

FROM THE PASTOR'S

DESK



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(May 2014)

Greetings CBCGM! I know the old adage, “April showers bring May flowers”, is perhaps well known to many of us, but it has now rung true this spring. We’ve had many a shower and thunderstorm threat this month, but as the month of May closes it does seem to be giving way to more stable weather that we have been looking forward to. This is perhaps an analogy that might apply to “Getting God’s House in Order.” We must recognize that it is a process that might have a few showers and threats of incimate weather but with diligent work and determined commitment, clouds will soon give way to sunshine.

Deacon’s Council

At the monthly meeting of the Deacons’ Council held on *Saturday, May 3, 2014* at 9am, there were two important outcomes: 1) the deacons have secured renewed occupancy permits for 4242 W. North Ave. and 4316 (white duplex next to pastoral residence). These permits are necessary to maintain our tax-exempt property status; 2) the deacons have been engaged in overhauling and updating the church: a) they undertook an energy audit to discover ways to reduces energy costs, and b) in the process of replacing/updating light fixtures. The diaconate also discussed the necessity of adhering to structure/expectations as leaders recognizing that this is important for getting God’s house in order. We thank them for their diligent service and work.

Leadership Council

The leadership council met in an abbreviated session in order to support our Associate Clergy, Rev. Anthony Caples and his family, in the passing of his father. In this abbreviated session I stressed the extreme importance of the various ministries operating in a timely and efficient manner in preparing for their upcoming events. We must operate in a manner to produce maximum efficiency. We will in the upcoming leadership council provide an event planning guide that we pray will guide all of our ministries to achieving the kind of success in hosting and presenting events that will be a blessing to God's people and welcome God's favor.

UNITY SUNDAY Worship

As is customary for me, I offer gracious thanks to God for the fourth UNITY SUNDAY of this Year! I can't express enough how much these combined worship experiences have blessed me and other members. I felt so inspired and enthused by the spirit-filled worship and congregational reception of the morning message: "COURAGE TO STAND UP" Acts 6:8-15. If we want to be true disciples, we can use Stephen as an example. Here's what we can learn from Stephen as disciples of Jesus Christ. He expressed courage as a disciple because he was willing to:

- **STAND UP** (for truth and right)
- **FESS UP** (and tell the truth about his need for salvation)
- **POWER UP** (with the Holy Spirit)
- **GIVE UP** (his treasure)
- **SPEAK UP** (to power and injustice)
- **BUILD UP** (the kingdom and the community)
- **SHAKE UP** (the status quo)
- **WAS WILLING TO BE TAKEN UP** (into glory)

He was able to do this knowing that God would ***show up*** and ***show out!***

Let's "Make Our Faith **MORE** Effective" like Stephen did!

Sunday School News: Teacher Training Workshops

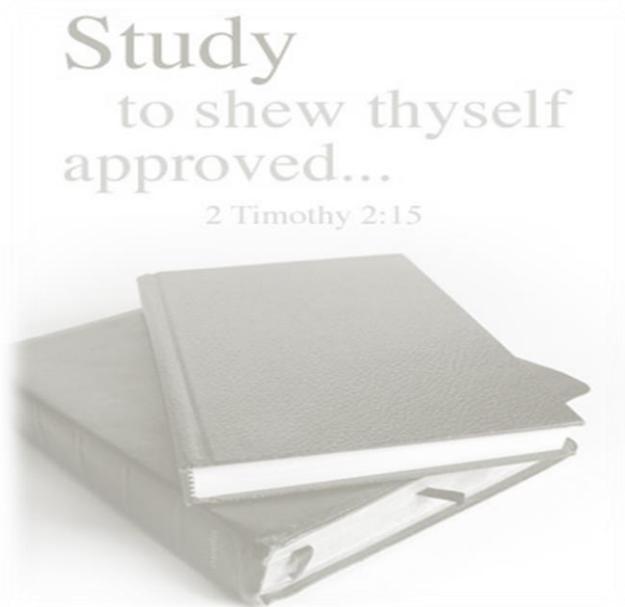
We have completed the *four-session teacher-training workshops* designed to prepare teachers to teach with power and authority. We thank all of the workshop leaders and students for participating, and especially Sis. Linda Caples for doing an awesome job pulling together the detailed and well-designed syllabus as well as other materials. Anyone interested in teaching will have to complete this training program. Another session is in the planning. Please contact Sunday School Superintendent Sis. Caples for the upcoming sessions or for any make-up sessions that are needed.

Community Mission Ministry

God has moved at Community Baptist again, He has touched hearts and moved members of this congregation to start a Mission Ministry! I am so excited about this new ministry and know that under the Leadership of Deacon Floreda Saffold and the members of the Mission Ministry they will do a mighty work meeting the needs of the targeted neighborhoods and provide Christian material to developing countries. I am working closely with this ministry, along with Minister Flowers as we continue to let God lead us in this ministry to do what He has planned for Community Baptist Church.

Bible Study

We are continuing with our regular Bible Study text, *The Power of REAL*.



THE POWER OF PRAYER: MARK 11:24, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it will be yours." Wednesday evening at 6:00pm we have prayer before bible study. We pray for those on the prayer list and we solicit new prayer requests from those in attendance. Sister Betty Walker leads this initiative and reviews the prayer list and has recently reported that over 50% of the prayer requests have been answered. Prayer requests for healing: Deacon Twitty, Sister Lausterer, Deacon Joenette Kelly-Kid, prayer for employment and reconciliation. God has answered these prayers and will continue to answer our prayer requests, please join us at 6:00pm as we continue to petition God's wonder working power in our lives. The last day of Bible Study before we take a break will be Wednesday, June 18; we will resume on Wednesday, September 10th. Make sure you sign up for Vacation Bible School!!!

MOTHER'S DAY: Special Note of Thanks

Thank you Sister Anita Scott for the awesome, inspiring photo presentation of members' mothers who have passed away. You went above and beyond the call of duty in such a short amount of time to pull this together. We thank you for your diligence and commitment to the media ministry. I know the presentation moved hearts and minds with wonderful memories of their loved ones. I know that I was caught off guard and moved to tears when I saw my deceased mother, Bessie O. Williams and Mother Vera Rucker, my mother-in-law, on the big screen. I am looking forward to the father's day presentation.



Children's and Youth Revival

The Children's and Youth Revival that was held this past week May 27–29, 2014 at night at 6:30pm was awesome. If you didn't attend, you missed a spirit filled three days of preaching by the revivalist, Rev. Russell Smith from Holy Temple First Born Missionary Baptist Church. Our children and youth led the worship in all its phases: worship leader, prayer, reading of scripture, singing, dancing and introduction of the preacher. We thank our CBCGM children and youth and the visiting churches: Christ the King youth on Wednesday along with Holy Temple First Born MBC youth choir. We also must thank our Mass Choir for singing and also our Associate Clergy for assisting in the pulpit.

In Memoriam

Finally, let us remember the beloved souls that have passed from our congregation and also the family members of our CBCGM sisters and brothers. Please continue to call, visit and pray for our family members. We offer our prayers and condolences to all.

