



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

Dear CBCGM family, this has been quite an eventful quarter. As we move ever closer to the dénouement (“conclusion”) of the first quarter of the New Year, we are pleased to see small steps of progress toward realizing our church theme: “Getting God’s Hour in Order: Setting a New Standard” (1 Timothy 3:14-15). Although we may not have made as much progress as we hoped or envisioned, signs and small milestones are on the horizon. Join me in observing these small steps in the third edition of this newsletter. I hope and pray that you too will be inspired with the work to which we all have dedicated ourselves.

Deacon’s Council

At the monthly meeting of the Deacons’ Council held on Saturday, March 9, 2013 at 9am, there were three important outcomes from the meeting: 1) The need to decrease and regulate more closely the cost of sponsoring church related events; 2) Informing church ministries of the possibility of attending the Deacon Council meeting, if they have any questions or concerns. 3) A third item of importance was addressed at the monthly meeting held on Saturday, February 16, 2013, which relates to the necessity of repairing and improving the gymnasium for its continued multipurpose use. This concern was presented by the finance committee, which is seeking not only to repair the gymnasium but also to have new carpet installed in the sanctuary. These efforts are sorely needed and will be underway shortly.



Leadership/Quarterly Church Business Council

At the first quarterly Leadership/Church Business council held on Saturday, March 9, 2013 at 10:30am I was quite disheartened by the lukewarm attendance by both ministry leaders and congregants. It is not only important to voice concerns (“quarterly disclosure of the church’s finances”) but also to participate and be present when those concerns are addressed (that is, at a regularly scheduled business meeting). Otherwise, we are just complaining without any real intention of seeking improvement and betterment of a particular issue. So I appeal to us all: LET’S ALL BE PRESENT AT THE NEXT LEADERSHIP/QUARTERLY CHURCH BUSINESS COUNCIL!

We also addressed the financial strategic goal of pledging as a means of stabilizing the weekly and monthly giving. Moreover, what we envision as the pledge is not giving “above and beyond the tithe.” It is giving that is consistent and dependable. For example, if your tithe is already \$400 a month, this amount would be the basis of your pledge for the year (4x12=\$4,800). The purpose of the pledge then is that one “vows” to give the stated amount to the best of one’s ability consistently throughout the year, even during the summer months (June-August) when church giving tends to decrease due to vacations and traveling. If the finance committee had the pledges of all the members with their consistent and active pledge-keeping, then monitoring the budget and keeping financial obligations would be that much simpler. And not only this, we would find that giving would most likely increase. Then things like the renovated gymnasium and sanctuary carpeting would be easier to finance. We will have more information with respect to pledging and our “COVENANT SUNDAY” wherein we join as a community to make our pledges in the near future. ‘Till then, please remain prayerful about your giving and on behalf of the officers of the church, we offer our thanks for your generosity thus far.

Finally, our Strategic Aim Coordinator, Linda Caples, distributed index cards on which those present at the meeting could ask any church related question he or she desired. I have read them all and will address them at another time. But they were all given, I believe, with the best intentions and heartfelt concerns.



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

At the monthly meeting of the Strategic Plan Core Team held on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, the difficult questions regarding “good standing” were addressed. “Good standing” meaning, of course, “what does it mean to be a member, ministry, minister etc., in “good standing”? These questions are extremely important to address and to resolve in order to avoid future conflicts and misunderstandings. This is just the beginning of a long process of sorting out these issues but when the process is complete, the result will hopefully be smoother operations and fewer tensions in church life and relationships. To be sure, the member handbook (and other handbooks in development) will include this information for clarity of meaning and facility of operations.

UNITY SUNDAY Worship

I cannot thank God enough for the third UNITY SUNDAY of the Year! The united worship of the church is always, and for some reason that I cannot explain, noticeably heightened when we all join together as one body. I pray that the Sunday morning message: “Regulating Church Leaders: the Office of the Pastor” (1 Timothy 3:1-7) helped to bring clarity to the role and function of the pastor in leading God’s flock. And while attendance is pretty good at the Unity Sunday services, there still is room for improvement! I wonder what would happen if many of us who are still somewhat reluctant to attend made a concerted effort to be in attendance? I believe it might be akin to the Pentecost experience of the early church, where more than thousands were in attendance at Peter’s first sermon and three thousand were saved. Let’s pray together that we all commit to being present and accounted for! NOTA BENE (“NOTE WELL”): Every first Sunday is now UNITY SUNDAY – Sunday School starts at 8:00am and Worship promptly at 9am!

Mother Algenora Davenport's 100th Birthday Celebration

We offer kind and gracious thanks to Sister Carolyn Hunt, president of the Hospitality Ministry, and her leadership in coordination with the CBCGM's Events Coordinator and the Culinary Ministry (and several others who assisted in the process) in organizing the grand celebration that CBCGM held in honor of our centenarian, Mother Davenport. The celebration began in the UNITY SUNDAY worship and culminated at the African American Women's Center. Having been recognized and saluted by both civic and religious leaders and institutions, family and friends our prayer is that we have adequately expressed our appreciation of one who has not only passed a milestone of one century of life, but one whose life has been a shining example for others to emulate. May God continue to bless Mother Algenora Davenport.

The "CBCGM Spotlight" Quarterly Church Newsletter

We will welcome in the very near future the inaugural issue of the "CBCGM Spotlight", a quarterly church newsletter, which will be edited and produced by CBCGM's own Billie Jo Saffold and Carolyn Hunt. The title of the periodical is based on the Gospel of Matthew 5:16, which reads: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Hence the purpose of the quarterly is to focus on individual members of our congregation who are engaged in works of service in the church and to community.

Bible Study: Waiting for Water

The Lenten study, 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 be studying chapter 4 for Wednesday, March 20th. Please come out and join us for an enriching study.

Black History Month

We applaud the Scholarship committee for its sponsorship of the annual Black History Month program. Many of us at CBCGM dressed in beautiful African traditional garb and were inspired by a dynamic message from one of our own "history makers", Thelma Sias. CBCGM and the larger Milwaukee area are blessed to have such a committed community advocate.

American Baptist College Rally

CBCGM hosted the annual American Baptist College (Nashville, TN) rally, on Sunday, March 10, 2013 at 6pm. Many of us were blessed during the 10:30am worship by the youthful and dynamic sermon of Rev. Roland Caldwell, titled, "A Story Worth Re-telling" which is available for purchase from our Media Ministry. This young man is one of the many shining examples of the preachers and pastors in the making that the school produces each year. Therefore, I would like to thank you all for your generous giving, which allowed me to present a check of over \$600 to the school at the rally that evening. And as if Rev. Caldwell's sermon was not enough, the school's president, the Rev. Dr. Forest H. Harris, preached a dynamic message entitled, "A Text for Living and Dying", which ignited a tired, evening crowd to praise and thanksgiving. To be sure, we want to continue our support of the valuable institution.

In Memoriam

Finally, I want to 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 my beloved mother, Bessie, who loved and nurtured her children with a commitment and devotion that will always be remembered. Yet, it is not only I who has lost a dear loved one, but also several others.

And we now, in closing, we remember:

Gladys & David Buckley

Mary Evans Carter

Helen Grisby

Pauline Hardy

Johnny Hollins

Irma Lee Ramsey

Bessie O. Williams

