

The Pilgrim Messenger

February, 2013

Volume VIII, Issue 1

PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

1703 South Central Avenue
Rockford, IL 61102
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MINISTERIAL TEAM

Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board
Senior Pastor

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

**Sunday Nursery
Schedule for February:
10, 17, 24**

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Installation Of Ministry Leaders-2013



Sunday, January 20, 2013

Pilgrim's ministries are designed to serve many needs, both spiritually and materially whenever possible, within the walls of Pilgrim as well as in our community. Ages served range from infancy (*Pilgrim Tots Nursery*) to seniors (*Senior Saints Ministry*.)

The ministry leaders are those who exhibit true discipleship in the giving of their "time, talents, and treasure" to share the love of God and the message of salvation.

At the Annual Pilgrim Family meeting in November, each ministry submitted its plans, budget, and officers for year 2013.

Ministry at Pilgrim is funded through members' tithes and offerings which frees ministry members to concentrate their time and efforts to the ministry.

During morning worship on Sunday, January 20, Pastor Board prayed for and officially installed these selfless men and women and blessed the work they have planned for the new year. He encouraged them to strive for excellence in their service and cited Colossians 3:23: "And whatever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord and not unto men."

Discipleship Training, Part II

Part II of Pilgrim's Discipleship Training took place on Saturday, January 26, 2013, with Rev. Muriel Johnson of the Great Rivers Region of American Baptist Churches (ABC.) The Part I session, held in October, 2012, was co-facilitated by Dr. Dwight Stinnett of ABC.

These sessions are sponsored by Pilgrim's Leadership Council, which provides guidance, training, and assistance to Pilgrim ministries.

The January 26 session reviewed the "homework" given out at the October meeting, which was designed to help ministries define and resolve concerns and challenges and realize hopes and dreams.

(Continued on Page 3)



Above, Minister Carl L. Towns discusses ministry "homework" with the new Chair of the Leadership Council, Virginia Wynn, who succeeded Michael King. At the Annual Meeting, Michael received an award for "stellar and visionary leadership" of this ministry.

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

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

February, 2013

February is Black History Month!
(Please see Black History Article on Page 4.)

- Sat - 02 8:30 a.m.- Ushers Council Annual Prayer Breakfast at Providence Baptist Church
- Sat - 16 8:30 a.m. - ABC District Men's Prayer Breakfast at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church; Pastor Board gives opening prayer
- Sun - 17 4:00 p.m. - Pilgrim at Miles Memorial CME Church for Annual Men's Day; (Pastor Board preaches; Mass & Men's Choirs sing)
- Sun - 24 4:00 p.m. - Pilgrim Ushers Annual Day; Guests, Rev. Robert Heams and Community Baptist, S. Beloit, IL

March, 2013

- Sun - 10 6:00 p.m. - Rev. Elton Allen & Voices of Zion Concert at Pilgrim
- Sun - 17 4:00 p.m. - Pilgrim at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Rockford; Pastor Board preaches; Mass Choir sings
- Sun - 24 Palm Sunday
- Thu - 28 6:00 p.m. - Annual Maundy Thursday Feast, hosted by the Lydians
- Fri - 29 Good Friday
- Sun - 31 Resurrection Day (Easter)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Pilgrim's Special Programs Ministry has planned special Black History presentations during Sunday Morning worship on February 10, 17, and 24.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES
(Anniversaries are so labeled)

FEBRUARY, 2013

MARCH, 2013

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 01 Sonia Johnson | 01 Tracey Iverson |
| 04 Noah Wheaton | 02 Grace Elliot |
| 07 Emma L. Gipson | 03 Patrick Cook |
| 07 Helena Mandujano | 11 Akeyla Evans |
| 09 Monica Reed | 11 Destyni Schaefer |
| 10 Candace Edgeston | 11 T. L. Weddle |
| 10 Keisha Whitaker | 13 Vera Forte |
| 11 Mia Rigsby | 15 Deloras Ransom |
| 12 Dawana Johnson | 28 Candus Jones |
| 12 Bertha Rigsby | 29 Shawndolyn Smith |
| 14 Phenique Lake | 30 De'Vonte Sims |
| 15 Deacon Erick Hall | |
| 17 Rebecca Towns | |
| 18 Jacqueline Walker | |
| 22 Melva Price | |
| 24 Staci Wright | |
| 25 Evelyn Huey | |
| 28 Ray Cooper | |
| 28 Evon Sams | |
| 28 Roosevelt Sims | |



Congratulations
To:

- **Shneera Habib**, who earned a Juris Doctor Degree from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in East Lansing, Michigan. (*Shneera is the daughter of Herman and Shirley Aliprandi.*)
- **Tony and Rev. Lasha Tennyson**, who are expecting their first child in April! (*Tony is Pilgrim's Chief Musician. Watch for a Pilgrim baby shower announcement!*)
- **Pastor Kenneth R. Board**, for representing the community as a guest columnist each Friday on the "Opinions" page of *The Rockford Register Star*.

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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

GET-HEALTHY CHALLENGE-2013

Now that Pilgrim's members have fasted for spiritual health, it's time to work on our physical health. Once again, our Health Ministry Team will be assisting us with tips and encouragement on how to achieve a healthier lifestyle.

There will be no monetary incentives this year--just honest work in getting healthy! However, there will still be that friendly and inspiring competition of losing the largest percentage of weight to be announced after each 4-week period. Weigh-ins began on Sunday, January 13, and will continue each Sunday through April. Participants are asked to **bring at least one canned food** to each weigh-in to help the food pantries.

Health and weight information will be shared only with the participant and the Health Ministry team: Joy Tolbert, Registered Nurse, and Rosalyn "Roz" Mincy, senior at the University of Illinois School of Medicine, Rockford. Whenever possible, these health professionals will also be on hand to answer questions about diet and other concerns. Helping Joy and Roz with the weigh-ins this year is Shirley Aliprandi, who aced all of the weight-loss categories last year!



After weighing in on Sunday, January 20, Liz Emerson (R) posed with Joy Tolbert.

Youth Attend ABC Lock-In



Youth from Pilgrim participated in the ABC Great Rivers Region Area 1 annual Youth Lock-in held in Schaumburg, Illinois on November 16, 2012. They were part of over 150 young people at the Lifetime Fitness Center where they enjoyed such activities as rock climbing, basketball, dodge ball, volleyball, arcade games, swimming, a horizontal bungee run, and more!

Pizza was served after Midnight which was **followed by the Word of God** delivered in two sessions by Minister David Sidney. Most of the youth survived the night without sleep, but others, including a couple of leaders, found a way to get in a short snooze! Other Pilgrim leaders were Deacon Christopher Morris and Karli Wright, plus chaperones from other groups.



The leaders and youth also enjoyed reconnecting with those they met during the Washington, D.C. trip this past summer. (See *September, 2012 "Pilgrim Messenger."*) Shown above are London Smith, Karli Wright, and Jasmine Holifield. **Left**, Curtis Sidney, Jr. successfully scales a rock wall!

HELPING TO MEET OUR COMMUNITY'S NEEDS!

- Pilgrim is continuing its ongoing support to our adopted school, Lathrop Elementary, by providing winter wear for students as well as meeting other needs.
- The Women of Pilgrim are responding to the Rockford Rescue Mission's winter appeal. There is a container on the first floor in which to put your donations of requested items printed on the container.
- The Health Ministry is collecting canned goods for the food pantries in a container near the weekly weigh-in site downstairs.

Mrs. Board Speaks About Prayer!



Pilgrim's First Lady, Mrs. Marilyn Board, was the guest speaker at a 5:00 p.m. service on Saturday, January 26, celebrating the third Women's Anniversary at Greater New Unity COGIC in Rockford. Pastors of Greater New Unity are the Reverends Samuel Newton and William McCoy.

Mrs. Board spoke on the theme, *"Don't Stop Praying."* She posed the following four questions and cited many scriptural references in providing her detailed responses: *What are the prerequisites for prayer? What is prayer? Whose prayers are honored? When are we to pray?* To answer the last question, she said we should *"pray without ceasing."*

Mrs. Board was shown much love by Greater New Unity and the many loyal Pilgrim members who came in support of our First Lady and to hear what they knew would be a powerful and inspirational message!

Discipleship (from Page 1)



Comments from Virginia Wynn of the Leadership Council: "Rev Muriel Johnson (L) did a great job spiritually leading the ministries on a road of Discipleship Mission Field Ministries. We will work on making a spiritual map for Pilgrim Baptist Church to be completed and presented for the anniversary this year. I encourage all those who do not know what that means to ask a Leadership Team member. Also, more information will be coming from the Leadership Team. Rev. Johnson was a true blessing for Pilgrim."

GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Current meetings of the Grief and Loss Support Ministry are scheduled on the following Tuesdays in the Chapel of the Crosses (just past the church office) from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.:

- February 5 - March 5 - April 2
- February 19 - March 19

The ministry goal is to provide a Christian atmosphere where those who have suffered loss may move forward in the grieving process. Grief may be experienced due to loss of a loved one, marriage, relationship, job or pet, for example, and may have occurred recently or long ago.

Minister Sharon Olson, ministry leader, may be reached by phone at 815-978-1749 or by e-mail: sharon.olson@kerry.com



*Ministry Focus for 2013: "Discipleship in Action: Building Toward the Future"
(Philippians 1:4-6)*

American Baptist & Black History

"The Role of American Baptist Churches (ABC) and Black History"

By Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board

February is the month whereby Americans celebrate and highlight African-American contributions to United States history. I shunned American history throughout college because, throughout high school, American history disavowed credible accounts of black history. However, I was pleased to discover that the American Baptist Churches (ABC) denomination not only contributed to the shaping of African-American history after slavery but also archived it. The American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) demanded that southern churches call for the end of slavery. The denomination would later separate into American Baptist Churches and Southern Baptist Convention over the issue of slavery. Archived letters and convention minutes verify this history. God speaks sometimes through miraculous events.

During a recent board meeting with the American Baptist Home Mission Societies in Atlanta, Georgia, we toured the American Baptist Historical Society at Mercer University. This depository houses Baptist history in America dating back to the founding (1638) of the first Baptist Church in America of Providence, Rhode Island. In the archives, I viewed newspapers, periodicals, and pictures about how the ABC had sent missionaries and money to the southern states after slavery to start schools for freed blacks.

In fact, John D. Rockefeller's wife was instrumental in persuading her husband to fund the building of Spelman College. Morehouse was named after Henry L. Morehouse (*recording secretary of Northern Baptist Home Mission Society*) who encouraged John D. Rockefeller to fund the establishment of Morehouse College. Bennett College in South Carolina was also founded by the ABC as well as numerous grade schools spanning from Georgia to Texas. Some of these schools were led by white, female teachers who knew that Christianity and education were the keys to the liberation and empowerment of these newly-freed Americans.

WOW! I felt like a kid in a candy store as I scanned the numerous letters, articles, and photographs, some of which were contributed by freed men and women. These artifacts are housed in glass cases and "secured rooms" for perpetuity. I feel extremely proud to be a member and leader in a denomination which is multicultural, multiracial, inclusive, and respectful of all of God's people.



Pastor Board is shown above (L) with Mrs. Linda Callaway and Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins, CEO of American Baptist Home Missions Society, in front of the American Baptist Historical Society African-American Display at Mercer University in Atlanta, Georgia.

I encourage each of you to visit (*via the internet or in person*) the American Baptist Society in Atlanta to read books about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to see how Maya Angelou once worked as an office assistant for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and to read historical accounts about how freed black men built office buildings across the south during the day and their churches at night and on weekends. This is a historical treasure house that we need to experience so that all Americans can be enlightened of the rich contribution that African-Americans have made to the shaping of U. S. history. Perhaps some of you will be inspired to become historians and write books, novels, and plays. Minimally, we must tell our children and our children's children of how God worked to liberate and empower an oppressed people.

I extend a hearty thanks to Rev. Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins and the executive team of ABHMS for leading our board to discover such hidden treasures! I pray that we will make African-American history a 365-day celebration rather than only the month of February. Let us be found just as faithful as the American Baptists and pilgrims who sacrificed in making disciples, inside and outside the church walls, before our time.

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Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board, Senior Pastor

