

# The Pilgrim Messenger

September, 2012

Volume VII, Issue 9

## 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 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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# "Legacy of Faithfulness"



## Pilgrim's 95th Anniversary Theme Psalm 119:89-90



Celebrations of Pilgrim's 95th Anniversary during August, 2012 reaffirmed the legacy of faithfulness handed down by pastors and members since 1917.

Common threads were woven into each of six worship services by those who prepared the anniversary worship programs.

Guest preachers delivered messages of faith by encouraging Pilgrim to continue putting God first! Members and visitors participated in a special litany and congregational song, "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

Examples were given in each service about Pilgrim's historical and current efforts in areas such as Education (*Ray Cooper*); Missions (*Vivette Hall*); Discipleship (*Minister David Sidney*); Social Justice & Political Activism (*Eldridge Gilbert, Jr.*); and Economic Empowerment (*Victory Bell*).

Musicians, choirs, and "Unlimited Praise" celebrated with music and dance.



*In late 2005, Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board heeded God's call to become Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church to continue His plan for Pilgrim and the Rockford community.*

The community participated in celebrations by attending "Jazz on the Lawn-2012" and other events.

Feasting and fellowshiping were ongoing, including an innovative and fun game of matching baby pictures with adult members!

On the last day of celebrations, Sunday, August 26, members made a show of unity by wearing special 95th Anniversary T-Shirts. (See Page 2.)

Throughout it all, Pastor Kenneth R. Board was welcoming to visitors and appreciative of the contributions of all members who ensured the success of this 95th Anniversary Celebration.

An excerpt from Pastor Board's souvenir booklet message reads: "I am so grateful to be the head servant of this wonderful congregation and for the role we play in the Rockford Community to make Jesus' love known through volunteerism, Christian education, and social activism. Pilgrim has always been known as a 'headlight' in Rockford, collaborating with others to ensure that God's love and compassion is extended to all people. We are blessed that our congregation is growing to reflect our community."



**Co-Chairs of Pilgrim's 95th Anniversary Celebrations were (L to R) Deacon Oliver Emerson and Mrs. T. Paulette Gilbert who give thanks to ALL volunteers.**

## 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.*

**SPECIAL EVENTS & INFORMATION**

**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](http://www.pilgrimbaptist.org)

**Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m. / Communion on First Sunday**

**Sat., September 8, 3:00 pm** 1:30pm  
Pilgrim Family Bowling - Friends are welcome!  
Park Lanes, 5318 N. 2nd Street - Loves Park, IL

**Wed., September 12, 6:30 pm**  
CYM Family Orientation & Fun Night (Back-to-School Fest) Parents & Community invited!

**Fri., September 14, 6:00 pm**  
Appreciation/Farewell Potluck Reception for John & Diane Rasch as they relocate from Rockford

**Sun., September 16, 1:00 pm**  
Quarterly "Meet 'n Greet" Fellowship Reception by Welcome Ministry (following Morning Worship)

**Sat., September 22, 6:00**  
Senior Saints Annual Fall Dinner--guest speaker, Rev. Norris Flannigan, Ephesians Baptist Church

**Sun., September 23, 10:30 am**  
Women's Annual Day--guest speaker, Rev. Lasha Tennyson (Ministerial Staff of Second Baptist Church in Elgin, Illinois)

**Sat., September 29, 11:00 am**  
PBC Mass Choir at ABC Convention in Peoria

**Sat., September 29, 5:00 pm (at Pilgrim)**  
Spaghetti dinner fundraiser for Boy Scout Troop 271. Tickets: \$7 adults; \$4 ages 4-10; free under 4 years old. Call Pilgrim at 815-968-4449.

**PROCLAMATION FOR PILGRIM**

At the Rockford City Council meeting on Monday, August 20, 2012, Pastor Board and other Pilgrim members were present when Mayor Larry Morrissey read a Proclamation designating the month of August, 2012, as "**Pilgrim Baptist Church Month**" in honor of Pilgrim's 95th Anniversary.

**WOMEN'S DAY SPEAKER**

During a visit to Pilgrim, Rev. Lasha Tennyson posed for this photo with her husband, Tony Tennyson, our Chief Musician. She will speak during Pilgrim's 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, September 23, 2012.



**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

All are birthdays unless stated otherwise!

**SEPTEMBER, 2012**

- 01 De'Angelo Loury
- 01 Joy Tolbert
- 05 C. Michael King
- 06 Mauresha Smith
- 06 Tracey Schaefer
- 08 Georgia Moore
- 09 Elizabeth Cook
- 13 Lillie Hamberlin
- 23 Leatha Adams
- 24 Jasmine Holifield
- 26 Virginia Cooper
- 27 Amauri Bryant
- 29 Audrey Rivers
- 29 Parnell Smith
- 30 \*Deacon Robert & B.B. Owens  
\*Wedding Anniversary



**OCTOBER, 2012**

- 01 Etta Collins
- 01 Vivian White
- 02 Fae Reed
- 03 Jackie Tenard
- 07 Minister Ernest Evans
- 07 Janie Wilson-Cook
- 15 Savannah Fernandez
- 15 Teena Garrett
- 15 Minister David Sidney
- 16 Minister Sharon Olson
- 16 Alexia Spivey
- 18 \*Pastor Kenneth R. Board  
\*Pilgrim Anniversary
- 19 \*Min. Ernest & Beverly Evans  
\*Wedding Anniversary
- 20 Peggy Sims
- 23 \*Deacon Erick & Vivette Hall  
\*Wedding Anniversary
- 23 Rick Fernandez
- 24 Lorraine Wilson
- 31 Tina Fernandez

**Special Blessings on Your Special Day!**



**Rev. Dr. Moses William Howard  
PILGRIM'S ANNIVERSARY DAY SPEAKER**

Dr. Howard is a former Pilgrim member who graciously returned as Morning Worship speaker for Pilgrim's 95th Anniversary on August 26. He is Senior Pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Newark, New Jersey. Above, he greets and talks with Rick Fernandez, Carol Jo (Townes) Brown of Lafayette, IN, Mrs. Georgia Moore, and many others.

**ANNIVERSARY SHIRTS!**

The successful 95th Anniversary T-Shirt initiative was coordinated by Matti Chappel. As a show of unity, many members, young and old, wore them on "Anniversary Sunday," August 26. Below is the logo on the back of the shirts.



Pastor and Mrs. Marilyn Board pause for a photo while waiting for guests to arrive!



# ABC YOUTH CONFERENCE

## Attended by Pilgrim Youth Washington, D.C.

### July 24-28, 2012

## Fully Immersed!

By Minister David A. Sidney--Youth Leader, Pilgrim Baptist Church

With packed bags, snacks, and prayer, several of our high-school youth and Youth Group Leaders traveled to Washington, D.C. for the American Baptist Churches IMMERSE 2012 Youth Conference and Missions Trip. Pilgrim Baptist Church youth and leaders met other local churches in Bloomington and Springfield, IL and traveled together on two coach buses.

Our days in D.C. were packed! Averaging 5-1/2 to 6 hours of sleep each night, we began with breakfast at 6:30 a.m. and ended the day by Mid-night.

New friendships were formed while in D.C., with some commenting on how, for the first time, they could just be themselves with other followers of Jesus Christ! London Smith describes the trip as "life changing." She has shared her own comments.

Each day began and ended with a worship service and powerful sermons challenging all to be "full-on" for God, to discover their purpose in life, and to live it out with courage. The most powerful night of the trip was Thursday, July 26, with over 280 youth and youth leaders committing or rededicating their lives to Jesus Christ, with some accepting the call to full-time ministry.

Other days including picking collard greens for a local farmer to serve homeless and low-income families; a prayer walk on the National Mall, and outreach activities at a local community center.

As a member and Minister of Pilgrim, I am very excited about what God is up to in the lives of our youth! Please continue to pray for, love, and support our youth!



L to R, Savannah Fernandez, Tashaira Suggs, and London Smith study the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

### MY IMMERSE EXPERIENCE!

Hi -- *My name is London Smith*, and I went on the Washington, D.C. IMMERSE trip. It was amazing! We met different kinds of people from all over the world. We did awesome things such as mission work, worship services, and getting to know different people through small groups.

One of our missions was giving out shoes at the Children's Center and playing games with them. It was great knowing and seeing that I was putting a smile on someone's face, and the look on their faces was priceless! Just seeing them having fun was great.

Another mission we did was picking and packing a huge field full of collard greens for the poor. It was a miracle to see us all working and coming together as a whole to get it done.

If I could go back and do the trip all over again, I would because it was great and awesome.

I felt **IMMERSE** physically, emotionally, and mentally. *It was AMAZING!*

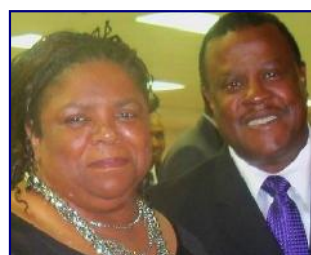


#### YOUTH AT RIGHT:

- L to R:  
**Christopher Reed**  
**Aaron Hickey**  
**London Smith**  
**Savannah Fernandez**  
**Tashaira Suggs**



**TRIP LEADERS:**  
 Above left is Deacon Christopher Morris. Others at right (L to R) are Minister David Sidney, Mrs. Margaret Reed, and Minister Willie Reed.



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

## RECAP: Jazz on the Lawn 2012



Early Arrivals

The "Annual Jazz on the Lawn-2012" was a resounding success! Hundreds of people jammed the lawns and parking lots to enjoy world-class music as well as superb food and fellowship.



Vivette & Bev



Saturday, August 18, 2012

Above right are popular vocalist Beth Ann "Red" Beal and award-winning saxophonist Evon Sams, This was the third such event produced at Pilgrim by Evon Sams, his mother Emma Gipson, Pastor Board, and Pilgrim members.

The 2012 "Jazz on the Lawn" event helped celebrate Pilgrim's 95th Anniversary. Free-will donations will benefit recent building renovations. Food was prepared and served by "J.T.'s".



Food!



Sound Booth

Eating and Listening!

## SENIOR SAINTS PICNIC

Pilgrim's Senior Saints Ministry held its Annual Picnic inside on Thursday, July 19, because of the extremely hot weather. Mrs. Lorraine Thurmond, President, (standing at left) greets those who came to enjoy the food, games, fun, and fellowship! Pastor Board (not shown) also participated.



Nancy Smith Youth Center at Pilgrim



Mrs. Marilyn Board (standing) converses with Mrs. Audrey Rivers and (R) Mrs. Janet Wyatt.

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**Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board, Senior Pastor**

