

## FILL IN THE BLANKS

These are some of the Bible memory verses we have seen the past year. See how many blanks you can fill in.

"But his \_\_\_\_\_ is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he \_\_\_\_\_ day and night." Ps. 1:2.

"And my God shall \_\_\_\_\_ all your need according to His \_\_\_\_\_ in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new \_\_\_\_\_; old things have passed away, behold all things have become \_\_\_\_\_." 2 Cor. 5:17.

"Behold, all those who were incensed against you shall be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. They shall be as nothing, and those who \_\_\_\_\_ with you shall \_\_\_\_\_." Isaiah 41:11.

"What then? Are we \_\_\_\_\_ than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that they are all under \_\_\_\_\_." Rom. 3:9. ✧

### GCA Eagles Girls & Boys Soccer Club 11 a.m. – 12 Noon



Youth T-Shirt given to the **first 24** committed parents who register.

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## GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly

### Bible Bowl

By Naomi and Brenda Wilford




In mid-April, our GCA youth Nyrobi Hackett, Naomi Wilford, Andrea Johnson, Aniya Gentles, Kayla Cameron, along with coach Geraldine Elie, participated in the GOGF Ministries Bible Bowl and won for the 3rd year in a row! Our youth competed this year with youth from Montco Bible Fellowship and New Life in Christ Fellowship.

Each year, a few weeks prior to the date of the Bible Bowl, GOGF Ministries announces to interested churches the newly selected scripture chapter that

church youth teams are to study and memorize to prepare. Last year, teams were challenged to study James chapter one. This year's Bowl questions were from Psalm 34. During the Bible Bowl, teams using individual buzzers, strict time constraints and guidelines were asked by the Quiz Master questions from four categories: fill in the blank, multiple choice, general knowledge and verse memorization. If a team gives an incorrect answer, it loses points and that question would go to the next team until it is answered correctly. *Continues on page 2.*

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.



GCA Reflections is published quarterly for the members and friends of GCA.

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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.



Continued from page 1.

No points are given if no team gets the answer correct. Also, no team member may answer more than two questions in a row.

Team GCA arrived a bit nervous, but possessed the drive to do their best to uphold their past wins. My team was encouraged to see GCA members who came out to the Bowl to support the youth, and was especially encouraged by Pastor Brian who took them aside to pray before the Bowl began. Although Team GCA brought home a first place trophy and Montco 2nd place, it was clear to everyone in the audience and on stage, that **all of the youth are winners** when they hide God’s word in their hearts so that they may not sin against Him, and grow in Him daily (May the same be said for the rest of us!). “Onward Christian Soldiers ...”! ✧

CONGRATULATIONS



Left to right: Lorna Henry, Phyllis Johnson and Joe Wooten

The 2017 GCA Church Picnic Cook-off Contest was held at Victory Valley Camp on Saturday, July 29th.

- The winners:
- ⇒ Lorna Henry for the **Best Chicken!**
  - ⇒ Phyllis Johnson for the **Best Potato Salad!**
  - ⇒ Joe Wooten for the **Best Dessert!**

Andrea’s Response:

Continued from page 6.

We are grateful for the service of our Sunday school, Children’s Church, and Bible club teachers. Even in times when I was prone to devote more time to studying than reading my Bible, I could still be comforted and challenged by the verses—many of them in King James Version—that people had diligently taught me years ago.

And we are grateful for those devoted to serving us through youth and young adult ministries, not only for the opportunities for fellowship, but for challenging us to live out our faiths, serve others before ourselves, and put God above everything.

There have been so many ways in which you all have shown us that we have your unwavering support: prayers, words of encouragement, counsel, phone calls, visits—the list goes on. From 2013, when Bro. Stan Farmer prayed with me over which college I should attend, to last Wednesday, when people drove all the way to Baltimore to attend my commencement, I’ve never stopped feeling loved by and connected to this church as a student.

I hope that will be an encouragement to the graduates as we go on to careers and higher education. Your ability to stand firm in your faith will be tested more than ever. But you are part of a church that has prepared you to stand and will support you on your journeys.

I’ve often wondered why GCA chooses to celebrate its anniversary and recognize its graduates at the same time. But when I think about it, it makes a lot of sense. Today is a celebration of our achievements, but we really can’t celebrate those achievements without also celebrating Christ and His body, the church. So, happy 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary, GCA, and on behalf of all the graduates, thank you. ✧

Men's Breakfast

By Kirk Wheeler



“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Psalm 133:1 (NKJV)

On Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> men of all ages gathered together in the Fellowship Hall for food, fun and fellowship as well as a message from God’s Word. The purpose of our *Men's Breakfast* is to not only enjoy a delicious breakfast, but to get to know one another and encourage each other in our Christian walk so that we can be better spiritual leaders in our homes and community. It’s a time when as Proverbs 27:17 says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another”. Men rarely get the opportunity for this type of discussion and sharing.

We invite our male friends and family members to join us too. Occasionally we invite guest speakers to share with us life stories, personal experiences of faith and lessons from God’s Word that cover everyday life and issues. Be sure to join us at our next Men’s Breakfast. Male friends, family members, one-time visitors and newcomers are always welcome. ✧





## Graduates' Response Speech

By Andrea Henry

On June 4, a number of 2017 GCA graduates were honored during the Anniversary Service. They included Christopher Wheeler (**graduate studies**); Matthew Edwards, Andrea Henry, Gabrielle Mack and Brandon Moore (**undergraduate studies**); Malik Allen, Niere Brown, Sade Caldwell and Daniel Edwards (**high school**).

### Andrea's Response:

Good morning, church. My name is Andrea, and I recently graduated from The Johns Hopkins University. It's a running gag among my friends that if you want to go to a place where students make their grades the center of their universe, you should come to Hopkins. So many of my colleagues have been captivated by the belief that we can achieve success on our own terms through our own efforts. But the truth is that, as graduates, we wouldn't be here today without the grace of God and the kindness of the people He's put in our lives. So, this graduate recognition ceremony really wouldn't be complete without an opportunity for us to express our gratitude.

We are grateful for our parents and families. Particularly as young adults, we can get so obsessed with our growing independence, our academics, and our professional development that we forget to honor you. But thank you for loving us anyway. Thank you for the countless sacrifices you've made to ensure that we could have a good education and opportunities that you yourselves didn't have. Above all, thank you for leading us to Christ, helping us walk with Him, and reminding us to use our education for God's glory.

We are grateful for Pastor Grant, Dr. Hart, and everyone who has been a part of GCA's leadership for making sure that GCA is rooted in the Word of God in an age where so many churches and campus ministries are more concerned with giving people "an experience" or preaching what is popular rather than what is true. At Hopkins, I was able to recognize this only because I had a standard for what a God-centered church looks like.

*Continues on page 7.*

*Submitted by Ann Ridenhour*

### Inside-Out Again

The Lord works from the inside out.

The world works from the outside in.

The world would take people out of the slums.

Christ takes the slums out of people, and then they take themselves out of the slums.

The world would mold men by changing their environment.

Christ changes men who then change their environment.

The world would shape human behavior, but Christ can change human nature.

*Taken from*  
"The Seven Habits of Highly Effective  
People" by Stephen R. Covey

Poem by Ezra Taft Benson, pg. 309



Ruth Peters and Pat Richards (VBS directors) thank God for the VBS ministry and for all God's rich blessings.

We are grateful to God for the privilege to serve in this capacity. About nine children came to know Jesus as their Savior and we praise God as He continues to draw people to Himself. Five of these children were young men: Isaiah, Dwayne, Zion, Ashmere and Brenton from Bro. Carl Richard's class. There were also two young ladies from Sis. Brenda

Wilford's class and two others from Sis. Emma Trusty's class. **Please continue to pray** for these new converts, and all our other children and teens, that the Lord will provide ways and means for them to attend church regularly and grow, that they may fall passionately in love with the Lord Jesus in the days ahead.

We thank all our prayer warriors, teachers, helpers, administrative staff, security, van drivers and kitchen crew who were there each day to serve and "Glow for Jesus". We thank all our dear GCA family for their prayers and support for VBS. "God is still doing great things". May the Lord continue to bless and use us for His kingdom work. ✧



By Sharon Kent

After returning home to Philly after 20 years and always having faith in God, I searched for a church where I could continue to learn the Bible and understand the word. Living outside the Philadelphia area, on Sundays I would drive into the city. I stopped at a white church on Stenton Ave. and went in. While sitting there before the service started I asked a lady in the congregation if the pastor was a male or female. She replied, "A female." and I told her I could not stay and left.

Driving up and down the streets in Philadelphia I came upon GCA and went in. I was very taken by the word that was preached. It reminded me of the church teaching I received in Virginia. I kept attending GCA for 8 months.

Driving into the city every Sunday was getting to be a bit much, so I found a church in my area, Plymouth Meeting, to attend. I received a phone call from a member of GCA about one month after I stopped attending, asking me if I was all right. I was very surprised, because I did not think the members of the congregation knew who I was.

I moved into the city and returned to GCA in late 2016. I received a wonderful welcome and many members of the congregation remembered me. The church's preaching continues to help me learn the Bible and understand the word. After attending GCA for 6 months, I decided to join the church. I am happy to be a part of the congregation and I feel GCA is the right church for me.

(Editor's note: If anyone would like to share their testimony in the GCA Newsletter please contact Pat Clark.) ✧



In June 2017, Bro. George Peters was officially recognized and voted in as one of the elders of Germantown Christian Assembly. Praise the Lord! ✧

# LET'S TALK ABOUT JESUS

By Ann Ridenhour  
- Children's Church Ministry Leader

Children learn in many different ways; some learn by talking about a subject, others learn by being actively involved. We have been blessed in Children's Church to have an eight-volume Bible-teaching curriculum; its overall aim is to help children respond to the love of God in Christ and learn to walk in the footsteps of faith and obedience.

We have a new incentive that allows the children to express in their own words what Jesus means to them when given the opportunity in class. This is what some of the kids are saying: "I want to glow for Jesus, to let my light shine for Him," "I know that Jesus died on the cross for me", and a 6 year old said, "Jesus is in my heart and I think about Him all the time."

The new incentive is a set of large wooden letters that spell "**JESUS**". All the letters are black, except for "**U**", which is white. They have been placed on a secure wooden platform, designed by my Jewish neighbor. Each letter has tiny lights, battery operated with a single switch. Each child that responds can come to the front, share and turn on a letter. The entire platform is resting on a convenient unit, thanks to Brother Richards.

We will continue to give our kids an opportunity to express what they have learned and what Jesus really means to them as they grow, know and love Jesus as their Savior. Feel free to stop by sometime to actually see what we are talking about. ✧

## FREE Reading Fightin Phils Game

The GCA Sunday School had a summer contest! All students who attended and participated in class from May to July had the opportunity to win tickets to watch the Reading Fightin Phils play on Saturday, August 26th, and watch a fireworks show after the game. Congratulations to those who went!

- ★ **NURSERY:** Ashton Thompson, Christopher Jones, Dylan Grant, Hailey Toliver, Louis Jones, Marcus Longmore, Tyrone Kent, Veyda Francis.
- ★ **PRIMARY:** Olivia Grant, Sanaa Kent, Felicia Nelson, Alexis Toliver.
- ★ **JUNIORS:** Arionna Kent, Jonathan Jackson, Kayla West.
- ★ **JUNIOR HIGH:** Aniyah Gentles, Eternity Curbison, Hannah Walton, Nicholas White, Ashmere Pennycooke, Gabriella Rickets.
- ★ **HIGH SCHOOL:** Alicia Moore, Naomi Wilford, Ezra Walton. ✧

## Return of the Ladies Breakfast to G.C.A.

Even though we encountered inclement weather on May 13, we had a wonderful turn-out for the Ladies Breakfast. Over one hundred ladies attended the great event. Along with a great breakfast, we had a dynamic speaker, Sister Marie Trusty, a musical duet of violins played by Charis and Ariel Trusty and two vocal offerings by Gail Morrison-Longmore.

Other activities included the making of handmade greeting cards, as well as free medical screening, which consisted of diabetic screening and blood pressure check-ups provided by certified nurses Sharon Henry, Vedette Hamilton and Dania West.

The theme for this Ladies Breakfast was "*Faith Plants the Seed, Love Makes It Grow*". "*Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.*" Hebrews 11:11 (KJV) ✧

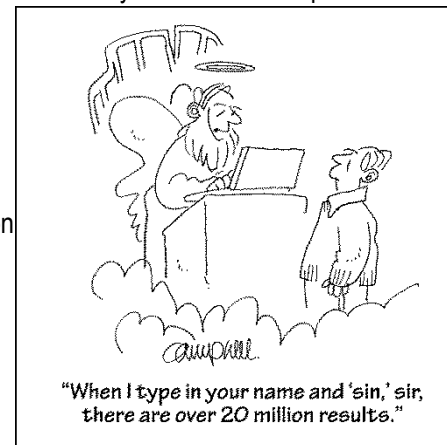
## THOUGHTS ON MISSIONS AND MISSIONARIES

My past experience of missionaries consisted of a lady sitting on the front pew and a collection taken for foreign missions. It was when I came to GCA I saw real missionaries working full time at home and abroad. This gave me a new perspective on truly dedicated people working for God.

I have a passion to pray and support the missionaries. As a body of Christ, it would be great if many Christians would go on a short term mission trip for a week or so. I experienced a mission trip to Jamaica.

We arrived in Jamaica with our schedule and assignments, went to the beach and came back to the hotel planning to attend Sunday Services in the morning. We had intended to start working Monday morning. The Pastor came around 10 p.m. to let us know he was expecting us to teach Sunday school that Sunday morning. That was an awakening!

Monday morning, we visited schools and started a five-day Bible Club. Each of us was assigned a day. On the first day there were too many children for one person to handle; we each had our own group to teach everyday thereafter. This trip gave me more appreciation for missionaries!



## Sermon Mini-Series and GCA Night at the Movies

A four-part series of messages based on "The Case for Christ" began on Sunday, April 9th. The series was a blessing to believers, and also made a powerful "Case for Christ" for unbelievers.

*Editor's note: The book by the same name is a very good read. The author himself said in his introduction that with his only cursory look, "There was enough proof for me to rest easy with the conclusion that the divinity of Jesus was nothing more than the fanciful invention of superstitious people. Or so I thought."*

GCA had reserved a theater at the AMC Neshaminy 24 on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> for the featured movie, "The Case for Christ", based on a true story of an award-winning journalist who sets out to disprove the newfound Christian faith of his wife. After the movie, we were invited to Friendly's restaurant for dessert. ✧



In the article "Sunday School - Circus Bound", Hannah Walton's name was misspelled. We apologize to Hannah for the error!