

FILL IN THE **BLANKS**

From your weekly memory verses. (All verses are from the NKJV.)

“And you, who once were _____ and _____ in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has _____.” Col. 1:21

“What then? Are we _____ than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both _____ and _____ that they are all under _____.” Romans 3:9

“There is none _____, no, not one; there is none who _____; there is none who _____ after _____.” Romans 3:10-11

“They have all turned _____; they have together become _____; there is none who does _____, no, not one.” Romans 3:12 ✧




Come celebrate with us!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22nd
9:30 a.m. Sunday School Program
“A Christmas to Believe In”

10:45 a.m. Christmas Celebration,
Lord’s Supper & Mini Concert
“The Miracle of Christmas”

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24th
6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31st
10:30 p.m. New Year’s Eve Service







Puzzle

season

Symbols of the

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.



shepherd’s staff _ □ □ _ _ _ □

tree that keeps its leaves _ _ _ □ _ _ _ _

shines to lead the way _ _ _ □

green for eternal life, □ _ _ _ &
red for Jesus’ blood _ _ _ □ □ _

sounds to announce □ _ _ _
good news

has no beginning or end _ _ _ □ _

Th □ □ ks b □ to □ od fo □ □ is
indesc □ □ ba □ le gif □ !

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV



December 2019
Volume 7, Issue 4

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!




GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly



By Terry Toliver
Sunday School



On October 31, 2019, the GCA Sunday School hosted its annual Fall Festival. The festival, a Halloween alternative, was attended by over 30 children who enjoyed playing a host of games, including Bible trivia and table top pool. Of course, the highlight for most of the children was the candy that they collected as prizes. The children were also treated to hot dogs, chips and drinks.

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The Ladies Breakfast

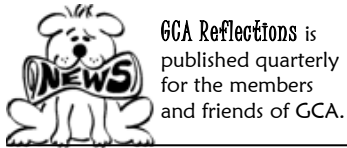
By Rosetta Jackson
GCA Ladies Breakfast Coordinator

The Ladies’ Breakfast, held November 9, was such a blessing! The women expressed that they were satisfied mentally, physically and spiritually! The food was delicious. The featured soloist sang two beautiful songs, giving God all the glory and praise! It was definitely a good time for praise and worship! Two organizations, Fox Chase and Susan G Komen, were represented. Our speaker, Dr. Edith Mitchell, from Jefferson Hospital and representing Susan G Komen, educated the audience on the impact cancer health disparities is having on African Americans.

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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.

Fall Festival

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Another highlight of the Festival was seeing multiple generations interacting and having fun together. Many of GCA's teens and young adults volunteered along with some more mature members to create a fun and festive atmosphere for the children.

At the end of the night, Brother Roger Walton presented a short Bible message and invitation. The message challenged the children to "taste and see the goodness of the Lord".

Overall, the night showcased the joy that results when the family of God comes together. ✧

The Ladies Breakfast

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Dr. Mitchell talked about some ways individuals can get involved to help advance cures specifically for our community. Many women expressed interest in the information given. Breast cancer survivor Lynn Alston, representing Fox Chase hospital, gave an awesome testimony! The Treasure Trove was well stocked and appreciated. The attendees stated they can't wait until the next Breakfast!

Everyone was blessed! Thank you to everyone who helped make the breakfast a success. All praises to God! ✧



The Passing of Dr. Charles I. Hart, Pastor Emeritus of Germantown Christian Assembly

With deep sadness we announce to you the passing of our beloved Dr. Charles I. Hart, Pastor Emeritus. Brother Charles went to be with his Blessed Savior on Wednesday, November 27th. Services were held at GCA on Sunday, December 8th and Monday, December 9th. Full coverage will be in GCA Reflections' next issue.

Please continue to uphold the Hart's and their extended family in your prayers. ✧



2019 College Sunday



Watoto Children's Choir



2019 Friends & Family Day

GCA COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS - GOD'S VISION

Continued from page 5.

quilling and doing mosaics and other items in artistic and professional forms. Ms. Gerardine had her 12 or so cook breakfast (pancakes, waffles, bacon) and eat it too, lunch (pizza and pinwheels) and they ate everything, snacks (Nutella™ & jam sandwiches and Rice Krispy™ treats) and they ate everything, lastly, dessert (chocolate chip cookies and gingerbread men). Yes, they ate those too.

ESL has been meeting in the back of the lower level.

By this time A. B. Day School parents are arriving to take their children home.

All this is a snapshot of Community Connections. Pastor Brian commented that this outreach is achieving the vision God gave us.

Community Connections is now taking a break and will resume in March 2020. Tutoring classes will resume in January.

Meanwhile F. S. Edmonds Elementary School stands in the wings to have a trial run at GCA in December for a homework, tutoring and character development program.

Please continue to pray. ✧





To your *health*
By Margaret Aitcheson



Exercise Has Great Benefits

Do you want to feel better, have more energy and live a better quality life? Exercise is the key. Exercise is any activity, such as walking, jogging, swimming and dancing, that moves your muscles and burns calories. Any exercise can be beneficial, so choose something you love, at whatever level you can muster, as long as you are giving it your best shot. The health benefits of regular exercise and physical activity are numerous and you will be better for it. Let's look at a few benefits:

- ✓ It improves the mood, decreasing feelings of depression, anxiety and stress.
- ✓ It increases the production of endorphins which helps to produce positive feelings and reduce pain.
- ✓ Along with a healthy diet, exercise can help with weight loss by increasing the metabolic rate which will burn calories. Lack of exercise can increase belly fat, the risk of type 2 diabetes, heart disease and even early death.
- ✓ It is good for building and maintaining strong muscles and bones. As people age they tend to lose muscle mass and muscle function, leading to injuries and disabilities. Building strong bones will help to prevent osteoporosis and decrease the risk for falls.
- ✓ It can increase your energy level, especially when suffering from persistent fatigue or serious illnesses.
- ✓ It promotes good blood flow to the skin and delay the signs of aging.
- ✓ It improves brain function, memory and thinking skills. It can keep those skills sharp as you age and reduce changes in the brain that can cause Alzheimer's disease.
- ✓ It helps with relaxation and sleep quality.
- ✓ It can help to reduce chronic pain and increase pain tolerance.



150 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity per week is the recommended amount of exercise. You can start slowly to find ways to fit exercise and physical activity into your life. Encourage family members and friends to partner with you in exercising. The payoff is great. You will feel so much better, prevent many chronic conditions, and even extend the quality of your life. Why not start today? ✧



By Jim McConnell



A Boy and His Lunch A Fictional Backstory to the Feeding of the Five Thousand

The storyline:

This fictional backstory to the biblical account of the feeding of the five-thousand is built around an apparently virtuous and devout Jewish woman and her eldest young son living in Galilee in the time of Jesus' earthly ministry. This woman, though she appears nowhere in the narrative, is actually, as I think of it, the heroine of the whole story. Like the devout Simeon (Lk.2:25), she could well have been among those looking for the Consolation of Israel; excited about the possibilities when she heard of the many miracles being performed by a prophet from Galilee. She heard how some thought this Jesus of Nazareth might actually be the promised Messiah. Her young son would have been excited by the news as well, and when they heard that Jesus was nearby, they were anxious to see Him. Many in their small town were traveling the short distance to the seaside where Jesus was preaching. Some, indeed, were already there, and reports were filtering back about this Man and His

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By Carlton Henry

Monday Morning Shopping at **TRADER JOE'S** Give-Away

Each Monday morning my heart is blessed at 10:00 a.m. to see 30-35 women, and maybe 2-3 men, walking in with their empty bags and anxiously anticipating what the Lord has provided. We greet them all and encourage them to get to know and share with each other.

We open up our program at GCA with "The Word". We try to exhort them about the things of the Lord and mention how we should "ALWAYS REMEMBER TO GIVE THANKS" to our Lord. After we finish sharing for about 15-20 minutes, we form a circle around the covered tables, lift the covers and then give the green light for shopping. Their once empty bag bulges with goodies as the people walk away with their bounties. Everyone echoes, "*Thank the Lord for His provisions*" and "*See you next week!*"

Another Monday morning well spent in the presence of the Lord and His people. P.T.L.

(Bro. Carlton also delivers food to our shut-ins!) ✧

NEW SERMON MINI-SERIES

Limitless Living

With Speaker
Pastor Brian Grant

Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

Beginning January 5, 2020

Jan. 5th. . . "Walking in God's Abundance"

Jan. 12th. . . "Slaying the Giants in Your Life"

Jan. 19th. . . "The Keys that Open Heaven's Windows"

A Boy and His Lunch

A Fictional Backstory to the Feeding of the Five Thousand

Continued from page 3.

teachings. He was nothing like the boring Pharisees, it was said, but since she had younger children to care for, she was disappointed that she wouldn't be able to go.

Her son was disappointed as well, but since he was so eager to see Jesus, and because neighbors she knew were going to be there -- friends who could watch over her young son--they decided that since it was nearby and he was almost eleven years old, he was old enough to go by himself. The excited boy was already almost out the door when his mother realized he'd better take a lunch because they didn't know exactly how long he would be gone. He was "chomping at the bit," but he waited as his mom wrapped up a few small loaves and a couple of dried fish, and as soon as he had his little sack of food in hand, he was out the door. He ALMOST forgot to kiss his mom goodbye.

This boy's mother couldn't have realized, as she dutifully packed her son's lunch, what would become of the loaves and fish, or what the simple act of fulfilling her small and mundane motherly task would mean as an offering in the Hands of Jesus.

I think this back-story, though now totally fictional but one day to be fully told, might include how both mother and son were likely early converts to the gospel. I have little doubt this would have been the case, not because I know things that cannot now be known, but because we know something about the character of God:

He is no man's debtor. Even a cup of cold water given for the sake of Christ will be noticed and rewarded. And like Simon of Cyrene who bore the Cross and of whom nothing further is recorded, we read of his sons being stalwarts in the early Church. Obviously, our God takes seriously His reputation as no man's debtor.

Likewise, this mother and her son who surrendered their little offering into the hands of Jesus for the blessing of others would, I believe, have been rewarded in some way out of the storehouse of the eternal riches of Christ.

But on with the story:

When the boy got there, the place was mobbed: he had never seen so many people. And though he was almost eleven, no matter how hard he tried, he just couldn't get through that crowd. He couldn't see over all those grownups, he couldn't see around them, he couldn't see under them: he even tried looking between their legs, but that didn't work either. No one seemed to even notice this eager youngster just trying to catch a glimpse of Jesus; no one was willing to make room for him, and no matter what he did, it began to look like he was never going to get a chance to see Jesus.

Fighting back tears, the disappointed boy was about to give up and go home when he noticed something happening. Several men were making their way through the crowd calling out to the people as they went. Finally, one of the men got near enough to where the boy was standing for him to hear plainly what the men were asking: "Does anyone have any food they can offer the Master?"

Suddenly; and almost before the boy realized what was happening, he was being pushed through the crowd by two burley young men who quickly brought him to stand front and center before the Man from Galilee. He could scarcely believe his eyes...or his ears! "Master; here is a lad with five small loaves and two small fish." ✧



By Pat Clark



What's so exciting about Tuesdays at GCA? Well, the Adult Bible Classes of course, the Kids Club; English as a Second Language (ESL); teen Bible study; a delicious supper; the weekly prayer meeting--all part of Community Connections. Yes, there are adult Bible classes:

- **Protected by God's Providence** (class for ladies only) was attended by an average of 8+ and taught by various GCA ladies.
- **Bible Doctrines**, taught by Pastor Brian--approximately 22 attended.
- **Daniel** --about the end times, taught by Bro. Jim McConnell; the 16 who attended liked it a lot!
- **Bible Prophecy**, taught by Bro. George Peters, had 40-42 names registered. They found the class interesting, good, enlightening and delightful, in spite of the material not being the easiest to comprehend.

I found at least one person even admitted to class hopping; to get as much as they could. And can you imagine the attendance at the prayer meeting afterwards? PTL.

15-17 students arrived earlier (at about 3:15 p.m.) from a near-by A. B. Day Elementary School for snacks, activities, homework help, tutoring (for an hour; for real, at least 9 tutors available!), and supper with everyone else coming for Bible study and prayer.

Note: On Nov. 11th, Sis. Meldine Lord conducted a free training for tutors and parents who wanted to help students become better readers. Sis. Meldine is a certified practitioner of the Wilson Phonics Program and has been a reading specialist in the Philadelphia Public School District for over 9 years. It was solid training for 5 hours.

The crowd from the Fellowship Hall suddenly thins out. Teens go across the street for their Bible study. Down the hall from the Fellowship Hall, Brother Marlon takes the kids on for games. Sister Marjon Selby continues the Kid's Club (ages 6-12) with Bible class--with all 30+ kids from GCA and tutoring. The kids eagerly learn and say their Bible verses (I would too, to get a quarter). And have you seen the new paint job on the walls in that room? Their evening ends with electives (for kids!) for giving creative opportunities and developing hobbies. Mr. Francis and Mr. David dared to teach woodworking projects (a helicopter, pencil box, magazine rack, shoe rack and a picture frame) to their group of elementary kids. One member of this group was found looking around his home for more projects to do. Ms. Norma had girls crocheting. Ms. Ernestine and Ms. Helen had their age 7 or 8 kids

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