



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

(September 2015)

It is quite evident from this present newsletter, and from earlier editions this year, that the monthly newsletter is growing in length and expanding in content because it reflects the growth that the church is undergoing at this time. I must say that the growth and consistency of the newsletter is due to the fact that there are several other dedicated and able individuals who joined in to assist me in producing this letter every month – a task that I used to undertake on my own. But now, with such capable assistance, my role is reduced and the monthly production remains consistent. I am saying all this simply to say that “working together works”! It lightens the load and makes work more enjoyable and productive when it is collaborative. Let’s continue to work together to “Fill God’s House.” I believe that our Family Day celebration is an example of what we can accomplish (A Packed, Full HOUSE!), if we continue our collaborative work. So as always

Be Present.

Be Prayerful. Be Positive.

And Be Impactful.

DEACON'S COUNCIL

The Deacon's Council met on Saturday, September 12, 2015 at 9:00 AM and discussed the following points:

- 1) Securing the church. The diaconate discussed and made arrangements for deacons to assist in securing the church on specific days and times.
- 2) The Milwaukee-AIM Deacon's Retreat in Green Lake (scheduled for 9/18-19). As a follow-up to this gathering of AIM deacons, I am always impressed the presence and participation of CBCGM deacons. Pastor Dr. John Walton gave three excellent presentations. Of particular note to me, was his presentation on trust: the pastor must trust her/his deacons and deacons must trust her/his pastor; equally important - deacons must also trust one another. Likewise, the congregation must be able to trust its deacons. In the final analysis, if trust is not evident and exercised among and between all – "a house divided against itself cannot stand."
- 3) Communion for Homebound members.
- 4) Assisting the various ministries in getting their 2016 budgets and calendar dates in on time.

STAKEHOLDERS SUMMIT RECAP

Our Stakeholders Summit convened on Saturday, September 12th at 11:00am. While attendance was low, we were able to actually end our meeting early enough for everyone to get their fish dinners prepared by our Men's Ministry. After which, we participated in the neighborhood walk organized by Common Ground.

- Rev Robertson spoke about our current outreach activities which include LoveKindess & our CBC Wealth Creation Course that you can read more about in this issue of the pastoral newsletter. We are looking to implement a new program called TRIGGER which is a program that looks to employ smart technology on guns to aid in combatting gun violence. If you are interested in this effort, please see Rev Robertson to learn more about how you can help.
- Bro Jude provided us a financial update through our dashboard. He showed us a chart that clearly shows our growth and what our projected goal is and how attainable it really is. In a snapshot of January to August of this year we improved our giving by 8% compared to last year which affords us the opportunity to do special projects without external assistance from a bank.

➤ Coming Soon:

Sunday, November 1st 2015 the Milwaukee Marathon sponsored by PNC Bank is scheduled to come through our neighborhood. Sherman Boulevard will be blocked from Washington Park down to Burleigh. Please plan to carpool as parking will be limited.

All stake holders were encouraged to read our Pastoral Newsletter that is provided to communicate updates as it relates to the business of our church and our various ministries.

In addition, we plan to publish a small ministry booklet with all of our ministries along with contact information and meeting dates and times. We hope to make this a yearly publication; the first edition will be available early in 2016!

➤ Pastoral Observations Included:

Just because you don't see something, doesn't mean that nothing is happening. Ministry is taking place all during the week, not just on Sundays. But as with many things, we have to be patient. It is unrealistic to plant a seed today and expect a tree tomorrow.

We are exploring opportunities to establish business relationships within our church and community. There is a need for smaller nursing/senior homes and transitional living which would yield income for our church to grow and employ people.

Over the past few months our Pastor has been prayerfully seeking God for spiritual growth. Mega churches may have mega members but how many disciples to they truly make? A disciple is a learner who must commit themselves to learning and growing in God. Community is a church of obedience to God's word according to Matthew 28:19

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (NIV)

Pastor Williams thanked everyone for their willingness to give, while other churches are closing and not doing half of what we are, we are growing! We must continue to work together and think bigger so we can do more. We want God to be proud of the work we have done.

As stakeholders of CBCGM, we all share a vested interest in our church, be sure to be informed through our newsletters as well as our bi-annual Stakeholders Summits.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

We convened on Saturday, September 12 at 10:00am. Below is a recap:

- As always at the start of every meeting we prayed and read scripture. We read from Hebrews 10:23-25 which states:

“²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

- The minutes from the previous meeting were read.
- Ministry Reports were moved to the Stake Holders Summit.
- We went over the answers to our scripture worksheet about how God instructs us to treat one another. The biblical instructions were very specific in that we are to **GREET** each other, **ENCOURAGE** one another daily, **BE KIND, DEVOTED, ACCEPT, ADMONISH, HONOR, SERVE, INSTRUCT, TEACH, SUBMIT** to one another. In addition to NOT provoking, lying, slandering, grumbling, passing judgement on one another. **PRAY** for one another. **OFFER** hospitality to one another. **SPUR** one another on toward **LOVE** & good deeds! **SPEAK** to each other in psalms, hymns & spiritual songs. **CLOTHE** yourselves with humility toward one another. **CONSIDER** others better than yourselves. **CARRY** each other's burdens. **HAVE** equal concern for each other. **BUILD** each other up. **FORGIVE** one another. **LIVE** in harmony with one another. Be at **PEACE** with each other. **MAKE** your **LOVE** increase & overflow for each other.

We all agreed that the biggest room in the world is the room for

IMPROVEMENT!

Do you treat everyone as God instructs???

- We reviewed a few of the New Forms that were introduced at our previous meeting which will aid in ministry planning and effectiveness. They included an *Order of Worship Guideline*, *Internal Ministry Request Form*, an *Event Planning Checklist* along with a *Ministry Year-End Evaluation* which was given to each leader. They were instructed to meet with their respective teams to evaluate their ministry along with their effectiveness. In order for us to know where we are going, we must take an honest look at where we've been.

- Pastoral Observations Included the Following:
Pastor read a passage from Luke and discussed the importance of being able to evaluate ministry performance in order to estimate for future endeavors and make what we do more pleasing to God. He talked about the example of Motown, and how they intensively reviewed records to make sure they would be chart toppers. Was your event a Hit?

P.L.A.C.E.

Our very first group of PLACE participants completed all 5 of their workshops on September 2nd and were presented with certificates of completion on the first Sunday in September. They will now go thru one-on-one coaching after which some of them have expressed interest in becoming coaches and facilitators as well. We will conduct training in November and December and start a new PLACE session in January 2016 followed by a month of coaching and the cycle will repeat itself throughout the year. We want everyone to have the opportunity to go through the process; however every class is limited in number to provide for an intimate experience. Stay tuned to find out how you can attend and learn about your PLACE in life and ministry!

We will continue to play the daily devotional video every 1st Sunday. These videos are also available online for your viewing pleasure via YouTube on the PLACE Ministries Channel. We plan to also integrate PLACE into our New Members class so that as members join they can more quickly find their place here at Community.



Finding Your Place In Ministry.

TEN-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN: “PROSPERING THE VISION”

The Core Team reconvened on Tuesday, September 1st at 6:30pm after taking a break in August. Moving forward and effective in October, we will now conduct our meetings at the Parish House. In this assembly, we reviewed our goals and strategic pillars and we then discussed how to measure our effectiveness. Because we have so many goals we didn't include them all in this report, however we did include thoughts on our pillars – ***Leadership Development, Spiritual Growth & Unity.***

As it relates to **Leadership Development** we have enhanced the Leadership Council to include more training and less reporting. In an effort to develop our young leaders, we incorporated a youth essay writing contest which was a success and you can read one of our top winners in this issue. And lastly we implemented PLACE ministries this year which got the ball rolling in getting people to a better understanding of their God given spiritual gifts, abilities, passion, personality, life experience and how they all work together. To measure **Spiritual Growth** we looked at the participation in Sunday Worship, Sunday School, Bible Study, and small group ministry. We have incorporated a variety of classes to move from membership to discipleship. **Unity** we decided was something that can be seen in how we treat one another and in participation of events outside of Sunday Worship. Moving to a unified worship over the summer was a great indicator of the unity we already possess, but there is room for more unity if we can learn to embrace our differences and treat each other the way that God commands us to. Keep in mind, Our Motto is **One Voice – One Vision - One Vocation**.

YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST WINNER



There are several ways to fill up Gods house from the scripture for our church theme. The story about the great feast told by Jesus to the Pharisees. One of them is by sending invitations to people like the Master did. Second, is when you invite someone, you have to tell them the street address so they can come. Third, is by putting a sign up on the church letting people know when we have church. Fourth, is by going to different places and tell people what we have at Community Baptist Church. Fifth by inviting the homeless people who do not have a place to live. Sixth by passing out flyers at your school for your friends and teachers to come.

These are some of the ways that we as a church can get people to come to church to fill God's house. Some people will make excuses like those people in the story did, but we cannot give up trying to get people to come.

When people do start coming to church we have to stick together as a team to let them know that it takes teamwork to fill Gods house and that we love each other. When people see how we treat each other, not only will them come, but they might stay.

El-Zavion Landry
2nd Grade

FINANCE UPDATE

On behalf of our great teacher, Rev. Dr. Demetrius Williams and the Finance Committee, we want to thank each of you for your continuous commitment and dedication to the financial growth of CBCGM as we continue to move closer to the completion of several special projects while pressing forward with our many outreach programs. It is not easy, but **God will make a way if we stay true to his will.**

The Finance Committee is working hard to assist in the advancement of the CBCGM Strategic Pillars. (Leadership Development, Spiritual Growth and Church Unity) To advance these Three Pillars, we need your time, talents and your financial support. We must give God our best and he will do the rest.

The Elevator is in its final inspection phase and we pray that it will be completed by the time you receive this newsletter. Your generosity is making a difference in our church and in the lives of others. The sacrifice of each member is very important toward the \$1000.00 commitment. If you cannot give a \$1000.00, we want you to truly give what you can. With the help of God, we are only \$46,000 .00 from reaching our goal of a \$120,000.00. We can do it!!

Once again, the Finance Committee thanks each of you for your ongoing support as we continue to move forward in Christ Jesus. We want to say... Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The five week CBC Wealth Creation course has been held each Wednesday during September at 6:00 PM in the Parish House. So far 19 people have attended at least one session and a few of these are continuing to work on getting their financial affairs in order. We will continue to hold these classes during October until we have achieved our stated objective of having some measurable success stories to share. I will be writing a column in the Milwaukee Times on Wealth Creation beginning in October that I hope will be helpful. We continue to welcome newcomers so if you want to see what we are teaching please come. There is no charge for this course and if you have any questions contact Mike Robertson at 508-561-3921 or email at, emmyandmike@verizon.net.

The Love Kindness program has announced two new initiatives. We will have forms in the church where you can share acts of Kindness you have observed, performed or received. There will be a Love Kindness box at the back of the sanctuary where you can deposit these observations and they will be announced each month during the Unity Sunday services. We have been asked exactly what do we mean by the words, Love Kindness. Rather than giving an answer we have decided to hold an essay contest so you can tell us what the call to, "Love Kindness" means to you. There will be three categories based on age; 4-12, 13-18 and over 18. The winning essays will be published in the church newsletter and there will also be gift certificate prizes. The contest begins on October 1st and ends on October 31st. In addition to bumper stickers and buttons we have window signs and

will soon have yard signs and banners. In order to become a successful CBC outreach ministry our CBC Love Kindness ministry needs enthusiastic congregational participation. How many buttons have you given out? Do you wear your button? Do you want Milwaukee to become known as "The Love Kindness City"? What are you willing to do to help make this happen? There will be a column in the Milwaukee Times telling everyone about the CBC Love Kindness program and asking for reader input.

The employment situation in Milwaukee continues to improve. If you know anyone looking for work please have them contact me so I can connect them with the proper organization. We will be looking at ways that we can take advantage of the housing options available in the neighborhood surrounding CBC. If you have any ideas regarding our community outreach ministries please share them with me as we work with city agencies, Common Ground, HUD, Washington Park Partners and others. We have a lot to do but working together and with God's guidance great things can take place.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Afternoon Bible Study; Celebration of Discipline: is going well. We have two new members, a returning CBCGM member and a lady from the community who was invited during the Saturday, September 12, 2015 walk in the neighborhood.

The evening classes; John I, II and III, as well as Celebration of Discipline are going great also. The classes are designed to encourage spiritual growth, which is one of our strategic pillars. If you haven't attended either of these classes it's not too late.

BLAST is off to a roaring start! The curriculum for the children and youth is on Creation and God Made Everything. Attendance is great and the teachers are excitedly motivated about the curriculum.

Unity Sunday in September during the Sunday School hour Reverend Greer shared The Baptist Doctrine so we will know what we believe and why. Part II of Baptist Doctrine will be presented on Unity Sunday during the Sunday School in October. Deacon Willie Jude will present Time Talents and Treasure during the Sunday School hour on Unity Sunday in November. Watch the bulletin for your opportunity to submit your questions.

Community Baptist is concerned about your spiritual well-being as well as your physical well-being. We research and plan Bible Study classes coupled with Sunday School lessons to encourage your spiritual growth. Recently we have partnered with Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare to address your physical well-being.



We completed “PROJECT POWER” a five week session to arm you with tools to help control your diabetes. It is our goal with Wheaton Franciscan to repeat “PROJECT POWER” in the evening, we are also planning Breast and Prostate Cancer awareness and controlling your hypertension. Watch the Sunday bulletin for dates and time.

Below is a testimony about The Project Power Diabetes Awareness Course from Sis Anita Scott:

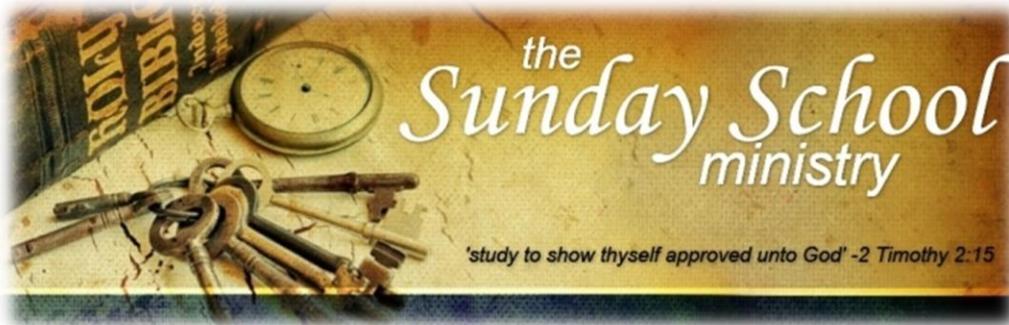
“This 5 week course is designed to help individuals to learn more about diabetes and to teach on how you can take control of this disease. Each week highlighted an important topic pertaining to diabetes: What is Diabetes, Clean Heart, Nutrition, Exercise and Train up a Child. There were individuals from other churches that joined us for these courses. One thing I liked, is that the course is spiritually led, and taught by medical professionals who are diabetic's themselves. During this 5 week program, we discovered that our diabetes is a disease that we can control through diet, weight control, physical activity, taking your medication properly and working closely with your healthcare provider. Diabetes has no age limit, and it is also a disease that can be hereditary. We also learned about childhood diabetes and how we can help our children early in life, and help to deter and control this disease in our children. There was one phase repeated constantly to the group, “Know your body”. Why? For your body will let you know when something is not right within. If we do not listen to our bodies and not manage our diabetes, we run the risk of major complications like: Heart disease, stroke, limb(s) amputation, vision problems, kidney problems and nerve problems. However the most important number (other than your daily readings) is your A1C, this is your blood glucose (sugar) for the past two or three months. This number should be less than 7 and your healthcare provider will work with you to help you in maintaining or lowering your A1C number through medication, diet and weight control. We as African Americans need to take this disease seriously. We can live long and healthy lives, if we take control of our diabetes. As we were told; know your numbers, get moving, eat healthier, take your medications, see your health provider and listen to your body. Do not let Diabetes control you. Control your Diabetes and live! “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Look For An Evening Offering Of This Course Coming Soon!!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Praise God! Brothers Wallace and Agnew have joined the Sunday School staff. Brother Wallace teaches the senior class; before accepting this position Brother Wallace faithfully attended the Senior class. Brother Agnew is the co-teacher with Evangelist Jackson, again before accepting this position Brother Agnew faithfully attended this class. Thank you both for saying "yes".

I am always in awe of God and how He answers prayer! Deacon Rosby and Dr. McIver teach the teenage Sunday School class. Often they would only have one student, sometimes none. They never gave up, never stop studying, never stop coming, never complained about the number of students they didn't have but more importantly they never stopping praying for increase. Well their faithfulness and prayers have resulted in at least 10 to 16 students each Sunday! When I interrupt their class to collect their folder everyone is engaged in meaningful conversations relating the lessons to their life and what they face as teenagers. I thank Deacon Rosby and Dr. McIver for their faithfulness and thank God for answering prayer.



NEW MEMBERS

As of Sunday September 20, 2015, 19 people walked down the aisle to give their life to Christ. Below is the breakdown:

- Nine were baptized; two were minors
- One never completed New Members; relocated out of state
- One came for re-dedication
- Four have not completed New Members because of their work schedule. (we have reached out to them to schedule weekday class)
- Six no response to email or phone calls. (two are part of the above numbers)

Not in the above numbers:

- Two joined in 2013 and finally decided to complete New Members class.
- One joined in 2012 and finally decided to complete New Member class.

Four have completed New Members and are actively engaged in ministry. Two will receive the Right Hand of Fellowship on Unity Sunday and one will start their New Members class on Sunday September 27, 2015. We actively reach out to those who don't attend or complete New Members class, to encourage them to come to church or at least talk to me or someone to pray with them and encourage them. We will do the watering, weeding and fertilizing, but always remember that God will give the increase!

UNITY SUNDAY

Our sermon passage for Unity Sunday came from 1 Peter 2:1-3, 9-10, with the sermon title: **"Striving Towards Spiritual Growth."** In this passage 1 Peter encourages his readers to desire the sincere milk of the word, not in order to remain as infants however, but to grow into salvation. This growth toward spiritual maturity requires not just an attitude adjustment, but even more: an attitude transformation. The well-known child psychologist and radio talk show host of Focus on the Family, Dr. Charles Swindol, comes to our aid at this point. He says,

"The longer I live the more I realize the impact of attitude.... Attitude to me is more important than facts, it's more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than success, than what other people think, or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company, a church, or a home. The remarkable thing is that we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change the past. We cannot change the fact people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string that we have – and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% of what happens to me, and 90% of how I react to it. And so it is with you. We all are in charge of our attitude."

I agree wholeheartedly with his understanding of attitude. I would only add one nugget of truth that I learned from another radio personality from WVCY whose name I cannot recall. But as a young man in my early twenties, I remember this individual saying something that changed my life for the better. He said, *"Your future does not begin tomorrow, but today.... So you must change your way of thinking because thoughts influence your actions. Actions repeated regularly become habits. Habits develop into your character, and character will dictate your destiny."* (Although this statement is in quotes, it is paraphrased from memory). A transformed attitude and a changed mind is the foundation of spiritual growth. Be Blessed!

In Memoriam

Finally, let us remember the beloved souls that have passed from our congregation and also the family members of our CBCGM sisters and brothers. We sincerely offer our prayers and condolences to the bereaved families of the following:



Anthony Byrd

(Nephew of Anna Tyler)



Dannie Heaston

(Brother of Rhonda McLin)

Adrian C. Stewart

(Uncle of Joenette Kelly-Kidd)

*May Your
unfailing
love be
my
comfort.*

Psalm 3:24 (NIV)

