

The Pilgrim Messenger

FEBRUARY, 2009

Volume IV, Issue 3



VISION STATEMENT
The Vision of the Pilgrim Baptist Church is the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation through the belief in the ministry of Jesus Christ and the 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
www.pilgrim baptist.org

MINISTERIAL TEAM

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

- Minister Angela Davis
- Minister Carmen Jordan
- Minister Willie L. Reed
- Minister David Sidney
- Minister Carl L. Towns

Office Manager

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

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

TUESDAYS:
9:30 am—Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS:
6:00 pm—Prayer Service
6:30 pm—Adult Bible Study & Youth "Spiritual Growth Link"

SUNDAYS:
9:00 am—Sunday Church School
10:30 am—Worship Service
10:30 am—Children's Church*
*(3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

ALL ARE WELCOME !

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

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HOLY COMMUNION AT PILGRIM



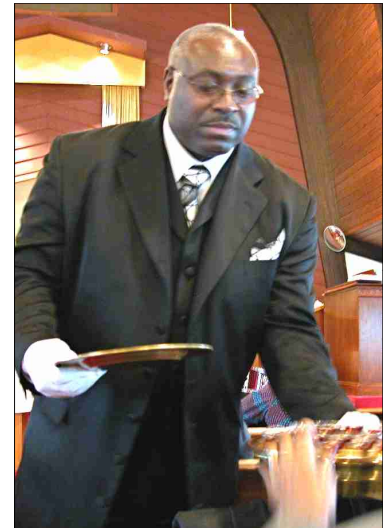
"This is my body which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me . . . This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you." Luke 22: 19, 20.

Each first Sunday, Pilgrim's congregation is given the opportunity to partake of Holy Communion in remembrance of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, who died on the Cross for our salvation.

Holy Communion at Pilgrim is a service of high praise and worship. Above, **Pastor Kenneth Board** (front) and (from left) **Ministers Carl L. Towns, Carmen Jordan, and David Sidney** lift up the "bread" as is also done for the "wine," symbolizing *Christ's body and blood as He died on the Cross.* After the Church Covenant is read in unison, the congregation joins in songs of praise as the Deacons carry out their vital role of serving the congregation. Pastor Board is usually assisted in serving other Clergy and Deacons by the Chairman of Deacons.

When all have been served, worshipers are invited to partake of the "bread" and "wine" together. At right, **Deacon Eugene Rigbsy** is one of those serving the congregation on Sunday, January 4.

(Also see Page 3)



NEWSLETTER STAFF

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EVENTS CALENDAR

FEBRUARY, 2009

(Black History Month)

- 01 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship/ Mass Choir—**Communion**
- 07 Saturday 8:30 am—Ushers' Council Prayer Breakfast at Bethel Baptist Church
- 07 Saturday CYM and Children's Church Leaders' Winter Retreat
- 08 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship / Mass Choir / Unlimited Praise
- 14 Saturday Valentine's Day
- 15 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship / Mass Choir
- 18 Wed. 6:00 pm—Play, "The Slaves," at Maddox Theater, Rockford College
- 22 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship / Mass Choir
- 22 Sunday 4:00 pm—Pilgrim Ushers' Annual Day
- 28 Saturday 7:30 am—Men's Prayer Breakfast at Pilgrim



MARCH, 2009

(Women's History Month)

- 01 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship/ Mass Choir—**Communion**
- 08 Sunday Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 08 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship / Mass Choir / Unlimited Praise
- 15 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship / Mass Choir
- 21 Saturday 2:00 pm—Play, "Queen Bess & Pancho Barnes," at Main Library
- 22 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship / Mass Choir
- 29 Sunday 10:30 am—Morning Worship / Mass Choir

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Note: All are Birthdays—unless otherwise stated!

FEBRUARY, 2009

MARCH, 2009

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 01 Sonia Johnson | 20 Jennifer Grier |
| 05 Neal Jameson | 23 Bobby Staten |
| 07 Emma Gentry | 24 Staci Wright |
| 09 Monica Reed | 25 Evelyn Huey |
| 11 Matthew Johnson | 26 Matthew Hunter |
| 11 Mia Rigsby | 27 Keith Crawford |
| 12 Mark & Shurice Hunter | 28 Ray Cooper |
| (Wedding Anniversary) | 28 Evon Sams |
| 12 Dawana Johnson | |
| 15 Erick Hall | |
| 16 Tealeta Garrett | |
| 17 Rebecca Towns | |
| 18 Conda Taylor | |
| 18 Jackie Edwards | |



Happy Valentine's Day

- 01 Tracy Reed
- 03 Patrick Cook
- 04 Jerry "Deuce" Owens
- 08 Regina Hart
- 11 T. L. Weddle
- 13 Vera Forte
- 14 Cindy Crawford
- 15 Deloras Thurmond
- 19 Bert Weatherall
- 21 Sha Russell
- 22 Alisia Mann
- 25 Charles Hunter
- 25 Stephanie Penix
- 29 Julie Cooper

INFORMATION

News may be submitted to the Editor by phone or e-mail (as above) by the 15th of the preceding month. All information is reviewed and/or edited by the Pastor and Editorial Staff.

Copies are available at Pilgrim on the **first Sunday** of each month, or you may **receive the newsletter via e-mail** by sending your request to the Editor as above.

Current and past issues are posted on Pilgrim's Web site, which is now managed by Janie Wilson-Cook, at www.pilgrimbaptist.org

PLAYS HONOR BLACK HISTORY & WOMEN'S HISTORY!



Charlyne Blatcher Martin

Two one-act plays by **Charlyne Blatcher Martin** will be presented to commemorate Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March. Charlyne, a member of Pilgrim, has shared the following information:

◆ "The Slaves", a one-act play, will be presented at **6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 18, 2009** in the Maddox Theater at Rockford College, 5050 East State Street. It is a part of the Black History Month programming by Montague Branch Library.

◆ "Queen Bess and Pancho Barnes" is a one-act play about two women with diverse backgrounds—one poor and black, the other wealthy and white. However, they were both pioneers for women in aviation. It will be presented at **2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 21, 2009** at the Rockford Public Library's Main Auditorium, 215 North Wyman Street, and is a part of the Library's Women's History Month programming.

Both events are FREE and open to the public!

Editor's Note: Charlyne is a playwright, poet, freelance writer, and columnist for Rockford's "Foundation" magazine. Her full-length play, "Crossing Bridges," premiered at Rockford College in 2002, where another of Pilgrim's members, **Emma Gentry**, played a starring role. Charlyne is completing a series of African-American historical fiction plays, of which some have already been produced in various venues. She is also the talk-show host of "Something to Talk About," which airs at 9:30 a.m. Saturdays on Comcast Cable Channel 17. Recent guests on her show were Pilgrim members **Al Goode** and **Ray Cooper**, who discussed revitalization plans for Southwest Rockford.

MOTHER GIPSON TURNS 90!

The family of **Emma N. Gipson**, a Pilgrim Church Mother, feted her with a 90th birthday reception on Saturday, January 24, in the meeting room of her new home on Fincham Drive. Her grandson, **Evon Sams**, and her daughter, **Emma Gentry**, shown with Mother Gipson at right, returned from Washington, D. C. in time for the celebration. Evon entertained the gathering by playing his sax.

Pastor Kenneth and Mrs. Marilyn Board came to bless Mother Gipson and wish her well, along with many friends and other family members. Mother Gipson's wit and clear eyes (*without glasses, no less!*) certainly belie her 90 years!

Happy Birthday & Blessings, Mother Gipson!



CHILDREN'S CHURCH UPDATE—FIRST QUARTER, 2009

Mrs. Conda Taylor shared this information from their Children's Church Leaders' Meeting:

"Children's Church will change to the **third and fourth Sundays of every month** and when there is a **fifth Sunday**. This schedule was decided upon so that the children will be in the sanctuary on the first Sunday for Communion and to participate with other youth on the second Sunday. Some of the children are now ushering and need to watch and learn as other youth carry out their ministries during church services.

"**What's new for Children's Church?** Our theme for January, February, and March will be "**Back to Basics—Salvation ABC's.**" For our first quarter, we will teach on salvation, baptism, and communion in depth. Our focus will be on teaching the children to seek

and intimately know God for themselves and teach them how to pray by speaking clearly and boldly to God from their hearts instead of just reading prayers. They will also be learning our church Vision Statement and the Children's Church pledge. We will start using incentives and are accepting **donations of books, puzzles, markers, crayons, coloring books, Bibles, etc.**, or other items that children like.

"We serve treats to the children after each service, so any **assistance with providing cookies, cupcakes, or other treats would be greatly appreciated.**

"If you would like to donate incentives, treats, or your time, please **contact the church office.** We are excited about our children and would ask for your continued prayers and support as we go forward."

NEW "FAMILY DOLLAR" STORE



On Saturday, January 24, a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony was held for Southwest Rockford's new **Family Dollar Store** at 1434 South Main Street. Participants in the ceremony from Pilgrim were **Pastor Kenneth R. Board**, **Deacon Oliver Emerson** (*Oliver Emerson Development*), and **Tonya Lamia** (*Vice President-Investor Relations, Rockford Area Economic Development Council.*) Above are **Tonya, Oliver, and his wife, Liz.**

See the March issue of *The Pilgrim Messenger* for more information about this venture and *Oliver Emerson Development.* **Thank you, Oliver, for the work you are doing!**

HOLY COMMUNION

Sick & Shut-Ins Also Served

The Deaconesses (*Deacons' wives*) ensure the communion table is appropriately set; and to honor this holy rite, they and the church Mothers dress in white and sit together on the first Sunday. **Deacon Christopher Morris** (*top right*) serves **Mother Lillie Martin**. Bottom right, **Mother Georgia Cooper** is resplendent in her white, as are Deaconesses **Lorraine Thurmond** and **Sonia Johnson** behind her.

After worship service, Pilgrim's **sick and shut-in members** are also given the opportunity to receive Holy Communion. The Deacons, assisted by Deaconesses, serve them in their homes, nursing facilities, or hospitals.

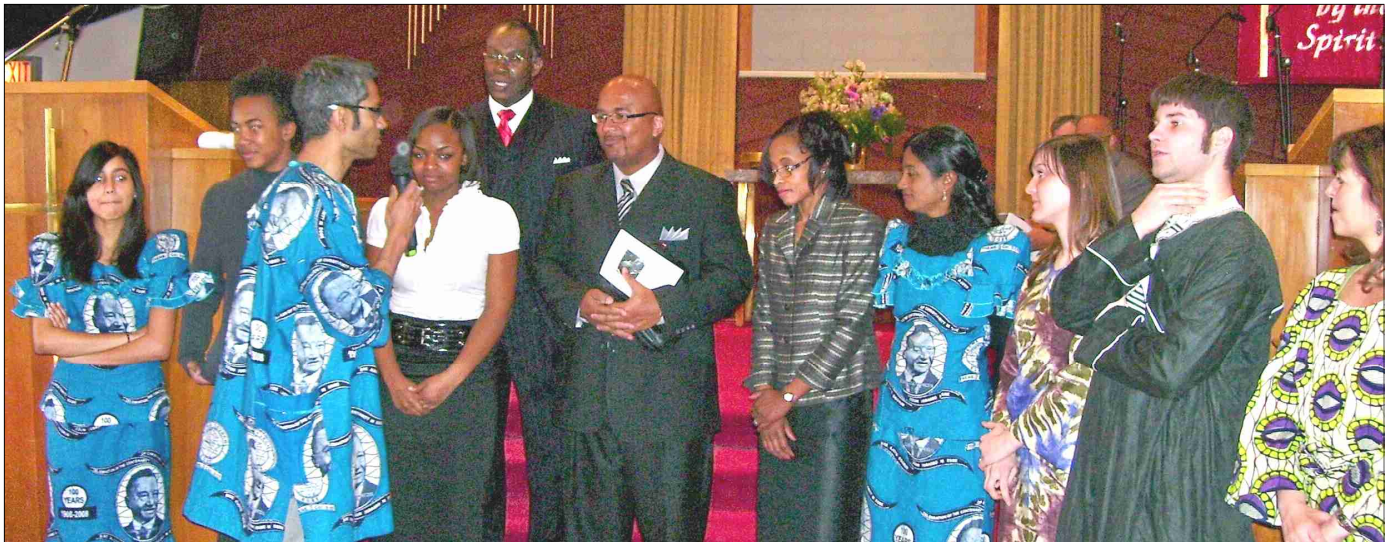




Ministry Focus for 2009: "Putting God's Agenda First!"



MISSION TEAM BACK FROM NIGERIA



Pastor Kenneth R. Board (back row of photo) listened intently as the above Missionary Team visited Pilgrim on Sunday, January 18, to share individual testimonies of their recent Mission trip to Nigeria. They told of how God used them in ministry and how much they were blessed by Pilgrim's prayers and financial support.

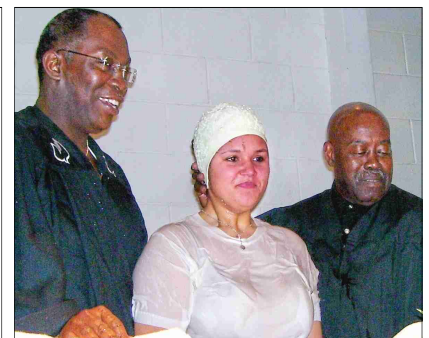
Dr. Vivek Kantayya (with the microphone) introduced this diverse group of Christians whom he said are "from five different churches with varying levels of skin melanin." Left to right: **Sanjana Kantayya**, Freshman at Christian Life (children's ministry); **Calvin Malone, Jr.**, Junior at Christian Life (children's ministry); **Christina Malone**, Freshman at Christian Life (children's ministry); **Rev. Calvin Malone**, Pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Church (spoke at Centenary gathering, [open air] and taught at Oyi River Theological College); **Dr. Lisa Malone**, OB GYN at Crusader Health-care (treated patients in out-patient department and performed surgeries); **Mrs. Vanu Kantayya**, Northern Seminary Student (taught at hospital devotions, women's fellowship, prayed for patients, was team guide); **Lizzie Ramsden**, Nursing Student (served the out-patient department, taught at hospital devotions, children's ministry); **Stephen Ramsden**, Computer Expert for SwedishAmerican (official photographer, helped all efforts); **Mrs. Cindy Ramsden**, Surgical Nurse at SwedishAmerican (taught at nursing school in Egbe, helped with operations, served in out-patient department, prayed for patients.) Another team member, **Rev. Steve Ramsden**, was unable to visit Pilgrim with the team, but his work in Nigeria paralleled that of Rev. Malone.

Dr. Kantayya is an Assistant Professor in the Family Medical Department of the U of I (Rockford) School of Medicine. During this trip to Nigeria, he coordinated the team's efforts, spoke at the hospital devotions and Centenary gatherings, and saw patients in the out-patient clinic. His family formerly spent a three-year term in Nigeria (2000-2003) where he was head of the OB department. He summed up this mission by adding, "To God be all the glory!"

"TAKE ME TO THE WATER . . . TO BE BAPTIZED"



Kenosha Holland was led to join Pilgrim after visiting as the guest of **Marquise Williams**. She became a candidate for baptism, which took place before morning worship on January 18. At left, Kenosha seemed a little apprehensive before going down into the water—but she was "oh so joyful" (at right) after coming up! **Pastor Board** was assisted in the baptismal pool by **Deacon Forest Patterson**.



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