

THE MESSENGER

SHARING GOD'S LOVE, LIVING GOD'S WORD

A SPECIAL OFFERING

At Christmastime we celebrate the greatest gift of all – the gift of God's love sent into our lives through the birth of Jesus Christ. At Oakwood, one of the ways we celebrate is by giving back through our annual Oakwood Cares Offering. Oakwood Cares is a ministry that exists to bless and share God's love with people in our church and local community by meeting real needs through acts of service, generosity and compassion.

On Sunday, December 21st we will be collecting this special offering, which is the primary source of funding for Oakwood Cares. In recent years the people of Oakwood have given between \$12,000-\$20,000 each December. These funds have touched lives and drawn people to Jesus. When we help families, not only do we ease their burden financially, but we also show them there are people that love and care for them deeply. Ultimately, this points them to God's great love for them. That's why Oakwood Cares is the perfect name for this ministry.

In 2 Corinthians 9, Paul is addressing the Corinthians about a special collection of funds to help the believers in Jerusalem, encouraging them to give generously towards this worthy cause. This passage is ripe with insights about what it means to be a generous giver:

- Generous givers are **READY** and **EAGER** to give. They don't give reluctantly or grudgingly. (2 Cor. 9:1-5)



- Generous givers experience the **JOY** of giving. Giving does not feel like a burden, but a pleasure. (2 Cor. 9:7)
- Generous givers recognize that **GOD OWNS EVERYTHING**. (2 Cor. 9:8-10)
- Generous givers express **GRATITUDE** to God. (2 Cor. 9:11-15)
- Generous givers want **GOD** to get the **GLORY**. (2 Cor. 9:13)

Everyone at Oakwood can play a vital role in making Oakwood Cares a success. You can nominate people in need of help anytime throughout the year. But NOW is the time to GIVE to make sure we have funds available throughout 2015. I've heard it said that we are never more like God than when we give. John 3:16 reminds us that God is an extravagant giver: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son..." Oakwood's ability to bless people in the community for the coming year begins with your generosity this December. Please prayerfully consider how you can contribute, and then bring your gift on Sunday, December 21st or use your debit card online at give.oakwoodcc.org throughout the month of December.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Children's Christmas Program**
Sunday, December 21st
10:30am
- **Christmas Eve Service**
Wednesday, December 24th
6:30pm

 **Oakwood**
Community Church

5791 Oakwood Road, Ortonville, MI 48462

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

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

CELEBRATE RECOVERY



Everyone knows someone who needs help overcoming a problem. Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) helps overcome alcohol or drugs. Celebrate Recovery (CR) helps overcome alcohol or drugs – and everything else. AA refers to its source of hope and strength as a “higher power”; CR refers to its source of hope and strength by His name, Jesus Christ.

The movie *Home Run* is an uplifting story about a fictional baseball player and his struggles with alcohol. The movie provides insight into both CR and everyday people. Like real life, it will surprise you who is struggling and hiding their hurts, hang-ups and habits. You can buy, rent or download this movie.

Over 20,000 churches provide *Celebrate Recovery* to help people receive freedom from their hurts, hang-ups and habits. The primary obstacle to this effective help is the same today as when Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send workers into his harvest field.” (Matthew 9:37-38)

Beginning the third week of January, Oakwood will start a Christ-centered Step Study to prepare workers for the harvest! The Step Study is based on the 8 Beatitudes introduced in the Sermon on the Mount (see Matthew 5:1-12). There are separate studies for men and women. I’m looking forward to participating in this study. Please consider becoming a Celebrate Recovery leader and joining the Step Study in January.

–Dave Phillips, Elder

CHRISTMAS AT OAKWOOD



**Sunday, December 21
10:30am**

Hope Is Here – a unique presentation of the Christmas message with lots of music and featuring the children of Oakwood



**Wednesday, December 24
6:30pm**

Candlelight Christmas Eve – a Christ-centered family worship experience with one hour of music and a Christmas message

MINISTRY FOCUS CLEAN TEAM



It takes a lot of people and resources to manage a building the size of Oakwood Community Church. The deacons oversee the upkeep and repairs on all of our equipment and fixtures, as well as maintaining the building and the grounds. This includes keeping our building clean and healthy 365 days of the year.

Did you know that we do not have a janitor on staff? It’s true! Our building is cleaned every week by a group of dedicated volunteers that we call the Clean Team. The Clean Team works on a rotating schedule where volunteers serve once every 4-5 weeks. The building is divided into sections so that one person is not responsible for all the work.

Deacons Stan Walls and Sue Warner oversee the team. They manage the schedule, maintain the cleaning equipment, inventory the supplies, and make sure everything that’s needed is ready and available for the work to be done when the volunteers arrive. Stan and Sue need more volunteers for the team! Our Clean Team is a visual representation of the old saying: *Many hands make light work*.

Clean Team volunteers are not “skilled labor” but they have hearts of gold and want to serve the Lord in whatever way they can. If you would like to join the Clean Team, send us a note or give us a call. 248-628-6388 or office@oakwoodcc.org