A Monthly Publication of the Pilgrim Baptist Church—Rockford, Illinois

The Pilgrim Messenger

August, 2011 Volume VI , Issue 8

PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH
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Senior Pastor
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Minister Angela Davis
Minister Carmen Jordan
Minister Sharon M. Olson
Minister Willie Reed
Minister David Sidney
Minister Carl L. Towns

***"A Church Inspired by the Word and Empowered by the Holy Spirit."***
***ALL ARE WELCOME!***

**WEEKLY WORSHIP**

**Tuesday:**
9:30 am—Bible Study
**Wednesday:**
12:00 Noon—Bible Study
6:00 pm—Prayer Service
6:30 pm—Adult Bible Study
6:30 pm—Youth Bible Study
**Sunday:**
9:00 am—Sunday School
10:30 am—Worship Service
10:30 am—Children's Church*
*\*Will resume in the fall*

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# Hola, Puerto Rico! Let's Celebrate!

*By Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board, Senior Pastor*

Lady Marilyn and I traveled to Puerto Rico on June 22, 2011 to attend the American Baptist Churches (ABC) Biennial Convention and Board Meeting as delegates representing Pilgrim.

From the time we arrived, we heard the word, "hola," which means "hello" or "hi" in Spanish. The citizens of Puerto Rico greeted us with love.

The ABC Churches of Puerto Rico were our hosts for the eight days of meetings and chose the theme, "Let's Celebrate!" This theme was prophetic, as celebrations rang out over the entire island!

We were trapped on a 15-passenger taxi van for three hours from the San Juan Airport to our hotel because of a parade celebrating an NBA star from the Dallas Mavericks. We met another celebration via the welcoming bands that serenaded us at the Puerto Rico Convention Center.

We felt God's presence during the celebrative praise and worship led by several Puerto Rican women during our daily multicultural worship services. The ABC celebration was taken to yet another level as the youth at First Baptist Church of Carolina, Puerto Rico praised God during four worship services. WOW, the people of Puerto Rico know how to celebrate God's grace and blessings!

*From left, ABC-USA President Frank Christine, Mrs. E. Christine, Lady Marilyn Board, and Pastor Kenneth Board*

*ABC Pastor Carmen Adams and Pastor Board*

Though the meetings were long and taxing, I felt blessed to be an American Baptist representing Pilgrim as we discussed local, state, national, and international ministries. We voted to change the way our denomination is organized at a national level. This historical change provides more freedom for our Office of the General Secretary (OGS), National Ministries (ABHMS), and International Ministries (IM) to serve its ministries.

Our meetings were inclusive, diverse *(with world-wide delegates)*, and affirming. Everyone on the island and in the denomination welcomed each other in celebrating the love of Jesus Christ. It felt like what heaven will be like.

I was particularly encouraged that we elected a female president of the ABC Board, Ruth Green from Kansas--a music teacher, pastor's wife, and an humble servant leader. I will look forward to working alongside her as a fellow ABC board member.

Truly, I have found a home at Pilgrim as Pastor and Servant Leader and as an ABC Denominational Leader. I pray that our Pilgrim membership will get involved in the many ministries that ABC offers on all levels.

Thank you for allowing Lady Marilyn and me to represent you in this way. We have much to celebrate as Christians regardless of which denominations we embrace. God loves us all and gives us the privilege to spread His love to all people. Thanks also to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, I can truly celebrate even while I am in a travel jam!

Kenneth R. Board

***VISION STATEMENT:***
***The vision of the Pilgrim Baptist Church is the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation through the belief in the ministry of Jesus Christ and the empowerment of excellence in all people through Christian education and community activism.***
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OTHER INFORMATION

News may be submitted to the Editor (as above) by the 15th of the preceding month. To receive the newsletter via e-mail, send request to editor.

Current and past issues are posted on Pilgrim's Website, managed by *Janie Wilson-Cook at* ***www.pilgrimbaptist.org***

EVENTS CALENDAR

AUGUST, 2011

07	Sunday	10:30 am - Worship Service / **Communion**
12	Friday	6:30 pm - Youth Sleep-Over at Pilgrim (until 11:30 a.m. Saturday)
14	Sunday	10:30 am - Worship Service
14	**Sunday**	**4:00 pm - Pastor/Choir at True Vine-Rockford for Pastor Reed's Anniversary**
19	**Friday**	**6:00 pm - Farewell Reception/Dinner for Al & Connie Goode**
20	Saturday	12:00 Noon - NCNW Black Family Reunion at Levings Park
21	Sunday	10:30 am - Worship Service
28	**Sunday**	**10:30 am - Worship Service *(Celebrating Pilgrim's 94th Anniversary)***
28	**Sunday**	**Pilgrim's 94th Anniversary "Family & Friends Dinner"** (after Morning Worship)

SEPTEMBER, 2011

04	Sunday	10:30 am - Worship Service / **Communion**
05	**Monday**	**Labor Day Observed - Church Closed**
11	Sunday	10:30 am - Worship Service - Grandparents' Day!
17	Saturday	8:00 am - Silver Chalice Challenge at Ellis School (until 2:00 pm)
18	Sunday	10:30 am - Worship Service
23	Friday	First day of Autumn!
24	**Saturday**	**6:00 pm - Senior Saints' Fall Banquet at Pilgrim**
25	**Sunday**	**10:30 am - Worship Service - Annual Women's Day Worship Celebration**

NOTICE: The Senior Fitness Classes conducted by Dr. Ted Davis at 9:00 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday have been suspended for summer. Watch for more information!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

All are birthdays unless stated otherwise!

AUGUST, 2011

01 Ora Bailey-Murray
01 Derek Smith
01 Helen Ware
03 Eugene Rigsby
04 Virginia Pettigrew-Wheaton
07 Carvin Tenard
09 Connie Goode
09 Dea. Eugene and Mia Rigsby
Wedding Anniversary
09 Christopher Tenard
10 George Cooper
10 Jean Gaynor
12 Shirley Aliprandi
14 Bertha Bell
22 Herman Aliprandi
27 Charles & Patricia Fricks
Wedding Anniversary
28 Pilgrim Celebrates 94 Years!
28 Christopher Reed
29 Ceceli McLin

SEPTEMBER, 2011

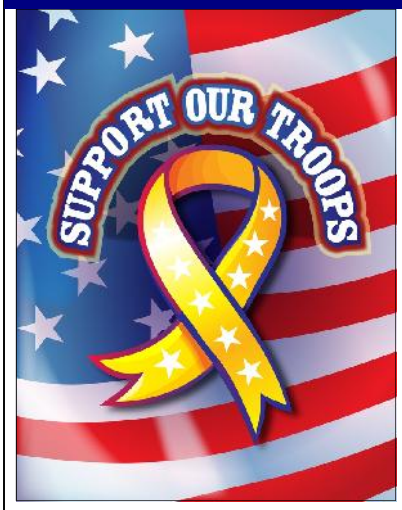
06 Tracey Schaefer
08 Georgia Moore
09 Elizabeth Cook
13 Lillie Hamberlin
23 Leatha Adams
24 Jasmine Holifield
26 Virginia B. Cooper
27 Amauri Bryant
29 Audrey Rivers
30 Robert & BB Owens
Wedding Anniversary

To ensure we have your special date, just contact the church office.

Attention Pilgrim Family and Friends!

~ Celebration Time ~

On Sunday, August 28, 2011, come prepared to celebrate **Pilgrim's 94th Anniversary.** You will want to hear Minister Brandon Russell of New Zion deliver the message during morning worship and then stay for a sumptuous meal immediately following in the Nancy Smith Youth Center.



LET'S PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS!

Pilgrim members and the community are asked to keep lifting up our troops in prayer just as we do our sick and shut-in members. We will devote a space each month to listing the names of those deployed to Afghanistan and other locations. Those currently on our Troop Prayer List are:

- **SSG Jimiese Crawford-Adams** -- Bagram, Afghanistan
  Niece of Lady Marilyn and Pastor Kenneth Board
- **TSGT Terrell Owens** -- Kabul, Afghanistan
  Son of Beverly and Jerry Owens

To add your loved ones to this list, just call Pilgrim's office or contact Helen Ware as shown in the upper left column of this page.

July Celebrations

Belated Birthday Reception for Pastor Board!

Many well wishers gathered after worship on July 10 to help celebrate Pastor Board's birthday of July 1. The reception was sponsored by the Pastor's Care Ministry, of which Mrs. Janet Mitchell is President.

Caleb's Baptism!

". . . Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of Heaven. " Matthew 19:14

Although only seven years old, Caleb had professed his belief in Christ to Pilgrim's congregation July 10 and had asked to be baptized. Pilgrim's officers and congregation, along with Caleb's dad and mom, were in agreement that Caleb should be baptized based on his confession of faith.

On Sunday morning, July 17, Pastor Kenneth R. Board and Deacon Eugene Rigsby baptized little Caleb as witnessed by his parents, Deacon Darryl and Deaconess Janet Mitchell, and his Pilgrim family as they sang *"Take Me To The Water."* Once out of the water, Caleb wiped his face and gave a big smile."

Caleb *(second from right)* received his Certificate of Baptism from Pastor Board *(not shown)* and then his first Bible from Deacon Sam Gaynor. His parents, Deaconess Janet Mitchell *(second from left)* and Deacon Darryl Mitchell *(on the right)* looked on proudly.

Bert's Move to Atlanta!

Long-time Pilgrim Member, Alberta "Bert" Weatherall (at left), attended Pilgrim on July 10 to say a final farewell before completing her relocation to Atlanta on July 13. A reception had been given for Bert earlier, but her move was delayed by illness.

Sharing the photo with Bert is Jocelyn Wyatt of Atlanta who was visiting Pilgrim and her grandmother, Janet Wyatt. Jocelyn is basketball coach at Georgia State.

Both Bert and Jocelyn enjoyed the food and fellowship during the belated birthday reception for Pastor Board.

Ministry Focus for 2011: "Our Best for God's Glory!"

Associate Ministers

Under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board, Senior Pastor, Pilgrim's licensed ministerial staff continues to grow--in numbers, experience, education, knowledge, and service within Pilgrim and in the community.

They are preachers, teachers, ministry leaders, counselors, and role models, to name a few; and many activities are open to the public such as Bible Study classes.

They also serve many vital roles in our community. Some of their volunteerism includes Youth Soccer, Lathrop School, Rockford Rescue Mission, Women's Shelter, School District Committees, "Worship in the Garden", and Missions work.

These men and women of God also have full-time responsibilities of families, jobs, or school, but they still find time to visit and pray with our sick and bereaved. Left to right (front row) are Ministers Sharon Olson, Carmen Jordan, David Sidney, Carl L. Towns, Angela Davis, and (inset) Willie Reed.

SCOUTING AT PILGRIM

CUB SCOUT PACK 25 LAUNCHED!

Minister David Sidney, one of Pilgrim's Scout volunteers, announced on Sunday, July 31, that many boys and leaders had gathered at the church on Saturday and that God is blessing their efforts. First, he reported that Cub Scout Pack 25 was joined by Boy Scout Troop 271, which was looking for a host location. He was pleased to report that the new home for Troop 271 will be Pilgrim.

Secondly, he said that salvageable Scout equipment was found stored at Pilgrim which was left over from Pilgrim's former Scouting activity. They tested out the tents by setting them up.

Ages for joining Cub Scouts are between of 7 to 10, or boys in 1st to 5th grades. Boy Scouts are between ages 11 to 18, or boys who have completed 5th grade.

In addition to Minister Sidney, other Scout Pack 25 volunteers include the Core Leadership Team of Rick Fernandez, Deacon Eugene Rigsby, and Parnell Smith; plus Pastor Board, Michael King, La'Vonzelle Stokes, Leonard Tolbert, and Minister Carl L. Towns.

Parents or Volunteers: ***For more information, please call the church office.***

Photo from Scout Website

THE THINGS I LIKE ABOUT BOY SCOUTS

By Christopher Tenard

I like being a Boy Scout because you get to know how to live in the wild and not get hurt and because you earn badges to SHOW what you learned. You learn how to take care of yourself and know how to do first aid. You also learn to tie knots and how to use a pocket knife and not use it for bad things and not hurt yourself using it.

What I like about going to Camp: You get to make new friends; you learn how to set up your own tent; you learn how to make a fire without using a match or a lighter and how to make one with a pocket knife; you get to move up ranks in Boy Scouts; and you get to go on cool trips for a whole week! You also get to do many more things in Boy Scouts like having fun and being safe--and saying "No" to drugs!

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Christopher Tenard, age 11, is a member of Boy Scout Troop 271, which recently spent a week at Camp Lowden in Oregon, Illinois. He is an active member of Pilgrim and serves on the Junior Usher Board.*