

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

2017 January Edition

HAPPY NEW YEAR, CBCGM!

By the grace of God, we have begun a new year. The new year is always a time of new beginnings. May the dawning of this new demarcation of the calendar inspire us to move on to accomplish with greater commitment and faithfulness the task of ministry that lies before us. Our new church theme is **“CONTINUING OUR ASSIGNMENT: EQUIPPING GOD’S PEOPLE FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY”** (Ephesians 4:11-13). I pray that we all would catch hold of the church theme and make it a reality in the ministry of this church, as we seek to serve with greater excellence the community in which we have been placed.

All thanks and praise to God for one more year! AMEN

BE PRESENT. BE PRAYERFUL. BE POSITIVE. BE IMPACTFUL.



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

ADVANCING OUR VISION

Ebony S. Hagler

What a better way to conclude a meeting than with a celebratory potluck dinner? And boy did we have some treats, turkey wellington, red velvet cupcakes, and pastor's famous gumbo!!! We were so full of grace and goodness. As we customarily do, we started this meeting off with a prayer of thanksgiving, guidance and direction and we read scripture. Our chosen scripture was Isaiah 40 in its entirety with the key focus being 28-31(NIV). It was chosen because in an article in the VOICE magazine entitled "Transformed, Not Conformed" it was suggested to read it aloud and meditate on God's greatness and majesty. We delight in knowing not only that God is a truly amazing but that He shares with us His power & strength to endure hardships. As the Core Team tackles the task of looking at the BIG picture and staying true to implementing supporting initiatives, it's important to take a moment to reflect on accomplishments and recognize that it is not us but He who is in us that makes it all possible. To GOD be the Glory.

We invite you to read out loud the following verses and meditate on the Power & Strength of the God we serve.

28 Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding.

29 He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless.

30 Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion.

31 But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

As we come to the end of one year and prepare to step into the next we must take with us our faith and add to it. Our assignment for 2016 was to make disciples, one key way to do that is to be aware of the strength we possess in God to do just that. Some of us have grown tired and weary from serving in ministry and have even said out loud that they have retired. How can you possibly retire from a God who gives so much? There is no such thing as retiring from ministry, because as long as people are still lost, there is always work to be done in the kingdom. As we look ahead to a new year, we are hopeful that more people will make the decision to be wholeheartedly committed, step up to the plate and use their gifts to their full potential, serve with excellence, lead ministries and do the work that must be done so that God will smile on us and be proud. One-Vision, One-Voice, One Vocation!

Due to our Leadership Conference, we have cancelled our January meeting and will kick off our 2017 agenda at our February meeting. Please continue to pray that our efforts remain focused on our vision, our mission, our motto, our pillars. That we make impactful decisions that will transform lives and advance the kingdom of our Savior without delay.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Our last Council for 2016 was held on Saturday, December 3rd at 10am. Pastor prayed and we ate breakfast. After we feasted Deacon Willie Jude presented on the state of our finances. We are doing good, but we can do better. We fell short of our 60K goal for 2016, but just because the year has ended that shouldn't stop us from giving above and beyond if we can. What we owed to North Milwaukee State Bank was 700K, but we now have that under 200K. Our goal is to get what we owe to NMSB down to under 100K, and we claim it in the name of Jesus!

Leaders were reminded of our Ministry Expectation Checklist that includes items to be mindful of throughout the year and their due dates. One of the main ones being the Ministry Evaluation and how important it is to take an honest look at what went right and what went left during the year and how to do better in the upcoming year. In addition, it was announced that the lower level of the duplex 4216 W. North Avenue is no longer a viable meeting option for ministries. This space is now occupied by Fresh Start Learning and CEO Nancy Yarbrough who is actively involved in our community helping young women who get lured into trafficking to get off the street. Learn more by visiting Nancy or by going online to www.freshstartlearning.com. We invited Nancy to take a few moments to introduce herself and what she's doing. She stated that the target age is 13 and that it takes a village to raise our children and that we have to stop talking and be about it.

Pastor gave his observations by discussing the importance of every leader attending the 2017 Leadership Conference taking place the 1st weekend in January. Everyone was strongly encouraged to attend. Our Leadership Council was formed in 2011 with the premise to inform, yet that alone is not enough, much more is required; principles need to be applied. So the question was asked **How Do You Plan To Maintain It In The Coming Year?** Responses included: Be proactive, diligent, fast, pray, plan, prepare, rededicate myself, give up individual needs to work together and be collective. Pastor also acknowledged the progress of the women coming together, yet emphasized that a commitment must be made to be consistent. As it relates to our Youth, we need to get them engaged to be more effective, so a Youth Forum will be held in 2017.

**“Train up a Child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not depart.”**

Proverbs 22:6



**Thank You All for Supporting
The Sunday School
Membership Drive!!!
Continue to Bring Your Family
to Sunday School!!!**

-Brothers' Agnew & Phillips

FINANCE UPDATE

Deacon Willie Jude

“CONTINUING OUR ASSIGNMENT: EQUIPPING GOD’S PEOPLE FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY”

We thank God for sparing us to see another year. 2017 will bring many new challenges and even more opportunities. The Finance Ministry stands ready to meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities with the help of God. The Finance Ministry and Pastor Rev. Dr. Demetrius Williams want to thank each of you for your support and dedication to the financial growth of CBCGM in 2016. We begin 2017 with the knowledge that God will continue to do for us if we are willing to do for ourselves. We can do all things through Christ who strengthen us. **He will give us the strength to conquer the impossible and overcome the many situations in our lives if we keep the faith.**

The Finance Ministry will continue to work closely with our Pastor, Associates, Deacons, Ministry leaders, Core Team and most of all, the members of CBCGM to promote the three Strategic pillars of CBCGM. The three pillars are: 1. **Leadership Development**, 2. **Spiritual Growth** and 3. **Church Unity**. We must continue to keep our Motto in mind as we continue to move forward... **“One Voice—One Vision—One Vocation.”** When we make up our mind to move as one body we will transform our peoples.

Thanks be to God, phase 2 of our special projects is more than 75% complete. It was your sacrifice and hard worked that made it possible. We asked each members to pledge an extra \$50 per month above their tithes and offerings and many of you did just that. 2017 marks the 40th year of CBCGM existence and we want to complete the remainder of the renovations and repairs as well as pay down the mortgage. We presently owe approximately \$195,000 and it is CBCGM goal to owe less than \$100,000 as of January 1, 2018. We can do it with the help of God. We know that all things are possible in Christ Jesus. While we are nearing completion of several major project, we have several smaller projects that we are continuing to work on, therefore, we need you to continue to give. We are continuing to ask each members to pledge an extra \$50 per month above your tithes and offerings to complete the remainder of the renovations and pay down the mortgages. In 2017, we **can make it happen with the help of God, Christ Jesus and The Holy Spirit. Can we do it? Yes we can!!**

Once again, the Finance Ministry wants to thank each of you for your ongoing support as we continue to move forward in Christ Jesus.



Note: Your Financial Contribution statement will be mailed on or before January 15, 2017



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Rev. Mike Robertson

During December we continued to develop a plan for the revitalization of **Washington High School** working with Common Ground, community residents and other neighborhood organizations. This High School facility is currently under-utilized but there are significant barriers to overcome before we can achieve the break through results we are hoping to achieve. In terms of CBC making a significant impact in our neighborhood this effort may offer a unique opportunity.

Fresh Start Learning Inc. continues to furnish the first floor of our **4325 West North Ave.** building and Nancy Yarbrough will hold an open house/blessing sometime during January. Nancy is speaking to as many groups as possible to inform people of the extent of this crime in Milwaukee as she befriends those trapped in human trafficking. Volunteers are always welcome and if you want to know more please call Nancy at 414-544-2649 or stop by the office.

There are currently no **Wealth Creation/ Debt Reduction** classes scheduled but I am available to help, call me at 508-561-3921 or email at msrobertson23@gmail.com.

We are exploring the possibility of sponsoring the **Good News Club** at Hi-Mount school. This is an after school Bible study program that takes place one day a week. We will need to have volunteers but this is a program that could have a big impact by expanding our outreach in this community.

In order for the **Love Kindness** program to have a lasting impact we need to expand the number of CBC members who serve on the Love Kindness committee. If you interested in joining this committee please contact Alex Hardy or myself. The www.lovekindness.org website is up and running, have you visited yet? We still need someone to serve as web-master. We continue to seek nominations for the Love Kindness person of the month. Please let us know who you believe is especially kind through a written submission placed in our LoveKindness Box in the vestibule. Share any stories regarding specific acts of Kindness you receive, observe or perform.

We continue to work with other neighborhood organizations and will report on these when we have something to share as we follow God's instructions to **"Love ye one another"**.

MEN'S MINISTRY

Deacon Melvin Grisby

Greetings to all, This is the January addition of the Men's Ministry of CBCGM News Letter.

Our mission is to provide a ministry based on relationships rather than activity that empowers men to be 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 goal is to provide opportunities for men to connect with one another and with other men to fulfill the purposes of Fellowship, Ministry, Discipleship & Worship.



The Ministry is hosts 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 meet at the white house across the street.

The Ministry will be teaming back up with Hi Mount Elementary School this fall for the Mentoring Program.

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

We host an **Adult Game Night** on the **3rd Friday** of the month.

Men's Choir Rehearsal is on the **2nd and 3rd Saturday** of the Month at **9:30am** and we sing every **3rd Sunday**.

We are still waiting for some of our Community Brothers to step forward and join the Ministry there is room for anyone who wants to get involved.

Our Brotherhood Meetings are held on the **3rd Saturday** of each Month at **10:30 am**.

Remember, to carry out the assignment we've been called to do, we need ALL MEN of CBCGM to work with us as we embrace our theme "Continue Our Assignment: Equipping God's People for the work of **MINISTRY!**"

"THE FERVENT EFFECTUAL PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILETH MUCH--ASSIGNMENT COMPLETE!"

Min. Jeffrey Eastern

After the shooting death of Sylville Smith by a MPD Officer Heagan-Brown, our city experienced violence and destruction in the Sherman Park area like never before. Many civic and religious organizations swarmed the area to rebuild lives that had been marred by these events.

The President of the Men's Network and Brotherhood, Wallace Phillips and Bro Floyd Herron, felt a pulling in their spirit that we must be a visible, present force in the community. They spoke to the Tuesday morning men's group headed by Mike Staples, Willie Jude, and James Powell who agreed. Entrusting me, Bro. E with the assignment to come with a strategy of how we could make an impact upon this area.

Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, we were given an assignment to address the present issues from a spiritual perspective, namely through "**PRAYER!**" For 12 weeks, every Friday, from September the 9th through November 25th, at 6:00pm. the men would gather in the middle of Sherman Park for prayer, understanding that *"we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but spiritual wickedness, principalities, powers, and the rulers of darkness"...Ephesians 6:12. Also, "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God, to the pulling down of strongholds...!"*

What a Mighty God we serve! The power of being of one mind, one spirit, and on one accord has resulted in answered prayers. Monies have been allocated to rebuild homes, and initiate programs for residents and youth in the area. Marquette University Student/Athlete's devoted an entire Saturday to mentor/encourage youth to pursue their education, as well as building relationships for the future through Upper Bound programs. CBCGM/Deacons Jude, Hardy and others have met with Ms. Valencia Carthen, Principal of Washington High School, in hopes of adopting the school, and opening up it's manufacturing department for training/apprenticeship programs in our community. Common Ground, local politicians, and other civics leaders have committed to working with residents to prevent any further occurrence of such destruction. The Justice Department has Chief Flynn and the entire Milwaukee Police Dept. under a microscope, resulting in an objective committee to not only hear but respond to citizen complaints. The District Attorney's Office issued homicide charges against Officer Heagan-Brown. Everyone can see that committed, obedient prayer produces results.

I want to thank all of the men as well as some women and children whose faith in an awesome God, participated in this "**INTERCESSORY PRAYER**" assignment that has produced and still is producing amazing results. But, I must give a special thank-you to some "Prayer Warriors" who were the driving force to help us make it to the end.

Even as the weather changed, with colder temperatures, howling winds, plus getting darker earlier, these "Prayer Warriors" stayed the course to complete the assignment, believing that, "**obedience is better than sacrifice!**" That 9th through the 12th week of Prayer, I want to thank Eric Ivy, Lonnie Davis, Willie Jude, Claude Williams, Percy Perry and Bro Manual who also brought their wives and children out to pray.

I truly look forward to the spring of 2017 as we continue to strategically and aggressively saturate our neighborhoods to take back what the enemy has stolen. God bless and "**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!**"

WE ARE CALLED TO VISIT THE SICK ETC.

Min. Charlotte Flowers

Then He [Jesus] will also say to those on His left, "Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat...sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me..."

Then they themselves also will answer, "Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?"

Then He will answer them, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me."

These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

(Matthew 25:43-46)

This scripture tells us that it is the responsibility of all members of a congregation to visit the sick, call and even send cards to members on our sick & shut in list and to especially visit those who are in nursing homes and/or rehabilitation centers. The bereaved families also need to know that we are praying for them and haven't forgotten about them as they grieve the loss of a loved one. Instead some congregations believe that the Pastor, Associates Ministers and Deacons are the only ones who should visit or call. Many Christians forget that the Kingdom of Christ is a *spiritual* kingdom. Providing a true "spiritual family," a "support group" if you will, is essential for the health of the body Christ. The Bible also said: "*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep...*" (Romans 12:15). These responsibilities clearly come into play when it comes to visiting the sick, widows, orphans, and elderly.

Some think the Pastor is the only who should do the visiting, calling, praying and sending cards to those in need. He cannot do this alone. Moses face this same dilemma with the Israelites in the desert. His father-in-law Jethro provided Moses with valuable insight. We expect Pastor to be on call 24/7 for the entire congregation; that's as impossible today as it was for Moses (scripture ref. Exodus (NASB) version).

Sometimes we forget that like some of us Pastor has a full-time job, like some of us, he has family and friends he wants to spend time with, like some of us, he likes to get away, and vacation with family. Like some of us, he likes to attend family reunions, like some of us, he needs to get away from everything for personal quiet time, Jesus certainly did this, got away for rest and peace.

Let's look at what the Bible says the Pastor's duties/responsibilities are. Per scripture the most important duty of a Pastor is to preach and teach. Thru his sermons and his teaching, he shows his love to God and to the congregation. It is obvious in the messages preached that he is growing in his walk with God and is spending many hours in scripture. Pastor has certainly been feeding us with spiritual truths. Let's us look at the scriptures that clearly defines the duties of a Pastor.

Oversight of the Church: Acts 20:28

"Be on guard for yourself and for all the flock among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.

Share authority with others: 1 Peter 5:1,3

"Therefore, I exhort the elders among you... do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock."

Shepherd the church: 1 Peter 5:1-2

"Therefore, I exhort the elders...shepherd the flock of God among you."

Teach the Word of God and pray: Acts 6:4

"while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and serving the word."

Pastor goes above and beyond what the bible says he should do; why because he first loves God & then God's people. He calls, sends cards, visit & counsels God's people. When the disciples were asked to resolve the issue between the Hellenists & Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food, they responded: "Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic *Jews* against the *native* Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving *of food*.² So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (Act 6:1-4).

The disciples realize the importance of study and prayer to preach the "Good News" of Jesus Christ to change lives. I underline "congregation of the disciples"...that's us. We have been saved to served, to assist Pastor in reaching, encouraging, praying and visiting those who are in need. The question to us is are we truly disciples of Christ? Are we doing our part to create a true "spiritual family," a "support group" at CBCGM? Are we doing this for the "least of these"?

SUNDAY SERMON

Rev. Dr. Demetrius K. Williams

On Sunday, December 4, 2016 I shared from the topic “*FINDING PEACE*” (John 14:27; Phil 4:4-9). The following is a summary of that sermon. – Peace has been long-sought, but continues to elude the grasp of many who seek it. For centuries individuals and nations have talked about, debated, and fought wars, paradoxically, in an effort to gain peace. War has ridden our planet ever since human beings have been around. In the over 3100 years of recorded world history, the world has only been at peace 8% of the time, or a total of 286 years, and over 8000 treaties have been made and broken. During this period there have been 14,531 wars, large and small, in which 3.64 trillion people have been killed. (Guy McGraw, 2008) This might cause one to rephrase Jesus’ statement that, “wherever two or three are gathered together, confusion, dissention, and war, death and strife is certain to be there in the midst.”

It amazes me that we as human beings think that we can gain and maintain peace through means that are super-imposed, that is, from the outside in. In antiquity, during the political domination of Rome over most of the ancient Mediterranean world, the Roman’s boasted of the “*Pax Romana*,” the “Roman peace.” The telling point about this peace was that it was maintained at a very high cost. Rome had to apply an iron fist upon the subject peoples in order to stamp out and suppress any force that threatened that social and political so-called peace. This entailed the maintenance of a very large army and other civic servants to suppress even presumed threats to such a fragile peace. According to Richard Horsley and Silberman, in their book, *The Message and the Kingdom: How Jesus and Paul Ignited a Revolution and Transformed the Ancient World*,

“[I]n the New Testament and the early Christian tradition we [are] able to catch a rare glimpse at the hopes, dreams, and utopian visions of those who suddenly find themselves at the bottom of a new civilization’s social heap... [E]arliest Christianity was a movement that boldly challenged the heartlessness and arrogance of a vast [Roman] governmental bureaucracy run on unfairly apportioned tax burdens and guided by cynical special interests – that preached about “opportunity,” “self-reliance,” and “personal achievement” while denying all three to the vast majority of men, women, and children over whom it presumed to rule. Christianity arose in a remote and poverty-stricken region of the vast Roman Empire, among the struggling farm families of a frontier province that could only be classed as “chronically underdeveloped” by modern economic criteria. Yet even after the movement’s first great prophet [Jesus of Nazareth] was condemned as a threat to civil order and put to death for his preaching, his followers spread a coalescing gospel of resistance from the country to the city and from the eastern provinces of the empire to the far western edges of the Roman world. At the heart of this movement was the dream of a down-to-earth Kingdom first enunciated by the prophets of the tiny Land of Israel several hundred years before...”

This is why ancient Christianity was a threat to Rome - it challenged Rome’s propaganda about its promises of peace and prosperity. Paul said in 1 Thessalonians that, “when they say peace and prosperity, then comes sudden destruction.” Early Christians believed that true peace could only come through God. In Paul’s letters to the churches part of his greeting included the statement, “peace from God and from the Lord, Jesus Christ.” They knew where to find peace. But the reality is, as one quote states, “***Peace has to be created, in order to be maintained. It is the product of Faith, Strength, Energy, Will, Sympathy, Justice, Imagination and the triumph of principle. It will never be achieved by passivity and quietism. Passivity and quietism are invitations to war.***” On the second Sunday of Advent, I asked us to consider the subject, “Finding Peace.” “***For He Himself is our peace...***” (Eph 2:14)



We remember all of 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:

Ernestine Johnson-Curry

(Member)





JANUARY

Monday	02	Church Office is CLOSED
Friday	06	Leadership Conference, ST Iakovos Retreat Center 3:00pm
Saturday	07	Leadership Conference, ST Iakovos Retreat Center 8:00am – 3:00pm
Saturday	14	A.I.M. Aiming for Wellness (Ministry Leadership Launch), 8:30am @ CTK
Monday	16	Church Office is CLOSED
Sunday	22	BLAST Bake Sale, after worship
Saturday	28	Youth Prayer Breakfast, 8:30am Associate Ministers Council, 9am
Sunday	29	Youth Emphasis & Mission Sunday

FEBRUARY

Saturday	04	Deacon Council, 9:00am Leadership Council 10:00am
Sunday	05	Cherub Choir going to see “Bronze Ville Play”
Saturday	11	Senior Valentine Soul Food Luncheon, TBD
Sunday	19	BLAST Bake Sale, after worship
Saturday	25	A.I.M. Christian Educators Institute, 8:30am @ MT. Olive Associate Ministers Council, 9am
Sunday	26	Black History Program, 9:00am





Reverend Dr. Demetrius K. Williams, Pastor
Deacon Co-Chairs
Barbara Johnson & James Powell

MISSION

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

VISION

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

MOTTO

One Voice
One Vision
One Vocation

PILLARS

Leadership Development
Spiritual Growth
Church Unity



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