

GCA CHURCH PICNIC



AT VICTORY VALLEY CAMP

7352 Salem Bible Church Road
Zionsville, PA 18092

Volleyball
Fishing
Kayaking
Hiking
Game Room



**GCA
COOK-OFF
CONTEST**

Swimming
Basketball
Soccer
Canoeing
Paddle Boats

Cook-off Categories = Deviled Eggs • Ribs • Dessert

**12 noon to 6:00 p.m. Saturday
July 28, 2018**

FREE BEVERAGES, HOT DOGS,
HAMBURGERS, AND CORN-ON-THE-COB

PICNIC COST
\$7 PER PERSON
\$30 PER FAMILY
PLUS \$8 IF YOU NEED TRANSPORTATION

You may bring a dish to share!
Contacts are Sis. Sharon Small & Jackie Swift



VBS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

(See Bulletin for Info)

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Do you remember these verses? All verses are from the NKJV.

"...for _____ never came by the will of man, but
_____ men of God _____ as they were
_____ by the _____." 2 Peter 1:21

"But you, _____, though you are
little among the thousands of _____, yet out of you shall come
forth to Me the _____ to be _____ in _____, whose
goings forth are from of old, from _____." Micah 5:2

"For You will not leave my _____ in _____, nor will You
allow Your _____ to see _____."
Psalm 16:10

"...that the man of _____ may be _____, thoroughly
_____ for every _____." 2 Timothy 3:17.

GET READY FOR AN

Kids are anchored in the truth
that Jesus carries them
through life's storms.

ADVENTURE TO AN UNCHARTED ISLAND!



SHIPWRECKED

RESCUED BY JESUS

FREE VBS

Join us for an exciting week of Vacation Bible School

Date: Monday to Friday, August 6-10th

Time: 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Age: 3 to 11

Register at GCA or Online
www.gcafamychurch.org

July 2018
Volume 6, Issue 2

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GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly

GCA ANNUAL MISSIONS CONFERENCE



CIRCLING
the **WORLD** for **CHRIST**

This year's theme was "Circling the World for Christ," with keynote speaker Jacques Forge, a Haitian missionary who now pastors a French speaking church in Montreal, Canada. In April, he was joined by several other missionaries to help give us a perspective of how God's Spirit is at work worldwide.

Friday night's kickoff event was a "French Cafe" at 7 p.m. It was a great time of inspiration and fellowship. We heard the testimony of the "slumdog from Calcutta," Lilian Geating. Thanks goes out to Alton and Diane Davis who each sang solos.

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By Jim McConnell

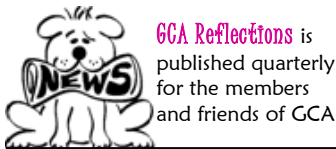
JESUS' BAR MITZVAH

When Jesus began His public ministry, He didn't come out of nowhere.

The Bible provides little information about Jesus' life between His birth and the beginning of His public ministry. However, it does provide us with sufficient information to conclude that by the time He began His public ministry following His baptism by John and the temptation in the wilderness, Jesus had already established Himself as a person of note. *Continues on page 3.*

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.

Each issue will be available on the GCA website under "News & Events".

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

GCA ANNUAL MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Continued from page 1.



Lorraine Stirneman (middle) with missionary from Hugs for Haiti (left) and Haitian speaker, Pastor Jacques Forge of Montreal, Canada (right).

Saturday morning's program began with a continental breakfast followed by special workshops. Later that evening, at 7 p.m., there was a *Pizza & Games Night* targeted at young adults and teens.

Sunday's worship service focused on missions; afterward, dinner was served in the Fellowship Hall.

God used this weekend to inspire and challenge us regarding worldwide missions. ✧



Bible studies are offered during the Community Connection Outreach Project on Tuesday nights. Certificates are given to participants who successfully complete the Bible study course and pass the test. The following are the latest to receive certificates:

- For **Gospel of John - Part 1**: Amy Dowling, Cheryl Abney, Marie Trusty and Sharon Small
- For **Acts**: Alice Shubrick, Ekoa Budu, Eulalee Spence, Herb Dean, Karlene Jones, Shirley Williams, Carolyn Smith and Audrey Hoilett
- For **New Testament Survey**: Anetta Allen, Cheryl McGibbon, Jackie Swift, Juanita Washington, Lorna Henry, Melbourne Brown, Merv Caruth, Mildred Cross and Phyllis Johnson. ✧

TESTIMONIES From Recent New Members

Continued from page 6.

Venice Jackson

was wavering. How could God love me, yet turn my life upside down? How could He hurt me this way?

Thanks be to God for His patience, mercy and grace towards me! He wouldn't let me be comfortable staying home on Sunday mornings. When I found one church that I wanted to join, He moved the pastor to another church so I wandered some more. I kept visiting GCA and knew deep down that this was where God told me to go, but I still leaned on my own understanding. I must have visited over 30 churches in 5 years and did not feel welcome or at peace with any of them, so I kept returning to GCA.

I'm grateful to God for His favor in my life and for the Lord Jesus Christ who died for my sins. I am grateful that He is mine and I am His!! Also, I'm thankful for my new church home and family who have shown me so much love. It is good to be here at GCA and I look forward to getting to know all of you.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. – Proverbs 3:5, 6 ✧

CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

Among the items shared at the semi-annual business meeting on Sunday, March 4th were plans for updating the building.

The church building was completed in 1990 and since then very few improvements had been made. Plans are now being developed for upgrades, which include the following:

- Replace the roof, which is leaking
- Redo the inside ceiling, so as to permanently get rid of the ugly marks which keep reappearing
- Improve the lighting in the sanctuary
- Redo the flooring
- Repair, clean and refasten pews.

The Anniversary offering this year will go toward these projects. ✧

GCA Ladies' Breakfast
On May 19th
Was Great!

Emcee was
Stephanie Toliver
and daughter, Alexis

Our Speaker was
GCA's Pat Richards

Our Guest was
Piano Soloist
Laura Dijols



To your *health*  *Medical Alert*
By Margaret Aitcheson SYSTEMS

I just wanted to say a bit about in-home medical alert systems. There are several types but essentially they are individually set up in the home, and the buyers are trained in their use as well as how to access their local 911 operator in an emergency. Some of these systems can help with carbon monoxide issues, home invasions, fire protection and health concerns.

The 911 operators are usually available at the press of a button. With senior citizens living well into their nineties and beyond, and having variable health issues, it is important to have these services readily available.

Many seniors are also home alone for long hours, or actually live alone so it can be reassuring to have access to some type of medical alert system. Each system must be carefully evaluated with an eye on cost and services offered. Having one of these systems may go a long way to alleviate attendant anxiety and promote a better quality of life. ✧

TESTIMONIES From Recent New Members



Gerelynn Colquitt
Gerelynn, who recently became a member of GCA, shares this:

I was brought up in church, but as I got old enough I would go to parties. But, I came to realize that going to church and trying to get closer to God was what I should be doing. I started coming to GCA with Keith Colquitt and Lisa Lambert years ago off and on, but last year I started coming regularly and listening to Pastor Brian and loving the way he preaches. I decided that I wanted to join and be in fellowship to grow closer to the Lord. Plus I wanted to help out with children's ministries. ✧



Venice Jackson
Venice, who also became a member of GCA, shares this:

Greetings GCA Church Family and Friends,

My journey to GCA has been filled with many bumps, turns and detours. After my husband died suddenly in 2013, the Lord God led me to leave my church home of seven years. I knew within my spirit that He directed me to GCA, but I refused to obey. I had to first deal with the awful pain, grief and yes, even anger over my loss. I knew what God wanted me to do, but I refused to submit because my trust in everything I knew

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JESUS' BAR MITZVAH 

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There is one incident from Jesus' early life recorded in Scripture, and this was when, at the age of 12, He traveled with His parents to Jerusalem.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

Luke 2:41-42 (KJV)

So it was customary for Jesus' parents to journey to Jerusalem for Passover every year because that was their habit. Whether or not this was the first time Jesus went along, we don't know. But the trip in that year was more than 'customary,' because the text says it was made according to the customs of the feast. Therefore, in order to get the most out of this account of Jesus' early life, we need to understand something about Jewish customs and how Jews practiced their faith, for it was the traditions of the *Mishnah*, the oral traditions handed down by the rabbis, that set the tone for this trip up to Jerusalem. Jewish readers would immediately recognize the backstory here because they would be familiar with Jewish customs and religious practice. But for Gentile readers like us, that's less likely because the Luke account is silent about that.

This was a very special year in the life of the young Jesus, for being a 12-year-old Jewish boy meant that this was a year filled with the anticipation of turning 13.

The thirteenth birthday is the most important of birthdays for a Jewish boy. It's called his **Bar Mitzvah**. A Bar Mitzvah is the biggest moment in the life of this young Jew, for it marks his formal entrance into the community of Israel. This is when a boy becomes a man and officially becomes a son of the Covenant; literally, "Son of the *Torah*." That's what 'Bar Mitzvah' means.



Continuing even today, this age-old tradition is an occasion marked with joyful celebration complete with a festive dinner with family and friends and the giving of gifts. Indeed, the boy may well receive gifts of money sufficient to provide for his education or even start him out in business when he is ready. But the year **preceding** his *Bar Mitzvah* is **also** serious business for the youngster of an observant Jewish household, for that is a year spent studying the Law and the Prophets and the customs of Judaism (*Torah* means 'teaching'), preparing him for an examination by the elders of the community who must approve of his Bar Mitzvah. And this would have described the scene when, at 12 years of age, the wisdom and learning of the boy Jesus first aroused attention; stunning the amazed teachers and all who heard Him there in Jerusalem.

Indeed, the Luke 2 account ends with this summary of Jesus' youth: "*And Jesus increased in stature and favor with God and man.*" This, together with the testimony of His cousin John the Baptist at the Jordan, "*Behold; the Lamb of God,*" and His ability to gather a large and devoted following immediately thereafter, indicates that by the time He began His public ministry, Jesus was already a person of note in the region of Galilee.

That He was something more than simply a prominent person, was about to become apparent at Cana. (John 2:1-11) ✧



By Sharon Henry

A TRIP OF A LIFETIME, PART 2

Fifty eager and excited travelers embarked on a long anticipated trip to the Holy Land in October 2017. We could share only half of Sharon's report in the last issue of GCA Reflections.

Sharon surely makes us feel like we are there with her. There's more to cover. Here is the rest of her report.

We visited **Ein Gedi** (fabled Spring of David), and **Masada**--we took a cable car to see remnants of **Herod's Palace** on a very high mountain and where zealots made a last stand against Roman rule. Then we traveled to Hotel Daniel near the **Dead Sea** and had a swim in the Dead Sea while others enjoyed a spa treatment at the hotel.

Then we went on to **Tiberius** and **Beit She'an** where we saw the expansive excavations taking place at this ancient Roman Decapolis city.

We visited **Chorazin** (uninhabited structures)--a prominent city during Jesus' time; **Caesarea Phillipi** (Banias Spring) where Peter confessed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God; and **Dan**--the site of Jeroboam's altar of the golden calf and site where remains of the temple of Pan (known for its pagan worship) is located. We got to view the **Golan Heights** region where the United Nations monitors the situation between the Israeli and Syrian borders.

We experienced a boat ride on the **Sea of Galilee** in a replica of the ancient wooden boat used in Jesus' day. The boat owners played many songs of praise that made some of us break out in a "praise dance". At the destination on the other side, we saw an ancient boat discovered in the Sea of Galilee in 1986 believed to be from Jesus' time.

We visited old **Capernaum** with the ancient synagogue where Jesus spent most of His time in ministry and performed many miracles. We visited **Tabgha**--Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes, and **area of the Sermon on the Mount**, and the **Mount of the Beatitudes**. Later, we traveled to the **Jordan River** where some of us were baptized as a sign of re-commitment to serving the Lord. It was a very memorable moment for me!

We were very privileged to have very knowledgeable Bible teachers of the Word on our trip--Dr. Tony Hart, Bro. George Peters and our own Pastor Brian Grant. They were very instrumental in reminding us from a biblical standpoint the relevance of some of the places we visited. We had many opportunities for reflection and worship. Our Israeli guide Deena was the best! She was very knowledgeable about Israeli history and the geo-political intricacies with the Palestinian problems that have plagued Israel all these years. She was familiar with Old and New Testament historical writings and made it relevant to the many sites we visited. She helped us understand their relationship to religious ties, history, archaeology and the culture of modern day life in Israel. She was very professional, passionate and most of all flexible with our

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daily schedule and itinerary while we were there. Our bus driver Meir was exceptional in that he was able to maneuver our big bus around corners in some very tight spaces.

During our stay, we had opportunity to shop for souvenirs; we visited a diamond factory and had exceptional food choices for our meals while we stayed at some of the finest, top-rated hotels in Israel.

We traveled back from Israel on November 3, 2017 to the United States with many pictures and memories of what we had seen engraved in our minds and our hearts as well as a re-commitment to serving the Lord. This was truly a trip of a lifetime! ✧



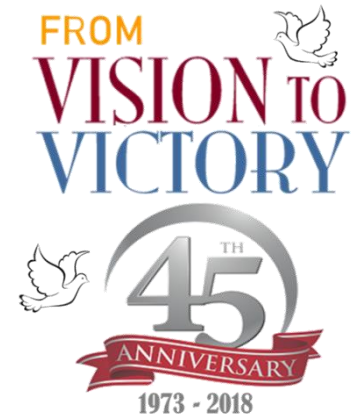
**GCA's 45th Anniversary
and Graduation Celebration
Sunday - June 10, 2018**



GCA's 2018 Honored Graduates

L to R: Michael Boyd, Geraldine Elie, Rehema Korich and Naomi Wilford.
Not pictured are Nadia Chamberlain and Brandon Grant.

Class of 2018



**Specially Honored for 30+ Years of
Membership & Service to the Lord at GCA**



L to R - Front Row: Ann Ridenhour and Helen Curbison
Back Row: Herb Dean, Jim McConnell, Merv Caruth, Dr. Darryl Brown

GCA's 45th Anniversary Theme
"Be strong and very courageous." Joshua 1:7a