

# The Pilgrim Messenger

September-October, 2014

Volume IX, Issue 3

## PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

1703 S. Central Avenue  
Rockford, IL 61102  
815-968-4449  
[www.pilgrimbaptist.org](http://www.pilgrimbaptist.org)



### MINISTERIAL TEAM

Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board,  
*Senior Pastor*  
Rev. Sharon L. Olson  
*Assistant Pastor*  
Minister Ernest Evans  
Rev. R. Brady Johnson  
Minister Carmen Jordan  
Minister Willie Reed  
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

**Children's church resumes at 10:30 am Sun., Sept. 14!**

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# Pilgrim's 97th Anniversary!



**Theme: "A House Built on Faith, Hope, and Love"**

**Scriptural Reference: 1 Corinthians 13: 11-13**

### BRIEF HISTORY

The "Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church" was organized in 1917 and grew under the leadership of several pastors. During subsequent years, the "Rest" was deleted from the name. The current edifice at 1703 South Central Avenue was completed in March, 1961, under the leadership of the late Rev. Dr. E.H.E. Gilbert who served as Pastor for 44 years. In 1990, Rev. Steve Bland was called as Pastor and served 14 years. Pilgrim's current Senior Pastor and Servant Leader, Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board, accepted the call in September, 2005. Each leader has added to Pilgrim's direction and leadership in the community.

Under Pastor Board's leadership, the church has grown physically, financially, and spiritually; and by faithfully following our vision, we can joyfully say, "And still we rise!" **To God Be the Glory!**

### THE OCCASION & CELEBRATIONS

The 97th Anniversary of the Pilgrim Baptist Church was celebrated by members and friends on Saturday and Sunday, August 23 and 24, 2014.

**Annual Community Picnic:** Just as Pilgrim's men had set up the tents, tables, and chairs outside, God blessed us with a heavy downpour of rain! The faithful men seemed to have fun as they hauled everything back inside. God has a way of creating a blessing out of whatever He does, as many people said the indoor picnic was so much more fun than outside!

**Fellowship Meal & Worship:** This year, Pilgrim welcomed Guest Preacher Rev. Anthony L. Grier, Senior Pastor of Progressive Missionary Baptist Church and his congregation for a 4:00 p.m. service. Shown below, members of the two churches shared a wonderful meal and had great fellowship with each other!



### 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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*Thank You!*

*I would like to thank all of the Pilgrim members and guests who attended my ordination service on Sunday, July 20. This was one of the most significant and memorable days in my life, and I am thankful that you took time to participate in it. I also want to thank the church for your gifts of the concordance and study Bible as well as the generous love offering. I felt the Holy Spirit's presence that day through all of you!*



Rev. Sharon M. Olson

**SPECIAL EVENTS & INFORMATION****Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m. / Communion each First Sunday****SEPTEMBER, 2014**

Sat. - Sept. 6 9:00 am, Pilgrim Clean-up Day  
 Wed - Sept 10 6:00 pm, Evening Bible Study resumes  
 Sun - Sept 14 10:30 am, Children's Church resumes in Pilgrim's Chapel of the Crosses  
 Sun - Sept 14 4:00 pm, Pilgrim goes to Hope Fellowship Church for Family Day  
 Sat - Sept 20 9:00 am to noon, "Pilgrim Family Chat 'n Chew" at Pilgrim  
 Sun - Sept 21 10:30 am, Pilgrim Women's Ministry Annual Day (*white attire w/red accent*)  
*Guest Speaker: Evangelist Melissa Cooper of My Father's House*  
 Sat - Sept 27 6:00 pm, Senior Saints Ministry Fall Dinner at Pilgrim  
*Guest Speaker: Bishop John F. Senter of Faith Walkers Assembly*

**OCTOBER, 2014**

Fri - Oct 17 6:00 pm-Pastor's Anniversary Banquet at Pilgrim  
 Sun - Oct 19 4:00 pm-Pastor's Anniversary Worship Service  
*Guest Preacher: Rev. Charlene Mills of Allen Chapel AME Church*

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES****SEPTEMBER, 2014**

01 De'Angelo Loury  
 06 Mauresha Smith  
 06 Tracey Schaefer  
 08 Mother Georgia Moore  
 09 Elizabeth Cook  
 13 Karrlishia Jordan  
 13 Lillie Hamberlin  
 13 La'Toya Taylor  
 19 Michael Jones, Sr.  
 22 Charity Beeler  
 22 Dorothy Newson  
 23 Leatha Adams  
 23 Rev. R. Brady Johnson  
 24 Jasmine Holifield  
 25 Diedre Hill  
 26 Virginia Cooper  
 27 Amauri Bryant  
 29 Parnell Smith

*Congratulations  
to All*

**OCTOBER, 2014**

01 Etta Collins  
 02 Faye Reed  
 03 Jackie Tenard  
 04 Deacon Dwight Foster  
 04 Jake Henson  
 05 Darryl Mitchell  
 07 Minister Ernest Evans  
 07 Janie Wilson-Cook  
 12 Roy Purifoy, Jr.  
 15 Savannah Fernandez  
 15 Teena Garrett  
 16 Rev. Sharon Olson  
 16 Alexia Spivey  
 18 Pastor Kenneth R. Board  
 Pilgrim Anniversary  
 19 Min. Ernest & Mrs. Beverly Evans  
 Wedding Anniversary  
 20 Peggy Sims  
 23 Deacon Erik & Mrs. Vivette Hall  
 Wedding Anniversary  
 23 Rick Fernandez  
 24 Lorraine Wilson  
 30 Tamara Batie  
 31 Tina Fernandez

**Surprise  
Birthday Party!**

Pastor Kenneth R. Board's birthday was on July 1, so he was surprised later in the month as Pilgrim members and community friends gathered to celebrate his birthday. He was especially surprised at the music being played by Ray Buchanan's group and Evon Sams!

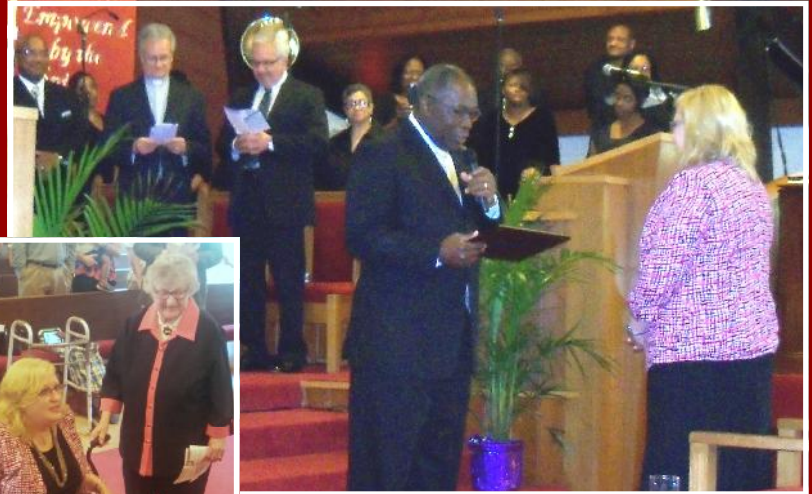
**CHILDREN ATTEND COVENANT HARBOR BIBLE CAMP****By Lorraine Wilson (Pilgrim Administrative Assistant)**

Our Pilgrim children were blessed this summer with the opportunity to attend a Christian Bible Camp called Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. We were fortunate that a benefactor paid for at least 20 of Pilgrim's children and youth to spend from three days to a week at the camp. There were different times for various age groups, so I was concerned about my child going alone from Pilgrim in his age group; but once we got there, he was truly okay!

There were all types of physical activities such as tree swings, rock climbing, skate boarding, swimming, boating, and mountain boarding. When we picked my son up, he did not want to leave. He loved it! Every morning, they had a time alone with GOD. My son learned more about love and praying and has matured in his walk with God. I thank God, our benefactor, and the Pilgrim members for this opportunity. A very special thanks to **Deacon Christopher Morris** for his leadership in this camp ministry!

# Ordination for Rev. Sharon M. Olson

During a service at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 20, 2014, Reverend Sharon M. Olson was ordained. The Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board, Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church, presided and preached the ordination sermon.



A number of clergy from Pilgrim and other churches participated in this service of ordination. Two preachers shared greetings at the ordination via video: Rev. Edward Libby, Pastor Emeritus of Creekwood Baptist Church (*Catechism Council Chair*), and Rev. Joe Mitchell, Co-Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, DeKalb, Illinois.

Ordained clergy participants were Rev. Dr. John Heins, Pastor, Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, Roscoe, Illinois; Rev. Calvin Malone, Pastor, Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, Rockford, Illinois; Rev. Catherine Scott-Jackson, Associate Pastor, ABBA Renewal Faith, Chicago, Illinois; Rev. Norm Shirk, Director, Pastoral Services, Swedish-American Hospital; Rev. Clara Thompson, Retired Chaplain and mother of Rev. Olson; and Rev. Dr. Peggy Williams, Associate Minister, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Madison, Wisconsin;

Other Pilgrim participants were Lady Marilyn Board, who gave the welcome; Pilgrim Ministers Ernest Evans, Carmen Jordan, and Carl L. Towns; Pilgrim's Mass Choir & Minister of Music; and Deacons.

The entire congregation shared in this ordination service by reading a passage in the "Charge of Ordination into Christian Ministry." After the ordination service, a fellowship reception was held in the Nancy Smith Youth Center.



**Above photos: Pastor Board reads the "Charge" to Rev. Olson. and her mother, Rev. Clara Thompson, offers up a prayer.**



Sharon M. Olson accepted Christ and was baptized at age 8 and is the daughter of two American Baptist pastors, the late Rev. David Thompson and Rev. Clara Thompson, who retired at age 75 from chaplaincy work. Sharon's deep love of church has extended throughout her life.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Wheaton College in 1982, where she met her husband, (Dr.) Mitch Olson. After 32 years, they have two grown daughters and two foster sons, Tray and T.J., whom they hope to adopt. In June, 2014, Minister Olson received her Master of Divinity Degree from Northern Baptist Seminary in Lombard, Illinois, and received the highest academic award. Since 2010, she has served with Pilgrim's volunteer clergy and in many leadership roles, including Pilgrim's Leadership Council and Grief and Loss Support Ministry.

As the result of a vote of affirmation during a Church Family meeting, Rev. Olson is now Pilgrim's Assistant Pastor.

## Pilgrim's 97th Anniversary Picnic "Rained In"



**Members of the Lydians Ministry helping with food preparations are (L to R) Debra Simpson, Vera Forte, Tina Fernandez, and Lillie Hamberlin.**

Pilgrim's men took charge of the outside setup and grilling, and women prepared other foods. Just as the tent, tables, and chairs were set up, the men had to move everything inside. Many attending said it was one of the best picnics ever! Being "rained in" turned out to be fun!



**Picnic photos courtesy of Mia Rigbsby**

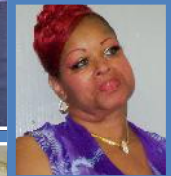
**Mitch Chappel (L) & Herman Aliprandi**

*Pilgrim's Ministry Focus for 2014: "Meeting Needs, Sharing Christ" (Acts 2:42-47)*

# 2014 JAZZ ON THE LAWN



In spite of the threat of rain, area jazz fans of all ages came and spread out over Pilgrim's grounds to enjoy the "2014 Jazz on the Lawn." Featured artists were "After Five Jazz"; "New Standard Quartet"; Ray Buchanan and "Play Ray Players"; Evon J. Sams; and, Beth Ann "Red" Beale, who had just returned from Amsterdam.



**Saturday, July 26, 2014 - 5:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

Those attending were treated to an evening of great music, food, and fellowship. Friends greeted each other, and new friendships were made. Thanks to the efforts of Pastor Board, Emma Gipson, Pilgrim Members, and M.C. Staci Wright, everyone was made to feel comfortable. There was help for anyone with a special need.

Even the children enjoyed working, as shown by the young "security/traffic control" youth shown below (in orange vests) under the tutelage of Parnell Smith.



**Fans of all ages attended!**



## Evon J. Sams

Evon J. Sams is a gifted musician who grew up in Pilgrim. He gave his first solo concert at age 13 with his favorite saxophone which he named "Li'l Brother" in support of Pilgrim's Elevator Wing fund. He is now a college student and is skilled on a number of instruments. Whenever he is home, he performs with Pilgrim's choir and other musicians.

"Jazz" photos were taken by Minister Carl L. Towns.



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

