



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Reverend Dr. Demetrius K. Williams, **PASTOR**

Community Baptist Church of Greater Milwaukee

2249 North Sherman Boulevard Mailing address: 4311 W. North Avenue (53208)

www.cbcm.org

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Greetings CBCGM family. This is perhaps the most important time in the history of our nation. This is a historic election! I am certain that God is in control of all things and that nothing happens unless God wills it. However, we have a responsibility "to choose"! This is a gift granted to humankind from the beginning of time – we have to make choices that effect our lives. I encourage you to make your choice on this coming Tuesday. Remember: "the choices we make determine the destiny we make." As always:

Be Present.

Be Prayerful.

Be Positive.

Be Impactful!

TEN-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN:

“ADVANCING OUR VISION” *By Sis Ebony S. Hagler*

Our meeting on Tuesday, October 4th started with a reminder from God in Luke 18:1 that states “One day Jesus told his disciples a store to show that they should always pray and never give up.” This was important for us to take a moment to not be faint but realize that we have come far and that even though it might seem like challenges and trials are big, our God is much bigger and all we need to do is seek His face! Keep Him in the forefront of all that we do because all we do is for Him!

After a brief recap of our previous meeting and updates on existing initiatives, our discussion was centered mostly on where we stand right now and how we plan to move forward thru our 10 year plan and beyond. We talked about building relationships within our community to establish the connection in order to fulfill our vision. The group was informed of a potential business deal to lease space on the vacant lot that we own on the corner of North Ave and 44th Street. We soon discovered that Rev Robertson has experience in this field, so he gave us some valuable feedback and met with Pastor to go over the deal. We are still in the negotiation phase so as details are finalized they will be communicated. We are prayerful this will be a blessing to our church financially. Bro JaJuan Zolicoffer helped us to narrow down our 10 point focus to:

- 1) Making the church the epicenter of the community, meeting the needs of the people**
- 2) Transforming our environment thru respect, pride and love in our neighborhood**
- 3) Engage & empower young people through sports, health education & resources**

We ask that you pray with us that God will continue to direct our path and grant us discernment in making decisions. That He will reveal to us the resources available to us to make ministry happen in a big way to advance His kingdom all for His glory. That the Lord would send people in need of help so that He can do a great work through us as we fulfill the vision that has been set forth:

To Build Community Transforming Ministries Committed to Serving God & Others.



“Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.”

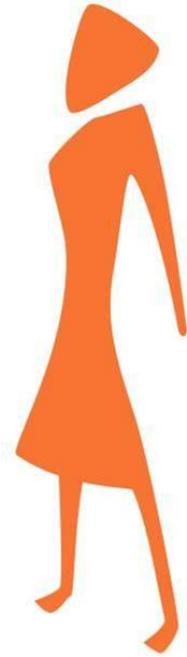
~Warren G. Bennis

WOMEN'S FORUM

In lieu of our monthly Leadership Council, Pastor Williams called for a Women's Forum at **10am** on **Saturday, October 1st** entitled:

ENGAGE. EXCITE. INSPIRE.

This special forum was called because gifts and talents aren't being used to their full potential and we needed to address the reasons why and find ways to move the Women's Ministry forward in being effective. Every woman of Community was invited which totaled 195 and out of that number 75 were in attendance. The men graciously prepared and served us a lovely breakfast and we are grateful to have such great godly talented men in our midst who know how to work in the kitchen! After the women ate we then went around the room and stated our names. Using the example of our Men's Ministry, Pastor Williams discussed their efficiency and how they are consistent and truly in the process of being a transformative ministry not just in our 4 walls but in the community. Pastor emphasized the reason we were all gathered together and got right to the Q & A from the questions on the postcards that were mailed out.



1) Discuss Openly & Honestly What Has Hindered Us From Becoming Active

- lack of consistency, +there should be more activities
- we operate in the circle we know
- the ugliness of people not helping, suggestions always being turned down, makes people shrink back then they step out, we need to be open & respectful
- lack of structure +active recruitment strategy
- time, people work odd schedules
- personal experience at the women's retreat
- after new members class didn't connect to ministry immediately
- need structure organized women leading
- it starts with me, but everyone is supposed to be on 1 accord, we ought to be working together, +need to personally invite people to be apart
- feel disconnected, everything used to be on the weekend to accommodate busy schedules
- bad attitudes, control issues, bad communication
- don't feel safe
- serious problem of cliques, some think we're better than others, don't feel welcome
- being ugly & complaining is discouraging

2) Deliberate How We Can Move Forward Positively & Purposefully To More Effectively Engage Our Assignment

- +wake up shake up and do what we need to do
- +find new leadership, put down our guards & love ye one another

- +watch what you say to people, how you say it
- +we need trainers & teachers
- +PLACE ministry, everyone needs to take it
- +we have to look within ourselves, step up!
(WOW was a 1 day event, done by Sis Nabors, until I was asked to step up)
- +have ministry fair to know what's going on
- +mentorship within ministry roles
- +PLACE ministries for our teens & everyone to help identify gifts & work together
- +have an opportunities for involvement booklet to know what ministries are available (in production, will be available in early 2017)
- +we need a revival to overcome brokenness
- +we need to be able to forgive one another
- +regroup women's ministry, have more focused classes for women
- +speak to each other with respect, resolve issues with one another by going to them
- +put God 1st
- +plan with purpose and convey the purpose of the event
- +plan with the end in mind
- +utilize young people
- +be consistent
- +we must deal with what we are going through, deal with our own mess! so that we can build one another up
- +don't allow others actions to dictate your actions
- +commit to pray, commit to ourselves, regroup within a month
- +start with pastors vision, similar to the structure of men's ministry, collaborative decision making, restructure, reorganize, this is a process

3) Dedicate ourselves more faithfully & intentionally to the work of ministry

(We spent the majority of our allotted time on the top 2 questions that we ran out of time and weren't able to thoroughly address #3)

Pastor ended the session by stating that we would continue our work at the retreat. Everyone was encouraged to attend, and he further stated **that in order to have change you must make a sacrifice**. Pastor plans to do a forgiveness session Fri eve to address some of the hurt that many have experienced & he requested Min Flowers & Sis Hagler facilitate a PLACE session on Saturday morning to help discover who we are in God. Sis Lyles discussed the Pound Cake fundraiser which was held on the 16th of October and was a grand success. Sis Betty Renfro was the winner of the Best Pound Cake and received a Big Money Cake prize! We had quite a few people offer to donate \$ to assist in sending those who might need some financial assistance. Overall this was a necessary coming together of the minds that resulted in initiating conversations about how to make our Women's Ministry engaging, exciting & inspiring. Sis Margaret Burrell closed us out in prayer. The plan is after the retreat to have a part II of our Forum to continue the work God is directing us to do. This will be on **Saturday, November 26th at 10am** at the home of our gracious host, Sis Thelma Sias. All women are to RSVP no later than **Wed, Nov 16th**.

FINANCE UPDATE *By Brother Willie Jude*

What Is Your Credit Score?

What is a credit score?—A credit score is a numerical way of determining your credit worthiness at a point in time

Why is your credit so important?—*Your credit history determines what loans or credit cards you will qualify for and the interest rate you will pay. It is a history of your commitment and trustworthiness. If I make a promise will I keep it? We have 3 credit bureaus that keep track of your credit history that will make a difference in the way you move forward in your life. Just as the world keeps track of commitments & promises so does our heavenly Father.*

Throughout Scripture, we are reminded that we cannot escape the all-seeing Father in heaven on high. In the book of Revelation chapter 20: 12-15, it talks about the book of life and all of our deeds, works and commitment made in this life are recorded. This is why Proverbs 3:9 remind us to **“Honor the Lord with our Substance, and with the first fruits of all our increase”**. Tithing is one way to determine our credit worthiness with God our provider. It reminds us that all of our resources belong to Him and are provided through His grace. **It is easy to maintain or improve our credit score if we have faith and trust in God!**

The Finance Ministry wants to thank the Ministries Leaders for completing their 2017 budget on time. We were able to honor 95% of the ministries request. The finance ministry stand ready to assist the various ministries as they work to fulfill the **CBCGM Vision “To Build Community Transforming Ministries Committed to Serving God and Others”**.

The second phase of CBCGM Handicap Accessibility Project (“the Bathrooms”) is in the middle stages of construction. Your faith in God and generosity is making a difference in the growth of our church and in the lives of our members. Once again, we need the same commitment from all of our members to make the bathrooms as well as the other projects a reality. If you cannot give the \$600 dollars for the year, **please give what you can. With the help of God**, we will complete the bathrooms, garage roof, kitchen storage space, security system, upgrade the phones system, upgrade the computer system, upgrade the electrical system and many other smaller projects.

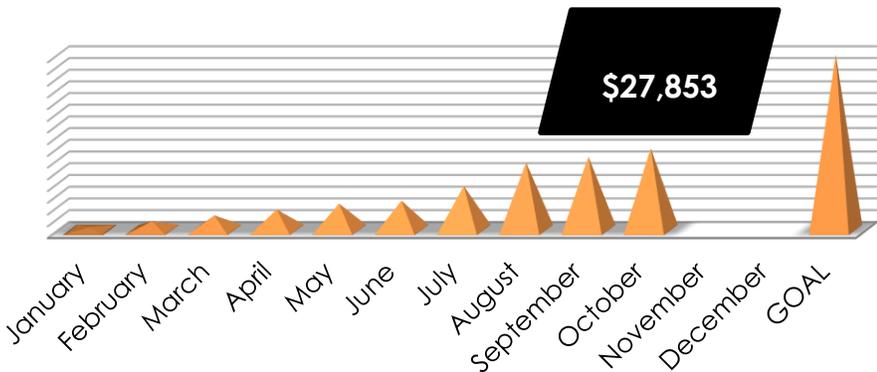
Once again, on behalf of our great pastor Rev. Dr. D. Williams and the Finance Ministry, we want to thank each of you for your continuous commitment and dedication to the financial growth of CBCGM.

Remember –

**A Good Credit Score With Man Will Open Many Doors For You,
But A Good Credit Score With God Will Open Up Eternal Opportunities!**

2016 Special Projects \$ Amounts

\$60,000



COMMUNITY OUTREACH *By Reverend Mike Robertson*

During October there were a number of ministries that involved neighborhood outreach which are reported by others in this letter. Our prayer walks at Sherman Park, our concert at Fox River Congregational Church to benefit the Interfaith Older Adults Program, the youth forum at our 4242 building, the meeting at Washington High School with Common Ground and the men's network breakfasts. These are tangible examples of our efforts to make a difference beyond the walls of our church.

In addition, our deacons voted to offer a lease to **Fresh Start Learning Inc.** to occupy part of the building at 4325 West North Ave. This lease is still in the implementation stage but as soon as it has been finalized they will move from their current office at 4242 W. North Ave and have an open house blessing once they are properly settled. Nancy Yarbrough continues to reach out to those trapped in human trafficking while attending meetings where she talks about domestic violence and human trafficking. Volunteers are always welcome and if you want to know more just call Nancy at **414-544-2649**.

As reported last month we offered to purchase two buildings on North Avenue from the city that we would rehab and use for **Fresh Start Learning** and other neighborhood ministries. This is no longer being pursued as a ministry of CBC but may become a separate neighborhood development effort. As this proceeds we will keep everyone informed.

During October I worked with one couple regarding their finances. There are currently no **Wealth Creation/ Debt Reduction** classes scheduled because no one has indicated any interest in these classes. I am willing to help anyone who might want to examine their current financial position so if you would like help call me at **508-561-3921** or email at msrobertson23@gmail.com. Conversations are confidential.

The **Love Kindness** program at Hi- Mount School is continuing and they seemed to be pleased by the results. We have received no new nominations or reports in our Love Kindness boxes but we do see people wearing the buttons and passing them on to others. Please let us know what you think of our **www.lovekindness.org** website and if you know anyone who might be our Love Kindness web-master please have them contact me. We continue to encourage people to submit nominations of those who you believe are especially kind and stories regarding specific acts of Kindness you have received, observed or performed.

We continue to work with other organizations in the neighborhood and will report on these when we have something to share as we follow God's instructions to "**Love each other.**"

SUNDAY SCHOOL *By Bro Ralph Agnew, Co-Superintendent*

We are in the process of circulating a "Sunday School Volunteer form. We hope to enlist, train and build a better Sunday School at CBCGM.

We need YOUR Help!!!

Please take the time to prayerfully consider helping out. Blue Volunteer Forms are available on the usher stand or you can contact the Sunday School Co-Superintendents:

Bro. Ralph E. Agnew 414-873-9368, apcd53216@aol.com

Bro. Wallace T. Phillips at 414-921-0180, phillips7803@earthlink.net

Well
DONE
 IS BETTER THAN
WELL SAID
 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

A JOYUS GOOD TIME *By Sis Bessie Smith*

The Praise dancers, the Cherub choir, the Men's choir and the Mass choir were a part of something special on Sunday, October 9, 2016. For all who did not attend, it truly had the flavor of a gospel concert. The choir had been invited by Fox River Congregational Church for pass three years. This year they asked Community Baptist Church if we could do a hour of gospel song. Our Director of Music decided to split it up between the different ministries. What a joyous time. Our cherubs sung as though they had been singing in concert all of their lives. The will make a great youth choir. The men's choir gave us that down home gospel sound with two selections.

Our praise dancers danced to "Worth" sung by one of our talented singers backed by the mass choir. Again the praise was high. This concert gave me the feeling I had when I toured with a choir and orchestra in my past. When the choir song back up for the song writer, Jim Bohn, it just showed how God brings people together. We will be on his recording.

Oh let me say this, the congregation at Fox River, are caring and loving folks. We have always been welcomed with open arms and always have a good time when we go there.



MEN'S MINISTRY *By Deacon Melvin E. Grisby Sr.*



Greetings to all, this is the November edition of the Men's Ministry of CBCGM News Letter. Our mission is to provide a ministry based on relationships rather than activity that empowers men to be the spiritual leaders God has called us to be. We want to Build Strong Godly Character through Integrity and Accountability with one another and Help men assume their spiritual role of leadership at home, in the church, in the work place and the community. The desire is to provide opportunities for men to connect with one another as well as with other men to fulfill the purposes of Fellowship, Ministry, Discipleship and Worship.

The Ministry Men's Golf League second outing has ended. The Men's Network of Community Baptist Church and Pastor Williams want to thank the Men from Mt. Zion Baptist church, New Hope Baptist Church, Providence Baptist CHURCH and St. Matthew CMC. for the great fellowship we had over the past four weeks. We had beginner players in the summer outing that showed great progress in the fall outing. Even with the improvement, we had much to laugh about as some struggled to hit that little white ball. The ball just sat on that small tee daring you to hit it and some of the time we had a hard time hitting that little ball, but it was fun trying. We want to thank Pastor Ivy for his participation and support in both the summer and fall outing. The fellowship was so rewarding that the men want to do more next year. We will meet this winter to determine our league outing for 2017.

We are moving forward and with the help of God and the support of each other we will continue to move forward serving God and each other. Let us remember, its men working, playing and praying together that will make a difference in our lives, the life of our Churches, our Families and our Communities.

Special thanks to all of the Men who attended the Form at Washington High school with Pastor Williams, and those who went on the Sherman Park Tour with Deacon Hardy.

The Men had a great time serving the women at their Woman's Forum which was a great success.

The Ministry is hosting a youth forum every 2nd Saturday of the month from 8am to 11am. We invite all of the youth of Community to join us and bring a friend or family member. We meet at the white house across the street. We have also teamed back up with Hi Mount Elementary School this fall for the Mentoring Program.

Under the Leadership of Minister Eastern, we have continued to reach out to the community **every Friday evening from 6:00pm to 7:00pm** at Sherman Park. Thanks to all of the men who have participated, there's always room for more, we welcome everyone!

Remember we have our weekly Tuesday Breakfast from 8:30am to 10:30am. Game Night is on the 3rd Friday of the month at 6pm and the Males Chorus rehearses on the 2nd and 3rd Saturday of each Month at 9:30am and sing every 3rd Sunday.

Our Brotherhood Meetings are held on the **3rd Saturday** of each Month at **10:30am**. Remember, we need ALL MEN of CBCGM to work with us as we embrace our theme "**Engaging Our Assignment: MAKING Disciples.**"

UNITY SUNDAY

The UNITY SUNDAY sermon for this first Sunday was "**TRANSFORMATION OF HABITS: Fruit-Producing Faith**" (2 Peter 1:5-8). There is a danger that lurks in the very nature of human personality and life. It can be both a blessing and a curse. It is an essential part of everyday human life and yet it is also the cause of many human failings. It's called *habit*. One can develop good habits or bad habits, but habits are a part of everyday human experience.

A habit can be defined as:

- **An acquired behavior pattern** regularly followed until it has become almost involuntary (you can do it without thinking)
 - This is good when performing an art (piano, other instruments)
 - This is good in sports
 - This can be good when driving (or bad because one should be alert at all times)

- **A habit can be a customary practice or use**
 - Regular and consistent church attendance and participation is a good habit to develop!
 - Getting to work on time is also a good habit
- **A habit can be a dominant or regular disposition** (that is “attitude”) or tendency; a prevailing character or quality
 - Some people make it a *habit of looking on the bright side of things. They develop the habit of having a positive attitude or disposition!*

The Danger of habits is that they can cause one to take important things for granted. Why? Because we can do them without thinking about their significance or their importance for the fabric of life.

Habitus sociology refers to lifestyle, the values, the dispositions & expectation of particular social groups that are acquired through the activities and experiences of everyday life. Perhaps in more basic terms, the habitus could be understood as a *structure of the mind* characterized by a set of acquired sensibilities, dispositions and attitudes or tastes.

WHAT DOES PETER TELL US TO ADD TO OUR FAITH?

- Virtue – integrity, honesty, justice, moral uprightness, dependability, accountability, responsibility
 - **opposite** vice – immorality, wrong-doing, corruption, badness, misconduct
- Knowledge – information, acquaintance and wisdom (vis-à-vis) Jesus Christ
 - **opposite** – ignorance, impotence, inability incompetence, unbelief, misunderstanding
- Self-control – self-discipline, willpower, restraint, strength of mind/will,
 - **opposite** – indulgence, overindulgence, unrestraint,
- Patience (endurance) – staying power, tolerance, persistence, fortitude, serenity, lack of complaint
 - **opposite** - agitation, frustration, intolerance
- Godliness – [eusebeia = reverence for God] comes to mean, right behavior & motives that flows from a right attitude with respect to God
 - **Opposite** - Godlessness, ungodliness, profanity, irreverence
- Communal affection (Philadelphia – brotherly love)
 - **Opposite** - cruelty harshness, hatred meanness
- Love (agape) – unconditional love!

Love is patient, love is kind, love is not envious, or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; It is not irritable or resentful. It does not rejoice in wrongdoing, But rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, Believes all things, Hopes all things, Endures all things.

Love never ends.

- **Opposite** – hate, ire, odium

[WHY SHOULD WE ADD THEM?]

Many churches have people who want to stop with and are content with faith. They don't want to do the rest of the hard work of personal development. This is why so many churches are ineffective in evangelism, Christian education and growth – our faith needs some helpful friends, some reinforcements!

God wants us to be *productive* in our faith! WHAT DO THESE THINGS DO?

- “If these things are in you **and they increase**,” they will: keep you; put you in charge; appoint, make you [so that] you will not become:

INEFFECTIVE – (*argous*) lazy, idle, *unemployed, useless
UNPRODUCTIVE – (*akarpos*): barren, unfruitful

IN WHAT? **THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!** [V. 2-3, 5-6, 8] This is important for Peter. We must have a *saving knowledge* [he saved me] and a *working knowledge* [ready to work for] of Jesus Christ.

AMEN

In Memoriam

We dedicate this section of our newsletter to our beloved that have passed from our congregation as well as family members of our CBCGM sisters and brothers. We sincerely offer our prayers and condolences to the bereaved families of the following:



Lula Mae Crawl

(Great-grandmother of Lanise Crawl)

Earl Young

(Cousin of Donna Beard)

Jacqueline Polk

(Sister of Deacon Lonnie Davis & Aunt of Sis Latrice Welch)