



# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

## *Community Baptist Church of Greater Milwaukee*

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### **(OCTOBER 2015)**

The month of October is the month of transition from fall weather patterns to that of winter weather. We have been blessed this October with a mild weather pattern. We have enjoyed above average temperatures of low 70s and upper 60s. This is certainly going to change! Now is the time to prepare and get ready for the cold and chill that is certain to come. There is a lesson for us in this transitional season – for just as seasons change in nature, seasons also change in our lives. It is to our advantage to use the positive, sunny and mild days of our lives to store up a reservoir of hope, joy and peace to counter the cold, cloudy and stormy days and seasons of our lives. We have had mild and sunny weather in our collective lives and we have taken advantage of it by completing the elevator project with our own funds and also moved forward with some initial (and greatly needed) improvements on several church properties. There is so much more we can accomplish if we continue with our collective and collaborative labor together. Let us finish the year strong: strong in faith, strong in our commitment, strong in our love and mutual affection, and strong in our giving. How might we end strong?!

**BE PRESENT.      BE PRAYERFUL.**

**BE POSITIVE.      BE IMPACTFUL.**

## **DEACON'S COUNCIL**

The Deacon's Council met on Saturday, October 3 at 9:00am & discussed the following:

- 1) Preparing for Baptism
- 2) Providing Communion for home bound members
- 3) Supporting church events

## **LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

We convened on Saturday, October 3 at 10:00am. Below is a summary:

- At the start of the meeting we prayed and read scripture. We read Matthew 15:10-11 which states:

**“<sup>10</sup> Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand. <sup>11</sup> What goes into someone’s mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.”**

- The minutes from the previous meeting & our Stakeholder’s Summit were read.
- The Following Ministry Reports were given:
  - Bro Jude reported that 26 ministries had turned in their budgets.
  - Love Kindness Window Stickers are now available; see Rev Mike Robertson to get one.
  - A Sendoff Celebration for the Saffold family was scheduled on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm, everyone was invited to come and wish them well on their journey to Texas.
  - Our Music Ministry Celebration Concert was scheduled for 5:00pm on the same Saturday. Invited guests included Greater Galilee Baptist Church and Fox River Congregational Church.
  - Pastor Williams interjected the need for us to represent our church by wearing customized apparel. We are in the process of designing our own shirts and casual wear. He also informed us of the impact that Milwaukee AIM is having in our greater community. There were two other churches well represented at our AIM Deacon Retreat which demonstrates the growth of our collaboration in addition to fulfilling the purpose of AIM which seeks to cultivate effective leadership in congregations.

- Our Leadership Focus Activities were all about **Communication**. Did you know that communication is 93% nonverbal while only 7% is verbal? Ever hear someone say it's not what you said, but rather it's how you said it? And since none of us are perfect at communicating the right thing at the right time in the right manner all the time, we decided this was a great opportunity to practice. Our first activity was to nonverbally communicate the word "Hello" 3 different ways. We saw lots of eye contact, waving, smiling, hugging and even some written HI's! 😊

The Leaders were then instructed to rewrite **I John 3:18** in their own words.

***Dear Children, Let us not love with words  
or speech but in action and in truth.***

The final activity was a game of role play called "What I'm Trying To Say Is".

Each person was paired with another and given either a card with positive words or a card with negative words. They were then instructed to take turns & act out a few of the emotions on said card without opening your mouth.

The objective was to see if your partner could guess what emotion was being conveyed. This was a fun activity, there were some really interesting facial expressions

scattered all over the room. Everyone was engaged and determined not to talk, but rather get their point across nonverbally. There were some successes and some areas of opportunity. What we learned is that we all have some work to do when it comes to communicating with one another.



The ultimate result of all of our communication activities is that our actions and words should coincide. Weather the message is positive or negative; we need to communicate in a way that is honest, clear and concise.

We went over the following chart to demonstrate how to better convey those negative emotions in a more positive way. Like Pastor often says, we all have that old man or woman who desires to come out every now and then. But it is our duty to remain in control of our thoughts and our words; God has given us authority to monitor that which escapes the lips of our mouth.

We encourage you to use the following chart to help you transform some of those not so nice words into a more positive way of communicating. We would love to be able to share some of your experiences in our next issue!

<b>Negative Emotion</b>		<b>Positive Transformation</b>
Angry	↔	Disenchanted
Afraid	↔	Uncomfortable
Anxious	↔	Expectant
Confused	↔	Curious
Depressed	↔	On the road to a turn around
Destroyed	↔	Set back
Disgusted	↔	Surprised
Dread	↔	Challenge
Exhausted	↔	Recharging
Failure	↔	Getting educated
Furious	↔	Passionate
Impatient	↔	Anticipating
Irritated	↔	Stimulated
Jealous	↔	Overloving
Lazy	↔	Storing energy
Lonely	↔	Available
Lost	↔	Searching
Overwhelmed	↔	Maximized
Rejected	↔	Overlooked
Scared	↔	Excited
Sick	↔	Cleansing
Stressed	↔	Busy
Stupid	↔	Discovering
Terrible	↔	Different

➤ Pastoral Observations

- Pastor emphasized that there is more work to be done amongst the leaders and our meetings are now developing into a place where work and practice take place in order to shape us into disciples. There is NO transformation without first having self-reflection. We can no longer lean on learned behavior; we must be willing to learn the principles of leadership and conflict resolution and apply them. In addition, we must meet regularly for God's people can see a positive change within Gods World. We must strive for excellence, God commands & deserves it.

- We closed out with the following poem:

### God Called You

Don't turn your back, God has called you. Don't turn and walk away. God has called you. There is a purpose for your life. You are not just here to occupy space. When God created you, He had already determined what your purpose would be. He so patiently waits for you to respond. God has called you. Who are you to turn your back on the true and living God? He who has created you with His pure hands? Who are you? You have ears and I know you can hear. God is talking to **YOU!** Let not your living be in vain; let not your brother perish because of your disobedience. Do as **YOU** are told. Lives are at stake. You are not your own, but the Lord's.

Stand back; take a long, hard look at who you are. The ground that you stand upon was created by God. It is because of Him that you're able to walk at all. He created those legs that you use to balance yourself. And those feet you use, you're borrowing those also. Think about this. How happy are you? No really, when you're all alone and the crew is not there for you to front for. How happy are you? I know you think about your life and I know you know that you should change. Why not?

So you think you're not ready yet? Ready – will you ever be? You couldn't do it alone if you tried. This is the reason God wants **YOU** to answer Him. He has the power and the authority to rectify every wrong circumstance and sin in your life. He's not scornful like your partner, He understands you.

Besides, He always knows what you've done; He knew what you were gonna do before you did. He's **always** watching. Start making the change in your personal life. When you're alone, focusing primarily on "the real you" talk to HIM. Let HIM know how you feel about you. Tell Him about all of the pains and disappointments you're had. Ask Him to help in any way possible. Let Him know that you know you haven't been the best at what you're been doing or the nicest either. Ask Him to prove Himself in your life. Do it now! Don't turn your back God has called you. Don't turn and walk away. God has called you. There is a purpose for **YOUR** life. It's not about religion; it's about you and your personal relationship with God. Be sure to know "the real deal!" Hey, I'm just passing through, looking at your back wondering if you'll change your life.

**From a Stranger  
To a Friend**

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

The Core Team convened on Tuesday, October 6th at 6:30pm at our parish house. The main topic of discussion was how to expand by establishing a CDC which would provide a service, fill a need, employ and train people as well as generate additional funding for our church. We discussed long term planning and how we may not implement until 2017, in the mean time we plan to thoroughly research to determine what we ought to do first based on a number of factors yet keeping it in line with our vision. Our homework is to do research on transitional living, assisted housing and veterans. If you work in this field, or know of someone who does, please contact our church office.

In addition, we talked about our social media initiative and how other churches are reaching out to our youth through technology. We plan to have an associate minister from one of our AIM churches come and discuss how to use social media in a productive way. We are also thinking of nontraditional ways to convey millennials to come to church. We are committed to prospering the vision and being about our Father’s business!

## **FINANCE UPDATE**

On behalf of our visionary pastor, Rev. Dr. Demetrius Williams, and the Finance Committee, once again, we want to thank each of you for your continuous commitment and dedication to the financial growth of CBCGM. Doing what God requires of us is not always easy, but **God will make a way if we keep the faith.**

The Finance Ministry thanks all of the Ministry Leaders for completing their budget on time. As a result of your support and commitment, we will be able to present the 2016 budget to the Deacon Board on Saturday, November 7, 2015. We must continue to keep our Motto in mind as we continue to move forward “One Voice—One Vision—One Vocation.”

Our desire is to be responsible stewards with each other as well as with our Time, Talent, and Money. As a result, we will be able to move forward as a united Church.

The Elevator is in its final inspection phase and we pray that it will be completed by time you receive this newsletter. The sacrifice of each member is very important toward the \$1000.00 commitment. If you have not donated anything toward the Elevator, please do so. If you can give more, we will be very grateful; we want you to truly do what you can. With the help of God, we are only \$45,000 dollars from reaching our goal of a \$120,000 dollars. We can do it!! Once again, the Finance Ministry wants to thank each of you for your ongoing support as we continue to move forward in Christ Jesus. We want to say... Thank you! Thank you!! And again, Thank you!!! ☺

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

During October we continued to offer the CBC Wealth Creation course on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm in the Parish House. We will continue to offer this course during November but are changing the starting time to **6:30pm**. The primary objective of this course is to help you reduce the worry you may currently have regarding your finances. Jesus tells us that we are not to worry and yet until we are able to take charge of our money many do worry. That is why this is indeed a Bible based course. We welcome newcomers so if you want to see what we are teaching please come. There is no charge for this course and if you have any questions contact Mike Robertson at **508-561-3921** or via email, **emmyandmike@verizon.net**.

The Love Kindness program now has forms where you can record acts of Kindness you have observed, performed or received. There is a Love Kindness box at the back of the sanctuary on the usher stand where you can deposit your observations and they will be announced each month during the Unity Sunday services.

The Love Kindness Essay Writing Contest ended on October 31<sup>st</sup>! We will be judging them and the winning essays will be published in the church newsletter. If you read this and have an essay please submit it even after the deadline so we can benefit from your thinking. Also, in addition to bumper stickers and buttons we now have window signs and will soon have yard signs and banners. The committee has held meetings and is exploring ways to reach out to more schools and improve our electronic communication. We are looking for volunteers to serve on the Love Kindness Committee. If you share our belief that Milwaukee could become known as "**The Love Kindness City**" please let me know.

In addition, we are continuing to meet with organizations that are working in the Sherman Park neighborhood to see how we can more effectively work together to improve our neighborhood. We strive to help anyone who is seeking employment because there are many job opportunities available right now.



## UNITY SUNDAY

Our sermon for UNITY SUNDAY came from Psalm 1 with the title: "Getting in Step with God." The question was asked: Why do the Psalms begin with this wisdom Psalm? Because human beings can't live right if they are not **in step with God!** Humans can't think right if they are not **in step with God!** Can't worship right if they are not **in step with God!** When we are in step with God, our walk, our *conduct, character and conversation* are in order. To be sure, to walk upright we have to keep "catching ourselves" because the danger of stumbling is always there. **We've got to "watch our step!"**

This is why we should seek to be in agreement with what God's will is for our lives. **Walking in step with God** means operating in tandem with God's word and His will. The word of God can regulate your thoughts and actions. It can build our **conduct, character and conversation**. Then we can be like a tree planted by the rivers of waters, which represents fixity and surety, stability, nourishment. Certain character traits are developed when we walk **in step with God**. God plants us in the right place to produce fruit. And to be sure, God has many ways to bless us as we strive to get in step! Even when things happen to make us stumble, the Lord knows the way of the righteous. He knows and therefore watches over their way because they keep in step with God! What promise are we given when we are "in step" with God? We receive help in times of need, comfort in sickness, shelter in the time of a storm, and guidance in a world of confusion.

## *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:*



**Wilbur Gray**

*(Brother-In-Law of Brenda Hagler & Uncle of Ebony Hagler)*



**He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.**

REVELATION 21:4