1-1-1994

Church Anniversary 60th; 1994-01-01
Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church

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PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH
1934-1994

REV. R.D. HOLLOWAY - PASTOR
665 MICHIGAN AVENUE
BUFFALO, NEW YORK
On this occasion of our church’s 60th anniversary, I am pleased to have been asked to give a few reflections.

At this time we pause to thank God for having been so merciful to us as a church body.

I am sincerely appreciative for having been a part of this church history for 32 years, and for having the opportunity to grow in Christian fellowship and grace with each of you.

We must never forget to take time to salute the pioneers of this church for their vision and dedication. I am sure that their intentions were to promote religious fellowship among their fellow comrades, to commune together on the day of worship with the expection of God’s spirit, and to give witness and be witnesses to the word of the gospel.

With the attitude of success, I believe that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. I believe that the strength of our faith, the strengthening prayer of each concerned member, and the strength we have in God and ourselves is the source that will see us through.

Pastor R. David Holloway
HISTORY OF THE PILGRIM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

On a Thursday evening, in the Spring of 1934, a small group of men and women left the fellowship of the Friendship Baptist Church which was pastored by the late Rev. Twilus Davis. The following Wednesday, Willie Gibson called a meeting at the home of Bro. Cleveland Allen at 222 Jefferson Avenue. A group of approximately thirty men and women met to discuss the idea of forming a Mission Group. The blessing of the Lord seemed to rest on the hearts of these troubled souls. The group continued to meet during the summer months of 1934 for the purpose of raising funds, solidarity and spiritual development. In August of that same year, the name Pilgrim Baptist Church, as submitted by Rosa Poole, would become the name of their future church.

An organizing committee was formed shortly thereafter. Rev. B. C. McCarly, the pastor of St. John’s Baptist Church, was sought by the early members to provide guidance in establishing the church. The missionary group selected various members to join and obtain letters for the purpose of organizing the church. At the Western New Your Baptist District Association meeting Rev. B. C. McCarly submitted the recommendation for organization of the Pilgrim Baptist Church. The recommendation was then perfected by Rev. Phillips and carried.

On September 19, 1934, at Jefferson Avenue, a “reality” was realized when the church elected its first officers: the late Rev. R. D. Harris was acting pastor, Mr. O. C. Madkins: Chairman of the Deacon Board, Mr. Willie Gibson: Chairman of the Trustee Board, Mr. Zenobia Alexander: Church Clerk, Mrs. Frances Moore: Financial Secretary, and Mr. James Ingram: Poor Saint Treasurer.

The late Rev. Harris worked dutifully as an interim pastor before Rev. Hosea Pinckney was called to serve at the church. During this time, Pilgrim moved from 278 Jefferson Avenue to 488 Jefferson as its membership grew. In the Summer of 1936, Rev. Pinckney resigned from the post of pastor after eighteen months of service. This forced our church to begin the process of securing a minister. The late Rev. Henry B. Shaw was selected to minister the flock of Pilgrim.

Under the guidance of Rev. Shaw, the church again moved to accommodate its ever increasing membership. The address was 214 Clinton Street. Four auxiliaries were created during this period: the Pastor’s Aid, under the leadership of Sister Gertrude Lilly, Number One Choir, organized by Sister Bessie Tytel, Missionary Society under the leadership of Frances Moore, and the Usher Board under the leadership of Bro. Marshall Evans.

Illness was ever present in the life of the late Rev. Shaw. In the Spring of 1940, his failing health forced him to resign after thirteen and a half years of service. The Rev. John Davis, an Associate Minister over the years, pastored Pilgrim until the calling of Rev. A. H. Banks.

In the Fall of 1949, Rev. Banks assumed the position of pastor. The membership continued to grow while the younger members began to take active roles in the church. After two years of service, Rev. Banks resigned. Rev. Davis was forced once again to guide the spiritual growth of the church.
With prayers and saintly petitions, Pilgrim began to search for a pastor. Rev. Charles Alexander was selected. Rev. Alexander moved Pilgrim to 108 Clinton Street. The White Rose Club was reorganized under the leadership of its President, Sister Evelyn Frazier, during this time.

When Rev. Alexander resigned from the pastorate of the Church, it called a newly ordained minister, the Rev. Samuel Austin. With steadfast determination, initial apprehension and doubts to overcome, the congregation grew steadily into its present edifice. Along with the assistance of Rev. Davis, Rev. Austin encouraged men to take an active role in church affairs and set up a men’s organization known as the Laymen’s League.

The pride and dignity felt by members of Pilgrim Church became contagious. Many new members were added and the name Pilgrim Baptist became nationally known as an ever progressing church. It was in this building period that the title Doctor of Divinity was bestowed upon Rev. Austin, and the church felt great sorrow when he resigned but our members prayed and hoped for happiness. Rev. Davis picked up the spiritual pieces and supported us until a new minister was found. This time God sent a well-prepared leader, Rev. R. D. Holloway from Laurel, Mississippi. After assuming leadership, Rev. Holloway began preparing a program that will lead to the realization of a dream of many members of Pilgrim.

Under the leadership of Rev. Holloway, the church beautified the classrooms of the educational building, rearranged the choir stands, paved the parking lot, and made numerous renovations to the property. Four memorial clubs and three state clubs were organized. Mission Circle #1 was also created with Sister Corrie Upshaw serving as its President. Many ministers also served in the fold of Rev. Holloway: Rev. Whitfield Washington, Rev. Eugene Pringle, Rev. Osborn Taylor, Rev. Andre Washington, Rev. Edward Abrams and most recently Rev. Herman Potts and Rev. Larry Harris. Deacons who were ordained by Rev. Holloway include: Deacons Ellis Thomas, James Watkins, Willie Adams, Robert Staples, Sr., Frank Alexander, John James, Harrison Kenner, Alphonso Frazier, Eugene Boyd, Ruben Brazelton, Ira Holder, and John Feaster, Dea. Howard Davidson, James K. Upshaw, Benathan T. Upshaw.

During this period, the Youth Department became an interval part of the church under the new Pastor and its new Director, Mrs. Beatrice Holloway. Our Laymen’s League continued its work and was invited to a District Laymen’s Movement and continues to grow to a membership of over 90. Under the Rev. Holloway’s leadership, our Boy and Girl Scouts became well known in the vicinity. He also saw the need for renovation of our baptismal pool and went about the business of making this a reality.

We continue to grow and we are spiritually sound, always ready to serve with increasing faith and grace. . . how can we fail! We certainly can all say with great pride, “I am a member of Pilgrim Baptist Church”.
The Surviving Founders Of The Pilgrim Church

"Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me."

John 14:1

Moses James McNeair

Evelyn Frazier - 1895-1995
Teacher Of Teachers

Mother Jessie B. Davis
Sincere gratitude and thanks to all the Yearbook Committee members & Pilgrim family for their efforts in making the yearbook a success.

Corrie Upshaw, Coordinator

Committee

- Katie Smith
- Myrtistine Jordan
- Freddie Staples
- Glady Brown
- Fran Pearson
- Agnas Williams
- Hattie Green
- Lela Copeland
- Clara Woods
- Nellie Kenner
- Benathan Upshaw
- James Upshaw
- Tamika Potts
- Mae Bell Mellerson
- Moses McNeair
Deacon Board

Chairman: Dea. Watkins
Secretary: Dea. B. Upshaw
Treasurer: Dea. Adams

Dea. James, Dea. Adams, Dea. Feaster, Dea. B. Upshaw, Rev. Holloway,
Dea. J. Upshaw, Dea. Davidson, The Late Dea. Cooper, Dea. Alexander,
Dea. Watkins

“For they that have used the offices of Deacon well, purchase to themselves a
good degree, and great boldness in faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

I Tim. 3:13
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 60TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Greetings from the Trustee Board of The Pilgrim Baptist Church.

May God continue to bless through the next sixty years.

Bro. LeRoy Williford .......... Chairman
Bro. James Upshaw .......... Assistant Chairman

Sis. Almeta Beavers
Bro. Wilmon Brown
Bro. Aron Davis
Bro. Moses McNeair
Bro. Edward Mitchell
Bro. Joe Morrow
Sis. Machelle Smith
Sis. Carolyn Story

"With God all things are possible."
Deaconess and Mother’s Board

Sis. Mary Hall  
Sis. Ruby Watkins  
Sis. Jean Alexander  
Sis. Mae Smith  
Sis. Freddie Staples  
Sis. Carrie Abrams  
Sis. Betty Adams  
Sis. Jessie Davis  
Sis. Marsha Davidson  
Sis. Eula Boyd  
Sis. Margie Feaster  
Sis. Ethel James  
Sis. Dorothy Kenner  
Sis. Grace Knox  
Sis. Josephine Maxwell  
Sis. Goldie Wheeler

President
Vice President
Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Treasurer
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 60TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF PILGRIM BAPTIST

"We have come this far by faith, through God's guidance for an unfailing faith in an unfailing God."

The Missionary Society of Pilgrim Baptist Church was organized under the leadership of the late Pastor H. B. Shaw.

Sis. A Hinkle
Sis. G. Smith
Sis. M. Swink
Sis. M. Smith
Sis. L. Hines

Sis. R. Washington
Sis. M. Singletary
Sis. G. Knox
Sis. J. Thomas
Sis. J. Green
The Mission Circle #1 was initially organized January 24, 1981, at the home of Sis. Rosetta Tate, 46 Mosselle Ave., Buffalo, New York, who was also the mission teacher. Sis Corrie Upshaw was appointed the Circle's Original President by Pastor Rev. R. D. Holloway and she continues to preside faithfully today.

The purpose of the Mission Circle #1 is to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and to help meet the needs of mankind.

Sis. Corrie Upshaw --- President
Katie Smith --- Vice President
Aurelia Tinch --- Secretary
Myrtistine Jordan --- Treasurer
Joyce Hill --- Teacher
Bonita Nixon --- Chaplin
Avery Key
Carrie Abrams
Hattie Green
Maebell Mellerson
Pres. Venora Green - "My Meat Is To Do The Will Of Him That Sent Me, And To Finish His Work." John 4:34

Class #10 Bro. Moses McNeair - Teacher
"WE'VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH"
May God bless us all as we continue to labor together.
"To God Be The Glory"

President .................................................. Sis. Gwendolyn Hull
Vice - President ........................................ Sis. Katherine Kirkland
Recording Secretary ..................................... Sis. Clara Wood
Corresponding Secretary .............................. Sis. Eddie Davis
Financial Secretary ................................. Sis. Jimmie Green
Treasurer & Instructor ............................... Sis. Verline McLaughlin
Sunshine Chairperson ............................... Sis. Clodine Smith
Chaplain .................................................. Bro. Joe Morrow

Members

Dea. Frank Alexander
Sis. Almeta Beavers
Sis. Diane Brown
Sis. Ida Burrell
Sis. Ethel James
Sis. Mozell McGrier

Honorary Members
Sis. Kathleen Brown
Sis. Muggie Corbin
Bro. Aaron Davis
Sis. Johnnie Owens
Sis. Mildred Ward

Annual Day - 2nd Sunday In October

This page is dedicated in honor of our honorary members
and
in memory of our deceased members.
USHER BOARD #2
Founded September 1947

Mr. Moses McNeair
Mrs. Fran Pearson
Mrs. Mary A. Morrow
Mrs. Shirley Quince
Mrs. Aurelia Tinch
Mrs. Margaret Eison
Mrs. Goldie Wheeler
Mrs. Mary Gadley
Mrs. Betty Knight
Mr. Joe E. Morrow
Mrs. Louise Pearson
Ms. Robbie Staples
Ms. Hattie R. Green
Ms. Mae Bell Mellerson
Mrs. Gracie Noble
Mrs. Freddie Staples

President
Vice President
Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Treasurer
Chaplain
Sick Chairman
Pilgrim Baptist Male Chorus

Pilgrim Baptist Male Chorus Officers

President
Vice President
Secretary
Financial Secretary
Treasurer
Chaplain

Bro. Ulysses Turley
Bro. Cleophas Rogers
Bro. Isaac Pearson
Bro. Edward Mitchell
Bro. Isaac Key
Bro. Wilmon Brown
Pilgrim Church Choir

Sis. Mae Smith ........................................... President
Bro. Paul Echols ........................................... Musician
Bro. Brian Swink ........................................... Director

"The singers went before, the players on instruments followed after;"

Psalms 68:25
Pilgrim Baptist Adult Choir

Deborah Watkins ........................................ President
Wanda Johnson ........................................... Secretary
Marsha Davidson ......................................... Chaplain
Donna Webster
Herbert Hanson
Debra Munn .............................................. Vice President
Renae Horne ............................................. Treasurer
Felicia Stevens
Bonita Nixon
Charise Simpson
Martha Moss Choir
“We’ve Come This Fair By Faith”

Dr. Watts Choir
Dea. Robert Staples
Chairperson

Men’s Day Speakers

Joice and LaShekia

G. Hull

Women’s Day Service

Fran Pearson
Chairperson
Corrie Upshaw
Chairperson

"We Thought Just The Youth Choir Was Going To Sing!!"

Dea. James K. Upshaw

60th Church Anniversary
Salute To Musicians, Mass Choir, And Congregation

"I Wish You'd Put The Camera Down!"
Salute To The 60th Anniversary
The Brown Family

Tri - State Club

Pres. G. Graham, V.P. D. Kenner, 2nd V.P. E. Jones, Sec. N. Kenner, Tres. H. Kenner,
S. Kenner, E. Swink, J. Watkins, S. Webb
Miss LaShekia Chatman and Dea. Calvin Cooper

Congratulations Pastor & Mrs. B. Holloway On Your 31st Anniversary
Miss LaShekia Monique Chatman
Miss Young Gifted & Black 1994
&
Deacon Calvin Cooper
Holy Royal Arch Mason Grand Trustee
Deacon Sir Calvin G. Cooper
Holy Royal Arch Mason
Grand Trustee

Congratulations
on Your 60th
Church Anniversary

The Past Deacons And Deaconess
Of Pilgrim Baptist Church
Congratulations On Your
60th Church Anniversary

Deacon James Watkins
Chairman Of The Board
Dea. James K. Upshaw  
Dea. Benathan T. Upshaw

Sunday, April 9, 1995  
5:00 P.M. Ordination Service  
For James K. Upshaw  
And Benathan T. Upshaw

Father Of The Year Dea. James Watkins  
"Please Be Careful With That Pin!!"

"I Want To Thank All The Little People Who Made This Possible."

"When Is The Food Coming?"
"Isn’t This The Cutest Police Line-Up You Have Ever Seen?"

"We’re Winners And We Haven’t Even Started To Play!"

"I’ve Heard Of Being Cheek To Cheek But This Is Ridiculous!"

"Her Shirt Is Just Like Mine."

"See What Happens When We Come Early?"
Lance Corporal - Larry Copeland

"I Will Life Up Mine Eyes Unto The Hills; From Whence Cometh My Help"

Lance Corporal Larry E. Copeland

June '94
Graduated From Hutchison Central Technical High School (Hutch-Tech)

Oct '94 - Dec '94
Completed Basic Training in Paris Island, S.C. Rank as a Private First Class.

Jan '95 - April '95
Marine Combat Training Camp Lejeune, N.C. Military Occupational Speciality School in Personal Administration - Camp Johnson, N.C.

May '95
Assumed Position 3d Marine Division Administration Clerk for the Assistant Chief of Staff G-4 Okinawa, Japan

July '95
Promoted to Lance Corporal

Psalm 121:1 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help . . .
Mae Smith
General Chairperson Of Youth

Church Picnic

Christmas Activities
Rev. Larry Harris

"They Will Eat When We're Ready To Serve!"

Pastor's Grandsons

Joe Morrow
Trustee

State Congress

"Let's Get The Program Started!"
<table>
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PATRON LIST

Vivian Bennett
James McCann
Mr. & Mrs. James Spearman
Mary Williams
Sis. Avery L. Key
Mrs. Birdie M. Copeland
Mrs. Susie A. Mingo
Rev. Versie D. Lee
Ms. Susie A. Copeland
Mr. & Mrs. Tildon Copeland
The Starr’s Family
Sis. Deborah Robinson Munn
Mr. & Mrs. Ricardo Serrano
Melissa D’Amico
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sylvester
Sis. Lela Copeland
Andrea Nesbitt
Dawn D. Parker
Mr Larry Manney
Deborah E. Taylor
Norma J. Kiakowiak
Donna Day & Mya Chaney
Deanna Rae Ebert
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley A. Michalski
Lynne J. Hertienne
Corrie C. Upshaw
Verline McLaughing
Clara W. Shonnon
E. Lee Wyatt
Vernora Green
Herbert Hasan
Minnie L. Neal
Minnie Bester
Ruth Washington
Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Williford
Mrs. Renita E. Chatman
Dea. James K. Upshaw
Sis. Willie B. Clowny (Detroit, MI)

Engene Driscoll
Beatrice Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Don C. Bills
Edward Dixon
Mother Jessie B. Davis
Mrs. Florine T. Smith
Miss Mable Mingo
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Copeland
Mr. Larry Copeland
The Ramos’ Family
Gregory L. Clark
Sis. Ida Bea Burrell
Dora A Caesar
Rosetta McGill
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Mann Sr.
Ida M. Brown
Mr. & Mrs. R. Bolden & Family
Pauletter Price
Billy “X”
Ariana Taylor Brown
Darneice M. Nance
Ella J. Johnson
Rachelle Thomas
Christina M. Reap
Julie Grand
Mr. & Mrs. Cleophas Roger
Ida Mae Bailey
Allie Stephenson
David C. Mobley
Anne B. Wilson
Catherine Hubbard
Henry Ellie
Marita Eison
Mr. & Mrs. Earl/Victoria Nathan
Ms. Renita F. Chatman
Mr. James Upshaw
Dea. Benathan T. Upshaw
Mr. Kenvin Clowny

In Memoriam
Anna B. Robinson - November 2, 1914 - February 12, 1987
In loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother.
We love your and will always miss you.
Sadly Missed and Always Love,
Children & Grandchildren
Congratulations On Your 60th Church Anniversary

Pastor's Aide

"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness." (Isaiah 5:20)

Sis. Avery L. Key...President
Sis. Naomi Nelson...Secretary
Sis. Edna Webster...Treasurer

Congratulations on your 60th Church Anniversary

In Loving Memory of the late:

Rev. John Davis - 1973
John H. Davis - 1991
Husband & Mother:
Mother Jessie B. Davis
Father and Brother of:
Rose Mary McCall
Avery L. Key
Willie Davis
Arthur Davis
John 3:16

"When God gives a burden, He always gives the grace to bear it."

Eddie L. Williams
Agnes V. Williams

Congratulations on your 60th Church Anniversary

"Lifes big turning points often hinge on little things."

Inez A. Walker
Congratulations on your 60th Church Anniversary

In loving memory of my dear husband and father, Cornelius, Sr., who passed away on May 1, 1985. “Memories of your love, laughter, and smiles will never die.”

Your Loving Wife, Mattie

and

Children, Carrie, Isaac, Cornelius Jr., Theodore

Congratulations on your 60th Church Anniversary


May God Bless You On Your 60th Church Anniversary

Congratulations on your 60th Church Anniversary

In Memory of Sam Copeland, Walter Mingo and other deceased members of the Copeland and Mingo families.

The Copeland Family
Clarence, Lela, Susie & Larry

Congratulations on your 60th Church Anniversary

In Loving Memory Of:

My Father - Marvin Hicks
Brother - James C. Hicks
Grandmother - Emma Johnson
Brothers In Law - Johnny Upshaw, Cleophus Upshaw, Edward Upshaw, Jessie Ivy
Sister In Law - Geneva Upshaw
Mother In Law - Minnie Upshaw
Father In Law - Charles Upshaw

From The Upshaw Family
Corrie, James A., James K., Ben Upshaw
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 60TH
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