

The Pilgrim Messenger

JUNE, 2007

Volume II, Issue 7



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 Willie L. Reed
- Minister Jacqueline Robinson
- Minister Carl L. Towns
- Mr. Maurice Hall
Minister of Music

Office Manager
 Mrs. Beverly Owens
Office Receptionist
 Mrs. Queen E. Patterson

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)

ALL ARE WELCOME !

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

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On Mothers' Day: PILGRIM'S CHURCH MOTHERS LEAD GROUNDBREAKING!

All Groundbreaking Ceremony Photos by Janie Wilson-Cook



After morning worship on Sunday, May 13, 2007, Pilgrim members, visitors, city officials, and contractors assembled on the north side of the church to officially break ground for the new elevator wing scheduled for completion in late August. The contractor, Stenstrom, presented "golden shovels" for the occasion, and Pilgrim's Church Mothers took the lead in breaking ground.



Minister Carl L. Towns and Deacon Sam Gaynor (*not completely visible on the right*) assist some of Pilgrim's Mothers (*Martin, Gipson, Cooper, Gilbert, and Taylor*) as they use the golden shovels to break the first ground.

This Phase I of the new addition will not only house a hospital-sized elevator but also additional men's and women's restrooms on two levels and a meeting room on the sanctuary level. The elevator will serve each of the building's three levels.

Members and friends of Pilgrim are encouraged to continue with their giving toward the completion of this project. No amount is too large or too small—and *all donations are welcome!*

In the photo at right, *Pastor Kenneth R. Board, Mayor Larry Morrissey, Deacon Sam Gaynor, and Mr. David Sidney* (Project Manager) watch the proceedings and await their turn to speak.

(More photos on Page 3.)



NEWSLETTER STAFF

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EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE, 2007

- 01 Friday *Photo Sessions for Pictorial Directory (2:30 pm to 8:50 pm)*
- 02 Saturday *Photo Sessions for Pictorial Directory (10:00 am to 4:20 pm)*
- 03 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship, Communion—*Mass Choir*
- 10 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—*Youth Sunday / Youth Choir/ "Unlimited Praise"*
- 15 Friday 07:00 pm—Male Health 4th Annual Fundraising Banquet-Cliffbreakers
- 17 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—(Fathers' Day) *Men's Chorus*
- 17 Sunday 01:00 pm—*Graduates' Recognition Reception (after Morning Worship)*
- 19 Tuesday Juneteenth Celebration at Sinnissippi Park—*Pastor Board speaks*
- 24 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—*Speakers: Shirley and Wilondja Masongezi Mass Choir/ "Unlimited Praise"*
- 24 Sunday 04:00 pm—Rockford/Freeport Ushers' Council Annual Day at Pilgrim

JULY, 2007

- 01 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship, Communion—*Mass Choir*
- 04 Wednesday *Independence Day Holiday*
- 08 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—*Youth Sunday / Youth Choir / "Unlimited Praise"*
- 15 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—*Men's Chorus*
- 16 thru 20 Rockford & Vicinity Dist. Spring Institute at Macedonia - *Pastor Board teaches*
- 22 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship—*Mass Choir / "Unlimited Praise"*

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.

Quote submitted by Bev Owens

Never fear shadows. They simply mean there's a Light shining somewhere nearby.

—Ruth E. Renkel

Congratulations to All on Your Special Day!

NOTE: All are birthdays unless otherwise stated!

JUNE, 2007

- 01 Deron Brooks
- 04 Mother Thelma Fisk
- 06 Barbara Wilson
- 07 Lorene Skelton
- 07 Nicholas Ware
- 08 Willie Bell
- 10 Carrie Ware
- 17 Shatuana Williams
- 23 Candace Gaddie
- 26 Margie Johnson

JULY, 2007

- 01 Pastor Kenneth R. Board
- 05 Marquise Williams
- 07 Bertha & Willie Bell (*Anniversary*)
- 07 Crystal Gaddie
- 07 Ella Harris
- 07 Chris Morris
- 08 Min. Willie & Margaret Reed (*Anniversary*)
- 08 Deacon Robert Thomas
- 14 Minister Willie Reed
- 14 Rev. Steve & Renade Cossey (*Anniversary*)
- 14 Mother Lillie Mae Martin
- 15 Deacon Mike Campbell
- 15 Deacon Douglas Thurmond
- 16 Shneera Habib
- 18 Bert Towns
- 21 James Towns
- 21 Carl & Bert Towns (*Anniversary*)



May God Bless You with Many More!

SUMMER HEALTH TIPS — HEAT EXHAUSTION

Submitted by Mr. Al Goode

The signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion often begin suddenly and may include faintness, rapid heart beat, low blood pressure, cold and clammy skin, nausea, and in fair-skinned people, an ashen appearance. If you suspect someone is experiencing heat exhaustion, assist the person to do the following:

- Get out of the heat into a cool, preferably air-conditioned, location.
- Lie down with the legs slightly elevated.
- Loosen or remove most clothing.
- Drink cold water or a sports drink to replenish fluids.

If no improvement after these steps, get the person to a doctor.

ANNUAL MALE HEALTH BANQUET

Announced by Deacon Mark Hunter

The Black Male Health Community Action Team has announced to the general public its 4th Annual Fundraising Banquet at 7:00 p.m. Friday, June 15, 2007 at Cliffbreakers. Individual ticket prices are \$40 per individual or \$320 for a reserved table of eight.

This year's theme is, "As Much As We Can, While We Can." For more information, **contact Mark Hunter at the Winnebago County Health Department: (815) 720-4268.**

MORE GROUNDBREAKING PHOTOS

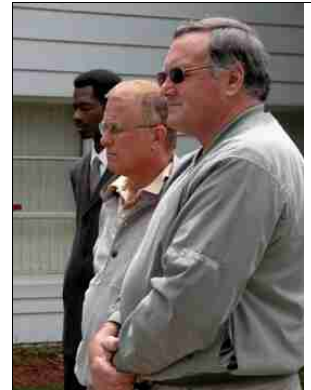
By Janie Wilson-Cook



Deacons and Trustees take a turn with the golden shovels.



Above: Mitch Chappel, Bobbie Staten, David Sidney, Pastor Board, Skip Gilbert. **Below:** Pastor Board and Deacon Sam Gaynor



Trustee Patrick Johnson with contractors, who seem ready, complete with hard hats!



Mayor Larry Morrissey (L) and Alderman Victory Bell



Congratulations to All 2007 Graduates!

A REMINDER TO GRADUATES: A Recognition Reception will be held in your honor immediately following morning worship service on Sunday, June 17, in the Nancy Smith Youth Center. Please remember to turn your information in to the Office Staff before then. If you have a picture, please include that as well, as we would like to feature you in the July issue of *The Pilgrim Messenger*.

GROWING OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Helen Ware

For some of us, Sunday School was probably the first place we heard stories about Jesus and His love for us and the first place we had to learn a verse or poem and recite it in front of an audience, mostly on Easter Sunday. Little did we know then how important those experiences would be in shaping our lives as adults.

We are so blessed at Pilgrim to have a most dedicated Superintendent of Sunday School, Dr. Vinest Steele, who readily admits her passion for Sunday School. She relates this story: *“When my son was small, I was talking with my mother in Alabama about how I planned to take him to Sunday School. I will always treasure my mother’s advice as she said, ‘No, don’t just take him. Take him, and go yourself.’ When I started regularly attending Sunday School at Pilgrim, Mrs. Lorraine Thurmond asked me to teach a class. After some thought about it, I said, ‘Yes, I would like to do that.’ That’s how I really got involved in Sunday School at Pilgrim. I liked it so much that I not only became a teacher but also a divisional superintendent and then superintendent.”*



Dr. Vinest Steele

Dr. Steele further said that, for her, Sunday School laid the foundation for development of Christ-like characteristics and being able to establish a personal relationship with Christ later in life. She said she learned more as a teacher than as a student because she really had to read the Bible and study more.

Dr. Steele stated their main goal is to **grow the Sunday School**. She said their *very dedicated Sunday School team*, consisting of teachers, officers, and Pastor Board, are working on plans to recruit more teachers and increase the attendance, especially of children. She believes Sunday School is vital in preparing them for a Christian life.

A busy lady is Dr. Steele!!! In addition to her work as Superintendent of Pilgrim’s Sunday School, she works in many administrative and teaching arenas of the Rockford Public School System, teaches college courses, and participates in numerous community and civic organizations.



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



PASTOR BOARD SPEAKS AT ACADEMY'S FIRST GRADUATION

Pilgrim's Pastor, Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board, gave the keynote address at LYDIA Academy in Rockford during its first high school graduation in April, 2007.

On Sunday, May 20, Lynne Strathman, Director of LYDIA, and one of her students visited Pilgrim during the morning worship service. Near the close of service, Lynne had the opportunity to briefly share some information about the academy, which is a Christian "alternative" high school. She dispelled the myth that alternative schools are for "bad" kids and said all students are loved. Students come to LYDIA because they have not been successful in the traditional school setting. Underlying barriers to learning are addressed through relationships, academic remediation, and counseling.



In further information, Lynne shared that LYDIA Academy in Rockford is a place for holistic education, where spiritual, emotional, educational, and behavioral issues are addressed in a respectful manner, as the dignity of the student is very important. LYDIA Academy is part of the national LYDIA Home Association, a child and family-welfare-based agency in Chicago since 1916. The name LYDIA is taken from the Biblical woman of the same name who "opened up her home." The organization continues with the mission of *"strengthening families to care for children and caring for children when families cannot."*

LYDIA in Rockford began in 1999 and has worked with homeless teens, suspended students, and chronic truants. Because of this work in Rockford, the Academy was developed in December, 2002 to address underlying needs of students who were identified in previous programs. The opening enrollment was six students, which increased to 20 students after the school moved to its current location at 2323 South Sixth Street in September, 2005.

Low tuition makes the education affordable, and the majority of costs are paid by contributions from individuals, churches, and businesses. To get more information about the LYDIA Urban Academy, Lynne Strathman can be reached at 2323 S. Sixth Street, Rockford, IL 61104, or by phone, (815) 966-0039.

90th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

The committee planning activities for celebrating Pilgrim's 90th Anniversary in August, 2007, is being chaired by Mother Georgia Cooper on alternate Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. Members are encouraged to participate. ***Names and addresses of former members are needed*** so they can be invited to the Anniversary celebrations. If you have information about a former member, whether friend or relative, in Rockford or out of town, ***please contact the church office with that information.***

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