

THE MESSENGER

SHARING GOD'S LOVE, LIVING GOD'S WORD

A WORD FROM OUR LEADERS...

As we begin 2014, we want to wish everyone in the Oakwood family a Happy New Year. We know God is moving in our midst and we are seeking the Lord's direction for His church this year.

One important goal we hope to accomplish with this newsletter is to answer some common questions in the church. One question that has been asked quite a bit lately is: "Who are the elders and what is their role?"

When talking about the leaders of the church, the New Testament uses three different words interchangeably: elders (*Acts 15; Acts 20:17; Titus 1:5; 1 Pet. 5:1, 5*), overseers (*Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 3:1-2; 1 Pet. 5:2*), and pastors (*Eph. 4:11*). While we are familiar with pastors as leaders in the church, the more common biblical term used is that of elder. Generally speaking, pastors serve in the role of paid elders, devoting themselves full-time to the ministry (see *1 Tim. 5:17-21*).

Oakwood took steps to become an elder-led church more than ten years ago in order to model a biblical leadership structure (see Article IV, Section 2 of Oakwood's Constitution). In his book, *Biblical Eldership*, Alexander Strauch sums up the role of an elder by saying, "...elders lead the church, teach and preach the Word, protect the church from false teachers, exhort and admonish the saints in sound doctrine, visit the sick and pray, and judge doctrinal issues. In biblical terminology, elders shepherd, oversee, lead, and care for the local church." The elders are responsible for the overall health of the church, and they are ultimately accountable to God and to the local church body.



We currently have three elders serving faithfully at Oakwood: Stan Haack, Jim Bongiorno, and Jerry Maddock. The church needs additional godly men to serve in this role. Elder candidates must be a male member in good standing, be in agreement with the church's Statement of Belief, preferably be at least 30 years of age, and meet the qualifications laid out in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 (see Article IV, Section 1 of Oakwood's Bylaws). We are working to develop a training process for potential new leaders. A few men have recently been nominated and are prayerfully being considered as new elder candidates. If you know of someone that demonstrates the necessary leadership qualities, please nominate them using the forms available from the church office.

We are committed to walking humbly with our church family into the future. Please join us in praying that God will lead and equip Oakwood to be even more faithful in accomplishing our mission of *Sharing God's Love, Living God's Word* in 2014 and beyond.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Gleaners Outreach**
Saturday, January 18th
- **Mom's & Dad's Day Out**
Friday, January 24th
- **Awana Grand Prix Races**
Saturday, January 25th
- **Missionary Breakfast**
Sunday, January 26th



5791 Oakwood Road, Ortonville, MI 48462

Phone: (248) 628-6388 Email: office@oakwoodcc.org

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm

OPERATION OAKWOOD CARES

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

Oakwood Community Church cares about people. Again this year, the church family gave generously in order to reach out and bless some of our own families, and some of our neighbors.

At this time, we have collected \$12,474. We are in the process of distributing gifts to individuals or families in various amounts according to their specific needs. In order to protect the privacy of the families, we won't divulge any specifics or names of those receiving gifts.

This year, working together as a team, we have been able to help pay emergency hospital bills, medical and dental bills, house mortgage and rent payments, home expenses and car repairs.

Thank you to Scott Hasman and Brenda and Stan Walls for their help, and Stan Haack for coordinating this project. Thank you to everyone who contributed to help those in need. To God be the Glory – for the things He has done!



OAKWOOD'S LEADERS

Stan and Linda Haack started attending Oakwood Community Church seven years ago when Stan retired from 27 years as a Certified Orthotist (or brace maker for orthopedic disorders). Stan's education from Eastern Michigan and Wayne State Universities prepared him for a variety of jobs prior to his career in the Orthotic field. He taught school and was a member of the teacher's negotiating team, he built houses, and he directed a rehabilitation research center for physically and mentally challenged persons, but his most important role was

husband and father. Stan credits the companionship of a Christian wife as his most valued treasure! He and Linda have been married for 52 years and have four children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Stan accepted Christ's sacrifice for him and received salvation at the age of 24 and has served in many church ministries such as cleaning, nursery help, Sunday school, Bible study leader, search committees, deacon and more. At Oakwood, he is actively involved in our Small Group ministry and has served as an Elder for three years. Stan says that being part of the body of Christ at Oakwood is a privilege and joy.

JANUARY SERMON SERIES



Join us in January for a 4-week sermon series and small group experience. We encourage everyone to get in a group during this time. Even if you can't join a group, be sure to grab one of the study guides available at the church or on our website so you track along with the rest of the church throughout the series.

PREACHING SCHEDULE:

Jan. 5th – Shane Stec
Jan. 12th – Jeff Totten, SCORE Ministries
Jan. 19th – Shane Stec
Jan. 26th – Terry Nalian, STAND Strength Team

VISIT WWW.OAKWOODCC.ORG FOR THE LATEST NEWS & INFO FROM OAKWOOD

MINISTRY FOCUS MEN'S MINISTRY



We are excited to announce that Keith Hensler has agreed to take the lead in organizing Oakwood's Men's Ministry events. Many of you met Keith when he kicked off the Fantasy Football league in August. He also worked with Mike Conn on the Wild Game Dinner in December, which was a huge success with 140 outdoor enthusiasts attending. Keith works at the Kelly Services World Headquarters in Troy as a Sr. Business Process Engineer. Their family started attending Oakwood in June of 2013 and became members in October. He and his wife, Carrie, are parents to daughters Alyvia, Brooke and their son Drew.

Current Opportunities:

Every Monday morning from 10am – noon, Stan Haack leads a Men's Bible Study, which meets at the church for coffee, goodies, fellowship, prayer and a lesson. No registration is needed, just come when you can.

Upcoming Events:

Men's Paintball Event – February 8, 2014:
Look in your church mailbox or at the table in the church lobby for flyers about the event or contact Keith Hensler for more details.

Men's Retreat – This year, Scott Brinks is taking the lead for our men to attend the Spring Training Retreat at Grace Adventures on March 21-23. Look for more details soon!

Keith is looking for a few guys who are willing to assist him in serving in this ministry, so please reach out to him if you are interested. He would also love to hear any suggestions you may have for other men's events.

Keith's Contact Information:

Cell – 810-610-1691
Email – keith.hensler@kellyservices.com