



# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

## *Community Baptist Church of Greater Milwaukee*

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### ***(MAY 2016 Edition)***

I would like to take this time to thank the CBCGM family for its expressions of love and support for the 7th Pastoral Family Anniversary – April 5-7, 10. This annual time of celebration has become a time of spiritual renewal for me. I really appreciate and need the preaching from other pastors who help to put ministry into focus and renew vision and vigor for the tasks ahead. None of this would be possible or successful without the participation and support of CBCGM. I must say also that I cannot express enough the delight I experienced from all of those who offered tribute. Thank you all very much! It was your support that helped to ease the pain of the loss of my brother (and that of Minister Tim Williams Jr.), Charles Oliver Williams. My prayer for the future is that the bond between people and pastor might grow ever closer as we travel the path of life together, seeking to “Engage Our Assignment” as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us be vigilant in this assignment.

Therefore:

**Be Present. Be Prayerful. Be Positive. Be Impactful.**

## **LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

We held our monthly meeting on Saturday, April 2nd at 10:00am. Min Timothy Williams led us in prayer and read scripture from **Proverbs 28**.

As the leaders entered the fellowship hall they were asked sit with their groups for book discussion. Those who were not in attendance at our March meeting were assigned to a group by Pastor Williams.

The following administrative updates were given to the leaders:

- Everyone was encouraged to participate in the All Church Clean Up in an effort to keep God's House decent and in order as He has entrusted us to.
- Dress Shirts were presented in a light blue, non-iron version. Anyone interested in purchasing one, the cost is \$46.00.
- Ministries were further encouraged to submit ministry reports/updates to the church office electronically to be included in our Pastoral Newsletter in an effort to focus our attention on training during our Leadership Council. If you have not submitted anything for the first quarter of the year, please do so.

Pastor Williams facilitated a healthy discussion about IT by asking the groups their consensus from meeting on Part 1 of the book. The following is a snapshot of the results:

- **Bring It With You Everywhere You Go!**
- **Stick With It!**
- **Don't Let It Just Happen!**
- **Some Are Satisfied With The It They Already Have.**
- **Our Attitude Towards God & Others Influences It!**
- **Has God Given It To You?**
- **What Are You Doing With It?**

Pastor concluded the meeting with his thoughts, stating that momentum needs to be sustained. Through small group work, we are able to be engaged and create a sense of accountability thus building a sense of purpose and community. Leaders need to feel the burden of responsibility and build up their commitment. He stated that we must be committed to 5 Star Service! He plans to meet with every leader individually once again to review the level of commitment as well as level of expectation.



## **STAKEHOLDERS SUMMIT**

We held our 1<sup>st</sup> Stakeholders Summit of the year on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11am. This is where we as stakeholders of Community Baptist Church have the opportunity to hear firsthand about the state of our business and ask questions pertaining there to. At this meeting we had updates in the following areas:

### **Renovations**

The monitors and cameras in the sanctuary will soon be connected and working simultaneously. In addition, our phone system is just a few minor connections away from being 100% completed. Specific details were given on our bathroom updates and the various suggestions that were given. The final plan has not been approved yet and construction will not take place until this has occurred. It is expected that this project will only take 2 months. As it relates to the echo in our fellowship hall, to sound proof the entire room would cost approximately 10K, however by doing it ourselves it will only run about 2k & we already have donors lined up to assist in this effort.

### **Financial Update**

Currently we have quite a few irons in the fire and it's important that we complete each one in a timely manner. Our finances are on an increase; last January we had 37K, this January we had 54K with a liability of only 16K, we will be in the black by the end of the year. We have our financial house in order and will continue to stay focused in this area.

### **Pastoral Observations**

Pastor gave credit to the leadership of Finance & Building Maintenance as it relates to our consistent progression. He took the time to review our churches overall giving and noticed that there are 2 families that give 19K or more per year. This encouraged him to want to do better. We all know whether or not we can do better, but the bottom line is that we need to have a stronger commitment to be consistent in our giving. It's not just about having money to pay the bills, but rather to transform the community through our ministries; because God has equipped us to do so. Our next Stakeholders Summit is scheduled for **Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11am.**

## **FINANCE UPDATE**

We have completed the fourth month of 2016 and we praise God for his glorious blessings. We thank God for those Members that continue to fulfill their commitment they made to themselves that they were going to do better in 2016 than they did in 2015; the contribution statements reflect that commitment. We pray that when you review your First Quarter statement you will endeavor to do better in 2016 than you did in 2015 as God has blessed you. We, as a church and as a people, will only improve our conditions when we decide to take action ourselves. **Mom may have, Papa may have, but God bless the child that has his own.** We acknowledge that God will do only for us which we are willing to do for ourselves. Matthew 16:19 states ***“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and***

**whatever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**” This is a clear indication that we have been given the power to shape our own future, but God will only help us when we first seek to help ourselves.

We are in the final phase of planning to renovate our bathrooms facilities. The project time line for completion is on or before July 2016. The total project will cost approximately \$25,000 dollars and as of April we have raised \$9,000 dollars. As you can see we have a ways to go, but we trust that God will help us accomplish our goal and beyond. **When praises go up, Blessings come down.** We have **465** members and as of April 30, 2016 we have increased our participation from **38** to **52** members that have started contributing toward their pledge of an extra \$50 per month or \$600 for the year above their tithes and offerings to complete the bathrooms as well as other repairs. At the end of May, we want to see participation increase from 52 to 100 members. **Can we do it? Yes we can!! We believe that all we have is a gift from God and that generosity is an expression of our faith.** Once again, we want to thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation as we continue to move forward in strengthening our community and our church family.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

In April substantial progress was achieved by Nancy Yarbrough and Fresh Start Learning which achieved incorporated status as a Wisconsin nonprofit thanks to Bro. Wallace Phillips and is currently in the application process to obtain IRS nonprofit status. Partnering with the Center for Self Sufficiency Nancy is preparing an application for a grant from the US Department of Justice that funds Specialized Services for Victims of Human Trafficking. The office at 4242 West North Ave. is operational and has hosted a directors' meeting, set up a printer and computer and received many donated purses. This progress could only be achieved by the support received from CBC and the Men's Network.



During April I received some encouraging reports regarding financial progress achieved by some who attended our Wealth Creation/ Debt Reduction classes. Realizing that people are living busy lives with little free time I will create a single two hour class. We will hold a class in May and June and see if this instruction is helpful. I am still available to consult on an individual basis at 508-561- 3921 or msrobertson23@gmail.com.

The Love Kindness program steadily has an impact at Hi-Mount school and we continue to distribute buttons to all who comment on them. One woman told me I had, “made her day” just by giving her my button. Our web site is not yet activated but the columns in the Milwaukee Times are ongoing as we expand our outreach. Please let me know if you have any suggestions regarding how to expand this outreach program and share any comments you receive when people remark on your Love Kindness button.

Betty Smith hosted a luncheon on April 21st for a number of area Pastors to inform them of facilities and programs offered to seniors by the Interfaith Senior Program. Pastor Williams

facilitated a discussion following Betty's remarks as the needs were explained as well as the existing facilities. The Catholic and Lutheran churches who initially supported this ministry many years ago have declined in this neighborhood while the need has increased. There are hundreds of seniors living alone who can avail themselves of needed companionship through these programs if encouraged and identified. It will be interesting to see which Baptist churches take advantage of this opportunity to reach out to this currently under served community.

## **MEN'S MINISTRY**

By Deacon Melvin E. Grisby Sr.

Greetings to all! Our mission is to provide a ministry based on relationships rather than activity that empowers men to become 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 Men's Ministry had a visit by local politicians including County Executive Chris Abele & Senator Lena C. Taylor in April to discuss various topics concerning the city of Milwaukee.

Our **Annual Golf Outing** is set for **May 21st** at **Madison Park**. Tee time is **8am** and the cost is **\$10.00** per Golfer. It is open to all members. If you need clubs, don't worry, we will provide them for you.

The Ministry is also starting a Men's Golf League in June at Lincoln Park (Wednesdays at 1:00pm) cost is \$11.00 per week. If you are interested, please see Bro. Herron, Bro. Jude, Bro Staples, Bro Phillips or Bro Grisby. The total cost is \$44.00 per Golfer (**Due May 1, 2016**) from June 15 through July 6.



**Fresh Start Learning Inc.** is now located at 4242 W North Ave, for more information please call 414-544-2649.

The **Men's Ministry Annual Fish Fry** is **Friday, June 17th** at **6:00pm**.

The **Men's Ministry Annual Musical** is **Saturday, June 18th** at **6:30pm**.

Remember we have our weekly **Tuesday Breakfast** from **8:30am to 10:30am**.

In addition, we host Adult Game Night on the **3rd Friday** of every month at **6pm**.

Male Chorus Rehearsal is the **2nd and 3rd Saturday** of the Month at **9:30am** and we 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.**”

## **PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY**

April of 2016 marks 7 years of dedicated service under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Demetrius K. Williams!!! We celebrated our Pastor & First Family with a strong focus on our theme: “**Engaging Our Assignment**” coming from Ephesians 4:11-16 in the Common English Version as stated below:

*“He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. His purpose was to equip God’s people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God’s Son. God’s goal is for us to become mature adults—to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ. As a result, we aren’t supposed to be infants any longer who can be tossed and blown around by every wind that comes from teaching with deceitful scheming and the tricks people play to deliberately mislead others. Instead, by speaking the truth with love, let’s grow in every way into Christ, who is the head. The whole body grows from him, as it is joined and held together by all the supporting ligaments. The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as each one does its part.”*

During our Pre-Anniversary Service, The Men’s Ministry, BLAST & the Hospitality Committee all gave truly loving and honorable tributes not only to the great Shepard of this house but also to his loving wife and awesome children. Our Male Chorus, Mass Choir & Cherub Choirs all sang praises to God for our beautiful blessing of Pastor Williams & family.

Tuesday thru Thursday, we were honored to have special guest preachers Rev. Don Darius Butler, Rev. Dr. F. L. Cruther & Rev. John W. McVicker pour into our pastor messages of inspiration, restoration and encouragement. The congregation was challenged to be committed and supportive of our Pastor who was appointed and anointed for such a time as this. Titled sermons “**A Prophet Then & Now**”, “**Celebrating The Man Of God**”, and “**Iron Shoes For A Rough Road**”, are all available for your listening pleasure under the Media Center tab on our website at [www.cbcgm.org](http://www.cbcgm.org).

On Sunday, we continued the celebration with special tributes provided by Sis Thelma Sias & the Benston family at 7:30am worship along with guest preacher Rev. Archie Ivy of New Hope Baptist Church. The festivities didn’t stop there, we went on to have a special dance by Sis Zaniyah Parker, a beautiful video tribute done by Sis Arnetta Johnson, a truly humble tribute by the Patton family along with a message of “**Forced Refreshment**” by Rev. James Ivy of Zion Hill Beloit at our 10:30 worship. Ministries came up and showered Pastor Williams with a host of gifts and words of adoration. We are truly blessed beyond measure to have such an educated, patient, scholarly, loving, humble man of God as our Pastor as well as such an understanding and supportive family. PRAISE YE THE LORD!!!

## UNITY SUNDAY

On Unity Sunday, our sermon topic was, "**Training for Transformation.**" (Romans 12:1-2) "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship ["reasonable", *logikos litreia*]. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." (NRSV)

### Presenting Our Bodies to God (v. 1)

The "therefore" of verse 1 connects this passage with all of the forgoing discussion (chaps. 1-11), but especially with 6:13, 19b. (NRSV)

- **6:13** - No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness.
- **6:19b** – "...For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification."

The disciple is to present her/his body ("entire being") to God! Presenting one's body is important because the body is the vehicle that implements the desires and choices that a person makes. The body also makes contact with others in society and is the means through which our service is rendered to God and others. The body is not "evil in itself" for God made it; otherwise why would God ask it to be offered to God. God's mercy (*oiktirmōs*) through the salvific advent of Jesus Christ has made this new reality possible.

### How Are We To Present Our Bodies?

We are to present our bodies as a "*Living sacrifice*", which is the opposite of the "dead sacrifices" of animals offered on the altar. The concept Paul uses comes from the cultic language of the temple sacrifice. However, the redeemed disciple has now been made alive in Christ. In the temple, cult priests offered animal sacrifices on behalf of the people. But before a priest could perform this communal duty, he was obliged to present himself in a consecrated condition and the sacrifices he offered had to be without blemish. (Deut. 17:1; Mal. 1:8-13) Hence Paul adds, "*holy (hagios) and acceptable unto God...*" This does not refer to the **ritual holiness** of the priesthood but to one who has been freed from the enslavement to the "old man/person" and committed to a life of **obedience** to the divine will. Living sacrifice is equated with "*spiritual (NIV)/reasonable (KJV)*" "*worship (NIV)/service (KJV)*."

In my estimation, the translation "*spiritual*" misses the point of Paul's overall argument that he has been pressing in Romans (chaps. 1-11). To be sure, in using this phrase it would appear that Paul is contrasting the Gentile's present reasonable "*worship/service*" of the One True God with their former irrational worship/service of idols (cf. 1:18-32). [See 1

Thessalonians 1:10 – “...you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God....” (NRSV)] In addition, their former object of worship – idols – caused an accompanying “[futility] in their thinking, and their senseless [“irrational”] minds were darkened.” (Rom. 1:21- NRSV) Hence, “claiming to be wise, ...they became fools [unwise, irrational]; and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images....” (Rom. 1:22-23) The result of their lack of knowledge, wisdom and rationality was that “God gave them up...” (1:24; cf. 1:26-27). Without proper knowledge of God, God gave them up to the futility and foolishness of their hearts and minds. In this spiritual state they were unable to live according to God’s will or to please God. (Rom. 1:28-32 – “God gave them up to a debased mind...” (v. 28) Gentiles (esp. the Greeks in this case) who claimed to be wise and rational, really lived foolishly and irrationally according to Jewish standards because they did not acknowledge or because they willfully rejected the knowledge the One True God. According to Paul, they “suppressed the truth” (1:18), and although knowing God, they “refused to honor and give thanks to God.” (1:21) This was a willful rejection of the evident truth of God.

### **The Results of Justification**

**BUT now**, “since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand....” (Rom. 5:1-2) And also, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.... So that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ” (Rom. 8:1-2, 4) How does one get “in Christ Jesus” or become a part of the Body of Christ? **Through BAPTISM!** (Rom. 6:1-4) Baptism is a symbolic death to sin and the old way of life. Paul says, “Consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” (6:11) Since one is therefore considered dead to sin because one has been raised from the dead with Christ, one is now able to “walk in the newness of life.” [“Walk” = conduct, behavior, lifestyle (cf. Phil. 1:37-30)]

**We can now live in a manner pleasing to God! AMEN.**



*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:*

**Clote Denise Lewis**      Former Member

**Addie Edmond**      (Mother of Cecilia Edmond)

**Charles Williams**      (Brother of Pastor Williams & Minister Timothy Williams)