



# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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**(April 2015)**

As we enter into the (Spring-) Summer schedule, I would like to remind us of our church motto: **One Voice, One Vision, One Vocation**. I believe that this reminder is important because we can demonstrate our unity by regularly attending our 9 AM Unity services throughout the months of May – August. I understand that this is a change in our regular worship scheduling. However, our church theme for the year is, “There is Still **MORE** Room: Come, Let Us Fill God’s House.” I ask you a question. If we are not willing to fill it, how can we expect others to? “Come, Let Us (CBCGM) Fill the House” with our collective presence. Then we can invite others to come.

## **DEACON'S COUNCIL**

The Deacon's Council met on *Saturday, April 11, 2015* at 9:00 AM and discussed the following:

- 1) The dedication of elevator when it is completed;
- 2) What the Deacons can do to help facilitate the successful participation of the Youth Choir;

- 3) Seeking financial institutions that offer the church more flexibility;
- 4) Elevator supervision: once elevator is installed Deacon Lonnie Davis will be the deacon-in-charge on Sunday's to monitor the elevator;
- 5) Electronic giving: the church is seeking upgrades to allow it to offer online giving;
- 6) Update Internet and phone service within the church and parish house and also provide a dedicated wireless connection for members/guests to use without disruption to main church and childcare wireless speed.

### **LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

We held a very brief meeting on Saturday, April 11, as we wanted to honor our commitment in supporting our brothers & sisters in their time of need. We emphasized the following:

- A 2015 Church Directory will be created; photo session make-up date was **Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**. We will offer a very sentimental "In Memory of" page with a free will offering.
- **This summer we will have UNITY WORSHIP FROM MAY 3 THROUGH AUGUST 30, 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). Remember that starting in July, we will have our casual dress code because of the weather, but we still want to be appropriate in our demeanor.
- **Community Outreach Worship is being planned for Sunday May, 24 or 31** in which we worship outside at Washington Park's Band Shell and engage the community in an effort to Fill God's House. We will need everyone's help to Go out into our community to personally invite them to the Lord's Banquet, because there is still **MORE** room!

- Rev Mike Robertson introduced **Financial Peace University**, which is a 9 week program aimed at helping people to better handle the money God has so graciously given them. Attendees will be able to reduce their debt and increase their savings with this trusted tool that has helped over 2 million people. This course will be offered at the Parish House. Contact Rev Robertson 508-531-3921 or via email at [emmyandmike@verizon.net](mailto:emmyandmike@verizon.net) if you are interested in changing the state of your financial affairs.

## **PLACE MINISTRIES RECAP**

On April 23 & 24, Minister Charlotte Flowers and Sis Ebony S. Hagler (Bracey) attended the PLACE Ministries Workshop in John's Creek, GA at The Standard Club. They met a host of leaders from churches in the USA. The conference was intense, they went through the entire assessment in two days when it's actually a six week course. This is not just another spiritual gift inventory; this is a development course that incorporates all of the attributes of an individual.

**P.L.A.C.E.** stands for:

**P**ersonality Discovery

**L**earning Spiritual Gifts

**A**bilities Awareness

**C**onnecting Passion with Ministry

**E**xperiences of life

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.

Have you been trying to figure out where you should work in the church? Have you struggled with what your purpose is? Have you wondered what can you do to make a lasting difference in your life and the life of others? Do you have a burning desire to please the Lord, our God with your time and talent? Do you struggle trying to figure out how to do any of this?

Well fret no more, Workshops will be taking place very soon. Because this is such an intensive process, groups will be limited. Stay tuned for dates and times for our upcoming P.L.A.C.E. Workshops.

*"I'm excited looking forward to each of us actually finding our P.L.A.C.E. in ministry at Community Baptist Church"*

~Minister Charlotte Flowers

*"Taking time to assess who I am as a child of God, understanding my gifts, realizing I am operating in **HIS P.L.A.C.E.** for me is an amazing experience, I pray that everyone takes advantage of this opportunity."*

~Sis Ebony S. Hagler

## **TEN-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN: "PROSPERING THE VISION"**

In pressing forward with our vision, the Core Team met on Monday, April 6th at 6:30pm. Upon reflection of the meeting date, the group voted to now meet every first Tuesday of every month. 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 at Community Baptist Church to bridge gaps across many divides. With all the unnecessary violence plaguing our city, we need more acts of kindness and what God has commanded of us and that is LOVE! If you'd like to help Rev Robertson spread this message, let him know, he is here to help us reach out into our community. Let's make Milwaukee a city of Love and Kindness!

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS**

On behalf of our loving pastor Rev. Dr. Williams and the Finance Committee, we want to again thank each of you for your kind donations as we continue to move closer to the completion of several special projects while pressing forward with our many outreach programs.

Our giving comes out of an understanding that all of our financial resources like everything else that we have, comes from God. It is a gift, not for hoarding, but for continued use in building up the Kingdom of God. When viewed as such, giving is not seen as a burden. We will give joyously because we know we are only managing what God has entrusted us with.

There are many reasons for giving, but we want you to consider the 3 listed below:

- 1) **To ADVANCE, through financial support, the Mission of God.** The church needs financial resources to fund its mission. We, who are members of the CBCGM, must give this support to the best of our ability.
- 2) **To FOSTER fellowship this is not readily obvious.** The church that has a lot of members giving financially and the burden isn't only on a smaller group, enjoys much better fellowship. It is the freedom people experience when they know they are part of something.
- 3) **To EXPERIENCE personal blessings.** Don't get hung up on receiving personal blessings. Rather focus on the feeling of knowing that what we have given has made a lasting difference in the life of someone else.

The CBCGM Handicap Accessibility Project (or "the Church Elevator") is in its final phase of completion and we want each of you to play a major role in making a lasting difference in the lives of others. We need each member to make a sacrifice of a \$1000.00. If you cannot do a Thousand dollars, **we want you to truly do what you can.** Small sacrifices more often than not will always add up to a grand total. **With the help of God,** we want to be in a position to pay off the Elevator when it is completed on or before **May 24, 2015.** Once again, the Finance Committee wants to thank each of you for your ongoing support as we continue to move forward in Christ Jesus.

## UNITY SUNDAY WORSHIP

Resurrection Sunday coincided with our UNITY SUNDAY worship this month. It was a great blessing and joyous celebration of the liturgical resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The morning message was from Romans 10:13-17 and titled, "Have I Got News For You!" The sermon noted that people are naturally inclined to get excited about the latest news. If you just ask someone, "Did you hear about what happened at work, church, school, in the neighborhood, at the gas station or the Mall today or even yesterday," you are certain to get his or her attention.

Well, I believe that we are structured to deliver and receive news or information. **We just can't resist hearing some kind of news.** This is why there are so many news outlets: CNN, FOX, MSNBC, BBCN, TRUtv (formerly Court-TV); regular broadcast has CBS, NBC, ABC – national news, local news, eye-witness news, late-breaking news, early morning news, nightly news, late night news, 24 hour news, Entertainment News (ET). Now, if Olin P. Moyd in his book, *The Sacred Art*, is correct that preachers "are town heralds bringing news from another source", then we are just reporters! And have I got News for you! This news is timely, transparent, transportable, transferable, translatable and transformative. This is the Good News of the Gospel: Jesus came, preached, healed, suffered, died and rose again from the grave to bring salvation to all humankind – this is the good news of the gospel! Let us share it joyfully!

## SIXTH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The 6<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary Celebration started with three nights of pre-anniversary worship services. Pastor Don D. Butler and the Tabernacle family started the celebrations on Tuesday night (April 7<sup>th</sup>), Rev. Dr. Russell B. Williamson and the Zion Hill family were present on Wednesday night (April 8<sup>th</sup>), and Pastor John W. McVicker and the Christ the King family closed out the services on Thursday night (April 9<sup>th</sup>). The celebration culminated on Sunday morning (April 12<sup>th</sup>) with Pastor John Walton of Calvary Baptist church preaching the 7:30 AM worship and Pastor James Ivy of New Zion Baptist church of Beloit, WI preached the 10:30 AM worship.

Pastor Demetrius and Lady Robin, and family would like to thank the entire church for its loving support and encouragement. We thank the Deacons

and Associate Ministers for their participation in the worship services, the choir and musicians, and the Ushers. And we graciously thank those who gave meaningful tributes: Bro. Floyd W. Herron, Bro. Dester Martin, Mother Ellen Parr, Sis. Demetrace Jude, Bro. Michael Morgan & The Jacobs. Finally, I would like to thank the Pastoral Anniversary Committee: Sis. Rebecca Powell, Deacon Patricia Gill, & Sis Ebony Hagler.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Until further notice, Minister Charlotte Flowers will serve as the interim Sunday School Superintendent. We are appreciative of her willingness to step in and assume the role until a Sunday School Superintendent is appointed. Until then, we appreciate the cooperation of all the teachers and students working with her during this time of transition. A meeting will be scheduled with the teachers in the near future to discuss plans for the future. Please direct questions or concerns regarding Sunday School to Minister Flowers.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

God is continuously adding new members to this house. We currently have 4 individuals in the New Member's classes. Minister LeVette Crawl has agreed to be to be part of the teaching staff and we thank her very much for her willingness to step in and use her gifts. We ask that you continue to pray that we do all we can do to fill this house. As always, we praise God for stirring up the gifts of God's people and directing them to Community Baptist Church of Greater Milwaukee.

## **MISSION**

The Mission Ministry appreciates and thanks each of you for your prayers and monetary support. We have been able to accomplish quite a bit in such a short period of time. PRAISE THE LORD! We will have our very First Annual Day on Sunday May17, 2015 during morning worship. We are super excited and look forward to sharing with you the feedback we have received from our 2014 initiatives.

# *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:

**Johnny Craig**

*(Brother of Suzzette Davis)*

**Gladys "Aunt Bae" Eastern**

*(Aunt of Jeffrey Eastern)*

**Lester Heaston**

*(Sister of Rhonda McLin)*

**Betty Mitchell**

*(Sister of Pearlie Carr)*

**Ted Newsom**

*(Brother of Nevada Davis)*

**Michael Watson**

*(Cousin of Donna Beard)*

We pay a special tribute to

**Bro. Rex Wilburn**

A most faithful servant who served at our church as an usher, helped with our breakfast program and worked as a custodian. While he will be missed, we rest assured knowing that He is with the Lord.