



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

2017 August Edition

### GREETINGS CBCGM!

It seems to me that the spring and summer seasons never lasts long enough. July is now history and we have moved into August, and the return to school for many of our children. While we might desire some seasons to last longer (I certainly do! SUMMER!), each season has a particular function in nature - in spring plants begin to bud, in summer they grow, in fall they shed, and in winter they hibernate in preparation for the spring. I think this notion is important to remember in terms of our work of ministry. There are “seasons of ministry” too - planting season, growing season, and harvesting season. Sometimes we might become frustrated because we find ourselves in a season of apparent stagnation (or hibernation, if you will). What do I mean? Well, allow me to explain it this way. I happened to be channel surfing a short while back and landed on TBN and caught Joel Osteen in mid-stream delivering a message on commitment. He told a story about how his father who started Lakewood Church in Houston, TX in 1959 and was committed to the ministry even after fifteen years of preaching and teaching to the same 200 (or so) people week after week. He noted that his father pondered why the church was not growing, but he kept faithfully at his task. Then in the mid-seventies things began to change. It seemed that “all of a sudden” the church began to grow - 300, 500, 1000 members, and growing! Well, perhaps those years of apparent “non-growth” and “stagnation” were simply the season of hibernation, in preparation for a spring growing season! Listen, fruit-bearing trees may not produce fruit until its fifth or sixth year of existence. Bearing fruit requires time for preparation. This is why the Bible reminds us, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” (Galatians 6:9, KJV) This is the King James version, this is how it reads in the New International version (NIV), “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” May we be encouraged by this and continue to commit ourselves to the work of ministry, even when we become frustrated and weary with the apparent “stagnation” of ministry movement and progress. We’ve had a brief time of fun and relaxation for the summer, but let us reinvigorate ourselves for the work of ministry for the upcoming fall season. Remember, “in due season we shall reap a harvest, if we do not give up!” (A blending of KJV & NIV). As always,

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

Rev. Dr. Demetrius K. Williams

PASTOR

# PROSPERING THE VISION, STAYING THE COURSE

*Ebony S. Hagler*

As planned last year, the month of July was reserved for our leaders to recess, take a break, rest & relax. This included the Associate Ministers, the Deacons, the Ministry leaders as well as the CORE TEAM of CBCGM.

But as we rest let us not lose sight of our vision which is to **“Transform Lives by Serving God and Others.”** Our theme last year was to Engage our Assignment, our theme this year is to Equip God’s People for the Work of Ministry; yet I wonder if we honestly realize that this applies to all of us as one body in Christ. The toes are just as important as the nose and the ears are just as important as the mouth. Did you notice God gave us two ears on purpose? Maybe we should listen twice before we speak. Have we forgot how absolutely amazing our God is that He blesses us often times without us even asking, He protects us from dangers seen and unseen, He is always with us in light and darkness, He is the author and the finisher of time, He is immensely powerful, He is Holy!!! Min Tim Williams mentioned Fire several times in his sermon on July 30th. But it seems that when we are in corporate worship, not everyone feels the core of the flame but there are small sparklers that light up occasionally. We must ask ourselves, is God pleased with my worship & praise unto Him, not my neighbors. Am I a spectator of worship or an active participant? Did I open my mouth that He blessed me with to say Thank You, Glory to Your Name, & Halleluiah (The Highest Praise)? Did I raise my hands that He entrusted to me as a love wave unto God to say Yes Lord Here I am, Use Me, I am not ashamed, I am a Witness to Your Awesome Power!

When we talk about transforming lives, we must take a sincere, honest look within and ask ourselves are we truly serving with gladness, are we serving half-heartedly or with all our might?

Pastor of Willow Creek Community Church **Bill Hybels** states:

***“When God transforms the life of just one leader, that leader can transform a church. When one church is transformed, you can transform a community. And... eventually the entire world is affected with the positive, life-changing power of Jesus Christ and the restoring work of His people.”***

This is not just applicable to our leaders, but to every member of Community Baptist Church. When you look over the past 185 days, can you see how you have grown spiritually, how you have transformed? Have you taken full advantage of ample opportunities such as AIM conferences, Sunday School or Community Evangelism. Each newsletter that is published always has you in mind, go back and reread some of Pastor’s 1st Sunday Sermons or the inspirational corners and acknowledge the areas you need to work on. Ask God to show you where He wants you to be, what areas in your life need a little renovation. We are reminded of the biggest room in the universe which is the **room for improvement**. Our God deserves for us to not to be mediocre but rather excellent servants to Him and to others. Will He say to you well done thou good & faithful servant?

In addition, as many of you know our beloved day care that served thousands of children for over 30 years closed at the end of 2016. There have been a few sales during July to sell those items. However the space that was occupied will now be available for more ministry usage. What do you think we should use the space for? What do we need, not just for us but for our community? Your input in writing is always welcome as we continue to transform lives by serving God & others.

# YOUTH FORUM RECAP

Crystal Manuel

*The purpose of the meeting was because gifts and talents are not being used and we want to engage, excite and inspire our youth.*

Meeting was called to order at 8:42am. Pastor Williams opened with prayer.

A handout was given out which included 3 questions:

- Discuss openly and honestly what hinders parents and others from becoming active in children & youth ministry?**
- Deliberate how we can move forward positively and purposefully to more effectively engage our assignment to “train up a child in the Lord.”**
- How can we dedicate ourselves more faithfully and intentionally to the work of youth and children’s ministry?**

## **What are the hinders to parent’s involvement:**

- Last minute changes/cancellations to meeting, rehearsals and other activities
- Disorganizing, proper planning
- Need a space/facility that is catered to the children and youth
- More follow up with parents about upcoming events/reminders
- Parents also need to be committed if their children are asked to do something or if the child shows interest
- Parents and children work and school schedule, other commitments

## **Why is there low attendance in Sunday school?**

- The time changes
- Difficult getting children ready in the morning when they had activities the previous day
- The lesson/teaching is not engaging. Too much talking and not enough activities
- Children are being forced to participate, the same kids are being called on to read, answer questions etc.

## **Children & Youth Concerns**

- Church/Sunday school is boring
- Not enough kids showing up
- Youth choir was not effective due to attendance and leadership, musicians need to have patience
- Parents forcing children to get involved in ministry
- They want someone who can relate to them

## **Possible Solutions**

- Have a paid children and youth director
- Possibly move Sunday school to after worship service
- Have younger Sunday school teachers
- Separate meeting with leadership to define roles so that everyone is on one accord
- More field trips- educational, outreach, service and Christian
- Some type of reward system for kids who show up to Sunday School, BLAST etc.
- More advertisement of events, youth calendar of events posted in the vestibule
- Survey to parents to get their feedback and input on what is going well and what changes they would like to see happen

## **New Ideas**

- Let’s bring the youth choir back, new songs, younger choir director, recruit outside of church (Minister E suggested involving some high school kids)
- Youth revival outside of the church and moved into a school
- Having children’s church once or twice a month
- Implementing a sports ministry

## **Focus for the next couple of months:**

- Meeting with Leadership (children and youth department)
- Get the youth choir started back up, define the age range, get a director & recruit members
- Pastor will send a letter out to parents encouraging the families to get involved in the ministry. (choir, Sunday school, BLAST and other activities involving the children and youth)

## **Things to revisit or what worked in the past**

- Baptist Training Unit: Jeopardy, games, competition etc.
- Bring back the Sunday school review
- Work with AIM on youth development, involvement and activities
- Look at out of state youth conferences

The meeting adjourned at 9:42am



# FINANCE UPDATE

*Deacon Willie Jude*

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

**Can you believe it!** It is August, the last full month of summer in Wisconsin, less than three weeks before school starts.

We cannot say it enough, God has been good to us. He allowed us another opportunity to let our little lights so shine. Will we let them shine? We continue to move forward with the support of our church family and our mighty God. 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. **Once again, God is a God of action and we must be connected to Him or we will be left behind.**

The Finance Ministry continues to focus on the Mission and Priorities of CBCGM as determined by Pastor Williams. We continue to work with CBCGM Ministries Leaders and Members to promote the 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 are connected and move as one body, **we can transform our peoples and our communities.**

### **Answer to some commonly asked questions:**

**Q. How much have we raised as of June 30, 2017 toward our goals of \$60,000 dollars started in 2016?**

**A. After 18 months, we have raised \$43,344. We are \$16,656 short of our goal.**

**Q. How many individual members do we have at CBCGM?**

**A. We have 416 members on our register, but approximately 300 active members.**

**Q. How many families (households) do we have?**

**A. We have approximately 252 households.**

**Q. Are we financial better this year than last year at the same time?**

**A. We are approximately \$10 thousand dollars better than last year at the same time with fewer members, but we believe we can do more with the help of God.**

**Q. How much do we owe NMSB?**

**A. As of June 30, 2017, we owe \$168,191 and it is our goal to owe less than 100 thousand dollars by Jan 1, 2018 and burn the mortgage December 2018. We can do it!**

**Q. **When are the 2018 Budgets due from all Ministries?****

**A. The Budgets are due on or before September 30, 2017.**

**Q. **When will the bathrooms be completed?****

**A. We are not sure when both bathrooms will be completed, but the women bathroom should be completed in August. We are working with Bro. Staples to finalize the time line.**

As you can see, we are making progress and we thank God for what you have already done. **When praises go up, Blessings come down.**

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

*Reverend Michael Robertson*

At the July 18<sup>th</sup> **Men's Network** breakfast Professor Arijit H. Sen, UWM Asst. Professor of Architecture and Urban Studies attended with eight students who are enrolled in their **Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures Field School**. (BLC Field School) They are currently interviewing and visiting people and homes in our neighborhood and will be hosting their final exhibit/report at the **Finney Library**, corner of Sherman and North, on **Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> from 5-pm 8pm** with the students' presentations beginning at **6:00**. Everyone is invited and they are looking for as much input as possible. You can learn exactly what they are doing by visiting their web site at, <http://thefieldschool.weebly.com/> They recently examined the Washington Park neighborhood and now are moving north to look at our neighborhood.

Two police officers also attended the breakfast and indicated they were not aware of our Tuesday Breakfast and indicated they plan to attend in the future. This is a great beginning to our developing a better and more informed relationship with our police department. If you have issues you want to bring to their attention this provides a perfect opportunity since they are anxious to relate to the neighborhood they are serving.

The men's network and Sherman Park neighborhood volunteers met on June 27<sup>th</sup> to clean out the woodworking shop at **Washington High School** in preparation for shop classes that start when the winter rec. program begins. Once the program is considered to be successful, it will be offered to the students. At a meeting with MPS officials Mike Staples, who is leading this program, was offered much larger space with updated equipment at North Division HS. After examining that space with Bro. Jude they realized this was everything he could ask for in shop space. However, Mike advised them that the commitment of Community Baptist Church and the Men's Network is centered on improving our neighborhood which includes the Sherman Park community. This is a very exciting development since the Washington HS shop had been closed and used for storage for almost ten years. The involvement of Sherman Park residents makes this a true collaborative effort as our outreach efforts expand.

**We have hosted a number of Common Ground fund raising meetings at the parish house regarding their playing fields' renovation plan for Washington High School. A trust account has been created and initial funds deposited as the drive to raise \$500,000 begins in earnest.**

**Fresh Start Learning Inc.** continues to host *I am a Survivor* women's empowerment group on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday nights, 6:30-8pm while the Humble Beginnings Legal clinic is held from 2-4:30pm every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday. The upper unit of the duplex has been furnished & is available as a drop in spot. This outreach effort utilizing our building is making a difference as Human Trafficking continues to plague our neighborhood. Volunteers are always welcome, please call Nancy at 414-544-2649.

The **Love Kindness** program continues to distribute buttons, bumper stickers and Love Kindness water bottles at Hi-Mount school. The annual awards to each class's Love Kindness winner of the year were awarded at an assembly meeting in June before the entire school. A Love Kindness award has recently been created at the UWM school of Education as we expand this program.

We continue to meet with Betty Smith who runs the **Interfaith Elder Affairs** program at Washington Park. This is a program that reaches out to all older adults and we will invite Betty to come and share with us more about what they do and the help they need at a future church event or service.

# OUR ALL CHURCH COOKOUT

*Photos Courtesy of Vernon Singleton*



*From 1977–2017, we thank God Almighty for His continued blessings over these past 40 years and pray that He will forever be with us and grow us another 40 and beyond!*

# EVERYONE HAS A STORY

*Here's One of Ours...*

Son of  
Sis Gwendolyn Adesuyi:

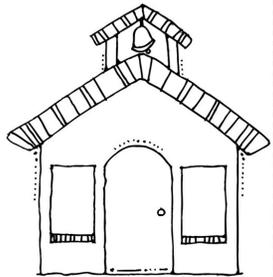


Dayo Adesuyi

## COLLEGE FAREWELL

This is the time of year when we wish our college students farewell as they depart to institutions of higher learning. The program put together by Sis Stephanie Hailstock and the scholarship committee was memorable and lovely. It included recognizing each student and doing a corporate prayer with their parents. In addition, Sis Jerycka Graves-Sinclair asked every student to recite the following promise:

### My School Promise



Each day I'll do my best,  
And I won't do any less.  
My work will always please me,  
And I won't accept a mess.  
I'll color very carefully,  
My writing will be neat.  
And I will not be happy,  
'Till my papers are complete.  
I'll always do my homework,  
And try my best on every test.  
I won't forget my promise,  
To do my very best!

## Office of the Controller Team Welcomes Tax Reporting & Compliance Director

Please join us in welcoming Dayo Adesuyi to the UNT System Office of the Controller team, where he will serve as the Tax Reporting and Compliance Director. Dayo brings more than 13 years of experience and expertise in tax reporting, regulations and auditing from his time at the Internal Revenue Service.

As the Tax Reporting and Compliance Director, Dayo will provide direction, guidance and oversight of tax reporting and for tax compliance for the UNT System. He will work collaboratively with the Student Accounting, Treasury and General Counsel departments. Among his duties, he will also be tasked with developing guidelines, procedures, policies, rules, and regulations.

While at the IRS, Dayo served as the Senior Revenue Agent/Auditor GS-0512-13. He was responsible for reviewing the compliance level of exempt organizations by reviewing their activities and books and records, and was also in charge of supervising numerous special projects. Dayo served as acting manager and provided feedback to examiners, applied leave policies, and prepared and submitted reports for leadership. He also prepared annual reviews and provided technical and procedural assistance to examiners.

In addition to those responsibilities, Dayo served on a committee that was tasked with rewriting a tax publication, as well as a committee where he was involved in proposing changes to treasury regulation. He was also a member of the Extended Core team for Unrelated Business Income (UBIT) K-Net, and was responsible for selecting the subject matter for Continuing Professional Education (CPE) as a member of the CPE planning team.

Dayo holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Master of Science and Bachelor of Business Administration, both from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is also a Certified Public Accountant.

"I welcome Dayo Adesuyi as a new Tax Reporting and Compliance Director to the UNT System Controller's team. His breadth of experience at the IRS will provide invaluable counsel to our campuses and customers dealing with payroll and foreign national tax matters. Dayo's experience in dealing and reviewing Unrelated Business Income Tax activities in his previous organization will also provide immense value for our campuses." — Abdul Mohammad, Sr.

# INSPIRATIONAL CORNER

*Minister Charlotte Flowers*

## August 6, 2017 thru August 12, 2017

*Psalm 128:2 (NASB) "When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands, you will be happy and it will be well with you."*

### **Ministry is Fulfilling Work**

There is nothing more fulfilling than being rested and ready for the work that God has called us to do. God puts the desire in us to minister to people through whatever work we do. But ministry is work requires physical, emotional, and spiritual strength.

Hard work is rewarding when you follow God's way and minister to other people through "the labor of your hands." That is why it is important to start your day with God. His presence will build you up emotionally. His words will strengthen you spiritually, and the time of rest that He calls you to enjoy will make you physically able to handle whatever comes your way.

## August 13, 2017 thru August 19, 2017

*James 1:25 (NASB) "But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does."*

### **Opportunity Brings Opposition**

Many people agree with a sermon or a Scripture, but they don't apply it in their everyday life, so nothing changes. They think that just because they agree with the Word, it should bring change into their life.

But change doesn't happen automatically; a person has to be a doer of the Word, not a hearer only. Jesus said, "Keep awake (give strict attention, be cautious and active) and watch and pray, that you may not come into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41). Every time you have an opportunity to believe God has something, you will have a temptation to give up on it. Pray that you will overcome temptation when it comes.

## August 20, 2017 thru August 26, 2017

*Romans 12:4-5 (NASB) "For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."*

### **Appreciate Your Calling**

Learn to appreciate the call of God on your life. He has a different call for everybody. None of us are called to do all the work that needs to be done, but we can enjoy the assignment we are given. We can also enjoy the work God does through others. Today holds an opportunity to mature in the knowledge of God and to enjoy whatever God has called you to do. Your part is needed. Ask God early in the day to show you where to use your gifts to help others.

## August 27, 2017 thru September 2, 2017

*Proverbs 27:17 (NASB) "Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."*

### **Iron Sharpens Iron**

If you want to do something for God, then don't associate with people who do nothing. You may have to drastically change your life if you want to move on with what God has called you to do. Spend time with people who know how to use their days well. Just as iron sharpens iron, positive people will inspire you to be positive. Godly people will inspire you to use your faith to do for the Lord that is in your heart to do. Spend time with people who are doing something for the Lord. Elisha got a double portion of Elijah's anointing, but he had to associate with Elijah for a long time to get it (II Kings 2:1-14).

# FIRST SUNDAY SERMON

*Rev. Dr. Demetrius K. Williams*

**“AN ENCOURAGING REPORT” Part 2** (1 Thessalonians 3:6-13). In our sermon, “The Heart of the Matter (2)”, Paul ended in v. 5 on a discouraging note: “I was afraid that somehow the tempter had tempted you and that our labor had been in vain.” It is evident throughout this letter that Paul believes he is fulfilling his role of equipping God’s people for the work of ministry. How? Teaching the word with the aid of the Holy Spirit (1:5). In deed or behavior: *Memesis* - imitation - the body of Christ should look like its head (the meaning of Christian = “Christ-like” (follower). Under-shepherds should seek to model the master in his humanity!

He mentions that there had been some progress in this endeavor but Paul is justifiably concerned about the status of this community. So he sent Timothy, one of his most trusted co-workers to inquire about their status and well-being. And much to Paul’s delight, Timothy returned with an “encouraging report.”

## **FIRST MOVE**

It is a good thing to hear a good report especially when things might have gone awry. But Paul may have had to wait for weeks or months before he received the encouraging news from Timothy. Communication could be slow in ancient times. We are used to real-time communications that is available at the tip of your fingers. We live in a world characterized by technology and the digital revolution.

- ◆ Agricultural Revolution produced (the letter)
- ◆ Industrial Revolution (thermodynamics produced [the telephone])
- ◆ Digital Revolution produced (global wireless communications) [wifi, **cell phone**, face book [live], twitter, snap chat, youtube, vine videos, etc.]

When communications are slow; when you are awaiting some information or news a report; **what do you do in the meantime?** Some people are better than others at weathering these periods, able to go about their normal lives while only occasionally dwelling on what might happen. Most people, however, are nearly paralyzed by uncertainty, while riding the waves of hope and despair as they ruminate over every possible outcome. We might do better during these times to: **1)** Believe that God hears your prayers and wants the best for you, **2)** Watch with expectancy but be prepared for the unexpected, **3)** Resist fretting, **4)** Refrain from anger, **5)** Choose patience, **6)** Be strong and take courage, **7)** Don’t go your own way, **8)** Continue steadfastly in prayer, **9)** See the situation as an opportunity for & expression of God’s grace, knowing that all things work together for the good...

Paul gives some indication that he was anxious about their situation in 3:1 when he says, “When I could bear it no longer...” But he gives no hint as to his emotional state once Timothy left. In either case, an encouraging report is always a good thing!

## **SECOND MOVE**

What was the basis of Timothy’s encouraging report? **1)** Their faith was intact, **2)** Their love was still active, **3)** They were still kindly disposed to Paul, and wanted to see him face to face, **4)** The feeling was mutual

This positive report encouraged Paul in his own situation. Good news can have a dramatic a/effect on one’s emotions and outlook! In response to this encouraging report, Paul exhorts them to ***stand firm*** in the Lord (v. 8). This is a military term: ***Hold your ground*** - when an army gains territory; don’t lose your ground; don’t give quarter. Paul offers a benediction (“blessing”) in vv. 11-13: “Now may the God and father himself and our Lord Jesus Christ ... make you “increase and abound in love for one another...” and to strengthen your hearts in holiness - consecrate, purify, cleanse, set apart. Why? So that you might be blameless before God at the coming of Jesus Christ! Jesus is getting us ready for that great day!

## **CONCLUSION**

I want to be ready when Jesus comes. Every day we’re getting closer to our goal. Are you ready? If not, I have an encouraging report, some good news for you today! JESUS can get you ready for that Great Day!

2017

Mark  
Date

- 06 Children's Choir Lemonade Sunday, after worship
- 12 Cherub Choir Excursion to Chicago
- 13 Senior Day
- 26 Youth Prayer Breakfast, 8:30am
- 27 Women's Day, 9:00am



**Resumes on  
September 13th, 2017**



*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:*

***Albert Alan***

*(Brother of Anthony Parker)*

***Gertrude Gray***

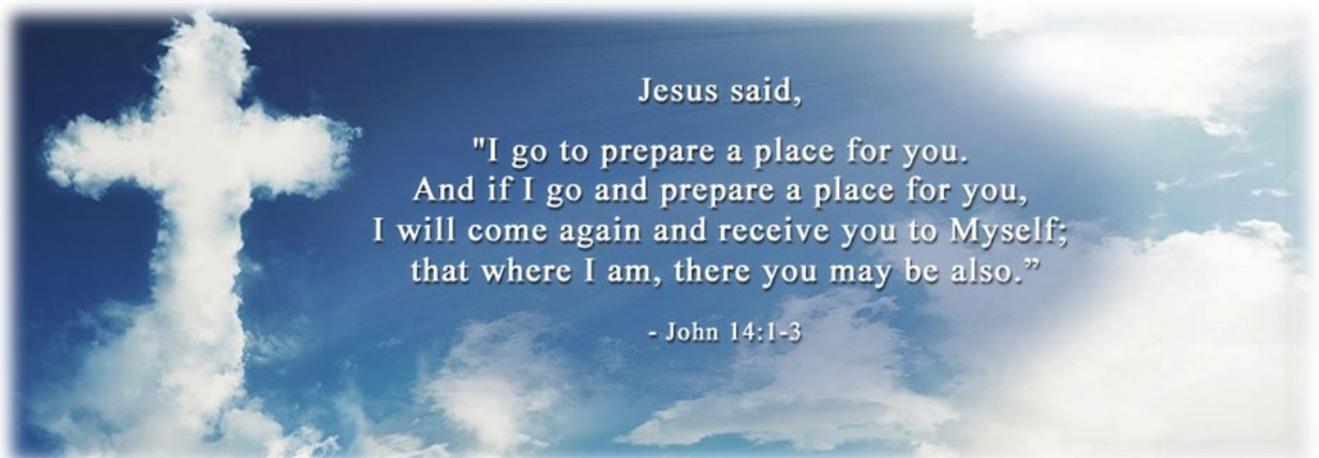
*(Member)*

***Cornell Anthony Greer***

*(Brother of Patrick Greer)*

***Reba Jean Jackson***

*(Sister of Barbara Johnson)*



Jesus said,

"I go to prepare a place for you.  
And if I go and prepare a place for you,  
I will come again and receive you to Myself;  
that where I am, there you may be also."

- John 14:1-3



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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