

The Pilgrim Messenger

JANUARY, 2007

Volume II, Issue 2



**PILGRIM
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

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Senior Pastor/ Servant Leader

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

Mr. Maurice Hall
Minister of Music

WEEKLY SERVICES

TUESDAYS:

9:30 am—Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS:

6:00 pm—Prayer Service

7:00 pm—Bible Study

SUNDAYS:

9:00 am—Sunday School

10:30 am—Worship Service

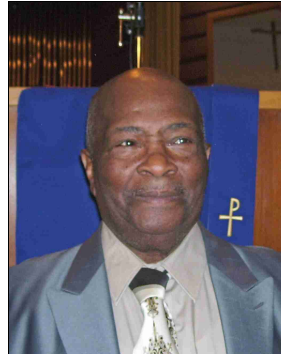
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ALL ARE WELCOME !

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

GOAL FOR 2007: A NEW ELEVATOR WING



Deacon Ben Newson

A \$10,000 Bequest to Pilgrim's Elevator Fund

The late Mrs. Viola Ross was a visionary who loved Pilgrim! During her latter years, she struggled with the stairs to reach the sanctuary. It was this struggle that led her to designate \$10,000 through her will for an elevator, even knowing that she would never ride in it. Mrs. Ross passed away over a decade ago.

Mrs. Ross had entrusted the carrying out of her wishes to Deacon Ben Newson, or to Deacon Sam Gaynor if Deacon Newson could not serve in that capacity. Her bequest was fulfilled during morning worship on Sunday, December 3, 2006, when Deacon Newson presented an Amcore Bank check for \$10,000 to Pilgrim's Elevator Fund Committee. Pastor Board lauded Deacon Newson for being a "faithful steward."

During their lifetimes, Mrs. Viola Ross and her husband, Andrew Ross, faithfully served Pilgrim. Mr. Ross was an uncle of the late Rev. Dr. E. H. E. Gilbert. Information about Mr. and Mrs. Ross was shared by Mrs. Dorothy Newson (*wife of Deacon Ben*), who also faithfully served Pilgrim prior to becoming homebound. Dorothy Newson said Mrs. Viola Ross is well remembered for her love of Pilgrim, her real New Orleans gumbo, made complete "including chicken feet", and her passion for fishing.

Mrs. Viola Ross will also be remembered each time we ride in our new elevator!

Elevator Fund Giving

On Sunday, December 10, Pilgrim members were given the opportunity to complete payments of their Elevator Fund pledges, although pledges and payments will be needed and accepted throughout the project which is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2007.

The elevator wing is budgeted at \$354,000, which will include several restrooms, shower facilities for our children and youth ministries, a multi-purpose meeting room, sitting areas, and a hospital-sized elevator with front and rear doors. All donations are needed and appreciated.

In addition to the giving by our current members, our relatives and friends of Pilgrim, including those outside Rockford, are also encouraged to participate by contributing what they can to this project that will benefit our entire community. All donors will be highlighted in a memorial book, and donors at a certain level of giving will have their names engraved on a wall plaque in the elevator wing.

Elevator funds are held in a separate account with oversight by Pilgrim's Trustees and the Elevator Committee of which Deacon Willie Reed is Chairman. Other members are Mr. Keith Crawford; Mrs. Lillie Hamberlin; Mother Lillie Martin; Deacon Ben Newson; Mr. Carl Towns; and Mrs. Barbara Wilson.

This elevator wing is vital to the growth of our church and its ministry in the community. No gift is too large or too small — SO, LET'S GET IT DONE!



Deacon Willie Reed (*Chair of the Elevator Committee*) and Mr. Patrick Johnson (*Trustee*) on Sunday, December 10

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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.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

As we make plans to enhance our newsletter in 2007, we welcome ideas and comments from you, our readers.

We are also in need of volunteers, particularly for reporting news of our children and youth.

To share ideas or to volunteer, just contact Helen Ware: (815) 877-6593 or h.ware@insightbb.com.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**JANUARY, 2007**

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

**FEBRUARY, 2007**

01 Sonia Johnson
11 Matthew Johnson
12 Dawana Johnson
16 Tealeta Garrett
18 Jackie Walker
20 Jennifer Grier
23 Bobby Staten
24 Staci Wright
25 Evelyn Huey
27 Keith Crawford

OTHER CONGRATULATIONS to:

- **MITCH CHAPPEL** . . . for winning the Northern Illinois 2006 "Bass Master Classic"; which encompasses all categories. In 2004, he won in the "Big Fish" category.
- **GEORGE COOPER** . . . upon completion of course work at Judson College which certifies him to teach Kindergarten through Ninth Grades. George holds Bachelors and Masters degrees from NIU and will earn his Doctorate upon completion of his dissertation. He is realizing his goal to work with children, and he also spent 16 years in the corporate world working for AT&T.
- **RENADE COSSEY** . . . in her new role as Director of The Healing Place, an outreach ministry of the Rockford Rescue Mission. (See Page 3)
- **SCHATICQUA GOLDEN** (daughter of Diedre Harvey and granddaughter of Deacon Robert and Mrs. B. B. Owens) . . . on being promoted to manager of a \$3.5 million Children's Place Store in Philadelphia.

EVENTS CALENDAR

(Also see Weekly Services on Page 1)

JANUARY, 2007

07 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship, Communion—*Mass Choir*
14 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—*Youth Choir / "Unlimited Praise"*
15 Monday 12:00 noon—MLK Day Program at Coronado Theatre
(Pilgrim's Unlimited Praise along with praise dancers from Providence and St. Luke Baptist Churches)
19 Friday } Pilgrim's Leaders' Training
20 Saturday } Lake Lawn Resort, Lake Delavan, Wisconsin
21 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—*Mass Choir*
28 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—*Male Chorus / "Unlimited Praise"*

FEBRUARY, 2007

04 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship, Communion—*Mass Choir*
11 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—*Youth Choir / "Unlimited Praise"*
18 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—*Mass Choir*
25 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—*Male Chorus / "Unlimited Praise"*

THE HEALING PLACE

An Outreach Ministry of the Rockford Rescue Mission

*“Women of God, the answer is yes.
Yes, God sees you, and yes, He understands.”
(From The Healing Place Brochure)*



Mrs. Renade Cossey

During its Fall-2006 “Women of Hope” gathering, the Rockford Rescue Mission introduced its new outreach ministry, The Healing Place, with (*Pilgrim’s own*) Mrs. Renade Cossey as its Director.

The Healing Place provides 24-hour spiritual mentorship and/or temporary respite for “women of faith” who might be going through a difficult situation or a stressful time. The physical place of respite is located in a rural area of Winnebago County and is available by invitation from a spiritual mentor. Renade divides her time between sites of the Rescue Mission and The Healing Place.

Mrs. Cossey states, “The local church is there but often may be unequipped to handle all of the delicate issues women face. The Healing Place sees itself as an aid to the local church, not a ministry separate from the church. One of our goals is to help hurting women reconnect with their church if they are out of fellowship and/or help them find a local church. Our aim is to also partner with the local church and support women’s ministries.”

In speaking of the 24-hour phone line, Renade says, “What is unique about our line is that it’s Christian based, and all callers will be addressed as if they have a relationship with Christ. We want women to be made whole through the powerful Word of Christ. . . Volunteers have received initially a minimum of 16 hours of training . . . It is the hope of The Healing Place to never give advice but to assist the caller/visitor with options for help they might not be aware of and, most of all, to listen.”

Volunteer opportunities are available for phone line, receptionist, spiritual mentor, support group leader, building and grounds assistance, and other. For more information, contact Renade Cossey—on Tuesday and Friday at the Rescue Mission, (815) 965-5332, or Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday at The Healing Place, (815) 316-2273—or access their website at healingplace@rockfordrescuemission.org.



Mr. Kirn and Pastor Board
pose for a photo on December 31

MR. JOHN KIRN GUEST SPEAKER AT PILGRIM

On Sunday, December 31, 2006, Mr. John Kirn, President of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Lombard, Illinois, was guest speaker during Pilgrim’s morning worship. Mr. Kirn was introduced by Rev. Richard Baker, a frequent visitor to Pilgrim and an alumnus of Northern.

Mr. Kirn made it clear that his message was being delivered by a lay person as he spoke from the topic, “*When we hurt someone else, who bleeds?*” Scriptural text was taken from Psalm 51. Mr. Kirn regaled the congregation with many stories and personal experiences to reinforce his message of how “*God bleeds when we hurt each other.*”

Pilgrim’s Pastor, Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board, met Mr. Kirn through Rev. Baker.

Mr. Kirn will be meeting this spring with Pastors in the Rockford area, encompassing many ethnic backgrounds, to explore the feasibility of bringing a branch of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary to Rockford.

CELEBRATING 61 YEARS!

On December 2, 2006, Deacon and Mrs. Douglas and Lorraine Thurmond celebrated 61 years together as man and wife! They were applauded by their Pilgrim family and visitors during morning service on Sunday, December 3, as they posed for the photo at right.

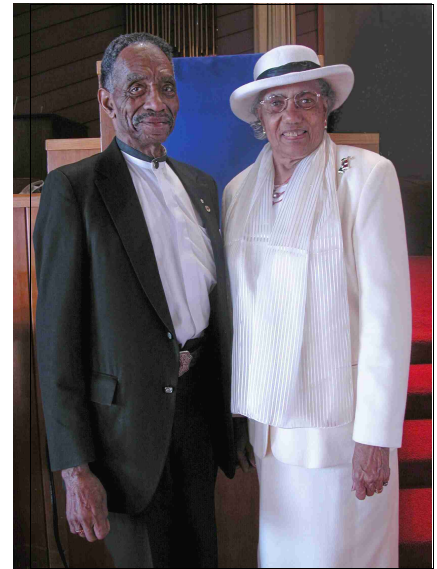
The Thurmonds have been members of Pilgrim for at least 50 years, during which time they have, and still are, busy in God's service. Deacon Thurmond still serves with the Deacons, and Mrs. Thurmond is known for her culinary arts and working with our primary children.

Of the four children born to their union, daughters Sharon Thurmond and Deloras Ransom are still active Pilgrim members.

Daughter, Deloras, reports that what her mother remembered most about their wedding day on December 2, 1945, was that *"It rained and rained and rained!"*

Let's hear it for Mr. and Mrs. Thurmond — and the rain!

Photo by Janie Wilson-Cook



Minister Sheri Glover leads Pilgrim's children in a praise song during her farewell reception.

PILGRIM BIDS FAREWELL TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH PASTOR

Pilgrim feted Minister Sheri Glover in a farewell reception after service on Sunday, December 31, 2006, as she returns to her home church, First Assembly, to (as she stated) "wait for God's direction as to my next assignment for developing a Children's Church."

Minister Sheri came to Pilgrim early in 2006 to work with the Children's Church lay leaders—Deacon Mark Hunter, Mrs. Shurice Hunter, and Mrs. Faye Reed. Since that time, the Children's Church Ministry has been blessed with additional leaders, Minister Jacque Robinson and Mrs. Conda Taylor.

Before digging into the beautifully decorated cake, the children made recitations to show their love and appreciation for Minister Sheri. In the photo at left, Minister Sheri leads the children in one last praise song as requested by Deacon Hunter.

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