



Newsletter

DECEMBER EDITION



GLIMPSES OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS: MR. WILSON'S OCE STORY

Meet Mr. Wilson! In his three years at Outreach Christian Education, he has taught Math Lab and American History at the elementary campus, and is actively involved in spiritual life at OCE through leading First Things First and chapel.

Mr. Wilson's reliance on God's faithfulness has carried him every step of the way. "I've seen a lot of faithfulness in what God has been doing. I have always had a belief that God will be faithful, but I've seen it over and over again, and that's a blessing."

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THEME VERSE

Mark 12:30

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Program

Join us on December 15th at 7:00 pm at Solid Rock Baptist Church as we celebrate Christ's birth at our annual Christmas Program! K-6th grades are all participating in this program that you won't want to miss!

Happy Birthday, Jesus! Parties

On Thursday, December 18th, we will celebrate Christmas during our Happy Birthday, Jesus parties! This festive school day will conclude with a noon dismissal.

Christmas Break

Mark your calendars for OCE's Christmas Break! School will release on December 18th and resume on January 5th. Take time this break to celebrate Christ's birth and rest with friends and family!

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- Veterans Day Recap
- Senior Spotlight with Davon Gibbs
- Healthy Recipe: Salmon Chipotle Bowl

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THE LATEST NEWS AT OUTREACH



Your Outreach Bulldogs have had a busy November! We honored America's brave veterans during our annual Veteran's Day program, featuring performances by elementary and select secondary students.

Senior high students enjoyed attending the GPACS student conference to worship and fellowship with students from other Christian schools, and many OCE families gathered for our second

worship night of the year. November concluded with Thanksgiving celebrations! Families joined together during our annual Thanksgiving Feast before dismissing for break. In November, there was much to be thankful for!

HEALTHY RECIPE: HONEY CHIPOTLE SALMON BOWL

Article by Shannon Santschi

Being cooped up in the winter months is motivation for trying something new in my home. Below is a dish I shared on social media that my sister Hopi decided to make on her weekly cooking show, "Cooking with Laylah." Try it and see if you don't love it! (Watch video at [link above](#). Double the recipe to serve 4.)

Honey Chipotle Salmon Bowls with Cilantro- Lime Rice

2 lbs. salmon, cut into cubes (about 1 1/2 inches each)

1 1/2 tsp smoked paprika,

1 tsp chili powder

1 tsp grilling seasoning of your choice, preferably one containing dried garlic
Kosher salt, to taste

olive or avocado oil to lightly coat the bottom of your pan

2 TBSP butter

1 English Cucumber, sliced

1 avocado, thinly sliced

Store-bought Sriracha Aioli Sauce (the brand I used was Terrapin Ridge Farms)

1 cup Basmati Rice

1 3/4 cup water

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GLIMPSES OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Mr. Wilson sees God's hand in leading him to OCE, even when he did not seek it out. "A friend was applying at OCE and got me in contact with the school. I was hired a week before school started," Wilson remarks. "I think that shows that OCE trusts God's plan."

Even before stepping through the doors of OCE, God was cultivating a passion for Christian education within Mr. Wilson. "Christian Education is the only education that has humanity's true purpose at its core. No other education system answers our biggest questions like Christian Education does."

One of Mr. Wilson's favorite aspects of OCE is the spiritual life emphasis he is able to contribute to through his involvement in chapel and First Things First. "I love chapel and First Things First more than anything else. To me, these matter the most because they directly impact [student's] daily lives in a deeper way than other subjects."

Through his involvement in the school's spiritual life, Mr. Wilson has had a front row seat to God's faithfulness at OCE. Some of the most meaningful moments have come from the concluding chapel services each year. "At the end of the year, we do a stone-stacking service at First Things First, where we tell a story of God's faithfulness. We stack a stone, like Joshua did after crossing the Jordan. We have had many teachers come and give their testimonies. We all get to hear countless displays of God's commitment to His people," Mr. Wilson recalls.



Mr. Wilson & students during an 1800's schoolhouse field trip!

Close relationships and shared goals with fellow OCE teachers have also been an encouragement to Mr. Wilson. "We spend a significant amount of time praying, worshiping, and sharing stories of what we see God doing every time we meet. The steadfastness of God is seen in so many ways; there have been a lot of answered prayers."

Mr. Wilson is not just a teacher, but also a student. He is currently pursuing a Masters in Divinity with a Christian Education emphasis at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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"The seminary has been such a time of growth for me. I'm not only learning and growing academically, but the ways I'm growing shape the way I'm interacting in my day-to-day life. I never leave class without thinking about how I can be a better husband, better teacher, better church member, a better friend--just a better follower of God in general."

Instrumental in influencing the direction of Mr. Wilson's life are his parents. "They instilled in me a deep love for God and His Word. Going to church growing up was instrumental, studying the Bible and seeing the richness of following God."

He also credits his church family at Sovereign Joy Baptist Church for their positive impact on his life. "My wife Chesed and I are really involved in our church, and my church community helps shape how we live our lives."

Finally, Mr. Wilson reflects on his own memorable teachers. "I had several teachers who really instilled in me an appreciation for the effect a teacher can have on a student. Even in a public school, there were teachers who were able to let their love of God shine through their work. When I think about being a teacher, I think about those teachers a lot."

As he looks ahead to his future, Mr. Wilson's primary goal is for each student to know and love God. "I hope more than anything for my students that they would know God better, and love him more because of their time at OCE...that the things they learn would affect their spiritual life as much as their outward life, and that they would glorify God in all they do."



As a kid, he loved fishing. Now Mr. Wilson fishes for the souls of men!

HONEY CHIPOTLE SALMON RECIPE, CONT.

Juice of 2 limes

1 bunch of cilantro, chopped and divided (You can substitute any fresh herb you'd like.)

2-3 canned Chipotle peppers in Adobe sauce

6 TBSP honey (adjust to your taste)

The other 1/2 of the fresh cilantro

3 green onions, tops and stems removed

3 cloves of fresh garlic

Juice from 2 limes

1 tsp Kosher salt (taste to make sure it's how you like it)

SAUCE

Place all ingredients for the sauce in a blender and blend. Set aside.

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GRIT & PURPOSE: VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM

Outreach Christian Education students, staff, and friends gathered on November 11th to celebrate and honor America's veterans.

Patriotism runs deep in Outreach's history and culture. James McCartney, co-founder of OCE, served in the U.S. military for years. A steadfast military background has shaped OCE's spirit of "Grit and Purpose." Outreach is dedicated to honoring those who have served, who are serving, and who have paid the ultimate price in service to this country.

The program opened with a striking similarity to each school day for OCE students - with the Pledge of Allegiance, Pledge to the Christian Flag, and the Pledge to the Bible. Kindergartner Nayeem Lockett, 1st grader Jet Krueger, and 2nd grader Langston Greenwood led the audience and their fellow students in the pledges.

The Pre-K class kicked off a string of patriotic songs by singing and performing actions to "Lord's Army." Kindergarten followed it up with a performance of "Grand Ole Flag." Following these songs, select secondary students spoke on the history and significance of Veterans Day. The 1st and 2nd grade class followed up with a performance of "God Bless America," the 3rd and 4th graders sang "America the Beautiful," and the 5th and 6th grade class concluded with "God Bless the USA."

The songs and recitations encouraged attendees not only to thank veterans for their sacrifices but also to honor those sacrifices in their daily lives. 10th grader Miranda Rodriguez Ortega powerfully exhorted the audience in this way, saying, "The defense of freedom does not belong to the military alone; it belongs to all of us. Each of us shares that duty, that responsibility, that sacred trust."

Ortega continued, "We don't have to wear a uniform to serve our country. We serve when we vote. We serve when we stand for what is right. We serve when we teach our children what freedom truly means. We serve when we extend that freedom to others, through kindness, through compassion, through courage...Freedom is not just something to celebrate; it's something we live. It's a choice we make every single day."



Honoring veterans from every branch

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Hattie Sikeski, a 7th grader at OCE, spoke about the history of Veterans Day. "On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month fell silent. The fighting of WW1 came to an end in 1918. Because of that peace, that long-awaited armistice, November 11th became [Armistice Day] - a day of celebration, a day the world would remember."

"After WW2 and the Korean War, the significance of the day grew and in 1954 it was renamed Veterans' Day, a day to honor all who have served in America in times of war and in times of peace," Sileski concluded.



Pre-K Performers!



Logan Wilson, elementary Bible and Math teacher, concluded the program with a final word of thanks and prayer. His benediction encouraged all attendees to live in gratitude for America's veterans and direct that back to God: "May God allow us to use our freedom for his glory."

HONEY CHIPOTLE SALMON...

RICE

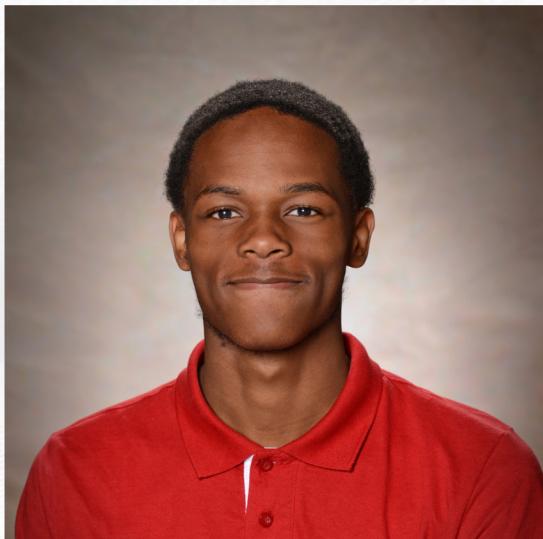
Combine the rice, water, and a pinch of salt in a medium-sized saucepan. Bring to a boil, turn heat down to a simmer, and place a lid on the saucepan. Cook until rice is tender. Remove from heat and stir in lime juice and cilantro with a fork. Cover. Set aside.

In a skillet, heat the oil over medium heat. Season the salmon with the seasonings and toss to coat. Add the salmon to the hot pan. Cook on the first side, about 2 minutes, until a deep brown crust forms. Flip the salmon to the other side and cook another 1 1/2 minutes before adding the sauce to the pan to finish cooking another few minutes. Add 2 TBSP of butter to the sauce and stir gently to combine.

To serve, place rice in the bottom of a bowl, then add salmon, cucumbers, and avocado. Drizzle with Sriracha. **Serves 2, generously.**

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

DAVON GIBBS



In his four years at Outreach Christian Education, Davon Gibbs has embraced many roles. You may know him as a basketball player, a runner on the track team, or a member of the volleyball team. He has also been active in OCE's music scene, playing violin in Orchestra. Many others recognize him as a leader and a mentor.

As he reflects on his time at OCE, Davon does not see his primary identity as an athlete, academic, or musician, leader or mentor. The identity he holds most dear is that of a worshiper. "Worship [at OCE] helped show me what I want to do. I want to be a worshiper. It has pushed me to go into ministry," Davon said. He is praying and presently discerns a call to continue his studies at College of the Ozarks after graduation.

Having a body of friends and teachers who talk together about their relationships with God has been most impactful for Davon. "They've helped strengthen me, and I've been able to be open with them...There's a community at the school and encouragement. [They're] like a family in a way, I can rely on these people, they are there for you...It feels really safe. I am going to look back at the friends I've made [here] and say they've really helped me in my walk."

Not only has Davon strengthened his identity as a worshiper and follower of Christ here, he recognizes that his work ethic has also been polished at OCE. In academics, he says the greatest lesson he has learned is to "work hard even when it's easy - to push myself past being comfortable with just passing." The goal, he explains to is go above and beyond his own expectations. "It's how you grow," he says in all seriousness.

Davon's parting advice for fellow OCE students is to "boldly be yourself and to not care what other people think."

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NOVEMBER IN PHOTOS



All-School Chapel



Baby chicks hatched in 5th-6th grade!



High School Outing in Midtown



1st-2nd Grade Veterans Day Performance



Mr. Noel gets his Christmas wish early – hair! :D



Fall friends at recess