

# The Pilgrim Messenger

January, 2014

Volume VIII, Issue 11

## PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

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Rockford, IL 61102  
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[www.pilgrimbaptist.org](http://www.pilgrimbaptist.org)



## MINISTERIAL TEAM

Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board,  
Senior Pastor

Minister Ernest Evans  
Rev. R. Brady Johnson  
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 for ages 6-12 except each first Sunday for Communion**

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*Welcome Aboard,*

# NEW PBC DEACONS!

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

On Sunday, December 8, 2014, Dwight Foster and José Ortiz, Sr. were ordained and installed as new deacons at Pilgrim Baptist Church. They are dear friends of each other and faithful, available, and teachable men of God. Like each of us, they came out of the world to follow Jesus and serve God's house, the church. Praise the Lord! It was a glorious day of celebration. After over a year of going through discipleship training, shadowing pastor and deacons, congregational observation, and successfully passing the deacon's catechism, the congregation voted unanimously for them to be called deacons of Pilgrim Baptist Church. They are comical, humble, and sold-out for Jesus!

In fact, Deacon Dwight Foster said, *"I love going out to pray, sing with, and serve communion to our sick and shut-in!"* As we begin this new year, it is important that we have able, dedicated, and loving deacons who want to live out our 2014 ministry focus: *"Meeting Needs, Sharing Christ"*- Acts 2:42-47. Deacon Ortiz made history by being called as the first Latino deacon at Pilgrim Baptist Church. José is an American citizen born in Mexico. Deacon Foster is a native of Rockford, Illinois. Members of both of their families joined them at the podium at the end of the ordination worship.

Rev. James Ivy, pastor of New Zion Baptist Church of Beloit, Wisconsin, preached the ordination sermon in a 4:00 p.m. service. He challenged the new deacons and all Christians to remember how we got the name Christians. He said, *"We are called to birth. We are called from darkness to light. We are called to death. We are called to judgment. We are called to eternal life or eternal death based on our choices. Therefore, let us walk worthy of our calling."* It was a powerful, convicting message! I pray that our new and old deacons heard God speaking through Rev. Ivy. We all will be held accountable for our words and deeds when we stand before Jesus. A songwriter wrote, *"A Charge to Keep I Have."*

I want to thank our deacons under the leadership of Deacon Chair Roby Johnson, Sr. for the role they played in preparing Deacons Foster and Ortiz for the office of deacon. In fact, we are deeply grateful for the visionary, stellar leadership of Deacons Erick Hall and Oliver Emerson, Sr. for their weekly coaching, teaching, and mentoring of the candidates. They did an outstanding job!

Please pray daily for all of our deacons that they will take their calling seriously as armor-bearers for the pastorate, servants of God's people, and faithful followers of Jesus Christ in word and deed. We are blessed to have men like Deacons Foster and Ortiz who understand that wise men are still surrendering their will daily to follow Jesus.

*Happy New Year to all, and thank God that God is still adding to God's church daily!*



**L to R: Pastor Board, Deacon José Ortiz, Sr., Deacon Dwight Foster**  
*(Photo by Deacon Christopher Morris)*

## 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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Copies of our newsletter are  
available each first Sunday and  
are archived on Pilgrim's  
Web site:

[www.pilgrimbaptist.org](http://www.pilgrimbaptist.org)

**ART SHOW OPENS!**

Matt Jeske is inviting every-  
one to a free art  
show reception,  
"Local Color," where  
he will be one of the  
displaying artists:



**8:00 to 11:00 PM**

**Friday and Saturday  
January 17 & 18, 2014**

(Art Gallery is in Lower Level  
of Delicious Ink Tattoo Shop.)  
**2310 Charles Street  
Rockford, IL 61104**

Art in this show will remain on  
display and for sale for a  
month from opening date.

(Matt Jeske is a member of  
Pilgrim's Multi-Media Team!)

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

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**JANUARY, 2014**

- Wed. Jan. 1 New Year's Day (Church Closed)  
Mon. Jan. 20 Martin Luther King Day (Church Closed)  
Sat., Jan. 25 9:00 am-3:00 pm: Church Training Seminar:  
"A Kingdom-Minded Ministry"  
Guest facilitator, Dr. Rodney Smothers of Maryland  
(A Continental breakfast will be served.)  
Sun., Jan. 26: Dedication of Pilgrim's Ministry Leaders  
Dr. Rodney Smothers, Guest Preacher

**FEBRUARY, 2014**

- Fri. Feb. 14 Valentine's Day  
Sun. Feb. 23 4:00 p.m.: Ushers Annual Day - Guest Speaker,  
Rev. Bennie Reed, Pastor, True Vine Baptist Church

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

(All are Birthdays unless Labeled Otherwise)

**JANUARY, 2014**

- 01 Kelli Jackson  
02 Benjamin Johnson  
02 Debra & Duane Simpson  
**Wedding Anniversary**  
05 Deacon Samuel Gaynor  
07 Timothy Rogers  
07 Terry Wilkerson  
08 Ann Gilbert  
09 Vicki Richard  
12 Dr. Vinest Steele  
13 Debra Curry  
15 Leslie Purifoy  
16 Sharon Thurmond  
19 Kathleen Jamerson  
22 Diedre Harvey  
24 Mother Emma Gipson  
25 Anthony Brown

**Happy Birthday &  
Happy Anniversary!**

**FEBRUARY, 2014**

- 01 Sonia Johnson  
04 Noah Wheaton  
07 Emma L. Gipson  
07 Helena Mandujano  
09 Monica Reed  
10 Candace Edgeston  
10 Keisha Whitaker  
11 Mia Rigsby  
12 Dawana Johnson  
12 Bertha Rigsby  
14 Phenique Lake  
15 Deacon Erick Hall  
17 Michael Blackmon  
17 Rebecca Towns  
18 Jacqueline Walker  
22 Melva Price  
24 Staci Wright  
25 Evelyn Huey  
27 Bethanne Holifield  
28 Ray Cooper  
28 Evon Sams  
28 Roosevelt Sims

**Pilgrim  
Member Alert!****Church Training  
Seminar**

**"How to Become a  
Kingdom-Minded  
Ministry"**

**Saturday,  
January 25, 2014  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
(Continental Breakfast)**

**Facilitator:  
Dr. Rodney Smothers  
of Maryland**

**(Facilitator, Leadership  
Coach, and Consultant for  
church and community  
organizations throughout  
the country)**

**A LANDMARK BIRTHDAY — AT 90 YEARS!**

Mrs. Lorraine Thurmond celebrated her 90th birthday with family on December 16, 2013! She and her late husband, Deacon Douglas Thurmond, joined Pilgrim over 50 years ago. Mrs. Thurmond is very busy in Pilgrim as a member of the Deaconess Ministry and head of the Senior Saints and Culinary Ministries. Also, she was recent Past President of the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion.

Mrs. Thurmond is agile and still wears her high heels! Joining her in worship at Pilgrim are daughters, Sharon and Deloras! **Happy 90th Birthday, Mrs. Thurmond!**





### CHRISTMAS ALTAR

*The above Sanctuary decorations were done by Mrs. Nanelle Due, with assistance from Mr. Remere DuBois. Mrs. Due ensures that fresh flowers are on the altar each Sunday in the year.*

# New Year Message

## DANIEL FAST, 2014

Over the past three years, many of Pilgrim's members have committed to follow the Daniel Fast for seven, fourteen, and twenty-one days based on individual commitments.

Beginning January 2, 2014, we will again commit to beginning the year with the Daniel Fast. We resolve to fast by eating only fruits, vegetables, nuts, water, and, this year, we are adding whole grains (*no processed grains or sugars*) to accommodate those who need more fiber in their diet.

During the fast, let us focus on what we are seeking from God, not what we are sacrificing in foods we crave. For example, let us focus on our 2014 theme: "*Meeting Needs, Sharing Christ.*" (*Acts 2:42-47*) Let us focus on being more committed to God, to our families, to our church, and to our calling. If we commit to this level of focus, we will experience miracles, revelations, transformation, and spiritual renewal. If you have never tried the Daniel Fast, commit to try it this year and see how God moves in your life.

Rather than making New Year's resolutions that you forget, resolve to keep God's will first in your life. I resolve to fast for 21 days just as Daniel did in the Bible. (*Daniel 1:8-21*) At the end of the fast, members will have opportunities to share how God blessed them during their fasting. Through prayer and fasting, we can do great things for God and each other. In 2014, resolve to give God what is right, not what is left.

*Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board, Pastor—Pilgrim Baptist Church*

# New Member Class Grads

During worship service on Sunday, December 15, certificates of completion were presented to New Member Class graduates by leaders Mrs. Patricia Fricks (*second from right*) and Minister Carl L. Towns (*right*).

Graduates are (*from left*) Mike Jones, Shermain Williams, and Diane Bailey-Murray. As the photo shows, Shermain seems to be holding her certificate up in praise to the Lord!

Pastor Board congratulated the graduates and invited them to stand up front during the offering period so the congregation could extend to them the "right hand of fellowship" and welcome them into the Pilgrim family.

The New Member Class was primarily developed to help new members more quickly find their niche among the many ministries Pilgrim has to offer and to enhance their worship experience by



studying God's Word. Pastor Board and others have reported that this class must also be lots of fun, based on the laughter coming from the classroom! Graduates have also said that this experience has helped them develop closer relationships with fellow members.

Mrs. Fricks and Minister Towns have invited ALL Pilgrim members to attend these classes, not just those who are new! Pilgrim is moving forward, and these new members have learned the direction! Watch for information about the next class dates and times!

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

# "A Thankful Christmas"

Pilgrim's Special Projects Ministry once again presented a wonderful celebration of the Christmas season and the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! This year's production, **"A Thankful Christmas,"** opened with the blowing of the ram's horn by Deacon José Ortiz at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, December 15, 2013 in the Nancy Smith Youth Center. The room had been transformed into a colorful stage by members of the new Bloom Ministry led by Matti Chappel.

The Special Projects Ministry worked tirelessly for weeks to create this original production and rehearse with participants. Ministry members are Matti Chappel, Diedre Harvey, Bethanne Holifield, and Staci Wright, President.

The program showcased a wide variety of talents featuring individual children, youth, and adults as well as groups such as the Children's Choir, Mass Choir, Men's Choir, and the debut of new Unlimited Praise II dancers. There were musical selections, recitations, dramatic presentations, and a **"Christmas Rap"** by young Amore Simpson! Even the congregation participated in the singing of Christmas carols. A special feature of this program was presented by a guest, Mrs. Vickie Scott, who **taught the children how to sign the Christmas songs.** Mrs. Scott is a member of New Fellowship Baptist Church and has been signing for the Rockford School District for 22 years.



Special Projects members said of her: *"She was very excited to be a part of PBC's 2013 Christmas program. She also wanted us to know that she is a child of God willing to help God's people."* Mrs. Scott is shown in the group picture below (near the right side) as she was signing the Christmas carol being sung.

Above, new Deacons José Ortiz (left) and Dwight Foster (right) are shown with Parnell Smith. At left, Amere Simpson recited his message, *"Christmas in the Air,"* and Frances Blalock provided a very moving dramatic presentation, *"Holy, Holy, Holy."*

After Pastor Board's closing remarks and the benediction, a fellowship period with rolls and beverages followed prior to the 10:30 a.m. morning worship in the sanctuary. A great time was had by all!

