjoying the journey serving OCC for Christ!

Larry Chute
IPM Interim

Financial Update

2017 Financial Update for March:		
	Actual	Budget
YTD Offerings Received	92,949	
YTD Expenses	106,307	114,384
Offerings Over/(Under) Exp	(13,358)	(21,435)

Online Giving. Did you know that you can make financial contributions to Oakwood through our website? You can give one time or set up for recurring donations. Visit www.oakwoodfl.org and click “Give Online” on the right side of the menu on the home page.

Oakwood Directory—Online

Did you know that you can access the Oakwood Directory from our website? Access the directory by clicking “Member Login” on the top line (left side above “Home”) of the home page or under “Directory and Giving History” on the right side of any other page.

If you haven’t registered yet, you will be prompted to do so. You will then have access to your personal records, including your giving report, and an Oakwood directory. We must have the email address you are using to register in our database in order for you to log in. Please be assured that only you can see your personal information.



PowerHouse Schedule

Apr 16—No Meeting—Easter
 Apr 24—Regular Evening Meeting
 May 7—Regular Evening Meeting
 May 14—*Mother's Day*—No PowerHouse Meeting
 May 21—Graduate Recognition, Food Bags & Haiti training, Slip-n-Slide Kickball

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 second Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag prep day is **Sunday, May 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, May 19. Meet at Aldi at Bearss & Florida Ave. at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple—813.265.9895) if you want to help. For more details on deliveries, contact Cindy Gianone at (813) 969-4136.



Youth Bake Sale



Please support our youth on **Sunday, April 30**, as they raise money for their upcoming ministry/missions trip to Haiti in July. We have 11 student and four adult leaders going on the trip.

Tables will be set up after the Worship Service. Dessert before lunch! Bring your sweet tooth!!

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, what school they are graduating from, and information on their future plans. These will be part of a Graduation Recognition video presentation on May 21. Pictures are due in to Doug Cress no later than May 14. 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.



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Our Vocation & Volunteer Staff

Interim Pastor—Larry Chute
 Director of Ministries & Coordinator of Children’s
 Ministry—Dave Dorsey
 Director of PowerHouse Ministry—Cam Whipple
 Office Manager—Martha Dorsey
 Secretary—Melanie Hoglievina

Our Elder Team

Mark Beale
 Edson Bustamante
 Larry Chute
 John Schneider
 Rob Weyand

Our Deacon Team

David Conner
 Dave DePagter
 David Fowle
 Larry Giannone
 Brian Johnson
 Mike Wyatt

Office hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Education Classes:

Sundays—9:15 AM

Worship:

Sundays—10:30 AM

Calendar at a Glance



Apr 14—Good Friday Service
 April 16—*Easter*
 Apr 17—Elder/Deacon Teams meet
 Apr 19—Self-Defense Class
 April 22—Work Day
 Apr 23—Oakwood Cares Team Meeting
 Women’s Salad Luncheon

Apr 24—Elder Team Meeting
 April 26—Self-Defense Class
 Pastoral Search Team Meeting
 April 30—Fifth Sunday—Youth Lead Worship
 Youth Bake Sale

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 21	Apr 26	Apr 29—May 12
May 5	May 10	May 13—May 26

Missed a Sunday message? Listen online @ www.oakwoodfl.org/messages/