It was in October, 2005, when the Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board accepted the invitation to become Senior Pastor of historic Pilgrim Baptist Church in Rockford, Illinois.

To celebrate this fifth pastoral anniversary, Pastor Board and First Lady Marilyn Board were feted during a dinner at Pilgrim on Friday evening, October 15, and during two worship services on Sunday, October 17.

Prior to his pastorate at Pilgrim, Pastor Board served as an Assistant Pastor at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church of Atlanta, Georgia, and spent over 20 years in various management positions at BellSouth and AT&T. His formal training includes a BBA in Business Management from the University of Louisiana at Monroe and a Master of Divinity and a Doctorate of Ministry from the Morehouse School of Religion, Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Pastor Board wasted no time in becoming oriented to Rockford’s climate as well as its community. Currently, he is also an adjunct professor at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary where he teaches two classes. He serves on the boards of Zion Development; Pilgrim’s Promise CDC; National Ministries and General Board of the American Baptist Churches; and he is a founding member of Alignment Rockford. He is also an active member of the Rockford Ministers’ Fellowship, the Rockford Rotary, and the Rockford Charter School Initiative Steering Committee.

The Boards have five children, and Mrs. Board teaches at Eisenhower Middle School.
NOVEMBER 2010

06 Saturday 6:00 pm—Pastor Board Speaks-Anniversary Banquet, Covenant Community Church
07 Sunday 2:00 am—Daylight Savings Time Ends—Set clocks back one hour.
07 Sunday 10:30 am—Worship Service / Communion
10 Wednesday 5:30 pm—Evangelism Workshop for Pilgrim Members—Call the office to register!
13 Saturday 1:00 pm—Pilgrim & Friends bowl at Park Lanes (5318 N. Second St.)
14 Sunday 10:30 am—Worship Service (Reception after service for Bert Weatherall)
14 Sunday 4:00 pm—Pastor Board, Choir, Members at Mt. Zion MB Church (Church Anniversary)
21 Sunday 10:30 am—Worship Service
21 Sunday 4:00 pm—Ordination of Deacons in Training
25 Thursday THANKSGIVING DAY—Church office closed
25 Thursday 6:30 pm—Women’s Ministry (Serve Evening Meal at Women’s Crisis Center)
28 Sunday 10:30 am—Worship Service

DECEMBER 2010

05 Sunday 10:30 am—Worship Service / Communion
12 Sunday 10:30 am—Worship Service
15 Wednesday 7:00 pm—Year-End Pilgrim Church Family Meeting (after 6:00 pm Bible Study)
18 Saturday 10:00 am—Special Event for Pilgrim Women (at Pilgrim)
19 Sunday 10:30 am—Worship Service
19 Saturday 5:00 pm—CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT PILGRIM
23 Thursday 6:30 pm—Women’s Ministry (Serve Evening Meal at Women’s Crisis Center)
25 Saturday CHRISTMAS DAY—Church office closed
26 Sunday 10:30 am—Worship Service

JANUARY 2011

01 Saturday NEW YEAR’S DAY
02 Sunday 10:30 am—Worship Service / Communion
08 Saturday 9:30 am to 3:00 pm—Evangelism Workshop for Pilgrim Members—Rev. Dan Hayes
09 Sunday 10:30 am—Worship Service (Guest Speaker, Rev. Dan Hayes of Atlanta, GA)
16 Sunday 10:30 am—Worship Service
23 Sunday 10:30 am—Worship Service
27 Thursday 6:30 pm—Women’s Ministry (Serve evening Meal at Women’s Crisis Center)
30 Sunday 10:30 am—Worship Service

SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER
All are birthdays unless stated otherwise!

NOVEMBER, 2010

01 Ruby Brown
07 Mary Bonner
07 Nicole Walker
07 Jaci Manney
11 Joyce Bowden
12 Janet Wyatt
17 Faith Hyacinthe
19 Jeanette Towns
25 Forest Patterson, Jr.
28 Gale Richard
29 Marilyn Board
29 Hallie Williams
30 Randy Cook

DECEMBER, 2010

05 Roby Johnson
09 Mother Orethay Avant
16 Lorraine Thurmond
18 Erica Hall
22 Ted & Minister Angela Davis (Anniversary)
23 Al & Connie Goode (Anniversary)
24 Karli Wright
24 Samantha LeShoure
25 Jesus, the Christ
29 Elnora Newton
30 Deondra Harvey

JANUARY, 2011

01 Kelli Jackson
01 Whitt ne Simpson
03 Queen Patterson
04 Michael Allen
05 Deacon Samuel Gaynor
05 Neale Jameson
07 Timothy Rogers
07 Terri Wilkinson
08 Ann Gilbert
13 Debra Curry
16 Sharon Thurmond
22 Diedre Harvey
22 Minister Carmen Jordan
24 Mother Emma Gibson

COMMUNITY “WALK FOR HOPE”
Pilgrim Earns “Award of Recognition”

Pilgrim was recognized with a special plaque for having the most participants (68 adults and nine children) in the “Walk for Hope” held at Rock Valley College on Saturday, October 2. Schawndolyn and Parrnell Smith (center), who coordinated Pilgrim’s participation, shared the award with other walkers and the congregation on Sunday, October 3. Pastor Board (right) congratulated those who so faithfully represented Pilgrim in our community.
DINNER CELEBRATES FIRST FAMILY

The Pastor’s Care Ministry, of which Janet Mitchell is President, sponsored a dinner in honor of Pilgrim’s First Family, Pastor Kenneth R. and First Lady Marilyn D. Board, to celebrate Pastor Board's Fifth Pastoral Anniversary on Friday evening, October 15.

In addition to Pilgrim members, many community pastors and guests were in attendance. The Boards’ out-of-town guests, some of whom are shown below left, included Darrell and Rene Henson (San Antonio, Texas); Debra Trotter (Marlin Texas); Chardria Trotter (Houston, Texas); Paulette White-Scott and Barbara Adams (Atlanta, Georgia.)

Parnell Smith entertained diners throughout the evening with “easy listening” music, and Mistress of Ceremony Bethanne Hollfield kept everything on track. An inspirational song was so beautifully delivered by special guest, Crystal Evans of Elgin, Illinois, who was accompanied by Pilgrim’s musician, Tony Tennyson. An unexpected and powerful prophetic tribute was given to Pastor Board by a special young man, Matthew Hunter.

Pilgrim’s own Patricia Fricks was speaker for the evening (shown in photo below at right with her daughter, Lisa Fricks Dixon.) Sister Fricks’ inspirational message caused Pastor Board to refer to her as “Pilgrim’s Lay Preacher.”

Above, Pastor and Lady Marilyn share a laugh with guests. Top left, the Boards with some out-of-town family members. Top right, Lisa Fricks Dixon, who introduced her mother, Patricia Fricks, speaker of the evening. Bottom left, Hors d’oeuvres table and guests before dinner. Bottom right, some members of the Pastor’s Care Ministry and helpers.

RSO STAR: Evon Sams?

The Rockford Symphony Orchestra has launched a competition for an “RSO Star” winner, who will be the featured performer at an Independence Day Spectacular Concert in July, 2011.

Our own Evon Sams has been selected as a semi-finalist after performing “Misty” on his alto sax. To win, Evon needs your on-line vote once each day before December 31. Enlist friends and family to listen to Evon play and vote for him at:

www.rockfordsymphony.com

PILGRIM PARTNERS WITH LATHROP

Pilgrim members are encouraged to participate in the VIPS (Volunteers in Public Schools) program initiated by RPS. Prudence Court, Principal of Lathrop Elementary, spoke briefly at Pilgrim about the students’ needs which run the gamut from reading to mentoring and tutoring and/or providing items such as extra cold weather outer wear and, on some occasions, changes of clothing for times when children may get wet while playing outside.

For more information about this program, contact Marsha Sisney, Parent and Community Engagement Division of RPS, at 815-966-3271. Applications are available in the Pilgrim office: 815-968-4449.
Ministry Focus for 2010: “Lord, Make Me A Witness For Jesus Christ.”

PILGRIM WOMEN . . . BUILDING “SISTERHOOD”

To strengthen our Women’s Ministry as we expand our work in the community, Sister Virginia Pettigrew-Wheaton (at right) facilitated a wonderful “get-to-know you” session during the regular meeting time of 10:00 a.m. Saturday, October 16. The dozen or so women who participated had fun learning about each other while building a closer Christian bond and real “Sisterhood.” (Did you know that Virginia is mostly known as Lola?)

The Ministry meets at 10:00 a.m. each third Saturday and will conduct business on alternate months and have sessions for women on alternate months. The next meeting will be 10:00 a.m. Saturday, November 20, and all ages of Pilgrim women are urged to attend.

This year, the women have been busy serving hot meals at the Women’s Crisis Center, supporting our troops, participating in District meetings, and much more. Sister Albertha Towns, President, is looking forward to welcoming you as we plan for this next year!

CHILDREN & YOUTH TREAT FIRST FAMILY TO LUNCH!

Pilgrim’s Children and Youth Ministry (CYM) treated Pastor Kenneth and Lady Marilyn Board to lunch on Saturday, October 3, at McDonald’s on Perryville. The young people took the opportunity to ask Pastor Board questions about being a Pastor.

Shown above are the Boards (center) with some of the children and youth. Youth leaders present were Staci Wright, Deacon Eugene Rigsby, Minister Carmen Jordan, Bethanne Holifield, Albara Morris, and Deacon Christopher Morris, who took the photo.

A PILGRIM CHRISTMAS!

Rehearsals for adults and children are in full swing at 6:00 p.m. each Tuesday for Pilgrim’s annual Christmas Program and Celebration.

Mark your calendars NOW for 5:00 p.m. Sunday, December 19, at Pilgrim. It’s sure to be a blessing you and your family and friends will not want to miss!

FROM THE EDITOR . . .

. . . To Our Faithful Readers

The first issue of the current version of "The Pilgrim Messenger" was published in November, 2005, as Pilgrim welcomed its new Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board. This is the 60th monthly issue.

It has been my blessing to chronicle in each issue for the past five years the great work God is doing through Pilgrim, so I regret to announce a one-month hiatus of our newsletter during December. The next issue is planned for Sunday, January 2, 2011.

We very much appreciate your faithful readership and encouragement and wish you and yours a Blessed Holiday Season!

Helen F. Ware
Editor, “The Pilgrim Messenger”

Pilgrim Baptist Church / 1703 South Central Avenue—Rockford, IL 61102
Office: 815-968-4449 / Fax: 815-968-2603 / www.pilgrimbaptist.org
Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board, Senior Pastor