

theWill

January 2020 | Monthly Newsletter of God's Will Christian Church

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday School: 9AM
Service Time: 10AM

Happy Birthday to those born in January

15th Church Anniversary celebration 1.4

Men's Fellowship 1.11

Women's Sip and Paint 1.25

Memory Verse
Acts 4:12 (NKJV)

¹² "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

New Year's Promises

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. (Romans 7:18) ESV

It's the start of a new year and gyms all across America will see a spike in new memberships. Why? New Year's resolutions. Nearly every top ten list includes the following resolutions: getting in shape, losing weight, or quitting smoking. Unfortunately, most of these resolutions don't last. Just wait until mid-February and you'll have a much easier time finding a parking space at the gym.

We can do the same thing as we follow Jesus. We can make big promises about the great things we plan to do for Him. We can try to impress Him with our performance. In the process we can forget two important facts:

1. God's love for us is dependent on His grace and not our performance. Scripture makes this very clear in Romans 5:8- God demonstrates his love for us in that God's love for us was settled by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

New Year's Promises Cont'd

2. This life is not about what we can do for God, but what He can do in and through us. God does not need us (see Acts 17:25), but He still desires to use imperfect instruments like us to accomplish His God-sized purposes.

As we enter the new year, the question we do not need to be asking is what can I do for God? The better question is this: What does God desire to accomplish in and through me this year?

Member's Corner



This month, we shine the spotlight on Sister Mary Simmons.

Who introduced you to Christ?

I was introduced to Christ at a very young age by my grandparents and parents in Edgefield, South Carolina.

When did you join GWCC?

I joined GWCC along with my son Michael Simmons and his wife Tameka Simmons about 6/7 years ago when my great-grandson, Tre'Mel, was just an infant.

What do you do for a living?

I work in the Federal Government at the EPA, Crystal City at Potomac Yard in Arlington, VA. I'm a Program Analyst, in the Security Clearance Officer of data field.

What ministries do you participate in?

I participate in the Sewing Ministry.

What have you found most rewarding about being a member of GWCC?

The most rewarding thing that I have enjoyed about being a member of GWCC is that the entire church family gives me a feeling of belonging and a strong relationship among every member there. The women in particular, are especially caring, friendly, loving and shows a closeness that you may not find elsewhere. There are some amazing and spiritual ladies at GWCC where I attend church.

What advice would you give a new Christian?

The best advice that I would give to a new Christian is to love the Lord and press your way each and every day no matter what or how you feel, and no matter what you're up against. Hurdles are in all our lives each and every day, but when you know God you can overcome all of them and grow strong in the Lord. "The Lord is my Shepherd."

Recipe Corner:

Mushroom Stuffed Potato Cakes

INGREDIENTS

- 1 kg potatoes, peeled and diced
- 3/4 cup gluten-free plain flour. Regular plain flour will also work
- Salt & pepper to taste
- For the mushroom filling
- 250g mushrooms, finely diced
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 15g dill, roughly chopped
- 1 tbsp. oil
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice
- Salt & pepper to taste
- Pinch of chili flakes
- More oil for frying

DIRECTIONS

1. Add the diced potatoes to a large pan and cover with water. Bring to a boil, lower the heat and leave to simmer until cooked through (20-30 minutes). Drain, mash and season well with salt and pepper. Leave to cool while you make the filling.
2. Heat 1 tbsp. oil in a frying pan and sauté the onions for about 5 minutes. Add the garlic, mushrooms, lemon juice, chili flakes and season to taste with salt and pepper. Cook for about 15 minutes or until the mushrooms are soft and most of the liquid has evaporated. Take off the heat and fold in the chopped dill.
3. Mix the flour into the mashed potatoes and start shaping. Take a couple of tablespoons of the dough and flatten them out into flat patties. Add about a tablespoon of the mushroom mixture in the middle, then top with more of the potato mixture and shape into round potato cakes.
4. Heat some oil in a frying pan on high. once the oil is hot, add the potato cakes and cook on each side for about 2 minutes or until golden brown.
5. Enjoy!

REMINDER:

Please remember to
download our App in the App
Store or Google Play!

Prompted To Pray

1 Timothy 2: 1-8

“Several years ago I was prompted to pray for you often, and I wonder why.”

That text message from an old friend came with a photo of a note she'd kept in her Bible: “Pray for James. Cover mind, thoughts, words.” Beside my name she'd recorded three separate years.

I looked at the years and caught my breath. I wrote back and asked what month she began to pray. She responded, “Sometime around July.” That was the month I was preparing to leave home for extended study abroad. I would be facing an unfamiliar culture and language and have my faith challenged like never before. As I looked at the note, I realized I'd received the precious gift of generous prayer.

My friend's kindness reminded me of another “prompting” to pray, Paul's instruction to his young missionary friend Timothy: “I urge, then, *first of all*, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people” ([1 Timothy 2:1](#)). The phrase “first of all” indicates highest priority. Our prayers matter, Paul explains, because God “wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” about Jesus (v. 4).

God moves through faithful prayer in countless ways to encourage others and draw them near to Himself. We may not know someone's circumstances when they come to mind, but God does. And He'll help that person as we pray!

By James Banks

Weekly Activities

Morning Prayer Conference Call
Daily 7:00AM

Men's Bible Study Conference Call
Tuesday 7:00-8:00pm

Conference Number:
712-775-7031 Access Code: 443-268-839