

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

2017 March Edition

GREETINGS CBCGM!

Greetings CBCGM! I do not want to sound too redundant in this newsletter (as I have been apt to do in past years), but time really does seem to fly! We are already in the month of March! It seems as if the new year has just begun, and now we are already entering the third month of the year. This should remind us that time can be friend or foe - how we use or manage time determines which role time plays in our lives. As we seek to continue to engage our assignment this year, we encourage those of us who have not decided what area of ministry we would like to serve in to use this time of Lent to engage in prayer and introspection, and to commune with God for the answer. May God grant us the strength of commitment and determination of will, along with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to keep faithfully the sacrifices we have made this Lenten season.

As always...

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

THEME

**Continuing Our Assignment:
Equipping God's People for the Work of MINISTRY**

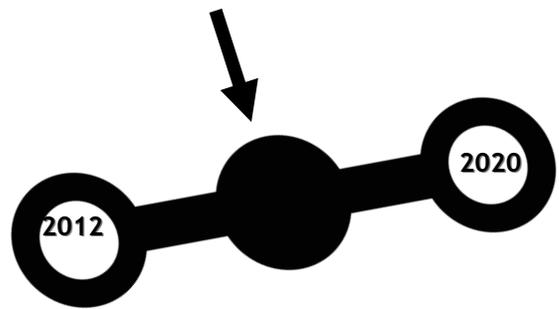
Ephesians 4:11-13 (CEB)

PROSPERING THE VISION; OUR MID-POINT

Ebony S. Hagler

This section is entitled OUR MID-POINT because we started our ten year strategic plan in 2012 and it is set to conclude in 2022. The CORE TEAM of CBCGM took a break in January and in lieu of attended the 2017 Leadership Conference. We resumed meeting on Tuesday, February 7th at 6:30pm, kicking things off with prayer and a hearty meal catered by Jason's

Deli as part of their Community Partners Program which was delivered all the way from Brookfield free of charge. Any ministry is welcome to utilize this program or any of the countless others they have, please contact the church office for more information.



The Team got right into the thick of it by reviewing our updated 2017 Strategic Summary which encompasses our simplified vision & updated history. We spent the bulk of our time reviewing what is called our Scorecard Metrics, this is how we track our strategic initiatives and recommendations. It is a chart that shows what the item is, what the status is, the result, who is the leader accountable for it and start and end dates. The existing items all possess start dates of July 2012 because that is when they were originally crafted. The various Statuses include: Schedule, Update Needed, In Progress, On-Going, and Completed.

As we continue to keep our focus on our vision, let us be reminded that we are hosting a **Community Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, June 17 from 9:30am to Noon.** In an effort to become the epicenter of our community we must hear directly from our community. This is a great opportunity to know who is in our community, what the needs and concerns are and how we can better help. We start canvassing the neighborhood **Saturday, March 25th** leading up to the Town Hall. Printed materials will be available for distribution, but we are going to need some strong team captains to help us coordinate logistically. Who wants to step up and take the lead? Contact the office via email cbcgm@cbcgm.org or let any member of the core team know of your interest.

We are super duper excited to share with you that we have signed a lease with US Cellular and they will begin the process of erecting a tower on our vacant lot located on the corner of 44th & North Avenue. It will not happen overnight as there is quite a bit of work that needs to take place, but we anticipate that it will be complete by early 2018. The great news is we don't have to do a thing, other than collect the rent. :-)
Ain't God Good!!! We thank God for this blessing that has come our way and pray that we are able to further advance the kingdom without delay!

Once again, we humbly thank everyone who was involved in the original group of team members who laid the blue print for us to focus on for the next 10 years. Without your sacrifice of time talent and treasure we would not be able to easily take the reigns and continue to press forward towards our goals. Looking forward, we are prayerful that members will step up and help carry the torch for the following 10 years and beyond.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Ebony S. Hagler

Our February Leadership Council held on Saturday the 4th at 10am, with Pastor reading our theme scripture and Evangelist Naomi Jackson leading us in a powerful word of prayer. Deacon Willie Jude provided us with a Financial Overview of 2016. The trend over the year was that our giving has overall increased and the building fund is down by 4K because we are in the process of utilizing it. The personal loan was paid off, the elevator was paid off and we currently have overall outstanding debts of 20K including 8K to Hales Plumbing for work on our bathrooms.

Deacon Dorothy Walker-Cooper who serves as the chair on the board for Community Child Care provided the following statement “The Child Care Center is being phased out and as of right now is closed, this process began in December; it will be the decision of the church to decide how to utilize the space.” Pastor offered options for how the space could be used as there are ample ministry opportunities available.

As we continue to keep God’s house in order and equip God’s people for the work of ministry which entails many elements, we introduced a new way to communicate how to promote ministry events, activities and programs using the Ministry Promotion / Announcement Form. This Announcement Form will streamline the process so that we can spend more time worshipping and less time worried about what someone is going to say when they go up to the podium. Reformation can be difficult, however it is necessary in order to be effective in the kingdom of God. This form is currently available where the other forms are located in the drawers underneath our Church Mailboxes and will soon be available online. We want to thank those of you that have already started using it, even **Jr Usher President Jalon Brown** who wasn’t at the meeting but was obedient anyway. Kudos to doing things decent and in order!

A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.

John C. Maxwell



Our meeting concluded with Observations from our Pastor, he posed the question: How can you improve in achieving the church theme? He then asked everyone to list organizational challenges within ministry that hinder churches from being more productive. While the responses were varied, ultimately we were encouraged to assess our own strengths as leaders to know the vision, be in alignment with said vision, and not be about our own personal agenda, but to be about the agenda of God in serving others.

FINANCE UPDATE

Deacon Willie Jude

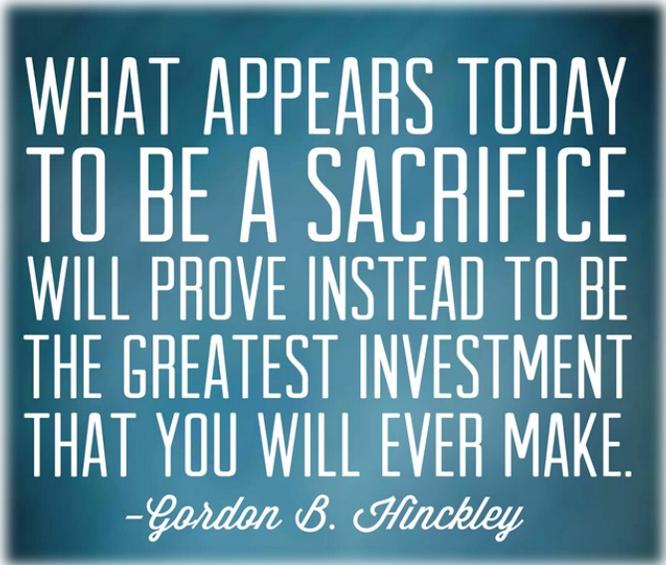
“CONTINUING OUR ASSIGNMENT: EQUIPPING GOD’S PEOPLE FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY”

We have completed the second month of 2017 and we continue to thank God for his many blessings. The Finance Ministry is committed and dedicated to the financial growth of CBCGM in 2017. We continue to acknowledge that God will do only for us which we are willing to do for ourselves. It is true, **while many of us do not believe it, “We can do all things through Christ who strengthen us”**, but we must make the effort in faith for God to intervene.

The Finance Ministry will continue to focus on the needs of the church and various ministries as we endeavor to reach out to those in need of spiritual redemption. We will continue to work with our Pastor, Associates, Deacons, Ministry Leaders, Core Team and most of all, the members of CBCGM to promote our three Strategic pillars. 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 people and community.**

Praise Him, Praise Him, let the Community Family Praise Him!

Phase 2 of our special projects is complete and we are entering the final stage of the bathroom project. It was your sacrifice and hard work that made it possible. We are asking each members to pledge an extra \$50 per month above their tithes and offerings for 2017. This is a special year. It marks our 40th year of existence and we want to complete the remainder of the renovations and repairs as well as pay down the mortgage. We presently owe approximately \$192,000 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. **Yes we can!!** Once again, the Finance Ministry wants to thank each of you for your ongoing support as we continue to work together to move our church and community forward in Christ Jesus.



WHAT APPEARS TODAY
TO BE A SACRIFICE
WILL PROVE INSTEAD TO BE
THE GREATEST INVESTMENT
THAT YOU WILL EVER MAKE.

-Gordon B. Hinckley



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Rev. Mike Robertson

Our revitalization plan for **Washington High School** did not make any significant progress in February. However, we remain hopeful that by working with Common Ground, community residents and other neighborhood organizations something will develop and we will report any developments when they take place.

Fresh Start Learning Inc. is growing and is currently in the process of occupying the second floor at 4325 West North Ave. as they expand by partnering with other organizations. Volunteers are always welcome, to learn more please call Nancy at 414-544-2649 or visit the office.

The **Love Kindness** program continues to distribute buttons. The program at Hi-Mount school recently added Love Kindness water bottles as part of their weekly awards. We continue to seek nominations for the Love Kindness person of the month and share any stories regarding specific acts of Kindness you receive, observe or perform.

There are currently no **Wealth Creation/ Debt Reduction** classes scheduled but if you want help in creating a budget call me at 508-561-3921 or email at msrobertson23@gmail.com.

We continue working with other neighborhood organizations and will report as we have news to share as we follow God's instructions to "Love ye one another"

MEN'S MINISTRY

Deacon Melvin E. Grisby Sr.

Greetings, this is the March addition of the Men's Ministry of CBCGM News Letter. Our mission is 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. We provide many opportunities for men to connect with one another as well as with other men to fulfill the purposes of Fellowship, Ministry, Discipleship and Worship as listed below:

Youth Forum every 2nd Saturday of the month from 8:00am to 11am. We invite all of the Youths of Community to join us and bring a friend or family member. We meet at the white house across the street at 4242 W North Ave. For those of you who has not attended one of these meeting come join in on the discussion, the youths always have a great topic to discuss.

5th Par 3 Golf Outing on May 27th 2017 at Madison Park, see Bro Herron, Bro Grisby or Bro Jude.

Weekly Tuesday Breakfast from 8:30am to 10:30am at 4242 W North Ave. Special thanks to Bro. Staples, Bro Herron, Bro Powell and Bro Phillips for their commitment.

Adult Game Night on the 3rd Friday of the month from 6pm—9pm at 4242 W. North Ave.

Male Chorus Rehearsal is on the 2nd and 3rd Saturday of the Month at 9:30am to 10:30am and we sing every 3rd Sunday. Every male in the church can lend his voice.

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

Mentoring Program with Hi Mount Elementary School. The first date for this year is 3/02/2017, Dr. Seuss Birthday - the men will read to the kids. Actual program will resume in the fall.

Remember, we need Every Man of CBCGM to be engaged in some area of work with us as we "Continuing Our Assignment: Equipping Gods People for the Work In Ministry."

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sis Candace Simpson

Equipping begins(as Pastor Williams has mentioned throughout his sermons) when a disciple is equipped for the work of the ministry and actively engaged in the work of the ministry. Today, many people believe being a disciple is something they add to their lives. It becomes one more thing to do in an already busy schedule. But authentic disciples are not the same as worship services attendees. Real disciples affect their environments with biblical values and truth. Sunday School is the arena that improves biblical knowledge and adds value to truth, it is critical to our spiritual development. Sunday School is extremely important for our youth as it provides an atmosphere for them to freely discuss faith-based topics in an age appropriate setting.

Sunday School and all other forms of Christian Education are essential to the body of Christ. Let us remember it's a precious inheritance to our children to be passed from generation to generation.



*SUNDAY SCHOOL AS
SOME OF US REMEMBER.*



*HOW DOES SUNDAY SCHOOL
LOOK NOW AT CBCGM ?*

Sunday School Meeting Notes

There was a discussion regarding starting Sunday School a bit earlier (7:45am) do to the time needed to cover the lesson and new members training. Creative and innovative ways to promote Sunday School were also discussed. We spoke about doing something called "Sunday School Live" which would include a video taping of Sunday School Review and placing an edited clip on our church website. Also there was mention to provide an extended version to our home bound members. Sunday School teachers, assistants and the need for more help was also a topic. Sunday School books and a distribution protocol was reviewed. The bulletin board usage in the lower level is a concern. "P.L.A.C.E. Training" and its value was discussed. There was also mention of minor needed equipment to allow for a more productive Sunday School . Scheduled meetings (time &

Now in its fifth year of publication, *So Send I You's* Lenten Devotional is a useful resource for African American Baptists observing the forty days of repentance and renewal known as Lent. The collection of meditations from distinguished clerics across the country and beyond the United States guides readers through meaningful reflection upon themes of the season and cultivates disciplines of social piety—prayer, fasting, and alms-giving. As a project of a global missions initiative, the devotional highlights the ministry of various mission stations and missionaries around the world through pictures and commentary, with the goal of rallying support for the greatest mandate of the Master—to go into all the world and preach the gospel. With the current participation now exceeding 100 churches, *So Send I You* offers this series for pastors and congregations to practice spiritual disciplines with intentionality, experience the renewal and grace of the season, and make a commitment to the work of God on foreign soil.



Each year congregations receive their allotted number of devotionals and distribute them among their disciple-members, with the understanding that each member sets aside \$1 per day for forty days, to be given as a foreign missions offering on Resurrection Sunday. Pastors have found this model to be helpful in raising consciousness about missions and leading their congregations in giving toward this end. Over the years, the devotional has been used in a number of ways to enhance the observance of the season and aid the spiritual maturation of readers.

First-time pastors and congregations to the devotional may consider using the resource in any of the following ways:

- ◆ Host a daily prayer call that centers on the devotion of the day.
- ◆ Start small groups to delve deeper in the study of daily scriptures.
- ◆ Use devotions for discussion & reflection in Bible Study during the season.
- ◆ Post devotional highlights in social media platforms.
- ◆ Highlight significant portions of the devotions during pastoral observations in worship.
- ◆ Invite membership to pray for mission stations & missionaries featured in the devotional.

Remember: To ensure a faithful return in giving, the message of missions—that which stands behind the publication—must be communicated and emphasized throughout the season.

Blessings Upon Your Keeping of Lent.

FIRST SUNDAY SERMON

Rev. Dr. Demetrius K. Williams

“Established on Ethics” (Ephesians 4:12-15. Ethics are important because the church must be reflective of the principles upon which it is built. Ephesians mentions that our assignment is not only to equip the saints for the work of ministry, but also to “Build up” the church. *We must realize that the church is only as strong as the materials used to build it up.* Our goal is to become mature people. We must have emotional maturity.

Emotional maturity refers to your ability to understand, and manage, your own emotions. Emotional maturity is defined as how well you are able to respond to diverse situations, control your emotions and behave in a mature manner when dealing with others. “Children have a much better chance of growing up if their parents have done so first.”

A mature person is able to keep long-term commitments. One key signal of maturity is the ability to delay gratification. Part of this means a person is able to keep commitments even when they don’t feel like it.

A mature person possesses a spirit of humility. Humility parallels maturity. Humility isn’t thinking less of yourself. It is thinking of yourself less. Mature people can receive compliments or criticism without letting it ruin them or sway them into a distorted view of themselves. They are secure in their identity.

A mature person’s decisions are based on character not feelings. The mature live by values. They have principles that guide their decisions. They are able to progress beyond merely reacting to life’s options, and be proactive as they live their life. Their character is matter over their emotions.

A mature person expresses gratitude consistently. I have found the more I mature, the more grateful I am, for both the big and little things. Immature children presume they deserve everything good that happens to them. Mature people see the big picture and realize how good they have it, compared to most of the world’s population.

A mature person knows how to prioritize others before themselves. A wise man once said: A mature person is one whose agenda revolves around others, not self. Certainly this can go to an extreme and be unhealthy, but I believe a pathway out of childishness and immaturity is getting past your own desires and begin living to meet the needs of others less fortunate.

A mature person seeks wisdom before acting. Finally, a mature person is teachable. They don’t presume they have all the answers. The wiser they get the more they realize they need more wisdom. They’re not ashamed of seeking council from others or from sources. Only the wise seek wisdom.

A mature person has the capacity to receive and give love. Love is the greatest power in the world. As humans, we are born with the capacity to love. The greatest differences between us are how we communicate our love.

The list on the next page of mature qualities come from trained psychologists. What is amazing is that their assessment squares quite interestingly with what the scriptures say.

When we edify (“to Build up”) the body of Christ, let us do it with **sensitivity**: *“Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another” (Romans 14:19).*

The church is a mixture of *spiritually mature and immature* people, and those who are new to the faith. Choosing to be *sensitive* instead of judgmental within the body of Christ can be edifying and allow the church to continue to grow as outsiders sense our sincerity towards each other.

Edify with Unselfishness: *“Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification” (Romans 15:2).* It’s easy to be selfish, we don’t even have to think about it first to practice it. Yet we need to recognize the opportunities to practice selflessness towards others. The church is built up when we build up one another with positivity.

Edify with Proper use of Authority: *“Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the authority which the Lord has given me for edification and not for destruction” (2 Corinthians 13:10).* There are times when we might be stretched in our faith by the teachings of church leaders. Conscientious pastors are compelled to preach truth even in sometimes difficult circumstances. As the body of Christ, we have the responsibility to edify our leaders and church by respecting and obeying what the Bible teaches about authority.

Edify with Love: *“Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up (edifies)” (1 Corinthians 8:1).* Nothing builds up the church more than the demonstrated love of Christ. Our spirits can be rejuvenated by the Holy Spirit when we sense and appreciate the love of God demonstrated through God’s people.

Edify with our Gifts: *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-12).* God has poured out spiritual gifts on the church. As we come into the knowledge, application, and demonstration of our own individual spiritual gifts—we have the responsibility to help grow and build up the church. Our gifts aren’t meant for our own personal edification; rather, we are meant to use our gifts for others.

Edify with Encouragement: *“So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing” (1 Thessalonians 5:11).* There are many times when under severe pressure, hope can seem elusive to the saints of God suffering under tremendous persecution. As believers/disciples, we have the ability to build them up in the faith with hope from God’s word. By knowing and sharing the truth of Scripture, we can witness the power of God breaking the grip of despair.

Edify with our Testimony: *“The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers” (Acts 9:31).* When the Lord intervenes in our lives, we should never keep it to ourselves. Sharing our testimony—both the good and bad parts of it—can strengthen those who have difficulty believing that God will do great things for them. Our truthful testimonies give others the ability to overcome fear, anxiety, and doubt. Notice too that the church became stronger as the believers lived in fear of the Lord. It also grew in numbers - with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit!

Edify with our Words: As our chosen scripture says; *“But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying (“building up”) of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:15-16).* The words we speak are so much more powerful than many of us recognize. Our words can bring life or death. By speaking the truth in love, we grant grace to the hearers so that they can progress in this life when bombarded with overwhelmingly negative words.

I hope it is clear to us now that as disciples, we are equipped by the Spirit of God to edify and build up the church. By practicing humility in the process of growing in the faith we can help to edify one another as we build up Christ’s kingdom. AMEN.



2017

*get involved
be the change*

MARCH

- Friday 03 Marriage Game Night, 6pm-9pm
- Saturday 04 Deacon Council, 9:00am
Leadership Council 10:00am
- Sunday 05 Marriage Recognition Day
New Member Fellowship, after worship
- Saturday 11 BLAST Neighborhood Canvass
- Sunday 12 **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS >>>>>>>>**
- Saturday 18 ALL CHURCH Spring Clean, 7am
A.I.M. Missions/Evangelism Workshop, 8:30am-2pm CTK
- Saturday 25 Associate Ministers Council, 9am
Start Neighborhood Walks thru May/June leading to Town Hall
- Sunday 26 BLAST Bake Sale, after worship
A.I.M. Deacons Ordination, 4pm @ TCBC



**Starting March 5th Sunday
School & New Members Class
will begin at 7:45am**

**This will
give us...**



Thanking YOU in advance for being so flexible.



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:

Susie Pane Boyd

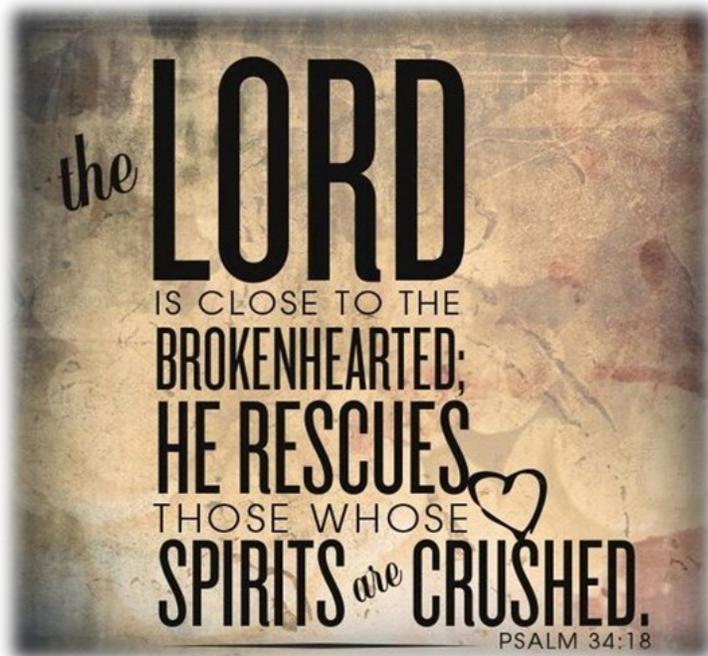
(Niece of Mr. Steve Maclin)

Bellzora Bruce

(Sister of Bessie Smith)

Martha Ann Joyner

(Mother of J. Brenda Hagler & Grandmother of Ebony S. Hagler)





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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