



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

2017 December Edition

GREETINGS CBCGM!

It is our prayer that you had a blessed Christmas and that God will grant you all the best of health and wealth in the coming New Year! As we close out with this final edition of the 2017 newsletter, may I remind us of our church theme - **“Continuing Our Assignment: Equipping God’s People for the Work of Ministry, Ephesians 4:11-13.”** As I reflect upon the various themes that have been emphasized over the years, I recognized first, that each church theme is chosen (in many cases with the prayerful assistance of ministry leaders) after much prayer and reflection upon what is needed to grow the ministry of the church in a particular area. So the themes are not haphazard or simply “pulled out of a hat.” Second, I recognize that we will never complete or exhaust any particular theme for any given year. In truth, one theme could be utilized for several years. But the purpose of church themes is to guide the work of ministry and of preaching and teaching for a given year. For example, it is expected of the church ministries that in the planning of yearly ministry events (either worship events or workshop or fellowship gatherings) the church theme is to be used and serve as a guide for their activities. It is my prayer, moreover, that the entire membership, not only the leaders, but individual members will employ the church theme in their yearly outlook. How so? By participating as much as possible in the life and activity of the church. Attending Sunday morning worship is the minimum expectation of a church member. However, a member-disciple seeks to develop his or her spiritual gifts by participating in church ministries and Christian educational opportunities as much as possible. This is no different than preparing for a career - you must be willing to be trained in order to execute your duties properly. This was the purpose for the 2017 church theme - “to equip God’s people for the work of ministry”. How successful were we? I hope to provide a brief analysis in early 2018.

As for the 2018 church theme - **“Prospering Towards the Future: Tradition, Transition and Transformation, Haggai 2:8-9”**, the same expectations apply; and perhaps I can even provide an explanation for the importance of this theme for the coming year. As we all know, CBCGM recently celebrated its 40th-year anniversary, and as Deacon Willie Jude elucidated during the anniversary celebration, a 40-year period is a complete generation in biblical terms. For example, the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, until a new generation arose. So, like the children of Israel, we have symbolically entered into a new period, a new beginning, a new generation of opportunity. For this reason, in prayer and reflection I sought a theme that could exemplify this new symbolic reality that respects the past (tradition), recognizes the importance of seizing the opportunities of the present (transition), and discerning, planning and making necessary changes for the future (transformation). The passage in Haggai 2:8-9 captures the theme significantly for the reason that after the Jews return to Judah from exile and the building of a new temple, some returnees who had known Solomon’s temple viewed the newly constructed temple as a poor and inadequate representation of the former temple’s glory. They were stuck in the heyday of the past (tradition). But God exhorts the people “to be strong and work” (v.5 transition) for “I will fill this house with glory (transformation), and “the glory of this house *will be* (future tense) greater than the glory of the former house” (v. 9 - transformation). I believe that with the foundation that has been laid (tradition) we are positioned to take advantage of new opportunities for growth and improvement (transition), as we “work” (as God commanded the returnees) toward the future (transformation). God promised to be with them/us (v. 9) in prospering them/us toward the future. This can be done, if we are....

PRESENT. PRAYERFUL. POSITIVE. IMPACTFUL.

Rev. Dr. Demetrius K. Williams
PASTOR

CORE TEAM; PROSPERING THE VISION

Ebony S. Hagler

At our final meeting of the year, we did what we traditionally do and held a celebratory Potluck dinner. We fellowshiped and enjoyed some delicious food. Our check in questions was:

WHAT GOALS HAVE YOU ACCOMPLISHED THIS YEAR?

There were several great things that occurred, here are a few:

Finished school, Procrastinated less & Lost weight through a lifestyle change.

We discussed our current structure as far as number of members, expectations of members, method of communicating and frequency of meeting. Its important to take a moment to review where you are and what's working and what areas need improvement in order to be most effective. We plan to continue this discussion in January. We are transitioning to working more collaboratively online and will be producing a report to demonstrate how far we have come from the inception of our 10 year strategic plan. We were also reminded that we need to develop a CDC. It is our priority to look at the big picture and what happens long term for CBCGM, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit it is our prayer that we are successful. We prayed & closed our meeting with a Check Out Question:

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO STRETCH YOURSELF IN 2018?

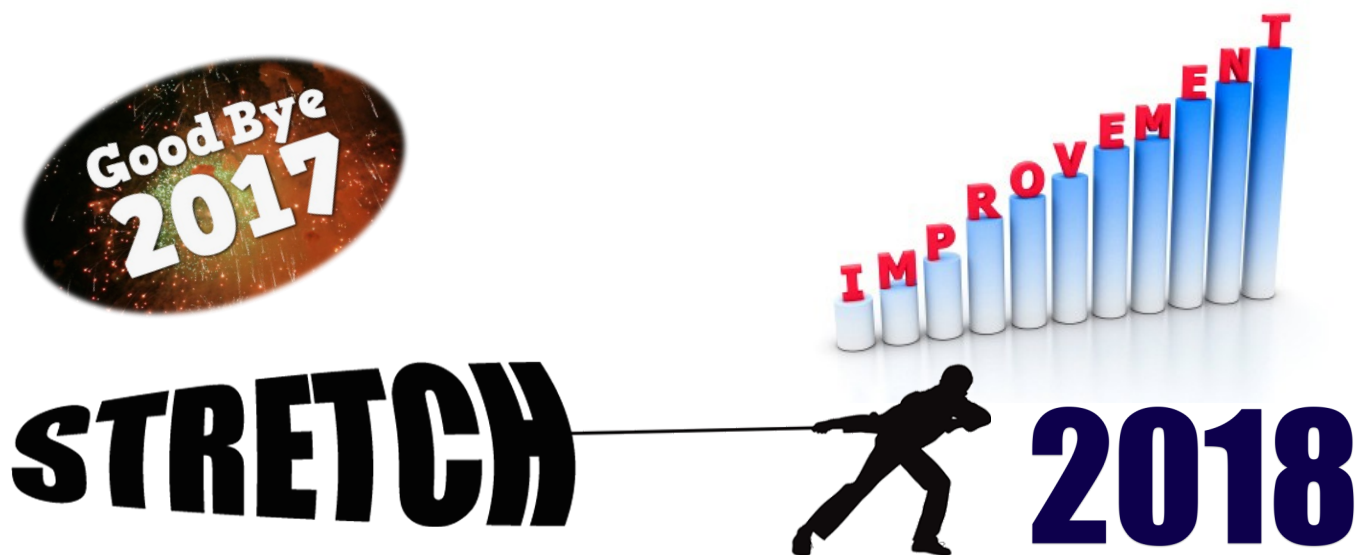
As the Core Team, we went around the table and stated what areas we planned to work on in 2018 and we agreed to hold each other accountable to those personal goals as well as constantly encourage one another to help achieve them. Here are our answers:

Less procrastination, Improve technical skills, Work on taking time for myself, & Finish school.

So we ask you Community... **How do YOU plan to stretch yourself in 2018?**

Commit to attend Bible Study, VBS, Sunday School, AIM conferences/workshops, join a ministry, volunteer in the community, help out on ALL-Church Clean Up, lead a new strategic initiative...

We welcome you to be prayerful in how and where God wants to stretch you, but then don't resist, allow Him to actually do it, grow in Christ, become more spiritually mature, be the salt of the earth that He has called you to be. We all have the biggest room in the world and that's the room for



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Yolaunda Campbell

Dear Women of Community,

I know you all have been wondering what's going on with the Women's Ministry. October 1, 2016, Pastor Williams called a Women's Forum for all women of community to come together and voice their concerns as to why the women were not prospering in ministry. Soon after we had a beautiful gathering at our beloved Sister Thelma Sias's home as Pastor asked each woman what their gifts were and what ministry they were involved in.

As a result of the forum and the gathering Pastor and I met to discuss the future of the Women's Ministry. I expressed the love I have for people and the desire to help make a difference in their lives. I've always wanted to help people but never knew in what capacity. I believe I can use my gifts and passion within the Women's Ministry. We selected an awesome group women to create a Ministry Team. Our Ministry team is planning great things to connect our women in the church and in our community.

As the Women's Ministry Leader, I'm asking God to give me the courage to lead, the insight, resources, and tools to share with the other ministries and to help women grow in Christ. I want to create a place for women to grow Spiritually, Mentally, Physically and Financially to have a better quality of Life that is pleasing to God. We will implement bible study, workshops, outreach, evangelism and events to engage, excite, and inspire women to transform their lives.

We invite all women to join us on January 20, 2018 for more exciting news about what's in store for 2018 and how we will get connected. Details in the next column!

Love,
Yolaunda Campbell
Women's Ministry Leader



The Women's Ministry of Community Baptist Church present our kick off event for the year, A Women's Breakfast entitled:

**"What's in the pot for 2018?
Stirring Up Your Gifts!"**

**This event will be held on
January 20, 2018 at 9:00am.**

**\$10 Love Donation
Best Apron Contest!**



**We invite You to come out
and fellowship with the
wonderful women of
Community Baptist Church!**

40 YEARS of CHURCH HISTORY

Historians: Jessica Bratcher & Queen Carolyn Hunt

Community Baptist Church of Greater Milwaukee (CBCGM) became a reality as a result of a vision manifested on Sunday, December 9, 1977 at the home of Pastor Roy B. Nabors and Mrs. Betty J. Nabors. Four couples met and were led by the Holy Spirit to commence a bold mission ministry to declare the gospel of redemption to the community. Pastor Roy B. Nabors was elected Pastor and Roosevelt Savage Sr. was elected Assistant Minister.

On Sunday, December 25, 1977 the first worship was held at the LaVarnway Boy's Club. Preaching, teaching and healing (Matthew 4:23) have been the hallmark of CBCGM's holistic approach to ministry ever since. Each accomplishment realized to date has been a direct result of that original vision and mission.

Worship during the first five years was held at five separate locations. Hardship seemed ever-present, yet in spite of the many trials, the church persevered and in December of 1982 we were rewarded with the beautiful edifice we occupy today. CBCGM has been bountifully blessed with exceptional growth throughout the years. Over twenty ministries have been nurtured to meet the needs of the community under the dedicated and prosperous leadership of Dr. Roy B. Nabors. On January 1, 2009, after providing respected and recognized leadership not only for CBCGM but also for the church community and city at large, Dr. Roy B. Nabors retired from the Pastorate of CBCGM. Before retiring Dr. Nabors insured a smooth transition of leadership by instituting an "apprentice model" of leadership transition. Rev. Dr. Demetrius Williams served as Dr. Nabors' assistant for over two years and was groomed to assume the pastorate of the church.

On January 2, 2009 the Rev. Dr. Demetrius K. Williams began serving as the second Pastor of our great church. Like his predecessor, he seeks to carry out God's will and to help God's children discern God's word and way. With Jesus as the head and guide of the church, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, Rev. Dr. Williams and CBCGM are moving our church forward to becoming the epicenter of our community, committed to building transformative ministries by serving God and others.

Our ministries are flourishing. They provide immeasurable love, joy, hope and more for our people. The Music Ministry consists of the Mass Choir, Male Choir, and the Cherub Choir. We have two additional praise groups, i.e., Worshippers in Dance, and Angels in Dance.

Our Educational Ministries include Sunday School, Bible Study, PLACE Ministries, Community Child Care, Ltd. (CCC); Community Tutoring, the Earnest and Clara Lewis Scholarship Fund and our Children and Youth Ministries which encompasses Christian Education, Mission, and Building Lives Around Spiritual Truths (BLAST) Bible Study. Our outreach ministries are comprised of, the Women's Retreat Ministry; Wonderfully Made Single Women's Ministry; the Brotherhood; the Men's Network; the Prison Ministry; Helping Hands Ministry; Mission Ministry; Love and Kindness Ministry.





Our focus on the community has been further fortified by fruitful alliances with numerous churches as well as other community organizations including our alliance with the grassroots community organization Common Ground. We have continued our participation in Milwaukee Associates in Ministry (A.I.M.). A.I.M. is a fellowship centered on supporting the ministries of each church and cultivating effective leaders. The Men's Network/Brotherhood participated in outreach in the Sherman Park Community in which they committed to pray, witness, and fight after the events that occurred. This labor of love has enhanced our church and community in a mighty way and we shall continue directing our attention and efforts in these areas.

2017 has been a glorious year filled with continual blessings. We now have only one church service at 9 a.m. thus making us more unified as one body in Christ. After the completion of our elevator and floor upgrade in the fellowship hall last year, we moved into phase 2 of our accessibility project which includes the renovation of our lower level men's and women's bathrooms. The Media Ministry continues to help us enhance our worship experience and also minister to those who are homebound. Our church website www.cbcbgm.org and Facebook page continue to keep us informed and serve as a catalyst for reaching the greater community.

We thank & praise God for truly we have been engaging our assignment and making disciples. We remain committed to do all that He has commissioned us to do to build our church family, our community, and His kingdom here on earth. We remain confident because Jesus promised to be with us as we meet every challenge & overcome every obstacle. He has shown us that if He is for us so who shall be against us? With exceeding humility & appreciation we remain on this great faith journey. We eagerly anticipate the many milestones we will surpass "for in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loves us!"



BACK IN 1977

HIGHLIGHTS



James Earl Carter was President of The United States of America

Apple introduced the Apple II computer

Star Wars opened in theaters

Oscar Winner for Best Picture was Rocky

Slim Fast first started selling

**Lighting caused a 25 hour blackout in New York City
resulting in looting and disorder**

**First whole body MRI Scanner was tested in
Brooklyn**

The World Trade Center in NY was completed

Elvis Presley died at Graceland in August

Saturday Night Fever sparked the disco inferno

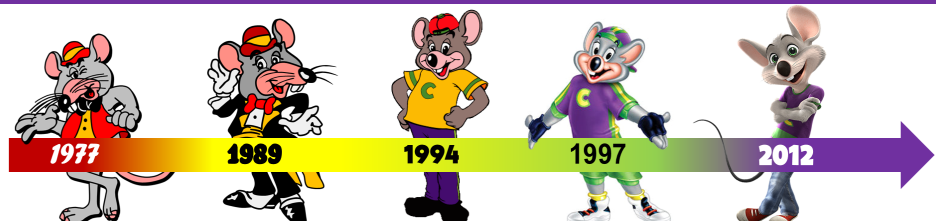
Roy Raymond founded Victoria Secret

**NAVSTAR (NAVigation System with Timing And Ranging) Global Positioning
System (GPS) was inaugurated by US Department of Defense**

Chuck E. Cheese's opened it's first location in San Jose, CA



The evolution of Chuck E.



40 YEARS AGO...



WHAT THINGS COST

Stamp:	\$0.13
Candy Bar:	\$0.20
Loaf of Bread:	\$0.36
Dozen Eggs:	\$0.48
Gas:	\$0.65
5 lbs of Sugar:	\$0.76
Pound of Bacon:	\$1.10
Milk:	\$1.44
Movie Ticket:	\$2.00
Minimum Wage:	\$2.30
Television:	\$147.00
Ave Rent per Month:	\$240.00
Yearly Tuition to Harvard:	\$4,100.00
New Car:	\$4,785.00
New House:	\$49,300.00
Ave Yearly Income:	\$15,000.00



HIT TV SHOWS

Happy Days
Laverne & Shirley
M*A*S*H
Three's Company



SPORTS

NBA Champions.....Portland Trailblazers
Super Bowl Champions.....Oakland Raiders
World Series Champions.....New York Yankees



FIRST SUNDAY SERMONS

Rev .Dr. Demetrius K. Williams

November 5, 2017 “NECESSARY CORRECTIONS” (1 Corinthians 2:6-3:3)

Wisdom of God Revealed by the Spirit (2:6-9)

This is a message for the mature (*teleios*). They understand the significance of the Cross as the central focus of God's eternal plan of salvation (vv.7-8) The rulers of this world - the Sadducees, Pharisees, teachers of the law, nor the Roman rulers - did not recognize this truth; although they boasted of wisdom. If they had truly known God's wisdom, they would not have crucified “the Lord of Glory” - Christ Jesus! Their human wisdom played decisively into the hands of the Almighty God. But this eternal mystery being a part of God's perfect plan is to God's glory and to human salvation.

“No eye has seen...”

God's Truth revealed to the Spiritually Mature (2:10-16)

Paul says that this mystery that had been a hidden mystery, has now been revealed to *us* by his Spirit.

Who is represented by the “us” that is stated in this passage? Is he talking about all Christians?

The Spirit of God knows and reveals the thoughts and intentions of God to the mature ones in the faith.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. Therefore, the Spirit knows God's plans.

Human wisdom needs human spirit (mind) to understand it / God's wisdom needs the Holy Spirit to understand it

“The Spirit we received is not the spirit of this world”

Paul says this is the foundation of what he speaks - the truth about God as revealed by God's Spirit. Those without the Spirit cannot accept the things that come from God. They are foolishness to him. How can God save by crucifixion? This does not make sense to them! Only those who have the “mind of Christ” can understand what God is doing in the world. Having the mind of Christ means:

- Seeing the world, humankind and its predicament through the discerning grace of God through the Holy Spirit
- The reality is that no one can know the mind of God (v. 16) - “Who has known the mind of God...”
- But to those who are the faithful and mature, God's mystery has been revealed by God's Spirit.

The Work of the Spirit in Revealing the Wisdom of God (2:10-16)

The “soulish person” (*psychikos*) - or ‘person who is without the Spirit cannot make proper judgments or discernment (which is “intelligent decisions after prayerful and careful examination”)

• **NOTA BENE: PAUL REFERS TO ALL THE CORINTHIANS AS SAINTS BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN “CALLED” TO BE SET APART FOR GOD'S USE. BUT HE CANNOT CALL ALL OF THE CORINTHIAN CHRISTIANS SPIRITUAL OR SPIRITUALLY MATURE!**

This point is the climax to Paul's argument about “preaching the foolishness of the cross,” which is as stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. Neither the Jews nor Greco-Roman philosophers can properly judge Paul or his message because they don't have the Holy Spirit, which is the source and basis of proper judgment of divine things. This is also the case with several saints in Corinth! The **spiritually mature** are led by the spirit and the **spiritually immature** are led by the flesh!

The Lack of Spiritual Discernment Hinders Communal Wholeness and Harmony (3:1-4)

This lack of discernment among some of the Corinthian community is evident in their quarrels & disagreements.

Therefore, Paul could not address them as “spiritual persons”; that is, as “*pneumatikos*”, but as “*sarkinos*” or “fleshly” people”. What are the works of the flesh?

♦ Galatians 5:19-21: “The acts [works] of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery (excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures); ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; **hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions²¹ and envy**; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those **who live like this [or practice this lifestyle]** will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

♦ Galatians 5:22-23: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance...”

He could not address them as **mature** either, but as **babies** in Christ. When Paul first came to Corinth, he brought them elementary truths that they could digest. He metaphorically gave them **spiritual milk**. Just as when a human baby is born, they can only digest milk. But they should not drink milk all of their lives as the main source of nutriment. Eventually a baby must move on to solid food. If not, their growth will be stunted! This is what was happening with some in the Corinthian community - their spiritual growth was stunted. As is the case with many in the church today! The Corinthians were fussing and fighting like babies in a play pen over **whose spiritual nanny was better!** They should have grown up some since they were saved but their current behavior proves that they are still infants in Christ! Their spiritual growth is retarded, this is - there is a delay or hindrance in terms of progress, development, or accomplishment. The result is that they are less advanced in spiritual, mental, physical, or social development than is usual for one's age.

Don't be in church all your physical life and be a “**retarded**” Christian

You have a disease and you are in need of medical help!

Don't worry though. **THERE IS HOPE!** There is a physician in the house!

December 3, 2017 “UNRECOGNIZED VALUE” (1 CORINTHIANS 3:10-23)

How is value ascribed? What makes one thing worth more than another?

In the marketplace:

Cars - how is that determined? Homes - how is that determined? Clothes - how is that determined?

****These things are determined in part by contemporary market rates and price consensus.*

How is personal value ascribed?

To an old table or chair?

A weathered and worn hat?

A non-functioning old watch?

An outdated dress?

A pair of old beaten shoes?

These might be items that one finds at a rummage sale, a Goodwill store or in the trash. Someone decided that these things no longer held any value so they were given away. However, someone else can find them - at a rummage sale, a Goodwill or in the trash, and become excited at the new item they've found. Some might say “new”; these items are “old” that's why they were given or thrown away. But if you've found something for the first time, “it's new to you!” This reminds me of the old saying, “one person's trash is another person's treasure.” Indeed, some folks have found real treasure and wealth in things that people have thrown away. **Someone did not recognize the value** in that item.

In the final analysis, the value of cars, homes, and clothes in the marketplace is determined by a source outside of the buyer. But when it comes to personal items, value is ascribed by the meaning and worth one ascribes to a particular item. **I think it goes unrecognized by many in churches from antiquity to today, that the things we value may not hold the same weight or importance in God's eyes.** I believe that this is what Paul is addressing in our passage today. He is trying to open the eyes of those in the Corinthian Church.

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF THE FOUNDATION (JESUS CHRIST) AND OF WHAT YOU BUILD UPON IT!

Paul turns from criticism of the church's members to a warning to its teachers.

- Planting and watering depends upon God's work - God gives the increase. Coworkers are equal in this regard.
- The shift is now from the worker to his/her work.

3:10-15 - Paul now discusses how God's servants can build the church. The foundation has been laid through the preaching of the cross of Christ (1:18) is always the same - Jesus Christ.

- Now the Christian worker brings to it their own labor and spiritual materials they use to build up the church upon the foundation that is Jesus Christ. At the end is the payday at the Second Coming of Christ.
- God uses people of varying degrees of gifts and talents to do God's work. This work of growth now can be advanced by individual efforts and commitments.
- Any defects in their work will be their own fault. Christ cannot be blamed for it!
- The right kind of work will be rewarded and the wrong kind destroyed.
- Paul views his skill as an **expert builder** (*a sophos architecton*) as being possible only through the grace of God. An expert builder is one who know God's plan for the building of God's church. Thus, Paul has laid the doctrinal foundation of Jesus Christ and him crucified.
- Workers must realize that Christians are the temple of God and no one is to destroy that temple, for then, they too will be destroyed.

DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT YOU ARE GOD'S TEMPLE!

3:16-17 - Since the church is God's temple, those who divide and destroy it are guilty of terrible desecration.

- The temple is holy and requires one to recognize its value!
- What's going on in your temple? Are its precincts kept clean? What do you allow in?
 - ♦ Anger, jealousy, envy, un-forgiveness, doubt, worry, fear, etc.
- Do you make daily sacrifices?

DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT ALL THINGS ARE YOURS, AND ARE DONE FOR YOU GOOD!?

3:10-20 - The most divided and harmful party seems to be the “wisdom” party; those who pretend to possess superior intellectualism. Paul refutes their pretensions by quoting Job 5:13 and Psalm 94:11.

- Becoming a fool?
- No boasting in human leaders!

3:21-23 - You do not belong to any human leader; all of these belong to you as indeed everything else.

BUT THIS IS TRUE ONLY BECAUSE YOU BELONG TO CHRIST AND THUS TO GOD! KNOW YOUR WORTH!



MAY YOUR COMING YEAR BE FILLED WITH
**MAGIC&DREAMS&
GOOD MADNESS.**

I HOPE **READ** BOOKS
YOU SOME FINE
& **KISS** SOMEONE
WHO THINKS YOU'RE

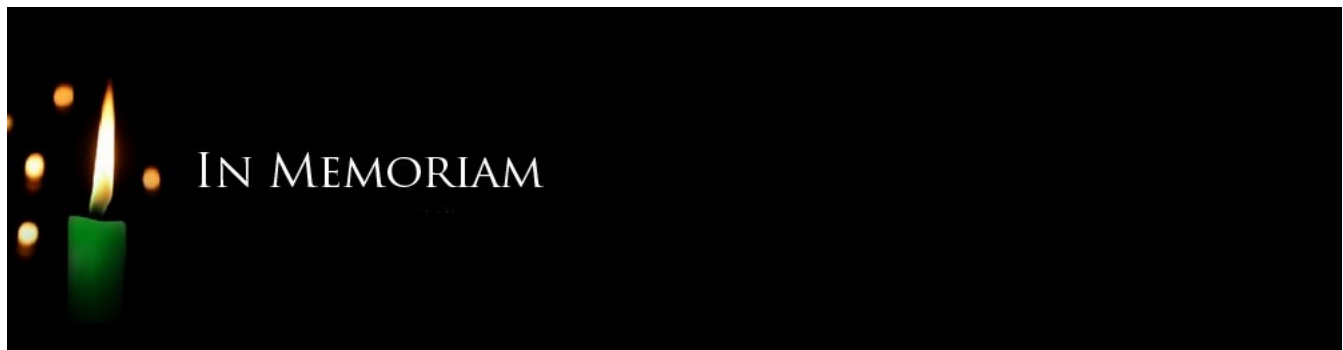
WONDERFUL,
AND DON'T FORGET
TO MAKE SOME **ART**

(WRITE OR DRAW OR BUILD OR SING
OR **LIVE** AS ONLY **YOU** CAN)

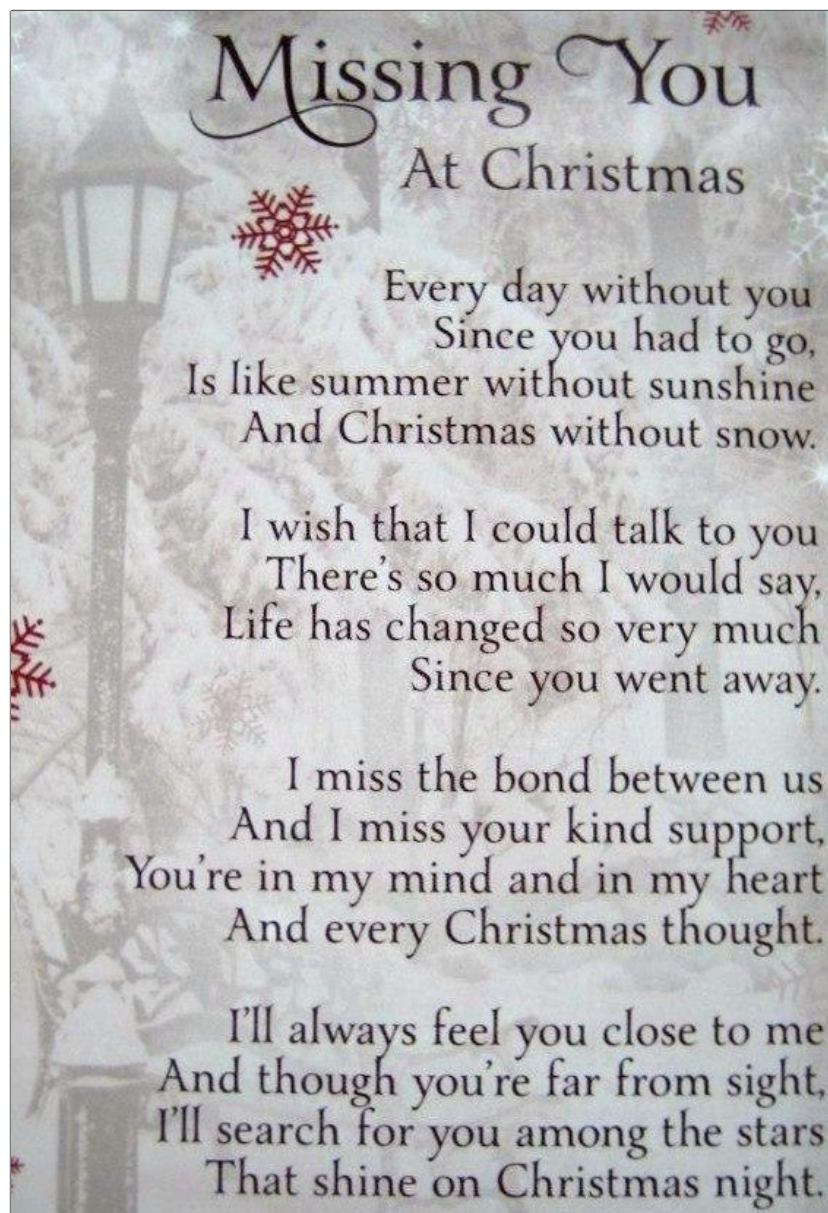
AND SOMEWHERE IN THE
I HOPE, NEXT YEAR,

**YOU SURPRISE
YOURSELF.**

~neil gaiman



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 continued prayers and condolences to every bereaved family this season.





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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