



# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

## *Community Baptist Church of Greater Milwaukee*

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### **(NOVEMBER 2015)**

The month of November has been an eventful month in the life of our church, neighborhood, city and our nation – indeed the world. We joyfully acknowledge the completion of the handicap accessibility project (installation of the elevator) and applaud those who worked so hard to see it through to completion. We also thank God that we were able to serve the community once again through supplying turkeys to needy families. Thanks are due to Sister Patricia and Rev. Patrick Greer, Sis. Rebecca Powell, the Mission Ministry and all the rest of the dedicated people who worked on this project. We are reminded, moreover, of the need to continue to pray for our city, nation and the world as violence in each of these spheres has become a tragic and daily reality. We remember the senseless acts of violence in Paris, France and in many cities here in the U.S. Given all that is taking place in the world, some might find the season of Thanksgiving and the upcoming Christmas season a time of sadness instead of joy. I encourage all of us to make time and find space to be mindful of the grace of God, even in the midst of the mess of the world. The first step in changing the world is to be changed, transformed. We must remember as Christians that

**“The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength!”**

## DEACON'S COUNCIL

The Deacon's Council met on Saturday, November 7 at 9:00am & discussed the following:

1. *The 2016 Budget* was presented by Deacon Willie Jude to the deacon ministry & was unanimously approved.
2. *The Culinary Ministry proposal.* The Diaconate approved a proposal from the culinary ministry to have all proceeds raised/given to the ministry, to go toward the Women's Ministry. The proposal was approved.

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

We convened on Saturday, November 7 at 10:00am. Below is a summary:

- At the start of the meeting we prayed and read scripture. We read Ephesians 4:15-16 which states:

**“<sup>15</sup> Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. <sup>16</sup> He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” (NLT)**

- The minutes from the previous meeting were read.
- The Following Ministry Reports were given:
  - Bro Jude gave a financial update and reported that the 2016 was just approved by the diaconate. All approved ministry activities will now be added to the church calendar.
  - Pastor Williams interjected the need for us to do more in giving back, and therefore announced that for our church anniversary we will be going to Taycheedah Correctional Institution on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> for an afternoon worship from 1:30 – 2:00pm. Up to 30 people can attend and must complete a volunteer application. Sis Powell is the contact person and you can sign up with her.
- Our Leadership Focus Activity was all about **CONFLICT RESOLUTION**. The Leaders sat at three different tables and were given a sheet with 3 case studies of issues that have occurred at churches. They were then instructed to examine their case to determine the issue(s) and come up with a resolution.

See the enclosed case studies that were examined:

Conflict Management Case Study #3

A Committee With a Bully

A church has a social action committee doing fund-raisers for different community charities. The current drive will provide funds for the local Habitat for Humanity chapter. The fund-raiser has not gotten off the ground because one member of the committee is nothing short of a bully. She is obnoxious, dramatic, negative & forceful. Everything must be her way or a long, drawn-out argument ensues. Other committee members are quietly dropping off the team. The other members are afraid to confront the bully and want to quit the work.

Conflict Management Case Study #4

Young vs Old

Lately, the ministers on staff at a church were arguing about almost everything. The younger ministers wanted to “move forward” with new styles of ministry, namely a contemporary worship service. The more established and older ministers wanted to keep the traditional service alive, something “no other church in the area was doing.” The younger ministers did not respect the ministry approach of the older ministers, feeling they were unwilling to try new approaches to reach people for Christ. The older ministers saw the younger ministers as naive and compromising the gospel of Jesus Christ. Few needed decisions were being made in the church.

Conflict Management Case Study #5

It’s My Church,  
Not Yours, Pastor!

“Congratulations! You were unanimously voted in as our new pastor...” said the Chairman of the deacons, “Now here is what I want you to accomplish over the next year.” Bob proceeds to direct your every ministry decision in the church. No matter what idea you bring to the deacon board, Bob is against it. In fact, after only a few months it appears that Bob does not like you at all. Your every sermon is criticized. Your leadership style is questioned. Your motives and attitude are challenged not matter how sincere you are. Bob is disrupting your ministry programs and creating difficulties working with others in the congregation.

Here are some the highlights of discussed resolutions:

### Conflict Management Case Study #3

## A Committee With a Bully

With this scenario, it's never best to address a bully in front of a group, but rather for two people to go to the bully in love with scripture Matthew 18:15-16

### Conflict Management Case Study #4

## Young vs Old

To resolve the conflict of generational differences it was suggested that they work together and embrace the differences with respect and love. Separate services were also suggested. Pastor gave a biblical reference starting at 1 Kings 12:8.

### Conflict Management Case Study #5

## It's My Church, Not Yours, Pastor!

It was established that Bob who is a deacon was NOT in good standing, is spiritually immature and needs to establish a better relationship with the pastor by having a private meeting and if that doesn't work... Like one of our leaders stated Bob's behavior is cancerous and just like cancer you try to treat it as best you can but sometimes you must resort to more aggressive measures and cut it out so that it doesn't spread any further.

When dealing with a person who is simply put, a control freak, you can't go wrong with scripture. See the following outlines **The Scriptural Role Of A Pastor** (1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Pet 5:1-4), **The Need For Support Of & Submission To The Pastor** (1 Cor 16:15-16; Eph 5:21; 1 Tim 2:1-4; 1 Tim 5:19-20; 1 Thess 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:17; James 3:17-18) **The Role & Work Of The Deacon Body** (1 Tim. 3:8-13; also Acts 5) **The Requirement For Unity In The Body Of Christ** (John 17:23; Rom 15:5-7; 1 Cor 1:10-11, 12:11-27; Eph 4:1-6, 11-16; Phil 2:1-5; Col 3:12-16)



➤ Pastoral Observations

- Pastor emphasized the importance of working more effectively. He asked for feedback to our new format of meeting and leaders responded by saying they liked the less reporting and more engaging work we were doing as long as everyone remains open and honest in our dealings. In addition, leaders were asked to bring their experiences back to the group to share. Leaders were informed to mark their 2016 calendars for our 1<sup>st</sup> Leadership Retreat tentatively scheduled for Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Produce Fruit, Reduce Conflict all to Increase the Glory of God!

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

The Core Team convened on Tuesday, November 2nd at 6:30pm at our parish house. Special invited guest were Deacon Alex Hardy and Lamont Smith, who came to discuss their experience in starting a CDC. We also compared notes on our homework of researching transitional living, assisted housing and veterans.

What great progress our church has made since the inception of our 10 year Strategic Plan. We appreciate those that have labored and contributed in any way, your efforts have brought us to where we are and continue to be the gusto to keep us moving forward. We are thankful to God for putting into place the people who have been instrumental in the implementation of the vision He has given us. We are grateful for the sense of collaboration in an effort to accomplish all that God has said we would do and could do. With one more meeting before the close of 2015, we are looking forward to doing even more as we gear up for 2016!

## **REVIEW OF THE MILWAUKEE AIM CLERGY CONSULTATION**

### **By REV PATRICK GREER**

*“This year's AIM Clergy Consultation was one of the best meetings thus far in my opinion. Community Baptist Church should be proud of the relationship the Associates have with our Pastor and vice versa. The consultation reinforced how we feel about each other. We also are learning how to move beyond establishing relationships with the Associates at Community but with those at the other AIM churches.*

*Spending time having heart felt discussions about how the vision of the leader God placed at the individual AIM church's and how our ministry does not conflict with that vision but enhances it was another step in the growth of each participant. Studying about the Apostle Paul and preaching in general is exciting. Learning how to use what we learn is encouraging. God is faithful and opens doors to fulfill the vision(s) he has given us.”*

## **FINANCE UPDATE**

On behalf of our visionary pastor, Rev. Dr. Demetrius K. Williams and the Finance Ministry, 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 He will give us the strength to overcome the many obstacles if we keep the faith.

The Finance Ministry thanks the Deacon Board for reviewing and approving the 2016 budget at their November 7, 2015 regular Board meeting. We must continue to keep our Motto in mind as we continue to move forward "One Voice—One Vision—One Vocation."

We want 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.

**PRAISES BE TO GOD**, the Elevator is complete! Pastor Williams will announce the date and time of the dedication service. We thank God for the sacrifice of each member that worked very hard to pay the \$1000.00 or whatever amount they could to complete this project. We know that all things are possible in Christ Jesus, but we have to make up in our minds to trust that God will do what He says. While we have completed the major project, we have several smaller project that we need to continue to work on, therefore; we need you to continue to give. **We want you to truly do what you can.** With the help of God, we are only \$44,000 dollars from reaching our goal of a \$120,000 dollars. **We can do it!!!** Once again, the Finance Ministry thanks each of you for your ongoing support as we continue to move forward in Christ Jesus. We want to say... Thank you! Thank you!! & Thank you!!!



## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

During November the CBC Wealth Creation / Debt Reduction Bible Study course was held on two Wednesday evenings at the Parish House. However, it appears that this time does not work for many who originally indicated that they wanted to take this course. Therefore there will be no classes scheduled for December. However, I will be happy to consult on an individual basis with anyone who wants to reduce the worry they may currently have regarding their finances. To schedule an appointment contact Mike Robertson at 508-561-3921 or email me at, emmyandmike@verizon.net.

Alex Hardy has arranged for me to present a session on “How Our Free Enterprise System Works” to students at Hi-Mount School during December. The Good News Club at Hi-Mount is a program that provides Christian teaching after school one day a week. We are exploring the possibility of CBC sponsoring this program at Hi-Mount as well as at the Obama school. Emmy and I have volunteered to read at Obama as encouraged by Brother Eastern.

The Love Kindness program is looking for you to record acts of Kindness you have observed, performed or received and deposit your observations in The Love Kindness box at the back of the sanctuary. Bumper stickers, buttons and window signs are available in the sanctuary. Hi-Mount is awarding Kindness awards each week and have installed a large bulletin board to give credit to the winners.

The Men's Network was presented with a program to improve awareness regarding Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking in Milwaukee. We are currently exploring how we might be able to become involved and support this program. I have agreed to head the CBC committee to support the “Do Not Stand Idly By” campaign to reduce gun violence that was recently adopted by Common Ground. As this program develops we will report on how the congregation can get involved. 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. There are many entry level jobs available for anyone who may be looking for employment. Just let me know and I can put you in contact with companies with immediate openings.

## **UNITY SUNDAY**

The Sermon title and text for UNITY SUNDAY was: “Understanding God's Economy: Taking Advantage of the Disadvantages” (Matthew 14:16-18; Luke 6:38). This text and title reminds us of how God's economy is reciprocal: “Give and it shall be given unto you...” We must put something in, in order to get something out. We must use our time, talent and treasure in building God's kingdom and our investment, no matter how small, will be increased by God, thirty, sixty and even one hundred-fold. All we have to do is bring what we have to Jesus. Jesus asked the disciples, “How man loaves do you have?” In other words, “what do you have to contribute to overcoming a seemingly impossible situation? *It was important for Jesus to ask what resources were available because he realized the importance of contributing, making sacrifices, in order to make gains in life.* The disciples did not have anything to give the people. There was a small boy in the crowd who shared his lunch of two fish and five loaves. The small child contributed what he had to help the situation. This we must do also! We must take our limited resources to God – whatever we can do, or contribute that is humanly possible, do it. And in so doing we will see our efforts multiplied. Instead of making excuses for what we don't have, we can use what we do have to transform a situation of lack to that of plenty.

# *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:



**Rose Johnson**

(Non-Resident Member)



**Samantha Coleman**

(Niece of Patricia Simmons)

**Willie "Aunt Mag" Brisco**

(Aunt of Ruby Grisby)

**Ronald Jackson**

(Brother of Lynda Jackson-Conyers)

**Anthony Burley**

(Brother of Charlotte Flowers)

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you;  
not as the world gives do I give to you.  
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

(John 14:27)