



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

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As I write this introduction to the July newsletter I am excited about the teaching and preaching I and several others experienced at the Milwaukee AIM Conference on Ministry this past Tuesday - Thursday. Its focus was on evangelism ("Evangelism: The Lord's Command, The Church's Life" – Matthew 28:19-20). Pastor K. Edward Copeland provided an inspiring lecture each evening and Pastor Marvin E. Wiley preached an inspiring message for two nights ("Stay with the word," and "Second time Around"), and Pastor Deveraux R. Hubbard closed out the last night with the message, "Like Jesus" (John 4). My excitement is tempered, however, by the stark reality that not many of God's people are as excited as I am about the work of ministry and the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Many seem to feel that WORSHIP is the only expected activity for the Christian. But WORK is also incumbent upon the Christian/Disciple – and that work is the work of ministry/evangelism. May God "break up our fallow ground" and move us from our zones of comfort, so that we might ENGAGE OUR ASSIGNMENT! Our communities, neighborhoods, schools, businesses and other segments would certainly experience the impact of our labors. To this end:

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

VISION

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

TEN-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN: "PROSPERING THE VISION"

We started our Core Team meeting on Tuesday, June 7th with prayer followed by reciting our vision in unison without looking at it on paper, rather by looking at one another. Now that our vision is crystal clear, it now time to focus on how we define what it means. How do we define Community, Transforming, & the word Ministry? These are things we have been consistently prayerful about as this is how we will carry out God's command for His people. Stay tuned to see how God moves our Vision into focus and more importantly how you can be a apart of making the vision a reality by using your time, talents & treasures.

The second half of our meeting was spent watching a TED talk by Rev Jeffrey Brown who was a key player in the "Boston miracle" that lowered the rate of youth crime and gang violence by 79%! What this group of ministers did was to go out into the community and not preach but listen to those in the neighborhood who conveyed the reality of the situation. They found that there is value in partnering together to create a strong community component. It's time to stop talking about what are we gonna do about our community and actually do something. The Boston Miracle created a blueprint of a proven method of lowering crime, sometimes we need not reinvent the wheel in order to drive a car, rather just realign it.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

We held our monthly meeting on Saturday, June 4th at 10:00am. Sis Suzzette Davis read our theme scripture & Rev Mike Robertson led us in prayer after which we read the minutes from our May meeting. Pastor Williams gave a shout out the Youth Revival and stated that it was quite encouraging. He also stated a concern to expedite our announcements on Sunday mornings because 20 minutes is way too long. All leaders were encouraged to submit their announcements to the church office in writing and shy away from always doing verbal announcements. It was announced that we will once again hold our Leadership Retreat at the St Iakovos Retreat Center in January 6-7, 2017! The total cost will be announced at our July meeting and will include a black polo shirt.

FOCUS FOCUS FOCUS FOCUS FOCUS

We then watched chapter 3, “**Divine Focus**”, of the IT DVD and discussed how to keep focus and how we tend to lose it with a good idea, not a God idea. Many churches find themselves in a position of doing so many things that they end up being ineffective when it comes to what the main purpose is. Pastor then asked the leaders, “What Is Our Church Focused On?” Here are a few answers that were given:

- On what other ministries aren't doing
 - We don't have a focus
 - Redundant divisions

Pastor Williams stated one of the reasons we lack focus is because we lack “buy in”. There are many who don't show up to events that promote spiritual growth such as Sunday School, Bible Study, Vacation Bible School, Congress or any of our Milwaukee AIM workshops. To be a disciple is to be a student, how can we Make Disciples if we don't attend class? Pastor Williams recommended the book: “*The Fire on Fairmount*” by Audrey J. Johnson that talks about applied divine focus and demonstrates the power of small groups and the impact these groups can have in larger church ministry and the lives of their participants. He emphasized the importance of church unity, keeping communication transparent, spending time outside of church, engaging people in small group ministry by asking them and making them feel needed and wanted.

Warren G. Bennis states “*Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality*”. As leaders of this church, it is our purpose to make this happen by the grace of God.

Pastor posed the question “Will our Faith Have Children?”

FINANCE UPDATE

We have completed six months of 2016 and we continue to praise God for his glorious blessings. We cannot say it enough; We Thank God For The Members That Continue To Fulfill Their Commitment They Made On January 1, 2016. We are moving forward with the support of our church family and the almighty God. Big MAMA, Little MAMA and Big PAPA

were correct and I quote "Boy, if you Take one step, God will Take two". While this statement isn't directly from the Bible, it is true. If we are to be successful, we must take the initiative and Know that God will be there to help us if it is in his will. Mama may have, Papa may have, but God bless the child that has his own. Once again, God will only help us when we first seek to help ourselves.

We have several repairs and renovation projects scheduled for 2016 with the bathroom facilities being the largest. We are scheduled to start on the bathrooms on/or before July 15. In order to complete these initiatives, we need to raise \$60,000 dollars.

HERE ARE ANSWERS TO SOME COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q. How much have we raised as of June 30, 2016 toward our goals of \$60,000 dollars?
A. We have raised \$16,000.00. We are \$48,000.00 short of our goal.

Q. How many members have contributed?
A. 87 members have contributed.

Q. What are the contribution ranges?
A. The ranges are:

- 1) \$1000-- -\$1400- - - - - 2 Members
- 2) \$400-- ---\$999- - - - - 6 Members
- 3) \$200-- ---\$399- - - - - 12 Members
- 4) \$100-- --\$199-- - - - - 15 Members
- 5) \$50-- ---\$99- - - - - 16 Members
- 6) \$5-- ---\$49- - - - - 36 Members

Q. Are we doing better this year than last year at the same time?
A. Yes, we are approximately \$18 thousand dollars better, but we believe we can do more with the help of God.

Q. How many members do we have?
A. We have 465 members.

Q. How many families do we have?
A. We have approximately 195 families.

Q. What do we need to do to reach our goal of \$60,000 dollar?
A. If 100 Members / Families or a combination of members pledge \$600 for the year, we will achieve our goal of \$60,000.

As you can see, we have a ways to go, but we trust God will give us the desire and certitude to accomplish our goal and beyond. **When praises go up, Blessings come down!**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During June we continued to make progress getting Fresh Start Learning Inc. established as a 501c3 non-profit corporation with the IRS thanks to Atty. Konita Jude. We also have made offers to purchase two buildings in our immediate neighborhood to provide the space needed to make this program fully operational. We are waiting to hear if the grant application has been approved by the US Department of Justice Department. We are proceeding as if it will be approved so when we receive funds in October we can immediately put them to good use. 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.

There does seem to be some interest in the Wealth Creation/Debt Reduction classes from some of the young men who have recently attended the Men's Network Tuesday breakfasts. Also, individuals have contacted me regarding personal advice which I am always happy to share. When classes are scheduled they will be announced and published on the CBC website, so stay tuned. Individual assistance is still available at 508-561-3921 or msrobertson23@gmail.com.

The Love Kindness program continues to have an impact and there may be some good developments to report next month. We are always looking for stories to be shared by those who give away their buttons and suggestions regarding our Love Kindness outreach program. Be sure to place them in the box marked Love Kindness!

The Missions Ministry donated adult diapers they received to the St. Ann's Center on North Avenue where they were greatly appreciated. Just another example of how CBC is reaching out to support our neighborhood.

The Milwaukee Workforce Investment board, now known as Employ Milwaukee, had several work opportunities available; however the extended deadline did not allow sufficient time for us to move forward. The application process starts in January and we look forward to applying to give our young people opportunities for the summer of 2017.

BIBLE STUDY *By Carolyn Leslie*

Hello, CBCGM family. I would like to tell you why more of our members should attend Bible Study. It's not only a learning experience; it is also a fun way to learn more about our savior. From September 2015 – February 2016, we studied 1, 2 and 3 John. There was so much I learned about the difference between the gospel of John and 1, 2 & 3.

We then had the pleasure of Rev. Teddy Smith from Tabernacle Community Baptist Church teach Lenten Bible Study for 6 weeks from Ash Wednesday up until Resurrection

Sunday. We had a final session where we were spilt up into two teams to see who learned the most. We all had a ball. It was so much fun!

Then the last few weeks of Bible Study, Pastor decided to have Open Book Bible Study, where we came up with questions we wanted to know about the Bible. We also asked questions on how to better our ministries, become better disciples and how to deal with personal life situations that can better our lives as Christians. All of which were truly in accordance to our theme of Engaging Our Assignment.

We have an estimate of 11 members who come on a regular basis. I feel it is important to come to Bible Study. Although we have an awesome Pastor, he can't get everything in on Sundays. On Wednesdays he can teach you what you need to know. So come on out and join us on Wednesdays at noon or 6:30 pm. (6:15pm) prayer before Bible Study.

Eleven members out of our church's entire congregation is not pleasing to God. Our pastor compels us all to become Disciples which means that we need to be more involved in Sunday school, Bible Study as well as ministries within the church. So bring yourself, a friend and family members. You'll receive blessings untold and you'll be glad you participated. Mark your calendars, Bible Study resumes in the fall starting September 14, 2016-June 2017. Hope to see more of your lovely faces. God Bless you all.

With Love,
Sister Carolyn Leslie

CHILDREN'S WEEKEND by Sis Erin Agers

Hello Community! My name is Sister Erin Agers and I will be talking about the Children's Day weekend. To start off we went downstairs to the banquet. Everyone was dressed so fancy. The decorations were so colorful. They had balloons and flowers set on each table. A lot of people went up to the front to talk about how special we were. But my favorite part of the banquet was when they started to give out certificates! They would call you up, say what you have accomplished and then it gets even better. You would sit in this beautiful chair and get your picture taken with your certificates.



We also ate this really delicious plate of yummy food. It was AMAZING! Once we were done with the banquet, everybody went to put on their pajamas. Sis. Imani called everyone in the room to play BINGO. We had so much fun. I was so close to BINGO that I kept chanting "G58...G58...G58", but just when I thought I had BINGO I lost it! But at least other people got to win.

Once we were done with BINGO we went into the room to play some games that were fun! I really enjoyed our weekend and can't wait until we do it again!

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 Men's Golf League started on Wednesday, June 15 and continues thru July 6th at Lincoln Park (1:00 pm). We had an awesome turnout with 15 participants from 6 churches throughout our city. We thank the men of Community Baptist Church, Mt. Zion Baptist church, New Hope Baptist Church, Oak Creek Assembly of God, Providence Baptist CHURCH and St. Matthew CMC for the great fellowship. We are moving forward and with the help of God and the support of each other we will continue to move forward serving God and each other. Let us remember, its men working and playing together that will make a difference in the life of our Churches, Families and Communities.

Our annual Fish Fry was a Great success, special thanks to Bro Alex Barber Jr., Bro Floyd Wayne Herron and Deacon James Powell who worked extremely long hours, to provide us with a great meal, also special thanks to the Culinary Committee for their help and support. We thank all of the Community family and friends who continually to support our Ministry every year during this weekend.

Our Musical entitled **Men Who Praise** was also a great success with a variety of Male Choirs from various different churches who provided great music for the mind, body and soul thanks to all who participated.



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.**"

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S REVIVAL – MAY 23, 24, & 25, 2016 By Bessie Smith

The Youth and Children's Department would like to take this time to thank our Pastor for his support in allowing the department to assemble the children and youth to worship in these awesome three nights of praise, song and preached word. It was three nights of instruction for our children and youth. We were joined by the youth and children from Bethel Baptist Church, Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church, and New Hope Baptist Church.

On the first night, the topic was "**Never Say Never**" from Luke 1: 5-15, 25. Testimony gives you peace, patience, and protects your spirit from others.

The second night's theme was on "**Wings and Thangs**" which came from Isaiah. 40:30-334, we are not chickens rather we soar like eagles, and He will renew our strength.

On the last night we were told "**It's Not What On Me, But What's In Me**" taken from Genesis 37:3-9, All of those downs in your life are just PIT STOPS in your life to God. And It's not important of the things on the outside, but more so what's on the inside of you.

These things were taught by the young Minister Trayvon Sinclair, out of Nashville TN, by way of Milwaukee WI. He has a blessing on him that he does not have a problem sharing. Thanks to all those who work with the youth & children as well as those who came out to support.

UNITY SUNDAY

The UNITY SUNDAY sermon for June was titled, "**Education for Transformation: 'Until Christ is Formed in You'**" (Galatians 4:19). It began with reiterating the Six-Fold Areas of Transformation: 1) Mind, 2) Character, 3) Relationships, 4) Service, 5) Influence, and 6) Habits.

What does the word "Character" Mean? *Character* is a word we take for granted. It is a word most people desire to have ascribed to them, and yet the standards of its attainment remain rather vague in our modern age. It's certainly not a word that's used as much as it once was. Cultural historian Warren Susman [researched the rise and fall of the concept of character](#), tracing its prevalence in literature and the self-improvement manuals and guides popular in different eras.

- What he found is that the use of the term "character" began in the 17th century and peaked in the 19th – a century.
- He writes that this period embodied "**a culture of character.**" During the 1800s, "character was a key word in the vocabulary of Englishmen and Americans," and men were spoken of as having strong or weak character, good or bad character, a great deal of character or no character at all.
- Young people were admonished to cultivate real character, high character, and noble character and told that character was the most priceless thing they could ever attain.

Starting at the beginning of the 20th century, however, Susman found that the ideal of character began to be replaced by that of *personality*. But character and personality are two very different things. As society shifted from producing to consuming, ideas of what constituted “*the self*” began to transform. The rise of psychology, the introduction of mass-produced consumer goods, and the expansion of leisure time offered people new ways of forming their identity and presenting it to the world. In place of defining themselves through the cultivation of virtue, people’s hobbies, dress, and material possessions became the new means of defining and expressing *the self*. Susman observed this shift through the changing content of self-improvement manuals, which went

- from emphasizing moral imperatives and work
- to personal fulfillment and self-actualization.
- He states, “**The vision of self-sacrifice began to yield to that of self-realization... There was a fascination with the peculiarities of the self.**”

While advice manuals of the 19th century (and some of the early 20th as well), emphasized what a person really was and *did*, the new advice manuals concentrated on what others *thought* he was and did.

- In a culture of character, good conduct was thought to spring from a noble heart and mind; with this shift, perception trumped inner intent.
- With a focus on personality, readers were taught how to be charming, control their voice, and make a good impression. A prime example of this is Dale Carnegie’s [How to Win Friends and Influence People](#) from 1936. It focused on how to get people *to like you* and how to get others *to perceive you well* versus **trying to improve your actual inner moral compass**.

Susman argues that the transformation from a culture of character to a culture of personality was ultimately about a shift from “**achievement to performance**.”

- In the culture of character, character was split into good and bad,
- In the culture of personality and self-realization, personality was split into famous and infamous. Sadly, in a culture of personality you can be famous without having done anything to earn it (i.e., “Reality T.V. Stars”).
- Susman illuminates this difference by noting that while the words most associated with character in the nineteenth century were “citizenship, duty, democracy, work, building, golden deeds, outdoor life, conquest, honor, reputation, morals, manners, integrity, and above all, manhood/womanhood,”
- The words most associated with personality in the twentieth and twenty-first century were/are “fascinating, stunning, attractive, magnetic, glowing, masterful, creative, dominant, and forceful.”

There can be some positive outcomes with the cultivation of personality. It can help one navigate the world, form relationships, and become successful. But personality is absolutely no substitute for character, which should be the foundation of every person's life, especially that of a Christian/Disciple.

What Is Character? The etymology of *character* is quite telling. The word comes from the Greek *kharakter*, which means, "engraved mark," "symbol or imprint on the soul," and "instrument for marking," and can be traced further back to the words for "to engrave," "pointed stake," and "to scrape and scratch." In ancient times, a character was the stamp or marking impressed into wax and clay. Henry Clay Trumbull ([Character-Shaping and Character-Showing](#)) says it served as: "another name for the signature, or monogram, or personal superscription, or trade-mark, of the potter, the painter, the sculptor, the writer, or any other artist or artisan, or inventor, as indicative of the personality of the maker, or of the distinctive individuality of the article marked. It is the visible token by which a thing is distinguished from every other thing with which it might otherwise be confounded." In the 17th century, the word came to be associated with "the sum of qualities that defines a person." These qualities included a person's intellect, thoughts, ideas, motives, intentions, temperament, judgment, behavior, imagination, perception, emotions, loves, and hates. All of these components, according to William Stratton Bruce, ([The Formation of Christian Character](#)) "go to the shaping and coloring of a man's character. They have all some part in producing that final type of self, that **ultimate habit of will**, into which the person's whole activities at last shape themselves."

The 3 Qualities of Character. To better understand the nature of character, we turn to James Davison Hunter (*The Death of Character: Moral Education in an Age Without Good or Evil*) who laid out the 3 qualities of true character. **Moral Discipline.** The one quality most associated with character in the nineteenth century was *self-mastery* – the dominion of an individual over his impulses and desires, so that he was in control of them, and not the other way around. A person of self-mastery, the management of self-control, can direct her/his will and make her/his own choices, rather than being a slave to her/his base impulses. **Moral Attachment.** The pursuit of character does not have as its sole end the cultivation of self. Susman notes that it is in fact, "a group of traits believed to have social significance and moral quality". This is to say that character has always been about something greater than self and included the self as part of a community. Moral attachment means being committed to a set of higher ideals and to acting, and if need be, sacrificing, for the greater good of one's community. **Moral Autonomy.** Character cannot develop in an environment in which ethical decisions are forced upon the individual. Character is a product of judgment, discretion, and choice – born from a person's free agency. A decision that is coerced cannot be a moral decision, and thus cannot be a decision of character. Character, in a classic sense, manifests itself as the autonomy to make ethical decisions always on behalf of the common good and the discipline to abide by that principle.

How Does Character Develop? There are many things that “engrave” our character upon our lives, and shape our character for better and for worse into a unique set of scratches and grooves.

- Our character begins to be shaped from the very time we are born and is influenced by where we grow up, how we are raised, the examples our parents provide, religious and academic education, and so on.
- Our character can be dramatically altered by a life-changing tragedy – the contraction of a illness, a severe accident, the death of a parent, child, or spouse. Such events may turn a person bitter or cynical, or may cause her/him to discover feelings of hope and compassion hitherto unimagined.
- A person’s character can also be greatly formed by a call to take upon her/himself a mantle of leadership during a crisis or emergency – an event that tests and exercises her/his physical and mental abilities.
- One of the greatest influences on our character are those with whom we surround ourselves. The best character is always open to improvement, and always in danger of deteriorating.
- But the single greatest influence on our character is that which we have ultimate power over: **how we respond to circumstances**. They can make you, or break you!

What is Christian Character? "Character is what you are in the dark." D.L. Moody

- Christian character is formed by our commitment to Christ. Our spiritual discipline, motives, obedience, and faith are the keys! As we grow in our discipleship we must willing to also build our Character.
- When we say we follow Christ, do our actions show that we do? Or is something else happening in our life and relationships?
- It is imperative that when we say we are a follower of Christ, our character and behaviors reflect him and his call to us to the best of our abilities which includes our temperament.
- If we are in leadership, this is even more imperative! We demonstrate character and integrity when we do what we say and act out what we believe.
 - Our call is to do as we *teach*, to do as we say, and to act as we teach others to act. Integrity is of the utmost importance for the Christian leader (1 Thess. 2: 10-12; 2 Peter 1-11)!
 - Why? Because, willingness to model Christ's character is far more vital for us today than the willingness to preach/teach it.
- Christian Character is **who we are** and it can be learned and built best when we are in Christ.
- Christian Character is not just a personality or our disposition; it is a description of who we are *as a Christian*, what we are called to be. It encapsulates the *fruit of the Spirit* from God's love and work in us.
- A good effectual foundation of character is "synergistic" as each one hangs and functions with each other. As a result of the fruit of the Spirit, which all of the other character traits are codependent and thus function and rest upon, our character summarizes the essence of our walk with Christ.

- Our Character can grow or shrivel as our growth and faith formation in Christ is applied or blocked. Thus, Character is the display case of Christ and shows others our entire lives as Christians.
- We all have the ability to good or bad, to take what Christ has given us and use it, or ignore or even perverse it.

Conclusion: Is our character influencing others for good and helping them build their own power and strength?

- Are we doing our part to be a people of character and infuse our church, culture and nation with vitality?
- What grooves and lines are you engraving upon your character each and every day?
- Character is our legacy – what will yours be?

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.

For it matters not
how much we
own, the cars, the
house, the cash.

What matters is
how we live and
love and how we
spend our DASH