

The Pilgrim Messenger

APRIL, 2007

Volume II, Issue 5



VISION STATEMENT

The Vision of Pilgrim Baptist Church is the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation through the belief in the ministry of Jesus Christ and empowerment of excellence in all people through Christian education and community activism.



PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH
1703 South Central Avenue
Rockford, IL 61102
Phone: (815) 968-4449

MINISTERIAL TEAM

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

- Reverend Steve Cossey
- Reverend Edward Wiley
- Minister Angela Davis
- Minister Jacqueline Robinson
- Minister Carl L. Towns
- Mr. Maurice Hall
Minister of Music

Office Manager

Mrs. Beverly Owens

Office Receptionist

Mrs. Queen E. Patterson

ALL ARE WELCOME !

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

WEEKLY SERVICES

MONDAYS:

6:00 pm—Boys' & Girls' Ministry

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

10:30 am—Children's Church*

**(2nd through 5th Sundays)*

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PILGRIM'S ELEVATOR WING ON SCHEDULE!

Groundbreaking Anticipated in April

Pilgrim members are anxiously awaiting the new elevator wing to be constructed on the north side of the building which will also include additional restrooms.

For many years, Pilgrim's steadfast ushers have assisted those with physical challenges up and down the stairs to and from the main sanctuary via a motorized lift chair. The lift chair has served us well but is slow and tedious. The control must be manually held down by someone as the chair slowly moves up and down the stairs for each person — but, thankfully, *a better way is on the way!*

Deacons Willie Reed and Ben Newson of the Elevator Wing Committee reported: *"God is on the move through the elevator project. The bids have gone out, and the contractors are anxious to begin.*

We are scheduled to break ground in April, 2007, with anticipated completion in August, 2007. On behalf of the entire Committee, we thank all Pilgrim members and Pilgrim friends who have blessed this project with their giving. Though we are still in need of funds, we are believing in God that we will meet our goal of paying cash for this addition. *We need your continued sacrificial giving — and no amount is too large or too small!* A ribbon-cutting ceremony is anticipated on or near Pilgrim's 90th Anniversary in August, 2007."

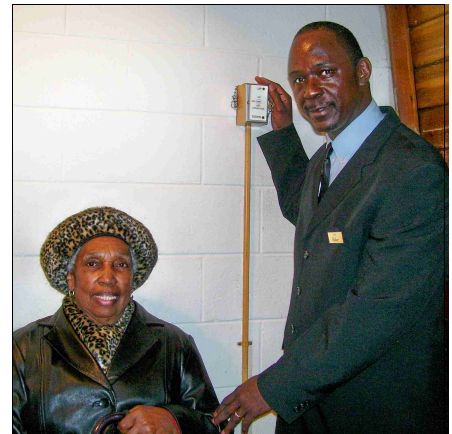
Project Manager Appointed

On February 27, the architect met with Pastor Board, the Elevator Wing Committee, deacons, and trustees to review the plans. Pastor Board said, "We were satisfied that the plans were complete and expansive. We appointed David Sidney, a gifted land and urban planner, to serve as Project Manager during the construction phase. David will work with the chosen contractors on every aspect of construction until completed."

David was born and reared in Rockford, and his mother and her siblings grew up in Pilgrim. His late grandfather was a Deacon, and his grandmother, Mrs. Georgia Moore, is still a strong Christian presence at Pilgrim. At Pilgrim, David works with the Youth Ministry.

A graduate of Auburn High School, David earned his Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning and his Master of Urban Planning degrees from the University of Illinois, with a focus on the physical design of communities and urban design principles and practices. David currently works at a real estate and land-development company, where he develops site plans and coordinates projects with all other divisions of the company.

David shared about himself: *"The Holy Spirit guided me to Pilgrim, and I love this congregation. I have begun the process of discernment and sound judgment to enter into Divinity School soon. . . . for I know our Father is preparing me to enter into a deeper relationship with Him so that I may lovingly and responsibly be one of many to bring the ministry of Jesus Christ to all of God's people. I am excited!"*



Mr. Darryl Mitchell, Pilgrim Usher, assists Mrs. Janet Wyatt in the lift chair.



Mr. David Sidney

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New Volunteer

We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Jacquelyn Tenard to our newsletter staff as proofreader.

HOW TO SUBMIT INFORMATION

We welcome your ideas, news items, and articles, which may be submitted to the Editor by phone or e-mail (as shown above) or 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, and 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.

EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL, 2007

- 01 Sunday 10:30 am—Palm Sunday / Morning Worship, Communion—*Mass Choir*
- 02 Monday 06:00 pm—PROSAAM Couples meet at Pilgrim
- 05 Thursday 06:00 pm—**Maundy Feast Celebration at Pilgrim**
- 06 Friday 07:00 pm—**Good Friday Service at Providence / Bishop Senter***
- 08 Sunday 07:00 am—**Easter Sunrise Service at Pilgrim, Rev. Copeland/New Zion***
- 08 Sunday 09:00 am—**Easter Program & Play, "Easter Shoes" at Pilgrim**
- 08 Sunday 10:30 am—**Easter / Morning Worship —Mass Choir / "Unlimited Praise"**
- 15 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—*Men's Chorus*
- 15 Sunday 06:00 pm—Music Study Piano Recital at Pilgrim
- 22 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—*Mass Choir / "Unlimited Praise"*
- 22 Sunday 04:00 pm—Trial Sermon by Willie L. Reed, Jr., *Candidate for Licensed Minister*
- 29 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—*Mass Choir*

**Cooperative effort of "Pastors' Network"*

MAY, 2007

- 03 Thursday 07:00 pm—National Day of Prayer—MetroCentre (until 10:00 pm)
- 06 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship, Communion—*Mass Choir*
- 13 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—*Youth Choir / "Unlimited Praise"*
- 16 Wednesday 07:00 pm—Pilgrim at New Zion, Beloit, WI—Anniversary, Rev. James Ivy
- 18 Friday 07:00 pm—Greater Rockford in Prayer & Praise (GRIPP) at Pilgrim
- 20 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—*Men's Chorus*
- 20 Sunday 04:00 pm—Pilgrim at St. Luke, Annual Ushers' Day
- 27 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—*Mass Choir / "Unlimited Praise"*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!

APRIL, 2007

- 02 Maurice Flowers
- 03 Ashley Crawford
- 07 Michael Mann
- 08 Janet Mitchell
- 09 Jessika Hart
- 10 Mother Cordelia Hunter
- 18 Greta Foster
- 19 Mother Beatrice Taylor
- 20 Clara Anthony
- 20 Brittany Staten
- 21 Joel Weatherall
- 22 Albara Morris
- 24 Matti Chappel
- 27 Minister Carl L. Towns

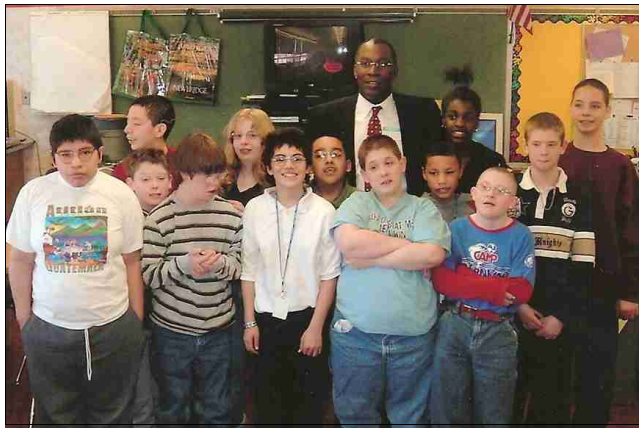
MAY, 2007

- 03 Beverly Owens
- 05 Catherine Dixon
- 06 Deacon Robert Owens
- 07 Shaniqué Sockwell
- 10 Zakiya Floyd
- 18 Carl O. Towns
- 19 B. B. Owens
- 20 Deanna LeShoure
- 21 Ophelia White
- 23 Shatiqua "Tiki" Brown
- 28 Mitch Chappel

Congratulations! Mother Cordelia Hunter will be 96 on April 10!



Congratulations!
 Mother Beatrice Taylor will celebrate her 102nd Birthday on April 19, 2007!



PASTOR BOARD CONDUCTS BLACK HISTORY DISCUSSION AT FLINN MIDDLE SCHOOL

During the month of February, Pastor Board was again invited to speak to Mr. Bushard's special-needs class at Flinn Middle School about one of his favorite civil rights leaders. This year he spoke about the Rev. Dr. Vernon Johns, predecessor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the historic Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Atlanta.

The class had already done some research on Dr. Johns and had erected a poster in class highlighting his contributions. The class interacted enthusiastically and asked many questions as Pastor Board shared how Dr. Johns' ministry paved the way for the civil rights movement to ignite through Dr. King's visionary leadership.

The above picture was given to Pastor Board as a reminder of his time of sharing at Flinn. As most of you know, Lady Marilyn Board is a 7th-grade math teacher at Flinn.

ROCKFORD OBSERVES ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

By Mrs. Marilyn Board

The Annual National Day of Prayer will be observed on **Thursday, May 3, from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at the MetroCentre.** Why? Our nation, which was founded under the principle of “*one nation under God,*” is being negatively impacted by sin. We have only to glance at the headlines or listen to the news to realize that our great land, America, is in need of divine healing.

God has already given us His prescription in II Chronicles 7:14 which states, “***If my people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.***”

Therefore, we are asking that Christians representing all nationalities, classes, cultures, denominations, and genders will join us as we fall on our knees to pray to God for repentance and regeneration. What a powerful weapon we Christians have in united prayer!



Mrs. Board

We also ask that you begin praying now for God to be glorified, for Him to create in us humble and repentant hearts, and that His desire to see all His children united will be fulfilled.

What else can you do? Volunteers are needed in many areas, including organizers, ushers, and greeters inside the MetroCentre, and traffic controllers both before and after the gathering. Also needed are volunteers for setup and cleanup. To volunteer, please call 815-654-1611 by April 15.

The Committee for the Annual National Day of Prayer is asking each individual for a minimum contribution of \$1.00 to this effort. After morning worship on Sunday, April 1, Pilgrim worshipers will be given the opportunity to contribute. For more information, please contact Pilgrim’s National Day of Prayer Leader, Mrs. Margaret Reed, at 815-962-1036, or the National Day of Prayer Committee Member, Mrs. Marilyn Board, at 815-282-3855.

DEACON REED’S “TRIAL” SERMON

During 2006, Deacon Willie L. Reed, Jr. shared with Pilgrim members his calling to preach; and on Friday, March 16, 2007, he was approved by Pilgrim’s Pastor, Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board, and a Council of Deacons to preach his trial sermon. The Council included Deacon Samuel Gaynor, Chairman, Deacon Oliver Emerson, and Deacon Ben Newson.



Deacon and Mrs. Willie and Margaret Reed

Deacon Reed’s trial sermon will be delivered during worship at **4:00 p.m. Sunday, April 22, 2007** in the sanctuary of Pilgrim Baptist Church, 1703 South Central Avenue, Rockford, Illinois. Everyone is encouraged to come out and bless Deacon Reed on this special day.

Following the sermon, Pastor Board will recommend to the congregation that Deacon Reed be licensed to preach the Word. A motion will be entertained and seconded, and the congregation will be given the opportunity to vote on the motion. With congregational approval, Deacon Reed will be licensed to preach the Gospel as Minister Willie L. Reed, Jr.

BAPTIST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The Rockford and Vicinity Baptist District Spring Conference will be held from **Monday, April 16, through Friday, April 20,** at Macedonia Baptist Church, 1720 Morgan Street.

Various classes will be offered from 6:00 to 7:00 each evening, followed by a lecture.

“COME MEET THE DOCTORS”

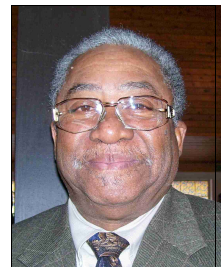
Information Submitted by Mr. Al Goode

The Black Health Care Initiative Coalition was formed in December, 1989, as it recognized the need to address staggering negative statistics with regard to the overall health among African Americans. Many were suffering or dying from treatable illnesses and diseases.

Since that time, the Health Care Initiative has sought to improve the health of our entire community, with particular emphasis on African Americans, through education, research, and advocacy. The Coalition recognizes the need for diversity and inclusion and is seeking to broaden the scope of other ethnic backgrounds.

As one of its educational programs, the Black Health Care Initiative Coalition is hosting “**Come Meet the Doctors**” on **Friday, April 13, 2007, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Giovanni’s (610 North Bell School Road.)** This event will introduce local African American physicians and nurses and promote resource sharing and networking. **Everyone is welcome to this free evening of sharing information and refreshments.** For more information, call the Chairperson, Mr. Willie Parham, at (815) 721-6677.

Two Pilgrim members working with the Coalition are **Mr. Al Goode** and Deacon **Mark Hunter**, who keep the congregation well informed on health issues and resources.



Mr. Al Goode



PILGRIM'S MINISTRY FOCUS FOR 2007
"Jesus Christ: Where New Life Begins, 2nd Corinthians 5:17"



NORTHERN SEMINARY COMING TO ROCKFORD!

In the photo at right, Mr. John Kirm, Interim President of Northern Seminary, and Pilgrim's Pastor, Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board, are shown at Pilgrim after morning worship on Sunday, December 31, 2006, during which Mr. Kirm had delivered a message to the congregation as a layman.

Shortly after Mr. Kirm's visit, Pilgrim members first learned of Northern's prospective plans to bring a branch of the seminary to Rockford. At that time, Northern was planning a spring meeting with pastors, ministers, and laypersons to determine the educational needs that could be met by a branch of Northern in the Rockford area. That meeting was held at Pilgrim on Tuesday evening, March 13, with Northern's Dean, Dr. Charles Hambrick-Stowe, and some of his staff. Pastor Board reported that the meeting was well attended and that Northern will use feedback from that meeting to design its course offerings.

Northern plans to conduct another exploratory meeting prior to offering classes in Rockford beginning in the fall of this year. Pastor Board has been appointed the Rockford point-of-contact person for both full-time and part-time prospective students, and he has also agreed to teach as an adjunct professor.

Pastor Board commented: *"This is a move of God for Rockford and exciting times in the life of the Church, area-wide! This curriculum will be the first accredited, advanced-degree program of its kind offered in Northwest Illinois. Northern offers degrees such as Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Christian Education, and Doctor of Ministry. Several of our members have expressed interest and commitment to attend Northern. Courses will be offered at the main campus in Lombard, Illinois and at a satellite facility in Rockford."*

Judson College, an undergraduate college in Elgin, is a product of Northern Seminary, which was founded in 1913 as Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. Northern's satellite courses will be offered this fall in Judson's new building on Featherstone Road in Rockford.



Mr. John Kirm and Pastor Board shown at Pilgrim on Sunday, December 31, 2006



STUDENT PLANS VISIT TO AUSTRALIA!

Shown at left is Miss Marquise Williams, a talented and dedicated youth of Pilgrim, who has earned the opportunity to travel to Australia between July 7 and 26, 2007 with "People-to-People Student Ambassadors." Marquise continues to bless Pilgrim with her leadership and praise! To successfully meet the \$4,500 cost for this trip, Marquis will need our blessings of prayers and monetary donations. For more information on how you can help, either see Marquise after church or give her a call at 815-721-2343. Congratulations, Marquise!

PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH



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Rockford, IL 61102

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

To: