

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

2017 February Edition

GREETINGS CBCGM!

By the time you read this newsletter we will already be several days into the month of February, the shortest month of the year! This is why we must fill this month with as much celebration and remembrance as possible because... - Its BLACK HISTOTY MONTH!

While we remember the hard work and labor of love that our forbearers left to posterity the whole year 'round, it is this time of celebration that invites worldwide attention to the contributions and achievements of people of African descent here in the U.S and around the globe. Let us follow their example of committed faith, determined activism and responsible involvement as we seek to make the world a better place within the sphere of our influence.

With God's help we can do it!

BE PRESENT. BE PRAYERFUL. BE POSITIVE. BE IMPACTFUL.

THEME

**Continuing Our Assignment:
Equipping God's People for the Work of MINISTRY**
Ephesians 4:11-13 (CEB)

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Ebony S. Hagler

The Leaders of Community Baptist Church kicked off 2017 with a truly dynamic Leadership Conference at the St Iakovos Retreat Center the first weekend in January. We arrived with NO FOG and started our evening with a fellowship dinner after which we sang happy birthday to our Pastor using whistles, kazoos, harmonicas, ukuleles & flutes! It was a hoot to get in touch with our inner child and have fun. We also had a birthday cake that was in the shape of a fish and presented Pastor a gift on behalf of all of the leaders.

After our bellies were full, it was time to get to work with our first session of IT from Chapter 9 led by Pastor Williams entitled **Hearts Focused Outward: You Want Others to Have IT**. We can't continue to be an inward church only focusing on ourselves, we have to stop being comfortable when it's just us on Sunday morning and there are no visitors. Our desire for others to have it needs to be a top priority of urgency! People often will say that they love their church because... of the love that is shown, the music, the Pastor, his preaching, and that's great, but ultimately we must ask ourselves: **What is Community doing to share IT with others?**

The excitement continued with Deacon Willie Jude who offered a fresh perspective on chapter 10: **Kingdom-Mindedness You Share It; subtitled: Echoes of the Past, Voices of the Present & Visions of the Future**. As Kingdom-Minded Leaders, when we have IT, we are less possessive, less competitive, more generous & eager to partner with others to get things done. In addition, we know that IT is a gift from God and doesn't belong to us but is to be shared with others and the more we try to keep the less we have of it, however the more willing we are to give IT away, the more if It God gives. He further concluded that if we are followers of Christ, then we are all on the same TEAM. Meaning we should all encompass:

T-Trust E-Enthusiasm A-Attitude M-Membership

We concluded with a relaxing evening, some worked diligently on our group puzzle that had the many names of Jesus, a few played uno, others played chess, some watched a movie while a few turned in early.

Saturday morning started with a hearty breakfast and a brief assembly to take this awesome group photo with our uniformed black shirts with our embroidered logo.



We then settled in to watch the last It Video segment entitled: **What It Means to Get It Back & Guard It.** Author Craig Groeschel talked about how when he first got saved his answer to everything was YES! But then ministry started to kill it and it wasn't about the kingdom of God but more so just the church. He talked about how he became a full time pastor but a part time follower of Christ & it wasn't until he allowed his heart to break for children that he got it back.

Rev Patrick Greer followed by presenting on chapter 11 of the book **“Do You Have It ? Does It Have You?”** We did a self evaluation with questions such as Are you passionate for God? Do you walk by faith? Do you thirst for God? Are you driven for excellence in whatever God is allowing you to do for the kingdom? All were truly reflective in nature allowing us to evaluate the different ways we may have lost it individually and collectively. Rev Greer showed us that the only way for us to get it back is to redirect our focus on God, fast, welcome the discomfort of growth and going thru, don't be ashamed of falling short-repent, please God and not the Pastor, and fall in love with Jesus all over again and not only with you find it, but it will be found in you!

Our final session was led by Pastor Williams based on chapter 12 entitled **Guarding It: How to Keep It Once You Have It.** Shielding and protecting IT is what Jesus told us in Mark 13:33. It is not only a passion for pleasing God through serving/loving people it is ALSO living & carrying out our calling according to principles evident through our demeanor, duty and conversation. The question posed was How is God Stretching You? Pastor finished by reading the Franciscan Blessing to the right.



Our Leadership Conference concluded with an Essential Piece Appreciation Presentation in which a puzzle charm on a chain was given to each leader in attendance attached to a card that read:

*Isn't it wonderful that we are all different? Each of us has a unique set of skills to share
 And when we link our individual strengths together, We're stronger, we are powerful beyond measure.
**The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts;
 and though all its parts are many, they form one body.
 So it is with Christ***

1 Corinthians 12:12

Thank You For Being An Essential Piece to the Body of Christ!

FINANCE UPDATE

Deacon Willie Jude

“CONTINUING OUR ASSIGNMENT: EQUIPPING GOD’S PEOPLE FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY”

We have completed the first month of 2017 and we thank God for His blessings. Many of us made a commitment to allow God to use us more in 2017 than in 2016, if it is to be, God must be first in our lives. The Finance Ministry is committed and dedicated to the financial growth of CBCGM in 2017. We begin 2017 acknowledging that God will do only for us which we are willing to do for ourselves. It is true...We can do all things through Christ who strengthen us, but we must make the effort in faith for God to intervene.

The Finance Ministry will continue to focus on the needs of the church and various ministries as we endeavor to reach out to those in need of spiritual redemption. We will continue to work with our Pastor, Associate Clergy, Deacons, Ministry Leaders, Core Team and most of all, the members of CBCGM to promote the three Strategic pillars. The three pillars are: 1. **Leadership Development**, 2. **Spiritual Growth** and 3. **Church Unity**. We will continue to keep our Motto in mind as we continue to move forward “**One Voice—One Vision—One Vocation.**” When we make up our mind to move as one body we will **transform our people and community.**

When praises go up, Blessings come down! Phase 2 of our special projects is more than 80% complete. It was your sacrifice and hard work that made it possible. We are asking each member to pledge an extra \$50 per month above their tithes and offerings for 2017. 2017 marks the 40th year of CBCGM existence and we want to complete the remainder of the renovations and repairs as well as pay down the mortgage. We presently owe approximately \$195,000 and it is our goal to owe less than \$100,000 as of January 1, 2018. We can do it with the help of God. We know that all things are possible in Christ Jesus. In 2017, **we can make it happen with the help of God, Christ Jesus and The Holy Spirit.** **Can we do it? Yes we can!!** Once again, the Finance Ministry thanks each of you for your ongoing support as we continue to move forward advancing the kingdom of God.



**Note: You should have received your 2016 Financial Contribution statement on or before January 15, 2017 if not please contact Sis. Simmons at 445-1610.*



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Rev. Mike Robertson

During January, we continued to work with Common Ground on a plan for the revitalization of **Washington High School**. MPS leadership is looking at proposals and we are hopeful that by forging our efforts together with Common Ground, community residents and other neighborhood organizations something will soon develop.

Fresh Start Learning Inc. held a ribbon cutting open house/blessing at their offices at 4325 West North Ave. on January 14th with over 75 people in attendance. Nancy is speaking to as many groups as possible to inform people of the extent of this crime in Milwaukee as she befriends those trapped in human trafficking. Volunteers are always welcome and if you want to know more please call Nancy at 414-544-2649 or visit the office.

The **Love Kindness** committee has expanded with four new members and committee meetings will be held so the program can be expanded. The committee members are Alex Hardy, Betty Walker, Daria Graves, Jerome Landry and Demetrace Jude. The www.lovekindness.org website is in place and we continue to seek nominations for the Love Kindness person of the month. Please let any committee member know who you believe is especially kind and share any stories regarding specific acts of Kindness you receive, observe or perform.

There are currently no **Wealth Creation / Debt Reduction** classes scheduled but if you believe I can help call me at 508-561-3921 or email at msrobertson23@gmail.com.

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

TRAINING: TO CONTINUE OUR ASSIGNMENT

Min. Charlotte Flowers

Our church themes for the past years were:

Getting God's House in Order
Let's Fill The House
There's Still Room
Engaging our Assignment: Making Disciples

This year's church theme is "Continuing Our Assignment, Equipping God's people for the Work of Ministry" scripture reference; Ephesians 4:11-13. To some this theme may seem redundant, but when you think about Jesus' life on earth He trained the 12 disciples seven days a week for over three years.

"Equipping God's people for the Work of Ministry" what does this mean? What ministry are we to work at? **Ephesians 4:11-12 New Living Translation (NLT) reads:**¹¹ "Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.¹² Their responsibility is to **equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.**

Pastor Williams has been charged by God to equip us to do God's work-ministry and that is building up the church, the body of Christ. This is difficult to do when about a fourth of the membership attend Sunday School, about a fifth of the membership attend Bible Study, maybe about a half of the church leaders attended the leadership conference and about a fifth of the leaders attended the A.I.M. conference in January. If the leaders aren't committed to being trained what can we expect of the general congregation. If the leaders do not attend training they do not have information-tools to take to their ministry groups to encourage their training as disciples.

Ephesians 4:13 reads; ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ." The this that will continue is (*what may seem to some redundancy of the church's theme this year*) training followers/disciples of Christ to be **united in faith** and **knowledge of God**, so that we move from "milk" to "meat" and be ambassadors for Christ; imitate all that Christ did and stands for today; in other words have/develop the personality of Christ.

Maybe we aren't sure of Christ's personality, let us take a look at the list of Christ personality on the next page, maybe this will give us a starting point; a frame of reference to copy as we continue our discipleship training.

THE PERSONALITY OF CHRIST

Min. Charlotte Flowers

He has adopted as his objectives in life the same objectives God sets forth in the scriptures.

Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

He is willing to pay any price to have the will of God fulfilled in his life. II Tim. 2:3-4, “Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.” Phil; 3:18-19a; “For I have told you before and say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are enemies of the cross of Christ. They are headed for destruction.”

He had a love for the Word of God. Jeremiah 15:16, “Thy words were found and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts.” Do you have an insatiable appetite for the Word of God?

He has servant heart. Matt. 20:26-28, “But is shall not be so among you; but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant, even as the Son of man came not to minister unto, but to minister and to give His life ransom for many.” In other words Jesus can to serve.

He puts no confidence in the flesh. II Cor. 1:9 But he had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead. Worldliness and having confidence in the flesh are very closely related, for worldliness can be defined as 'living as though you have no need for God.

He does not have an independent spirit. Accomplishing the work of God is a team effort, done in concert with likeminded brothers and sisters in the faith.

He has a love for people. I John 4:10. To be godly is to be God-like. To be like God is to love people.

He does not allow himself to become trapped in bitterness. Hebrews 12:15, “Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.”

He has learned to discipline his life. I Cor9:24-27 (Message Translation) “You’ve all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You’re after one that’s gold eternally. I don’t know about you, but I’m running hard for the finish line. I’m giving it everything I’ve got. No sloppy living for me! I’m staying alert and in top condition. I’m not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself.” If we discipline our life and do as the word says we will finish this Christian race as winners.

“**Make disciples**” is a mandate of the Master. We may ignore it, but we cannot evade it. Everyone after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher, our Lord avowed. Luke 6:40.
Read through the personality of Christ, take His yoke upon you and learn of Him.

MEN'S MINISTRY

Deacon Melvin E. Grisby Sr.

Greetings to all, This is the February addition 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, at church, at work and in 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 Hosts a **Youth Forum every 2nd Saturday of the month from 8:00am to 11am**. We invite all Youth of Community to join us and bring a friend or family member. We meet at the white house across the street at 4242 W North Ave. For those of you who did not attend the last meeting; it got real interesting, the youth spoke out in volumes, they had a plethora of questions and wanted to know why certain things happen in Church and what's the role of the Church in our Community. They also had questions about Ministers, their life style and the reason behind Tithes and Offering. They wanted to know what the Church really doing for the Community. We encourage you to attend the next meeting to help our young people understand why we need Church and God in our lives and the only way to understand is to become engaged by attending Church, Praying and learning what thus said the Lord. If you ever wanted to get involved in our assignment, now is the time!

The Ministry will team back up with Hi Mount Elementary School this fall for the Mentoring Program. Thanks to Bro Hardy, Bro Phillips, Bro Jude, Bro A. Hinkle and Rev. M. Robertson for their time and efforts in working with this special program. If you can spare some time and are interested, please let one of these brothers know so they can give you more detailed information.

Our weekly **Tuesday Breakfast** is from **8:30am to 10:30am**. In 2016 we served over 1400 meals with an average of 30 men every Tuesday morning from various churches and neighborhoods in the city. Special thanks to Bro. Staples, Bro Herron, Bro Powell and Bro Phillips for their commitment.

Male Chorus Rehearsal is on the **2nd and 3rd Saturday** of the Month at **9:30am - 10:30am** in the sanctuary and we sing every **3rd Sunday**. We welcome more men in the church to lend their voices so that we may continue to grow and bless the Lord in song.

We host an **Adult Game Night** on the **3rd Friday** of the month from **6pm–9pm** at 4242 W. North Avenue. Special thanks to Sis Linda Hassell for all her help and commitment for what she does to make it a success!

Our **Brotherhood Meetings** are held on the **3rd Saturday** of each Month at **10:30am**. Agendas are always emailed out ahead of time, if you'd like to be added to the distribution list, please see Deacon Jude.

Remember, we need **ALL MEN of CBCGM** to work with us "**Continuing Our Assignment: Equipping God's People for the Work of MINISTRY**". There are a few brothers still sitting on the sidelines, there is always something to do in the Men's Ministry and there is plenty of room for everyone to get involved. Don't wait, Get Equipped, We have work to do!!!

FIRST SUNDAY SERMON

Rev. Dr. Demetrius K. Williams

On the first Sunday of this New Year I preached from the subject, “**The Work of Ministry**” in accordance with our church theme for the year - “**Continuing Our Assignment: Equipping the People of God for the work of Ministry**” (Ephesians 4:11-13). I shared some staggering statistics about many churches. Since 2000 more than 4000 churches in America have closed the doors to their buildings each year, which is more than 40,000 churches. This is a frightening statistic because at the turn of the 1900’s there were 27 churches to every 10,000 people. At the start of this millennium, there were only 11 churches to every 10,000 people. And the numbers have not stopped here. Every year, 2.7 million church members drop into inactivity.

These statistics are evident in our own congregation, because this is a culture-wide problem. And it leaves us with a question. When we look at the world around us; when we read statistics that thousands upon thousands of churches are closing each year, do we ever wonder why Jesus chose the church to carry on his legacy? If our culture is any indicator, the church seems like a flawed concept and institution. But this is the institution that God has chosen to bear witness in the world. Perhaps by remembering our foundation and function, we can change the direction of our ministry.

We must remember ***The Church’s Foundation*** that is built upon the Confession that, “Jesus is the Christ”.

We must remember ***The Church’s Faith*** which is in Jesus the Messiah, who is both Savior and Lord!

We must remember ***The Church’s Function***, which is to equip (provide the necessary tools/resources/training) the people of God for the work of MINISTRY!

Let us be actively engaged in the WORK OF MINISTRY!!!

AMEN



We remember all of 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:

James Frierfon

(Brother of Barbara Johnson)

Jodie James

(Uncle of Lonnie Davis)



**Sunday School
February Calendar**

05-	Sunday School Review (Sanctuary)
12-	Regular Sunday School Classes
19-	Regular Sunday School Classes
26-	Special Black History Presentation (Sanctuary) Deacon Alex Hardy

Please Note:
Sunday School Staff and any interested members meet quarterly on the 4th Sunday immediately after Morning Worship.



FEBRUARY

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| Saturday | 04 | Deacon Council, 9:00am
Leadership Council 10:00am |
| Sunday | 05 | Cherub Choir going to see “Bronze Ville Play”
Lunch at 4242 W. North Ave at 11am, Play starts at 1pm |
| Sunday | 12 | Senior Valentine Soul Food Luncheon, Immediately After Worship
In Our Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday | 19 | BLAST Bake Sale, after worship |
| Saturday | 25 | A.I.M. Christian Educators Institute, 8:30am @ MT. Olive
Sign up on Clipboard by Friday, Feb 17th
Associate Ministers Council, 9am |
| Sunday | 26 | Black History Program, 9:00am |

MARCH

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| Friday | 03 | Marriage Game Night, 6pm-9pm |
| Saturday | 04 | Deacon Council, 9:00am
Leadership Council 10:00am |
| Sunday | 05 | Marriage Recognition Day, TBD |
| Saturday | 11 | BLAST Neighborhood Canvass |
| Saturday | 18 | ALL CHURCH Spring Clean, 7am
A.I.M. Missions/Evangelism Workshop, 8:30am-2pm CTK |
| Sunday | 19 | New Members Fellowship, after worship |
| Saturday | 25 | Associate Ministers Council, 9am
Start Neighborhood Walks thru May/June leading up to Town Hall |
| Sunday | 26 | BLAST Bake Sale, after worship
A.I.M. Deacons Ordination, 4pm @ TCBC |



Reverend Dr. Demetrius K. Williams, Pastor
Deacon Co-Chairs
Barbara Johnson & James Powell

MISSION

To PREACH God's word,
TEACH God's people and
REACH the world with God's love.

VISION

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

MOTTO

One Voice
One Vision
One Vocation

PILLARS

Leadership Development
Spiritual Growth
Church Unity



Visit us on
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