

# THE MESSENGER

SHARING GOD'S LOVE, LIVING GOD'S WORD

## A WORD FROM OUR LEADERS...

### Whose Colors Do You Carry?

Did you watch the Winter Olympics from Sochi, Russia? You know, the place that had warmer temperatures than north Florida on some days. One of my favorite parts of the opening ceremony is learning about the flag bearers for each nation. Some were selected to that honor because of past athletic accomplishments, some because of a human interest story element, and at least one is reported to have purchased the honor. Whatever the case, one, and only one person is afforded the privilege to carry the colors of his or her country.

This is not true of Christians. We belong to a heavenly country and we all have the privilege and opportunity to carry the colors of our nation.

In his book "Words Aptly Spoken" (early 90's), author Bob Moorehead relates the prayer of declaration that follows. The origination of these words has been attributed to a Christian in Africa who was martyred for his faith. Some say the words were found on a piece of paper on his person after he died. Others say they were found written on the wall of his prison cell.

Are they your words? Are they my words? Are they the words of Oakwood Community Church? They can be as we carry His colors.

### FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED

I am part of the "Fellowship of the Unashamed." I have Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I've stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless



dreams, tame visions, mundane talking, chintzy giving, and dwarfed goals!

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by presence, learn by faith, love by patience, live by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let go, or slow up until I've preached up, prayed up, paid up, stored up, and stayed up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops.

And when He comes to get His own, He'll have no problems recognizing me ... my colors will be clear.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Frank Tanana, Guest Speaker**  
Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>
- **Girls Overnight Getaway**  
Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>
- **Men's Chili Cook-Off**  
Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>
- **Men's Spring Retreat**  
Fri – Sun, March 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>
- **Mom's & Dad's Day Out**  
Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>



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

# GRACE CENTERS OF HOPE

Grace Centers of Hope – formerly “Pontiac Rescue Mission” - is Oakland County's oldest and largest homeless shelter, providing hope and help since 1942. Daily they confront issues of homelessness, addiction, poverty and hopelessness. They offer the basic necessities of life: food, shelter, and clothing. Most importantly, they sustain HOPE. All programs and services provided by Grace Centers of Hope are designed to contribute significantly to the reduction of homelessness, provide clients with opportunities for life-changing recovery, and to help break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and abuse. The results of their efforts have helped many to obtain a GED, become homeowners, regain their children, and, most importantly, develop the courage to change their lives.

## Grace Centers of Hope Mission Statement

*We are a non-profit Christian organization committed to positively changing the lives of the homeless, addicted and unwanted through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, personal accountability, life skills education and work-related programs.*

Oakwood Community Church supports Grace Centers of Hope as one of our local mission partners. **A group of our volunteers will be serving dinner to the homeless and others in need at the Emergency Shelter on Monday, March 31st from 4:30 to 6:30pm.** Watch for more information in the bulletin or just call the church office if you can volunteer.



## OAKWOOD'S LEADERS

### Beth Phillips, Treasurer

I grew up on a dairy farm on the west side of the state. As a pre-teen, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior after listening to Billy Graham explain the plan of salvation on television. I married young and moved to the Detroit area in the 1970's, where I was a stay at home mom with two sons. In 1992, my husband died very suddenly, but God's hand of provision and protection saw me through a difficult time and helped me adjust to a new life.

In 2001, the Lord brought Dave into my life so now our blended family consists of five sons, four daughter-in-laws and eight grandchildren - with one more on the way! Dave and I live in Lake Orion, where we work out of our home. In addition to being the office manager of our business, I serve as the secretary of our subdivision homeowners association.

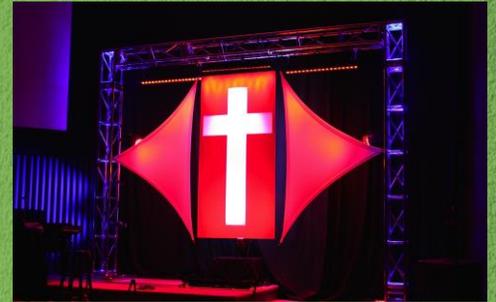
We have called Oakwood home for almost five years. It's been a joy to grow in my faith and serve in various ministries in this friendly, loving fellowship. This is my second three year term serving as Treasurer. The job description for Treasurer was changed last year when Fran Maddock took over the bookkeeping responsibilities. I still count the offerings, enter them into the ChurchTeams database, and send yearly contribution statements to givers - all done with complete confidentiality. Since the Treasurer is a member of the Deacon board, I also attend monthly Deacon Meetings. At those meetings I take the minutes and am available to research questions about income or expenses relating to the church budget, as well as answer general questions about church giving trends.

## SERMON SERIES

This month, the FOLLOWING TOGETHER series will continue as we encourage one another to actively follow Jesus. We hope you will join us for the remainder of March as we explore topics such as Following Together with Contentment, Following Together with Assurance, and Following Together to Victory!

VISIT [WWW.OAKWOODCC.ORG](http://WWW.OAKWOODCC.ORG) FOR THE LATEST NEWS & INFO FROM OAKWOOD

# MINISTRY FOCUS WORSHIP & TECH



Oakwood is blessed to have a dedicated group of musicians, vocalists and tech volunteers serving to help us worship and glorify God together on Sunday mornings. Over the past couple of years our team has grown both in size and in skill. We now have two different instrumental teams and four different vocal/tech teams serving in the worship ministry.

We practice at the church on Tuesdays from 7-9pm and on Sunday mornings at 8:00am. Each week we pray for one another and then have a lot of fun as we worship together and prepare for the weekend services. Those in the worship band also spend time at home practicing and learning new music.

We are praying for more people who have a heart for God and love to sing or play instruments to join the Worship Team. Right now we specifically need people who can play:

- Acoustic guitar
- Electric guitar
- Keyboard/piano

### Tech Team

If you love God and are passionate about technology, there are a number of ways you can serve. These are crucial behind-the-scenes roles that help to create an engaging worship experience at Oakwood and ensure that God's word is communicated clearly and creatively.

Sound Tech – runs the sound system to ensure clear communication, good audio mix for the band, and appropriate volume levels.

Computer Tech – operate the main projection screen for music, images, video, etc. during the worship service.

Video Tech – operates video camera to record the worship service.

Lighting Tech – program and operate the room lights, LED stage lighting, and operate the computer/iPad for the secondary screen.

Contact Pastor Shane at (248) 628-6388 or [shane@oakwoodcc.org](mailto:shane@oakwoodcc.org) if you are interested in using your musical gifts or tech skills to glorify God at Oakwood.