



# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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We offer thanks and praise to God that the winter season filled with sub-zero temperatures and snow has finally given way to more clement weather (but not as warm as we'd all like, I'm sure!) as spring has made its debut this month. The year is making its unstoppable progression with remarkable speed. The Lenten season is coming to a close and Passion Week and Resurrection Sunday is already upon us. As we enter into the Easter season, let us remember the great act of sacrificial love that Jesus demonstrated on our behalf. Please allow this realization to spur us on to greater acts of selfless service on behalf of Christ and the church.

## **DEACON'S COUNCIL**

The Deacon's Council met on Saturday, March 7, 2015 at 9:00 AM. The diaconate discussed the ongoing needs and concerns of the membership as it moves toward growth and fulfillment of the church theme. In addition, they discussed how internal operations of the diaconate and other church ministries can be improved to facilitate the best use of time and resources. Finally, the diaconate discussed the importance of "Devotion" and that deacons who are scheduled to participate should come ready and enthusiastic because this is an important part of our worship. May we also be encouraged to support them in their ongoing efforts to improve the quality of our worship experience.

## **LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

Pastor Williams led a power-point presentation on the topic “Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Preparing People for the Future.” In reflecting on our individual legacies, Pastor returned everyone’s “*Before I Die I Want My Legacy To Be...*” papers back to the original owners after reading them aloud. The leaders were instructed to hold on to them as a goal/guide to work towards. But he reminded the leaders that, stating the goal alone does not supply the means or objectives to achieve the goal.

How do we find the means/objectives to reach the goal? We find it through leadership development and training! (Strategic Pillar No. 1) He stated then, “What then is my responsibility as Pastor (and all of us as leaders?).” He noted that his **biblical responsibility** is to “EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY!” (Ephesians 4:11-16) Christ desires to build up (edify) the church by providing multiple forms of leadership. (v. 11) The purpose is to equip (edify) Christ’s people for MINISTRY AND OTHER WORKS OF SERVICE. (v. 12) Why? So that the Body of Christ might be BUILT UP (EDIFIED)! The purpose of which is to strive toward the UNITY OF THE FAITH and the knowledge of the Son of God (v. 13), so that the saints might become MATURE in Christ! What will maturity in the body of Christ Produce? It will produce: **stability** (v. 14), **harmony** (v. 15), and **cooperation through LOVE** (v. 16). Pastor Williams noted further that his **practical responsibility** is to **CARE** for God’s leaders (and all of God’s people; as stated by John Maxwell in *A Leader’s Heart*, p. 24). C-A-R-E means:

**C** = Communication

**A** = Affirmation

**R** = Recognition

**E** = Example

If I CARE, I must work on your weaknesses, but work out your strengths. I must give you my time, energy and focus. I must give you ownership of the ministry, and not micro-manage. I must provide you with resources: atmosphere, training, support, recognition and example. I must make expectations clear, eliminate unnecessary burdens, catch you doing good work, and reward you for it. What is the responsibility of leaders? All God asks is that you **have a willingness/openness to growth and transformation!**

Thus in our ongoing effort to prepare Christ-centered leaders for the church and the community, the leadership of CBCGM will engage a course of study that will help us all to utilize our gifts and talents more effectively for the edification of the church. Back in 2004, when Sis Bracey was living in Charlotte, NC she went through a 10-week course of self-discovery called **PLACE**. PLACE is an intentional process designed to connect church members into purpose-driven ministry. Through the process, people discover that God has created and gifted them with a unique capacity to serve others. Through her discovery, she determined that her personality was **S**-Phlegmatic (Avoids Conflict) & **D**-Choleric (Driven). Sis Bracey further learned that her spiritual gifts were Mercy, Exhortation, Administration and Faith. **ASC** was her ability score, which means that her abilities were Artistic, Social & Conventional. Her passion at that time was for youth, mentoring and prisoner ministry demonstrated through her desire to improve, teach and lead. Fast forward 10 years and here she is as our Church Administrator, with her driven personality to get things done decently and in order, using her spiritual gifts. Since then she has done a reassessment and her personality is dominated more now by **D** (Driven) and her ability score is now **ICA**, inclusive of the trait of Investigation. Her spiritual gifts have only slightly adjusted to be Faith, Encouragement, Administration and Pastor/Shepherd. While her demonstrated passion is Leading, Developing/Creating & Challenging, which are felt most with those who are unsaved, leaders or homebound. Hence PLACE stands for:



- P**ersonality Discovery
- L**earning Spiritual Gifts
- A**bilites Awareness
- C**onnecting Passtion with Ministry
- E**xperiences of Life

Today more than ever, people are bombarded with multiple choices as to how and where to give their time. They find themselves asking, "Where do I fit in?", "Why am I here?", "What is my purpose?" and "What can I do to make a lasting difference in my life and the lives of others?"

God created each of us for a purpose. *"For we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* Ephesians 2:10. Part of his purpose for us is to edify the church and to serve in its ministries. *"...to prepare God's people for the works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."* Ephesians 4:12. Therefore it is with great excitement that I announce that Minister Charlotte Flowers and Sis. Ebony Bracey will be attending a PLACE workshop in Atlanta next month to become trained facilitators. It will be their charge to implement PLACE Ministries here at CBCGM.

### **STAKEHOLDERS SUMMIT**

Pastor Williams opened our Spring Stakeholders Summit with prayer and proceed to give the floor to Brother Willie Jude, who presented the Finance Budget for 2015. After Brother Jude's finance summary, Rev. Mike Robertson presented a proposal for a CBCGM LOVE KINDNESS Award. The members present expressed great enthusiasm for such a positive incentive. (More below in Rev. Robertson's report.)

Pastor Williams did not have enough time to present his concluding recommendations but will present them in next month's newsletter. The topic is similar to that of the leadership council presentation. It will be titled, *"Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Preparing the Church for the Challenge."*

The following special announcements were made:

- We will be creating a **2015 Directory**; photo sessions will be Tuesday, March 31 & Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> which will include "In Memory of" pages & a Mobile App!
- This summer we will have **UNITY WORSHIP FROM MAY 3 THROUGH AUGUST 2, 2015!!!** We will have worship at 9:00am with Sunday School beginning at 8 AM. Individual classes will meet (not the single class that is typical of the first Sunday of the month).
- **Sunday May, 24 or 31** we are planning to have Community Church Sunday in which we worship outside at Washington Park's Band Shell and engage the community in an effort to Fill God's House, because there is still **MORE** room!

## TEN-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN: “PROSPERING THE VISION”

In pressing forward with our vision, the Core Team met on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm. Topics discussed included ministry handbook and expectations as well as the plans for our outreach efforts. We reviewed the Love Kindness program presented by Rev. Robertson and how we could best implement it here at our church to bridge gaps across many divides.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

On behalf of our pastor Rev. Dr. Demetrius K. Williams and the Finance Committee, we want to thank each of you for your generous donations as we continue to move forward with our many outreach programs and special projects.

How we spend our money is a powerful reflection of our value system. If we have strong spiritual values, we give our money generously to spiritual things. If we have primarily temporal values, we resist—and perhaps even resent—giving to spiritual things. After completing the temple, the Israelites rejoiced, “...for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD” (1 Chronicles 29 v. 9). Where are our values?

Just as our mothers and fathers before us, we must sacrifice for the good of our Families, Church and Community. Sacrifice mean going beyond what is expected.

We are expected to offer a portion of our income to the Lord in gratitude for what He has given us. If we know Him for who He really is, the Creator and Ruler of the universe, then we will rightly understand that everything in the world truly belongs to Him.

The CBCGM Handicap Accessibility Project (or “the Church Elevator”) will be delivered in the next two weeks and we need each member to make a sacrifice of a **\$1000.00** by **May 1, 2015**. If you cannot do a one thousand dollars on or before this date, we want you to truly do what you can. You might consider making a sacrificial gift of **\$83.33 per month** (above your tithes, which would equal 1000 over a 12-month period). In either case, we want to be in a position to pay off the elevator when it is completed on May

1, 2015. Once again, the Finance Committee thanks each of you for your ongoing support as we continue to move forward in Christ Jesus.

### **UNITY SUNDAY WORSHIP**

The sermon topic for UNITY SUNDAY, March 1, 2015 was titled: "Necessary Considerations" (Luke 14:25-35). This passage follows our theme scripture (Luke 14:15-24) and addresses the topic of the "Cost of Discipleship." God told Abraham that all nations of the world would be blessed through his descendants, and that time had now come through Jesus Christ. But with a message like that, there is a risk that people might begin to confuse the universality of the access to the Kingdom of God with the challenge of the task of discipleship. Jesus in Luke warned that they should not make the mistake of thinking this would be easy. The road was dangerous and demanding and people would need to seriously add up the cost before they committed. What Jesus says in summary is that, *to be a disciple one must put God first in all that we do. This is indeed "costly discipleship" and we don't have the strength to do it on our own. But with God's help all things are possible!* Let us take seriously the challenge to move from membership to discipleship!

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

The following report comes from Rev. Michael Robertson, Minister of Community Outreach:

We are getting settled in our offices at The Parish House (Mother Davenport's House) which enables us to host meetings at our conference table. The weekly Brotherhood breakfast meetings on Tuesday continue to open up opportunities for fellowship and mentoring as I gain a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges. We have successfully placed one individual in a manufacturing job and are looking at other job placements as we mentor him. An immediate task is to implement a **CBC Love Kindness** program. The outline of what we want to accomplish was presented to the members at the Stakeholders meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Please pray on this and if you feel called to serve on this committee let me know.

Helping people start or grow an existing business is part of my job and currently I am working with two individuals doing just that. If you want to start a business lets meet to discuss the steps you need to take to make this happen. A very successful program entitled Financial Peace University is helping people all over the country reduce debt and increase savings. We are currently considering hosting this nine week program at CBC. The cost for a family is \$99 and if there is enough interest we will begin this program this spring as opposed to waiting until fall. As an Associate Minister I attend AIM, church leadership, Core meetings as well as the Lenten Wednesday afternoon Bible studies. We continue to work with Common Ground on neighborhood housing. Emmy and I have moved into our Milwaukee home while we wait for our Fox Point house to sell. When that happens we will move our furniture and host an open house blessing. Please let me know how I can help you in any outreach program you may be interested in supporting. You can contact me at 508-561-3921 or emmyandmike@verizon.net or at church on Sunday.

### **COMMUNITY EVANGELISM**

On Saturday, March 7, 2015 CBCGM adults and BLAST youth accompanied the Milwaukee Fire Department on a neighborhood walk, a partnership effort that was facilitated by Sister Zumeka McCrary. The purpose of the neighborhood walk was two-fold: to insure that community residents had smoke alarms that were in proper working order, and also to allow CBCGM to invite the Community to attend Sunday morning worship, and especially our Resurrection Sunday service. I hope you all were able to see Sis. Mc Crary's interview that FOX News air that Sunday evening (March 8). I would like to thank her and those that participated for taking small steps toward fulfilling the church theme!

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The Sunday school is doing its best to manage the resources God has given us. Step we have taken is ordering books based on the number of people on the class rosters, plus 5 to 10 percent to accommodate people completing New Members class. It is imperative that you consistently attend Sunday school so we maintain an accurate count of people in relationship to books

ordered. Next we are ordering teachers Sunday School Commentaries, which reduces the amount spent on Sunday School teacher's manual by 3% annually. Also we are ordering our Sunday school material from VCY Bookstore, this reduces shipping charge by approximately \$400.00 annually.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

God is adding not just bodies to our fellowship, but also Disciples! I say this because 75% of people who have completed New Members class and received the Right Hand of Fellowship are actively engaged in ministry. They either attend Sunday school and/or Bible Study. Our goal is also to help them find their place in at least one ministry of the church. I would like to thank and acknowledge the New Members instructors for the awesome work they are doing. The instructors and the topics taught are:

Rev. Anthony Caples: **“How We Give of Ourselves; Time, Talents & Treasures”**

Rev. Allyn Swan: **“God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit”**

Rev. Patrick Greer: **“Baptist Doctrine”**

Deacon Alex Hardy: **“How We Began: Black Baptist History”**

Deacon Mary Hinkle: **“The Importance of Personal Devotion, Prayer & Church Attendance”**

The New Members completed an evaluation of the class, and the evaluations report that the subject matter and knowledge of the instructors has been greatly acknowledged. We certainly appreciated such feedback.

## *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. We sincerely offer our prayers and condolences to the bereaved families of the following:*

**Earl Jones Sr.**

*(Bro Byron Jones Father)*