



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

2017 September Edition

GREETINGS CBCGM!

Another fast-approaching fall season is soon to make its appearance in our weather and the rhythm of our lives - It is the back-to-school season! As I reflected upon this season, I realized that my life has been operating on the rhythm of an academic calendar for as long as I can remember. This season is also a reminder of my Tulane University days in New Orleans, LA. The fall season in the Gulf South is also hurricane season! On more than one occasion, my family and I would leave the city to avoid a potential hurricane in or near the New Orleans area. There was no greater reminder of this threat than the recent devastation of Hurricane Harvey on coastal cities in south east Texas, the most notable of which is Houston. I could not help but to reflect upon Hurricane Katrina and the lasting affects it has had on my family and countless others who evacuated twelve years ago (August 29, 2005). While the recovery efforts for Houston will be long and arduous, the outpouring of love, acts of kindness and monetary gifts will help to ease the load, especially if carried out for the long haul. I know personally that there is recovery and grace after the storm! And remember, storms can come in many forms: financial, personal, interpersonal, social and political to name a few. But the blessing is that storms pass over. They don't last always! Let us remember the many victims of Hurricane Harvey not only in our prayers, but also by acts of kindness. What can we give (personally and collectively) to those in need? This question is what inspires and motivates up to "equip ourselves for the work of ministry". There will always be need; we must always be prepared!

As always...

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

Rev. Dr. Demetrius K. Williams

PASTOR

CORE TEAM; PROSPERING THE VISION

Ebony S. Hagler

At our August meeting, we review the evaluations and results of our town hall forum. We discussed becoming involved in the World Peace Celebration which you will hear more about in the next issue. In addition there was a grant being given out by Alderman Stamper, so we had our team further research to see if we should apply for it. We also discussed obtaining houses to place those who have aged out of foster care, assisted living or group homes. However we are still prayerful in this arena & ask that you join with us in praying about our future endeavors.

By now you may have seen rain barrels in front of the church and at the parish house. Well, Community Baptist Church has partnered with Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District (MMSD) for a cleaner environment! We installed rain barrels at 4 of our properties in an effort to not only keep excess water out of the sewage system but save on our water bill by using rainwater to nourish our landscaping. Rain Barrels capture rainwater from your roof and use it later when it's dry outside to give thirsty gardens, flowers and trees a drink. Rain barrels help keep excess water out of the sewer system when it rains which causes flooding. They also help prevent rain from becoming polluted stormwater runoff, the biggest remaining threat to clean rivers and lakes in the United States.



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Ebony S. Hagler



For the month of August, our Leaders did not meet, however all were issued a budget packet that was inclusive of a letter from Pastor Williams, Ministry Expectation Checklist, MAP, Order of Worship Guide along with Budget Forms which need to be completed & turned into the church office by **September 30th, 2017.**

We would like to officially announce a recent change in leadership which is that after many years of service Sis Zumehka McCrary has stepped down as the Director of BLAST. We thank Sis McCrary for her dedicated service and pray that God will use her in other areas of ministry in our church. We are pleased to inform you that Minister LeVette Crawl will now be the Director of BLAST. She has been very busy the past few weeks not only getting the curriculum together but needed materials as well; preparing the rooms to receive our young people. Transition in leadership can sometimes be a challenge but we thank these two sisters in Christ who have been great leaders and shining examples of the proper way to do so. We know that God will use Minister Crawl to further develop the young minds of our Youth Bible Study and create disciples of Christ!

FINANCE UPDATE

Deacon Willie Jude

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

It is September and summer is swiftly coming to an end. Let us continue to enjoy the final weeks before winter arrives.

On behalf of our great pastor, Rev. Dr. Demetrius Williams, and the Finance Ministry, we want to thank each of you for your continuous commitment and dedication to the financial growth of CBCGM as we continue to move closer to the completion of several special projects while pressing forward with our many outreach programs. **It is not easy, but God never said it would be!**

The Finance Ministry continues to work very hard in assisting and supporting the Priorities of CBCGM as determined by Pastor Williams and the church leaders. We continue to work with CBCGM Ministries Leaders and Members to achieve the goals and mission of CBCGM. **It is very important that each of you become an active participant in the development of your ministry 2018 budget** and the finance ministry stands ready to assist you if needed. Each ministry leader should have received their budget information as of August 20, 2017. If you did not receive the information, please contact Sis. Simmons.

We must constantly 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 people, our families and our communities.**

Answers to some commonly asked questions:

Q. How long has CBCGM been established?

A. 40 years, CBCGM was established in December, 1977.

Q. Are we asking for a special contribution to commemorate our 40 years of services?

A. Yes we are. We are asking each adult member for 100 dollars.

Q. What will the money be used for?

A. It will be used to pay down the debt owed to NMSB.

Q. How much do we owe?

A. As of August, 2017, we owe approximately 160,000 thousand dollars and with your help and God’s blessings, we can get the balance under 100,000 thousand dollars by December 31, 2017 & burn the mortgage in December 2018. **We can do it!**

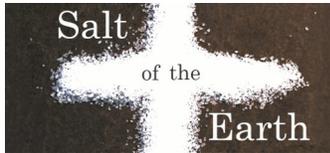
Q. **When are the 2018 Budgets due from Ministries?**

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

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

A. The bathrooms are scheduled to be completed September 30, 2017.

As you can see, we are growing our Vision. We are moving forward and we thank God for each of you. **We are salt of the earth! We are the small light in a dark world! We are the follower of Jesus Christ!**



SALTY SENIORS

D Jena Kelly-Perry

Good morning Community. To Pastor Williams, First Lady, members of the pulpit, guest and visitors. I'm sister DJena, and I'm here to speak for Senior Day. I want to focus on the theme scripture Ephesians 4: 11-13 which reads ¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Now, it's Senior Day, and we really need to take the time to appreciate our seniors for doing God's work. Seniors have been building up the body of Christ for years. They attend Bible Study, Sunday School, choir rehearsal, serve on the deacon and usher boards. They go with pastor when he's guest preaching at other churches. Every time there is work to be done, our seniors are there. And for that we thank you. And today, I want to be a voice for our seniors. Matthew 5:13 says "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet."

To me, this verse is saying that seniors are the salt, and if they lose their salty flavor, they are no good. So how do we keep our seniors from losing their flavor? We give them a break, that's how. We can't keep overworking our seniors and expect them to handle all of God's work. Ephesians 14:11 says Christ gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers. This means he didn't leave the task up to just a few people. Verse 13 says **we all need to reach unity and become mature to attain the fullness of Christ.**

This means, **it's time for some folks to be salt!** Turn to your neighbor and say "are you salty?" Do you attend Bible study and Sunday School to grow in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature? Are you volunteering your time and talents to God by helping in the church? Are you listening to the wise teaching our seniors have to offer or do you walk past them and don't speak?

Community we don't want to lose our flavor. I don't know about you, but I want to be salty. I want us to pick up were our seniors left off and be equipped for God's work.

Now seniors, I know ya'll are already salty, and I don't want you to be overworked, but I do want you to preserve your flavor. You might get to retire from your 9-5, but **Christian service is a job you never stop.** Don't forget that Abraham and Sarah were over 90 years old when Isaac was born. Moses and Aaron were both over 80 when they were called to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. And Daniel was over 80 when he served as the governor of Babylon and was thrown into the lions dens. And seniors weren't just active in biblical times, they continue to be the salt at community. We can honor our seniors by learning what it takes to be the salt of the earth. Bro Staples continues to renovate the church and it's time for Kelvin, Jamarion, and Zykevis to give him a hand. Mother Adesuyi is still teaching preschoolers Sunday school, and I was in her class 17 years ago, Me and Patrice can take over her class after we graduate. **There's work to be done.** Seniors, I'm giving you the same assignment Christ gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, and that is to equip his people for works of service. You can do this by pouring you wisdom, knowledge, talent and love into a young person. And young people, listen to what our seniors have to offer so when they are gone we can honor their memory, and continue to give flavor to community. Thank you.

FIRST SUNDAY SERMON

Rev. Patrick Greer

“LOVE IS NOT AN OPTION” (St. John 15:11-17). Before beginning today’s message, we received a reminder that we should never take salvation for granted. For some of us who have been saved for several years and understand the order of a worship service, we can forget how precious it is to be in God’s presence. We know the order of service. We come to church already knowing where the Choir will be seated. We know what the Deacon’s will do. We know where the Preachers will be and what their responsibilities are. If we aren’t careful worship can become stale. We can adopt a mindset that worship or life owes us something. We must remember life doesn’t owe us anything. Worship is what we put into it.

Think back to the time when we had more bills than money. The time when we had no idea how we would make it through. God showed up and he showed out. What about the time when the only car we had was a hooptie? Smoking out the exhaust? Worried whether it would make it the next block? Let’s never forget the times we didn’t know where the next meal would come from. Then there’s the moments in life for those who had a past with the drug scene. But by God’s grace today would be a day we would have meeting with the dealer. Or waiting outside the liquor store waiting for them to open so we can make our purchase. It doesn’t matter what our hang up was. Look where he brought us from!

WE HAVE JOY

Because of what Jesus did for us on Calvary we have joy. A review of St. John 15:11 reminds us that Jesus gave us joy and his desire is that his joy would remain in us and be full. The Greek work for joy is chara which means gladness. Notice how Jesus tied joy into love. When we focus on loving others we obtain a peace that we cannot explain to others. Have you ever noticed that when we invest time trying to help others who really want to be helped and not someone who wants to use you that it brings a sense of joy? As God uses us to help someone else along the way it makes us feel good. Why is that?

LOVE IS NOT AN OPTION

It’s because Jesus commanded (an order) us to love one another the same way he loved us. He didn’t wait until we got ourselves together and then started loving us. He said that there is no greater love than a man would be willing to lay down his life for his friends (St. John 15:13). God never asks us to do something he isn’t willing to do himself. He may not ask us to give us our physical life for someone else but there is another way we can give up our lives for others. The one who loses their life will find it (Matthew 16:25). When we understand what Christ wants us to do with our lives and dedicate our lives to doing that work we have given up our way for his. The life we thought would bring us joy doesn’t. It’s when we listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit and accept the direction we’re being led in that we find our lives. The key to it all is love.

It isn’t easy to love everyone but we must be willing to learn how. How can we say we love God who we have never seen but hate our brother or sister who we see every day (I John 4:20)? As we use our time, talents, and treasure to help change our community isn’t it love that’s leading us?

CHOSEN FOR A PURPOSE

In closing, we must understand that we did not chose Jesus but he chose us. He knew us before we were given life. He knew we would accept the call to salvation and to being his disciple. The goal now is to bring fruit. We have been filled with the love of the Lord and now we need to spread the Lord’s love toward others that the will of God would be done. God’s will is that none should be lost. No not one. Keep living & loving.



SEPTEMBER

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| Monday | 04 | Church Office is CLOSED |
| Saturday | 09 | Deacon Council, 9:00am Leadership Council 10:00am Stakeholders Summit, 11:00am |
| Saturday | 16 | Wonderfully Made Conference "I'm So Worth It", 8:30am A.I.M. Finance Workshop, 830am-1pm @ Prince of Peace |
| Sunday | 17 | New Members Fellowship, after worship |
| Tuesday | 19 | Youth Tuesday \$5.00 Movie Night |
| Friday | 22 | A.I.M. Deacon Retreat, @ Olympia Resort Family Fun Night, 6pm-9pm |
| Saturday | 23 | Associate Ministers Council, 9:00am |
| Sunday | 24 | Family Day |
| Saturday | 30 | MINISTRY BUDGETS ARE DUE! |



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

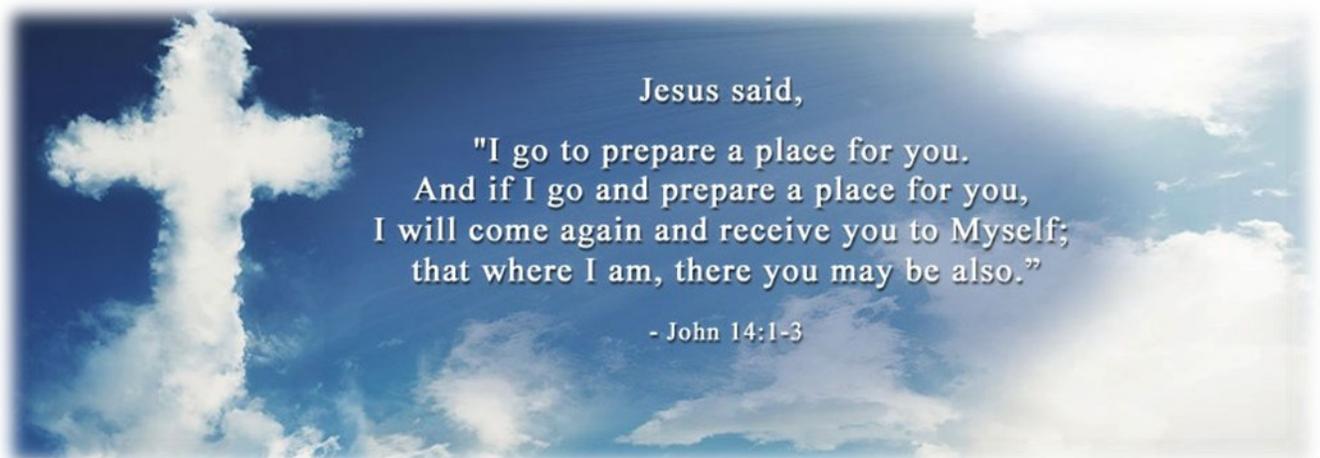
(Brother of Anthony Parker)

Bobby Charles Pack

(Brother in Law of Charlene Golden)

Ruby Williams

(Aunt of Suzzette Davis)



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

 Visit us on
Facebook www.facebook.com/cbcgm.org

 www.youtube.com/CommunityBaptistChurchOfGreaterMilwaukee

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