

The Pilgrim Messenger

August, 2012

Volume VII, Issue 8

PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

1703 South Central Avenue
Rockford, IL 61102
815-968-4449
www.pilgrimbaptist.org



MINISTERIAL TEAM

Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board
Senior Pastor

Minister Angela Davis
Minister Ernest Evans
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

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Pilgrim Celebrates 95 Years!



On West Street

MEMORABLE EVENTS

- **1917** - Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church Organized
- **1927** - West St. Church Purchased
- **1947** - Name changed to Pilgrim Baptist Church
- **1958** - Current Site Purchased
- **1961** - Current Building Completed
- **1973** - Church Mortgage Burned
- **2007** - Elevator Wing Added
- **2011** - Complete Bldg. Renovation

BRIEF HISTORY

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church was organized on August 6, 1917. The first pastor, Rev. T. P. McGee, served almost eight months beginning in October, 1917. Under his leadership, property was purchased on Montague Street. There were five other pastors after Rev. McGee, during which time the church moved to West Street, as shown in the above photo.

In October, 1944, the Rev. Dr. E. H. E. Gilbert was called to Pilgrim and served as Senior Pastor for 44 years. He was Pilgrim's longest serving pastor and is credited with initiating many spiritual and social ministries still being served today. The church name was changed to Pilgrim Baptist Church in 1947. The current site of 3.7 acres was purchased in 1958; groundbreaking was in April, 1960; the building was completed in 1961; and the mortgage was burned in 1973.



*~ Elevator Wing added in 2007
~ Complete Building Renovation in 2011*

After Pastor Gilbert's retirement, Rev. David Seward was Interim Pastor until Rev. Steve Bland was called as Senior Pastor in 1990. Rev. Gilbert was honored as "Pastor Emeritus" until his passing. In 2004, Rev. Bland accepted the call to become Senior Pastor of Liberty Temple Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan, and Rev. Victor McCullum of Joliet filled the role of Interim Pastor until 2005.

The Pastor whom God called, and Pilgrim prayed for, is the current pastor, Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board, formerly of Shreveport, Louisiana by way of Atlanta, Georgia. Rev. Board assumed the Pastorate in October, 2005, and was officially installed in February, 2006. **God aligned Pastor Board to continue His plan for Pilgrim and the Rockford community!**

~ See Page 2 for Details of 95th Anniversary Celebrations ~

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

Please submit news 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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m. / Communion on First Sunday



Pilgrim's 95th Anniversary Celebrations



SUNDAY, JULY 29:

Rev. Dr. Nathanael Johnson, Sr., Senior Pastor, and congregation from Second Baptist Church, Clinton, Iowa helped kick off Pilgrim's 95th Anniversary celebrations!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12:

10:30 am - Rev. Gaylon Darby, Senior Pastor, Second Baptist Church, Dixon, Illinois

4:00 pm - Rev. James Ivy, Senior Pastor, New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Beloit, Wisconsin

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18:

6:00-8:30 pm - Annual "Jazz on the Lawn" featuring Evon Sams (see Page 4)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19:

10:30 am - Rev. Dr. Dwight Stinnett, Regional Executive Minister for American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26:

10:30 am - Rev. Dr. Moses William Howard, Senior Pastor, Bethany Baptist Church, Newark, New Jersey

4:00 pm* - Rev. Charles Threadgill, Jr., Senior Pastor, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Freeport, Illinois

***Following this 4:00 pm service, a 95th Anniversary Reception will be held in the Lower Level!**

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

All are birthdays unless stated otherwise!

| AUGUST, 2012 | SEPTEMBER, 2012 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 01 Derek Smith | 01 De'Angelo Loury |
| 01 Helen Ware | 01 Joy Tolbert |
| 02 Tashaira Suggs | 05 C. Michael King |
| 03 Deacon Eugene Rigsby | 06 Mauresha Smith |
| 04 Virginia Wynn | 06 Tracey Schaefer |
| 05 Parnell Smith, Jr. | 08 Georgia Moore |
| 07 Carvin Tenard | 09 Elizabeth Cook |
| 09 Deacon Eugene & Mia Rigsby* | 13 Lillie Hamberlin |
| *Wedding Anniversary | 23 Leatha Adams |
| 09 Christopher Tenard | 24 Jasmine Hollifield |
| 10 Jean Gaynor | 26 Virginia Cooper |
| 12 Shirley Aliprandi | 27 Amauri Bryant |
| 14 Bertha Bell | 29 Audrey Rivers |
| 16 Rosalyn Mincy | 30 Deacon Robert & B.B. Owens* |
| 22 Herman Aliprandi | *Wedding Anniversary |
| 26 PILGRIM'S 95TH ANNIVERSARY! | |
| 27 Patricia & Charles Fricks* | |
| *Wedding Anniversary | |
| 28 Christopher Reed | |



Congratulations on Your Special Day!

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

6:00 pm Fri., 14th
Appreciation/Farewell Potluck Reception for John Rasch

1:00 pm Sun., 16th
Quarterly "Meet 'n Greet" Fellowship Reception by Welcome Ministry

6:00 pm Sat., 22nd
Senior Saints Annual Fall Dinner--guest speaker, Rev. Norris Flannigan, Ephesians Baptist Church

10:30 am Sun., 23rd
Women's Ministry Annual Day--guest speaker, Rev. Lasha Tennyson

TROOP 271 HEADS TO CAMP!

Boy Scout Troop 271, headquartered at Pilgrim, received a sendoff blessing as they headed for camp on Sunday, July 15. They served at Pilgrim during morning worship where they were surrounded with prayers for their safety.

The Scouts each had the opportunity to introduce themselves and talk about their goals. Adult leaders and volunteers (other than Pilgrim) included Judge Patrick Yarbrough, Mr. Everette Sherrod, Scoutmaster Gail Williams, and Roger Steder.



The above photo, taken by Everette Sherrod, includes (L to R) Judge Patrick Yarbrough, Gail Williams, Deacon Christopher Morris, Roger Steder, Nollidge Reaves, Kody Schneider, E'Quavian Dismuke, Ethan Dominguez, Pastor Board, Christopher Tenard, Maurelle Day, and Torrie Turner.

GRADUATES - 2012



Graduation Reception at Pilgrim - June 24, 2012

Pilgrim continues its history of promoting higher education among students, which includes love and emotional support as well as some financial assistance when needed. The first Pilgrim scholarship recipient was Raymond Cooper in 1953, who was graduated from college in 1957 and is currently an active Pilgrim member. Above, 2012 graduates are feted at Pilgrim's graduation reception on Sunday, June 24. College graduate Byron Emerson, at left, addressed the gathering and shared valuable information with the high school graduates about higher education.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

- **RICKEISHA FARRIS** - From Little Elm (Texas) High School to **University of Texas** at Tyler; Biology; parent, Lillian Avant-Farris; grandmother, Mother Orethay Avant.
- **TAMARICK HAYES** - From Guilford High School to **Georgia Perimeter College**, Decatur, Georgia; Japanese Interpreter; Deon Bowden, parent; Joyce Bowden, grandparent.
- **FAITH HYACINTHE** - From Auburn High School to **Xavier University**, New Orleans; Pharmacy; Sedrick and Donna Hyacinthe, parents.
- **DEREK SMITH** - From Jefferson High School to Elgin Community College; Engineering Science; Kathleen Jamerson and Fred Smith, Jr., parents; Mary Nell Bonner, grandparent.
- **CARL PONDS STANFORD** - From Berean Baptist High School to **Northern Illinois University**, DeKalb; Criminal Justice; Wendell and Danita Stanford, parents.
- **TASHAIRA SUGGS** - From Guilford High School to **Rock Valley College** and transfer to **Judson College**, Elgin; Computer Technology and Business; Tasha Cooper and Michael Gaither, parents.
- **MARQUAN WILLIAMS** - From East High School to **Blackhawk College**, Moline; Business; Jahleel and Melva Price and Mark Williams, parents.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

- **BYRON EMERSON** - From Rockford College with a Masters Degree in Business Administration-Marketing
Plans: Current employment at Sundstrand Aviation as Logistics Assistant.
Family: Deacon Oliver and Deaconess Elizabeth Emerson, parents; Herdescine Marshall, grandmother.
- **TANISHA MARTIN** - From Chicago State University with Bachelor of Science in Sociology
Future Plans: "To implement 'Start of Solutions' as an on-campus program I designed to create tools for students to access in the areas of education, leadership, presentation, responsibility, respect, and discipline."
Emotional and Spiritual Supporters: Dr. Mario Bating; Barbara Wilson; Rev. Kenneth R. Board; and Pilgrim Baptist Church Family
- **JANIE WILSON-COOK** - From Northern Illinois University with Master of Arts Degree in Art History
Future Plans: Currently applying for other positions in the University and in Rockford. May consider working toward future PhD.
Family: Randy Cook, husband



*Congratulations to
All Graduates!*

Ministry Focus for 2012: "Discipleship: God's Mission, Our Passion!"
(Matthew 28:19 & 20)

JAZZ ON THE LAWN - 2012



As a part of the celebration of Pilgrim's 95th Anniversary, Evon Sams will once again be featured on his sax at Jazz on the Lawn-2012. Evon is a gifted, award-winning artist of many instruments.



Joining him this year as guest artists will be Beth Ann "Red" Beal, a popular vocalist from Rockford (upper left), and Willerm Delisfort, a renowned keyboardist from New York City.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Saturday, August 18, 2012
6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

On the Grounds of Pilgrim Baptist Church (Rain Site Inside)

NO ADMISSION CHARGE!

A free-will offering will help celebrate Pilgrim's 95th Church Anniversary.

BRING CHAIRS OR BLANKETS!

Food, soft drinks, other concessions will be available for purchase!



Photo by Robert Roby

Birthday Celebration for Pastor Board



Mrs. Marilyn Board & Deacon Roby Johnson

On Sunday afternoon, July 8, Pilgrim members and friends gathered for a belated Happy Birthday celebration for Pastor Board. The event was delayed because his actual birthday was on Pilgrim's Communion Sunday, July 1. Pastor Board received many well wishes and gifts but was really surprised and pleased as Betty Collins (at right) took the "mic" and led everyone in a jazzy rendition of "Happy Birthday To Ya'." This event was sponsored by the Pastor's Care Ministry.



TWO MORE BAPTIZED AT PILGRIM!

Baptisms at Pilgrim are held at the beginning of worship on each third Sunday. On July 15, two were baptized by Pastor Kenneth R. Board, assisted by Deacon Forest Patterson: Mary Ish Carter, Pilgrim member, and Gregory Keyshawn Sanders of Texas.

As is the Baptist custom, baptism is by full immersion as an outward display of personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.



Mary Ish Carter (left) was presented her certificate of baptism and a personal Bible by Deaconess Sonia Johnson. At right, Gregory Sanders received his certificate from Deacon Sam Gaynor and a Bible from Pastor Board.



Everyone is always blessed at baptisms, but Pastor Board received a special surprise blessing on July 15!

Gregory Sanders, age 12, is the Boards' grandson. He had publicly accepted Christ at his home church but wanted to be baptized by his grandfather, "Papa Ken"; and he wanted it to be a surprise. With the help of Mrs. Board, Beverly Owens, and others, "Papa Ken" was truly blessed and surprised!

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Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board, Senior Pastor

