

THE MESSENGER

SHARING GOD'S LOVE, LIVING GOD'S WORD

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE IN 2015

Have you ever been entrusted with someone's prized possession or a special gift? Being entrusted with something valuable is an incredible privilege and an awesome responsibility. We feel honored when someone trusts us with something they value, but we also recognize that we need to act in a way that honors, rather than betrays, that trust. Our goal is to please the one who entrusted to us what is valuable to them.

In 1 Peter 4:10-11 (inset) we learn that God has entrusted each of us with gifts that He expects us to use for His purposes. That's what he means when he says we are to be "faithful stewards of God's grace." Peter does not give us an exhaustive list of gifts here; he gives two broad examples (speaking and serving) that encompass many of the specific ones listed elsewhere in the New Testament (see Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4). In these short verses, Peter teaches three principles for how we should use the gifts God has given us:

1. Use your gifts **TO SERVE OTHERS** – We are all called to be servants and to use our gifts to bless and help others.
2. Use your gifts **IN GOD'S POWER** – We need to stay closely connected to God through His Word and allow the Spirit to guide and empower our lives. If we are trying to serve in our own strength, our impact will be limited. In fact, Jesus says we can't do anything of eternal significance apart from Him (John 15:5).

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 PETER 4:10-11

3. Use your gifts **FOR GOD'S GLORY** – While it's often fun and personally meaningful to use our gifts, our ultimate goal is to please and glorify our Heavenly Father.

What are the spiritual gifts God has entrusted you with and how are you using them? Do you have particular talents that have been noticed by your friends, family or others in the church? If you aren't sure what your gifts are, contact one of the pastors. We would love to help you discover your gifts and find meaningful ways to serve others.

We are blessed to have many people already using their God-given talents at Oakwood. Thank you for your faithful service!

Some of you still need to take that first step! On the back of this newsletter we are highlighting five key ministry areas where people are needed to step up and use their gifts, including many entry-level opportunities. Would you please prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to serve and bless others in 2015? As we all use our gifts and do our part, needs will be met, lives will be changed and the body of Christ will be built up. To God be the glory!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Emily's Mitten Project**
Saturday, January 17th - 10:30 am
- **Missionary Visit – Dave Shutes**
Sunday, January 18th
- **Awana Grand Prix Races**
Saturday, January 24th - 12:30
- **Discover Oakwood Lunch**
Sunday, January 25th

 **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

WHERE WILL YOU SERVE?

CLEAN TEAM

Contact: Sue Warner 248-425-9028 (suelssj4584@aol.com)

The Clean Team works on a rotating schedule where volunteers serve once a month on a Saturday morning. The building is divided into sections so that one person is not responsible for all the work. All equipment and supplies are provided.

Current Needs: 15 volunteers

FRIENDSHIP TEAM

Contact: Shane Stec 248-464-3248 (shane@oakwoodcc.org)

The Friendship Team also works on a rotating schedule where volunteers serve once a month on a Sunday morning. Team members offer a friendly hello or handshake, assist families with checking in their kids, provide information, answer questions, and make guests feel valued and cared for.

Current Needs: 4 Door Greeters (open doors & greet people)
4 Welcome Center Hosts (assisting new families)
4 Worship Greeters (hand out bulletins)
4 Section Greeters (greet guests in sanctuary)

AWANA

Contact: Gary or Heather Kronenberg 248-687-8096
(handgk@yahoo.com)

Awana is our mid-week program for children 3 years old through 8th grade. The purpose of Awana is to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him.

Current Needs: 1 male volunteer for Sparks (K - 2nd grade)
2 male volunteer for 3rd - 6th grade
1 female volunteer for 3rd - 6th grade

SONSHINE PARK

Contact: Laura Red 248-568-2131 (redlpred@aol.com)

SONshine Park is our Sunday morning program for children in Kindergarten thru 6th Grade. Our kids grow spiritually and develop godly values through the age-appropriate Bible lessons. Volunteers are scheduled to serve on a rotating basis.

Current Needs: 3 classroom leaders (an entry level position working with small groups of children)
12 summer teachers (2 week commitment)
24 summer helpers (2 week commitment)

CHILD CARE

Contact: Kim Rodela 810-240-5957 (krodela@hotmail.com)

Our Child Care Ministry provides a safe and loving place for babies and toddlers while parents attend the Sunday Worship Service.

Current Needs: 4 adults
4 teens

For the safety and security of our children, a background check is required for all volunteers in Sonshine Park, Awana or Child Care.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about serving in these or other ministry areas at Oakwood, please contact Pastor Shane at 248-464-3248 (shane@oakwoodcc.org)

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



THANK YOU

During the month of December, we received \$15,700 for Oakwood Cares. When we add the Benevolence fund (which is now going to be rolled into the Oakwood Cares Ministry) it brings our total to over \$20,000 in available funds to bless and share God's love with people in our church and local community. **Thank you for your generous giving!**

We have already given out \$6,159.91 to seven families in need. The needs ranged from mortgage payments and car payments to gas bills and car repairs. In two cases we were able to prevent evictions. There are several others who are in the process of being helped.

The Deacons oversee Oakwood Cares in partnership with our Outreach Team. Working together, the team includes Scott Hasman, Ronda Brinks, Shane Stec, Stan Walls, Mark Rodela, Julie Gleason and Cheryl Bongiorno. Each one of the team members is committed to protecting the privacy of the families that we help while also keeping our church family updated.

Please pray that our Oakwood Cares team will bring the light of Jesus Christ, and the truth of God's great love to each person they meet.