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Church Anniversary 53rd; 1987-09-27

Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church

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53rd Anniversary Celebration of Pilgrim Baptist Church
Theme: I AM PILGRIM.

I am Pilgrim...
I am of HER and SHE is of ME,
And WE are ONE in the eyes of God.
I will love HER, cherish HER,
Care for HER and treat HER as I would myself,
because... I AM PILGRIM.

No one will love HER more than I
No one will do for HER more so than I
No one will treasure HER more than I
because... I AM PILGRIM.

I am on heir to HER future,
A reflection of HER past,
And a recipient of HER present.

I may not have been here in the beginning, but I'm here right now,
And I'm here to stay,
because... I AM PILGRIM.

Brian Swink

Sunday, September 27, 1987
Rev. R.D. Holloway, Pastor
PASTORAL GREETINGS

We come to this 53rd Church Anniversary on the Highways and Byways of a half century.

We look back over the past, and relive the experiences, and spiritual progress we have made. The sadnesses and failures of the past do not haunt us anymore; rather we bless them as stepping stones, as we go forward toward the inviting Heights.

We remember our founders, those who have gone before, and those few who yet remain. We shall never let them feel lonely or displaced. Our shoulders are their shoulders; our limbs and our love we share with them.

Let us thank God for His Grace and Love through Jesus Christ our Blessed Lord.

Reverend R. David Holloway, Pastor

CHAIRMAN
Bro. Brian Swink

CO-CHAIRMANS
Sis. Grace Knox   Dea. Ellis Thomas

WORSHIP SERVICE

~ Sis. Bonita Nixon .... Mistress of Ceremonies ~

Musicians
Bro. Paul Echols    Sis. Martha Swink    Sis. Barbara Bonds
Bro. Brian Swink, Director

Organ Prelude .... Call to Worship

Processional
Hymn of Praise #298 "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand"
Responsive Reading 26:8 9,628 Sis. Naomi Nelson
Hymn of Praise #286 "My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less"
Prayer "chant" Dea. Joseph Desmond
Benevolent Offertory Sis. Donna Webster
Greetings and Recognition of Guest Bro. Moses McNear
Sis. Charisse Simpson

Song of Praise Martha Moss Choir
Special Thought Sis. Norma Jackson
Rev. R.D. Holloway
Memorial Expressions Young Adult Choir
Song of Praise Dea. James Watkins
Sis. Charisse Simpson

Offertery Choirs
Worship Through Songs Pastor R.D. Holloway
Praise
Serenade Bro. Brian Swink
Invitation to Discipleship Benediction
Remarks Choral Amen.
The spring of 1934 began a new adventure for those who left the fellowship of the Friendship Baptist Church, pastored by the late Reverend Twillis Moore, to organize the Pilgrim Baptist Church at 222 Jefferson Avenue. The first pastor was Reverend Jefferson Poole and the first office was held by the late Mr. Cleveland Allen as chairman.

A special meeting was called to select a name. Several names were submitted, but the name "Pilgrim Baptist," submitted by the late Mrs. Rosa Pool was voted upon and accepted.

A ministerial committee composed of the late Reverend E.C. McCrackey, J.E. Harris and J.B. Benton worked with the Mission Group and successfully organized the Pilgrim Baptist Church.

September 19, 1934 at 270 Jefferson Avenue a "Reality" was realized. Pilgrim selected its first officers.

The late Reverend R.D. Harris was acting pastor. The late Mr. W.E. Watkins, chairman of the Deacon Board; the late Mr. Willie Gibson, chairman of the Trustee Board; the late Mr. Zenoia Alexander, church clerk; the late Mrs. Frances Moore, financial secretary; the late Mr. Luther Watts, treasurer; the late Mrs. Bessie Lytell, building fund treasurer, and the late Mr. James Ingram as poor saint treasurer.

We take a look at our distinguished ministers and former pastors.

Since 1934 Pilgrim has had many well qualified and brilliant leaders who were both preachers and pastors, builders of membership, stately churches, and organizers of Christian organizations.

From 1934 through 1987, the pulpit has been filled respectively by the following ministers.


Reverend A.H. Banks, the third pastor served for two years. The late Reverend John Davis was called upon to administer ministerial services when Reverend Banks resigned.

Reverend Charles M. Alexander, the fourth pastor sought and found new quarters at 108 Clinton Street. Reverend Samuel A. Stin, the fifth pastor, young and newly ordained moved the congregation to this present edifice, 655 Michigan Avenue.

Reverend R. David Holloway, the sixth and present pastor has served for twenty-four years. Under his leadership our sanctuary has been renovated, a baptismal pool installed, rooms in educational building beautified, pew cushions installed, four memorial, three state clubs, and a mission circle organized.

In 1973, under the leadership of the Trustee Board and its chairman, the late Mr. Aaron Allen Sr., Pilgrim burned it's mortgage on the property at 655 Michigan Avenue. The Laymen's League invitation into the District Laymen Movement was extended to Pilgrim. More importantly, many new members have united with, and four young men have been inspired to enter the ministry, Reverends Osborn Taylor, Edward Abram, Eugene Pringle and Andre' Washington.