



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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Greetings and may God's blessings and peace be multiplied! The month of July featured the celebration of Independence Day on the 4th at its opening, two political conventions (RNC in Cleveland, OH and DNC in Philadelphia, PA) in the middle, and our All-Church Cookout at the end. To be sure, it was also a month, no doubt, full of travel and other festive activities for CBCGM members. Now with the beginning of August, the transition toward fall will soon be underway with back to school shopping and the Wisconsin State Fair (always a favorite of mine!). As we look to our transition back to our regularly scheduled worship services and activities (beginning in September), let us use this time of transition to remind ourselves of the importance of our Church Theme ("Engaging our Assignment: Making Disciples") and recommit ourselves to the important work of Ministry.

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

TEN-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN:

“PROSPERING THE VISION” *By Sis Ebony S. Hagler*

We held our Core Team meeting on Tuesday, July 5th. We discussed our homework assignment which was to select a few passions from our last meeting and discuss how to implement them according to our New Vision. As we look at the **BIG** picture of where we see our church 10 years out, it is critical that we keep our vision our focus. The clearer our vision is, the easier it is to guard what God has called us to do. By increasing our focus, we are able to decrease options that have a tendency to compete with our vision and ultimately don't contribute towards it. It is our sincere desire to please the Lord in all that we do and we have to keep in mind that just because we can do something doesn't mean that we should do it. **Good things are not necessarily God things.** Just like a vine needs pruning in order to grow, so does ministry. To be transforming within the community, we must first take a long hard look in the mirror and start with ourselves. We invite you to not just accept the challenge of transformation personally but collectively. **Can you imagine how God will use Community Baptist Church?** Our meeting for August has been canceled, we will resume in September.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

On Saturday, July 9th at 10:00am we held our monthly meeting. While we were few in number, our camaraderie was engaging and efficient. Pastor Williams led us in prayer and we got right to work. If you remember from our last issue we talked about divine focus in the book **IT** in which many churches find themselves in a position of doing so many things that they end up being ineffective when it comes to what their main purpose is. Through an exercise the leaders were able to select what they feel our church ought to focus on. All of our ministries were posted on a board along with some blank cards for people to list what they think our focus should be. The leaders were then given 5 stickers each to vote for their top 5 focus points for our church based on our vision:

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

Allow us to reiterate that this was done for the purpose of collecting statistical data; no decision is being made at this time. However to be in alignment with God and the vision He has set forth for us, it is pertinent to be sincerely reflective in what we are currently doing and honestly evaluate its effectiveness.

Deacon Jude provided us with a financial update along with a status report on our Bathroom Remodel Project. July 8th, our team began the process of wall removal from the lower level classroom adjacent to the kitchen. Additional storage area is being constructed in the room and should be completed sometime in August. During our remodel, the plan is to have as less as a distraction as possible when it comes to the usage of our facilities. Stay tuned for more information...

Administrative updates included review of our Ministry Expectation Checklist:

TASKS	DUE	COMPLETED
Kick-off Meeting – using kick-off agenda	January/February	
Submit Meeting Minutes in writing	Immediately after the meeting is held	
Ministry Reports submitted in writing	As needed	
Ministry Planning Months for upcoming year	July/August	
Ministry Evaluations	September	
Budget & Activity/Event Proposals	September 30	
Elect Officers & Submit Leadership Roster	October	
Installation of Ministry Leaders & Officers	Watch Night Worship	

“To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late and to be late is to be forgotten.”

~Elin Hilderbrand

The leaders then turned their attention to IT by watching the video that coincided with Chapter 6 “Unmistakable Camaraderie: You Enjoy It With Others”. Dwight D. Eisenhower said **“It is better to have one person working with you than three people working for you.”** We discussed how it is important to make yourself vulnerable in order to connect with the team and how often times this is difficult because we have trust issues. But when you are approachable, real, open, honest and human you give others permission to do the same. One way to let your guard down is to play games that allow you to have fun and get to know each other. Playing games allows us to engage in a way that regular conversation does not and when you can have fun with people, you can work better with them. Who said ministry can't be fun?

Pastor Williams posed this question to the leaders:

“One a scale of 1 – 10, what is your likeability” rating?

Many responded with various numbers; however we all agreed that it takes time to get to know each other. Many of us are on sliding scales because we come across one way in the beginning, but once you get to know us we are likeable! This yields the question:

“What might you do to improve your rating?”

Not everyone will like you, however, no matter what your rating is, it's critical that if there is ever discord with one another that we are slow to anger and ever so quick to forgive being sure to depart on one accord where we may disagree. This is in our Church Covenant. We ought to be friendly, kind, considerate and interact with people genuinely & lovingly at all times.

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

FINANCE UPDATE *By Brother Willie Jude*

Can you believe it! It is August, the last month of summer in Wisconsin, the last month before school starts and the last month before **ministry budgets are due in September**. We cannot say it enough; **God has been so good us!** He allowed us another opportunity to do the right thing by Him and our Brothers and Sisters. We continue to move forward with the support of our church family and the almighty God. Big MAMA, Little MAMA and Big PAPA were correct and I quote **“Child, if you make one step God will make 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.

We are currently working on several projects in addition to our bathroom remodel project. In order to complete those initiatives, we need your help to raise the \$60,000 dollars we pledged for 2016.

HERE ARE ANSWERS TO SOME COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q. How much have we raised as of July 30, 2016 toward our goals of \$60,000 dollars?

A. We have raised \$16,500.00. We are \$47,500.00 short of our goal.

Q. How many members have contributed?

A. 87 members have contributed. *(No change Since July)*

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

"His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Matthew 25:23

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.

Q. When are the **2017 Budgets** due from the Ministries?

A. **Budgets are due on or before September 30, 2016**

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 *By Reverend Mike Robertson.*

During July **Fresh Start Learning Inc.** filed the Ez paperwork with the IRS to get their approval as a 501c3 non-profit corporation. Our offers to purchase two buildings on North Avenue are currently being considered by the city and we are expecting approval in early September. Nancy Yarbrough's efforts to reach out to those who have been trapped in human trafficking are continuing as we wait to hear if our grant application has been approved by the US Department of Justice. Many donations of purses and contents are being received daily as well as food items from Starbucks. The office currently located at 4242 W. North Ave is enabling Nancy to expand her efforts thanks to CBC. Volunteers are always welcome and if you want to know more just call Nancy at 414-544-2649.

Wealth Creation/ Debt Reduction classes will be scheduled in September if there is sufficient interest. Individual assistance is still available at **508-561- 3921** or **msrobertson23@gmail.com**.

The **Love Kindness** program is continuing to have an impact as we see more members wearing their buttons and telling me that they have seen buttons worn by others when shopping. We have plenty of buttons to give out so if you need any please let me know and I will see that you have as many as you want. Currently a website is being developed and as soon as it is up and running we will let you know. We continue to look for stories we can share regarding specific acts of Kindness you have received, observed or performed. If you have any suggestions regarding how we can expand our Love Kindness outreach program in our neighborhood and throughout Milwaukee please share them with me.



We are continuing to work on a number of projects as we partner with other organizations in the neighborhood and we will report on these as needed. Please pray for our outreach efforts as we follow God's instructions to **"Love Ye One Another."**

BIBLE STUDY *By Minister Charlotte Flowers*

God has given us Reverend Dr. Demetrius K. Williams as our pastor, and as the appointed shepherd of this congregation. As Pastor prays and listens to God's direction, it's up to us to be faithful and obey God's direction for this church.

God's direction for us this year is **Matthew 28:18-20** New Living Translation (NLT)
"Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, [a] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

How can we do this if we aren't disciples? We must start where we are. There have been plenty of opportunities of discipleship training the past five years. Training from the following books:

"LORD CHANGE MY ATTITUDE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE" This study is bold, practical, and communicated in a way designed to set readers free from the negativity that erodes happiness. There are questions in each chapter to help readers identify the attitudes of the heart that need to change in order for God's abundance to flow. While patterns of thinking won't always change overnight, Pastor MacDonald shows readers how to begin to recognize wrong attitudes and work on replacing them with the right ones.

"THE POWER OF REAL: Changing Lives. Changing Churches. Changing Communities". This book is a genuine story about what it costs in prayer, time, decision-making, commitment, planning and people resources to become a church that is focused on reaching more and more people-- no matter where or who they are-- for Jesus and His Church.

"BEGGING FOR REAL CHURCH" This study offered powerful and relevant answers for how an authentic, meaningful and radical church experience helps us with our challenges, so we can help others.

Study of the Gospel of John. John 20:31 reads: *"But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name."* After this study we can begin sharing with others, planting seeds of belief in Christ into them.

"CELEBRATION OF DISCIPLINE" challenges us to practice inward, outward and corporate disciplines to fill our spiritual banks with power and faith reminding us to turn to the right power source when faced with "REAL" life circumstances and to encourage others to see the value of being plugged in to the right power.

"USE ME UP! Prayer of Sacred Surrender" was a 6 week study on prayer by Reverend Teddy Smith of Tabernacle CBC. Reverend Smith's book reminds us of the importance of communicating with God, using the source of power available to us. In his introduction he references Jude 1:20-21 *"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."* Prayer increases our faith in God, our love toward/for God and reminds us of God's mercies extended to us daily "unto eternal life".

Pastor offered an **OPEN BOOK BIBLE STUDY** to answer any questions we had about the bible, relationships and life in general from a biblical perspective.

And the sermons Pastor has preached have been powerful!!! Sermon titles such as:

I Have A Race To Win; A Race To Your Spiritual Destiny / *Corinthians 9:24-27*

The Power Of A Positive Mind *Philippians 4 (entire chapter)*

Righteous Relationships *Matthew 22:34-40*

Laboring in the Ministry for the Right Reason *Corinthians 15:58*

Transformation Of Your:

- **MIND**
- **CHARACTER**
- **RELATIONSHIPS**
- **SERVICE**
- **INFLUENCE**
- **HABITS**

Romans 12:1-2, Galatians 4:19 (Education for Transformation Until Christ is formed in you)

I could go on and on, but I will stop and ask are you growing as a disciple for Christ? Well, Are you? We all have room to grow. The Biggest room in the world is for **IMPROVEMENT!**

MILWAUKEE A.I.M. CONFERENCE ON MINISTRY *By Sis Suzzette Davis*

This three day event was held on June 28-30, 2016, at Christ the King Baptist Church, 7750 North 60th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, host Pastor Reverend John W. McVicker, Sr. The theme was "**Evangelism: The Lord's Command, The Church's Life**" from Matthew 28: 19-20.

Tuesday thru Thursday we were honored to have guest preacher for lectures, the Reverend K. Edward Copeland, pastor of New Zion Baptist Church, Rockford, Illinois. He transformed our lives thru scriptures Roman 1:16, Acts 16: 6-13, Acts 1:8 and Revelation 7:9, talking about the Gospel of God and how it represents good news. He challenged everyone each night to ask someone this question, how can I pray for you today?

Tuesday thru Thursday we were also blessed to have guest preacher, the Reverend Marvin E Wiley, pastor of Rock of Ages Baptist Church, Maywood, Illinois and the Reverend Deveraux Hubbard, pastor of Saint Paul Baptist Church, Peoria, Illinois. The sermons were:

“Stay with The Word” from II Timothy 4: 1-5
“Second Time Around” from Jonah 3: 1-3
“Just like Jesus” from John 4: 39-42.

If by chance you missed this soul stirring event, you missed a treat. The three nights of lectures made the batter to make the cake and the three nights of preaching made the icing for it. The fellowship was great and we had a wonderful time in the Lord!

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 second outing starts on **Wednesday, September 14th** and it will continue **Wednesday October 5th** at Lincoln Park (12:30 pm). We are currently working with Milwaukee County Parks to get the time and dates approved. The League is another part of our outreach effort and we invite anyone who is interested to contact us. We want to give a special thanks to Sis Powell for providing lunch for us at the end of the first outing.

We are hosting a Youth Forum every **2nd Saturday** of the month from **8:00am to 11am**. We invite all of the youth of Community to join us and bring a friend or family member. We will be meeting at 4242 W. North Avenue, affectionately referred to as “The White House”.

In addition, we will be teaming back up with Hi Mount Elementary School this fall for the Mentoring Program. We encourage you to engage any of these activities.

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 UNITY SUNDAY, July 3, 2016 the sermon subject was “**The Right Character of Relationships**” (Matthew 22:34-40). This was the third topic in the series on “transformation” (MIND, CHARACTER, RELATIONSHIPS...).

God is a Relational God (Jerimiah 31:1, 33-34). Theology seeks to discover not only the nature and attributes of God, but also to delineate the relationship between God and (a fallen) humanity/world. An essential aspect of God's relationship with humankind is the principle of righteousness. Thus God establishes relationship with humanity based upon the principles of righteousness.

What exactly is righteousness? In Hebrew – *sedeq* (noun masculine , “rightness,” *sedaqa* (noun feminine), “righteousness” – means, “that which is considered to be correct, just; always behaving according to the moral and ethical principle of rightness, righteousness.” Righteousness is an attribute of God's sovereignty; it is the foundation of God's throne, government, covenant promises, administration of justice, vindication and salvation of God's people. God's righteousness is everlasting. (Isa. 9:6-7). **In Greek** – *dikaios* (adj.) – means, “observant of custom and social rule, well-ordered; right, lawful, just, and what is fitting.” The feminine noun, *dikaioyne*, means, “righteousness, justice; setting right. The verb, *dikaioo*, means, “that which is considered to be correct or justifiable; always behaving according to a particular principle or ethical or moral code.”

What does this all mean in terms of relationships? Let's look first at the meaning of relation and relationship.

- **Relation** - a meaningful *connection* or association between two or more people or things, based, for example, on the similarity or relevance of one thing to another.
- **Relationship** - the *connection* between two or more people or groups and their involvement with each other, especially as regards how they behave and feel toward each other and communicate or cooperate.

Righteous Relationships, then, has to do with how Christian men and women walk (live, behave, or conduct themselves) before God in their **treatment of one another** and how they *connect* in just (righteous) and meaningful ways to mutually encourage and support one another in their efforts to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ (cf. Phil. 1:27; Eph 4:1-6).

THE SHAPE OF RIGHTEOUS RELATIONSHIPS

God's relationship with humanity is **dyadic**. God establishes righteous relations with us through covenants. An essential aspect of righteous relations is love. (John 3:16, Deut. 6:5)

- We are unrighteous (Rom. 3:10ff)
- We are in need of help.
- A list of precepts is not enough to help us (cf. Proverbs).

The foundation of our righteous relationships is **triadic**.

- Scriptures: (**Matt. 22:37-40; 1 John 4:20-21**)
- Righteous relationships for us always involve three parties and, hence, are triangular!
 - God(head) – Neighbor – Self
- All righteous relationships should be love triangles!
 - Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount (Epitome of Christian Ethics)
 - Jesus calls for a higher righteousness (A New Torah/Pentateuch; Matt. 5:20)
 - Beatitudes are the internal witness to external righteousness (Matt. 5:1-10)
 - The foundation of righteous relationships (and love) is found in Matthew 7:12 (the **Golden Rule**): "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." Or, "Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you."

Not every relationship is perfect. This is why love, forgiveness, and reconciliation are important in righteous relationships.

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:

Mother Aline Henry

Curtis J. Twitty

(Brother of Deacon Raymond Twitty)

**WELL DONE, GOOD
AND FAITHFUL SERVANT...**

MATTHEW 25:21