

The Pilgrim Messenger

March, 2012

Volume VII, Issue 3

PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

1703 South Central Avenue
Rockford, IL 61102
815-968-4449
www.pilgrimbaptist.org



MINISTERIAL TEAM

Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board
Senior Pastor

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

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

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

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Lenten Season 2012

John: 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Jesus shall not perish, but shall have eternal life."

**A Message From
Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board**



God has blessed us to again enter the Lenten Season which is 40 days prior to Resurrection Sunday (*Easter*). On Ash Wednesday, which signaled the beginning of Lent, I humbly anointed our February 22nd Bible Study attendees with crosses of ashes on their foreheads. The ashes symbolize our casting off sin and moving toward Jesus Christ as we await His resurrection and, one day, triumphant return to earth.

During the Lenten Season, it is common in Catholic and Protestant circles to fast (*deny oneself*) on certain things while committing to holy acts/services which glorify God. For example, choose to fast on desserts, soft drinks, television, and recreation in exchange for spending more time in Bible study, community service, quality family engagements, and prayer.

How many of you have consciously chosen to deny yourself some "pleasure" as you contemplate the depths of God's love in sending Jesus to be an "Atoning Sacrifice" for our sins?

God has truly blessed us with so many gifts that we cannot begin to repay Him. Yet, the gift of Jesus is, without question, the greatest gift ever extended to human-kind.

I have dedicated my whole life to sharing with family, church, friends, and strangers just how much God loves us and wants us to receive eternal life through Jesus Christ. Are you totally surrendered to Jesus? Is Jesus your best friend?

Every Lenten Season reminds me that, while many are focusing on where to hold the Easter egg hunt, God is preparing to send His only begotten Son to the rugged cross at Calvary so that our souls can be set free of sin.

It humbles me to think about how wise, compassionate, and forgiving God really is. On the other hand, Lent reminds me of just how committed Jesus is to God and to us. The Bible states that, while Jesus cried when he

entered Jerusalem, he willingly surrendered His will in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Lent reminds me that we can be more like Jesus if we are willing to accept God's gift, deny ourselves of worldly pleasures while rejoicing over what we will inherit one day as heirs (children) of God. Let us commit our lives to prayerfully look to Easter Sunday and the Great Awakening when Christ returns to judge the living and the dead. **May we all hear Jesus say, "Well done, thy good and faithful servant."**



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.

EVENTS CALENDAR

PILGRIM OFFICE STAFF

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OTHER INFORMATION

Please submit news 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.pilgrimbaptist.org

MARCH, 2012

- 02 Friday 5:30-7:00 pm - Pastor Board speaks at Kennedy Middle School on Black History
- 04 Sunday 10:30 am - Morning Worship - Communion
- 11 Sunday DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS (Set clock ahead one hour.)
- 11 Sunday 10:30 am - Morning Worship
- 11 Sunday 4:00 pm - Pilgrim at Mt. Carmel in Freeport - Church's 27th Anniversary
- 15 Thursday 12:00 noon - Senior Saints March program: A two-act play by AGE Quake Theatre Company - Refreshments - Free-will donations accepted by AGE Quake
- 18 Sunday 10:30 am - Morning Worship - Welcome Ministry's "Meet & Greet" in the Nancy Smith Youth Center following Morning Worship
- 20 Tuesday ELECTION DAY / FIRST DAY OF SPRING
- 25 Sunday 10:30 am - Morning Worship

APRIL, 2012

- 01 Sunday 10:30 am - Morning Worship - Communion / PALM SUNDAY
- 05 Thursday 6:00 pm - MAUNDY THURSDAY FEAST
- 06 Friday 12:00 noon - Pastor speaks at New Fellowship Baptist Church for Good Friday's "Seven Last Words" service
- 08 Sunday 10:30 am - RESURRECTION SUNDAY - Morning Worship
- 15 Sunday 10:30 am - Morning Worship
- 15 Sunday 4:00 pm - Kantorei Boys Choir Concert at Pilgrim (Church in use for wedding)
- 21 Saturday 10:30 am - Morning Worship
- 22 Sunday 10:30 am - Morning Worship
- 29 Sunday 10:30 am - Morning Worship



This message comes from Vicki Richard, Illinois Deputy Registrar: "We registered 13 people to vote within four weeks at Pilgrim. Remember, your vote does count; but before you can vote, you must be registered. ELECTION DAY is Tuesday, March 20, 2012. Early voting may be done between February 27 and March 15, 2012 at the Board of Election Commissioners, 301 S. 6th Street. You will need a government-issued ID."

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

All are birthdays unless stated otherwise!

MARCH, 2012

APRIL, 2012

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 01 Tracy Iverson | 08 Janet Mitchell |
| 02 Grace Elliott | 18 Greta Foster |
| 03 Patrick Cook | 19 Mother Beatrice Taylor |
| 11 Akeyla Evans | 20 Clara Anthony |
| 11 Destyni Schaefer | 20 Nan Mynatt |
| 11 T. L. Weddle | 22 Albara Morris |
| 13 Vera Forte | 24 Matti Chappel |
| 15 Deloras Ransom | 24 Marquan Williams |
| 28 Candus Jones | 27 Minister Carl L. Towns |
| 30 De'Vonte Sims | 27 Vivette Halll |
| | 29 Giovanni Van |

MISSIONARIES TO CAMEROON

Wilondja and Shirley Masongezi send greetings to Pilgrim as they prepare for the next phase of their missionary journey to plant churches in Cameroon. For more information or to receive their monthly missives, you may reach them at:

www.convergeworldwide.org/give/148037

FIRST WEIGHT-LOSS WINNER!

Presented by Pilgrim's Health Ministry

Rosalynd Mincy and Joy Tolbert

Pilgrim's Weight-Loss Challenge 2012 and initial weigh-in were introduced by Joy Tolbert and Rosalynd "Roz" Mincy on Sunday, January 1, 2012. It was structured with three monthly winners and one "ultimate winner."

In the photo at right on Sunday, February 5, are Shirley Aliprandi (left) and Rosalynd Mincy, who announced the finalists and winner. When she was announced as winner, the congregation celebrated with Shirley as she shouted down the aisle! Pastor Board, who was included in the top 10, and others still have a chance to be an interim winner or the ultimate winner.

Other interim winners will be announced March 4 and April 1, with the ultimate winner being announced and celebrated on Sunday, April 22.



PILGRIM'S YOUTH PLAN FOR "IMMERSE"



IMMERSE is the 2012 gathering of American Baptist Youth sponsored by the American Home Mission Societies. It is scheduled for July 24-28 in Washington, DC and is open to youth ages 14-19. Pilgrim's coordinator for this event is Minister David Sidney (at right), Director of Children and Youth Ministries. It is the conveners' desire that youth will be IMMERSSED in a Spiritual, Reflective, Missional, Connective, and FUN experience that prepares them to return to their communities ready to be IMMERSSED in Christ.

The location of this gathering will be on the campus of American University



Minister David Sidney

which will provide the opportunity to meet with other youth from American Baptist Churches nationwide.

Informational flyers are available from Pilgrim with detailed information about eligibility, costs. For more information, contact Minister David Sidney (815-298-3793) or Deacon Christopher Morris at (815-703-0663).

Some of the information shared here was gleaned from the following Website which has more complete information:

WWW.ABHMS-IMMERSE2012.ORG

Ushers Ministry Annual Worship Celebration



Helping Pilgrim's Ushers celebrate their Annual Day were Rev. Omer Francis (left) and his congregation from Spirit of Truth Church and members of the Freeport-Rockford Ushers' Council, representing many churches. A fellowship reception was held after the 4:00 p.m. service. The Ushers annual theme and Rev. Francis' sermon title was "Serving with Boldness."

Most people think of ushers as greeting and seating people, handing out literature, tending to visible needs of individuals, "keeping the doors", and maintaining the sanctuary. They do all of that and more, but some people don't know the depths of their dedication in fulfilling their calling and the excellence and loyalty with which they carry out their assignments.

The ushers of Pilgrim go a few steps further by mentoring young people in the Junior Ushers Ministry and accompanying and supporting the church wherever and whenever it goes outside the walls of Pilgrim. Greta Foster is President of Pilgrim's Ushers.



Shatiqua Floyd and Shirley Aliprandi (back row, left) pose with Pilgrim's Junior Ushers on Sunday, February 26.



Freeport-Rockford Ushers Council



Ministry Focus for 2012: "Discipleship: God's Mission, Our Passion!"
(Matthew 28:19 & 20)

PILGRIM MINISTRY UPDATES

GRIEF & LOSS MINISTRY



Pilgrim's new **Grief & Loss Support Ministry**, headed by Minister Sharon Olson (left), is scheduled to meet from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on the following Thursdays: March 1, March 15, April 12, and April 26.

Those who have suffered the loss of a loved one, a friend, a job, a marriage . . . whatever it may be, either recently or long ago . . . are invited to come to listen, share, and heal together in the presence of the Lord.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



The Women's Ministry of Pilgrim meets at 10:00 a.m. each third Saturday and have some exciting new programs in place for its 2012 ministry. Included in each meeting will be a book study led by Sister Patricia Fricks. The current book is "The Power of Commitment" by Jerry White.

Those shown above at the February 18 meeting are (back row, from left) Patricia Fricks, Helen Ware, Clara Anthony, Deloras Ransom, and Lorraine Thurmond. Middle row (from left) Bettye Collins, Marilyn Board, Frances Blalock, Georgia Moore, La'Vonzele Stokes, Bert Towns (President), and Leatha Adams. In front was our guest, Taran, grandson of Greta Foster, who took the picture.



SENIOR SAINTS' MARCH PROGRAM

12:00 Noon (sharp) Thursday, March 15

Everyone is invited to attend the March Program of Pilgrim's Senior Saints, which will be an entertaining two-act play, *Age is Refreshing*, presented by the AGE Quake Theatre Company, with refreshments to follow. There will be no charge, but a free-will donation will be gratefully accepted by Age Quake.

Mrs. Lorraine Thurmond is President of the Senior Saints and invites those interested to attend their regular monthly meetings/potlucks each third Thursday at noon.



Pilgrim's **WELCOME MINISTRY** will host the first "Meet and Greet" after morning worship on **Sunday, March 18**. This quarterly event will be held in the Nancy Smith Youth Center to give members and visitors an opportunity to fellowship as they wait to greet Pastor Board and other clergy. Light refreshments will be served, and the Multi-Media Ministry will show photos of church activities on multiple screens.

Above, members and visitors, wait in the narthex to greet our first family and members of the clergy after service.



Above, Christopher Tenard (right) waits with his worship guests to greet Pastor and Mrs. Board and other clergy. In the center is Gail Williams, Scoutmaster for Troop 271 which meets at Pilgrim, and Mr. Lamont Schoneagle.

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Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board, Senior Pastor

