

Teens and Youth Getaway

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Fourteen children between elementary and middle school age had a blast. Another blessing was that we had accommodations nearby and could check on them and engage in some of their activities. It was a joy to see them playing, making new friends, being independent and most importantly, strengthening their faith in Jesus among a community of many, many Christ-centered young people.

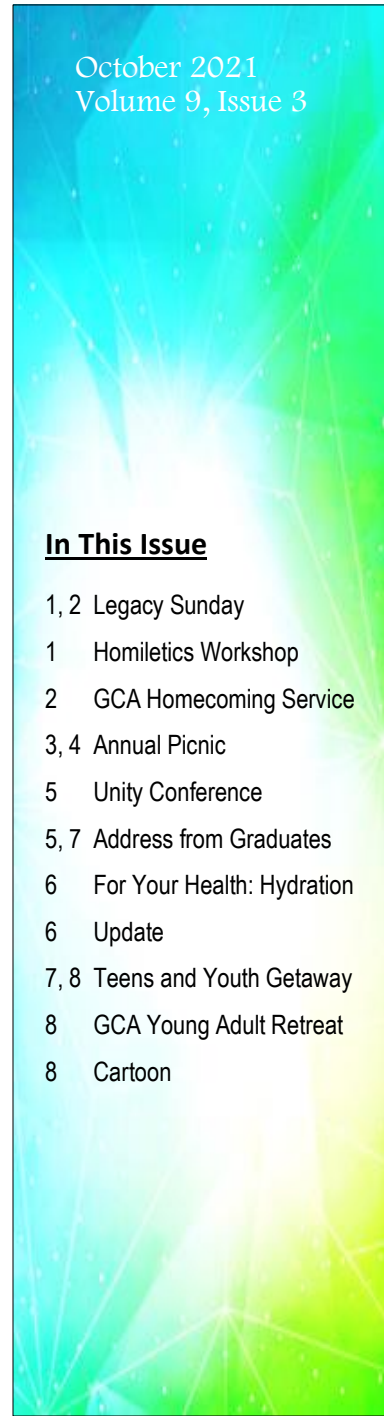
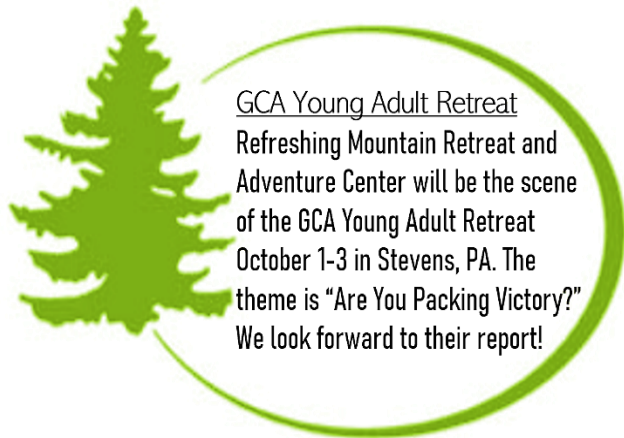
The trip was smooth and fun in two ways. First, as leaders, we had a great time with each other on the team. And second, with the young people, whenever any of the GCA teens or children “spied us” at their camp, they would wave or call out with a beautiful smile, which warmed our hearts.

Yes, the Lord is raising a generation of young people and children to proclaim His love in this broken world. We acknowledge our responsibility and are burdened by God to guide them on the path of truth. Thank you for standing with us. Your prayers and support are making a huge difference. A heartfelt note of thanks to the parents who are trusting us with their children. It’s an honor to serve them.

I also want to highlight the volunteers that helped us to drive the GCA gang up to World of Life. We had the church bus, cars, and vans to make sure everyone and their luggage got there. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

I also want to thank the Teen Ministry team for encouraging and helping the Children’s Ministry team with everything that was necessary to make it possible. (It was a lot of work, believe me.)

To God be the glory! ✧



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GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly

Legacy Sunday

By Sharon Henry

“The greatest legacy one can pass on is not material things accumulated in one’s life, but a legacy of character and faith.”
- Billy Graham

This year on October 24th, 2021, GCA will be hosting its first event called “Legacy Sunday”. When you hear the word legacy, what comes to your mind? Personally, when this idea was first brought up by Pastor Grant in a conversation we had about two years ago, my thoughts became focused on the financial inheritance left behind for family members after the death of a loved one. But as I thought about

this idea of legacy more, it began to make sense that we each play an important role to leave godly principles, build godly character and lay a solid foundation of faith in our families and others for generations to come.

A godly legacy is much more valuable and important than earthly treasures which will one day pass away.

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On Saturday, September 25th, we had special 2-hour Homiletics Workshop that was taught by Pastor Brian Grant from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. It provided special training in the developing skills of preparing a sermon and preaching it well. All those who spoke at our Breaking of Bread services were recommended to attend the workshop. This was a rewarding, learning experience that enhanced their preaching skills. ✧

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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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.

Legacy Sunday

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I can impact my family, my children and grandchildren and leave a lasting legacy not only in this life but for all eternity.

Legacy Sunday at GCA will start this process of helping each member of GCA to think and be creative as well as intentional in leaving a godly legacy and impacting our families for the Lord. On this day, we will hear an inspiring word, have prizes, food, fun and fellowship with activities geared towards our invited family members. So invite your family members and let us make an impact on them for the Lord! ✧

Germantown Christian Assembly
Presents

SERMON SERIES
DOING CHURCH GOD'S WAY
10:00 AM Each Sunday
October 10th - November 14th

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SPEAKERS

Pastor Brian Grant

Pastor George Peters

Dr. Raphael Thomas

Lord willing, we will have a special **GCA Homecoming service** on October 10th. Pastor Brian will begin a new sermon series, "Doing Church God's Way" – a study through Paul's first epistle to Timothy. Please pass the word around to your neighbors and friends and invite them to this special season of hearing God's Word. ✧



Teens and Youth Getaway

By Cressia Souza

A new generation is rising!

Since 2019, Nick and Rita Grant, our Teen Directors, have been taking the teenagers to Summer and Winter Camps at Word of Life (WOL) which has had great spiritual impact upon their lives. But since WOL also has a great program for younger children, Rita reached out to me with a proposal to take the elementary and middle school kids this time. So, this summer, we had the opportunity to take a group of 21 kids and teens to WOL in upstate New York.

Honestly, considering that we were still in the pandemic, would any parent allow their young ones to go for a week of overnight camp in upstate New York? No way!

Well, Praise the Lord, I was wrong. Yes, it was a process and step of faith for us leaders and parents who trusted the Lord and sent their children to WOL Camp with us.

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Address from Graduates

Continued from page 5.

Today is a testimony to Philippians 1:6 which says that Christ who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

The Germantown Christian Assembly has played a pivotal role in nurturing many of us over the years. Some from birth, and some through Sunday school and youth ministry. My brother and I have only been at GCA for nine months and we too have been beneficiaries of the love and nurture of the GCA family. For this, we are grateful. As GCA celebrates its 48th anniversary, it is also a celebration of the legacy that it is passing to the next generation.

God has a plan for each one of our lives, and it excites me to think of the great potential that is sitting in this room represented by each of us. And

parents, don't for a minute think that God has forgotten about you! Without you, this day would not have been possible. God sees your hard work, and He has your reward! I would also like to thank the team of persons who worked so hard in planning today's service. Your labor is not in vain.

As we continue to take hold of the gems of purpose that God presents us along the way, I especially want to encourage my fellow graduates to always persevere, even when we are met with life's challenges. Follow your dreams! Our dreams and our passions are all given by God for His purpose and for our good. Don't give up, and don't be afraid to fail. Our failures are our greatest opportunities to learn. Never let your circumstances stop you from becoming who God has called you to be. God sees your efforts. Trust in Him, and He will guide you in your endeavors. God bless you! ✧



For Your Health

By Margaret Aitcheson



Hydration is the process of drinking enough fluids to ensure that all the bodily functions can take place normally. Our bodies depend on water to survive as it makes up more than half of the body weight and every cell, organ and tissue in the body needs water to work properly. Water is best for staying hydrated but other drinks such as fruits and vegetable juices, milk, soups, broth and herbal teas can help also.

Proper hydration can also improve mood, boost brain function, prevent fatigue, keep skin moisturized and prevent constipation. If you don't drink enough fluids you will become dehydrated and your body will not be able to function properly. Signs of dehydration include passing little or no urine; dark yellow or amber colored urine; thirst, headache, dizziness, confusion, fatigue and heat stroke.

Water is lost from the body in sweat (especially in hot weather), urine, stools and even from the breath, so it needs to be replaced.

Everyone has different hydration needs. An easy rule is to divide your body weight in half and drink that amount in ounces. (e.g.: weight 160 pounds ÷ 2 = 80 pounds. Amount of water to drink daily = 80 ounces). If you have heart failure or kidney disease check with your doctor.

Keep a reusable water bottle with water with you to drink from throughout the day. Add a little lemon juice if you like. Drink water when you wake up, at each meal and before bedtime. This will ensure your body functions well and will go a long way in helping you maintain good health. ✧



Recently, the Evangelism Team went out sharing Christ in our neighborhood and the Lord saved one soul! We praise the Lord for His saving grace. Jesus said, "...there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents." Lk 15:7. The Team met another person who got saved at GCA and is now going to Enon. They also gave out church info cards along with the tracts and invited people to our Sunday services. Let us pray that the seeds planted will bear fruit and that the Lord will bring new people to our Sunday services!

ANNUAL PICNIC

Bro. George Peters reported in the Pastor's Weekly Update for August 5th:

"Last Saturday, GCA went on a picnic to Victory Valley Camp. The picnic was a blast! Some of us who were unable to go missed out on one of the best church picnics. The weather was perfect! About 178 registered. Although a few cancelled, the count of those who were at the picnic was close to 200! Many new friends joined the experience, including some from the VBS Day Camp contacts. The saints had much fun with games and, of course, lots to eat. One of the exciting features of the picnic was the cooking competition! The adults enjoyed the fellowship and company of each other in the campgrounds while the children enjoyed refreshing swimming, playing ping pong and many other fun activities. We thank God for making this picnic a success for the church family and friends. Thanks also to all those who worked hard at organizing this wonderful church picnic."

Following, are comments from some who attended the picnic:

Ernestine Tinsley - "There were new people we hadn't seen before. Lots of kids thoroughly enjoyed the pool. They didn't want to come out!"

Peggi Watson-Hudson - "I was excited about this year's picnic. I had had my three grandchildren for the past nine days and the picnic was the last big event before they returned home. Jack (12), Vivienne (9), and Nyla (7) got a chance to mingle with Christian friends they hadn't seen in forever. They greatly enjoyed the pool, boating, rolling down the hill, great fellowship and delicious smorgasbord of wonderful food. I smile broadly when I think of my GCA family and how much love everyone gives and receives each and every time we get together."

Velda Thomas - "The GCA Picnic was 'just what the doctor ordered' after being indoors for all these months. It was my first GCA picnic, so I did not know what to expect. However, upon arriving, I instantly fell in love with the property. The fellowship was such a great experience and it helped to strengthen the bond of friendship with those I only saw on ZOOM. I had so much fun playing dominoes and now have a new domino family. The food was also delicious! If you missed the picnic this year, you can't afford to miss it next year, all being well!"

Carol Pessoa - "What was special for me, being able to fellowship with brothers and sisters, not having seen them in such a long time. There is nothing to compare with the goodness of our Creator. It was such a beautiful day. Talk and laughs were so special."

Sharon Small - "The grill was handled masterfully. There were enough hot dogs, hamburgers, and corn on the cob for everyone. The sides included watermelon and pasta salad. There was a best of chicken, potato salad and dessert contest. The day went by oh so fast, and I truly believe everyone enjoyed themselves."

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ANNUAL PICNIC

Continued from page 3.

Debbie-Ann McKenies - "This was my first GCA picnic and I had a great time. My parents and I enjoyed the ride there; it was so scenic and beautiful. When we arrived, there was such an amazing feeling of fun and fellowship. We enjoyed taking a walk through the neighborhood. My favorite part was the activity in the beginning that involved getting to know people, a nice icebreaker. I also really enjoyed the food too!!"

Clive White - "After not being able to have our picnic last year due to the pandemic, there was a certain level of excitement leading up to this year's picnic. From my observation and hearing the comments from other saints, the day lived up to its expectation.

The Lord provided perfect weather. There were many games and activities for all ages. The food, OH THE FOOD, was plentiful and very delicious. A special thank you to Bro. Nick, Sis. Rita and other key members of the Coordination Team for this fun event. We are also very grateful to all those dear saints who participated in the preparation and serving of the food. Please know that your labor was not in vain and GCA thanks you all very much!!! Especially, since it had to be accomplished with the CDC COVID protocols in mind.

The turnout was tremendous even with many of our regular attendees not present. We were blessed to have many visitors and first time GCA new members. The presence of our Pastor Brian and Sis. Sheryl was certainly missed this year due to his surgery. I believe this was the first picnic that they missed.

We thank God for the wonderful time of fellowship with each other, and for keeping us all safe while we travelled, and protection from the COVID-19 virus. I am already looking forward to next year, in the will of the Lord. I hope you are too!!" ✧



By Timothy Thomas

The weekend of June 5 and 6, 2021, GCA celebrated its 48th Anniversary. At that time, the 2021 graduates were honored. Timothy Thomas, one of the graduates, shared his address to GCA, from the graduates.

Pastor Brian Grant, our speaker Dr. Allan Farmer, the elders, leaders, honorable guests, parents, family members, and the extended body of Germantown Christian Assembly, a pleasant good morning to you!

As I pondered what I would write for this speech, I was reminded of the quote; "The heights of great men reached and kept, were not attained by sudden flight. But they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night", — Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

What a privilege it is to be listed among the names of graduates for the year 2021. When I think of all the things that took place between last year and this year, it brings me to the realization that our presence at this service was ordained by a God who loves us enough to grace us with His protection during these days. A few months ago, we were in question as to whether or not a graduation would even be possible this year. Today we celebrate the completion of one part

of the journey, with the understanding that our journey doesn't stop here. In fact, this is just the beginning, where we start to fulfill purpose, where dreams start to become reality, and where we get yet another opportunity to glorify God's name.

Trying to accomplish studies in a pandemic was not easy, but we pulled through. For those of us who resided on campus earlier last year when the pandemic began and were sent home, we thought that it would only be for a week or two. Little did we know that weeks would become months, and months a year! We worried that our family members would get sick. It was a very stressful year. Then some of us were summoned to return to campus. Fear levels elevated as we considered being exposed in a face-to-face context, but God remained faithful and saw us through. We are here today because God kept us.

I would also like to thank our parents and family members for their love and encouragement, our church family for your continued prayer and support, the healthcare workers who demonstrated pure excellence, as well as those in leadership roles.

Continues on page 7.

The GOGF Unity Conference will be held at GCA on Saturday, October 30th. Dr. Tony Evans is the conference speaker. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the conference is limited to 200 people. The participant's list is filling up fast and we don't want our GCA members to miss the opportunity to attend. So, register ASAP on the GOGF website: <https://gogfministries.org/calendar-of-events>.