

Celebrating 18 Years of God's Grace

Over the last eighteen years, God has favored the relationship and collaboration between the Canaanites and the Brennan Family. As “the Gem of Germantown,” we have grown in numerous ways including the following:

- Launching the Unity Worship service with new elements, including musician accompanied praise and worship, an instrumental band every Sunday, vocal directors for each music ministry, Diaconate Prayer Intercession, Pass the Peace, Greeters, Praise Dance, and Mime. Consequently, over 1000 new disciples have joined Canaan since 2006!
- Implementing a leading-edge new disciples' curriculum and Friends in the Family Mentorship ministry both of which are vastly increasing the retention of new Canaanites.
- Opening the Canaan Family Life Center, a 501C3 Human Services Ministry that serves over 1000 guests annually.
- Casting a multi-year purpose oriented macro-vision through 2024 with an annual themed mission statement, with the 2024 theme being “Service” For Canaan's 116th Church Anniversary, Canaanites provided a Day of Service volunteering and donating to aid to organizations throughout Northwest Philadelphia.
- Identifying, vetting, and leading the church to partner with the Barna Organization to create strategic plans that will guide Canaan into the future.
- Completing stewardship/infrastructure initiatives including electronic giving, an independent financial audit, a new church constitution, bible-laws, policies, procedures, and a ministry procedure manual.
- Fully revamping and continually updating the church website, establishing a Social Media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. Updating the church logo.
- Renovating the Fellowship Hall including the purchase of a new sound system, purchasing a new bus, a new telephone system, and securing a McDonald's Grant to install a computer lab.
- Engaging local seminaries to aid in training future generations of clergy and laypersons. Canaan's most recent seminary intern, Minister Earl Roberts, 2nd created and is overseeing Canaan's Ministry Engagement Team Process. The Ministry Engagement Team is Canaan's way of connecting people, leaders, and ministries together in a new and exciting way that will produce strong members, strong ministries, and a stronger family of faith.
- Launching new ministries and re-establishing dormant ministries including Veteran's Outreach Ministry, Prison Ministry, Marriage Ministry, Uganda Mission Project, Greeters, Tower of Hope, Sisters Returning, Chosen 300, the Pennsylvania Keystone Baptist Association, Friends in the Family, Male and Female Mentoring, Teen Worship at Mickey D's, Young Adult Praise Ministry, Fitness Ministry, and Domestic Violence Ministry.
- Introducing and utilizing church wide daily devotions, Encounter with God, Discovery, and Word for Today. Facilitating life application and curriculum-based Bible Study for all ages, including adding multiple class Tuesday Night Bible Study, Sunday Morning Bible Study and a Youth and Young Adult Study.
- Implementing additional communal prayer opportunities such as Wednesday Noonday, Monday, First-Friday Monthly, Sunday morning and 4th Sunday Altar Prayer.
- Staffing the church for growth by hiring a full-time Director of Operations, and a part time Congregational Care Minister.

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- Creating the GEM Endowment Fund to provide ongoing financial support to enable our witness of God's love through Jesus Christ by ministering to the needs of people within and outside of Canaan.
- In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, overseeing and implementing several key initiatives including:
 - Hosting a COVID-19 Testing Clinic in conjunction with the Black Doctor's Consortium and the Mastery Charter School Pickett Campus. Partnering with Chestnut Hill Hospital, the Lehigh Pharmacy, Walmart and the Phila. Dept. of Health to distribute COVID-19 vaccinations to Canaanites and the community. Overseeing, coordinating, and serving during twice monthly drive-throughs to provide service to the community and to maintain a sense of connection with the Canaan family. Distributing 4,290 grocery boxes to Canaanites, community members, and community organizations. The equivalent to 153,600 pounds or ~77 tons of food. Canaan also gave away 299 ShopRite gift cards valued at \$30.00 each for a total value of \$8,970.00.
- Transitioning Canaan's core spiritual formation processes (worship, evangelism, prayer, bible study, ministry, fellowship and giving) to hybrid platforms.
- Installing new audio, lighting, video screens, and streaming systems to enhance worship and other sanctuary activities. Worship services are now streamed live around the globe.
- With Mrs. Brennan's servant leadership, extensive renovations have been completed at 244, 302, and 304 Schoolhouse Lane and 315 Winona Street.
 - Monthly rent payments: For all four properties the rents currently total \$11,130 per month or \$133,560 per year.
 - According to one of our realtors, with the renovations, the 5 properties are now valued at approximately \$2.5 million with more than \$2 million dollars in appreciation. Properties have \$2.25 million in equity and \$1.75 million in equity available to leverage. For any future borrowing this gives Canaan the ability to not have to put a loan on the church. Properties along with endowment help to secure Canaan's financial future for years to come.
- Completing a 7-year \$2.25 million dollar plus capital campaign, while concurrently increasing tithes and offerings. Inspiring Canaanites to sacrificially contribute despite the worst global economy in the last seventy-five years. The Campaign results included: Restoring and Beautifying our historic sanctuary and bell tower. Increasing our non- church building real estate assets to over \$2.5 million dollars by purchasing 300 Schoolhouse Lane.
- Tithing 10% of Canaan's annual budget to local, national, and international missions and community-based organizations. These organizations include Canaan Family Life Center, Edward M. Steele School, Fishers of Men "Jesus Therapy" Mission, Germantown Coalition of Churches, John B. Kelly School, Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention, Philadelphia, Baptist Association, St. Jude Hospital, United Lutheran Seminary, Taylor Made Opportunities, Uganda Mission Project, United Negro College Fund, Urban Redevelopment Corporation, Whosoever Gospel Mission, Wissahickon Boys and Girls Club, and many others.