

The Pilgrim Messenger

NOVEMBER, 2006

Volume I, Issue 12



**PILGRIM
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

1703 S. Central Avenue
Rockford, IL 61102
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MINISTERIAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board
Senior Pastor/ Servant Leader

- Min. Steve Cossey
- Min. Angela Davis
- Min. Jacque Robinson
- Rev. Edward Wiley

Min. Sheri Glover
Children's Church Pastor

Mr. Maurice Hall
Minister of Music

WEEKLY SERVICES

WEDNESDAYS:

- 6:00 pm—Prayer Service
- 7:00 pm—Bible Study

SUNDAYS:

- 9:00 am—Sunday School
- 10:30 am—Worship Service

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ALL ARE WELCOME !

*"A Church Inspired
by the Word and
Empowered by the
Spirit!"*

SUNFLOWER HARVEST AT PILGRIM!



Jesika Hart and her grandmother, Regina Hart, pose in front of the majestic sunflowers they planted and nurtured. (Photo by Mr. Patrick Johnson)

For most of the summer and fall, we have watched the sunflowers growing in the planter box in front of Pilgrim. These special flowers that lift their faces heavenward each day were planted by **Jesika Hart**, under the tutelage of her grandmother, **Ms. Regina Hart**. Jesika is an 8th-grade honor student at Eisenhower Middle School and participates in youth activities at Pilgrim, including "Unlimited Praise" dancers.

Regina Hart commented: *"I thank God for His blessings through my love of planting and cultivating plants. My Dad taught me and showed me some skills he learned at Tuskegee Institute's Agriculture Department under Dr. George Washington Carver.*

"It is truly a blessing and honor to pass on this knowledge to my granddaughter, Jesika."

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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HOW TO SUBMIT INFORMATION

We welcome your ideas, news items, and articles, which may be placed in the Newsletter mail slot near the church office. Our goal is that the *newsletter will be available on the first Sunday of each month*. Information is requested by the 15th of the preceding month.

All published information will have been reviewed and/or edited by the Pastor and the editorial staff.

EXCELLENCE!

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act, but a habit.”

- Aristotle

“The quality of a person’s life is in direct proportion to his commitment to excellence.

- Vincent T. Lombardi

CONGRATULATIONS . . . On Your Special Day!**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES****NOVEMBER:**

- 02 Letha and Nathaniel Adams (*55th Wedding Anniversary*)
06 Naomi Brame
07 Nicole Walker
27 Faith Hyacinthe
25 Forest Patterson, Jr.
29 Marilyn Board
29 Hallie Williams

**DECEMBER:**

- 01 Newsletter’s First Anniversary!**
02 Douglas and Lorraine Thurmond (*61st Wedding Anniversary*)
04 Phyllis Johnson
05 Donna Hyacinthe
05 Roby Johnson
09 Mother Orethay Avant
09 Sedrick and Donna Hyacinthe (*Wedding Anniversary*)
13 Minister Jaque Robinson
16 Lorraine Thurmond
24 Samantha LeShoure
24 Karli Wright
25 (Birth of Jesus, the Christ!)
29 Elnora Newton
30 Deondra Harvey

EVENTS CALENDAR

(Also see Weekly Services on Page 1)

NOVEMBER, 2006

- 05 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship, Communion
12 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—“Unlimited Praise”
18 Saturday 10:00 am—Rockford Rescue Mission’s Annual Hunger/Homeless Walk
19 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship
19 Sunday 1:30 pm—Hope Luncheon” (*Kickoff for “Angel Tree Program”*)
22 Wed. 6:00 pm—Special Thanksgiving Service
23 Thursday THANKSGIVING DAY
26 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—“Unlimited Praise”

DECEMBER, 2006

- 03 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship, Communion
10 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—“Unlimited Praise”
17 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship
17 Sunday 6:00 pm—Christmas Theatre Production at Pilgrim
24 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—“Unlimited Praise”
25 Monday CHRISTMAS DAY
31 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship
31 Sunday 10:00 pm—New Year’s Eve Service

“MISSION’S” ANNUAL HUNGER/HOMELESS WALK

By Mrs. Shurice Hunter & Mrs. Beverly Owens

The Rockford Rescue Mission’s Annual Hunger/Homeless Walk will be held on **Saturday, November 18, 2006**. Registration will be at 10:00 a.m. at the Mission, 715 West State, and the walk will begin at 10:30 a.m. Participants will walk east across the State Street Bridge to the *Rockford Register Star* building and then back to the Mission.

If you are able to walk, please consider participating to help our hungry and homeless. For more information on gathering sponsors and walking, contact Shurice Hunter or Beverly Owens by calling Pilgrim’s office at 968-4449.

NEWSLETTER'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY!

By Mrs. Helen Ware

In December, 2006, Pilgrim's newsletter will observe its first anniversary. The first issue in this series was published in December, 2005, and was launched without a name and on a "shoestring" budget.

Well, we still have the "shoestring" budget, but God has not only blessed this publication with a name, "*The Pilgrim Messenger*", but He has consistently provided the means to share Pilgrim's good news monthly with our members via printed copies and electronically with others nationally and worldwide.

Mrs. Marilyn Board stated, "*Our family in Japan looks forward to the newsletter each month as they say it helps them feel 'connected' to the ministry!*" Our out-of-town readers have encouraged us greatly, both in word and monetary support.

For any success our publication may be enjoying, we must **first give all glory to God** — as He continues to guide us in providing photos and information such that others may be blessed.

We thank Pastor Board for continuing to provide ministerial oversight for our volunteer staff. We must also thank all of you, Pilgrim members, for your readership, prayers, cooperation in writing articles, sharing information and photos, and for helping to give our newsletter a name.

The newsletter is also blessed with a wonderfully talented volunteer staff, as shown on Page 2, who help with writing, editing, photography, technical support, and distribution.

In that first issue in December, 2005, Pastor Board wrote an article entitled, "*Christians Walking in Excellence*", in which he charged our newsletter volunteer staff to "*photograph, research and report, edit, create, inform, inspire, and write with excellence.*"

As we strive to live up to that charge, we continue to value your readership, prayers, feedback, encouragement, and suggestions.

Let us hear from you! The Newsletter mail slot is located near the reading table outside the church office.

"ANGEL TREE" — 2006

By Mrs. Renade Cossey

Pilgrim Baptist Church's Jail Ministry works hand in hand with the National Prison Fellowship's "Angel Tree" Ministry to deliver the gift of love and a message of hope to children of prisoners. This year, Pilgrim Baptist Church's goal is again to sponsor 100 children.



There is so much joy that comes with sharing Christ's love with kids who have a mom or dad in prison. If you are new to Pilgrim, the Angel Tree ministry gives churches an opportunity to share Christ's love by helping to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the families of prisoners. Participating in "Angel Tree" is a powerful way for our church to lovingly answer the Biblical call to minister to the "least of these."

On **Sunday, November 19**, we will host our Annual "Hope Luncheon" in the lower level after morning worship, to which everyone is invited. At that time, you can help in one of three ways:

- (1) Sponsor a child by selecting a name from the "Angel Tree" in the lower level and then purchasing two gifts for the child — an article of clothing and a fun gift;
- (2) Make a monetary donation toward the purchase of the gifts for a child; or
- (3) Be available to deliver the gifts once they are purchased and returned to the church.

The aim of an "Angel Tree Christmas" is to connect parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts on behalf of the absent parent.

If you would like to know more about the "Angel Tree" Program or volunteer, please contact **Renade Cossey** or **Brenda Thompson**, this year's coordinator, by calling the church office at 968-4449.



“READY, SET, SMILE!”

Many generations of families have been nurtured through Pilgrim. Some still worship here, while others are scattered throughout the United States and the world. To all of them, though, *“Pilgrim is family!”*

Mrs. Hallie Williams was baptized at Pilgrim in 1944 — and in subsequent years, she and her late husband, Deacon Haughty Williams, have reared their family as a part of the Pilgrim Baptist Church “family.”

Deaconess Williams, who is fondly called “Aunt Hallie” by many of her extended Pilgrim family, shared a testimony on Sunday, September 3, about how happy and blessed she is to have four generations currently worshipping together in Pilgrim.

Shown at left, clockwise from center, are “Aunt Hallie”, Whitney, Staci, Beth Ann, and Amara. (Photo provided by the family.)

90th ANNIVERSARY & HOMECOMING!

Pilgrim celebrated its 89th Anniversary in August, and plans are already being made by *Mother Georgia Cooper, Chairman*, and *Mrs. Beverly Owens* for celebrating Pilgrim’s 90th Anniversary & Homecoming on Saturday and Sunday, **August 25 and 26, 2007!**

Now is the time to contact your families and friends and mark your calendars for an “all-out” 90th Anniversary and Homecoming Celebration.

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION!

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

By Mrs. Beverly Owens

Pilgrim’s **90th Anniversary & Homecoming Celebration in 2007** will include many events throughout the year, and one such event will be a pictorial directory of Pilgrim families. The last directory was printed in 1992.

In June, 2007, Life Touch Studios will begin taking the pictures, but appointments will be scheduled early in the new year. It would be a blessing to include your out-of-town loved ones, so you may want to start contacting them now.

Let’s do our best and make plans to GET READY, SET, AND SMILE!

PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH



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