

Candy Sweet Potatoes

This is a recipe from the Golden Eagles Ministry via David Johnson

Ingredients

- 3 Tbsp. coconut oil
- ½ cup butter
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. ginger powder
- 1 tsp. nutmeg
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
- 4 lbs. sweet potatoes
- 1 lb. brown sugar or molasses



Directions

Wash, peel and cube the sweet potatoes.

Bring 3 quarts of water to boil, add potatoes, cook for 15-20 minutes, potatoes should not be fully cooked, about ¾ of the way. Remove from stove, drain and cool. Put coconut oil, butter, sugar into saucepan. When melted, add cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, vanilla, simmer 10 minutes. Put sweet potatoes in rectangular baking pan and pour the ingredients over the sweet potatoes. Sprinkle a little paprika on top.

Put sweet potatoes in oven at 375° F for 20 minutes. Remove and serve. ✧



Future GCA Events

- May 6th..... Men’s Breakfast
- May 13th Ladies Breakfast
- May 14th Special Mother’s Day Service
- May 19th - 21st GCA Weekend Getaway
- May 26th - 28th GCA Missions Conference
- June 4th..... GCA 44th Anniversary & Celebrate Grads
- July 10 - 14 VBS “Glow for Jesus”
- July 29th Church Picnic

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GRACE - (Charis) #5485 Strongs Concordance –
“The Divine Influence on the Heart”

We’re SAVED by grace, we STAND in grace, we HOPE in grace.
Eph. 2:8 Rom. 5:2 2 Thess. 2:16

We’re exhorted to WALK in grace, GROW in grace, ABUND in grace, be STRONG
Eph. 2:10 2 Pet. 3:18 2 Cor. 8:7 2 Tim. 2:1

in Grace, to CONTINUE in grace, to RECOGNIZE grace, and to MINISTER grace.
Acts 13:43 2 Cor. 8:9 Eph. 4:29

Our SPEECH is supposed to be full of it, we’re to be good STEWARDS of it, and
Col. 4:6 1 Pet. 4:10

It is the means of guiding our CONDUCT.
2 Cor. 1:12

We can FAIL, FALL FROM, and FRUSTRATE grace; it’s denied to the PROUD.
Heb. 12:15 Gal. 5:4 Gal. 2:21 Jas. 4:6

Grace OVERCOMES sin; it TEACHES us to be God-like.
Rom. 5:20 Titus 2:11

It can be ADDED, MULTIPLIED, GIVEN away.
Jas. 4:6 2 Pet. 1:2 Eph. 4:29

We need it to offer acceptable SERVICE to God. It’s what we will be given at the
Heb. 12:28

REVELATION of Jesus Christ.
1 Pet. 1:13

It’s what CALLS us, KEEPS us, PERFECTS us, and will take us safely HOME.
1 Pet. 5:10

If we have NEEDS, or if we’re HURTING; if there’s some OBSTACLE in our lives
Heb. 4:16 Heb. 12:15 2 Cor. 12:7

That just won’t let us past, then we need to know what GRACE is, because
2 Cor. 12:9

that’s what God is going to give us, and it will be ENOUGH.
2 Cor. 12:10

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Volume 5, Issue 1

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GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly

GCA Evangelizes Higher-Level Learners

- GCA’s College Ministry

By Marlon Henry



A new initiative for ministry is taking place for college students located around the Philadelphia area. The idea of having Christian outreach in local colleges was founded by Pastor Brian Grant after learning from LifeWay Research data that “70% of young adults who enter college as committed Christians will walk away from Christ before leaving

college.” Religion is under attack in universities nationwide, with man-made theories and book materials being the law of the classroom. The goal of the ministry is to teach students that God’s Word is law and to evangelize them for four years so that they can return to their home communities spiritually empowered.

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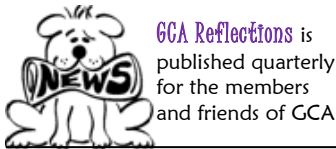
SISTER BLACKSHEAR CELEBRATES MILESTONE

Sister Virginia Blackshear, known as “Miss Faithful” because she faithfully played the GCA organ for so many years (since the very early years of the church), celebrated her 90th birthday with us on Sunday, March 26 at the Old Country Buffet in Philadelphia. Her family invited everyone from GCA to join them in Sis. Blackshear’s special birthday celebration. ✧



The Purpose of this Newsletter

This ministry newsletter is intended to support the vision of the church—to be Christ-centered, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to build lives that glorify and worship God by emphasizing the Word, Evangelism, Discipleship and Caring for the whole man. We hope this newsletter will play an important role in encouraging the members of our assembly to fearlessly stand closer together, for the cause of the gospel of Christ.



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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in each of the articles herein are those of each individual author or contributor and not necessarily those held by the GCA Reflections Staff or GCA leadership.

A special thank you to all who contributed to this issue of GCA Reflections.


GCA Evangelizes Higher-Level Learners

Continued from page 1.

GCA contacted various colleges in the area, including Arcadia University and Philadelphia University, through Christian College Outreach to attend our church at the start of the school year. “College Sunday” was organized by the members of the College Sunday Committee, namely Brian Grant, Jackie Swift, Darryl Brown, Andrea Henry, Marlon Henry, and Taylor Noble.

College Sunday took place on September 11th, 2016 at 10:45 am. At this special service, everyone including college alumni could wear college apparel and bring banners, flags, etc. in the spirit of our college guests (and several did come--enough to fill one pew). There was music by the church’s youth group, *Created*, and a guest speaker delivering a special message for the students and those young at heart. Following the service, along with a small group of church members who socialized with them and were available to answer their questions, the students were treated to a meal. Several students continued weekly off and on, and some came to Tuesday evening Bible study.

The ministry needed (and still need for next September) volunteers to serve as “host families” who are willing to invite one or more students to their house for dinner or take them out occasionally. The goal is to grow a personal relationship with the student. This gives the student a “home” away from home and a deep sense of appreciation for the kind of love that Jesus showed during His lifetime. The ministry also needs drivers willing to pick up students to take to church every Sunday; even this can serve as an opportunity to make new friends and minister to them during the car ride to church. Keep this ministry in prayer, especially for the students during the summer. ✧



Two well-worn bills arrived at the Federal Reserve Bank to be retired – a \$100 and a \$1. As they traveled down the conveyor belt, they struck up a conversation. The hundred reminisced about the interesting life he had, traveling all over the country. “I’ve been to the finest restaurants, Broadway shows, Las Vegas, and amusement parks,” he said. “I even went on a Caribbean cruise once. Where have you been?” “Oh,” said the one dollar bill, “I’ve been to a Methodist church, an Episcopal church, a Baptist church, and a Lutheran church.” “What’s a church?” asked the hundred.

Paper Shredding Event

Guess who had a paper shredding event? That’s right! For the very first time, GCA had one on Saturday, April 8th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the church parking lot so that the whole neighborhood could come. What a great way to give us all relief from accumulated piles of old documents and confidential files! We also reached out to the community with the gospel and handed out postcards of our Good Friday and Easter services. Over a hundred people attended the event. We thank all of our GCA members and friends who posted our paper shredding ad on their Facebook page. ✧



GCA Members Earn Certificates

As part of the GCA Community Connections Outreach Project on Tuesday evenings this spring GCA members and other attendees can enroll in Emmaus Bible Institute courses and receive certificates as follows: “Judges”, “Thessalonians”, “I’ll Take the High Road”; and for ladies only “Life Interrupted” without certificate. Registration and course descriptions are available online at

www.gcafamilychurch.org. Classes started March 21 but you can still catch up!

For the previous “semester” the following passed their tests and received certificates on March 26th: Melbourne Brown, Nora Brown, Ekua Budu, Evelyn Cartagena, Amy Dowling, Yvette Earle, Phyllis Johnson, Gwen Kelly, Norma Reid, Alice Shubrick, Eulalee Spence, Emma Trusty, Juanita Washington and Shirley Williams. ✧

New Van Purchase

The deacons were looking months and months for a used van in good shape! Would you believe the Lord landed them one with an aisle down the middle and only 9,000 miles on it? Doesn’t it look great? Even Pastor Grant can stand up in it! And he’s really tall. ✧



Highlights from the March 19, 2017 Business Meeting

The projects for this year's Anniversary Offering are:

1. Erecting an awning by the main door into the lobby to cover the ramp. This will serve a practical need and also have aesthetic benefits.
2. Caulking, resealing and restriping the entire parking lot. We hope by spending a little now to reseal the lot, it may save us the expense of a complete repaving in the next few years.
3. Paying off the balance of the personal loan acquired for the van purchase. ✧



Sunday School – Circus Bound

The GCA Sunday school had a special contest for its students and all those who qualified won free tickets to one of the final Barnum and Bailey shows, on March 18. Those who qualified included:

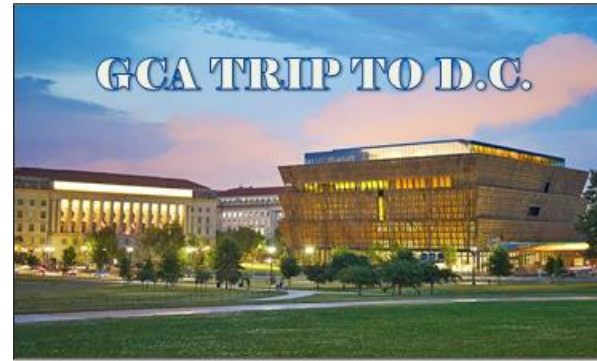
- Leah and Sidney Brice
- Eternity Curbison
- Marcus Dow
- Aniya Gentles
- Dylan and Olivia Grant
- Haven, McKai, Makayla and Taylor Hoilett
- Jonathan Jackson
- Christopher and Louis Jones
- Arionna, Tyrone and Sanaa Kent
- Marcus Longmore
- Alicia Moore
- Amelia, Ashmere and Amya Pennycooke
- Immanuel Reece
- Gabrielle Rickett
- Shannon Ridenhour
- Isaiah, Paul and James Selby
- Ashton Thompson
- Alexis and Hailey Toliver
- Ezra and Hanna Walton
- Kayla West
- Nicholas White
- Naomi Wilford

All total about 100 attended! Needless to say it seems they had a good time. The Circus was in Trenton, New Jersey, at the Sun National Bank Center approximately 30 miles from the church.

Note: If anyone would like a GCA T-shirt, there are still some available in various sizes at \$12 each. Please see Bro. Doyle Gray or Sis. Sharon Small. ✧



Church Photos



National Museum of African American Culture and History

In unprecedented numbers, members, family and friends of GCA traveled last November 5th to visit the National Museum of African American Culture and History (NMAACH) in Washington, D.C. As expected, a throng of eager visitors awaited entry to the building and many more milled around or waited in long lines to see the many exhibits.

The majestic-looking structure boasts eight floors – four below ground and four above – which recall African-American's progressive contributions to U.S. history. By all accounts, the lower levels house the most graphic and unnerving reminders of

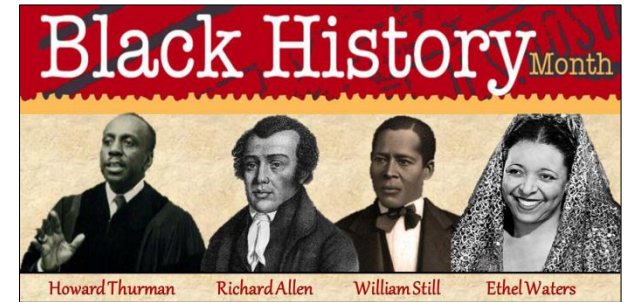
our country's past. Upper levels exhibited progressive contributions by African Americans in areas of science, music and the arts, sports, literature and much more.

Pockets of our group roamed the building from one exhibit to the next. Some paused for rest while they watched video presentations. Others did not pass up the opportunity to visit the gift shop. With so much to see, it was not long before we realized that one day was not enough time to complete the tour. ✧

In February, GCA featured presentations of four noted individuals during African-American History Month as part of the Sunday morning services. GCA young people shared regarding the spiritual leadership and contributions these folks made to their country.

The life of Howard Thurman was presented by Eternity Curbison, Jonathan Jackson and Nicholas White. Alicia Moore. Davina Grierson and Ezra

Walton presented the life of Richard Allen. Marcus Frasier, Hannah Walton and Naomi Wilford presented the life of William Still (with relatives in the congregation that Sunday including our own Tiffany (Still) Grant, a direct descendent). The life of Ethel Waters was presented by Aniya Gentles, Ashton Webb and Kayla West. The bulletin insert of each presentation were most helpful. ✧



After the children attend 6 weeks of class, "Learning More about Jesus and His Church," GCA Elder, Bro. LeRoy Jackson had the pleasure of baptizing Alexis Toliver, Shannon Ridenhour, McKai Hoilett and Haven Hoilett on Sunday, March 12th. Also, Damon Hobbs received the Right Hand of Fellowship. ✧



By Jim McConnell

Grace is the **distinguishing feature** of the New Testament and of the Age of the Church. In fact, the Church Age is often called 'the Age of Grace,' and our gospel is called 'the Gospel of Grace.'

The **core feature** of grace is God's mercy: His unmerited favor extended to undeserving sinners. Nothing of grace can ever be thought to escape this core feature. However, God's merciful grace is much more than simply unmerited favor. The distinguishing feature of God's grace is something never known or guessed at before: known only to

the Mind of God until revealed by the Holy Spirit, it was truly a **divine mystery**; something vastly different from anything that was seen in the Law of Moses: new life in Christ.

Romans 8:2-4 NAS

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

John exclaims, "Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (1:17). The distinguishing feature of God's

merciful favor to man in the New Testament which differentiates it from the Old, is resurrection power through new life in Christ. In this, grace is not only unlike the Law, it is unlike any other religion known to men, and as such, the transforming power and changeless purpose of the grace that saves is our daily companion along the way to Glory. (Phil. 2:13; Titus 2:11-14)

Grace is dynamic; it's active and powerful. Grace is targeted, with a specific direction and purpose. Grace is no less than the supernatural power of God to make us like Himself.

Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Marvelous grace, infinite grace,
Grace that is greater than all my sin.

- Julia H. Johnston

Continues on page 7.

GCA Community Connections Start A Week Later

Bad weather this winter wasn't much of a problem, until GCA Community Connections wanted to start up again. Winter howled on March 14, postponing opening until March 21. The schedule includes 3:15 p.m. Homework support, 5:15 dinner, 6:00 Kids Club, ESL classes, Childcare and Early Prayer Time, 6:45 Adults & Teens Bible Classes and 7:45 Prayer Time.

ESL (English as a Second Language) has about 25 students on roll, but for various reasons only about 10 are attending presently. Languages represented are Korean, Spanish (Venezuela), Portuguese, French (Haitian) and from Nigeria. ✧

GCA YOUTH MINISTRY



GCA Basketball Team B4C (Basketball for Christ)

GCA B4C TEAM

The boys had a great season with a record of 5 wins and 1 loss. They played for the CYBA Championship on Thursday, April 6th at the Wells Fargo Center. A few of the boys have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Please pray that the gospel seed planted will be watered and God will make it grow.

Volunteers are needed for the 2018 season. See Bro. Roger Walton. ✧

GCA Flag Football & Skills Program

Serving the Community for 43 Years!

Field Location:
605 E. Mt. Pleasant Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19119



Each Saturday in May 2017
11 AM to 12:30 PM

**FREE
T-SHIRT**



Parents & Guardians –

Join us for a FREE, fun and organized Flag Football Program one day per week!

For boys ages 8-13.

Practice & skill drills takes place before the game.

To register, call the church office at (215) 242-5550.

GCA Flag Football & Skills Program

Twenty families in the community registered last season. We're accepting registration now for 2017. We hope to have a special Championship game this season; details to come soon. Parents can see Daniel Edwards and George Pessoa for more information. ✧