



the Oakwood
ACORN
A Chronicle Of our News

Seeds for Growth

Persevere yet Preserved

Recently our Community Group studied and discussed a number of truths & exhortations for our lives from the little New Testament letter of Jude. Jude urged the Christ-followers of his day to be on guard against false teachers. Some of them even infiltrated into the life of the church. These teachers threatened to seduce God’s people into believing distortions of core gospel truths. Believers were also to guard against following the immoral practices of these false teachers.

The specifics of the spiritual dangers today are different than they were in the first century – but there are still false teachings both from outside the church and even from inside the church. Such false teachers are even found from among those we might consider “evangelical.”

It is for this reason that just as Jude exhorted believers in his day, so we too must each be discerning about teachings we hear or read and the lifestyles we observe. We must carefully weigh such things against the core gospel truths that have been entrusted to us by the apostles through Scripture (v. 3).

While Jude places emphasis upon our responsibility to vigilantly persevere by “keeping ourselves in God’s love” (v 21) – he also stresses we don’t have to be intimidated or fearful. Why not? Because Jesus faithfully, powerfully, and effectively preserves us! “To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy...” (vs. 24). God effectually called us into an eternal relationship with Him. He continually loves us. And He keeps us safe. Once God has raised us to new life, He will never let us go!



Jude both challenges us and greatly encourages us. Genuine Christians persevere in the faith, yet God, through Christ, preserves us in the faith! Awesome! “To the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen” (vs. 25)!

~ Pastor Paul

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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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WIN Sunday—May 8



**Don't miss a special WIN Mission Sunday
May 8 at 9:30 & 11:00 AM.**

Once considered one of the bloodiest prisons in America, Angola is the largest maximum security prison and is now home to one of the most radical places of transformation in the world! Hear our own Wycliffe missionary, Craig Clendinen, speak on “Radical Transformation-Move” from Mark 5:1-20. Hear the voices and stories of the men, who through the power of Christ have transformed the prison into a church. Ten men from Oakwood will be commissioned for a trip they will be taking to Angola Prison on May 12th as part of Awana’s “Returning Hearts Celebration.” They will be there to serve the prisoners and their children. Mothers will also be recognized on Mother’s Day as the ultimate missionaries!

TANZANIA OFFERING

As many of you know the Clendinens will be moving to East Africa June 29 to continue their service with Wycliffe and SIL in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Oakwood will be taking up a one-time offering to help the Clendinens with their set up expenses on May 8 as part of the WIN Sunday celebration.

Worship Arts Ministry

We are in the process of putting together the Celebration Arts vocalist/Instrumentalist/Drama/Slide Tech Schedule for the months of May 2011 through July 2011. If you have been thinking that this is the ministry for you, NOW is the time to let us know.



Musicians & Vocalists

If you are a musician/vocalist, auditions are being scheduled for those interested in using their time and talents as a member of our Praise & Worship team. **Current special need: Drummers!** Individuals that are interested or need more information should contact Chris Lehmann by calling the church at 969-2303, or email: chris@oakwoodfl.org.

Drama Actors

Like to “Ham it Up?” Have you ever thought about joining our Drama Team? If you have a desire to serve the Lord and the people of Oakwood with your special gifting, we have been praying for you. Individuals that are interested or need more information should contact Chris Lehmann by calling the church at 969-2303, or email: chris@oakwoodfl.org or our Drama Team Director, Brit White @ 937-545-3970, or email: brittaniekai@gmail.com.

Media Presentation Technicians

We need Media Presentation Technicians to run the Media Shout/PowerPoint programs for:

- Thursday evening Worship Team rehearsals at 7:00 PM, and
- Both services Sunday morning services

The ministry is best served by those who are detail oriented and that have the ability to focus through the course of the rehearsals and services. Thursday night rehearsal attendance is mandatory. Training is available. If you think this is the ministry for you or if you need more information please contact Chris Lehmann by calling the church at 969-2303, or email: chris@oakwoodfl.org.

National Day of Prayer



The 60th Annual National Day of Prayer will take place Thursday, May 5, 2011. Millions will unite in prayer at thousands of events from coast to coast. The theme, “**A Mighty Fortress is Our God**”, is based on the verse from **Psalm 91:2** which states: “I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

Join us at Oakwood on May 5 for an hour of prayer. We will have two opportunities – 7:30 – 8:30 AM and 12:00 noon – 1:00 PM.

Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, May 22, we will be having an OCC Family Meeting right after the 11:00 worship time. The meeting will begin at 12:30 PM and end no later than 1:15 PM. We also want to allow sufficient time for questions and comments from our church family. Childcare for infants to 5th Grade will be provided. Please help us plan adequately by registering your child(ren) at the TreeHouse Welcome Center or email Dave Dorsey at dave@oakwoodfl.org.



May PowerHouse Schedule

Sunday, May 1: Regular Evening Meeting

Wednesday, May 4: Adult Leaders meeting, 7:00 PM,
At the Whipples, 4615 Country Hills Drive

Saturday, May 7: High School Band Practice and MS
Video Team, 10:00 AM @PH

Sunday, May 8: Mother's Day, No evening PowerHouse

Sunday, May 15: Afternoon: Food bag Preparation,
BUMP Training and regular evening meeting

Sunday, May 22: Student out reach party

Sunday, May 29: Regular Evening Meeting

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 5. Pictures are due in to the Church Office no later than May 15. 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. .

TreeHouse Summer Fun!!!

We've got some fun things planned this summer for the families of our TreeHouse kids!

As soon as school is out, we are planning a "Family Indoor Campout." **On Friday night, June 17,** you will be able to get your own "campsite" in TreeHouse and enjoy some great activities as a family. We planned to set up camp and have dinner on Friday night, then have some fun and games and "other" activities. We will spend the night here on campus and enjoy a "camping trip" breakfast on Saturday morning before we return to civilization. More details and a signup sheet will be coming in the next few weeks.

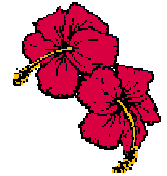


On July 8, we will be having a Game Night for all the 1st through 5th graders. You will be able to drop your kids off in TreeHouse and enjoy a date night (or a nice quiet evening) on us! While you are doing what you do(!?!), our kids will be having a blast with a night of planned activity. The time for this event will be 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.



Get prepared for July 22!! We are planning a Family Game Night. Some of our folks have been inspired by the game show, "Minute To Win It" so we have decided to have an Oakwood version of the same. I expect we will be laughing from the time we get here at 7 PM until we finish at 9PM.

Get ready to wear your best island garb as we are planning the first annual TreeHouse Luau on **August 12!** More details on that and the other dates will be coming in the next month.

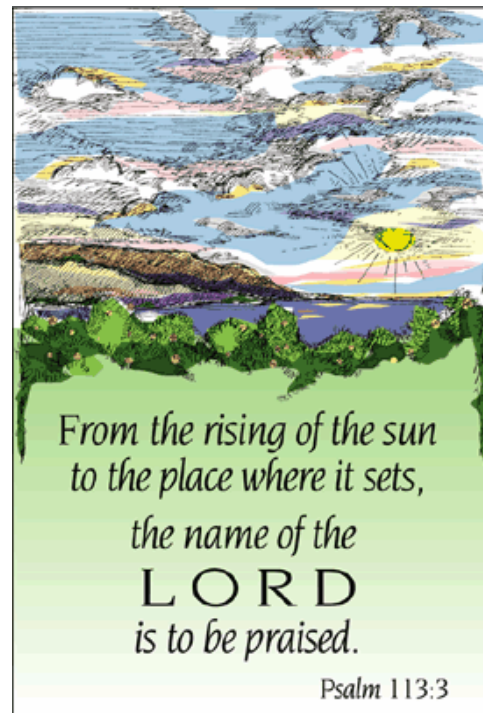


Mark your calendar! Join us for some great fun!!

Team Tampa XII



Our Czech Team (Team Tampa XII) would like to send out updates and prayer requests for our team this year via a special email prayer chain. Would you be interested in being part of this prayer support team? If so, please submit your request to join this short-term special prayer chain to office@oakwoodfl.org or indicate this desire on the back of your Connection Card on Sunday.



Kids Corner

Plant a Tree!



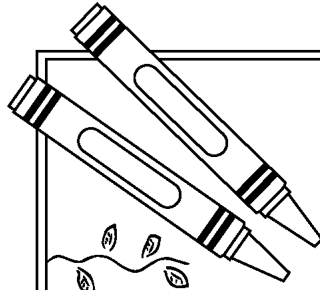
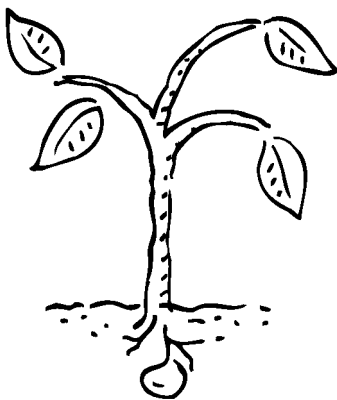
You will need:

- ♫ seeds from a grapefruit, orange, lemon or tangerine
- ♫ a flower pot
- ♫ soil

How to:

Soak the seeds in water overnight.
 Fill the flower pot with soil.
 Plant 3 or 4 seeds about half an inch deep.
 Keep soil moist. Water once or twice a week.
 Keep pot in a warm, bright place.

The seedlings will sprout in about 8 weeks. Leave only the strongest plant in the pot. It will grow into a little tree with dark, shiny leaves.



Just for KIDS

"A Time to Plant..."

The spring of the year is time to plant gardens or tend to other plants. The list below contains the names of plants that grew in Bible times. How many do you recognize? Circle the names from the list. They may be found → ← ↓ ↑ ↘ . There will be 13 letters uncircled. Write them in the spaces below.

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| myrrh | aloes | cassia | mint | dill |
| lentil | apple trees | crocus | barley | cucumbers |
| balsam trees | melons | leeks | onions | garlic |
| oak trees | wheat | figs | mustard | grain |
| pomegranates | olive trees | beans | millet | cane |
| almonds | cinnamon | pistachio nuts | rose of Sharon | |
| lily of the valley | | | | |

P L E N T I L M C C J E B S U
 I O G R A I N I I U B E A N S
 S A M I N T E L N C D A L S U
 T P Y E S B N L N U R L S S C
 A P R M G A A E A M A M A E O
 C L R E A R C T M B T O M E R
 H E H L R L A L O E S N T R C
 I T S O L E S N N R U D R T O
 O R N N I Y S N A S M S E E F
 N E O S C D I L L T O F E V I
 U E I W H E A T L E E K S I G
 T S N G O A K T R E E S O L S
 S R O S E O F S H A R O N O D
 L I L Y O F T H E V A L L E Y

Who is the "Master Gardener"?

_____ , _____ .

Our Dream Home

Kathryn E. Nielson



I thought I knew what would make me happy, but I never realized it was something I'd fought against for so long.

We did it. We'd finally "arrived." We'd achieved "the American dream." After 12 years of marriage my husband and I pulled the moving truck into the drive of what we believed would be the last place we'd live. Four bedrooms, two and a half baths, a pool, and a yard the size of a small city wrapped in a six-foot fence was finally ours. We painted, re-carpeted, remodeled, and perfected our new home. Our children would enjoy the childhood I had only dreamed of with a neighborhood full of kids to play with and pool hopping in the hot summer sun. God had truly blessed us.

However, what started out as "the American dream" quickly became "the American nightmare." Gas prices soared, property taxes rose, and the price of food climbed to new heights. We never missed a mortgage payment, but we were barely making it. What was God doing? Hadn't he blessed us with this house?

Obsessed with money, we lost sleep, and we lost our joy. Our marriage suffered and so did our kids. We'd become enslaved to our white-carpeted castle. So we cut back. Things like the internet, eating out, and movies in the mail flew out the window. But that wasn't enough. More drastic measures were required; downsizing, moving back into town where the drive to school and work stretched no more than five minutes ahead.

At 30-something and with two kids, downsizing was an unheard-of concept. Leave a gorgeous house in a quiet neighborhood away from the noise and activity of the city? Were we crazy?

"You won't save that much," some said.

"You'll never sell your house in today's market," others said.

"What about the kids? They love the pool."

"Your house screams 'you.'"

We heard it all. Still, we knew what we had to do. So we plowed ahead getting the house ready to sell, and finishing projects someone else would enjoy. It no longer mattered to us. God

was changing us and our idea of the American dream.

Six days after the sign went into the yard, the house sold. We knew moving was God's desire for us, but it still shocked us. What now? Where was he taking us? And so began the arduous process of looking for a home while temporarily living with family. Not an ideal situation, but one we found ourselves in nonetheless.

We spent weeks looking for a home that would suit our needs: close proximity to work and school, a safe neighborhood, not a lot of work needed and something we could afford. In the end, God took us back to our old neighborhood in the heart of town where the noise and traffic are never far away. While most people yearned to get out of the craziness of the city, we moved right back into the middle of it. At times we felt like Noah, readying our house in a neighborhood deemed "unsafe" while those around us mocked and questioned. It didn't matter. That first night in our new home the four of us slept in the same room, and for the first time in years, I felt like I was home.

The house we left was beautiful, yes, but take out the people and you reduce it to just that, a house. Home has become synonymous with people, not things; simplicity, not debt; and most important, a place where God's voice is not crowded out by acquiring objects of no eternal value. *This* is our dream.

Kathryn Nielson is the author of a children's book, [God's Creative World \(Concordia\)](#). She lives in Illinois.



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"I wish he were a little less specific with his illustrations."

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



- May 1 - Blood Mobile @ Oakwood
 - Blood Pressure checks
 - Picnic following Worship
- May 5 - National Day of Prayer
- May 8 - *Mother's Day*
 - No PowerHouse Evening Student Ministry
- May 10 - MISCOM Meeting
- May 12-15 - Angola Prison Ministry trip

- May 15 - Compassion Offering
 - Board Meeting
 - Youth Food Bag prep
- May 22 - Congregational Meeting following 11 AM Worship
 - Student Outreach Party
- May 30 - Memorial Day - Church Office closed

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 6	May 11	May 14—May 27
May 20	May 25	May 28—June 10

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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