

The Pilgrim Messenger

DECEMBER, 2006

Volume II, Issue 1



**PILGRIM
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

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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

INSIDE:

- More Reflections 2
- Special Dates 2
- Events Calendar 2
- Christmas Greeting! 2
- Tribute to Youth 3
- Chris Robinson 3
- Christmas Theatre 3
- Kudos to Youth 4

ALL ARE WELCOME !

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

FIRST-YEAR REFLECTIONS

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

It does not seem that I have been the pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church for over a year! A songwriter said, "It's funny how time slips away!" Marilyn and I are richly blessed to be here and surrounded by such a great cloud of loving witnesses for Jesus Christ. After arriving in Rockford on September 30, 2005 and leaving my family and friends in the South, I wondered, "What manner of man is this who leaves everything to follow God and the call of a congregation?"

I marvel at the sense of humor God had to transplant a southern child of the Civil Rights Movement out of the bosom of the Deep South to the bedrock cornfields of the frigid Midwest without the incidence of culture shock or frost-bite.

When I arrived in Rockford a year ago, I knew few people. Now, several hundred people within Pilgrim and in the city of Rockford embrace me with love, prayer, encouragement, and support and warmly greet me as a man of God and the shepherd of Pilgrim.

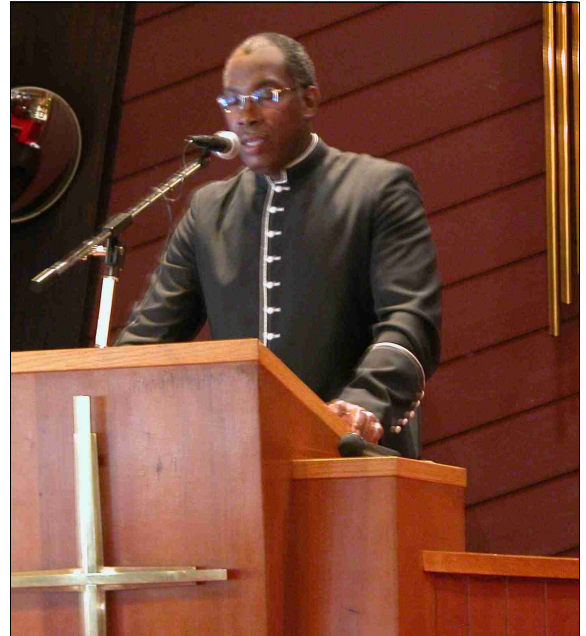
A sermon I preached, "Is Favor Fair?" reminded me of the wonderful favor I have experienced since arriving at Pilgrim. I am richly blessed by the stellar reputation that Pilgrim has as a leading congregation in the Rock River Valley, and I stand on the shoulders of pastoral giants such as the late Rev. Dr. Eldridge H. E. Gilbert and Rev. Dr. Steve Bland who were social and spiritual activists in this community.

God has invited me to join Him in the great work of renewing the vision for Pilgrim as we seek to raise up a generation of gifted young people who love God with all of their hearts and souls. Our Sunday worship seems to go higher and higher! We are a congregation with a heart for all people and are blessed to see people from different ethnic backgrounds, gender, and ages join our fellowship. The vision that God gave me in November, 1996 after reading Habakkuk 2:1-3 is being lived out at Pilgrim Baptist Church.

I was tearful with joy as I thought about how my grandmother saw a pastor in me as a child and nurtured me to believe in God and to maintain an openness to love all people, and now God has blessed me with a congregation that loves people the way I do! I have been given a sacred trust in Pilgrim which I joyfully accept from God.

In closing, I thank God for you—Pilgrim members, Ebenezer members, family, and friends—who planned and executed two spirit-filled weekends for my installation and anniversary services and who blessed us with so many gifts, cards, words of encouragement, and prayers.

To my family and friends in the South, please continue to pray for us, visit us, and speak of us often when you gather. We are moving in God's speed, favor, and anointing!



Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board
(Photo by Janie Wilson-Cook)

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REFLECTIONS ON PILGRIM'S NEWSLETTER

By Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board

This newsletter is the vision of a retiree from a major company here in Rockford, Mrs. Helen Ware, our editor. We are deeply indebted to her for the excellence we view monthly as we anxiously peruse the newsletter.

She came to see me early in my pastorate to say, "Pastor Board, you are moving so quickly in the Rockford community, meeting people, and gaining their respect that we need to chronicle your and Pilgrim's achievements in a newsletter for perpetuity." What a vision! December, 2006 marks the first anniversary of this publication.

I have chosen not to be the focus of the newsletter. Rather, I have moved aside so that the readers can see all the achievements and commitment of the fine members of Pilgrim whom I serve as Servant Leader! They are the ones who inspire me to keep long hours and to witness in this community.

I extend my personal congratulations to the newsletter staff for their fine work this past year and pray that God will continue to richly bless their efforts.

CONGRATULATIONS . . . On Your Special Day!**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES****DECEMBER, 2006:**

- 01 Newsletter (*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
- 18 Erica Hall
- 20 Jerry Owens, Sr.
- 22 JoAnne Blatcher
- 24 Samantha LeShoure

DECEMBER, 2006 (continued)

- 24 Karli Wright
- 25 Birth of Jesus, the Christ!
- 26 Shurice Hunter
- 29 Elnora Newton
- 30 Deondra Harvey

JANUARY, 2007

- 01 Whitné Simpson
- 05 Deacon Sam Gaynor
- 13 Sean Hyacinthe
- 16 Sharon Thurmond
- 21 Maurice Hall
- 22 Diedre Harvey
- 22 Carmen Jordan
- 24 Jean Ware

**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.



To Our Readers:

We Wish You

A Blessed Christmas

And Peace in the New Year!

EVENTS CALENDAR

(Also see Weekly Services on Page 1)

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 (food and fellowship after 12:00 Midnight)**

JANUARY, 2007

- 05 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship, Communion
- 12 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—"Unlimited Praise"
- 19 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship
- 26 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—"Unlimited Praise"

A TRIBUTE TO PILGRIM'S YOUTH!

We currently live in a time so full of chaos, it seems the only time our young people are mentioned in the media is when they have contributed to that chaos! We seldom hear of those who continually bless their parents and others with their effective efforts to achieve not only personal excellence but to bless someone else in the process!

Such has been the work of Pilgrim's youth for many generations — and this past year was no exception. Just when we thought they couldn't outdo themselves, they did! The second Sunday of each month has been set aside for our "*Youth in Service*", whereby the young people conduct the morning worship service.

On Sunday, November 12, Pilgrim members and guests were royally blessed through our youth as they led the morning worship.

Our young people gave the invocation, read the announcements, conducted the responsive reading of scriptures, and led the welcome and fellowship of our visitors. In addition, the **new Youth Choir** under the direction of **Mr. Maurice Hall**, Minister of Music, sang to our spirits as Unlimited Praise II touched our hearts with their dance of praise. What a blessed service!

Throughout the year, our youth have used their boundless energies to lead us to higher levels of service, praise, and worship.

During the first week in July, Pilgrim's youth successfully hosted the youth group from Tabernacle Baptist Church of Carrollton, Georgia in a *Summer Youth Mission Project*, during which service was provided to the Rockford Rescue Mission and some senior residents near Pilgrim.

Pilgrim's young praise dancers, *Unlimited Praise I and Unlimited Praise II*, have long blessed many in Pilgrim and throughout the Rockford area with their unique expressions of praise under the direction of **Matti Chappel** and talented assistants. Also lifting us up in praise are the *Pilgrim Steppers*, formed this year under the leadership of **Carmen Jordan**.

In addition to their high personal and academic achievements, our youth find time to give of themselves to the work of their church and the community. They often assist other ministries of the church—sometimes serving food, helping to decorate, or whatever else is needed. One recent example of giving was "*An Evening of Praise*" held by **Evon Sams** with his saxophone for the benefit of our proposed elevator wing.

In between all this hard work, our youth know how to have fun — such as was had at their "Sleep-Over/Barbeque" held at the church and the Boards' home.

(Also see photos on Page 4)

O, COME YE!

to the

**PILGRIM CHRISTMAS THEATRE
PRODUCTION**

on

Sunday, December 17, 2006

at 6:00 p.m.

***Bring your family and friends and
be blessed at this wonderful event
that celebrates the miracle that is
CHRISTmas!***

Congratulations to Chris Robinson

*... for winning the Junior
Achievement "2026
Contest" for Grade School
Level 4.*

Chris, a 4th grader at Rolling Green School, wrote an essay to describe how he sees Rockford in 20 years. He received accolades at the Annual Junior Achievement breakfast held at Giovanni's on October 3.

We are proud that Chris is a representative of our future — and that he's already planning it!

Chris' mom is **Letitia McEastland**, who sings in Pilgrim's Mass Choir and volunteers with the Junior Achievement program.

Thank you, Chris. We are proud of you!



KUDOS! . . . TO PILGRIM'S YOUTH!

KUDOS! . . . to our youth who display excellence in all they do. The following photos were previously published in "The Pilgrim Messenger" and show some of the youths' activities during 2006.



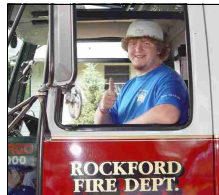
Pilgrim and Tabernacle Youth



"Sleep-Over" Fun at Pilgrim

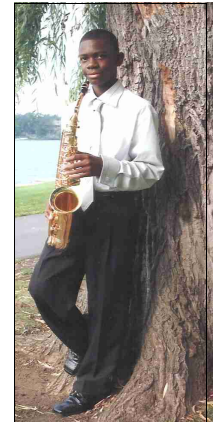


The "Pilgrim Steppers" — new in 2006



Tabernacle Youth enjoying the July 4 "Big Event" at Pilgrim

Evon Sams and his companion sax, "Lil' Brother", performed during "An Evening of Praise" at Pilgrim to benefit the Elevator Fund.



Pilgrim Youth at the "Big Event"

MORE NEWS TO COME ABOUT OUR YOUTH

An advocate for our youth, *Mr. Forest Price*, had suggested we put more focus on our youth—their personal achievements as well as their church and community activities. During 2007 and beyond, our newsletter will feature more information about our youth as we receive it. Soooooo . . . *young people, parents, youth leaders* — we need to hear from you! Please see Mr. Price or leave your information with the church office.

PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH



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