



ACORN

Random Thoughts

We heard some good and challenging stuff from God’s Word last Sunday. I am still pondering today my Next Steps from Pastor Paul’s message. Good reminders of what forgiveness is and is not. I had a good conversation with a dear friend on Monday. This friend mentioned that all of us have experienced some kind of relational hurt at some point in our lives. So, we all have the opportunity to extend grace and forgive those “that trespass against us.” The hardest thing that I heard is to pray for God’s blessing into the life of the person who hurt me and, as the opportunity arises, do something kind for them. That is so counterintuitive. As I hear that and ask the Lord to help me put it into action, I realize how much of the walk of faith is against our culture. This is part of the radical life Jesus calls us to live every day.

How is your prayer life going this year? As you have heard, our vision for the next two years is **Expand Our Territory Together**. This is a vision the elders of Oakwood believe God has called us to follow. But we cannot do this without the Lord’s strength. We all need to be asking the Lord to help accomplish great things through us individually and as a whole church. The 2012 Prayer Guides are helping me focus on some key areas. This week we are thanking God for the work of the Holy Spirit. The May Prayer Guide will be in your Worship Program this Sunday. Extra copies will also be available in the Information Center. Thanks to Adrienne Smith (and Evangeline!), Terri Johnson and Alisa Linares for their work on this project.

Also concerning prayer, Oakwood is supporting the National Day of Prayer by encouraging all to attend the city-wide prayer rally at Steinbrenner Field on May 3 at 7 PM. Steinbrenner Field is directly across the street from Raymond James Stadium on Dale Mabry. This is a great opportunity for the body of Christ in Tampa to convene and worship and pray for our country. In I Timothy 2:2, we are commanded to pray for “those in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.” No matter the political perspective, God tells us to pray. It is vital as we head into the national election season.

In TreeHouse with the 1st through 5th grade group, we are going through a series called “Post It Notes From God.” Last Sunday, the Post It Note said “I Have A Plan For You.” God has a plan for each of our kids that is unique. God also has a plan for Oakwood. It is to Love Him; to Grow in Community and Serve the Church and the World. That plan is for us as a whole and also for me individually. In I John, we are told we show that we love God by loving those in the family; being in community. In Matthew 25, Jesus blesses those who serve others with no other motivation except to serve. May we be obedient to this call on our lives Him; love others; and put it into action by serving.



That’s all I’m saying today.

Dave Dorsey
Director of Ministries

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



Inside this issue:

OCC Olympics	2
Move Up Sunday	3
Beach Day & Baptism	3
Prayer	4
PowerHouse News	5
Marriage Matters	6
Kids Corner	7
Calendar at a Glance	8



Community Group Olympics

Everyone is invited

This Saturday, April 28, 7:00-9:00 PM at Oakwood
The 2nd Annual Community Group Olympics.

If you missed the Olympics last year, you missed a lot of fun. There were games, there was laughter, there was fellowship, there was food, there were prizes! Below is a sample of the events.

It will not be your traditional, run, jump, lift, ski, swim kind of thing. No pulled hamstrings, unless you can pull one laughing. We will be doing mind benders, fun team things, and simple old fashioned silly things. One game uses toothpicks and lifesavers... you get the point.

If you want to laugh, and get to know people at Oakwood, this is your kind of thing. You never know who is really competitive until you see them in action.

You don't have to be part of a Community Group to attend.

Contact Eric Pratt —espratt28@gmail.com— to RSVP





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.



PROMOTION SUNDAY

Move Up Sunday

Move Up Sunday is June 10 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.

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 **Saturday, June 2 (note date change)** beginning mid afternoon through evening (“come and go as you please”). The location is at Pass-a-Grille Beach (St. Petersburg).

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

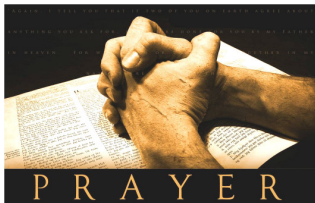
National Day of Prayer

The 61st Annual National Day of Prayer will take place Thursday, May 3, 2012. Millions will unite in prayer at thousands of events from coast to coast. The theme, “**One National Under God**”, 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 May 3 at 7:00 PM. Steinbrenner Field is directly across the street from Raymond James Stadium on Dale Mabry.



Sunday Morning Prayer



Another opportunity to pray—Every Sunday morning from 10:30 - 10:50 in the Worship Center kitchen you will find a pair of Oakwoodians leading prayer. Everyone is invited, as you feel led, to join in this guided prayer time.

Prayer Guide

Oakwood Community Church is *fueling* the new vision of **Expanding Our Territory, Together** united with **Love ~ Grow ~ Serve**. In May, we will be focusing on how we can Love God, the Holy Spirit and how that will affect our service for the church in the world both for those who are near and like us or far and unlike us.



Your May Prayer Guide will be available this Sunday in your Worship Program or at the Information Center or view it on our website.

Opportunity to Serve The Church & World

Many of you know that we provide a ministry for single moms in the gray house. It is our *Naomi's Daughters* ministry 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.

Currently, this ministry opens once a month, typically on the 3rd Saturday of the month, for any single mom in need. ***We have now added a small food pantry of non-perishables for the moms as well.*** 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. There are bins provided along with tax deductible forms. 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 the door of the gray house.





PowerHouse Schedule

April 29—Regular Youth Group Meeting—*Firm Conviction (The Spies)*

May 6—Regular Youth Group Meeting—*Equipped and Exalted (Joshua)*

May 13—*Mother's Day*—No Youth Group Meeting

May 20—*Grad Olympics*

May 27—Regular Youth Group Meeting—*A Powerful Death (Samson)*

June 3—Regular Youth Group Meeting—*Risk and Grace (Rahab)*

June 10—School is OUT Party!

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 3. Pictures are due in to the Church Office no later than May 6. If you prefer, you may email them to marylynn@oakwoodfl.org or put them in the “Church Office” mail slot in the Worship Center kitchen.

PH Food Bag Fundraisers

PowerHouse teens can raise money for summer mission/conference trips by participating in our monthly Food Bag Fundraisers typically on the third Sunday of each month. Due to the student Spring Break Mission trip, our next Food Bag Prep fundraiser is **Sunday, May 20**, 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 18. Meet at the Save-A-Lot on Bearss Ave at 5:00 PM if you want to help. For more details contact Sandy Clarke at 931-0668.

Food Bag Delivery Drivers Needed

Our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland and Haines City. We are in need of people who can help with delivery of these food bags, especially to Lakeland and Haines City. 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.



Your Gift or Mine? - Pt 2

Kirsetin K. Morello

In the last issue of the *ACORN*, we looked at:

Start at the Beginning

- *Begin with prayer.*
- *Be receptive.*
- *Analytical assessments.*

If you missed Part 1, you can read it on our website.

Share your insight. Your spouse can be an invaluable asset as you sort through the tools and assessments and contemplate your gifts. We can be blind to our own gifts, but our spouses see our attributes anew! I've been leading groups since I was the captain of my high school basketball team. In college, I held an office in my sorority and handled the budget and plans for redesigning our living suite. As an adult, I've chaired committees in both corporate and volunteer organizations. It seems like it would have been an obvious transition for me to serve my church community by using my leadership skills, but it wasn't. To me, leadership seemed more like a natural ability. It was my husband who helped me recognize that my leadership skills are a spiritual gift and encouraged me to use them to serve our church.

Think about your own marriage: Husbands, when a friend has surgery, does your wife immediately create a plan to have others take them dinner for a week? Wives, does your husband offer words of encouragement to his buddies who are having a tough time in the job market? When you pay attention to these kinds of details, you can help each another recognize spiritual gifts you can use to fortify your church community.

Encourage one another. Although my husband was great at encouraging me to use my gifts, I wasn't always as enthusiastic about encouraging him. Part of the problem was that in the months that followed our honeymoon I had a vision for what married life would look like. Early on, this was one of my biggest stumbling blocks: Grabbing a quick dinner and going our separate ways for the night didn't figure into my carefully crafted newlywed plans. I felt selfish for wanting to stay home and curl up next to my husband, but I felt angry when one of us had a serving commitment that interfered with my evening plans.

I divulged my feelings to a friend, who didn't judge or chastise me. Instead, she kindly explained that I was having a normal human reaction. Hallelujah! I was normal. My friend also shared with me that God wants us to serve one another joyfully, in love, not to show up grumpy and resentful. With my relatively immature faith, this was a tough concept for me. It was so hard to serve in love when I wanted to be home on the couch! I realized, though, that my attitude was also affecting my husband's ability to serve joyfully. When he felt bad serving others because I was irritated, nobody won. It took time, and a measure of spiritual maturity, but eventually I was able to encourage him in spite of myself. As I saw the contributions he made in the lives of others, I began to embrace the time he invested in serving them.

Look for Part 3 of this article in the next issue if the *ACORN*.

[Editor's note – Oakwood has a Spiritual Gifts Assessment tool. Contact the office for more info.]

Kirsetin K. Morello
is a writer who lives
in Michigan. She is
the author of I Want
to Teach My Child
About Media
(Standard Publishing).

*Used with permis-
sion*

Kids Corner

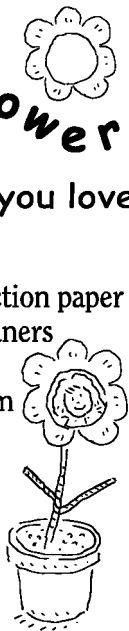
Make a

photo Flower

for someone you love

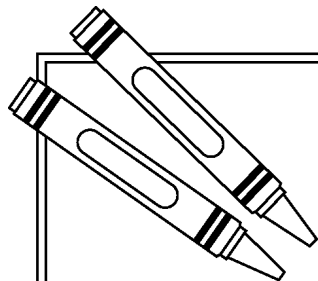
You will need:

- * colored construction paper
- * 2 green pipe cleaners
- * small flower pot
- * green florist foam (to fit in pot)
- * scissors
- * tape
- * glue
- * a photo of you!



How to make it:

- * Cut out your face from the photo. Make it a circle about 1-1/2" round.
- * Fold a piece of colored paper in half and cut out 2 flower shapes.
- * Glue your round photo in the center of one flower.
- * Make a stem by folding a pipe cleaner in half and twisting it to make it stronger.
- * Glue or tape the "stem" to the back of the flower that has your picture.
- * Glue the other flower to the back of the first one. Make sure the "stem" is in between and sticks out from the bottom.
- * Cut the other pipe cleaner in half to make leaves and then attach them to the "stem."
- * Put the green foam in the pot.
- * Plant your flower in the foam.
- * Give the flower pot to someone you love.

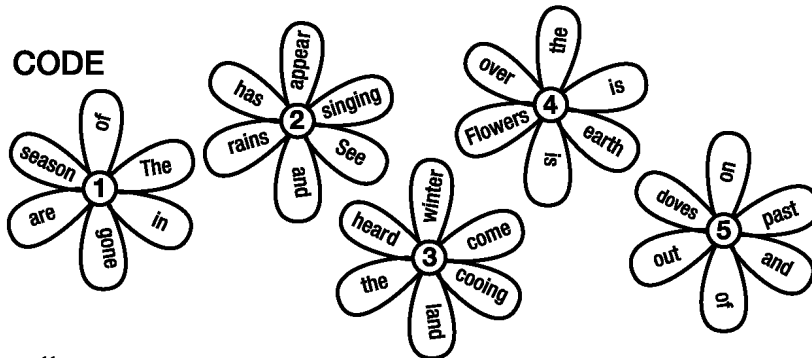


Just for KIDS

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Find the beautiful springtime words from Song of Solomon. Use the flower code to fill in the blanks.

CODE



“ _____ ! _____ ;

2
1
3
4
5

_____ ;

3
2
1
4
5
1

_____ ;

4
2
5
3
4

_____ ;

3
1
1
2
2
3

_____ ;

3
3
1
5
4

_____ .

3
1
5
3

Answer: "See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land."



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 - Mary-Lynn Reilly

Office hours:

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

Worship:

Sundays - 10:30 AM

Our Elder Team

Jose Cariaga—Chair
 Pete Kluck
 Paul Phair
 Eric Pratt

Our Deacon Team

Nan Duncan
 Arnie Mejias
 Bob Mendenhall
 Ray Ross
 Ben Smith
 Dave Young—Chair

Calendar at a Glance



Apr 28—2nd Annual Olympics
 Apr 29—Board Meeting



May 6—Blood Pressure checks
 May 13—*Mother’s Day*
 No PowerHouse Meeting tonight
 May 20—Compassion Offering
 Congregational Meeting
 PowerHouse Food Bag Fundraiser

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...
May 4	May 9	May 12—May 25
May 18	May 23	May 26—June 8

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.

If you have received this email in error or want to be removed from our e-newsletter distribution list, please hit the reply button and put “unsubscribe” in the subject line and you will be removed immediately.