



***Community Baptist Church of Greater Milwaukee***  
***2249 North Sherman Boulevard***  
***(April 2013)***

Dear CBCGM members, the month of April has lived up to the old saying, "April showers brings May flowers." The first part of this saying has been quite true – April has been rainy and chilly. But we are grateful that the sun will shine again! To be sure, the light of the SON is always shining in our hearts! This month is also important because it is a time for us to celebrate our mutual work together. The church's kind recognition of the Pastor and family is a time honored tradition. It is a time to deepen and broaden our mutual labor in building the kingdom of God. Having begun our work of "Getting God's House in Order" let us continue with our commitment and determination.

**Deacon's Council**

At the monthly meeting of the Deacons' Council held on Saturday, April 6, 2013 at 9 AM, there was one very important outcome: the selection and approval of the church logo! While there were important ministry reports and review of finances, we thank and commend the diaconate for selection and approval. While there was some discussion over church colors and the like, the first step of the process of presenting our brand and identity in symbolic form has been achieved. We will present the logo to the entire church at the next business council.

**Leadership Council**

At the Leadership Council held on Saturday, April 6, 2013 at 10:30 AM several ministry reports were given. The CBCGM Media Ministry (headed by Sis. Anita Scott) announced the development of several new initiatives such as, telephone text-alerts for church events or emergencies, videotaping worship services and for the web site, on-line giving. All of these initiatives are planned for the future. The Church Acquisitions Ministry (headed by Deacon Claude Williams) is organizing its vision to investigate and strategically execute the acquisition of church property for future expansion of ministry opportunities. The Church Etiquette initiative (headed by Rev. Greer) made an impressive power point presentation on several aspects of church etiquette (that is, how individuals are to behave and comport themselves in worship and on church property). This will become a part of the new members training and handbook. As mentioned above, the church logo was presented to the Leadership Council with great approval. However, a conversation regarding church colors was raised and discussed. I suggested that we do not get caught up in debates about color. What's important is that the image presented represents our values and identity. We will discuss at our next meeting that we do not decide on any church color, understanding that the logo image is what identifies us and that any ministry can use the color it decides for its ministry. Finally, it was important to reiterate that the task of ministry leaders is to share the information from the leadership council and encourage their constituents to support the vision. I'm sure that if this is done positively and consistently, the vision will come to fruition.

### **Ten-Year Strategic Plan: “Prospering the Vision – 2013-2023”**

Since we want each ministry to have the opportunity to grow and prosper in the vision, our Strategic Coordinator, Linda Caples, will be holding meetings with various ministry leaders to assist them in their strategic responsibilities. We do not want any ministry to feel abandoned or neglected in the process. If any ministry leader has not signed up yet, please do so ASAP! The success of the strategic plan depends on the willing cooperation of all.

### **UNITY SUNDAY Worship**

UNITY SUNDAY keeps getting better and better! I felt inspired and enthused by the spirit-filled worship. We adjusted the order of service to fit the move of the Spirit. The congregation’s reception of the morning message: “The Word, the Table and the Transformation” (Luke 24:13-35) was encouraging. The disciples on the road to Emmaeus recognized Jesus “in the breaking of the bread.” And when he departed from them, they got “heartburn on the highway.” This means that the Lord’s Supper is the only meal specifically designed to give us “heartburn” – burning hearts for worship, witness and personal transformation. My hope and prayer is that attendance would increase. Having a combined worship should mean full capacity seating. Let’s keep working toward this end. Finally, a questionnaire was made available to the congregation to ask any spiritual questions one might have about God, church, life, etc. These questions have been collated and ordered into various categories and will serve as the basis of Sunday School for the month of June. Our desire is to address the questions and needs of the congregation. Please mark your calendars and remember that every first Sunday is now UNITY SUNDAY – Sunday School starts at 8:00 AM and Worship starts at 9 AM! There are still some who come late and forget!



### **New Carpet and Piano in the Church!**

New carpet has been installed in the sanctuary (and the vestibule and pulpit areas) as mentioned in last month’s newsletter. In addition, we have a new piano. We should all commend Deacon Debra Rosby and the fine leadership and stewardship she has provide for the finance committee and her commitment to this church. Under her leadership much has been accomplished – the sale of the church vans, and the sale of the property on Good Hope and the elimination of Lawyer’s fees related to the purchase of the land, the renovation of the pastor’s office and the staff offices upstairs. Besides all of this, she maintains the regular management of the churches bills and other financial responsibilities. Let’s all give her and the rest of the finance committee our heartfelt congratulations for their stewardship. But their work continues. Next on the agenda are the gymnasium area and improvements on the classrooms. Our continued faithful giving will facilitate this next project for improving our church property.

### **Covenant Sunday – June 2013**

Coming the first Sunday of June, UNITY SUNDAY will be “Covenant Sunday.” We mentioned this in our last newsletter regarding pledging. We will not reiterate what was mentioned there. However, “Covenant Sunday” in June will be for all church leaders to make their pledge of faithful supporting the church through the summer months, when giving tends to drop off. We certainly encourage all members to join in this act of faithful stewardship, but we have planned the month of December as the month of covenant for all church members. Let’s all remain prayerful of our giving and ask that God might bless us to trust him with our finances. God is faithful!



### **Bible Study: Waiting for Water**

The Bible Study guide, Waiting for Water: 2013 Easter Journey with Jesus, edited by Dan Stevens is still available from the church office for a nominal fee of \$5 (for cost of copying). It includes ten lessons with discussion question that address various themes in the life of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke. We will continue with our study of this enriching text.

**In Memoriam**

Finally, let us remember lovingly the beloved souls that have passed from our congregation and/or also the family members of our CBCGM sisters and brothers. We offer prayers and condolence to all. As for me personally, I will miss Robin's eldest sister, my beloved sister-in-law, Jessie Pearl Kaiser. Yet, it is not only Robin and I who have lost a dear one, but also several others.

And we now, in closing also remember:

Eric Ramone Coleman

Ardella Brown

Herman P. Burrell





**Boston is a city known for its great intellect. It is a city of colleges, students, medicine, hospitals, finance and technology. However, it was established with a spiritual purpose. It was to be “a city on a hill and a light to the nations.” We believe that Boston will be most healthy and will have its greatest international impact when it stewards all its resources well under God’s leadership.**

**We want to continually pray for Boston during this most difficult time – that God will have mercy on them, and that His favor will rest on its people and its efforts.**

**Here are some more specific ways we can prayerfully supporting Boston:**

- Pray that they will turn from intellectual pride and submit their minds and reasoning to the wisdom and authority of the Lord.
- Pray for government leaders – that they would have soft, God-fearing hearts, and that they would cooperate with God’s will.
- Pray that the Church will take its rightful place in every arena and sector.
- Pray that the Church will learn how to serve and disciple young people and college students well – as they are their greatest resource and calling.
- Pray that Church and ministry leaders will develop healthy, functional relationships with other spiritual and community leaders.
- Pray that the rich neighborhoods of Boston will enhance and strengthen the city as a whole.
- Pray that every neighborhood in Boston will be a safe place to live and visit.