



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

Community Baptist Church of Greater Milwaukee (CBCGM); Happy New Year! And welcome to the inaugural monthly newsletter from your pastor, Demetrius K. Williams. This newsletter is designed both to keep the congregation inspired and informed regarding the information and outcomes from the Deacon's Council, Leadership Council, strategic planning activities and other pertinent ministries and events that relate to the life of our church. To be sure, many things about which we have spoken in good faith in the past are now coming to fruition; namely, this monthly newsletter, which you are now reading. Please read it regularly either in print (in the Sunday bulletin) or online (at cbcgm.org). I believe that the New Year has started out quite well and the prospects for the future are bright. Now, let's "Get God's House in Order: Setting a New Standard!" (1 Timothy 3:14-15) by communicating with one another openly and honestly and working together faithfully and diligently for the common ministry of our church *ad majorem Dei gloriam* ("to the greater glory of God")!

Deacon's Council

Besides the regular ministry reports, three important outcomes from the Deacon's Council are: 1) transparency and disclosure of finances. This means that we will start in March with our first *quarterly* Church Business Meeting. All members are invited to attend and should do so as part of their duty as members. 2) The Council decided that on odd months the men would serve communion on UNITY SUNDAY and the women on even months. 3) In the coming year the diaconate ministry's continuing education workshop will engage the text, *Essential Servants: Reflections on the Caring Ministry of Deacons* by Fred Swartz in order to be more adequately prepared servants for the church.

Leadership Council

1) Sister Debra Rosby, finance chair, presented the 2013 budget, which included significant cutbacks and adjustments so that we might meet our financial goals for the year. All ministry leaders were informed of the budget adjustments. 2) As a part of the effort to stay afloat during these hard economic times a system of **pledging** among the leaders will begin early this year and in the coming months presented to the membership. Pledging in short involves each member making a committed pledge of his/her giving for the year on a weekly or monthly basis. In this way, the finance committee can have assurance of monthly income and better track the budget. We will also have in the future fiscal seminars and workshops for congregants on money management and on making final preparations. 3) Finally, our **Strategic Coordinator**, Sis. Linda Caples, presented the process of kicking off our strategic aims (more to come!) with a number of case study styled questions, which she called, "Ministry Scenarios." For example, what does a ministry leader do if: "A financially stable member does not pay annual ministry dues of \$25.00?" Or also, "Two members of a ministry group have a disagreement outside of church and when they arrive to the meeting, it is still not resolved and causes tension in the meeting." These are real life experiences and your leaders are preparing themselves for the challenge of not only actualizing the strategic plan, but also of becoming more competent leaders.

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

The strategic plan Core Team met this past Monday (January 7th) to initiate the first of our strategic aims, which is the development of various handbooks: Policy and Procedures, Leadership, New Members and Ministry Leader handbooks to name a few. There is a need now for all members to get involved in doing their part. This is a “Handbook Heads-Up!” because strategic leaders are certain to come your way “volun-telling” you for work (“*volun-told*” is a new word we learned from our strategic coordinator, Linda Caples). Please show your spirit of cooperation when asked to participate! ***FYI***: Your Core Team Members in alphabetical order are:

Anthony Caples, Linda Caples,
J. Brenda Hagler, Alex Hardy,
Barbara Johnson, Willie Jude, Sr.,
Bessie Smith, James Powell,
William Ray Rosby, Debra Rosby,
Vernon Singleton, Dorothy Walker Cooper,
Claude Williams, and Demetrius K. Williams.

New Ministry Appointees

I have asked Sister Rebecca Powell (Women’s Ministry Leader and Coordinator of the CBCGM Culinary Ministry) to serve as **CBCGM Events Coordinator**. This is an essential role in many churches today to have one individual to coordinate all of the church’s events both inside and outside of the church. All ministries, before planning your event, please contact Sister Powell. Another appointment is that of Minister Charlotte Flowers as the **Minister of Christian Education/Pastoral Liaison**. Minister Flowers is a continuing education Seminary student at Central Baptist Theological Seminary–Milwaukee Center, who is an avid reader and loves teaching and research, the Wednesday, Noon Bible Study teacher, Hope Ministry leader and a children’s tutor. Even more, she is retired and besides Christian educational duties, she will represent the church and my presence at community meeting and events in my absence. Let’s congratulate both Minister Flowers and Sister Powell for their willingness to take on these added responsibilities.

UNITY SUNDAY Worship

I offer gracious thanks to God for the first UNITY SUNDAY of the New Year! I felt inspired and enthused by the spirit-filled worship and congregational reception of the morning message: “Getting God’s House in Order: The Danger of Disorder” (1 Timothy 3:14-15 – the 2013 all-church theme scripture). It is amazing how a well-presented illustration can be the hook upon which to hang a sermon. So many members told me that they would look at their kitchen appliances a little differently now (smile). The Candlelight Installation of Officers was also a great success. Holding the installation as a part of the morning worship was well received by both leaders and congregants. Our prayer is that other leaders who are hidden in the congregation would come forth and share their gifts and talents with the church. ***NOTA BENE*** (“NOTE WELL”): Every first Sunday is now **UNITY SUNDAY** – Sunday School will start at 8:00 AM and Worship at 9 AM!

Bible Study: “Back to the Basics”

We are now back to our regularly scheduled evening Bible Study (6:00-7:30pm), which follows the Sunday School Lesson Review, (6:00-6:30 PM). Our six-week study (January 9- February 13) is titled, “Back to the Basics,” wherein we are covering the origin, organization and authors of the Bible, among other topics and themes. On the last Wednesday (Feb. 13th) we will hold a **BIBLE JEOPARDY CONTEST** with prizes! On February 20th we will have our third-annual Ash Wednesday service, which will initiate our Lenten Bible Study. We invite all to come out and grow in the knowledge and grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

In Memoriam:

John William McKenzie Brady {January 16, 2004 – December 31, 2012}



My final note is in memoriam to John William McKenzie Brady (“Mackie”), the son of my former Tulane University colleague and brother in Christ, the Reverend Dr. Christian M. M. Brady. Dr. Brady is the Dean of Schreyer Honors College, Pennsylvania State University. In Dr. Brady’s own words:

“It has barely been over one week since our wonderful boy died [Monday, December 31, 2012]. It was fast, sudden, and completely unexpected. It was not an accident or a prolonged illness, but rather a bacterial infection of the blood. We are thankful for the small grace that he was in very little pain and it was swift. But that is, as they say, cold comfort. We are riven with grief, disbelief, and the fundamental truth that we just want our boy back.” (<http://targuman.org/blog/2013/01/09/how-to-lament/>)

My heartfelt prayers and condolences go out to my friend and also to Elizabeth and Isabel, his wife and daughter. I lived for six months with Chris and his family after the Katrina hurricane. I shall never forget how they opened their home to me and welcomed me as a member of the family. Mack was just a little guy then, about two years old. He was cautious with me in the beginning, but as I became a familiar fixture around the house he might let me play with him or even venture to sit on my lap for a few moments testing out its possibilities as a periodic place to perch. Following the lead of his big sister, “Izzy” (Isabel), he affectionately called me “Uncle D.” I saw him last in November of 2006 when I had dinner with the Brady’s in Washington, DC at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, which was meeting in DC that year. The picture with his father (opposite page) is how he looked now. This is how I remember him –



Mack grew up to become passionate about soccer and his dream was to be the starting keeper for the US National team. He had wonderful friends at school, at church, and on his team The SC Celtics. He has the best parents and sister one could ever imagine. Mack was a third-grade student at Park Forest Elementary School and attended St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in State College.