



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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As I reflect on the month of July, I am reminded of the need for CBCGM members and others in our larger community to be ever so vigilant about our safety! We have heard of needless incidents of injury and death perpetrated senselessly upon unsuspecting victims who are just going about their daily business. In malls and grocery store parking lots, women and the elderly have been especially targeted for acts of purse snatching, auto theft (particularly the “bump and run”) and even more heinous and unspeakable acts. In addition, unfortunate and needless acts of police violence (by a few unfit “peace officers”) against unarmed men and women of color have not been deterred, even by the use of body cameras. Given the current state of our communities, it is incumbent upon the church to be a positive change agent. We can start by offering our prayers, and then get active and involved in advocating for positive change. We can do it! If a few first-century female and male disciples can change the world for Christ, we certainly impact our communities. With God's help, all things are possible! This is why CBCGM is striving to organize for action – *Be Present. Be Prayerful. Be Positive. Be Impactful.*

DEACON'S COUNCIL

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

- Internet for the Parish House ("Mother Davenport's House"). (**Update**: Internet has been installed along with new phones! Thank you so much Deacon J. Brenda Hagler and Sis. Ebony Hagler for completing the project!)
- Status of elevator project: (**Update**: As of last month, all current work has been approved by the state for handicap accessibility; final inspection will be done once the elevator has been completed. In addition, new concrete was poured in the front entryway. We thank all those who donated time and effort to get this done – Deacons Willie Jude, James Powell, Michael Pulliam and Sherman Zolicoffer.
- Church Cookout: (**Update**: We thank Sister Betty Walker and Deacon Melvin Grisby and all the volunteers who participated for another fun-filled, good-food fellowship among the CBCGM family and friends. A good time was had by all! P.S. In spite of Brother E and his team winning the Kick Ball game! He has redeemed himself!)
- Deacon's Lapel Pins. It is great for visitors and new members to be able to identify and to meet our deacons. This is easier now because the deacons wear deacon's lapel pins. This is a development from our strategic plan, pillar 3 – Church Unity, which reads in part (see below): "Improving the working relationship between the ministers, **deacons**, congregation and pastor."
- A Deacon Liaison for the CBCGM Common Ground Core Team.
- Van Drivers for church related functions (Pastor Preaching, Cookout, Vacation Bible school, Youth activities, Choir engagements)
- Casual attire for summer worship (However, by way of reminder ministers and deacons should be in uniform for 1st Sunday worship).

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

We convened on Saturday, July 11 at 10:20am. Below is a recap:

- As we always do at every meeting we prayed and read scripture.
- Ministry Reports Included the following:
 - **Usher Report** from Sis Nakita Grant was given as it related to the details of their upcoming Annual Day.

- **Women's Ministry Report** came from Deacon Dorothy Walker-Cooper as it relates to the WOW Conference and Women's Day. The Revival and the Breakfast scheduled in August have been canceled and merged into one weekend of festive activities to rejuvenate our women.
 - **Senior Day Report** by Min E emphasized the fact that we all need to keep in touch with our seniors; it is not just the role of the senior ministry. We are a CARING church family and we demonstrate that in our love towards one another through action and deed. There will be a Senior Day Choir slated to sing on Senior Day and as we do every year, we will vote for our Annual Senior King & Queen.
 - **Elevator Update** was done by Bro Mike Staples who confirmed that the elevator installation is complete. However before it is fully operational, it must pass an official inspection and before we can have it inspected there are a few labor projects that need to be completed first. This would include installing hand rails, the hood in the kitchen along with a few others. However, once the elevator has passed inspection, the plan is to begin construction on the bathroom remodels. In addition, Bro Wallace Phillips is now the Men's Ministry Leader.
 - **Finance Update** was given by Bro Jude, who stated that mid-year contribution statements would go out to the congregation on July 15th. If you haven't gotten yours, please call the church office.
- We engaged in a Communication Drawing Activity amongst the leaders who were seated by last name A-L on one side of the room and M-Z on the other. They were told to select a reader for their table. Everyone seated at the table was given a sheet of paper. The Reader was then given a drawing and instructed to communicate the picture without showing it and the leaders were to draw to the best of their ability what was spoken to them. This was a fun activity; everyone participated and was fully engaged. We then discussed the challenges and opportunities which are:

The leader needs to be confident and give clear instructions. Both the sender of the message and the receiver must be able to not only listen with an open heart and mind however must be patient in the process.

- PLACE Implementation Overview was given by Sis Ebony Hagler.
 - As with everything we do, it ought to stem from in some way one of our 3 strategic pillars. The purpose of implementing PLACE at our church falls under the pillar of **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**. More specifically defined, the purpose is to:

Help people determine their PLACE in ministry or service (committee, ie church anniversary, family day) at CBCGM. Based on our strategic initiatives as well as our engagement survey results, the place process will help us identify our gifts and talents to be integrated within CBC.

- Our plan to communicate the PLACE process includes visual as well as audio on a weekly basis during Sunday morning worship. We also plan to redo the board in the vestibule to show what PLACE stands for. We will also request that participants provide feedback via the evaluation form.
- Pastoral Observations Included the Following:
 - Strong support for the PLACE program and how it will not only help to develop your spiritual gifts but also provide a better understanding of one another's personalities to better work together in ministry and be effective servants for God!

TEN-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN: "PROSPERING THE VISION"

The Core Team assembled on Tuesday, July 7th at 6:30pm.

We reviewed the proposal for protocol presented Minister Flowers as to how we will deal with new ideas. A few corrections were made to the process and we will review the final draft at our next meeting. This is to ensure that everything we do is decent and in order and follows the vision God has given our church.

In addition, we discussed ways to keep the entire congregation informed as to what our strategic plan is. This included another engagement survey to track where we stand and determine the effectiveness of our efforts. Placing the pillars along with the vision and mission in the newsletter and bulletin were suggested to ensure that the church knows what we stand on and what our focus is. So as a reminder, here are they are:

Pillar 1: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Purpose: **Train, equip and prepare individuals to be Christ-centered leaders for the church and thereby e/affecting/empowering the community**

Pillar 2: SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Purpose: **Assist each member in growing spiritually as a committed disciple of Jesus-Christ, so that they might:**

- Share the gospel of Christ
- Participate regularly in worship
- Be active in at least one small group ministry
- Strengthen families in the church & surrounding community

Pillar 3: CHURCH UNITY

Purpose: **Improve the unity in the body of Christ within the church family by:**

- Improving the working relationship between the ministers, deacons, congregation and pastor
- Supporting the vision and spiritual growth of the church and members/disciples through the vision that God gives to the church

MISSION STATEMENT

To PREACH God's word, TEACH God's people and REACH the world with God's love.



CALL TO ACTION/MOTTO

One Voice – One Vision – One Vocation

VISION STATEMENT

To build a community outreach program that includes expanded building facilities that will house and operate vital ministries for transforming our immediate neighborhood, which will include (but not limited to) breakfast for the homeless and needy, a clothing bank and a food pantry.

To engage the community by becoming a center of excellence for education by partnering with other organizations to provide adult GED programs, computer literacy, job training and resources, and preparing high school students for college and connecting senior citizens with the appropriate health resources.

These activities will provide opportunities for church growth through increased membership from 475 to 800 members, 80% of whom are committed to serving God by serving others through 80% participation in small groups and 80% of whom are tithers.

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

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

Our giving comes out of an understanding that all of our financial resources like everything else that we have, comes from God.

The CBCGM Handicap Accessibility Project (or "the Church Elevator") is in its final phase of completion and we want thank each of you for your support. Your generosity is making a difference in our church and in the lives of others. The sacrifice of each member is very important toward the \$1,000.00 commitment. If you cannot do a Thousand dollars, we want you to truly do what you can. With the help of God, we will complete the Elevator, Kitchen and Bathroom. Once again, the Finance Ministry wants to thank each of you for your ongoing support as we continue to move forward in Christ Jesus.

**Note: The budget process will begin this month for 2016. All ministry leaders will be contacted.*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

If there is enough interest we will schedule a five week CBC Wealth Creation course beginning on Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:00 PM in the Parish House. We are holding these sessions on Wednesday evenings because there were too many conflicts on Tuesdays. I am still available to hold private sessions with those who attended any of the first sessions at a convenient time. There is no charge for this course and if you have any questions call Mike Robertson at 508-561-3921. Our objective is to have at least 5 couples or individuals who can report back to the congregation regarding the value of the program. This is not a "Get rich quick" program but rather it is a "Get Rich slowly" program. However, the basic difference between the two is that if you are willing to follow the plan you will indeed discover just what is required for you to achieve your personal financial success.

The Love Kindness program will become fully operational during August as bumper stickers, banners and buttons create a package we will begin to distribute. We expect the successful introduction of Love Kindness awards at the Hi-Mount school will spread to many other schools throughout Milwaukee when school starts in the Fall. If you would like to serve on the CBC Love Kindness Ministry Team please let me know. As reported last month, success as a CBC outreach ministry will require not only your active participation but your prayers as well. Can CBC begin a movement that causes Milwaukee to become known as "The Love Kindness City"? How many Love Kindness buttons have you given away? If you want to learn more about our Love Kindness program call me or email me and I will send you the details.

The employment situation in Milwaukee has improved substantially in the past three months. There are good jobs available and many companies are seriously looking to hire people at many different levels. I have recently been contacted by two organizations seeking people who are seriously looking for work. If you or someone you know is currently unemployed or under-employed, please tell them that I can connect them with the proper organization.

I have met with a HUD real estate person regarding their HUD Homes program. They have a Good Neighbor Next Door Sales Program that offers substantial discounts to people who are willing to commit to live in the home for 36 months. They can schedule an informational session so if you might be interested in buying a new house let me know. We continue to work with Common Ground and are beginning to work with the Washington Park Partners to see how their programs impact our neighborhood. As you can see there are many opportunities available to increase our neighborhood outreach. If you want to get involved just let me know.

UNITY SUNDAY

It was our intention on the first Sunday of July to continue our theme for our summer worship on leadership. My chosen text was Joshua 1:1-3, 5-9 and the title was: "Called to Succeed." However, the Spirit led us in a different direction of an impromptu "Word of Encouragement." (See Hebrews 13:22) This happens from time to time, as every preacher knows. You prepare one message but the spiritual atmosphere of worship requires another. The spiritual atmosphere of worship on the first Sunday compelled me to address the need for the church to maintain its hope in God and its vitality of ministry and witness in a world of change and challenge. I pray that we all were encouraged.

We were able to address the chosen theme on the second Sunday (June 12th). The sermon noted that Joshua was ordained of God to succeed Moses and to lead the people of God into the Promised Land. This was an enormous task (who could fit into Moses' shoes?) but God would give to him all that he needs to fulfill his calling. God instructs Joshua 3 times to "be strong, and be courageous". Such easy instructions but how is he to be strong, and courageous? He can't do it on his own but he must trust and depend upon God. God promised him that God would also "be with him" to give him good success. God did not call Joshua to failure but to success. God promised to be with him 1) in the *transition of leadership* and 2) in his *current position of leadership*. All he had to do was trust God's plan and remain rooted in God's word, 3) which would allow him the privilege of realizing God's promises. We too must be courageous in our calling because God wants each of us to be successful, not for our sakes alone but ultimately to God's own glory and honor!

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:



Doyle Lane Jr & Micah Watson

(Cousins of The Campbell Family)

