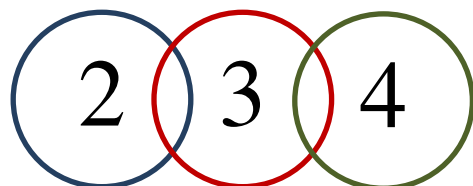




ACORN

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

From Pastor Darin



Find your 2-3-4

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and **admonishing one another** in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16*

Believers usually know we are called to “encourage one another” (1 Thes. 4:18; 5:11; Heb. 10:25 etc.). We certainly know we are supposed to “love one another” (John 13:34-35). But do we take seriously **the commands in Scripture to exhort, reprove and admonish one another** (Col. 1:28; Acts 20:31; 1 Cor. 4:14)?

As I journey with several people through the Christian 12 steps outlined in Celebrate Recovery, I am rediscovering **the value of direct, personal accountability**. Recovery programs make this an explicit requirement and overt responsibility of the one seeking growth – to find a sponsor. It is not the program administrator but the individual in recovery who must be proactive and persistent until he or she finds someone to coach and mentor, support and challenge him or her. Step 4 requires you to write down a detailed self-evaluation. Step 5 requires you to talk it over with your sponsor. There is no way to dance around these vital steps toward growth. You either do them or you don’t. (And 40% of people in recovery drop out at precisely this point.)

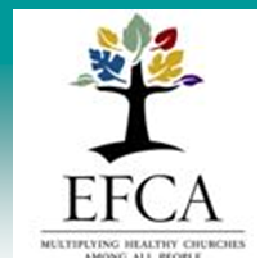
In our baseball diamond pathway I have thought of second base as involvement in a small group. But now I think that getting connected in a small group is the base-path leading toward second. **Second base** itself – Grow in Christ – is **a courageous personal connection with one or two other believers** who will admonish and exhort you, with Gospel-perspective and loving support, to face your issues and move forward.



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:

Women's News	2
PH Talent Show	2
Parenting Workshop	3
Observing Lent	4
OPEN—March Overview	5
PowerHouse News	6
Calendar	7

Continued on Page 3

Women's News

Women's March Fellowship event:



Sticky Heart Stories – Friday, March 1, 7:00 pm
Come tell your colorful, sticky, life story...
...in Washi "Craft" Tape!
Food & washie provided. RSVP \$2 Info Desk.


Just for Joy Bible Study meets on Tuesdays, 10:15—11:45 AM in the Oakwood Library. Our study is *OPEN—a one-year journey through the Bible*—which coincides with Pastor Darin's message series.

The Wednesday evening women's Bible Study group meets from 5:30—7:00 PM in the Oakwood Library. Our study is *OPEN—a one-year journey through the Bible*—which coincides with Pastor Darin's message series.

Blood Pressure Checks

Blood pressure checks on March 3 in the kitchen following the 10:30 Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.



Blood Mobile @ Oakwood



The Blood Mobile will be at Oakwood on Sunday, March 10 from 8:30 AM – 12:00 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.

Daylight Saving Time

Just a reminder that Daylight Saving Time begins **Sunday, March 10**. Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.



Missions Conference 2019

LOCAL TO GLOBAL

April 27-28 we will be hosting our 2019 Missions Conference—*Local to Global*. The speaker will be Ajay Pillai (India National Inland Mission). Oakwood has supported the Pillai family and their ministry in India for over 30 years.

This conference will give everyone an opportunity to get to know many of the Oakwood supported missionaries and ministries.

The conference will begin on Saturday, April 27, with a dinner. Sign up for the Saturday evening dinner will begin Sunday, March 24, there will be a table set up in the lobby of the Worship Center. We are requesting a donation of \$5 per adult or \$10 per family. This money will be divided and given to missionaries to defray travel expenses.

Saturday's Schedule:

Dinner starting at 5:15 PM

"Musical Tables" from 6:15 PM – 7:15 PM

Evening Program from 7:15 PM – 8:15 PM

(There will be childcare available for any children up to 5 years old.)

On Sunday, April 28, Ajay Pillai will be speaking in both the 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM worship services. This will provide another opportunity to mingle with the supported missionaries and ministries.

PowerHouse Talent Show

Everyone is invited to join us on Sunday, March 10, in the Worship Center for the Annual PowerHouse Talent Show.



Doors will open at 5:00 PM and the show will begin at 5:30 PM. Dessert will be served.

Come and support our talented teens!

Parenting Workshop

Whether you have a newborn or teenagers soon to graduate, all parents are invited to a workshop **Saturday, March 30, from 9 a.m. – noon**. Childcare will be provided for infants through 5th graders (screened and trained volunteers needed!) as will snacks and drinks.

Pastor Darin will present *10 Keys to a Healthy Family*, proven principles of parenting through the different stages. He and Kristin have developed this content as they have raised their four boys and served in different pastoral roles. It combines concepts from *Parenting with Love and Logic*, *Dare to Discipline* and *Shepherding a Child's Heart*. The workshop will include both teaching times and discussion around tables to help you apply the principles to your stage of parenting. There is no cost for this event, but we will collect donations to help with childcare if some workers need to be hired.

Please RSVP to Martha by March 22 to sign up:

Martha@oakwoodfl.org – include names and ages of kids that will need childcare. If you or one of your teenage children is available to help with childcare, please contact Darin@oakwoodfl.org.

From Pastor Darin—continued

Have you experienced the value of one or two close friends with whom you can share with total honesty, knowing they will still love and accept you but will push you to grow? As Larry Crabb wrote 20 years ago in *Connecting*, they will “see past the junk on the surface to the good person they know is underneath.” They will call out the good inside you and help you work through the sin and struggles.

A couple of weeks ago many of the men of Oakwood came together for a breakfast and heard me share my story and exhort them to ***move from the shadows of denial into the light of God's grace***. We cannot make progress if we hide behind excuses or blaming. Only when we courageously identify and share the truth of what we're going through can the promise of Ephesians 5:14 be realized for us: “Arise, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

So here is my challenge for all of us at Oakwood. ***Find your 2-3-4***. Get to work today, if you haven't already, and find one or two people (your same gender) that you can encourage and admonish in the Lord. Find an accountability partner or a sponsor. Start meeting together. Share openly and honestly, bringing your issues into the light of God's grace where you can experiencing healing and freedom. In time the Lord will bring other people to mind and your duo will become a trio. Pursue that. God's grace is never meant to be collected forever in one place – it is always meant to be poured out. So invite a third person into your partnership. Before long a fourth will likely join.

Once you have four, multiply that into two sets of two and continue the process. ***Find a 2-3-4***. This is our second base – helping people grow in Christ, making real, significant progress toward maturity in Him. We have many resources available to help you in this area. A Celebrate Recovery kit, including videos and student guides, lives in the church library and is available for anyone to use.

We also have Pastor Colin Smith's *Momentum* study which is like an 8 week version of CR. We have an 8 week Bible study that goes through the Gospel of Mark, called *Christianity Explored*, that clearly establishes the Lordship of Christ and the basics of knowing and following Him. ***But all you really need is one friend and a Bible.*** Study Romans 8. Study Ephesians. Read and apply Colossians. Memorize the Word and follow the Spirit.



The elders, your small group leader and I are available to support you and guide you along the way. But resist delay. Start today – schedule that first meeting. I bet you already know the person you should call (or most likely text). What are you waiting for? Why isn't your phone in your hand?

Pastor Darin

Oasis Golf Tournament

Oasis Pregnancy Center is holding their Golf Fore Life, Golf Tournament on Saturday, April 27 at 8:30. The tournament will be held at Plantation Palms Golf & CC, 23253 Plantation Palms Blvd, Land O Lakes.

This event supports Oasis Pregnancy Care Centers! We are looking for Sponsors, Raffle Prizes and Golfers.

Super Prize: One week vacation in Maggie Valley, NC

\$10,000 Hole in One contest* and \$10,000 Putting Contest*

*\$5,000 to winner, \$5,000 to Oasis

[Click here](#) for a brochure and registration information. If you are unable to attend and would like to make a donation, please [click here](#).

Oasis is supported by the missions giving at Oakwood.



Observing Lent

There are many ancient Christian traditions (like Lent) that many protestants have withdrawn from for different reasons. Lent was formalized at the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. and the practice of it predates even that. Fasting in general is largely out of vogue in most evangelical churches today. When is the last time you knew someone who did a seven day fast, much less a 21 or 40 day fast? Did you know that such extended fasting (from food, not water!) can actually be good for you?

I'm not saying we should mandate John Wesley's practice of fasting every Wednesday and Friday (which dates back to the Didache as a discipline of the early church) though some believers might find such a thing very spiritually nourishing. I'm not saying an extended fast is for everyone. Obviously we need to use common sense and choose a form of fasting that fits our age, life stage and physical condition. But all believers can benefit from seasons of fasting and Lent is a natural time to consider joining with the historic church in disciplining the cravings of our flesh and focusing our bodies, hearts and minds on the Lord.

One of my most meaningful seasons of Lent was taking 40 days away from Clash of Clans. This silly competitive gaming app demands daily attention and creates significant peer pressure to improve your base and attack strategy. It's amazing how quickly habits take over and you are drawn back in to harvest your gold and elixir, working toward that next vital upgrade. Setting that aside for over a month was very freeing for me and greatly appreciated by my wife. Read over this insightful explanation as you consider how you might use this Lenten season to draw closer to the Lord and your loved ones:

"Fasting must forever center on God. It must be God-initiated and God-ordained. Like the prophetess Anna, we need to be 'worshiping with fasting' (Luke 2:37). Every other purpose must be subservient to God... Once the primary purpose of fasting is firmly fixed in our hearts, we are at liberty to understand that there are also secondary purposes to fasting. More than any other Discipline, fasting reveals the things that control us. This is a wonderful benefit to the true disciple who longs to be transformed into the image of Jesus Christ. We cover up what is inside us with food and other good things, but in fasting these things surface. If pride controls us, it will be revealed almost immediately... Anger, bitterness, jealousy, strife, fear - if they are within us, they will surface during fasting... We can rejoice in this knowledge because we know that healing is available through the power of Christ." Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

2019 Message Series—*Open*

OPEN

a one-year *journey* through the Bible

As Pastor Darin continues his message series and our journey through the Bible in 2019, remember that there are a number of resources available to enhance your journey. To take advantage of the resources that The Orchard has provided, go to www.openthebible.org. You can also hear a short audio lesson from Pastor Colin Smith and some additional insights under the “Teaching” tab each week on this site.

Below is a glimpse of our journey through the month of March.

Week 9—Priest

The Day of Atonement illustrates how Jesus made atonement for our sins. When His blood was shed, God’s judgment was poured out, and mercy was released for sinners. The atonement is applied to your sins, in particular, when by faith you lay hold of Christ, believing in Him and confessing your sins to Him. God will transfer the guilt of your sin to Christ as you lay hold of Him by faith. And when God transfers your guilt, He removes it from you, so that you can look up to God with the joy and freedom of someone who is truly forgiven.

Week 10—Courage

Some generations contribute more to advancing the purpose of God than others. The book of Numbers leads us to expect that this would be the case; not all generations serve willingly. Unity among God’s people and courage among their leaders will save us from aimless wandering and position us to advance God’s purpose in the world.

Week 11—Deliverer

Idolatry is redefining God. Across the centuries people have repeatedly chosen to invent their own gods rather than bow before the living God. The gods we create are attractive because we can control them, but they only exist in our minds and are powerless to deliver us from sin, death, and hell. Only God can deliver us, and this is why He sent His Son into the world.

Week 12—King

Jesus is the king who completely fulfills all that God requires of any leader. It is through our king that the will of God will be accomplished in our lives and in the world. God calls all who aspire to leadership to submit themselves to Christ the King and follow his example.

Week 13—Throne

God’s people can be confident about the future because Jesus Christ is on the throne. Through Him we are reconciled to the Father and become members of His family. Christ has many enemies, but they will all be put under His feet (Psalm 110:1), and the destiny of God’s people is to enjoy the blessing of His reign and rule forever.



PowerHouse Schedule

Mar 3—Regular Evening Meeting
Mar 8—Food bag shopping & PowerHouse Fun Night
Mar 10—Food Bags & Talent Show
Mar 17—Regular Evening Meeting
Mar 24—Regular Evening Meeting
Mar 31—Fifth Sunday & Regular Evening Meeting

Spring Retreat

Who: Middle & High School students
When: April 5-7
Where: Camp Gilead, Polk City FL
Why: Fun, fellowship and spiritual enrichment
Speaker: Pastor Darin Anderson

Pick up a brochure in PowerHouse



Recreation includes fun on Lake Helene, boat tubing, Wet & Wild Zoom Floom, indoor gym, sand volleyball, archery range, paintball and more.

Early Registration Deadline: March 3
Registration Deadline: March 24
Questions? See Cam Whipple

Food Bag Ministry

Our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, New Port Richey Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven and Jacksonville. 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, March 10** 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, March 8. **Meet at Save-A-Lot at Waters Ave & Hanley Rd** at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple—813.265.9895) if you want to help. For more details on deliveries, contact Cindy Giannone at (813) 969-4136.



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

Our Vocation & Volunteer Staff

Lead Pastor—[Darin Anderson](#)
Director of Ministries & Coordinator of Children's Ministry—[Dave Dorsey](#)
Worship Ministry Intern—[Marcos Lopez](#)
Director of PowerHouse Ministry—Cam Whipple
Office Manager—[Martha Dorsey](#)
Secretary—[Kailey Wyatt](#)
Facility Manager—[Sam Tison](#)

Our Elder Team

Darin Anderson
Mark Beale
Edson Bustamante
John Schneider
Rob Weyand

Our Deacon Team

David Conner
Dave DePachter
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

Worship

Sundays—9:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Education Classes both hours

Calendar at a Glance



M A R C H

Mar 1—Women's Fellowship
Mar 3—Blood Pressure checks following Worship
Mar 4—Elder Team Meeting
Mar 8—PowerHouse shopping & fun night
Mar 10—Daylight Saving Time Begins
Blood Mobile @ Oakwood
PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry
PowerHouse Talent Show

Mar 11—Deacon Team Meeting
Mar 13—Missions Team Meeting
Mar 17—Compassion Offering
Mar 18—Elder/Deacon teams meet
Mar 30—Parenting Workshop

The Oakwood ACORN is a monthly 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

March 20
April 20

For events during...

April 2019
May 2019

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