



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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The summer season is quickly approaching. School will be out for the summer and young people in our communities will be out and about trying to fill their day with activity. Let us be prayerful that they fill their days with positive and productive activity. Many civic leaders have asked the churches and other community organizations to help with addressing the mounting crisis of violence in our communities. While we many not be able to end violence, we would do well to apply our efforts as a community of faith to principles and practices that might help to reduce violence. As we travel and take well-deserved time for vacation and refreshment, remember to:

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

TEN-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN: "PROSPERING THE VISION"

At our Core Team meeting, held Tuesday, May 3rd, we focused mainly on the vision of our church. **Proverbs 29:18** state **"Where there is no vision, the people perish"** & **Habakkuk 2:2** state **"Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readth it."** It is critical for God's people to know where we're going as a church. Our first vision statement was a great working document that after careful evaluation needed to be simplified into what we envision our church to be. Thus, we prayerfully reviewed our existing vision statement (see below) & unanimously agreed to streamline it into a sentence that speaks

volumes. As members of CBCGM, we all ought to know what our vision, mission, motto and pillars are. Allow us to introduce you to our **NEW VISION!**

VISION STATEMENT

(To build a community outreach program that includes expanded building facilities which will house and operate vital ministries for transforming our immediate neighborhood, which will include (but not limited to) breakfast for the homeless and needy, a clothing bank and a food pantry.

To engage the community by becoming a center of excellence for education by partnering with other organizations to provide adult GED programs, computer literacy, job training and resources, and preparing high school students for college and connecting senior citizens with the appropriate health resources.

These activities will provide opportunities for church growth through increased membership from 475 to 800 members, 80% of whom are committed to serving God by serving others through 80% participation in small groups and 80% of whom are tithers.)



VISION

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

MOTTO

One Voice – One Vision – One Vocation

STRATEGIC PILLARS

PILLAR 1:

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Purpose: Train, equip and prepare individuals to be Christ-centered leaders for the church and thereby affecting/empowering the community

PILLAR 2:

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Purpose: Assist each member in growing spiritually as a committed disciple of Jesus-Christ, so that they might:

- Share the gospel of Christ
- Participate regularly in worship
- Be active in at least one small group ministry
- Strengthen families in the church & surrounding community

PILLAR 3:

CHURCH UNITY

Purpose: Improve unity in the body of Christ within the church family by:

- Improving the working relationship between the ministers, deacons, congregation and pastor
- Supporting the vision and spiritual growth of the church and members/disciples through the vision that God gives to the church

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

We held our monthly meeting on Saturday, May 7th at 10:00am. Pastor led us in prayer after which we read & reflected on the following poem:

LEADERSHIP - ATTITUDE

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, 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...a home. The remarkable thing is we make a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day.

We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is pay on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our **ATTITUDES!!!**

The leaders went over the following:

- Our New Vision which was presented with explanation by Pastor Williams.
- Bro Jude provided a financial update which is included below.
- Ministries were further reminded to submit ministry reports/updates to the church office electronically to be included in our Pastoral Newsletter. If you have not submitted anything for the first quarter of the year, please do so.

After watching Part 2 of the IT DVD entitled "**What Contributes to it?**" with the appropriate subtitle of "**Vision: You Can See It Clearly**", Pastor Williams facilitated a dialogue about the importance of having vision, keeping it visible and how it strengthens unity within the church. Warren G. Bennis states "*Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality*". Pastor strongly encouraged the leaders to read the book of Acts and he vowed to keep the vision before the people through various methods. He also conveyed his passion to engage our community with another town hall meeting using a quote from Jeremiah Wright "*In the Heart of the Community Seeking to Win the Heart of the Community*".

FINANCE UPDATE

We have completed the fifth month of 2016 and we continue to praise God for his glorious blessings. We thank God for the Members that continue to fulfill their commitment to themselves and to God from whom all our blessings flow. We, as a church and as a people, will only improve our conditions when we decide to take action ourselves. We can seek and receive help from others, but if we are to be successful, we must take the initiative ourselves. "*Mama 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. The psalmist said and I quote "The cattle upon a thousand hills is mine said the Lord", but if we want them we will have to get them ourselves. This is a clear indication that God has many blessings for his peoples, but we will have to work to get them. Once again, God will only help us when we first seek to help ourselves.

We had to temporary pause the renovation our bathrooms facilities due to the illness of our church engineer Bro. Staples. He is recovering and the expected time line for the completion of the bathrooms project is on or before July 30, 2016. The total project will cost approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000.00 dollars and as of May we have raised **\$10,000** 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!** Our goal is to raise **\$60,000.00** in order to complete all of the necessary projects for 2016 and we can do it! If only **100** members out of **465** members pay their **\$600.00 dollars for the year**, beyond your Tithes and offerings, we would reach our goal of \$60,000 dollars. At the end

of May, our goal was to increase the number of participants from **52** to **100** members. While we had an increase from 52 to 60 members participating in May, we failed to reach our goal of 100 members contributing toward their pledge. We want to keep moving forward because we know we can do it with the help of God. **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 church ministries, our church families and communities.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During May the Fresh Start Learning grant application was submitted to the US Department of Justice Department that funds Specialized Services for Victims of Human Trafficking. Nancy Yarbrough worked closely with the Center for Self Sufficiency who really did the work needed to prepare the application and see that it was submitted on time. We can be thrilled by the progress made so far because of the support Nancy has received from members of CBC and the Men's Network. We will continue to report on the progress as Fresh Start Learning continues to make a difference by reaching out to victims trapped in human trafficking.

No Wealth Creation/ Debt Reduction classes were held in May however, a class can be scheduled for June if there is any interest. Individual financial consultation is still available at 508-561- 3921 or msrobertson23@gmail.com.

The **Love Kindness** program is continuing to have an impact at the Hi-Mount school and we have a meeting scheduled at another school. More buttons are being worn by CBC members and there may be some stories to be shared by those who give away their buttons when someone comments on them. If you have suggestions regarding our Love Kindness outreach program please let me know.

The mayor's Cease Fire breakfast meeting was well attended and the mayor told the pastors that the city needs the help of the churches to make Milwaukee the safe city he envisions. How do you think CBC can have an impact on our immediate neighborhood? That is a challenge the mayor and police chief have presented and we need to respond because the need is obvious.

BIBLE STUDY

Afternoon Bible study has concluded for the summer, we are grateful for the consistent attendance. We had fifteen people on the roster and eleven attended at least three Wednesdays of each month beginning in September of 2015 and ending May 2016, that's approximately 74% participation. We studied the 'Celebration of Discipline, The Path to Spiritual Growth'. All agreed that practicing the following disciplines;

MEDITATING, PRAYER, FASTING, SIMPLICITY, SUBMISSION, SOLITUDE & SERVICE

have encouraged their spiritual growth and embraced our theme for the year:

"ENGAGING OUR ASSIGNMENT, MAKING DISCIPLES, Matthew 28:18-20.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

It is with sincere gratitude we announce that effectively immediately brothers **Ralph Agnew** and **Wallace Phillips** are the Co-Superintendents of the Sunday School ministry. They are currently engaged within the Sunday School Department as both are teaching and have trained for this assignment for the past 6 months. Please congratulate them and give them full your cooperation. We are thankful to God for His presence in their lives that made them say yes to this awesome responsibility & opportunity.

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON *By Minister LeVette Crawl*

We thank all of you for sharing your Mother's Day with us at our Mother's Day Luncheon on Saturday, May 7. **We had over 100 Mothers in attendance!!!** The theme was **Mothers that Rock** supported by the scripture from Proverbs 23:25 "May she who gave birth be joyful".

Our guest speaker was Sis. Francine Saffold, who serves as the Sunday School Superintendent at Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, who reminded us that Jesus is the solid Rock on which we stand and the foundation on which we must train up our children. Our very own Sis. Imani Perry was awarded The Mother of the Year Award. We wish to give a very special thank you to this year's Chairperson, Sis. Kasheena Morgan, who took the lead and planned a phenomenal celebration of motherhood. Of course one person can't do it alone, her remarkable committee included sisters Yolaunda Campbell, La'Amecia Taylor & Tawana Harper. Our men did an outstanding job serving the mothers and did I mention that the homemade desert table was beyond spectacular!

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 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.

On May 24th, Sammie Gaillard visited our Ministry to discuss topics related to Health and Financial Service the name of his company is **Servicing You Network Center**(414-502-7264).

The **Men's Ministry Annual Fish Fry** is **Friday, June 17th** at **6:00pm**. Tickets for **\$10.00** will be available June 1st, please see any member of the ministry to purchase! The **Men Who Praise Musical** is **Saturday, June 18th** at **4:00pm**. Remember our weekly **Tuesday Breakfast** is 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 & 3rd Saturday** of every Month at **9:30am**, we sing on the **3rd Sunday**. Our Brotherhood Meetings are held on the **3rd Saturday** of each Month at **10:30am**. **ALL MEN** of CBCGM are needed to work as we embrace our theme "**Engaging Our Assignment: MAKING Disciples.**"

UNITY SUNDAY

On the first Sunday of May, the sermon title was "Transformed Non-Conformity" (Romans 12:1-2). Paul called the disciple to a life of decisive commitment to present her/his body for Godly service in v. 1. Now in v. 2 Paul discusses how we are to maintain that commitment – Non-conformity to the world's pattern of thinking! We should not conform to the pattern of this world because the dedicated life of discipleship is a transformed life! Although we have been delivered from the pattern of this world, we are in the world for the purpose of witness and transformation, not passivity and conformity. The pattern of this world was evident in the way the world acts and thinks (cf. Rom. 1:18-31). I believe this is why Paul used the phrase, "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). 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). (Cf. 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..." in the (1:24; cf. 1:26-27) Without proper knowledge of God, God gave them up to the futility and the 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) “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))

Getting Rid of Our “Old Man/Self/Person”. We have died to the old person and have been raised with Christ with a new person! Rom. 6:5-6 – “For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self (person) was crucified with him so that our body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.” Nota Bene (“note well” or “take note”) – Paul did not say that we would not sin! Nor did he imply that we were free from the influence of sin! He said that sin is no longer our “slave-master”! We now have not only the freedom of choice but also the power of transformation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ! “For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” (6:9-11) Since we have been freed from the dominion of sin (not its influence) and raised with Christ through baptism, we should not, “let sin exercise dominion in our mortal bodies, to make us obey its passions.” (6:12-14)

How do we train ourselves to break the dominion of sin as disciples of the Risen Christ?

“Do you not know that if you yield yourselves to any one as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?” (6:16) “But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves to sin have become:

- obedient from the heart
 - to the standard of teaching
 - to which you were committed,
 - [With the result that you] have become set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.” (6:17-18)
- For just as you once yielded your member to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification.” (6:19)

Gentiles (and all other disciples) can now present their bodies ["members"] to God as instruments of righteousness as a result of the salvation and sanctification available in Christ. Since they have been justified by faith in Christ Jesus, have been baptized into Christ and have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit, they can present their bodies to God as "living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God" – as those "who have been brought from death to life." (Cf. Rom. 6:20-23) This brings us back to our original statement: The Gentile's former "irrational" worship of idols with its accompanying inability to live to please God has now been transformed. Through Christ Jesus and their new status as righteous in Him to worship the True and Living God, now makes their worship and service *logikos*, "reasonable." They now have the power to live in a pleasing manner before God.

Be Transformed by the Renewing of your Mind!

Why do our minds have to be renewed?

- We have been re-programmed with a new attitude!
- Our minds have been renewed and regenerated through transformation (*metamorphoō*). How? Through the enlightenment that comes through the word of the gospel!
- Repent! And believe the Gospel! (Mark 1:15)

Re-pent = Middle English = "regret, feel sorry for; contrition" - emphasis is on feelings.
Metanoia = Greek = "re-think"; "re-consider" – emphasis is on a new way of thinking!

TRANSFORMATION BEGINS WITH NEW THINKING NOT WITH SAD FEELINGS!

With a Renewed Mind We can Put on the New Person

"But now you yourselves are to put off all these things; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man [person] with his deeds, and have put on the new man [person] who is **renewed in knowledge** according to the image of Him who created him....

The Beatitudes and Transformed Minds (Matthew 5:1-12). Jesus began his teaching on discipleship with instructing them on the right way of thinking (attitudinal change! The "be-attitudes"). Right thinking now enables the Christian disciple to live in such a way to please God and excel in righteousness. ["For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven." (5:20)] How can this be?
Thoughts→Actions→Habits→Character→Destiny!

The Law was weak in that it meted punishment after an action was already committed. However, if one changes the way one thinks, then one can stop an unjust action before it is committed. **THUS, A CHANGED/TRANSFORMED HEART/MIND CAN CHANGE BEHAVIOR!** The Scriptures encourage us to have changed, transformed, enlightened minds. The scriptures and the guidance of the Holy Spirit are the sources of this transformation process. AMEN.



In Memoriam



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

Harry Lee Shorty

(Brother of Clara Barber)

Shirley Johnson

(Niece of Melba Burton)

Tyrell Johnson

(Father of Tabitha Johnson)

Deacon Lubertha Singleton

Mother Aquila Tippet

The LORD is close to the
brokenhearted and saves those
who are crushed in spirit.

Psalm 34:18

