



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

2017 May Edition

GREETINGS CBCGM!

The old saying, “April showers brings May flowers” has rung true this past month in this regard: there were over 20 rainy days in the month of April. But now that May has come, the sun has been shining clearly and brightly and, at least from my point of view, it is greatly appreciated! Greetings and welcome to another edition of our monthly newsletter. As you read through the submissions, please think about where it is that you might serve to share your gifts and serve God and others. As many of you already have heard or read, we have been engaged in our neighborhood walks with the hope of getting in touch with the community and making a positive impact. How might you assist in this endeavor?

I have a suggestion:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Demetrius K. Williams'.

Rev. Dr. Demetrius K. Williams, PASTOR

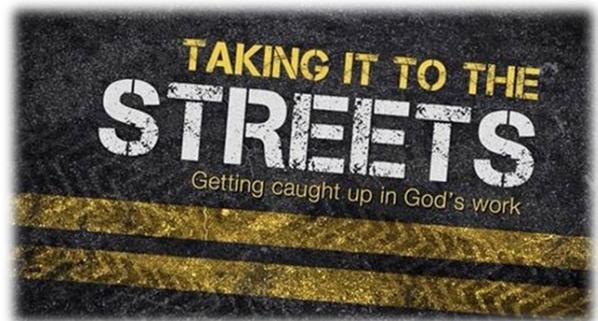
PROSPERING THE VISION; OUR MID-POINT

Ebony S. Hagler

Can you believe we are approaching the middle of 2017? Time sure does fly when you are busy doing the work of the Lord! The CORE TEAM of CBCGM convened on Tuesday, April 4th, kicking things off with prayer. This was Bro Marcus Patton's last meeting with us, so while we feasted and wished him well, we also were able to welcome the newest member to the team, Sis Darlene Jones, who expressed a desire and a commitment to serve with gladness. God is Good, He is moving His agenda forward with authority and there is a shift in the atmosphere at Community. Several agenda items that coincide with our strategic initiatives were discussed at this meeting:

- ◇ **Adopt-A-Block Program, keeping our city clean**
- ◇ **Black Health Symposium with workshops, screenings and speakers**
- ◇ **Financial Health; saving & understanding money**

Our main objective as the CORE TEAM of CBCGM is to take the ball of ideas that were already established and stretch them out to determine which are reasonably achievable as well as measurable. We humbly thank all you for your continued prayers as we continue to press toward our goals as one body in Christ. Looking forward, we are prayerful that everyone will do their part using their gifts to help carry the torch for the following 10 years and beyond.



THEME for 2017

**Continuing Our Assignment:
Equipping God's People for the Work of MINISTRY
Ephesians 4:11-13 (CEB)**

¹¹ He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. ¹² His purpose was to equip God's people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ ¹³ until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God's Son. God's goal is for us to become mature adults—to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Ebony S. Hagler

Our April Leadership Council held on Saturday the 1st at 10am was dedicated to developing leaders by Pastor Williams. After he prayed, he began talking about ministry in the 21st century in addition to what the expectation is for ministry leaders. Our main goal for 2017 is to actively engage the community. Yet, somehow over time we have become far removed from the community our church stands in and the time to bridge that gap is right now. It is our responsibility to equip the saints for the work of ministry, not church work and we do this by providing multiple forms of leadership in order to fully equip. In order for us to do work however we need tools which include prayer, fasting, reading the bible & training. Attending and actively participating in training ensures that we are all on the same page no matter what the majority decides and it mitigates tension so that we can all be mature in Christ, operating in harmony, stability and love. It is our individual responsibility to be humble and to CARE:

C-Communication

A-Affirmation

R-Recognition

E-Example

The Main Take Away is **“Talent is a Gift but Character is a Choice!”**

STAKEHOLDERS SUMMIT

We kicked off our Stakeholders Summit with our Financial update given by Finance Chairperson, Deacon Willie Jude, who asked the question - **How do you preserve the best of the old & embrace the best of the new?** With much thought and prayer. Progress on our restroom renovations are coming along smoothly and will be completed soon. We are also looking to update our phone & Internet to match our needs. Currently we are operating at 6 gigs which is extremely slow for the size of our edifice.

So we are looking to up our speed as well as consolidate our phone lines for the millennium. As far as our outstanding commitments; Hales plumbing has been paid 11k, of the 13k total installation cost and while the new organ was not a part of our 2017 budget, we were able to get a 3.4% loan! Praise God!

Was supposed to be 10 but ended up being 22% will be off in 3years

Nmsb we now owe 183k used to be 700k, drops by 4K every year

Our goal is to get this debt under 100 by the end of this year.

Our funeral policy with step by step guidelines and published fees for members and non members was introduced and is available on our website. Our wedding policy is being finalized and will be published soon.

Pastor Williams discussed the importance of our vision, and encouraged everyone to get on board and be involved. A few government officials have confirmed their attendance at our town hall June 17. Cleaning campaign a new attitude to take on. Working together we will become the epicenter of this community.

Evang Jackson prayed us out and we went to work doing spring cleaning around our church for a few hours.

#taking "IT" to the streets!!!

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH Neighborhood Walk/Witness Initiative

Min Jeffrey Eastern

What can I say, except, "WOW!" The energy, excitement, effectiveness of carrying out God's command of being witnesses for Jesus Christ as we, the church on the corner of Sherman and North Ave. transform this community through the working power of the Holy Spirit!!!"

Our first Saturday, April the 15th, approx. 45 strong took "IT" to the streets, North, South, East, and West. In our hands we had survey sheets asking our neighbors, "What do you think should be done to improve our communities? Do you think the church can do more, if so, what? and Will you join us for our Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, June 17th, from 9:30am - 12noon?"

Several responses to the survey were:

- 1) increased police patrol/bike patrol during the evening hours
- 2) the residents on 44th and 45th street would like to see speed bumps installed to slow down moving traffic due to children playing on the block
- 3) there are several drug houses that need immediate attention
- 4) in the park area, there should be closer attention paid to individuals engaged in criminal activities
- 5) we would appreciate if the church folks would just come out from time to time to let us know that they are still around
- 6) also in the park is a bullying issue with the bigger kids & the smaller ones
- 7) numerous requests for a massive clean-up in the area

These are just a few. The team Captains and Co-Captains are compiling the information. Some issues we are already in the process of addressing. Some of the others we are going to contact outside agencies to seek their co-operation to help.

We also left very important door hangers at residents where no contact was made with the church information and a special invitation to invite our neighbors to attend worship service and other church activities.

What was really impressive were the CBCGM Walkers who engaged with people at the bus stops, walking to work and to the store, standing around, etc. We took advantage of this opportunity to pray with numerous people and give encouraging words of hope in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. There was no fear nor apprehension in spreading the good news.

I want to personally invite any CBCGM member that has not or may be considering to come out, to come on out and join forces with these awesome Captains, Rev. Tim, Rev. Mike, Deacon Melvin, Bro. Jesse, Sis. Imani, Co-Captains Willie Jude, Zoli, Wallace Phillips, Claude Williams, Patrick Greer, & Big Mac, who are on point in executing this Kingdom assignment.

Last but definitely not least, a "SUPER SPECIAL SHOUT-OUT" to all of the saints that have given their time, driven by their love and compassion for the needs of man-kind to come out and make a difference in our community. Love all of you and may God continue to bless each and everyone of you!!!

FINANCE UPDATE

Deacon Willie Jude

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

We have made it through the fourth month of 2017 and we continue to thank God for his glorious blessings. The community family is committed and dedicated to the financial growth of CBCGM in 2017, as we continue to move forward in the name of the Father, in the name of the Son and in the name of the Holy Ghost. **We pray that when you review your First Quarter statement you will endeavor to do better in 2017 than you did in 2016 as God has blessed you.** We, as a church and as a people, will only improve our conditions when we decide to take action ourselves. **Mama may have, Papa may have, but God bless the child that has his own.** **We acknowledge that God will do only for us which we are willing to do for ourselves.**

The Finance Ministry will continue to focus on the needs of our church and various ministries as we endeavor to reach out to those in need of spiritual redemption. We will continue to work with CBCGM Family 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 move forward **“One Voice—One Vision—One Vocation.”** When we move as one body, **we will transform our people and our community.**



Wait! I believe I see a small light. The light appears to indicate that we are nearing the finish line, Praise

God! The bathrooms are nearing completion. Bro. Staples and his crew are working very hard to have them done as soon as possible. We want to encourage all of our members to **pledge an extra \$50 per month above your tithes and offerings which will allow us to pay for our new organ, repair the church roof and upgrade our internet system that interferes with our Video system.** This is also 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 our mortgage. We presently owe approximately \$184,000 and it is our goal to owe less than \$100,000 as of January 1, 2018. We are doing it with the help of God. **WE WILL DO IT! YES WE WILL!!**

#BLESSED

Sis DJena Kelly-Perry

Dear Church Family,

As my second year of college is coming to a close, I reflect on all this year has had to offer. I have been blessed with so many opportunities and for that I am so thankful to God. My workload for this year has been pretty intense. However, I've enjoyed my classes and the professors that teach them. I've been blessed with 2 leadership positions on Parkside's campus. I am a Resident Advisor in the dorms, as well as a Community Service Officer for the campus Police Department. I enjoy both of these jobs, and I'm grateful for the experience I'm gaining from them.

A few months ago, the church sent an email about an internship opportunity. The Federal Diversity Internship Initiative is an incredible program that gives students the opportunity to work for the federal government. I applied for the internship, and I am extremely honored to have been offered a position. This summer I will be a social media intern for the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs in Battle creek Michigan. This is a 10 week paid internship that coincides with my communication major. I am extremely excited for this opportunity and I know how blessed I am to be able to have this experience.

Since I will be gone for the majority of the summer, I will keep everyone updated on how things are going. I ask that you continue to pray for me as I embark on this adventure in a new city. I haven't received all of the details yet, but I will be leaving for the internship in the beginning of June, and returning home in the middle of August. I am a little nervous because I haven't been so far away from home for so long, but I know 2nd Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." I will do my best to continue to make my church family proud.

Love,

Sis. DJena Kelly-Perry



P.S. Since I will not be home to help with Vacation Bible School, please remember to volunteer and support the VBS director(my mama).



2017 CHILDREN'S DAY WEEKEND CELEBRATION

DISCIPLES IN TRAINING FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY

PROVERBS 22:6 & EPHESIANS 4: 11-13

Minister LeVette Crawl

Community, we are so excited to tell you about our Children's Annual Day Celebration! As you know, the Children's Ministry has planned a weekend full of fun & fellowship. We'll kick-off with our 2nd Annual CHILDREN'S RECOGNITION BANQUET which will be held on Friday, June 9, 2017, at 6PM, in our Fellowship Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity to show support and encourage our children as we recognize them for their achievements in school, within the Community and their faithful commitment to serving God in ministry and most importantly with their Lifestyle! Recognition will be for church participation, academic achievements, sports, and service to the community (*description of awards is listed below*). This year, we're so excited to fellowship with other Children's Ministries, as we have invited; Tabernacle Community Baptist Church, Providence and Zoe Outreach Ministries. We recognize how important it is for our children to fellowship with others, build relationships and foster true Spiritual growth. Following the banquet children ages 5-13 are invited to stay for the Lock-In!! We will close out our weekend with Sunday Worship, 9am. Please invite your family to come Praise & Worship Our Lord & Savior as we celebrate our Children!

DEADLINE to R.S.V.P. for the Banquet Dinner is May 12!!!

Information Forms for RECOGNITION AND AWARDS should be returned to Minister LeVette Crawl or Sis. Crystal Manuel by May 12. These awards recognize youth for earning good grades in school. They are either Valedictorians, Salutatorians, National Honor Society, Honor Society, 'A' Honor Roll (3.5 and above), 'B' Honor Roll (3.0 - 3.5), Principal's and Superintendent's Honor Roll students and/or top student in a particular subject area.

Community Service Awards: Recognize youth who go outside of home & church to help others.

Church Participation Recognition: These awards are for all youth members of CBCGM.

Scholastic Awards: These awards recognize those students who have been honored as Good Student, Student of the Week/Month, Citizenship Award, etc.

Perfect Attendance Awards: Recognizes attendance at school without any absences, excused or unexcused.

Graduate Recognition: This award recognizes children for the completion of requirements for entry into the next school level, ie. Pre Kindergarten, Middle/Junior High School

Athletic/Sports Awards: Recognizes youth who participate in one or more sports and have earned recognition for outstanding play or sportsmanship.

Arts/Music Awards: Recognizes students for their creative achievements in the Arts.

Love Kindness Award: Recognizes a youth member who exhibits an attitude of humility, a willing spirit and is sincere in his/her walk with the Lord. They are regular in attendance and seek to increase their knowledge of the Word.

Note to Parents: It is important that you complete the Information Form and turn it in no later than **May 12, 2017**. We'd like to recognize all of our youth for all areas of the achievement, but we can only do that if you provide us with all of the necessary information. Thank You in advance! :-)

FIRST SUNDAY SERMON

Rev. Dr. Demetrius K. Williams

On April 2, 2017 I preached a sermon titled, “A FAVORABLE ASSESSMENT” (1 Thessalonians Chapter 1). This sermon is the first in a series on Paul and Pastoral Ministry that will explore the challenges of pastoral ministry through Paul’s letters and apostolic experience.

INTRODUCTION. Human beings must engage in some form of work! While Genesis 3 states that labor is a result of The Fall, it also recognizes that some kind occupation is necessary for human life to function with meaning and purpose. There is no place for idleness or laziness in the biblical worldview - labor is a necessary and essential part of life. All honest work is honorable, even if we don’t like the job itself.

FIRST MOVE. 1 Thessalonians is considered Paul’s first letter.

- ◆ Not sure of the order (not dates given) but scholars are certain that 1 Thessalonians is first and Romans is the last of the so-called uncontested letters.
- ◆ In the Greco-Roman letter form, the first section is called the **salutation**. This is where we find the sender & addressee.
 - ◇ 1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.
 - ◇ The senders are Paul, Silvanus (Silas) and Timothy. They are all the co-authors.
 - ◇ It is unfortunate that Paul was not able to send co-authored letters with his first co-laborer and evangelism partner, Barnabas.
 - ◇ Sometimes there can be tension when people labor together. Differences of opinion are normal but that should not necessitate fissure and fracture in team relations.
 - ◇ They send this correspondence to “the church of the Thessalonians [who are] *in* God the father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” What does it mean to be in God the father and the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - ◆ This simple phrase “in God and Jesus Christ” means that you have a **new relationship** with the divine on account of what Christ accomplished on the cross. Before you believed the gospel and were baptized, you were outside of God’s will and redemptive plan.
 - ◆ Ephesians puts it this way: “In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world *without* God and *without* hope.” (Eph. 2:12)
 - ◆ It also represents a change of spiritual status - You are a part of God’s family.
 - ◇ Ephesians 2:19 comes to our aid again: “Therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens of the saints and members of God’s household...”

Paul ends the salutation on another significant note. The Christ event has introduced a new era - an era of Grace & Peace.

- ◆ Peace was one of the promises of Rome - the *pax Romana* (“peace of Rome”). But political regimes peace always hides levels of inconsistency.
 - ◇ Peace for some and not for others
 - ◇ Peace promoted and sustained by violence
 - ◇ I become frightened when I hear politicians talk about “law and order”
 - ◇ Real peace cannot come from the outside in, it must come from the inside out
 - ◇ MLK noted that peace is not just the absence of violence but also the presence of good will (toward all)
 - ◇ God promises us that we can have peace in the midst of trouble
- ◆ Humankind was under the wrath of the law but are now under the dispensation of Grace. Grace is defined as “unmerited favor of God”. We did not do anything to deserve it. All we have to do is receive it through a relationship with God through Christ. This is why it pays to be “in God the father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

SECOND MOVE. The second element of the Greco-Roman letter form is known as the Thanksgiving Paragraph. It is here that Paul and his co-authors make space to establish rapport with the addressees. This section is used for the sender to say something nice about the addressees; something to be thankful for. It can be tough if one has difficulty finding at least one thing to be thankful for in regards to someone else. There was only one Christian community for which Paul could not find one reason to be thankful to God; that was the Galatians. The letter to the Galatians is absent a thanksgiving paragraph, for to desert Christ for anything else is to be without thankfulness. This is not the case with the churches of Thessalonica; Paul has very much for which to be thankful.

- ◆ He says with profound sincerity and confident assurance: “We always give thanks to God for all of you...”

It is a blessing to feel so favorably disposed to someone or a group of people in this way. The very thought of them brings a sense of joy and thanksgiving. I often feel this way when I think of my parents. It gives me a profound sense of joy and thanksgiving when I think about how they raised my siblings and me and the sacrifices they made for the sake of their family.
- ◆ Paul & his co-authors are thankful for “all of [them]” & goes on to say - “and mention you in our prayers, constantly...”
- ◆ Why is Paul so thankful for them and remembers them before God and Father? **Why does he give them such a favorable assessment?** Is it the financial support they have provided for him? Have they leveraged some political influence to get him out of a particular bind when he was in trouble? No, it was the way they responded to the gospel message and bore witness to that faith with appropriate evidence. **He is thankful for their “work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”**
 1. We know that having faith does not replace our doing good works. Works do not save us, but they are expected as evidence of our faith. The issue is not “works or faith” but “works of faith,” since “faith without works is dead” (James 2:20, 26). If “faith without works” is useless, then surely “faith with works” is useful!
 2. We must practice works of faith to be blessed. Our Savior expects us to become coworkers with him in the salvation of all humankind. Paul writes again in Ephesians, “For we are [God’s] workmanship, created *in Christ* Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).
 3. God wants us to stop doing bad works and begin doing good works—to quit practicing selfishness and start practicing godly love, and engage in works of faith. It is time to discern that, not only did Christ die to make it possible for us to have eternal life, but also to give us the opportunity to “live for righteousness” - that is, practicing that which produces fruit.
 4. A labor of love is an act that is voluntarily undertaken and performed without consideration of any benefit or reward. It is done because it is right to do. This is the essence of ministry!
 5. Finally, the Thessalonians were favorably assessed due to their steadfastness of hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - ◆ Steadfast means, resolutely or dutifully firm and unwavering.
 - ◆ The Thessalonians displayed *steadfast loyalty* to Christ:
 - ◆ faithful, committed, devoted, dedicated, dependable, reliable, steady, true, constant, staunch, solid, trusty, firm, determined, resolute, relentless, implacable, single-minded, unchanging, unwavering, unhesitating, unfaltering, unswerving, unyielding, unflinching, uncompromising
 - ◆ As 1 Corinthians 15:57-58 tells us, “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **58** Therefore, my beloved,[n] **be steadfast**, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.
 - ◆ This is the example that Jesus displayed for us to follow. He was faithful.
 - ◆ Subjective genitive - we are saved by “Faith in Christ”
 - ◆ Objective genitive - we are saved by the “Faithfulness of Christ”. It is his faithfulness to God’s plan that saves us!

Let’s follow the example of Christ so that we too can receive a favorable assessment of our “work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

AMEN



2017



MAY

- Saturday 06 Associate Ministers Council, 9am
Deacon Council, 9am
Leadership Council 10:00am
- Sunday 14 Mother's Day Presentation
- Saturday 20 BLAST Flapjack Fundraiser
- Sunday 21 Mission Annual Day
HOPE Ministry Memorial Service, TBD
- Mon. -Wed. 22-24 Youth Revival, 6:00pm
- Saturday 27 Men's Golf Outing, 8:00am
- Sunday 28 Youth Rites of Passage
- Monday 29 Church Office is **CLOSED**



Fresh Start Learning Inc. hosts *I am a Survivor* women's empowerment group on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday from 6:30-8pm while Humble Beginnings Legal clinic is held every 3rd Tuesday from 2-4:30pm at white duplex across from our North Ave entrance. Nancy Yarbrough is working with Milwaukee Academy & recently had 15 young ladies graduate from a 6 week training program on prevention, accountability & healthy next steps open dialogue class. Nancy recently graduated from the leadership at End Abuse WI trauma informed care. She has been approved to go into correctional facilities, will be featured on Access TV is scheduled to do a TED Talk. Human Trafficking is a plague in our neighborhood & FSL is making a difference. If you want to volunteer, please visit or call Nancy at 414-544-2649.

***Vacation Bible School 2017
will be June 19—June 23**

*Volunteers
are
needed!!!*



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:

*"Blessed are those
who mourn, for they
will be comforted."
- Matthew 5:4*

Chester Gandy

(Brother of Bessie Smith)

Jessie Bea Fulford

(Mother of Earnest Fulford)

Regail Thompson

(Uncle of Nadine Hines)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We would like to thank the members for their continued support after the time change. We also thank the ministers, deacons and members for teaching on Special Sundays. It appears that Sunday School class attendance has increased. Let's keep up the good work of God's House. Please encourage yourself and more members to volunteer to be a teacher or substitute teacher. We need your support in order to influence more young men and women between the ages of 18 and 30 years old.

Bro. Wallace Phillips & Ralph E. Agnew

Sunday School Co-Superintendents





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

 Visit us on
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 www.youtube.com/CommunityBaptistChurchOfGreaterMilwaukee

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