

The Pilgrim Messenger

November, 2011

Volume VI , Issue 11

PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

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MINISTERIAL TEAM

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Senior Pastor

Minister Angela Davis
Minister Carmen Jordan
Minister Sharon M. Olson
Minister Willie Reed
Minister David Sidney
Minister Carl L. Towns

*"A Church Inspired by the Word and Empowered by the Holy Spirit."
ALL ARE WELCOME!*



WEEKLY WORSHIP

Tuesday:

9:30 am—Bible Study

Wednesday:

12:00 Noon—Bible Study
6:00 pm—Prayer Service
6:30 pm—Adult Bible Study
6:30 pm—Youth Bible Study

Sunday:

9:00 am—Sunday School
10:30 am—Worship Service
10:30 am—Children's Church

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Six Years and Still Thanking God!

Reflections by Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board

To My Pilgrim Church Family:

I want to thank you for your prayers, support, and hard work as we have partnered together these past six years to serve God in the setting of Pilgrim Baptist Church. With God, all things are possible; apart from Jesus, we can do nothing!

I pause to celebrate and reflect on what God has blessed and favored us to accomplish over the past six years, both within and outside of Pilgrim. I am extremely grateful for the sweet members and dedicated leaders that God has planted in Pilgrim: *preachers, teachers, deacons, deaconesses, trustees, mothers, ushers, greeters, musicians, and all of our ministry leaders.* Our church membership reflects our community: Black, White and Latino! I love all of you and thank God for calling me to be your pastor and servant leader.

Over the past six years, we have accomplished much together: *the installation of new carpets in the sanctuary, narthex, and Chapel of the Crosses; four new restrooms; multi-purpose conference room; sitting areas; an expansive elevator system; new lighting; new sanctuary windows; state-of-the-art multimedia projector system with computer interface and software; big screen LCD televisions; a jazzy youth "hangout zone"; a full-service nursery; decorative outer doors; new sidewalks; new office equipment and software; an outstanding newsletter; new ministries; a revamped accounting and trustee process; a Cub Scout Pack and a Boy Scouts Troop; and, in late November, an innovative metal roofing system with oversized gutters and downspouts. WOW!*

Outside of Pilgrim, we have been vigilant and active as well, and God has used me to assist our community in a number of ways: *At Northern Seminary to establish a Rockford location; the Park District to establish a young boys' fishing mentoring program; the School District to establish "Alignment Rockford," a*



**Pastor Kenneth R. Board
and Mrs. Marilyn D. Board**

non-profit educational support group; a mentoring ministry at Lathrop Elementary School; and Pilgrim's Promise, a community development corporation. Yet, there is much more work to do!

In 2012, my primary focus will be to lead our congregation into a discipleship program whereby each member will be challenged and given an opportunity to grow spiritually through the study of God's word. Our theme for 2012 is **"Discipleship: God's Mission Our Passion"** (Matthew 28:19,20).

We will start with our men because I believe that the church (and our families) will flourish when men are "sold out" for God and Jesus. We must be filled with God's word in order to lead successful lives! Let us continue to work together, for we are one in Jesus Christ, and let us look to God for guidance as we enter seven years of ministry together. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Kenneth R. Board

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.

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OTHER INFORMATION

News may be submitted to the Editor (as above) by the 15th of the preceding month. To receive the newsletter via e-mail, send request to editor.

Current and past issues are posted on Pilgrim's Website, managed by

Janie Wilson-Cook at
www.pilgrim baptist.org

EVENTS CALENDAR

NOVEMBER, 2011

- 06 Sunday Daylight Savings Time Ends (Set clocks BACK one hour)
- 06 Sunday 10:30 am - Worship Service / Communion
- 08 Tuesday ELECTION DAY
- 12 Saturday 9:00 am - Pilgrim Church Family Meeting (until 10:30 am)
- 12 Saturday 10:30 am - Ministry Leader Training (until 12 noon)
- 12 Saturday 12:00 noon - Leadership Council Meeting (until 1:30 pm)
- 13 Sunday 10:30 am - Worship Service
- 19 Saturday 5:00 pm - Rockford-Freeport Ushers' Council Annual Fashion Show - Macedonia Baptist Church
 (See Pilgrim's Greta Foster for information & tickets)
- 20 Sunday 10:30 am - Worship Service
- 24 Thursday THANKSGIVING DAY (Church Closed; also Friday)
- 27 Sunday 10:30 am - Worship Service

DECEMBER, 2011

- 04 Sunday 10:30 am - Morning Worship - Communion
- 11 Sunday 10:30 am - Morning Worship
- 18 Sunday 10:30 am - Morning Worship
- 18 Sunday 4:00 pm - Annual CHRISTMAS Musical & Play (Free and open to the public!)
- 25 Sunday 10:30 am - CHRISTMAS DAY - Morning Worship



LORD, WE GIVE YOU THANKS!

The Special Projects Ministry needs children and youth (from age 3) to participate in Pilgrim's Annual Christmas Play & Musical at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 18. Rehearsals are held from 6 to 7:15 p.m. each Monday. For more information, contact Mia Rigsby at 815-979-7132 or Staci Wright at 815-494-6161. Below right is a photo from last year of 4-year-old Amore Simpson* who kept a perfect drumbeat as he accompanied the Christmas Chorus in "The Little Drummer Boy" song!

*Amore Simpson was tutored by musician James Higgins.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES
 All are birthdays unless stated otherwise!

NOVEMBER, 2011

- 01 Ruby Brown
- 07 Mary Bonner
- 07 Nicole Walker
- 08 Jacci Mannery
- 10 Amy Bradley-Thomas
- 11 Joyce Bowden
- 12 Janet Wyatt
- 19 Jeanette Towns
- 25 Forest Patterson, Jr.
- 28 Gale Richard
- 29 Marilyn Board
- 29 Hallie Williams
- 30 Randy Cook

DECEMBER, 2011

- 05 Deacon Roby Johnson
- 09 Mother Orethay Avant
- 16 Lorraine Thurmond
- 18 Ercia Hall
- 22 Ted and Angela Davis*
 *(Wedding Anniversary)
- 24 Karli Wright
- 24 Samantha LeShoure
- 25 Jesus, the Christ
- 29 Elnora Newton
- 30 Deondra Harvey



WELCOME TO BABY "K.J." OWENS!

Proud grandparents Jerry and Beverly Owens recently traveled to Florida to greet Keoni Jerrell Owens, "Baby K.J." New father, Terrell, and new mom, Tamara, are both members of the U. S. Air Force. TSGT Terrell has returned to his post in Afghanistan, while Officer Tamera will be on leave until mid-November. Welcome to "Baby K.J." and congratulations to his parents, grandparents, and other family members!



Let's continue in prayer for all of our Troops!

"THE BROTHERHOOD" & CUB SCOUTS

By Parnell Smith

Our Pilgrim men's ministry, The Brotherhood, and leaders of Cub Scout Pack 25 are currently hammering out details to join forces to better accommodate both ministries. This vision was well received by Pastor Board.

After our next monthly fellowship breakfast on Saturday, November 19, we're hitting the streets! We will be "honorary" Scout leaders for the day as Cub Scout Pack 25, Boy Scout Troop 271, and the Brotherhood distribute recruitment flyers in the neighborhood around Pilgrim. Also, a recruitment night is planned during the next few weeks.

Stay tuned for more!

First Family's Six Years at Pilgrim

Pilgrim's First Family: Rev. Kenneth R. and Mrs. Marilyn D. Board

During the weekend of October 15 and 16, Pilgrim members, friends, and community partners celebrated the 6th Anniversary of Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board's pastorate at Pilgrim Baptist Church.

On Friday evening, October 15, a free dinner, open to the community, was sponsored by the Pastor's Care Ministry. Keynote speaker, Mr. Dennis Koehler of Dunwoody, Georgia, is a 30-year friend and co-worker of Pastor Board. Mr. Koehler was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Barbara Koehler, and their son, Jacob. As he gave kudos to Pastor Board, he also entertained those attending with anecdotes of their years of friendship and working together at AT&T in Louisiana and Georgia. Dr. Mitchell Olson and Minister Sharon Olson provided live music on the keyboard and violin during the social hour.

There were many tributes to Pastor Kenneth and First Lady Marilyn Board by members, friends, and community partners in honor of their leadership and positive work at Pilgrim and in the Rockford area.

Anniversary co-chairs Patricia Fricks and Janet Mitchell acknowledged and thanked everyone who helped with the success of this celebration.



Mr. Dennis Koehler

Pastor's Mother!

Pastor Board's mother, Mrs. Lula Brown of Shreveport, Louisiana, was a very special guest for Pilgrim and the Boards during the weekend of October 15-16. We have been blessed by her prayers! She graciously posed for this photo with her son during the dinner on Friday, October 15.



SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS

Two worship services were held on Sunday, October 16, to recognize the leadership of Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board as Pastor of Pilgrim during the past six years. Minister David Sidney preached during the morning worship service, and guest speaker at 4:00 p.m. was Rev. Dr. Nathanael Johnson, Sr. of Second Baptist Church, Clinton, Iowa. Pastor Johnson was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Francesca Johnson, and his congregation.

Rev. Johnson is the son-in-law of Mother Orethay Avant of Pilgrim who was glad to worship with her family members, both in Rockford and in Clinton, Iowa.

Photos at Right and Below:

Top Row from left: Bettye Collins talks with the Smith family; Dr. Mitchell Olson and Minister Sharon Olson provide music during social time.

Bottom Row from left, Mrs. Margaret Reed and Minister Willie Reed; Mrs. Lula Brown (*Pastor's Mother from Louisiana*) and Minister Carmen Jordan; Mr. Parnell Smith escorting Mrs. Marilyn Board; Mr. Dennis Koehler, Mrs. Barbara Koehler, and their son, Jacob.



Ministry Focus for 2011: "Our Best for God's Glory!"

Pilgrim at Second Baptist, Clinton, Iowa



Pastor Nathanael Johnson, Sr. and Mrs. Francesca Johnson

Pilgrim traveled by chartered coach and personal automobiles to Clinton, Iowa on Sunday afternoon, October 23, to celebrate with Second Baptist Church in Clinton, Iowa for their 124th church anniversary! Pastor Kenneth R. Board was guest speaker and was well supported by Pilgrim: Mrs. Marilyn Board, ministers, deacons, musicians, choir, ushers, and many other members including children and seniors.

Most members rode on a charter coach, which filled up fast. The Boards and others drove their personal vehicles. The bus trip was fun and well planned by Beverly Owens and Lorraine Wilson. Pastor Board provided a "goodie" bag for everyone with beverages and snacks.

Second Baptist greeted us warmly and were ready with a hot meal and fired-up members ready to celebrate. Shown at left is Second Baptist's Pastor and First Lady: Rev. Dr. Nathanael Johnson, Sr. and Mrs. Francesca Johnson.

TRUNK OR TREAT!

This year, Pilgrim's Special Projects Ministry hosted a safer alternative for our children and those in the neighborhood. Instead of going door to door to "trick or treat," they attended the "Trunk or Treat" event in the safety of Pilgrim's parking lot. Between 5:45 and 7:00 p.m. on October 31, about 150 children and adults participated in showing off their costumes while getting their fill of candy and other treats from vehicle trunks that were decorated in fun and positive themes.

The area was well lighted, and Minister and Mrs. Reed even cooked food to serve! Thanks to all who made this event such a success!

PHOTOS: Top left, Lorraine Wilson's son Ethan stands near the trunk of her car, which was decorated in a basketball theme. Middle: Neighborhood parents and children showed off their costumes while collecting treats. Bottom: L to R, Deacon Chris Morris, Pastor Kenneth and Mrs. Marilyn Board, and Minister David Sidney.

(Photos by Staci Wright)



Pilgrim "Got on the Bus!"

Pilgrim members who rode to and from Clinton, Iowa on a Rockford Charter Coach bus ranged in age from 7 years up! It was a fun trip with "entertainment" by Pilgrim's Special Projects Ministry members, Bethanne Holifield and Staci Wright. Ask them about the fun "prizes"!!!

Thanks to Minister Carl L. Towns for the bus photos!

