



# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Reverend Dr. Demetrius K. Williams, **PASTOR**

*Community Baptist Church of Greater Milwaukee*  
2249 North Sherman Boulevard *Mailing address: 4311 W. North Avenue (53208)*  
[www.cbcm.org](http://www.cbcm.org)

**(August 2015)**

As the month of August has come to a close, I am reminded of how quickly time flies. It seems just a few weeks ago that we were celebrating our summer worship schedule, which entailed a single worship service beginning at 9 AM. On the second Sunday of September (the 13<sup>th</sup>) we will return to our two worship services schedule – 7:30 am and 10:30 am. While the single service for the summer was a challenge for some, others actually welcomed it – certainly the church musicians did! And I must admit too, that I enjoyed it very much. I thank you all very much for your willingness to cooperate flexibly with various church initiatives that might challenge our comforts, coziness and contentment. To be sure, this is the very challenge of the gospel – it seeks to convince, convict and convert. The gospel challenges us never to become too comfortable – God is on the move! As we prepare for the fall season, let us remember our calling and work of “filling God’s house”. To be successful in this task, we must:

*Be Present. Be Prayerful. Be Positive. And Be Impactful.*

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

We convened on Saturday, August 1 at 10:20am. Below is a recap:

- As we do at the start of every meeting we prayed and read scripture.

The Ministry Dynamics class from Central Baptist joined us for breakfast; amongst the group was the president of ABC.

- Ministry Reports Included the following:

- **Youth Update** from Sis Bessie Smith was given as it related to the details of the upcoming Youth Lock-In, Prayer Breakfast & Youth Emphasis Day.
- **Women's Ministry Update** was given and included details about the WOW Conference, tickets for Saturday's luncheon are \$20.00 to cover the cost, and a women's shelter has been invited to attend, all women are asked to donate interview items.

Pastor Williams interjected about the state of our community which is in our newsletter. Deacon Mary Hinkle gave us a status report on number of murders, and crime in our city. The Deacons decided to actively pursue change with Words & Faith to create a positive change in our community. We will be placing #BLACKLIVESMATTER on all of our properties in addition to asking our fellow AIM churches to do the same. They are open to other ideas about impacting our community, if you have an idea, submit it to one of our deacons.

- **Elevator Update** was provided by Bro Mike Staples who stated "we can see the light at the end of the tunnel".
- \*New Forms were introduced to aid in ministry planning and effectiveness. They included an *Order of Worship Guidelines*, *Internal Ministry Request Form* & an *Event Planning Checklist*. Each of these aids were designed to be easy to use and help make activities, programs and events successful with well thought out planning. Pastor Williams emphasized the importance of order and in order for a family to function smoothly; we need systems in place to eliminate tensions.
- Our Activity amongst the leaders was a scripture worksheet about how God instructs is to treat one another. They were once again seated by last name A-L on one side of the room and M-Z on the other. They were instructed to work as a team to discover the key word for 5 scriptures on how we are to treat one another. We then went around the room and

looked at a few verses and the main one that stood out was **LOVE!** We ran out of time, but every leader was encouraged to complete their sheet and bring it to our September meeting.

- Pastoral Observations Included the Following:
  - Discussed points from the book he's currently reading called "Systems - Sensitive Leadership" how it's not about being personal but principle.
  - The 4 C's of Ministry:
    - Change – People come & they go which creates tension & instability
    - Confusion – Is not of God.
    - Conflict – Can be like fire shut up in your bones.
    - Complexity – How do you keep things from escalating into warfare within ministry?

## **PLACE PROCESS IMPLEMENTATION**

We kicked off PLACE by changing the poster board in the vestibule and integrating a daily devotional video during Worship that will continue every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday the rest of the year. The videos come from PLACE founder and CEO, Jay McSwain, who takes just a minute or two to read a scripture and encourage us to put it work in our lives. These videos are available online for your viewing pleasure via YouTube on the PLACE Ministries Channel.

Our first group of participants started on Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> and completed the entire PLACE process on September 2! Here are a few quotes from our participants:

*"Just a quick thought about the first PLACE session - I'm hooked!!!! I think this is the perfect PLACE (no pun intended) for me to discover me and what my role in life is. During the first session, something was revealed to me that I knew about myself but didn't particularly like and with that discovery, I was able to think about it more and figure some things out."*

*"It's a great tool for people who don't know where to start."*

*"It shows you the light at the end of the tunnel."*



Finding Your Place In Ministry.

**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.**

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

The Core Team did not meet in August, but will resume on Tuesday, September 1st at 6:30pm.

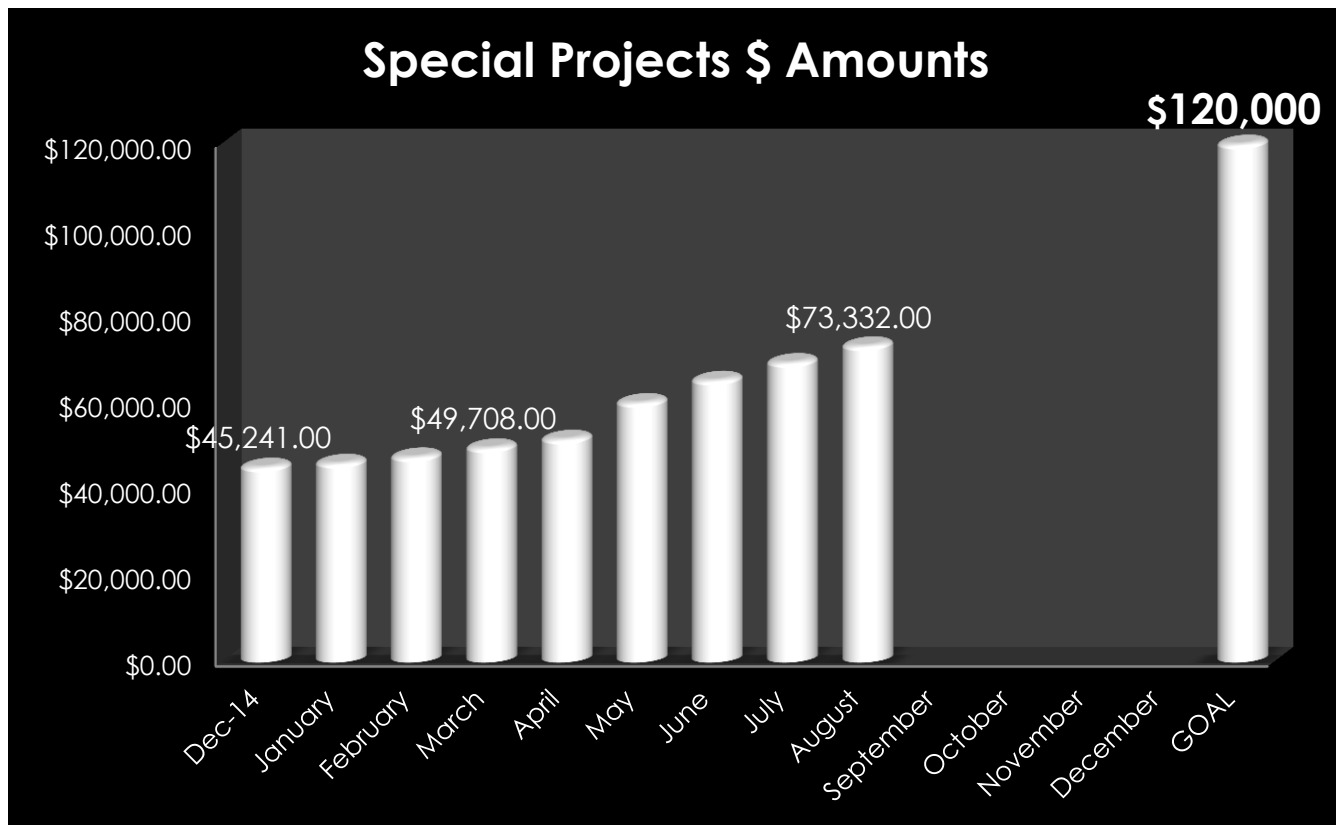
### **FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS**

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

The CBCGM Handicap Accessibility Project (or “the Church Elevator”) is in its final phase of completion. 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 \$1000.00 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.

Again, we want say Thank You! Thank You!! And Thank You!!!

\*Please see the chart on the next page which outlines our progress.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The five week CBC Wealth Creation course will begin on Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:00 PM in the Parish House. After the first session if we discover there are too many conflicts we will schedule alternative times so all who start can complete the course. I will also hold private sessions with those who may want individual help. However, the greatest benefit will be had by those who are willing to share their successes. 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 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 what is required for you to achieve financial success.

The Love Kindness program is slowly getting off the ground and we now have bumper stickers as well as the buttons. How many members of CBC will put a bumper sticker on their car and even ask their friends and family members to do the same? The CBC Love Kindness Ministry Team still has a few openings, so if you are interested in serving please let me know. Every successful CBC outreach ministry requires congregational participation as well as prayers. Can this CBC ministry cause Milwaukee to be known as "The Love Kindness City"?

When you wear a Love Kindness button and someone comments on it do you offer to give them yours? Have you seen any worn by others?

As mentioned last month the employment situation in Milwaukee has improved and there are good jobs available. If you know anyone looking for work please have them contact me so I can connect them with the proper organization.

Emmy and I truly enjoyed the blessing of our new home on August 2nd and were delighted so many members of CBC attended to share this blessing with us. Please think about ways we can use our house to expand God's kingdom here in Milwaukee. What groups can we bring together to share ideas so we begin to work together as one Christian community?

There are many housing options available and we will be looking to partner with other organizations like Common Ground, HUD and Washington Park Partners so we can take advantage of these opportunities. During August I returned to Massachusetts to celebrate a family birthday and compete in the Falmouth Road Race. While I failed to run the race I had hoped to run I was able to finish in the middle of my age group. As we grow older we definitely run slower but it is wonderful to wake up each morning and enjoy another day. The lesson is to keep learning so next year I may learn how to Hula-Hoop so I can compete at the church cook-out.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Brother Wallace Phillips is the New Sunday School teacher for the Seniors class and also has agreed to help where needed! Thank you Brother Wallace.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/NEW MEMBERS**

Wednesday afternoon and evening Bible Study along with BLAST resume on September 9, 2015. We are extremely excited to now offer a variety of classes, watch the bulletin for more information.

Beginning Unity Sundays in September and October Reverend Greer will share our Baptist Doctrines with the congregation during the Sunday School hour at 8:00am.

This is one of the subjects covered in our New Members class, attendance will be taken so new members will get credit. Make-up classes for new members will take place at the Parish House during this time as well. Watch the bulletin for future announcements on other classes that will be offered on Unity Sundays during the 8:00 am Sunday time slot.

## **COMMUNITY BAPTIST/WHEATON FRANCISCAN HEALTHCARE**

Community has partnered with Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare to inform you about diabetes with a program called **"PROJECT POWER"**. The five week session on diabetes begins on the 1st Tuesday in September at 10:00am in our lower level. These education sessions are free and open to the public; however you must register by calling **1-888-994-3286**.



<u>DATE:</u>	<u>TOPIC:</u>
September 1	What is Diabetes
September 8	Clean Heart
September 15	Nutrition
September 22	Exercise
September 29	Train up a Child

Watch the bulletin for detailed information regarding future sessions regarding prostate cancer, colon cancer and high blood pressure.

## **UNITY SUNDAY**

On the first Sunday of August we continued our theme of biblical examples of leadership. To the surprise of some, our chosen text came from Jonah 1:1-3; 3:1-9. Choosing this reluctant prophet as our candidate for the theme of leadership might seem inappropriate to some. Unlike other prophetic books, Jonah does not contain oracles of doom and destruction against neither Israel nor Judah, or any of the

other nations. It simply tells a very human story about an all too human trait – *disobedience*. To make matters worse, Jonah was a chosen leader – he was a prophet. Jonah then was not and is not the hero of the story—God is. God is the *protagonist*, that is, the leading figure, the central character and the one who plays the central role in the narrative. The protagonist is also the important and influential supporter or advocate of the main idea or driving motif of a story: *that main idea and driving force in this story is the unlimited nature of God's love, which seeks to bring about repentance, mercy, forgiveness, patience and compassion*. Jonah, on the other hand, was on the opposite side of this driving motif. He supported the other side of the main idea: irresponsibility of duty, poor leadership qualities, bigotry, hatred, pitilessness, heartlessness and apathy. In taking this attitudinal position, this makes him the *antagonist*. The antagonist is the rival, the adversary, the opponent, the enemy, the contender and the competitor of the protagonist. You see, the antagonist is the character that is in conflict and contention with the hero, who is the protagonist. Now I know somebody is saying, how can Jonah be all that? And I say in response, it's simple to become all that: when you begin with disobedience to God's call, it can lead you into deeper degrees of distance and disharmony with God! Before you know it, you find yourself opposing the things of God, instead of supporting the things of God. You'll find yourself acting like the "opposing muscle" in physiology that acts in opposition to and limits the action of another muscle. You might even find yourself unwittingly functioning as *the neutralizing agent of God's agenda*, like a neutralizing drug in pharmacology that cancels the efficacy of a medicinal substance that would otherwise help or heal. This is the position in which Jonah, a chosen leader, was placing himself on account of his disobedience. For this reason, I titled the sermon:

"Don't be Like Jonah."

## *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:*



**Steve Vicent**

(Nephew of Gwendolyn Adesuyi)

