PASSING THE EDITORIAL BATON  
By Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board

After ten years of excellent, faithful service as editor of Pilgrim's Newsletter, Sister Helen Ware has graciously passed her editorial baton to Janie Wilson-Cook, a longtime, gifted member of Pilgrim. As many of our readers know, we suspended the production of our newsletter in January due to health challenges by Sister Ware. Since that time, I have prayerfully been seeking someone with similar passion and spiritual gifts to assume her role. Janie fills and fits our needs. When “Sister Helen” launched the newsletter in 2005, I challenged her and her ministry team to produce a newsletter which embraces Colossians 3:23, “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.” Succinctly, I wanted them to produce a spiritual document, which would glorify God through excellence, not perfection. Sister Helen and her team have done that with consistency. Our readers and other churches marvel at how well our newsletter looks and reads! We give a hearty thanks to Sister Helen as we praise God for her steadfast love and creativity! She has agreed to assist Janie with any wisdom or experiences she has with the creation of the newsletter.

Janie is married to Randy Cook and has two adult children: Elizabeth and Patrick. She is a gifted writer, Apple computer expert, graphic artist and web designer, women rights leader, community activist, arts enthusiast, and an employee at Northern Illinois University’s School of Art and Design. She has a B.A. in Comprehensive Art and an M.A in Art History. Janie can be reached for comment or suggestions via newsletter@pilgrimbaptist.org.

Also, we have been recruiting a diverse group of writers who will contribute stories about the life and ministries of Pilgrim as they unfold. The goal is to contribute articles which will report Pilgrim’s accomplishments, dreams, and impact in our community and world. To our Pilgrim members, we welcome you to submit articles or ideas to Janie that can be featured in upcoming circulations. To Sister Helen, thank you for ten years of extraordinary leadership! To Janie, we thank you for receiving this literary baton and embracing the initial vision, which was casted: to glorify God with excellence, not perfection. To our readers, we thank you for your patience, support, prayers, and love. We are blessed to have members like Sister Helen who gives her best to God and who now passes her editorial baton to Janie. Praise God for the spiritual gifts that God places in human vessels.

(2 Corinthians 4:7)

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(2 Corinthians 4:7)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4: 6 – 7 (NIV)

During the holidays anxiety generally shows up as an unwelcomed guest, sometimes staying longer than any of us would like. In Philippians 4 we find a treasured biblical promise. Whatever the situation, when we pray with thankful hearts and open hands, God’s peace which goes beyond our human logic will guard our hearts and minds with the anchored hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Prayer & Devotional  
Rev. Carmen Jordan

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.
During the weekend of October 9-11, 2015, Pilgrim celebrated Pastor and First Lady Board’s 10th Anniversary of Visionary Ministry at Pilgrim Baptist Church.

A banquet honoring Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. and Mrs. Marilyn Board was held Friday, October 9, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Rockford, Illinois. The room was decorated in Pastor’s favorite colors, black and gold, and was filled with members of the community including Transform Rockford board members, clergy, family and friends of the Boards, and of course, Pilgrim members. Sister Pat Fricks emceed the event. Rev. Carmen Jordan, London Smith, and Kevon Hayes provided tributes, and Pastor Board’s spiritual sister from Atlanta, Rev. Paulette White-Scott, brought the message.

On Sunday, October 11, 2015 Pilgrim held a full day of Celebration Services and Fellowship. The 10:30 a.m. morning worship featured guest preacher Rev. Calvin Malone of Enterprise, Alabama (formerly of Jerusalem M.B. Church in Rockford), followed at 2:00 p.m. by a Complimentary Fellowship Dinner in the Nancy Smith Youth Center, and a 4:00 p.m. Anniversary Worship Celebration with New Zion Baptist Church from Beloit, WI. New Zion’s choir inspired everyone in song, and Pastor James Ivy brought a challenging and encouraging word.

Many thanks to the Pastor’s Care Ministry for their leadership and organization of these events.

Gracious thanks to Matti Chappel for her elegant table settings.

Delicious Celebration Cake!

Some members of Pastor’s Care Ministry
Matti Chappel presented a lovely sign of Ten Years of Spiritual Leadership!

Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board and First Lady Marilyn Board Celebrating 10 Years!

A Full Sanctuary!

L to R: 1. Michael Arvie - Pastor’s nephew Shreveport, Louisiana
2. Brittany Arvie, Esq. - Pastor’s niece Shreveport, Louisiana
3. Toni Henson - Pastor’s sister-in-law, San Antonio, Texas
4. Gregory Bass - Pastor’s brother-in-law Shreveport, Louisiana
5. Rita Bass - Pastor’s sister Shreveport Louisiana
6. Mrs. Lula Brown - Pastor’s Mother Shreveport, Louisiana
7. Mrs. Meller Lucas - Pastor’s Mother-in-law Houston, Texas
8. Pastor Board
At 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 27, 2015, Pilgrim Baptist Church ordained one of its Associate Ministers, Carmen S. Jordan. Ordination is the act of officially designating someone for pastoral ministry. It comes after the ordinand has successfully passed examination by a council of ordained pastors. In the Baptist tradition, ordination is bestowed by the local congregation, and in true Pilgrim fashion, Rev. Jordan’s ordination was celebrated with excellence.

Pastor Kenneth R. Board presided over the service. Min. Jordan was supported in the pulpit by Pilgrim Ministers Carl Towns, Ernest Evans, and Marvin Ballard; Dr. Robert Price, a professor from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary; Rev. Tiffany Hill, a seminary friend and colleague; and Rev. Dr. Peggy Williams, who delivered the word of encouragement to Rev. Jordan and the congregation to live out their calling. Also in the pulpit were several members of the ordination council: Rev. Ed Libby, chairman of the ordination council, Rev. Gerald Lumpkins of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Bishop John Senter of Faithwalkers Assembly, and Pilgrim’s Assistant Pastor, Rev. Sharon Olson. Pilgrim’s Mass Choir, led by Minister of Music Ray Buchanan, performed musical pieces throughout the service that had been selected by Rev. Jordan. Family and friends as well as Pilgrim members filled out the congregation.

Following the congregation’s vote in favor of ordination, Rev. Jordan gave her first remarks as an ordained clergyperson. The service concluded with the other ordained clergy present laying hands on Rev. Jordan while Rev. Libby prayed for her. This is a time-honored tradition of current clergy passing along the solemn duty of serving Jesus Christ in the pastorate and welcoming a new member to their ranks.

Ordination typically follows the earning of a seminary degree. Rev. Jordan earned her Master of Divinity degree from Northern Seminary in June 2014 after six years of study. She currently serves Pilgrim as the Vice President of the ASK Prayer Ministry and Secretary of the Women’s Ministry. She also preaches and teaches and is beginning a new Missions Ministry for Pilgrim. She works for the Rockford Public Schools as a speech therapist.

Thanks to the Pilgrim family for supporting Rev. Jordan’s ordination service, in particular Beverly Owens for designing the beautiful program, Pilgrim’s Mass Choir and Ray Buchanan for blessing everyone with the beautiful music, Deacon Eugene Rigsby for manning the multimedia booth, and Pastor’s Care Ministry for providing refreshments following the service.

Best wishes to Rev. Jordan as she continues to serve the Lord at Pilgrim and follows wherever He may lead her!

Photos by Helen Ware

TRUSTEES MINISTRY ATTENDS TO FINANCES AND SPIRITUAL LEARNING

By Jacci Mannery, Secretary

The Trustees Ministry of Pilgrim Baptist Church has been appointed to manage the financial affairs of our church. In this capacity, we meet weekly to review expenditures, to sign checks, to complete filing, and to discuss other business brought to our attention.

Coupled with the financial matters, which we address, we include a religious lesson in our meeting. We have completed Lord, Change My Attitude by James MacDonald and currently we are studying Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit by Beth Moore. We believe these studies, and the resulting dialogue, strengthens our knowledge, understanding, and relationship with God and each other.

Members of the Trustees Ministry consist of Vivette Hall (chair), Vinest Steele (vice chair), Jacci Mannery (secretary), Lettie Mosley, and Barb Wilson. The following assist in counting on Sundays: Herman Aliprandi, Joyce Bowden, Giovanni Van, and Cedric Wynn. It is an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity, and our goal is to be diligent stewards of Pilgrim’s funds and expenditures.
The Women’s Ministry of Pilgrim Baptist Church exists “to prayerfully and humbly lead the women of Pilgrim into fellowship with each other and other churches; to become involved in the needs of our church and community; and to carry out Mission assignments”. Through our various outreach initiatives, we do just that.

Throughout the year we host and participate in several outreach efforts aimed at leading, not just women, but everyone, into fellowship with each other and other churches. From hosting an annual brunch to honor mothers that bring together nearly 150 women from various churches and community; honoring our men for all they do as men and fathers; participating in mission work through the Rockford and Vicinity District; and tutoring through the Literary Council, we reach a multitude of people.

One of our newest initiatives, Secret Sisters, was developed as another fellowship opportunity for the women of Pilgrim. During the course of a year, “secret sisters” let each other know that the other is being thought of and cared for. A small gift...a card...a secret message saying “just thinking of you”, are just some ways the “sisters” keep up with each other during the year. The year climaxes during a luncheon in the fall where the “secret sister” is revealed.

This year’s Secret Sister Reveal Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, December 12 at 11:30 a.m. Not only will you meet your secret sister, but we will select our secret sister for 2016. To see the surprise and joy on everyone’s faces is priceless! But it’s not just for the secret sister. All women are invited to attend for this fun-filled afternoon. It will be an experience that can’t be bought.

ADVENT: REMEMBERING GOD’S PRESENCE

By Rev. Sharon Olson

It’s hard to believe, but the season of Advent will already begin on November 29, 2015. We will once again light candles in a wreath on each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas.

What is Advent, and why do we celebrate it? The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word Adventus, which means “coming.” It is a time for believers to contemplate the Savior coming into the world to bring salvation. It is a reminder that God chooses to be present as Emmanuel, God With Us.

The advent wreath is circular to represent God’s eternity and contains four candles, one for each Sunday during Lent. The candles are colored royal purple to signify the coming of Christ the King. The third Sunday’s candle is often pink in remembrance of his mother Mary, and a fifth, white candle may be included in the center of the wreath to symbolize Christ’s purity.

The themes for each week are Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. It’s important to note that the Latin word Adventus is a translation of the Greek word parousia, which means “presence.” This term is used to refer to Christ’s second coming. Advent can therefore be a time not only to remember that Jesus came once in the form of a helpless, little baby but that he will come again in the fullness of heavenly power.

As we approach Advent, perhaps this is a time to think about how Christ can be more present in your life. What obstacles do you need to remove in order to know him more nearly, see him more clearly, and love him more dearly?

Here are some devotional passages from Isaiah and the Gospels that you can read during each week of Advent: following the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love:

**Week 1 (Nov 27 – Dec 4): Hope**
- Isaiah 42:1-9 – The Lord’s Chosen Servant
- John 1:1-18 – The Word Became Flesh

**Week 2 (Dec 6 – 12): Peace**
- Isaiah 9:2-7 – For to Us a Child is Born

**Week 3 (Dec 13 – 19): Joy**
- Isaiah 49:1-7 – The Servant of the Lord
- Luke 1:26-56 – Gabriel and Mary

**Week 4 (Dec 20-25): Love**
- Isaiah 11:1-10 – The Root of Jesse

Advent Devotional Guide

INTRODUCING PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH’S WOMEN’S MINISTRY

By Shelia Buchanan, President, Women’s Ministry

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MOVING TO OUR PRESENT BUILDING

By Hallie Williams

Pilgrim Baptist Church was the first African-American Baptist church in Rockford, Illinois. Our first building was on West State Street and the second was on West Street. The present building was built in 1960.

During the construction most of us participated in many ways such as painting, etc. Everyone was eager to be helpful. We moved in on Daylight Saving Time Sunday. The processional from the old church on West Street began with our own Officer (at that time) Samuel Gaynor escorting us by motorcycle. He was so proud! That dedication Sunday will go down in history! Reverend Charles Sanders was late because he forgot to set his clock ahead!

Organist Professor Troy Gorham started the celebration by playing the chimes before the processional, which included choir members filling both sides of our symbolic, divided chancel. Bro. Tom Taylor’s deep bass voice added awe to the processional entry.

The God-given visions that blessed Rev. Dr. E. H. E. Gilbert to build this symbolic church have become nationwide. Many news articles have been published about it. All of us who have been blessed to be associated with both church buildings praise God from whom all blessings flow. We share these blessings and memories with our present pastor, Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board and all our present members and friends.

I Will Bless The Lord
(Sing along here)
I will bless the Lord O my soul
And all that is within me
bless His holy name

I will bless the Lord O my soul
And all that is within me
bless His holy name

He has done great things (3x)
Bless His holy name

Hallelujah (4x)

Lord you’re worthy of the glory and honor
Hallelu! (repeat)

I can’t stop praising! I can’t stop dancing!
You’ve been too good Lord hallelu!

Hallelujah

Bless His holy name!

My God Is Awesome
(Sing along here)
My God is awesome
He can move mountains
Keep me in the valley
Hide me from the rain

My God is awesome
Heals me when I’m broken
Strength where I’ve been weakened
Forever He will reign

My God is awesome
Awesome! Awesome! Awesome!
My God is awesome
Awesome! Awesome! Awesome!

My God is awesome
Savior of the whole world
Giver of salvation
By His stripes I am healed

My God is awesome
Today I am forgiven
His grace is why I’m living
Praise His holy name

My God is awesome
Awesome! Awesome! Awesome!

He’s mighty
He’s holy
He’s great
He’s mighty
Deliverer
Provider
Protector

GET READY, IT’S COMING! PBC’s 100th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETS NOW!

By Jasmine Holifield

The 100th Anniversary Committee met October 17, 2015. They are working up ideas and need you now! Our next meeting is Saturday, November 7, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.!!! Please come with a creative mind and remember to think outside the box!!!!!!! See you there!!
Evangelism Training was held October 3, 2015 at the Patriot’s Gateway Community Center. The instructors were: Mrs. Nancy Magiera and Dana Morey. The evangelism training taught us simple and effective ways to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others. During the training the instructors discussed how to establish a good rapport while evangelizing to others. These include making a connection with someone, building a trusting relationship, empathize with others to put them at ease, pay close attention to who you are talking to and take the necessary time to listen to someone.

**We learned four key things to share when we evangelize**

**GOOD NEWS:** God Loves You! There is a God who is in love with you and wants you to have an abundant and joy-filled life. Scripture verses 1 John 4:9 & John 10:10

**BAD NEWS:** We are Sinners. We have all sinned against our loving God. Scripture verse Romans 3:23

**WORSE NEWS:** Payment = Death. The just payment for our sin is eternal death. Scripture verse Romans 6:23

**SOLUTION:** The price is paid. Jesus paid the price for our sin. He died in our place so He can have a relationship with us and give us a rich and abundant life. Scripture verses Romans 5:8 & John 3:16

When sharing the Gospel with others you should tell people how accepting Jesus Christ has changed your life and how much better you are now than you were before you received salvation.

We learned that evangelism is not about our personal opinions, attitudes, beliefs, customs or even our worship traditions. In reality what evangelism is really about is sharing the good news of the love and sacrifices that Jesus made for all. The most important sacrifice we discussed was how Jesus freely gave His life and died on the cross to purge us of our sins and to be reconciled to God. John 3:16 says that For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**PATRICK COOK TO GRADUATE “A” SCHOOL**

Airman First Class Cook is attending Air Traffic Control School in Pensacola, Florida. After his November 20 graduation he will be posted at Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Milton, Florida. It is the busiest naval air station in the world as it is a major training base for pilots.

“Hopefully I will be working either on flight data, either ground, or local.” says Patrick.

Patrick will be an E4-Petty Officer Third Class.

Patrick grew up at Pilgrim Baptist Church where he was President of the Junior Ushers. He is 23 years old and a 2014 graduate of Beloit College.

If anyone knows of a serviceperson in the military, send information and photos to newsletter@pilgrimbaptist.org.

Evangelism is about believing in Christ and that He died for our sins, receiving the gift of salvation through our belief and sharing the good news of Christ by spreading the word to others. Evangelizing is about what the Bible says and not about our own personal opinions, beliefs or attitudes.

**BRING ALL YOUR PENNIES TO THE STOREHOUSE**

By Rev. Carmen Jordan

Pilgrim is participating in “The Penny Project” which is a Children in Poverty Initiative of the American Baptist Home Mission Society. The focus of the initiative is to raise awareness and support for the 14 million children in poverty across the US & Puerto Rico. Members of Pilgrim will collect pennies in a five gallon water jug until the jug is full. We will give all monies collected to Rock House Kids, which is a local ministry that exists to meet educational, physical, and spiritual needs of children living in poverty in our city. The members and guests have responded very graciously by not only donating pennies, but other coinage and paper bills. God has truly been honored by the selfless, generous giving. All praises to God!

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November Celebrations

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Evangelism cards are available from the church office.

When a friend asks “What church do you go to?” You now have a ready answer!

“Be my guest at Pilgrim Baptist! Here’s my card!”