



ACORN

From Pastor Darin

Our Leadership Team

Oakwood is a congregational church that is led by elders. The governing authority for the church is held by our members who entrust oversight of our ministries to a representative group of godly men. Alongside the elders we have a team of deacons (both men and women) who serve the church family by caring for our campus and buildings, financial matters and the physical needs of Oakwood people.

If you are a member of Oakwood, you have the opportunity to participate in our congregational government in April by prayerfully nominating potential elders and deacons. Please visit www.oakwoodfl.org/nominate to find more information on this process and the form to fill out. Forms will also be available at the information center on Sunday mornings. ***All nominations must be submitted by the end of April!***

Elders are godly men (1 Tim. 3:2) who shepherd the people of God (1 Pet. 5:1-2), devoting themselves to “prayer and the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4). Deacons are godly men and women (1 Tim. 3:8) who manage the practical affairs of the church (Acts 6:1-3). Spiritual leadership is always based on character not gifting. Sometimes exceptional intelligence or ability can get in the way of spiritual power because it is in our weakness that we are actually strongest (2 Cor. 12:9-11). Strength can make us self-reliant, weakness forces us to depend on God.

So the first and primary ongoing role of our elders (of which our pastor is one) is prayer. We regularly gather to cry out to the Lord even as we individually intercede for the needs of the church family. (Yes, we read and pray for what you write on those connection cards every week!) The next job of our elders is shepherding. We are called to minister to the spiritual needs of the church family. So most of our elders serve as small group leaders, the primary way we care for and disciple our people. The third task of elders is leadership. We prayerfully discern God’s will for Oakwood in terms of both long range planning and short term priorities.

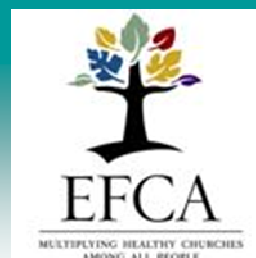
Deacons focus on the physical needs of the church – both our people and property. You may not always see them working, but you certainly see the results of their work in our well maintained buildings and grounds. And you see the fruit of their labors in our weekly reporting of church giving against budget and expenses. Our deacons ensure that we are excellent stewards of every dollar you invest in Oakwood. Finally, the deacons respond to physical needs in the church family by administering our compassion fund. We collect contributions for this once a month and our deacons distribute those funds as requests come in.

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.



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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 at the table 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.

Blood Pressure Checks

Blood pressure checks on April 7 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, May 5 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.

Women's News

UNPLANNED- The Movie

Join the ladies of Oakwood following the 2nd service on April 7. We will carpool to the Citrus Park Mall for lunch or you can meet us there.

Movie time is 1:45 Call Stephanie Piazza @ 813-679-1656 for more info

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.

Oasis Pregnancy Center

Baby Bottles of Love



During April/May, we will be supporting Oasis Pregnancy Center by filling baby bottles with loose change. Pick up your bottle in the lobby. Please return them to Oakwood by May 12 (Mother's Day).

Your change can make a difference for a mom and a child. All proceeds will directly benefit women visiting Oasis Pregnancy Center.

Oasis is supported through the Missions giving at Oakwood and ministers to women who are pregnant and in difficult life situations.

Do you order from Amazon?

Your orders can benefit Oakwood by shopping through AmazonSmile. Just go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2436827>, place your order, and 0.5% of your qualifying purchase will be donated to Oakwood through the AmazonSmile Foundation.

Easter @ Oakwood

Good Friday Service

On April 19 at 7 p.m. we will reflect on our Savior's great sacrifice for us. Following the seven last phrases Jesus spoke from the cross we will read the surrounding Scriptures, sing of God's mercy, hear a message from Pastor Darin on the cross of Jesus and gather together around the Lord's Table. This is an important opportunity for us as a church to come together for worship, prayer and meditation on the gospel. In addition to some of the great hymns of the past and powerful songs from today our creative team is working on some original songs. So please plan to join us for this special time of worship and fellowship!



Easter Sunday



There is no better time to invite friends, family members and neighbors to church than Resurrection Sunday! Our 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. services will be identical, as always – so let people know they can attend either. Our worship team has some remarkable talent, so the music that morning will be especially powerful as we celebrate our Risen Lord. The message will continue in the *Open the Bible* series with a challenging focus on God's confrontation with the prophets of Baal through the prophet Elijah. 1 Kings 18 will call us to worship the One True God!

Easter

There will be some special refreshments available Easter Sunday morning. We encourage everyone to come early and/or stay late for some fellowship and a time to greet our visitors.

There will be no Oakwood Mill classes on Easter Sunday. Following Easter, we will continue our current classes and add two new classes—Discovering Oakwood and Christianity Explored. Watch for details and registration information.

Discovering Oakwood

If you are new to Oakwood and want to learn more about our history, vision and strategy, please email office@oakwoodfl.org to sign up for our upcoming membership class! This four session interactive class will be offered on Sunday mornings starting May 5 at 9:00 a.m. in the Education Building. It is a great opportunity to connect with others who are new to Oakwood while hearing from our elders about our gospel-centered approach to life transformation and our vision to reach Tampa for the glory of Jesus.

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.



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 14

Prophet—If you have ever wished that God would speak to you, you need to know that He does. God speaks through His Word and by His Spirit. When His Word is opened, His voice is heard.

As you study the Bible and hear it proclaimed, you will find that God says some things that can be hard to take. Hearing the truth about your sins will make you uncomfortable. But whenever God speaks, it is a sign of His grace. His purpose is always to restore and to bless.

Week 15

Temple—The cloud of God’s presence in the temple pointed forward to what God would do in Christ. God took human flesh and came down among us in Jesus Christ. When we believe in Him, God’s presence enters our lives by the Holy Spirit, giving us a foretaste of the joys that lie ahead when we will live with Him forever.

Week 16

Worship—Authentic worship is always a response to revealed truth. It is directed toward the living God, focused around the Lord Jesus Christ, and inspired by the Holy Spirit. True worship will be fostered where God’s truth is proclaimed, where Jesus Christ is exalted, and where God’s people submit to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

If you want to grow in your worship, open your Bible and soak your mind in what God says about Himself. The Holy Spirit will use the truth to stimulate worship in your heart.

From Pastor Darin—continued



If you know an Oakwood member you think would serve the church well as an elder or deacon, please take 10-15 minutes to fill out a recommendation form on their behalf! Thank you for being an active participant in our congregational process! If you are not yet a member, please sign up for *Discovering Oakwood* – a four session class that will be offered at the 9:00 hour every Sunday in May.

Pastor Darin



PowerHouse Schedule

Apr 5-7—Spring Retreat at Camp Gilead
Apr 7—No Evening Meeting
Apr 12—Food Bag Ministry shopping and PowerHouse Fun Night
Apr 14—Food Bag Ministry & Regular Evening Meeting
Apr 21—Regular Evening Meeting
Apr 28—Regular Evening Meeting

Student Summer Trip

Our Middle and High School students will head to New Orleans this July for a Missions Ministry trip with NOLA:Fusion, sponsored by Urban Impact Ministries. Below is information on what they will be doing during their week of ministry:

NOLA:Fusion

Defined: merging of diverse, distinct, or separate elements into a unified whole

Fusion is our mission ministry that hosts teams every June and July.

One of the largest aspects of **NOLA:Fusion** is the Relational Ministry students will do in our neighborhood. After training, it's hands on time. Through service at Day Camp, Recreation Outreach and Challenge Circle, we concentrate on teaching you how to communicate your faith. You are given opportunity after opportunity to share your faith as we minister alongside local missionaries, pastors, church member, and indigenous leaders.

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, April 14** 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 12. **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.



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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



Apr 1—Elder Team Meeting
Apr 5-7—PowerHouse Spring Retreat
Apr 7—Blood Pressure checks
Women's Event—UNPLANNED—The Movie
Apr 8—Deacon Team Meeting
Apr 12—PowerHouse shopping & Fun Night

Apr 14—PH Food Bag Ministry
Missions Team Meeting
Apr 19—Good Friday Service
Apr 21—Easter Sunday
Apr 22—Elder/Deacon Teams meet
Apr 27—Missions Conference Dinner
Apr 28—Missions Conference

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	For events during...
April 20	May 2019
May 20	June 2019

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