



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

2017 July Edition

GREETINGS CBCGM!

I'm sure you would agree that June was one of the busiest months on record in recent years. There was the Leadership Council, preaching engagement (Greater Mt. Zion), a Wedding, Vacation Bible School, Community Day, a Town Hall Meeting, and a week-long conference (MKE-AIM Conference on Ministry - "AIMing for WELLness). I have not necessarily mentioned these events in chronological order of their occurrences but I wanted to end with the Conference on Ministry because I want to share some insights from it. These insights do not come from the great teaching from the four facilitators nor from the nightly preaching from one of God's best preachers. Instead, the insights come from that Thursday afternoon when certain key leaders from each of the AIM churches gathered to have lunch & conversation with the Rev. Dr. Joe S. Ratliff. Dr. Ratliff shared several key insights of pastoral leadership & administration, but I'll share only two that spoke particularly to me.

First, he stated that as his ministry developed and his church grew in numbers, his ministry partners (Associate Ministers/Pastors) grew in numbers too. He soon realized that he had to move from the paradigm of "pastor/shepherd" to that of "rancher". What he meant was that the role and function of a "pastor" in the traditional sense is that of a singular leader who guides and instructs the sheep. However, as the sheep increase in number, the pastor needs several helpers to assist. This is an important transition from that of pastor (singular) to that of rancher (who needs multiple assistants to operate and manage the flock/herd). Of course, this is a biblical model too where there is a need for delegating leadership to other capable individuals who share authority and responsibilities with the primary leader. For example, Moses cried out to God in deep anguish:

¹⁴ I am not able to bear all these people alone, because the burden *is* too heavy for me. ¹⁵ If You treat me like this, please kill me here and now—if I have found favor in Your sight—and do not let me see my wretchedness!" ¹⁶ So the Lord said to Moses: "Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. ¹⁷ Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that *is* upon you and will put *the same* upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear *it* yourself alone. (Numbers 11:14-17)

Rev. Dr. Demetrius K. Williams

PASTOR

This passage makes it clear that ministry is a shared task between a particular leader and others who are delegated to assist with the burden of leading. The primary leader has to be willing to share their authority and leadership responsibility with others. Even so, one must also put pride aside because some of the sheep may have a greater affinity with one particular “ranch-hand” (assistant) than the rancher (primary leader) himself. To this end, Dr. Ratliff shared a story about one of his life-long younger members whom he had baptized as a young child. She approached him one day after worship and said, “Pastor, you know I’m getting married on [such and such a date].” He responded, “Oh sweetheart, do you know that I’m going to be out of town that date.” She replied, “Oh, I don’t want you to do the wedding. I asked Rev. [so and so] to do it.” Dr. Ratliff then said to the group of us assembled there: “For a quick moment I got jealous. I’d known her all her life and even baptized her. But then I realized that Rev. [so and so] was the Pastor of the Marriage Ministry and had been counseling them. I was reminded that I had to be open for the congregation to choose other ranch-hands than myself for some tasks of ministry.” To be sure, this confirms my own experience in ministry, which I mentioned this past First Sunday in my sermon, “The Heart of the Matter” (1 Thess. 2:17-19) [*which is summarized briefly this month so that I might wax longer than usual on the newsletter opening!*] I noted that, “Paul may not have been everyone’s pastor; just as I’m sure that I am not everyone’s pastor. I might be called ‘Pastor’ but some of you have chosen one of these associates as your [and I might have added, *de facto*] pastor.” This is one reason why his confirmation resonated with me. My experience as pastor with several assistants has taught me that some of you might call one or another associate minister before you call me, or desire a certain task to be performed by them instead of me. Minister Charlotte Flowers has officiated/preached several funerals and Rev. G. Earl Singleton (before he relocated) officiated the wedding of one couple who requested him and Rev. Patrick Greer likewise has counseled and performed the wedding ceremony of at least one couple. I am quite fine with this, so long as proper protocol is followed, which was the case in all these examples of shared ministry responsibilities. By God’s grace, this shall continue in the future.

Second, I was profoundly moved by Dr. Ratliff’s discussion of a beautiful picture/ painting that he purchased at a very reasonable price while traveling on one occasion. He was excited about this picture/painting because he believed that it would be perfect for a particular wall in his home that his wife was anxious to fill but could not quite find the right piece. When he brought it home to his delight his wife loved it. But there was one last hurdle to jump, finding the perfect frame. As the story came to its end, he stated that the final frame chosen for the picture cost several hundred dollars more than the picture/ painting itself. The gist of this story is that one might have a beautiful picture - a leader might call it a vision! - but not matter how beautiful the picture, it cannot be mounted without a frame! And the right frame for the picture can cost a lot of money. This informed me that no matter how passionate one might be about one’s vision, if it is not framed properly the beauty and value of it can be diminished or even lost upon those to whom its appeal is offered. As we move into the fulfillment of our vision to prepare God’s people for ministry (which is a beautiful picture of engaged members’/disciples fulfilling the Great Commission), my prayer is that it is being framed properly so that it might be valued and make its appeal to those to whom it is offered.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these personal thoughts. As always...

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

FINANCE UPDATE

Deacon Willie Jude

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

We have completed the sixth month of 2017 and we continue to thank God for his goodness and glorious blessings. While we continue to face challenges, God’s presence is always with us as a result of our commitment and dedication to Him. As we move forward, let us remember the words of the song **“Flow to You” Let the river of my worship flow to you Lord, I pray in all I do.** Like a mighty river flowing into the sea or an ocean is the same way we flow to God. This is only true when our worshiping, our praying and our giving are anchored in the word of God. If we fail to do according to His word, it will impact the flow of our river to God, therefore reducing our blessings from God. Once again, God is a God of action & unless we are connected to Him we will be left behind. Brothers & Sisters, come, let us keep worshiping, praying & giving because we want our river to steadily flow to God.

The Finance Ministry continues to focus on the Mission and Priorities of CBCGM as determined by Pastor Williams. We continue to work with CBCGM Ministries Leaders and Members to promote the three Strategic pillars. The three pillars are: 1. **Leadership Development**, 2. **Spiritual Growth** and 3. **Church Unity**. We must continue to keep our Motto in mind as we continue to move forward **“One Voice—One Vision—One Vocation.”** When we are connected, we can move as one body **transforming our peoples and our community.**

Wait! I believe I see a light. The light appears to be getting a little brighter. It’s about the same, but there is hope! Bro. Staples and his crew continue to work on our restroom remodel daily and will have them done as soon as possible. We want to encourage all of our members to pledge an **extra \$50 per month above your tithes & offerings** which will allow the completion of the bathrooms, pay for our new organ, make necessary repairs & upgrade our internet system that interferes with our Video system. This is a very special year. It marks the 40th year of our existence and we want to complete the remainder of the renovations & repairs as well as pay down our mortgage. We presently owe approximately \$173,000 and it is CBCGM’s goal to owe less than \$100,000 as of January 1, 2018. We continue to do this with your support & the help of God. **We will do it? Yes we Will!!**



PROSPERING THE VISION; COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

Ebony S. Hagler

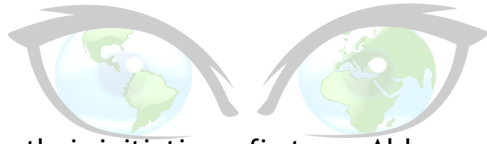
The CORE TEAM of CBCGM meet on June 6th to prepare and review information for our **Community Town Hall Meeting** which took place on **Saturday, June 17th from 9:30am–Noon**. We went over the Violence Prevention Plan created by Reggie Moore who is the director for the city's health department office of violence prevention. We also took a look at the Initiatives of our city's Common Council, Senator LaTonya Johnson, Representative Evan Goyke, & Senator Lena Taylor. What we realized was that there was no element of conflict resolution as an option to prevent violence in Milwaukee. We also talked about what our follow up plan would be after the meeting. Participants were asked to complete evaluations and there was an over all sense of mission accomplished, however this is just the start of being engaged and becoming the epi-center of the community. We welcome your input as we continue to transform lives by serving God & others.

It had been 8 years since our first Town Hall, we have been busy getting things together working on our 10 year strategic plan which we implemented in 2012. But the day arrived and we held our Community Town Hall Meeting with the following panel in attendance **Alderman Ashanti Hamilton of District 1, Alderman Russell W. Stamper II of District 15, Senator LaTonya Johnson of 6th District, Senator Lena Taylor of 4th District, State Representative Evan Goyke of 18th District and representing Milwaukee Police District 3 on behalf of Captain Shunta Boston-Smith Sargent Richard Jack.**

Pastor Williams opened the meeting with a warm welcome and the reason why we are going outside of the walls of our church into the community. He discussed how we began our neighborhood walks from September to November following the aftermath of what took place in the Sherman Park area following the shooting death of Sylville Smith by officer Heaggan-Brown. Complete chaos erupted in our community as a result of anger and frustration. As our members walked the streets they met Smith's brother, Sedan, who stated that they have more interaction with the police than the church and that we need to be consistent. These are things that we as a church can and should do, in addition to working in conjunction with our elected civic leaders and this meeting is the beginning.

Deacon Willie Jude then went on to talk about Washington High School and all the great things taking place there including their Culinary School partnership with the Bartolotta Restaurant group who plans to install a commercial kitchen and does benefits to raise money. He also discussed the opportunity we now have with their shop room to initiate home improvement classes. Assistant Principal Angela Terry was in attendance and she stated that the goal is to bring the school back to it's glory! The Alumni Association has over 1 million scholarships that are awarded only to Washington High School students.

Minister Jeffrey Eastern gave us a recap on our Neighborhood Walk Initiatives which officially started last year however this report was from efforts that started on April 15. We formed four teams to take each direction and walked house to house, leaving door hangers at homes who didn't answer. For those who did we asked them what they thought we could do to improve our community, what were their concerns and would they be willing to work with us. We held a Community Day Celebration on the 10th where we gave away free food and clothing in addition to ministry information which was a success and again a step in the right direction.



Our panel was up next to discuss their initiatives, first was Alderman Ashanti Hamilton who is also the Common Council President. He talked about how we need to educate the community so that it can recognize it's power and get things done. **Be the Change Program** seeks to identify 50-75 young men who have hindrances and assist them in overcoming them. Numbers equal power of moral and spiritual influence which is an area that we as a community struggle with. But with the leverage of power in this community we can stay focused on our goals and change things.

Alderman Russell Stamper of District 15 spoke next about our opportunity to leverage our challenges into making our district the best. With over 100 churches in this district surely we can work together make that happen. He also stated that there are 1300 vacant lots and over 100 homes that need to be restructured and can be through the **Milwaukee Challenge Program**. In addition, he stated that he will not approve or allow any more liquor stores to open in this district!

Our Representative Evan Goyke who lives on 27th & State discussed the Lisbon entrance to the freeway, the **Chip Program** what allows parents to get clean and reunited with their children. He talked about a common deceit that takes place during the sale of foreclosed properties and the legislation that will be more strict in not allowing people to run games and not pay their bills.

Senator Latonya Johnson who represents our area including 53206 which is one of the poorest spoke on a variety of things. She has been working diligently in Madison and has passed a bill to make correctional officer's mandatory reporting and is also working to ban solitary confinement for mentally ill people. In addition, she informed us that we have a lead crisis in Milwaukee and that every home needs to test their water to see if tests positive for lead.

Senator Lena Taylor discussed her many initiatives mainly **Love Faith**, talked about the importance of literacy, opportunity and having a voice. She presented us with many resources including Ezekiel Cards that explain our voting rights in the state of Wisconsin. In addition, she stated she would like to partner with us in health and connect us with wrap around services.

Sergeant Jack talked about increasing foot patrolling in the area and partnering with the church & city to stabilize areas that are problematic. There is a **District Meeting at 6pm on the last Thursday of every month**, all are welcome!

We ended our Community Town Hall Meeting with a Q & A session followed by a fellowship breakfast in which participants were asked to complete an evaluation.

For More Detailed Information, please visit the following sites:

www.city.milwaukee.gov/Common Council

www.city.milwaukee.gov/mayor

www.legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/06/johnson

www.evangoyke.com

www.lenataylor.org



Minister Jeffrey Eastern

What a wonderful time to open up our hearts to the Community on Saturday, the 10th of June! A tremendous amount of excitement and energy were in the air as we met early at 4242 W. North Ave. Ministries teams set up displays. The Hospitality Committee (Sis Jude & Deacon Mary Hinkle), the HOPE Ministry (Rev. Charlotte Flowers), the Men's Network (Deacons Jude & Grisby) Love - Kindness (Rev. Mike Robertson) & the Senior Ministry (Sis Naydene Hines).

Special guests, the Koman Foundation (Sis Patti Hardy) and crew set up a tent in the back-yard with free T-shirts, medical pamphlets, and other vital information regarding women's health. Tables of clothing and toys were available for anyone and everyone.

Brothers Alex Barber and Arthur Brown were on the grill, cooking up hamburgers, hot dogs and brats. Sis Carolyn Hunt was on the corner, working, encouraging motorists and pedestrians to stop on by, meet and greet members from CBCGM.

Thank-you everyone that assisted in making this Community Day possible as we continue to move forward with different strategies to interact and address concerns in our neighborhoods.

LOVE YOU ALL & GOD BLESS!!!

Youth & Children's Revival

Bessie Smith

Do you know what it means to be "Gifted for Greatness?" Well, it's the gifts that Lord has given to you to be used to do His work. There is none other like it, so it's important to know what your gifts are.

Do not be ashamed, rather embrace your God given gifts. For when you are "Called to Duty" you will know what it is you are supposed to do.

The Lord has given you the strength to be courageous to use your gift no matter what you face or come up against.

Are you afraid to use your gift? Don't be. God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and a sound mind. He gave us gifts and assignments so that we may use them together for His glory. The youth and children of today will be the grown-ups of tomorrow. They see that we, the GROWN-UPS, are being Part-time church goers or Sunday Saints. They know that we are not leading by example. We need to check ourselves and get right otherwise we may lose an entire generation of believers of Christ.

This was the message that our guest speaker gave at our Annual Youth & Children's Revival in May. The very dynamic young Rev. Maurice Taylor of Ruskin, FL blessed us with three nights of "hum", Amen, but most importantly the word of the Lord.



We thank our guests, Greater Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Corinth Baptist Church, & Bro. Trevon Davis for sharing in our revival. We are proud of our young people who deliver when they are asked to do something. Thank you, Pastor Williams for your support & guidance as we seek to steer our children and youth in the direction of the Lord.

We all need to **KNOW, EMBRACE, & USE** our gifts for our God designated assignments within the body of Christ!

FIRST SUNDAY SERMON

Rev. Dr. Demetrius K. Williams

As mentioned in the opening this is a brief summary because this sermon was preached with a bare note outline. The First Sunday Sermon was titled, “The Heart of the Matter” (1 Thess. 2:17-19). It was titled such because this is the passage where the real issues between Paul and his audience surface, and things are not pleasant in their relationship. There are hidden tensions in the text even before we reach this passage. Paul says:

- ◆ I’m praying for “all of you”
- ◆ “Our coming to you was not in vain”
- ◆ “Our appeal does not spring from deceit
- ◆ “As you know...” several times
- ◆ “God is our witness”
- ◆ “We tenderly cared for you”
- ◆ “You were witnesses of how pure and blameless we were among you”

There will be tensions in pastoral relations with God’s people...

Now in this passage we get to the heart of the matter. This idiomatic phrase means, “the basic, central or critical point of an issue, topic or problem.”

- ◆ We are suffering persecution
- ◆ Our people are dying
- ◆ And Paul is nowhere to be found!
- ◆ He is a deceiver!!!

Paul responds: No I am not. Satan hindered us! Satan is credited with many things in the bible. He is an:

- ◆ accuser,
- ◆ a murder,
- ◆ a liar,
- ◆ a sifter

And according to our text today, He is also a Hinderer. Yes, Satan hinders us!

- ◆ Satan Uses SIN to Hinder US.
- ◆ Satan Uses STORMS to Hinder US.
- ◆ Satan Uses SICKNESS to Hinder US.
- ◆ Satan Uses SASTISFACTION to Hinder US.
- ◆ Satan Uses STRIFE to Hinder US.
- ◆ Satan Uses SPORTS to Hinder US.
- ◆ Satan Uses SHOPPING to Hinder US.
- ◆ Satan Uses SELFISHNESS to Hinder US.
- ◆ Satan Uses SEPARATION to Hinder US.

But God is able to break Satan’s grip and set us free.

This is what Christ came to do - to defeat the power of Satan and give us victory! **AMEN**

(For the full version of this sermon, please go to www.cbcm.org)

INSPIRATIONAL CORNER

Minister Charlotte Flowers

July 2, 2017 thru July 8, 2017

Deuteronomy 11:18-21 (NLT) “¹⁸ So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. ¹⁹ Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. ²⁰ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, ²¹ so that as long as the sky remains above the earth, you and your children may flourish in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors.”

FORM GODLY HABITS

Waiting for God’s directions each day is something you may have to make yourself do at first, but through practice, it will become natural to begin your day this way. New habits are formed by being consistent. Seeking God first in the morning will soon be something you can’t do without. When God wanted His people to remember something, He told them to write it down. You may have to post reminders to seek the Lord around your house in order to follow through with your new intention. But be consistent to seek God first every day, and He will make your ways successful.

July 9, 2017 thru July 15, 2017

Isaiah 26:9 (KJV) “With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.”

CRAVE GOD’S PRESENCE

If we are hungry enough, we will get something to eat. And if we can’t eat before we leave home, we will go to a drive-thru at a fast food restaurant. Or we’ll call a place that delivers food to bring us something to eat.

If we are hungry enough for God, we will find a way into His presence. We should be so hungry for the presence of God that we absolutely will not go out of our house or tackle any kind of project until we have spent some time with Him.

July 16, 2017 thru July 22, 2017

Lamentations 3:22-23 (AMP) “It is because of the LORD’s lovingkindnesses that we are not consumed, Because His [tender] compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great and beyond measure is Your faithfulness.”

Don’t Be Too Busy

If we are too busy to spend time with God, then we are just too busy, and we are asking for a disaster in our life. We need to ask God to show us things we can get rid of in our life that aren’t bearing any fruit. In His Word God says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, Christ shall shine (make day dawn) upon you and give you light...Live purposefully...making the very most of the time (buying up each opportunity), because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:14-16). God wants us to be strong in the power of His might and to be ever filled with the Holy Spirit.

July 23, 2017 thru July 29, 2017

Psalms 143:8 (KJV) “Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.

Pray and Listen

We need to pray and then stop and listen. Sometimes we can hear God as a still small voice from deep within our hearts. Many times, God will speak through our inner witness so that we” just know” the truth and it sets us free. Suddenly we know what we should do or shouldn’t do. King David had a lot to say about seeking God in the morning. He prayed in the morning and then watched and waited for God to speak to his heart. I like knowing that God is listening for our prayers. He likes it when we listen to His answers too.

July 30, 2017 thru August 5, 2017

Psalm 90:14 (NIV) "Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy & be glad all our days."

Go with What You Know

This morning pray, "Lord I am waiting for You to direct me." While you honor the Lord by listening for His response, you may hear Him speak something specific to you right away. It may seem as though He inscribes directions in your spirit for the day. The devil may tell you that is wasn't really God who spoke to you. Or while you are waiting to hear from God, Satan may tell you that you are wasting your time. It is important to know the truth of God's Word so that the direction God sows in your heart will not be snatched away from you through doubt. God may not lay out a blueprint for your day, but He will direct your path, if you knowledge Him in all of your ways (Proverbs 3:6).

MATTHEW 25:31-40 (MESSAGE TRANSLATION)

Minister Charlotte Flowers

³¹⁻³³ "When he finally arrives, blazing in beauty and all his angels with him, the Son of Man will take his place on his glorious throne. Then all the nations will be arranged before him and he will sort the people out, much as a shepherd sorts out sheep and goats, putting sheep to his right and goats to his left.

³⁴⁻³⁶ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation. And here's why:

I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me.'

³⁷⁻⁴⁰ "Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'

KUDOS to you Community Baptist! I talked to one of our homebound seniors and she was so excited and happy because many of you called and wished her a speedy recovery, you prayed with and for her, gave her words of encouragement. She was so overwhelmed with gratitude that she started crying because she didn't know the names of the people who called! She says she's blessed to be a member of such a caring and loving church family and can't wait for the doctor's release so she can come to worship.

Community what you did for this homebound senior is a witness and testimony of your relationship with Christ, what you did for her was done unto Christ. God bless!



JULY

- 02 Children's Choir Lemonade Sunday, after worship
- 03-04 Church Office is **CLOSED**
- 09 Usher Annual Day, 3:00pm
- 22 **All Church 40th Cook-out, Washington Park, Area 3**
- 23 College Farewell Program
- 29 Youth Prayer Breakfast, 8:30am
- 30 Mission Sunday



Saturday, July 22, 2017

Washington Park, Area 3



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:

Edlyn Armstrong *(Sister of Flossie Fields & Jerry Pace)*

Charlie Jackson *(Brother In Law of Barbara Johnson)*

Charlie Johnson *(Husband of Barbara Johnson)*

Joyce Nichols Savage *(Former Member)*

Rosa Dell Vaughn *(Aunt of Gwendolyn Adesuyi)*

He will wipe away every tear from
their eyes, and death shall be no
more, neither shall there be
mourning, nor crying, nor pain
anymore, for the former things
have passed away.
- Rev 21:4



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

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 www.youtube.com/CommunityBaptistChurchOfGreaterMilwaukee

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