

# The Pilgrim Messenger

January, 2013

Volume VII, Issue 12

## 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 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

### INSIDE

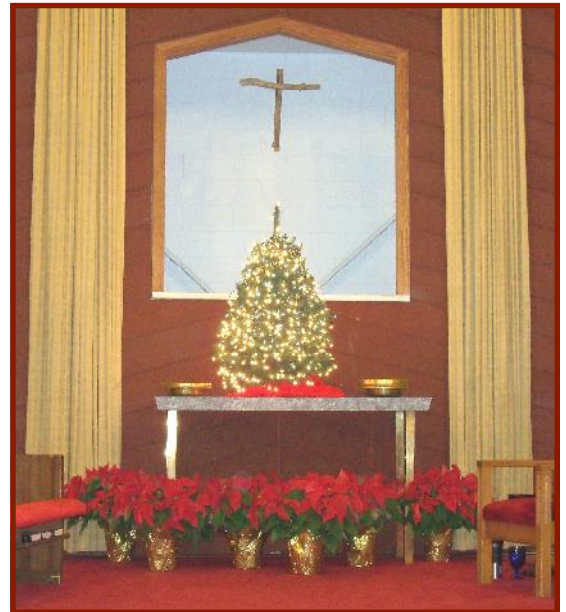
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# Embracing the New Year! 2013

In many churches, the anticipation of a new year is celebrated in a late-night service on December 31 called "Watch Night." This service allows Christians to praise God for the past year and pray for the year ahead. Most of these services have some combination of prayers, testimonies, singing, sermons, and/or other special celebrations.

Of special historical significance to some African-Americans is that many slaves were said to have gathered in churches on New Year's eve in 1862 awaiting news of the enactment of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863.

Highlighted below are several ways that Pilgrim celebrated the 2012 Holy Season and embraced the New Year!



### WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

Monday, December 31, 2012

At 10:00 p.m., as is done historically, Pilgrim members and friends gathered to usher in the new year with praise, prayer, testimonies, and a message. Guest speaker was Rev. Carlos Mullins of Second Baptist Church, Elgin, Illinois. Rev. Mullins is the brother of Rev. Lasha Tennyson, and both are powerful speakers!

Following the service, a fellowship potluck meal was served by the Lydians in the lower level. There were many dishes, but a traditional staple was missing this year--Pastor Board's gumbo!

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Sunday, December 23, 2012

Rev. Edward Libby delivered a Morning Worship message, "The Gift." Rev. Libby is Pastor Emeritus of Creekwood Baptist Church, formerly State Street Baptist Church, where he was pastor.

For many years, State Street and Pilgrim engaged in an annual "pulpit exchange." Rev. Libby also accepted the role as Pastor Board's Pastor! (Please see Page 2.)

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 16, 2012

At 4:00 p.m., Pilgrim's annual Christmas program, "Christmas Reflections," was presented in the sanctuary by the Special Programs Ministry. (Please see Page 4.)

### ADVENT SEASON

December 2 through 23, 2012

In most Christian churches, Advent Season begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas and is a season of "expectant waiting and preparation for the birth of Jesus." Four candles were displayed in Pilgrim's sanctuary on Sunday, December 2, with one candle being lit on each Sunday until Christmas. The fourth was lit by Pastor Board on Sunday, December 23. (Please see Page 2.)

### 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)

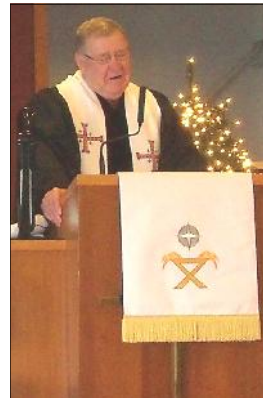
**Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m./Communion on First Sunday**

**JANUARY EVENTS**

- 21 (Mon.) - Church closed for MLK Day
- 26 (Saturday) 9:00 am - 2:00 pm: Discipleship Training with guest trainer Rev. Muriel Johnson
- 26 (Saturday) 7:00 pm: Lady Marilyn Board speaks at Greater New Unity COGIC (4609 Auburn Street)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Pilgrim's kitchen will be closed during the month of January for upgrades and installations.
- Many members have committed to joining Pastor and Mrs, Board in another Daniel Fast beginning January 2. (Please call the office with questions.)



Above left is Rev. Edward Libby (Creekwood Baptist) who delivered a Christmas message entitled "The Gift" (God's Love!) Pastor Board (R) is shown lighting the fourth and last candle celebrating the Advent Season. (From Page 1)

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

All are birthdays unless stated otherwise!

**JANUARY, 2013**

- 01 Kelli Jackson
- 02 Debra & Duane Simpson\*  
\*Wedding Anniversary
- 05 Deacon Samuel Gaynor
- 07 Timothy Rogers
- 07 Terri Wilkerson
- 08 Ann Gilbert
- 09 Vicki Richard
- 12 Dr. Vinest Steele
- 13 Debra Curry
- 16 Sharon Thurmond
- 19 Kathleen Jamerson
- 22 Diedre Harvey
- 24 Mother Emma Gipson

**FEBRUARY, 2013**

- 01 Sonia Johnson
- 04 Noah Wheaton
- 07 Emma L. Gipson
- 07 Helena Mandujano
- 09 Monica Reed
- 10 Candace Edgeston
- 10 Keisha Whitaker
- 11 Mia Rigsby
- 12 Dawana Johnson
- 12 Bertha Rigsby
- 14 Phenique Lake
- 15 Deacon Erick Hall
- 17 Rebecca Towns
- 18 Jacqueline Edwards
- 22 Melva Price
- 24 Staci Wright
- 25 Evelyn Huey
- 28 Ray Cooper
- 28 Evon Sams
- 28 Roosevelt Sims



???????

Not sure if we have information on your special day?

Just call the church office at 815-968-4449!

**Happy Birthday to Mrs. Board!**

The Pastor's Care Ministry hosted a belated birthday party for Lady Marilyn Board after worship service on Sunday, December 9. Below, some of the ministry members posed with the Boards.



**NEW: ANNUAL PILGRIM AWARDS**

During the Annual Church Family Meeting on Saturday, December 8, several new annual Pilgrim awards were announced. Following are names of the awards, along with the 2012 recipients.

**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION** to all ministries completing certain requirements: *All Ministries were in Compliance*

**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:**

- Ministry: *Pilgrim Ushers Ministry*
- Adult Female: *Matti Chappel*
- Adult Male: *Deacon Roby Johnson, Sr.*
- Youth Female: *London Smith*
- Youth Male: *Christopher Reed*



**GEORGIA COOPER LEADERSHIP AWARD** (stellar visionary leadership): *C. Michael King*

**HONOR OF DEACON EMERITUS:** *Deacon Robert L. Owens*

**Congratulations to All Award Recipients!**



# FRIENDS AND FAMILY!



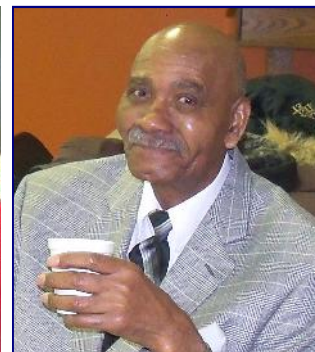
Many out-of-towners visited their Pilgrim relatives for the holidays and special occasions. At left are Marilyn Board (R) and her first cousin, Debra Trotter, a Justice of the Peace in Marlin, Texas, who visited as a surprise to Lady Marilyn for her birthday. Justice Trotter gave a generous donation in support of Pilgrim's newsletter which she states she enjoys receiving each month.

The right photo shows Beverly Owens in worship with her sister, Joanne Blatcher. Joanne grew up in Pilgrim and now works at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.



## A SENIOR SAINTS CHRISTMAS!

On a cold and snowy day, Pilgrim's Senior Saints Ministry held its annual Christmas potluck and bingo party at noon on Thursday, December 20. Those attending had a great time, and Pastor Board stopped by to greet everyone. Posing for photos at right (L to R) are Leatha Adams, Angeline Whitelow, and T. L. Weddle. President Lorraine Thurmond invites everyone to attend their gatherings each third Thursday at noon.



## OUR CHILDREN & YOUTH



Left: Children at Pilgrim receive nurturing, love, and learning from dedicated ministry leaders, beginning in the "Pilgrim Tots" Nursery (at left.) The little ones are listening attentively to Marilyn Board and Kathleen Jamerson as they share stories about Jesus and His love. When they "graduate" from the nursery, Children's Church is waiting for them!

Below: Pastor Board commended the Senior Ushers for the fine job they are doing in mentoring and training the Junior Ushers (below). The Ushers received the "Outstanding Achievement Award for Ministries" during the Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 8.



Junior Ushers during Morning Worship on Sunday, December 23, 2012



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

# Christmas Reflections



The Special Programs Ministry presented another uniquely entertaining, yet reverent, Christmas event called "Christmas Reflections" on Sunday, December 16. They used scenes from events held during the past seven years in addition to new pieces, with music, commentary, and dance. Refreshments followed in the lower level.

The ministry members spent much time and had lots of patience in working with both children and adults, who all performed wonderfully well--and they seemed to be having fun doing it!

Members of this ministry include Matti Chappel, Diedre Harvey, Bethanne Holifield, Mia Rigsby, and Staci Wright, ministry leader.

Some of the many participants included musicians Tony Tennyson (keyboards), Erick Hall (drums), Evon Sams (saxophone), and Amore, age 6, on drums for "The Little Drummer Boy" song; Lorraine Wilson (refreshments); Parnell Smith (multi-media); Mitchell Chappel (sound); "Unlimited Praise" (dancers, with Matti Chappel, coordinator and choreographer); and Deacon Oliver and Liz Emerson, M.C.'s.

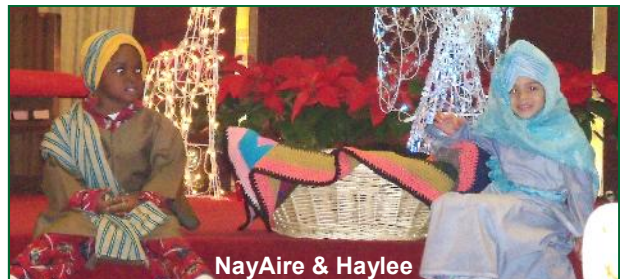
Pastor Board commended members of the Special Programs Ministry and all participants for once again presenting an outstanding event celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!



"Unlimited Praise"

As President of the Special Programs Ministry, Staci Wright thanked the members of her team and all participants, especially the parents of the children.

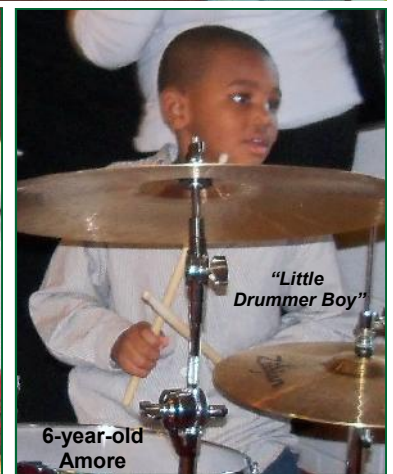
Staci appealed to parents to allow Pilgrim's dedicated and loving leaders to work with their children all year by bringing them to Sunday School and allowing them to participate in ministries focused on children and youth.



NayAire & Haylee



Evon Sams, Tony Tennyson, Mass Choir, Men's Choir (inset)



"Little Drummer Boy"

6-year-old Amore

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

