

PILGRIMS' PROGRESS

Volume 1 • Number 1

April-May 1995



HAPPY EASTER!

Also: A Message of Resurrection



The Newsletter of the Pilgrim Baptist Church Family

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PILGRIMS' PROGRESS

AND CHURCH INFORMATION

The Pilgrims' Progress Newsletter is free to church members and the public. We encourage participation from our members and attendees.

PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

1703 S. Central Ave., Rockford, IL.
Reverend Steve Bland, Jr., Pastor
Pilgrim Baptist Church is an affiliate of the American Baptist and National Baptist Conventions.

CHURCH SERVICES

The public is welcome at all services. Sunday School is held at 9:00 a.m. for all ages. Morning Worship Services are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Early Morning Worship Services are held Sundays at 7:30 a.m. during July and August. Bible Study is held Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. with a Prayer Service at 6 p.m.

SUBMITTING ARTICLES AND PHOTOS

Submit unformatted either (A. as a word or text document on either a DOS, Windows or Macintosh 3.5" computer disk or (B. on white paper typed in upper and lower cases. Artwork or photos are acceptable as tiff, pict, eps computer files or as black and white or color photographs/art. Original articles, photographs or artwork will be bylined. Editor accepts responsibility for editing for space or taste. Disks will be returned to authors. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS THE 5TH OF THE MONTH IN WHICH IT IS TO APPEAR.**

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FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

WE'RE BACK!!! [.. although we've been out a little longer than Michael Jordan was!] However, we give praises to Almighty God for the opportunity to be back in communication with you through this newsletter. What a better time for a resurrection than Easter!

As we enter this Holy season and make the memorial trek through the Via Dolorosa (Road to Calvary), let us remember the importance and the implications of what the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord means for us.

There seems to be so many things crucified on the cross of modern times (i.e. values, respect for life, equitable education/housing/employment, affirmative action, etc.), and even civil rights have become civil wrongs. Suffering seems to be the normative experience for so many at this time.

However, there's good news! It may be Friday, but Sunday's comin'!



Pastor Steve Bland, Jr.

It may look dark now, but daybreak is on the horizon. As a matter of fact, the darker it is, the brighter our light ought to shine.

As hope proclaimers, we must spread the news to a sin-infested world that Jesus rose, He saves, and He Lives!

So as we stand at this special time in history, let me hasten to remind us that all suffering is not redemptive. Only when we, like the Master, suffer for

proclaiming and ushering forth His kingdom and fulfill who we are in Him, can we say "I'll rise again."

So let us take on the posture of the women who ran from the empty tomb declaring that Jesus is Alive and wants to "hook up" with us. Won't you join us as we share our vision of resurrection and hope? We need you and God is counting on you!

Rev. Steve Bland, Jr.

Newsletter Committee Contributors for this issue

- Editor Catherine Scott
- Artist Janie Wilson-Cook
- Reporters.....Joan Brown, Donna Hyacinthe, Beulah Slaughter
- Photographer Carrie Ellis

ON OUR WAY TOGETHER

By Beulah Slaughter

We are family – together in Christ, working for Him in many ways

Greetings!

Welcome to the first edition of the revived Newsletter!—Pilgrims' Progress!

Do you really know who is a member of Pilgrim Baptist and what they are doing to further the Ministry of the church? Soon, this Newsletter will begin to acquaint you with some of them.

As we began this work, we decided that the Newsletter is, in essence, an "Outreach Ministry"; also that the work of God's Church and people is worthy of every member's attention and awareness. Therefore, our purpose will be to keep you informed and aware of activities and things being accomplished. We hope that you will be as excited about this as we are!!

Our function shall be to:

- Provide a channel of Communication by which Auxiliaries, Chairpersons, Sunday School Superintendent, and others might share their goals, events and progress with the church membership.
- Thereby, strengthening the Growth and Mission of the church in/among the membership, the community and the city.

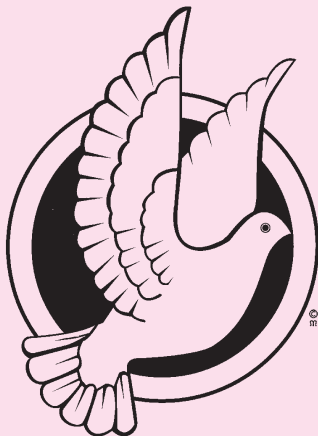
• Also, strive to sustain an enthusiastic spirit of cooperation and unity in all areas of the Church Ministry.

• It is important, too, that we remember to affirm and encourage one another. As a person expresses willingness to do a new thing, that one needs to be given a word that says, "You are doing a good job. I will help you if

and when you need me." We are Workers together for God!

We are family— together in Christ, working for Him in many ways—

The challenges are Great!—but— so are the rewards!



ON OUR WAY TOGETHER! YES!

God made us a family. We need one another. We love one another. We forgive one another. We worship together. We work together.

Together we follow God's Word together we grow in Christ together we serve our God. These are our hopes and ideals!

A Great Big "Thank You" to all who responded to get us off to a good start!! Everybody—we need your faithful prayers and support.

*Beulah Slaughter,
Committee member*

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Pilgrim Baptist Church will be celebrating their 78th Church Anniversary in July. There will be as much as a celebration of the future, as it is a fond look back.



CHANCEL CHOIR

Our theme for 1995 is "To Glorify God Through Praise." The choir continues their normal rehearsal schedule on Tuesdays 7-8 p.m.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are in the process of revitalizing our Board of Christian Education shaping our plans and goals for the year and finally implement some exciting and helpful programs for the church. A major event in the planning stages is a trip to the Holy Land. Yes, a trip to Israel and Egypt! The target date will be in March of 1996. So start your saving and planning.



CIRCLE OF RUTH

W.A.V.E. (Working Against Violent Environment) representatives spoke to us about purpose and ways in which the Circle of Ruth could be of service to them. We will be providing Easter baskets for the children who are currently living in their shelter. Wed., April 19, 1995 we are sponsoring a Blood Drive sponsored by the Northern Illinois Blood Bank.



GOOD SAMARITAN CIRCLE

Our meeting date is each second Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at the church. We are preparing to salute all of our past members in our month. If you or someone in your family has

a photo of a past member, would you please submit it to Sister L. Thurmond or Sister Fae Reed as soon as possible.



JUBILAIRS

We are currently rehearsing Tues. at 7 p.m. In preparation for our July concert, we would be interested in the names and addresses of any former Jubilairs. Please put any information in the Jubilairs' mail box.



LYDIANS

We had our Lydian feast April 8, 1995. Pilgrim's Prime Time Playhouse presented a play called "Who is My Neighbor" by Ruth W. Kelsey.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have a new Christian Studies Institute Class beginning April 2nd, at 9:00 a.m., the teacher is Sis. Janice Murry. Our class is entitled "Woman, Thou Art Loosed." Topics vary from being single and happy to remaining the burdens of womanhood. If you are interested in this class, please sign up.



WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Our focus is upon unity as we attempt to revitalize ourselves. Programmatically, our goals include a spiritual retreat, guest speakers, workshops and seminars as well as selected studies, fellowship and prayer.

We will also emphasize overall participation in all of the special programs and workshops sponsored by other groups.

It is our prime responsibility to support and help develop the efforts of the church circles and of the District.



HEALTH CARE MINISTRY

By Donna Hyacinthe

Welcome to the first of many articles regarding health care. These articles will keep you posted on current health perspectives relating to a variety of topics concerning health care. The emphasis will be on health promotion and maintenance prevention. As the chairperson, I very much want your input as to the different topics you wish to be presented.

First, however I want to develop a Nursing organization within the church. This is in response to a need felt by myself many members and Pastor Bland. The Church Nursing organization would be responsible for creating a spiritual environment conducive to the recovery of the sick. Psalm 41:3, "He nurses them when they are sick and soothes their pains and worries. The great need for this service has increased and become an integral part of the Pilgrim Ministry.

The Church Nurse would be responsible for dealing with such activities as emergency situations and injuries dealing with care and treatments of common illness within the church. Also a major role of the Church Nurse would be to assist visitation with the sick and shut-in, to offer selected words of encouragement and expressions of the willingness to help.

The Church nurse is an organization with a constituency of volunteer members from the church; formed for mutual aid and protection. Pilgrim needs a nursing organization to give service in and among the church. This service will include nursing responsibilities in addition to future goals such as Nursery Care and Community Services. Early on, Pilgrim has been involved in health community services such as Blood Bank Draws, Blood

Pressure, Cholesterol Screening, and Disaster Drives.

Now, the next step is to organize the committee members. I'm sure I've aroused your interest, now I need to enlist your cooperation. You need not be a health care professional, we will train the inexperienced person for this service. I am looking for the young and old, experienced and inexperienced, who want to serve on a humanitarian basis to assist the stricken and the helpless to give the necessary first aid, nursing care, and family health care in the church. A focal area also is to impart general advice on problems of health that will help Christians to understand the relationship between spiritual and physical well-being.

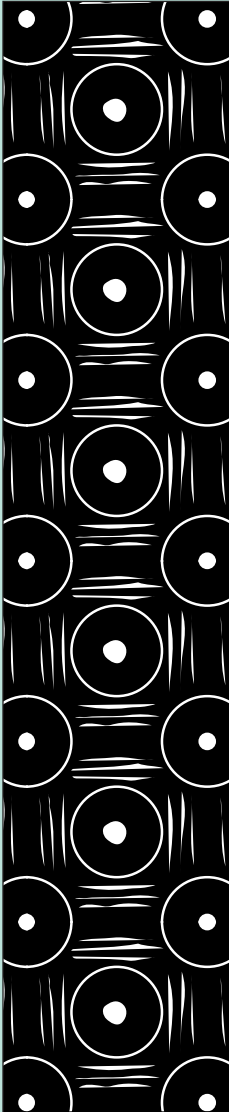
This is an exciting opportunity for Pilgrim members. The main motion has been made and if there's no objections — Let's get started. If interested in being part of this organization committee. Please let me or the church know.

Realizing that the religion of the bible teaches that man's physical powers are a sacred endowment, that his body belongs to God, that it was formed in his own image, that the creator will hold man responsible for its care and development (I Corinthians 3:17; John 10:10; 3 John 2; Matthew 8:17; II Timothy 1:10; John 1:4).

The very essence of the Gospel of Christ is Restoration, not only for the mental and spiritual, but also physical man. We are therefore concerned with the great subject of life and health, and the prevention and cure of disease as they are related to the religion of Jesus Christ. Come be a part of this new development at Pilgrim!

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED - Red-blooded members for Circle of Ruth Blood Drive! Wed. April 19 3-6:15pm walk-ins welcome.



JESUS—THE RECIPE FOR LIFE!

I AM LIFE

Jesus is the Bread of Life. He that cometh to me shall never hunger. John 6:35

I AM LIVING

I am the Living Bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this Bread he shall live forever.

John 6:51

MAN DOETH NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE

And He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger. That man doth not live by bread only, but by the Word of the Lord.

Deu. 8:3

GIVE THANKS

And He took the seven loaves and gave thanks, and they did eat, and were filled.

Mark 6:8

COMFORT

Comfort thine heart with a morsel of bread and afterward go your way.

Judges 9:5

GIVES STRENGTH

Then Saul fell straight way all along on the earth, and was sore afraid, because of the words of Sam-U-El; and there was no strength in him for he had eaten no bread all the day, nor all the night.

I Samuel 28:28

TRUE BREAD

Bread, a chief article of diet among the Hebrews from the earliest times, (Gen. 18:6) was made of common breads, tuff, among the poorer classes was made of barley. (John 6:13). The loaves or cakes of bread were usually circular in shape about an inch thick and nine inches in diameter. In the process of bread making cleaned and sifted grain was first reduced to flour by pounding and grinding (Numbers 11:18). The flour was then kneaded into dough and baked. But my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. (John 6:32)

CONTRIBUTORS PAGE

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PILGRIMS' PROGRESS

COMING SOON!

**Pastor's 5th Anniversary
Celebration**

May 4-7 1995

Special Guest

Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Cleever,
Mayor of Kansas City, MO
Pastor, St. James J. M. Church