

Continued from page 7.

Kirkland Wheeler**Q. What instrument do you play?****A.** Organ and piano**Q. What led you to play that instrument?****A.** When I was a kid, my grandmother had a key to my home church. We only lived a half-block away from the church, so I would let myself in and taught myself how to play the organ.**Q. Why the organ?****A.** Because I liked the various sounds the instrument could make. It's like a painter's palette that you would use to paint a picture. Instead of paint, you're using various organ stops (sounds) to create a musical picture. There is no better instrument for the support of congregational singing than the organ. I learned how to read music in elementary school and played the tenor saxophone in my school band until I graduated from high school.**Stay tuned for Sherryl Grant's answers to her questions in the next issue, and maybe more from the Music Ministry.** ✧**Q. How were you convinced that you could play this instrument for the Lord?****A.** I've never played it for anyone else! I'm a church musician. God gave me the interest, ability and opportunities to play for Him. I love what I do.**Q. How were you led to GCA?****A.** When Sandy and I first got married we were members of Calvary Gospel Chapel, so GCA was not foreign to us. At that time, we actually lived closer to GCA (near Johnson and Ardleigh) in Philadelphia.**Comments:**

Regarding the Male Chorus, we have seen numerical growth. We have a total of 15 members and a prospective member wishing to join. It's open to all GCA men 18 years of age or older. No prior musical experience is necessary, only a willingness to minister to the Lord through song.

Parent Leadership Workshop**Who:** Parents, Guardians & Youth Advocates**What:** Join us for a video presentation and dialogue to sharpen our leadership skills.**When:** Sundays, Jan. 11 to Feb. 15, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.**Where:** Room #20*Coffee & Refreshments will be served.
Contact is Bro. Roger Walton*February 2015
Volume 3, Issue 1**In This Issue**

- 1, 4, 5 Highlights of GCA 2014 Year in Review
- 1, 5 GCA Community Connections Succeed
- 2, 6-8 Music Ministry Q&A
- 3 Unity Through Diversity
- 6 The Passion of Christ: A Special Sermon Series
- 7 Interview with GCA Member Jonathan Watson
- 8 Youth Activities
- 8 Parent Leadership Workshop

GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly

Highlights of GCA 2014 Year in Review

By Dwight Nielson

January

- The GCA Bible Institute began the study of 1 Corinthians on Tuesday evenings.
- GCA members were able to access thousands of Christian videos on multiple topics for kids, youth, parents, personal devotions, married couples, and more through RightNow Media.

*Continues on page 4.***GCA Community Connections Succeed**

By Audrey Holett

With a renewed emphasis on discipleship and evangelism, Germantown Christian Assembly expanded its Tuesday evening program with the launch of GCA Community Connections last September.

GCA Community Connections allows the assembly to reach and minister to the immediate neighborhood through activities designed to meet some of its practical and spiritual needs. One such need is homework assistance which was provided to students in first through ninth grades. Through Community Connections, the children and youth ministries brought with them activities, like the brand new Kids' Club, homework assistance, and



youth Bible studies, which enlivened the fellowship hall and corridors between 3:00 and 8:30 p.m.

As many as 80 children and teenagers participated in the program and the program leaders are encouraged by what they have seen so far. Ernestine Tinsley, a retired Philadelphia School District teacher and now a volunteer Community Connections homework tutor, says that she relished the re-engagement with the children and was pleased with the academic improvements they showed by the Christmas break.

*Continues on page 5.***YOUTH ACTIVITIES****Sundays:** 9:30-10:30 a.m. Sunday School**Tuesday:** 6:45-7:45 p.m. Bible Study**Saturdays:** 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Community Basketball in the gym of Leeds Middle School

Music Ministry Q&A

Continued from page 2.

Greg Jones

- Q. What instrument do you play?
- A. Drums
- Q. How long have you been playing them?
- A. Since I was 3.
- Q. How did you learn to play them?
- A. I first learned from a teacher when I was in kindergarten. She had a little drum that she would play and had us march around the room. Then she'd ask the kids to come up and play. Another guy and I came up and that's how I started to play.
- Q. When did you decide that you could do that for the Lord?
- A. It was in the Baptist church, I was around a lot of gospel musicians for many years.

Christopher Wheeler

- Q. What instrument do you play?
- A. Piano and keyboard.
- Q. What led you to play that instrument?
- A. I've always had an interest in music and the piano was the most accessible, versatile, and interesting instrument to me.
- Q. What background have you had in playing this instrument? When did you learn to play it?
- A. I have played the piano for about 22 years and I've been playing in churches for about 14 years now.

Continues on page 7.

THE **PASSION**
of Christ

A Special Sermon Series

Speaker: **Pastor Brian H. Grant**

February 15th – “Cries from Gethsemane”

February 22nd – “The Pain of Betrayal”

March 8th – “The Greatest Miscarriage of Justice”

March 15th – “The Road to Calvary”

Good Friday Worship & Communion Service

April 3rd – “The Darkest Day In History “

Easter Sunday

April 5th – “The Impact of the Resurrection”

The cross of Christ is the focal point of history. Join us as we wrap up Matthew’s Gospel with the powerful stories of the Lord’s passion and how this should impact each of us.

Don’t Forget to Invite Family & Friends!

Feel the Agony
Experience the Emotion
Celebrate Redemption
Share the Victory

Unity Through Diversity

By Nora Brown

On October 25, 2014 several churches joined in the 5th Unity Conference, sponsored by Grand Old Gospel Fellowship (GOGF), held at Germantown Christian Assembly. Churches in attendance included Calvary Gospel Chapel (W. Philadelphia), Montco Bible Fellowship (Lansdale), Philadelphia Bible Fellowship (NE Philadelphia), Willingboro Christian Assembly (NJ), Green Pastures of Easton, United Baptist of New York, and GCA. The turnout was excellent and it was a marvelous time in the Lord.

The theme was Unity through Diversity. The session started with praise and worship led by Bro. Stacey Harcum, saxophonist and vocalist from Upper Darby. As Bro. Harcum sang and played the saxophone, praises could be heard from every corner of the church. This was the start of things to come. Pastor Butler, of Montco, introduced the theme, “Unity through Diversity. Using certain keys on the piano, he was able to demonstrate that while each key has its own unique sound, when they are played together, they produce a better harmony. Likewise when God’s people come together with their different gifts and talents, together it produces unity and edification to the body of Christ.



STACY HARCUM

Pastor Tony Hart, of GOGF and Montco, encouraged the Church to pray about becoming involved in short term mission trips, and to share in his vision to plant churches all over the world, to prepare leaders, and to proclaim the gospel until the whole world hears. What followed was a very dynamic message by Pastor Myrue Spivey of Grace Bible Sanctuary in the Melbourne, FL area. We later broke up into groups and attended our choice of four workshops.

UNITY THROUGH DIVERSITY WORKSHOPS

CULTURAL DIVERSITY
Dr. James Murray
Phila. Bible Fellowship

GENERATIONAL DIVERSITY
Pastor Andrew Hart
Montco Bible Fellowship

DIVERSITY IN SPIRITUAL GIFTS
Pastor Tom Troutt, Sr.
Phila. Bible Fellowship

DIVERSITY IN WORSHIP
Pastor Sam Butler
Montco Bible Fellowship

I was greatly blessed as I attended two of these workshops, one on identifying your spiritual gifts and the other on “Closing the Generation Gap”. In “Identifying Your Spiritual Gift,” we learned that our spiritual gift is often revealed through the passion in which we are driven to respond to a situation. Likewise, in the workshop “Closing the Generation Gap,” Bro. Hart from Montco discussed several ways in which we can try to close the generation gap between the younger and older generations, through avenues such as GCA’s Community Outreach Connection; see separate article.

The final session included another praise and worship session, Pioneer Award Presentation, special music, and message. The conference ended with the results of the silent auction and the awarding of prizes to winners of the acquaintance game.

There were many opportunities for fellowship during the breaks and while enjoying a great breakfast and lunch. On behalf of everyone, I would like to thank all those who worked so hard in the kitchen to make these meals possible. May God richly bless you for your dedication. ✧

Continued from page 1.

February

- Brian Grant, Andrew Hart, and Wali Ahmad continued in the study of Matthew.
- We had our first Sunday Night Connection for the year, which featured testimonies and gospel karaoke.

March

- Brian spoke on God's Design for Marriage in a four-part series.
- We had a Sunday Night Connection in which a saint who was delivered from homosexuality spoke of her journey to wholeness.

April

- The GCA pastoral search committee announced its unanimous recommendation of Brian Grant to be installed as pastor of the assembly.
- GCA held its annual missions conference. Dr. Tony Hart was the main speaker.

May

- GCA hosted the Evangelism Explosion Conference on a Saturday, conducted by the pastor of Limerick Chapel (Limerick), Dr. Daniel Peters.
- GCA held its annual family retreat at the Harvey Cedars Bible Conference Center in New Jersey with the theme, 'Unleashing the Power of the Holy Spirit'. Bro. Tom Troutt of Philadelphia Bible Fellowship was the speaker.

June

- Brian Grant was consecrated as the new pastor of our assembly on Sunday, June 22nd.
- GCA celebrated its 41st anniversary, which was highlighted by the honoring of graduates in the evening with Pastor James Murray of Philadelphia Bible Fellowship as the speaker.

July

- Over 100 students attended Vacation Bible School for a week, with a pre-VBS kickoff fair, a post VBS celebration breakfast, and reunion cookout.

August

- GCA had its annual picnic in Beltzville State Park in Lehigh, PA.
- GCA surpassed its anniversary offering goal of \$15,000, primarily for the sound system.



Continued from page 4.

September

- GCA kicked off its Tuesday Night Community Connections program with dinner, homework assistance, Bible studies and prayer, for members of the assembly and community; see separate article.
- Family psychologist, Dr. Barry S. Davidson held a series of seminars/workshops on, "Relationship Building for Couples and Singles."

October

- Charles and Dilys Hart celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.
- GCA joined Willingboro Christian Assembly in the dedication of their new building. Bro. Brian was the speaker and the Voices of Praise sang.

November

- GCA held its 3rd annual Friends & Family Day with over 250 in attendance.
- Jim McConnell's book, "Letters to the Seven Churches," made available on the book cart.

December

- GCA enjoyed a Sunday Christmas brunch, Christmas Eve candlelight service, and Christmas card exchange.



"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end; they are
new every morning; great is your faithfulness."
Lamentations 3:22-23

"But the Lord is faithful, He will establish
you and guard you against the evil one."
1 Thessalonians 3:3

GCA Community Connections Succeed

Continued from page 1.

The Bible institute was expanded to include four adult classes on Tuesday nights as well. A variety of courses, designed to promote spiritual growth, were offered and presented in formats ranging from lecture to conversational. Some classes may be taken for credit leading to certification.

By the Christmas break, more than 150 children and adults had participated in GCA's Community Connections. The success of the program is directly related to the 30 dedicated volunteers, both members and friends of the church, who assisted with everything from registration to security and homework assistance to food preparation and service. Oh, yes! Dinner is served from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. allowing fellowship and bonding.

Community Connections resumes on Tuesday, March 9, 2015, and there is ample opportunity for additional volunteers to participate. Further information will appear in the church bulletin. ✧