



The Second Miler

Second Baptist Church, 6626 Costner Drive, Falls Church, VA 22042

“Home of the Sweet Sweet Spirit”

July 2023 Issue

Pastor’s Corner



Faith

Contributed by Shawn Malloy

To have faith is to believe then you shall receive.

Only the Just shall live by faith.

To have faith is to believe that you will receive.

Faith in God that He will take care of us.

Over the past couple of days, I have had that word “Faith” dwelling in my head. Last night those random statements came to light while I was in a small worship in my office, and I noted them down. I have been very stressed and worried at how things were going to work out with me being jobless and my wife only working part time, but I have been told not to worry about it. I needed to have/keep my faith in the Lord our God to be able to survive. Now, I am not saying that He told me I should not keep up the work I am doing with finding work but to be not worried at the fact that I am not getting as many replies.

Why is Faith so important in our lives?

- It is the foundation or basis in our lives.
- We cannot do anything without having some sort of faith.
- It moves us and keeps us in check with things.
- It allows us to be closer to Christ.

There are people who believe that faith and hope are one in the same, but I personally believe that first you hope for something then have faith in the fact that it will become reality.

I always tell people that God will only give us things that He feels are things we need and can handle. That statement not only goes with our trials in life, (Might I add that our trials are our test of faith.) But, in the things that we need and/or want in our lives.

When we believe in something or have faith in it that is when it shall happen. We also need to remember that it is a divine assurance and when it comes in our lives, the thing we have faith upon, we need to remember that it is a gift from God.

Yes, because when we are in the right frame of mind and see that everything that we believe and have faith in, and it manifests it is a gift. God wants us to lead by example. What better example when what we have faith in comes real. It is a testimony that we can use to show others how great and powerful our God is. He wants us to use our lives as testimony as He used His Son’s life on this earth as testimony to us.

Having Faith equals more communication to God. And when we commune with Him it pleases Him. He only wants the best for us. We need to remember that.

Well Why the trials? They are there to help us keep our faith in him. We should never pray that that our lives should be free from trials. We need to pray and have faith that he will lead us through the trials and temptations in our lives. I know my trials keep me closer to Him and it defines me as what type of man that I am.

I can say let’s picture our life without any temptations or trials. But when I think about that then how can we keep our eyes where they need to be. People will soon forget about the good when there is no bad. We will quickly lose sight of God. We all go through a stage of what I call “Temporary Blindness” and that is the only thing I want to be accused of if I am to be accused of anything. I have faith in the fact that it is temporary, and God will lead me. Without trials who do we call upon? Why would we need faith in our Savior when we have nothing to worry about?

I know I will and do thank God for my trials. I have my faith in Him that He will keep me safe and not waver as He leads me through my day-to-day life.

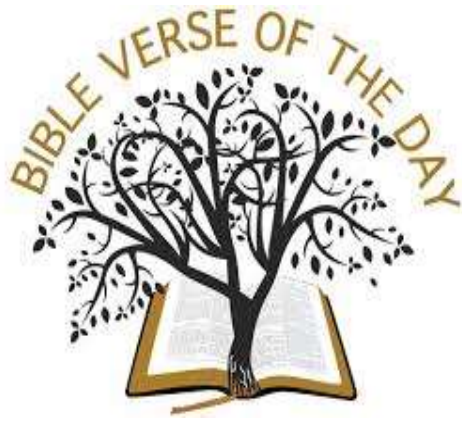
Rev. Samuel D. Barnhart, Sr.
Pastor Emeritus

The Second Miler Staff

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Devera Barnhart..... | Editor |
| Lita Stallings..... | Assistant Editor |
| Delores Little..... | Reporter |
| Virgie Simmons-Jones..... | Reporter |

Please Note:

Items submitted for publication in The Second Miler MUST be received BEFORE the 25th of each month to be printed in the next month’s edition. Thank you.



Bible Verse

Then I hear the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

—Isaiah 6:8

Thought

Church worship is not the goal of our life here on earth. As important as corporate public worship and personal praise are, they are only part of our goal for worship. We are on earth to glorify God with our lips, lives, hearts, and hands. With the world around us caught up in Satan's traps, God wants us to hear his call in our church and private worship and respond to him, saying, "*Here am I. Send me!*" God wants us to enter the world redemptively, making a difference in our "public worship" through daily life in ministry and mission (Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 12:28-13:16).

Prayer

Loving God, thank you for giving me the experiences I've had. Thank you for the capabilities you wove into me while you fashioned me in my mother's womb (Psalms 139:13-16). Thank you for the gifts your Spirit poured into me when I became your child. Now, dear Father, please help me to use these gifts, experiences, and capabilities for your Kingdom's sake and to bless those around me. I want to use my gifts and abilities to bring others to you, build up the Body of Christ, and bless those in need. I pray all of this in the name and authority of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Deaconess Mildred Bailey | Deaconess Gloria Angel |
| Sis. Claudia Furr | Rev. Samuel Barnhart |
| Sis. Charlotte Allen | Sis. Clara Welch |
| Sis. Leea Lynch | Bro. Steven Roberts |
| Bro. John Taylor | Sis. Gloria Costner |
| Sis. Monica Battle | Trustee Ray Burns |
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| Sis. Josephine Beckham | Sis. Virginia Taylor |
| Sis. Lucille Stallings | Sis. Trinette Williams |
| Rev. Marvin Hargrove | Bro. John White |
| Sis. Jean Alexander | Rev. Clyde Nelson |
| Dea. Virgie Simmons-Jones | Sis. Frederica Weaver |
| Trustee JoAnn Brooks | |



BIRTHDAY WISHES – JULY

We take a moment and we pray
For you, on this your birthday.
May God be with you in all you do
We are so thankful for YOU!

05 – Gary Robinson
05 – Lucille Johnson
10 – Lisa Chamberlain
12 – Francis Stallings
13 – Eldridge Jones
20 – Aaron Bibbs
26 – Salonie Turner
26 – T. Earleen Washington
31 – Iris Robinson
31 – LaTonya Montella

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



10 – Mr. and Mrs. Gary & Iris Robinson



Sister Norma Stevens and Family

Loss of daughter, Tomeko Kim Levere-Stevens

Rev. Marvin Hargrove and Family

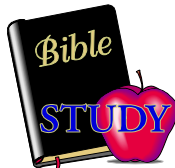
Loss of Wife, Linda Hargrove



It's not complete without you.
Please join us every Sunday morning at
9:30 a.m.

You are never too old or
too young to learn of the goodness of
Jesus!

Wednesday Noon Prayer Service
12:00 p.m.



**Wednesday Evening Bible Study
and Prayer Service**
7:00 p.m.

Please join us for another
opportunity to grow in grace
and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

PLEASE JOIN OUR CONFERENCE CALLS

Call in number: (410) 886-7188
PIN: 42071

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH
Building Fundraising Project
DONOR RECOGNITION TREE



| | |
|-------------|---------|
| Gold Leaf | \$1,500 |
| Large Rock | \$3,000 |
| Silver Leaf | \$1,000 |
| Medium Rock | \$2,500 |
| Bronze Leaf | \$ 500 |
| Small Rock | \$2,000 |

- Don't miss this lifetime opportunity to have your name / family name / auxiliary name permanently engraved in the history of Second Baptist Church

If you are pledging to our building fund when your contribution reaches \$500.00, you will have the option of choosing a Bronze Leaf or continue contributing until you reach the level you desire. However, your contribution of \$500.00 will automatically guarantee you a Bronze Leaf to be placed on the tree.

FOOD BANK OPERATING HOURS
SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00 a.m. –
12:00 p.m.**

Typical Items: Bread & Bakery
**None of God's children shall go
hungry; come partake!**



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

**CLYDE LEE HUNTER SBC EDUCATION FUND
COMMITTEE**

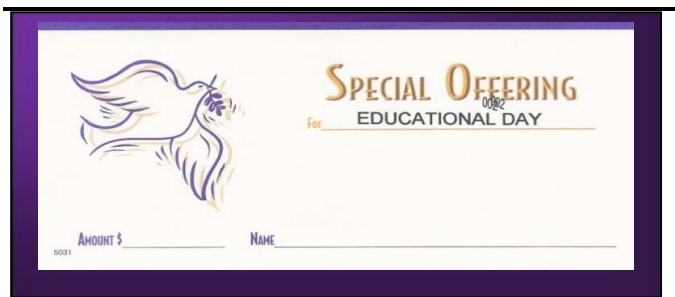
This committee seeks to provide financial assistance to young Second Baptist Church congregants heading for college or a university. It has not been set up as a scholarship program. It is funded through personal donations and the occasional fundraiser. We thank God for each donation and the ability to help our church family as they pursue higher education. For an application, please see any one of the members:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| President | Lita F. Stallings |
| Vice-President | Devera Barnhart |
| Financial Secretary | Bernice Dawson |
| Member | Susan Norwood |
| Member | T. Earleen Washington |



If you would like a CD or DVD of any of the programs, please see First Lady Devera Barnhart, Trustee JoAnn Brooks or Sister Lita Stallings

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|---|---------|
| Cost: | Single CD | - | \$3.50 |
| | Double CD | - | \$6.00 |
| | DVD | - | \$10.00 |



GOT ENVELOPE?

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO USE YOUR SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION FUND!!!!!!!!!!



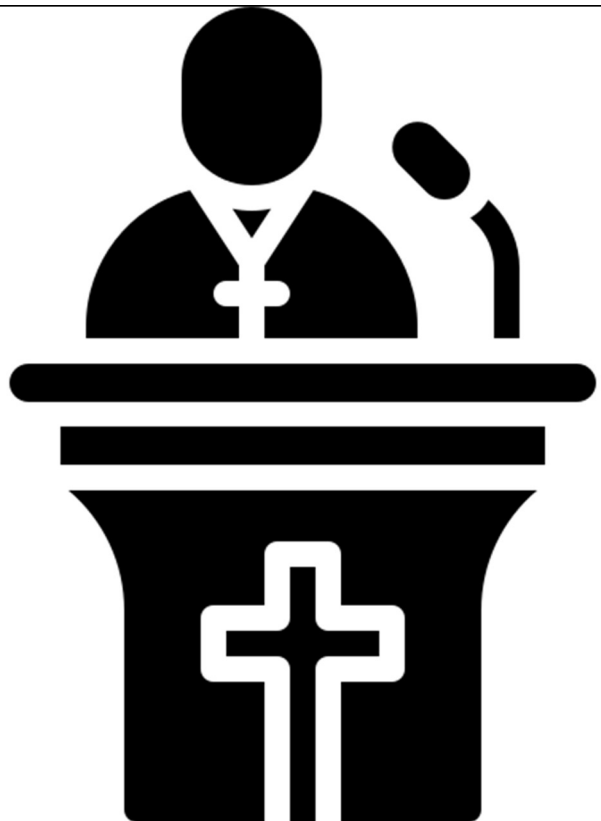
As we continue in our virtual worship environment, stay tuned for some new innovative ways to worship the Lord in song.

“Prepare to be amazed!”

*Please contact Minister of Music,
Rev. Kevin D. Thompson, Sr. with any questions!*

NEW ADDITIONS:

- 06/11/2023 **It's Going To Be Okay**
Rev. Kevin D. Thompson, Sr.
- 06/18/2023 **Whatever God Is Doing, He's Doing It Right**
Rev. Evan Newman
- 06/25/2023 **Look Back and Praise**
Rev. Kevin D. Thompson, Sr.
- 07/02/2023 **Jesus Is The Head of the Church**
Rev. Augustus Henderson





HOME BIBLE STUDY

The Fruit of the Spirit

1.) Galatians tells us: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such...

- do the rulers of darkness strive.
- do the wicked dash themselves to pieces.
- there is no law.
- there is no rebuke from the Lord.

2.) LOVE - What parable did Jesus tell the lawyer who asked Him to illustrate neighborly love?

- The Good Samaritan.
- The Parable of the Mustard Seed.
- The Lost Sheep.
- The Prodigal Son.

3.) JOY - The prophet Isaiah tells us: Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation, and in that day shall ye...

- Praise the LORD, call upon his name.
- declare the Lord's doings among the people.
- make mention that name of the Lord is exalted.
- All of the above.

4.) PEACE - What did the apostle Paul tell the Philippians was the prerequisite for: "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus?"

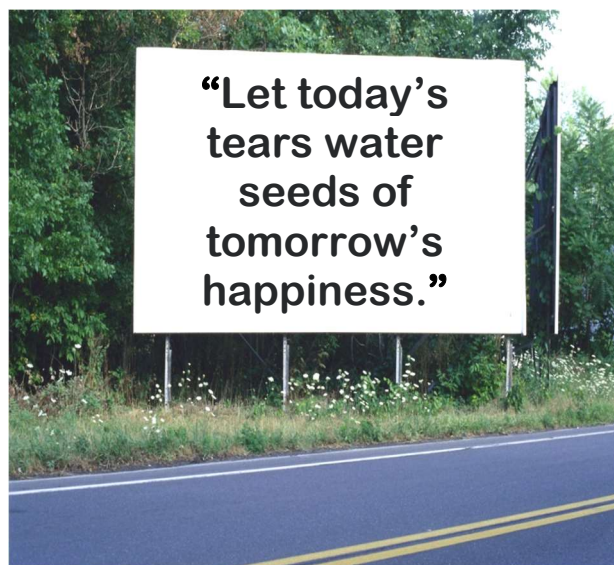
- Do not worry, but in everything by prayer let your requests be known to God.
- Forgive those who persecute and offend you.
- Have love for one another, as I have loved you.
- Pray for peace in our time.

5.) LONGSUFFERING - Which church did the apostle Paul tell, "Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring?"

- Philippians
- Thessalonians
- Galatians
- Ephesians

Signs From Above

"For the Lord gives wisdom and from His mouth comes Knowledge and understanding." ---Proverbs 2:6



Make Us Complete

God is more than we could ever imagine
 He is all-wise, all-powerful, and all-knowing
 His light shines in us as we keep growing
 Through His Spirit, we are empowered with inner strength
 He shows us how to love deeply and with endless length
 He has the power to help us understand
 How wide, how long, how high, and how deep
 His love is
 His love will sustain us through every trial, test, or quiz
 May our roots grow down into His love to keep us strong
 May we experience the love of Christ even when others treat us wrong
 May Christ make His home in our hearts so we become more like Him
 May He show us the real meaning of the word friend
 May God be our shelter and strong tower
 May God make us complete with all the fullness of life and power

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Phoebe's Corner

Sponsored by the Deaconess Ministry

"May The Word Find You"

By Liz Junod

When I was in high school youth group, we often participated in a Bible activity that seemed (to me at least) rather magical. With our Bibles in hand, the youth pastor instructed us to close our eyes and think of something on which we needed guidance. A situation, a relationship, a concern. While we sat quietly holding our thoughts, eyes still closed, we were told to open our Bibles at random and read the first verse that caught our attention. We were encouraged to consider how this verse might guide us in our 'situation of the day.'

Looking back, I'm sure the pastor was mostly trying to get us to actually open the Bible and read it, maybe even to see that God's word was living and relevant to our teenage lives. The mystery to us, however, was that those spontaneous words we found with our eyes closed often DID speak to us. Sometimes they made us laugh, or feel oddly seen and understood - but always that activity drew us nearer to scripture and to one another. We didn't choose those verses, they chose us...or so it seemed.

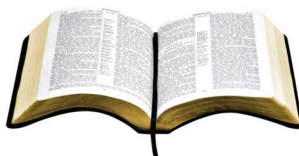
I have revisited that activity from time to time throughout my life, most recently with The Psalms. Often I find myself led to this activity when I am at a loss for words and humbly praying for the Word to find me. The right word. For today. In this Spirit, these verses from Psalm 51 have found me in this moment and I share them with you.

"O Gracious One, open my lips and my mouth shall sing forth Your praise.

For You do not want sacrifice. You delight in our friendship with You.

A sacrifice most appropriate is a humble spirit, a repentant and contrite heart, O Merciful One, receive our gratitude and love...

O Blessed and Compassionate Friend, melt our hearts of stone, break through the fears that lead us into darkness, and guide our steps toward the way of peace."



Bible Word Search

Romans 12:18-21

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | Y | M | E | N | E | E | N | I | H | T | N | E | L | K | I |
| O | N | Q | W | M | C | R | E | T | J | P | Y | C | E | S | H |
| S | E | B | B | H | A | M | A | A | I | L | L | N | M | E | E |
| S | T | U | T | T | C | R | V | N | B | F | C | A | O | V | T |
| I | T | E | H | L | W | E | Y | A | F | F | I | E | C | L | H |
| B | I | E | L | D | N | O | E | A | B | I | V | G | R | E | I |
| L | R | I | P | G | U | C | S | E | P | I | R | N | E | S | R |
| E | W | K | E | D | A | M | R | G | G | E | D | E | V | R | S |
| I | V | N | R | E | U | O | U | D | D | F | R | V | O | U | T |
| D | T | I | P | C | F | I | D | G | E | R | X | K | Z | O | O |
| B | N | I | H | E | R | E | F | A | O | A | O | W | X | Y | N |
| K | S | F | R | H | V | E | H | I | E | O | R | L | I | K | E |
| F | E | E | U | O | E | K | G | Y | M | H | D | L | E | T | B |
| L | H | V | L | D | F | A | A | N | F | I | S | T | Y | H | H |
| T | L | E | I | E | Q | I | P | V | U | G | N | I | O | D | T |
| D | B | A | T | L | A | H | S | U | O | H | T | E | H | N | N |

**IF IT be
POSSIBLE
AS MUCH as
LIETH
IN YOU, live
PEACEABLY
with ALL
Men. DEARLY
BELOVED
AVENGE not
YOURSELVES,
but RATHER
give PLACE
unto WRATH:
FOR IT
is WRITTEN
VENGEANCE
is MINE; I WILL
REPAY, saith
THE LORD.
THEREFORE if
THINE ENEMY
HUNGER
FEED him;**

**if HE THIRST,
GIVE him
DRINK: for
in so DOING
THOU SHALT
HEAP coals
of FIRE on
HIS HEAD.
BE NOT
OVERCOME
of EVIL,
BUT overcome
evil WITH
GOOD.**

Congratulations Carmen Chavis!



Carmen Chavis graduated from Frederick Douglass High School on May 30, 2023. She is the daughter of proud parents, Jon and Tiffany Easter, and granddaughter of proud grandparents, Chuck and Rose Chavis. She was a highly decorated student with two medallions and four cords as well as a National Honor Society (NHS) Stole. The four cords were representative of being an Honors Student (3.7 Cumulative GPA over the past four years), being an International Baccalaureate (IB) Student, as well as being a member of the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). The two medallions were acknowledgement of her membership in NSHSS as well as becoming a candidate for an additional IB Diploma, separate to her standard High School Diploma. She will be attending Towson University in the fall, majoring in Art+Design with a focus on Digital Illustration. Thank you for your prayers, love, and support.

Just For Laughs

A cheerful heart is good medicine...Proverbs 17:22

Sitting on the side of the highway waiting to catch speeding drivers, a State Police Officer sees a car pattering along at 22 MPH. He thinks to himself, "This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!" So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over.

Approaching the car, he notices that there are

five old ladies -- two in the front seat and three in the back - eyes wide and white as ghosts.

The driver, obviously confused, says to him, "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am," the officer replies, "You weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers."

"Slower than the speed limit?" she asked. No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly... Twenty-Two miles an hour!" the old woman says a bit proudly. The State Police officer, trying to contain a chuckle explains to her that "22" was the route number, not the speed limit. A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask... Is everyone in this car ok? These women seem awfully shaken and they haven't muttered a single peep this whole time." the officer asks.

"Oh, they'll be alright in a minute officer. We just got off Route 119."

A Texan was taking a taxi tour of London and was in a hurry. As they went by the Tower of London the cabbie explained what it was and that construction of it started in 1346 and was completed in 1412.

The Texan replied, "Shoot, a little ol' tower like that? In Houston we'd have that thing up in two weeks!"

Next, they passed the House of Parliament - started in 1544 and completed in 1618.

"Well, boy, we put up a bigger one than that in Dallas and it only took a year!"

As they passed Westminster Abbey the cabbie was silent.

"Whoah! What's that over there?" asked the Texan.

The cabbie replies, scratching his head, "Now that, I don't know; it sure wasn't there yesterday!"

Leaving Washington D.C. for Richmond, I decided to make a stop at one of those rest areas on the side of the road. I went into the washroom.

The first stall was taken so I went to the second stall. I'd just sat down when I heard a voice from the next stall... Hi there, how's it going?"

Now I'm not the type to strike up conversations with strangers in washrooms on the side of the road. I didn't know what to say, but finally I said, "...Not bad..."

Then the voice said, "So, what are you doing?"

I thought that was kind of weird, but I said, "Well, I'm just going to the bathroom, then I'm going back home..."

The voice interrupted, "Look, I'm going to have to call you back. Every time I ask you a question, this goober in the next stall keeps answering me!"

A fellow, reflecting upon his ancestry one day, determined to go to Russia for a visit. Why not? Must be an interesting place. However, when he tried to do some business in the black market, he was quickly arrested by the police and imprisoned.

When he was brought before the judge, he was informed that doing business with the black market was a terrible crime to society, since the people suffer from the inability of the government to collect taxes and the punishment was well known, death.

Although he protested that he was a foreigner, the judge refused to reduce the sentence.

"The government is trying to stamp out the black market. We have no mercy on people who come here and disregard our laws. However, you are a foreigner, and we do want to encourage foreigners to come here as tourists and to do business, legally, of course. We want to show the world that the Russian legal system has mercy. Therefore, we will allow you three wishes. Anything that you desire, just ask and you shall be granted them. The only condition is that you cannot request to commute your death sentence. After your three wishes have been granted, you will have to pay for your crime."

"Well, if that is what I have left to do with my life, my first request is to go skiing in the Carpathian Mountains."

"What?" the judge remarked, "skiing? This is the summer ... there isn't any snow now."

"Well," the fellow answered, folding his arms across his chest, "I'm prepared to wait. Because that's my first wish."

"Let it be so!" The judge banged his gavel on the desk and called the police. "When the snow falls on the Carpathian Mountains, you are to fetch this fellow and let him ski to his heart's content, from sunrise until sunset. Afterwards he is to be brought to me to complete his sentencing."

Six months later the police came to collect the man and took him up to the most beautiful ski resort high up on the Carpathian Mountains. The fellow skied all day and after night fall the police whisked him to the judge.

"The state has granted your first wish. What is your second?"

"Well, I always wanted to swim in the Black

Sea. That is my second request."

"The Black Sea is frozen. It's winter now."

"Well," the fellow answered, "I'm prepared to wait."

The judge said banging down his gavel, "The police will come to you on a beautiful summer's day and escort you to the ocean where you will swim to your hearts content from sunrise until sunset. Then you will be brought here to complete the sentencing."

On a beautiful summer's day, the police took him to the nicest resort are on the Black Sea. The man swam the entire day and then after sun fall, was ushered in front of the judge.

"The state has kept it's word. Now you may have your last wish, after which you will be executed"

"Well," the man began, "nothing could please me more than to be buried in a cemetery along side of you."

"What?" the judge said, "but I'm not dead yet. How could we do that?"

"I don't know, but I'm prepared to wait ..."

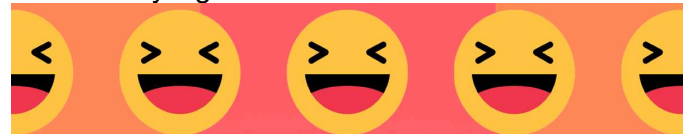
As a crowded airliner is about to take off, the peace is shattered by a 5-year-old boy who picks that moment to throw a wild temper tantrum. No matter what his frustrated, embarrassed mother does to try to calm him down, the boy continues to scream furiously and kick the seats around him.

Suddenly, from the rear of the plane, an elderly man in the uniform of an Air Force General is seen slowly walking forward up the aisle. Stopping the flustered mother with an upraised hand, the white-haired, courtly, soft-spoken General leans down and, motioning toward his chest, whispers something into the boy's ear.

Instantly, the boy calms down, gently takes his mother's hand, and quietly fastens his seat belt. All the other passengers burst into spontaneous applause.

As the General slowly makes his way back to his seat, one of the cabin attendants touches his sleeve. "Excuse me, General," she asks quietly, "but could I ask you what magic words you used on that little boy?"

The old man smiles serenely and gently confides, "I showed him my pilot's wings, service stars, and battle ribbons, and explained that they entitle me to throw one passenger out the plane door on any flight I choose."



Ladies Cuisine Corner

Classic Potato Salad



Ingredients

10 medium Yukon Gold potatoes (about 3 lb.)
1 cup plus 2 Tbsp. Diamond Crystal or ½ cup plus 2 Tbsp. Morton kosher salt
4 large eggs
1 cup mayonnaise
¼ cup sweet relish
3 Tbsp. yellow mustard
2 Tbsp. Dijon mustard
1 medium red bell pepper, ribs and seeds removed, cut into ¼" pieces
½ medium red onion, cut into ¼" pieces
2 celery stalks, sliced ¼" thick

Directions

1. Bring 10 medium Yukon Gold potatoes (about 3 lb.), 1 cup Diamond Crystal or ½ cup plus 1 Tbsp. Morton kosher salt, and 3 quarts cold water to a simmer in a large pot over medium heat; cook potatoes until tender, 18–22 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, using a slotted spoon, carefully lower 4 large eggs into a medium saucepan of boiling water and cook, adjusting heat as needed to maintain a gentle boil, 10 minutes. Transfer eggs to a bowl of ice water and let cool until just slightly warm, about 2 minutes.
3. Remove eggs from ice water. Gently crack all over and peel; discard shells. Cut eggs in half lengthwise and scoop out yolks into a large bowl. Coarsely chop egg whites; set aside. Mash yolks with a fork until smooth. Add 1 cup mayonnaise, ¼ cup sweet relish, 3 Tbsp. yellow mustard, 2 Tbsp. Dijon

mustard, and remaining 2 Tbsp. Diamond Crystal or 1 Tbsp. Morton kosher salt; mix well. Fold in 1 medium red bell pepper, ribs and seeds removed, cut into ¼" pieces, ½ medium red onion, cut into ¼" pieces, and 2 celery stalks, sliced ¼" thick.

4. Drain potatoes; let cool 5 minutes. Peel with a paring knife; cut into ½" pieces. Add to dressing and gently toss; fold in reserved egg whites. Cover and chill at least 1 hour and up to 3 days.
 5. Sprinkle with Barbecue Seasoning, paprika, or freshly ground black pepper before serving.
-

Grilled Bruschetta Chicken



Ingredients

- 2 tomatoes, cored
- ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon salt, divided, or to taste
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, divided, or to taste
- 2 tablespoons torn fresh basil leaves, plus more leaves for garnish
- ½ cup purchased croutons
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon sweet paprika
- 1 tablespoon olive oil, or as needed, for oiling the grill

Directions

1. Gather the ingredients. Preheat an outdoor grill for medium heat.
2. Meanwhile, make the bruschetta. Over a bowl, chop tomatoes to capture all the juice. Add olive oil, garlic, ½ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon black pepper. Stir in torn basil leaves; season with additional salt and pepper to taste, if needed. Set bruschetta aside.

3. Place croutons in a resealable plastic bag and seal the bag. Tap each crouton with a heavy spoon to break into smaller pieces, without crushing; set aside.
4. Place chicken breasts on a plate and pat dry with paper towels. Sprinkle remaining salt and pepper, garlic powder, and sweet paprika on both sides of the chicken. If pieces are very thick, pound to about 1/2-inch thickness.
5. When the grill is preheated, clean the grates, and using tongs, carefully oil the grates with a paper towel saturated with olive oil.
6. Place seasoned chicken breasts on the oiled grates and grill until juices run clear and chicken is no longer pink at the center, 4 to 5 minutes per side, depending on thickness. A meat thermometer should read 165 degrees F (74 degrees C) when inserted into the thickest part of the chicken.
7. Top each grilled chicken breast with bruschetta and sprinkle on crumbled croutons. Garnish with additional fresh basil.

Creamy Cucumber Salad



Ingredients

- 2 large cucumbers, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 sweet onion, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon sea salt

Dressing:

- 1 ½ cups mayonnaise, or more to taste
- 2 tablespoons vinegar
- 1 tablespoon white sugar
- 1 teaspoon dried dill weed
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper

Directions

1. Mix cucumbers, onion, and salt together in a bowl. Cover with plastic wrap and let sit for 15 or 30 minutes.
2. Turn cucumber mixture into a colander set over a bowl or in a sink. Let drain, stirring occasionally, until most of the liquid and

salt has drained, 15 to 30 minutes. Transfer drained cucumber mixture to a large bowl.

3. Whisk mayonnaise, vinegar, sugar, dill, garlic powder, and pepper for dressing together in a bowl until smooth.
4. Pour over cucumber mixture and stir until coated.
5. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1 to 2 hours before serving.

Squash Casserole



Ingredients

- 4 cups sliced yellow squash
- ½ cup chopped onion
- ¼ cup water, or more as needed
- 35 buttery round crackers, crushed
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 2 eggs, beaten
- ¾ cup milk
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ground black pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons butter

Directions

1. Gather all ingredients.
2. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C).
3. Place squash and onion in a large skillet over medium heat. Pour in water. Cover, and cook until squash is tender, about 5 minutes. Drain well, and place in a large bowl.
4. Mix cracker crumbs and cheese together in a medium bowl. Stir half of the cracker mixture into the cooked squash and onions.
5. Mix eggs and milk together in a small bowl, then add to squash mixture.
6. Stir in 1/4 cup melted butter, and season with salt and pepper. Spread into the prepared baking dish. Sprinkle with remaining cracker mixture, and dot with 2 tablespoons butter.

7. Bake in the preheated oven until lightly browned, about 25 minutes.
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Italian Sausage, Peppers and Onions



Ingredients

- 6 (4 ounce) links sweet Italian sausage
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 medium yellow onion, sliced
- ½ medium red onion, sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 large red bell pepper, sliced
- 1 medium green bell pepper, sliced
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- ¼ cup white wine, or more to taste

Directions

1. Cook sausage in a large skillet over medium heat until brown on all sides, 5 to 7 minutes. Remove from skillet, and slice.
 2. Melt butter in the same skillet. Stir in onions and garlic, and cook 2 to 3 minutes. Mix in bell peppers, season with basil and oregano, and stir in 1/4 cup wine. Continue to cook and stir until peppers and onions are tender, 5 to 7 minutes.
 3. Return sausage slices to the skillet. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer 15 minutes, or until sausage is heated through, adding more wine if needed.
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Lemon Blueberry Cake



Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon butter, or as needed
- 12 ounces fresh blueberries
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup sour cream
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- ½ tablespoon lemon zest
- 2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar, or as needed

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Butter and lightly flour the sides of a 9-inch springform pan and line the bottom with parchment paper.
2. Place blueberries in a bowl and toss with 1 tablespoon flour and 1 teaspoon lemon juice.
3. Beat sugar and eggs in a mixing bowl using an electric mixer on high speed until thickened and light in color, at least 5 minutes. Mix in sour cream, vegetable oil, vanilla extract, and salt on low speed until just combined. Add 2 cups flour and baking powder and mix until combined. Add lemon juice and lemon zest and mix well.
4. Pour 1/2 the batter into the prepared pan and spread evenly. Spread 1/2 the blueberry mixture over batter. Pour in the remaining cake batter and spread remaining blueberries on top, pushing them halfway into the batter.
5. Bake in the preheated oven until top is browned and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, 35 to 45 minutes. Remove the outer ring from springform pan and let cool completely. Dust top of cooked cake with confectioners' sugar using a small sift.