



Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church  
*Equip the Saints for Ministry*

## **State of the Church Address Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church**

February 3, 2019

### **My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” Colossians 3:12

The Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church has witnessed God’s unfailing love throughout this past year of 2018. The 150th Psalm says, “Praise God for God’s mighty acts,” so let us take a moment to celebrate God’s work in our church over this past year. What a mighty God we serve. Won’t GOD do it!

I first want to shout to the Lord for leading numerous people to join the fellowship family which resulted in tremendous growth in our new members class. This increase grew our church to over 300 families who now worship and serve the Lord here at the “Ship.” We are thankful for each of these individuals because they have helped our church grow and become better. In all, we welcomed 197 new members since the third quarter of 2017. We are thankful for each of these individuals, not just because they have made our church larger, but because they have made our church better. We now have over 300 families worshipping and serving the Lord here at the “SHIP.”

As a pastor, one can only dream of the type of blessings that have rained down from above. However, blessings require thanks, for which I have overflowing from the bottom of my heart and must be expressed.

There are those who labor often behind the scenes to ensure the great quality of this ministry, so please permit me to express my gratitude.

First, I must speak to the ministries of Deacons, Trustees and Christian Education. We are blessed to have excellent board leadership, led by our Board Chairs: Deacon Chair Sonia Smith, Trustee Chair Tanya King and Christian Education Chair Vivian Moore- have assisted me in ways that demonstrate the Lord is in the blessing business. My deepest gratitude to each of you and the membership of your respective boards. I would be remiss if I did not also acknowledge the historical significance of your leadership: for the first time in the life of the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, all three boards are led by woman. This once again underscores the veracity of God's Word: "God is no respecter of persons." (Acts 10:34c)

Our Music! Our Music! Our Music! The addition of Minister Billy Steele as the spiritual leader of the FMBC 's music ministry is evidence of God 's grace and faithfulness toward the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church. We are very thankful that Billy heeded God's call and he along with teams of musicians and choir directors, have enriched our worship experience without a doubt. The Lord continues to demonstrate to this Body of Christ and the broader community; Jeremiah 29: 11; "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Our Seniors Ministry continue to grow in spirit and in fun, thanks to Ms. Connie Rance. There was such a variety of wonderful activities. FMBC seniors demonstrated that regardless of age, seasoned Christians can enjoy life, have fun and support one another. May you all be strengthened by God 's power in this New Year.

Community Engagement continues to be a calling and not a duty to the FMBC family. Despite of what the enemy would have us believe, we are impacting the northside in major ways for the Lord. Some would have us believe that we only serve ourselves, but our footprint here on the North Side goes without comparison. Allow me to highlight just a few ways in which God is using FMBC in this community.

1. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
2. Servant Hands Ministry
3. Helping children at City View School
4. Providing over 225 Thanksgiving food baskets
5. Providing Christmas gifts for needy children. More than 100 children served.
6. Winter Coat giveaway
7. Winter Harvest Party
8. People Serving People
9. Backpack give away
10. Sponsor of two nonmember to attend our College Tour
11. Hosted the Minnesota State Baptist Congress
12. Sponsor of Dfree classes for community as well as FMBC members.
13. Donations to benefit Cancer, Diabetes and children's health research.
14. Foreign Missions donations to our Mother Land, Africa.
15. Provided transportation for National Baptist Convention visitors
16. Three free concerts for the Twin Cities

17. Prison Writing Ministry
18. Grief Care Ministry
19. Center For Families bring needed services to North Side residents that without us would not be so readily available. (And I could go on and on and on.)

Paul writes to the church in Second Thessalonians “But as for you, do not grow weary in doing good, and if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with them that they may be ashamed. Yet, do not count them as an enemy but admonish them as a brothers or sisters.”

We continue to establish a firm spiritual foundation for our youth and children. It is a joy to witness their growth in the Word of God. The spiritual seeds which we sow will bear much fruit. I thank you parents, grandparents and guardians for trusting us with them. I thank God for the tireless dedication of Ms. Nicole Foster and all those who assist her.

In terms of our finances, God has bought us from the brink of desperation to a place of plenty. Thanks to the Board of Trustees, we are now recovering “what the locust had eaten.” Tithes and offerings are at an all-time high, and for that, we say thank you Lord for Your goodness and mercy toward us. Our very talented and spiritual finance ministry led by James Burroughs and Alex Rowell will lead us as we renegotiate our loan of 1.8 million dollars. It is my prayer and my hope, that FMBC will move toward being debt-free within the next five years while maintaining sufficient cash in the bank.

Please allow me just a few more moments to testify of God ‘s goodness. Some would call it bragging, I just call it testifying.

- Sunday School and Bible Institute. Missions Ministry.
- Two associate ministers ordained under the Minnesota State Baptist Convention.
- Reverend Marilyn Taylor is now one of the Deans of the Minnesota State Baptist Congress and has been appointed dean of the FMBC Sunday School.
- There were five new deacons ordained here at FMBC.
- The creation of millennial ministry led by Amiri Brotherson and Diane Johnson here at FMBC.

There are others who are so woven into the fabric of our church, we can almost take them for granted, but I want to be sure to say thank you.

- Our culinary ministry, when you called them, Stephanie Maggitt and her team will answer.
- Ushers and greeters, they are our First Responders, the face of our church to members and so many visitors and new members alike.
- Sound technicians ensuring we have quality audio each Sunday.

- Building and maintenance, the snow is cleared the building is always clean when we walk in.
- Our social media ministry leading us through April snow storms on Facebook Live. Countless visitors to our city have found us due to our Facebook and Webpage, thank you Sherrie Green and Nicole Foster and others who work with them.
- The dedicated drivers of the transportation ministry who bring our seniors and others to church each Sunday.
- And I cannot forget our office manager Ms. Wilma Gallmon, who works for this church and its people as well as the pastor, above and beyond the call of duty.

What a privilege it is for me to serve such a great congregation who loves God, their church and their pastor. I thank my God each and every day for this faithful stellar team of associate ministers and all of you who keep me lifted up in prayer.

As I close this address please allow me to set our agenda as we move forward in our Christ name.

The Sermon Title is "God is speaking to you."

Romans 12: 9-13

"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil, cling to what is good, be devoted to one another in love, give preference to one another in honor, not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, rejoice in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality."

Amen!

Yours in Christ;

Albert Gallmon, Jr.