

# The Pilgrim Messenger

July-August, 2014

Volume IX, Issue 2

## PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

1703 S. Central Avenue  
Rockford, IL 61102  
815-968-4449  
[www.pilgrimbaptist.org](http://www.pilgrimbaptist.org)



### MINISTERIAL TEAM

Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board,  
Senior Pastor

Minister Ernest Evans  
Rev. R. Brady Johnson  
Minister Carmen Jordan  
Minister Sharon M. Olson  
Minister Willie Reed  
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

**Children's Church will be suspended for summer. Each Sunday during regular 10:30 a.m. worship, Ministers will lead children's sermonettes.**

### INSIDE

■ Events	2
■ Birthdays/Anniversaries	2
■ Children's Church	2
■ Music Minister	2
■ Graduates	3
■ Illinois Baptist Convention	3
■ Vacation Bible School	3
■ Community Reception	4
■ Jazz on the Lawn	4
■ Rockford Interfaith	4
■ PBC / Literacy Council	4
■ PBC / Cooling Center	4
■ Newsoms Celebrate	4

# GRADUATES-2014



**Two Pilgrim Ministers receive Masters of Divinity Degrees from Northern Theological Seminary**



**Comments by Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board, Senior Pastor, Pilgrim Baptist Church**

The 2014 graduation for Northern Baptist Theological Seminary of Lombard, Illinois was held in Hammer-schmidt Chapel on the grounds of Elmhurst College on Saturday, June 7, 2014. Pilgrim was blessed to have two graduates, Minister Carmen Jordan and Minister Sharon Olson, who received Masters of Divinity degrees.

Pilgrim was doubly honored as these two ministers also received two of the three awards given!

Minister Olson earned the highest award (*the Academic Award*) for having the highest grade point average, 4.0 out of 4.0 -- a perfect score. This is a rarity in seminary because of the complexity and diversity of courses and internships. Minister Jordan received the *Best Preacher Award*.

Of course, we are so proud of them, and God is so good! They have worked so hard, and I am very grateful! Go Pilgrim! Go Ministers Jordan & Olson!

After graduation, Minister Sharon Olson and her husband, Dr. Mitchell Olson, hosted a small celebratory luncheon party which Pilgrim Minister Carl L. Towns, Lady Marilyn, and I attended near Elmhurst College.

#### Note

*Graduation photo above shows (from left) Minister Sharon Olson, Minister Carmen Jordan, and Pastor Kenneth R. Board. Pastor Board is an Adjunct Professor at Northern Theological Seminary, and he was pleased that Ministers Jordan and Olson were his students.*

**(See "Graduates" on Page 3.)**

## JUSTICE ROBINSON'S SCHOLARSHIP

Justice Robinson, at right, was an 8th-grade honors graduate this year from the all-girls' Ivy Preparatory Academy in Norcross, Georgia. She will begin 9th grade this fall at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. She received a full, four-year scholarship in the amount of \$48,850/year plus a stipend and travel to/from her home in Atlanta.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne and Beth Robinson of Atlanta, Georgia. Beth grew up attending Pilgrim with her parents, the late Deacon Haughty Williams and Mrs. Hallie Williams.



### 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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**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

Children's Church will be suspended for summer; and until it resumes on Sunday, September 14, Pilgrim ministers will lead Children's Sermonettes each Sunday during regular morning worship.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The nursery will be available all summer for our babies!

**SPECIAL EVENTS & INFORMATION****Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m. / Communion each First Sunday****JULY, 2014**

11-13-Fri-Sun: Rockford Rescue Mission Truck at Pilgrim for donations  
 12-Sat - From 9:00 am: Pilgrim Beautification Day  
 19-Sat - Noon-2:00 pm: Reception for Dr. Alex Stagnaro-Green, Dean of U of I School of Medicine (*Community Invited*)  
 20-Sun - 4:00 pm: Ordination to Christian Ministry for Minister Sharon Olson  
 26-Sat - 5:30-8:00 pm: "Jazz on the Lawn" with Evon J. Sams, Ray Buchanan & Others  
 (See Page 4)

**AUGUST, 2014**

10-Sun - 4:00 pm: Pilgrim at True Vine Baptist Church for Pastor's Anniversary  
 23-Sat - 11:00 am: Church 97th Anniversary Picnic at Pilgrim  
 24-Sun - Pilgrim's 97th Anniversary Celebration:  
 10:30 am: (*Speaker to be announced*)  
 4:00 pm: Rev. Dr. Ivan D. Hicks, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church North Indianapolis  
 30-Sat - 2:00 pm: Pilgrim Member Wedding.  
 Shanika Brooks and Michael Jones\*  
 \*(Not related to Michael Jones, the Usher)

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES****JULY, 2014**

01 Pastor Kenneth R. Board  
 05 Marquise Williams  
 06 Monique Currie  
 06 De'Maje Smith  
 07 Willie & Bertha Bell  
     *Wedding Anniversary*  
 07 Deacon Christopher Morris  
 08 Rev. R. Brady & Heather Johnson  
     *Wedding Anniversary*  
 08 Minister Willie & Margaret Reed  
     *Wedding Anniversary*  
 10 Deacon Ben & Dorothy Newson  
     *Wedding Anniversary*  
 12 Leonard Tolbert, Sr.  
 14 Minister Willie Reed  
 16 Shneera Habib  
 16 Deacon Joseph Ortiz  
 18 Albertha "Bert" Towns  
 20 Beverly Evans  
 21 Leonard Tolbert, Jr.  
 21 Deacon Emeritus Carl O. & Bert Towns  
     *Wedding Anniversary*  
 22 Ernest Damon  
 23 Mary Kai Rogers  
 26 Frances Blalock  
 31 Heather Johnson

**AUGUST, 2014**

01 Joshua Jamerson  
 01 Derek Smith  
 01 Helen Ware (80th)  
 02 Tashaira Suggs  
 02 Joy Tolbert  
 03 Deacon Eugene Rigsby  
 04 Virginia Wynn  
 05 Parnell Smith, Jr.  
 07 Carvin Tenard  
 09 Deacon Eugene & Mia Rigsby  
     *Wedding Anniversary*  
 09 Christopher Tenard  
 12 Shirley Aliprandi  
 14 Bertha Bell  
 14 Antyon Hamilton  
 22 Herman Aliprandi  
 23 Diane Bailey-Murray  
 27 Charles & Patricia Fricks  
     *Wedding Anniversary*  
 27 Dorothy Marks  
 28 Christopher Reed

*Happy Birthday and  
 Happy Anniversary to All!*

**PILGRIM'S NEW MUSIC MINISTER**

Pilgrim is pleased to announce that Mr. Demetrius Laray "Ray" Buchanan is our new Minister of Music. Ray (*as he is fondly called*) is a talented and well-known musician in the area and has served at several local churches as well as in Chicago and Wisconsin. He sings, directs, plays several instruments, and has given lessons in music, keyboards, and vocals.

As Pilgrim's Minister of Music, he will have responsibility for everything having to do with music at Pilgrim. He is currently working with the Mass and Men's choirs and will soon be resurrecting our Youth and Sunbeam (Children's) Choirs. He says that one item on his "bucket list" is to open a music academy where all types of music lessons could take place.

Ray Buchanan is supported in his ministry by his wife, Shelia, and son, Demetrius, Jr., who is now a member of Pilgrim. Welcome, Ray and family!



Demetrius Laray Buchanan  
 (Photo from Web site)

# HONORING 2014 GRADUATES

## EIGHTH GRADE

■ **JUSTICE ROBINSON:** From Ivy Prep in Georgia; attend Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts; goal to attend Harvard. Family: Dwayne and Beth Robinson & Mrs. Hallie Williams, Grandmother

## HIGH SCHOOL

■ **TEA LETA GARRETT:** From Honeogah; attend Rock Valley and transfer to Northern Illinois University in DeKalb (Early Childhood Education). Family: Teena and Terry Garrett.

■ **JOY HYACINTHE:** From Auburn; attend Ashford University, Clinton, IA (Elementary Education, math emphasis). Family: Donna and Sedrick Hyacinthe

■ **BRIANNA JACKSON:** From Chicago's Josephinum Academy; attend Wilbur Wright College, Chicago (Forensic Science or Nursing). Family: Shirley and Herman Aliprandi (Aunt and Uncle)

■ **SARABI REED:** Rockford Auburn; attend Rock Valley College & transfer to Southern Illinois University (BS in Biology). Family: Parents Oliver & Sarah Lilly Reed; Uncle & Aunt, Minister Willie & Mrs. Margaret Reed.

Sunday, June 22, 2014 was the day Pilgrim chose to recognize 2014 graduates. They were acknowledged during morning worship as Minister Carmen Jordan delivered a message. After service, relatives, friends, and Pilgrim family members attended a reception and program in their honor in the Nancy Smith Youth Center.



Photo from Janie Wilson-Cook

## FROM COLLEGE

- **PATRICK COOK:** Cum Laude from Beloit College; degree in Classical Civilization; pursue Masters Degree-Bus.. Adm. Parents, Janie and Randy Cook
- **MINISTER CARMEN JORDAN:** Northern Theological Seminary; Master of Divinity Degree. Aunt of Marquise, Marquan, Marquell & Marquavian Williams
- **MINISTER SHARON OLSON:** Northern Illinois Theological Seminary; Master of Divinity Degree. Husband, Dr. Mitchell Olson
- **MARQUAN WILLIAMS:** Blackhawk Technical College; Associate Degree in Business Finance; pursue BS Degree. Parents, Melva and Jahleel Price
- **MARQUISE WILLIAMS:** Augustana College; BA Degree, Sociology with concentration in Social Welfare. Parents, Melva and Jahleel Price

## STATE BAPTIST CONVENTION

### Comments by Pastor Board

During the first week in June, Michael Jones, one of our Ushers, and I attended the Baptist General State Convention of Illinois in Springfield, Illinois as voting delegates on behalf of Pilgrim Baptist Church. The State President of this convention was Rev. Louis Malone who served well for six years. Rev. Malone is Senior Pastor of St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church in Rockford.

While at the convention, we dined with President Malone, attended workshops, plenary meetings, and worship celebrations, and voted for a new State President, Dr. William Foster, Providence Baptist Church of Chicago. Dr. Foster is a former professional basketball player, corporate America executive, and a leader in the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. He is an outstanding servant leader who has a heart for all people.

As a State Convention, we met at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Springfield, and we also had daily meetings and worship celebrations at a church near the hotel. The convention is akin to a family reunion, whereby ministers and lay people representing Baptist churches in the State of Illinois assemble at least three times a year. *(Michael Jones is pictured at right.)*



## 2014 VACATION

### BIBLE SCHOOL

#### Summary by Bev Owens

Pilgrim's 2014 Vacation Bible School (VBS) held the week of June 16 was a great success due, in part, to wonderful, caring, and committed staff from teachers to ministers to cooks! The theme was, "The Jesus Family Reunion-Remix," and lessons were centered around family activities that posed dilemmas and solutions that everyone realized and learned from—whether a biological family or a church family.

This year, the VBS included all ages, from nursery to seniors, and each class was always abuzz with excitement about the lessons based on God's Word. Thanks to each staff member and especially to Sunday School Superintendent, Mrs. Albara Morris, who coordinated all of the VBS activities. Next year will be bigger and better, so plan to attend!



**Pilgrim's Ministry Focus for 2014: "Meeting Needs, Sharing Christ" (Acts 2:42-47)**

**COMMUNITY RECEPTION AT PILGRIM  
For School of Medicine Regional Dean**

Dr. Alex Stagnaro-Green is the new Academic Dean at the U of I School of Medicine. He and his wife, Mrs. Doreen Stagnaro-Green, attended morning worship at Pilgrim on Sunday, June 8, and had the opportunity to talk with members after service. After being introduced by Pastor Board, Dr. Stagnaro-Green stated that he moved to Rockford to become *"part of a diverse team of leaders who will build coalitions to address the ills that rob our citizens of health and hope."*

Pilgrim was invited to be a part of his quest to meet community members and leaders, especially in West Rockford, to mutually explore and share how the School of Medicine can best serve the people's needs.

This reception for Dr. Alex and Mrs. Stagnaro-Green will be held at Pilgrim Baptist Church on **Saturday, July 19, 2014 from 12:00 Noon until 2:00 p.m.**

Pastor Board said: *"It is a blessing that God has given Pilgrim the favor of serving as a conduit of His grace in meeting the needs of our citizens."* We pray that large numbers will attend and come with substantive questions and a welcoming spirit!

**ROCKFORD INTERFAITH COUNCIL**  
Tour of Pilgrim Baptist Church

On Sunday afternoon, May 4, Pilgrim was one of the churches toured by the Rockford Interfaith Council, whose purpose is to *"foster understanding and appreciation of the many faiths in Rockford."* Mrs. Marilyn Board was one of the tour facilitators and reported that it was a wonderful experience. She said the visitors were favorably impressed with Pilgrim and with our "dynamic and witty" Pastor!

She said Pastor Board fielded questions on Baptist history, polity, and controversial issues, and impressive packets of information had been prepared by office manager Beverly Owens. Other tour facilitators were Charity Beeler, Frances Blalock, Michael Jones (an usher), Shontanique Brown, and LaVonzele Stokes.

Pilgrim & Evon J. Sams are pleased to present the

**2014  
JAZZ  
on the Lawn**



*Featuring Multi-Talented  
Evon J. Sams, Ray Buchanan,  
and Other Artists*

**5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, July 26, 2014**  
Pilgrim Baptist Church Grounds  
1703 S. Central Avenue - Rockford, IL

**NO ADMISSION FEE - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
A Free-Will Offering will be accepted.

Food & Soft Drinks Available  
Bring your chairs, blankets, family & friends!  
*For more information, call Pilgrim at 815-968-4449.*

**PILGRIM PARTNERS WITH  
LITERACY COUNCIL**

Pilgrim is partnering with the Literacy Council to host tutoring sessions at Pilgrim. Tutors and participants are needed!

If you are can serve as a volunteer tutor or are in need of being tutored, please contact Beverly Owens in the church office at 815-968-4449. Your identity and information will be kept confidential!

**A COOLING SITE AT PILGRIM!**

Pilgrim has once again volunteered to be a cooling site during periods of excessive heat or excessive heat warnings. This program is initiated by the Human Services Department. For more information, contact Pilgrim's office at 815-968-4449.

**NEWSONS HONORED AT RECEPTION**



On Saturday afternoon, June 28, Deacon Ben and Deaconess Dorothy Newson were celebrated at a birthday/anniversary reception coordinated by their son, Leonard, and other family members, some of whom traveled a great distance. Joining the Newson family were members of their Pilgrim family and many friends. Deacon Newson proudly stated that they were 90 years young and had been married 66 years! There was plenty of food, music, and kind words for the Newsoms. Pastor Board led those who spoke words to honor the Newsoms!



Pilgrim Baptist Church / 1703 South Central Avenue—Rockford, IL 61102

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

