

Pilgrim Baptist Church History

Pilgrim Baptist Church was begun after much prayer and supplication in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and forty-six, with no building in which to meet, no furniture, no books or anything; but with consecrated, dedicated, courageous, and determined saints who possessed love and perseverance with aim in seeing the erection of an edifice to the glory of God and His Kingdom building.

The organizing council consisted of the late clergymen Rev. M.J. Burton, Moderator of the Auburn District Association; Rev. Lindsey Meadows; and Rev. C.L. Williams. Mrs. Welch suggested that the new organism would be named the Pilgrim Baptist Church, which met with approval, and thus this organism would be named the Pilgrim Baptist Church. A motion, made by Sister Ruby Greenwood Morgan, prevailed that Rev. O.D. Slaughter become our first pastor. Another motion prevailed that our worship services would be held on the first and third Sundays of each month.

The late Brother Phillip Harris waxed heroic as our main person to go forward and find places for us to meet and make dates for the next meetings.

The first meeting was held in the living room of Brother and Sister James Burton. Meetings were also held in the home of Sister Priscilla Hill and Brother and Sister Will Owens. The Lanier High School Auditorium was the place appointed for another meeting.

The first Sunday School meeting was held in the pressing shop of Brother and Sister Will Owens. Here Brother Josephus Johnson was elected the first Superintendent of the Sunday School, and later, Brother John D. Morgan, Sr. was elected Assistant Superintendent. The first Secretary of the Pilgrim Baptist Sunday School was Sister Kate Winston Barrow. Sister Octavia Mullins Wright was the first Assistant Secretary, and Sister Tobitha Burton was elected the first Treasurer. Later, Sister Hattie Mae Chandler was elected Treasurer of the Sunday School. The late Rev. D.W. Dallas was chosen the first Bible Class Teacher.

We sacrificed, greatly, to meet some of our first needs.

On the fourth Sunday in May 1946, we were eighty faithful believers in Jesus Christ who began our order of worship in "little Pilgrim" which was Slaughter-Morgan and Burton Funeral Home. During this worship service, three person joined by Baptism; namely Maxine Chappel, Ora Lee Owens, and Helen Boozer. During the night services the members brought lamps and chairs to help in seating the people. The late Brother Henry Greenwood, grandfather of Brother LeRoy Greenwood; Maude Barrow and Ruby Morgan furnished materials for benches which we used until we went into the new church. Some of the men that helped to build these benches were Brother Elias Potts, Brother Josephus Johnson, and the late Brother Lee Potts. The late Sister Mollie Terrell brought the table, which we used for our offering table. The pulpit desk was made by a white friend of Brother James Burton, Mr. Herren. The Bible we used for our worship was the family Bible of the late Brother Frank Davis, grandfather of Catherine Barrow, LaRuth Winston and Mary Sledge.

Sister Annie Mae Potts purchased the Present Pulpit Set and Bible. The late Bro. Lonnie Morgan and the late Rev. O.D. Slaughter and Brother James Burton loaned the church \$1,000.00 each without any security. The same was paid back to them in full when funds were raised.

Then, we had three Deacons; namely Bro. C.N. Trammell, Bro. Frank Ross, and Bro. John H. Whistlow, who are all now deceased. Our trustees were the late Bro. Lonnie Morgan, Bor. Frank Ross, and Bro. C.N. Trammell. Bro. C.N. Trammell was elected Treasurer of the church and remained so for a number of years. The first Clerk and Finance Secretary was Bro. Leroy Greenwood and Mrs. Willie Grier. The first President of the Missionary Society was the late Sister Mary Welch. She had as her Secretary the late Sis. Excer Collins. The late Bro. Phillip Harris was the organizer and first President of the Senior Choir. Sis. Mary Sledge was the first Secretary. The late Sis. Ada Libbs Askew was organizer and first Supervisor of the Junior choir. Sis. Clemmie Owens was the first President of the Ushers. Sis. Jennie Bell Huguley was Secretary. The late Sis. Bernice Johnson and the late Sis. Ida Gunn were organizers of the Womens' Club. The first organizer and supervisor of the Sunbeam and juniors was Sis. Tobitha Burton. The first Sunbeam President was Otheria Ann Sledge.

On the first Sunday in the month of May 1948, we held our dedicatorial services. The late Dr. D.v. Jemison, President of the Alabam Baptist Convention delivered the main dedication sermon. Sis. LaRuth Winston sang, "Is your All on the Altar? " after the sermon. Over five hundred people witnessed this great occasion. On the same day, Mr. Julius P. Edwards presented LaRuth Winson eighteen chairs for the Sunday School. Mr. Lee Ennis gave the Baptizing pool val that we are using today; and on this same day mr. Wayman Darden gave a donations of \$50.00. This great program closed w/ Bro. C.N. Trammell singing, "I'm So Glad I'm Here in Jesus Name." The Late Bro. Vinson gave the picture window of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane out of funds from his birthday dinner. The late Bro. Pete Robinson who was the oldest member present, and Lawrence Sledge, the youngest member, cut the ribbon on the day the mortgage was burned. Sis. Sallie White Holle was the first new member to join by letter in the new church.

This great church has been hostess to the North-East District State Convention; The Alabama Baptist State Convention, and the Bowen East Conventions.

The first funeral in Little Pilgrim was Sis. Fannie Mae Winston; and the first funeral in the new church was Sis. Hattie Boyd on the first Sunday in May 1948.

On the sixteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty, our beloved pastor, Dr. O.D. Slaughter, was called from labor to reward. He fell asleep in the arms of Jesus and went home to be at rest. After the death of Rev. slaughter, Rev. Josephus Johnson served as interim pastor.

After prayerful consideration, we were able to secure the leadership of the beloved Dr. W.H. Radney. He served the Pilgrim Baptist Church from 1961 until his retirement in October 1984. Under his Leadership we made great and successful strides and have continually moved forward. During the pastorate of Dr. Radney, the ward system, which was used prior to his coming, was discontinued. Each member now brings tithes and offerings into the storehouse.

We are able to purchase new pews, a water cooler, a mimeograph machine, a Hammond organ, and beautiful stained glass windows, more property, added on the educational department, a huge parking lot, cushioned the pews, and did remodeling on the church.

Under his administration, the W.H. Radney Choir was organized, Junior Choir No. 2, Male Chorus, and a Men's Brotherhood Club. We began Vacation Bible School, with Sister Ophelia Langston serving as our first V.B.S Superintendent.

The Deacon Board was increased from three deacons to seventeen deacons.

We are now a full time Church, with worship services being held each Sunday in the month.

Persons who have served the church as musicians are: Mrs. Fannie G. Scott, Mrs. Ophelia Finley, Miss Rosie Blye, Mrs. E.A. Walker, Mr. Walter Trimble, Mr. Horace Tibbs, and our past organist is Dr. C.W. Hoggs. Mrs Annie Laurie Ray and Mary Cherry Harvey also were musicians.

On the 29th day of April 1967, the cornerstone of Pilgrim Baptist Church was laid. These were week-long ceremonies with the cornerstone of Pilgrim Baptist Church being laid on Saturday morning. Dr. J.C. Parker, president of the North East District State Convention at the time, delivered the sermon. Dr. C.C. Welch did the laying of the Cornerstone.

Most important of all, through the years, the Holy Spirit has manifested presence with us and let us know that God is with us and that we are on the right road home.

It was in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Five, that the church called to the Pastorate of the Pilgrim Baptist church, Rev. Sherman L. Young, Sr.

It was in the month of March, 1985, that Rev. Young and Family were moved from Jacksonville, Alabama to Lanett, Alabama; and under His leadership we made even more profitable strides; strides profitable for the enhancement of the Kingdom of Our Lord. Pilgrim now "Find them, Fetch them, and Feed them."

To God be the glory; great things the Lord is teaching us, great things the Lord is doing. Under His Shepherdship, we organized a Mid-Week Bible Class where studies in "Eternal Security", "Rapture and Reward", "Christian Stewardship", "The Book of Revelation", and "The Holy Spirit" were completed.

Under his Shepherdship, T.A.C.O.-the Teen-Age Christian Organization has been organized, and the Baptist Training Union, in its' reorganization has completed studies in "Baptist Church Administration" to include The "Open Word Television Christian Teaching Program" was founded w/ completed studies in "The Holy Spirit as God's Seal," "What Believing Is All About", "The Book of First John", and "Parables of Jesus". We've continued fellowship with other Churches.

"New Member Orientation Class" was begun with studies being completed in "The Man", "What is A Savior", "Christian Commitment and Conduct". A Scholarship Committee has been

appointed, A Christian Education committee has been appointed, A Membership Roll committee has been appointed, and Annual Program for Church Budgeting and Mission Outreach has been established. Gift Bibles for High School graduates and College Students are now awarded; Weekly Church bulletins are now printed; A weekly financial record keeping system is now established. The weekly Sunday School Teacher's meeting is now reorganized. A Cassette Tape and Video Ministry is now begun.

The Pastor's office was refurnished, and the mortgage on the Church Property was paid. To God be the Glory! Many have been and are still being added to the Church, and His Truth is Marching on!

Viewing the spectrum of members, many varied and noteworthy achievements can be cited within the membership which is another reminiscence of the fact that God is with us.

Here stands an edifice, monumental to the Glory of God, an enhancement to the Kingdom of Our Lord; an organism that exemplifies what faith in God can do; the Bride of Christ, who awaits His glorious return as she seeks to bring others who are without the Ark of Safety that they might be saved.

On Sunday, May 4, 1986, in a brief meeting of business, it was moved by Deacons John D. Morgan and seconded by brother George Melton and others that the property located at 1702 Cherry Drive would be purchased for the purpose of becoming the parsonage of Pilgrim Baptist Church. It was unanimously agreed by the Church members that it would be done.

As Pilgrim moves forward, we continue to look to the hills from whence cometh our help. "Our help cometh from the Lord who rules Heaven and earth." His Truth is Marching On!

On October 15, 1992, Pilgrim accepted the resignation of Rev. Sherman L. Young, Sr.

On April 18, 1993, Rev. Dr. Jessie J. Walker, Jr. was installed as pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church. Under his pastorage we continued fellowship with other churches. We purchased a computer for the church, paid off the parsonage and purchased two new vans.

On January 5, 1997, Pilgrim accepted the resignation of Rev. Jessie J. Walker, Jr. Attorn, a tattered and exploited people we were. A people whose characteristics could very well have been described in Jeremiah 23:3,4,6; for we, too, had experienced a scattering and for many of the same reasons that we read of in Jeremiah.

Yet, because of a remnant; pure in hearts who hunger and thirst after righteousness; we, after prayer, fasting, supplications can jubilantly say that the Lord has heard our cries, pitied our groans and has set up a shepherd over us who is nourishing us with "spiritual" from on High to the Glory of God.

The miraculous nature and the uniqueness is in the fact that while we were yet praying, the Lord was synonymously moving on the heart of one, Rev. Frank Kennedy, Jr., who knew nothing of Pilgrim Baptist Church, Lanett, Alabama. Yet, as he tells, he knew that he was being called

out of a successful, established 'Comfort Zone' to a people, he knew not where, who were hurting.

Thanks be to God! Since his pastorship of Pilgrim, wayfarers, wanderers, the scattered are returning home to Pilgrim. The Lord is adding to the Church. Strongholds, barriers are being torn down. People are fellowshiping in love, harmoniously. The congregation is beginning to trust, again. Numerous physical renovations have been done to the church.

Not only are we enlightened spiritually; but, also parabolically, the physical edifice has new and brighter lighting which allow illumination so that darkness can be expelled. A new stairway has been done which reminds us that "none can walk up there but the pure in heart". Stable new doors have been hung which metaphorically is a reminder that Jesus says, "I am the Door", meaning, the entrance to the Kingdom. We have the instructions of Jesus to come unto Him.

Frank Kennedy, Jr., left his filled water pot in obedience to God. And the miraculous is happening. What an awakening! What a revival! What A Thankful People We Are! The Lord said it. "And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord." Jeremiah 23:4.

Hallelujah to Merciful Heavenly Father that on Sunday, November 2, 1997 Installation Services for our anointed leader, Pastor Frank Kennedy, Jr., was held. The Truth of our Lord is marching on. The Lord is adding to the Church such as should be saved. Glory to His Name!

God gave Pastor Kennedy a vision on how to successfully pay off the vans in six months and also the remaining debts of the church. Praise God!

Under our Pastor's Shepherdship, we now have prayer meetings and Bible Study on Wednesday Mornings at 11:00 a.m. In addition to Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. We now have Children's Church. A Welcome Committee has been appointed. BTU Christian Discipleship Training has been reconstructed. A new, much needed microphone system is now in place. The Pilgrim Young Adult Choir has been formed.

We support a Foreign Out Reach Ministry. We are now blessed to have an Out Reach Food Ministry where we have been able to bless many sick and shut in with hot nourishing meals in the community. Also, we have a Lanett Geriatric Center Out Reach Ministry where we fellowship with praise service and the Word of God every fourth Sunday in each month.

A new Budget Committee has been appointed and two new Musicians have been added to the music ministry. Several ministries have been established and reestablished including the appointment of a Minister of Music.

Renovations have now been made within the sanctuary as well as on the grounds. The office area (Finance Room) and Fellowship Hall have been remodeled. A canopy has been hung over the back door of the sanctuary. A new stove and deep fryer have been purchased for the kitchen. A sidewalk is in place leading "whosoever" will through the front doors. A wall was built to secure the walking area.

Church property has been surveyed and landscaped. Tables have been purchased for the Fellowship Hall. An outside sign has been erected as a beacon of light for the world to see. The sound System has also been upgraded.

Amended May 2000

New tile has been placed in the clerk's office, a new refrigerator in the kitchen, and (2) digital thermostats in the sanctuary. A new keyboard has been purchased for the music ministry and new speakers have been reinstalled. Doorbells have been installed for upstairs and downstairs. A beautiful marquee has been purchased for the entire community to view. A lovely cherry wood communion supply cabinet was donated to the Church. Also, new furniture was purchased for the vestibule areas.

A 'New converts' Class and a new Sunday School Class-The Prayer Warriors for Righteousness, has been established. Men and Women's Prayer Breakfast has been established, as well as an Evangelism Ministry, Fitness Ministry and Nursery Ministry.

Amended May 2001

Several new ministries have been established: the Family and Recreation Ministry, The Greeters Ministry, and the Hospitality Ministry. The Trustee Ministry and The Beautification Ministry have been restructured. A 'New Members Orientation Class' and 'The New Members Fellowship' have been established.

We have been blessed with an anointed Praise Team. God has also blessed us with an anointed Assistant to the Pastor- Rev. Felton LaRonnie Melton.

New Parking Signs were purchased for the Assistant to the Pastor. New water coolers were purchased for upstairs and downstairs.

We are moving in direction towards God's Vision for His People: The Family Life Center. Many efforts have been made toward this move, which include Blue Prints being drawn. A loan has been secured, a pledge system has been instituted for the new building, and we are in the process of securing the land.

Amended May 2002

Several new ministries have been established which include: A Financial Counseling Ministry and A new teen ministry entitled "The Daughter's of Ruth." The Finance Ministry has reshaped some of its' procedures and a Counting Team has been implemented. The Deacon Ministry has installed a new training program for all new deacons. We also have monthly leadership meetings.

The BTU program has been restructured. We now have 2 classes: Men of Valor and Women of Valor.

God has blessed the Pilgrim Baptist Church with a plethora of marriages in Holy Unity under the Shepherdship of Pastor Kennedy. Scripture instructs us, in Matthew 19: 3-6, that marriage is forever. To avoid Deuteronomy 24:1, Counseling from Pastor Kennedy is a prerequisite for marriage, at the Pilgrim Baptist Church.

As the Pilgrim Baptist Church transitions into the 21st century, She has embraced the challenge of change, correction, modernization, and advancements in business administration, education, and technology. Pilgrim has accepted this challenge by taking many steps, which include the creation of Church Policy and Procedure. The Church Policy and Procedure addresses matters from establishing membership status to explaining the duties of the Church secretaries to check writing.

The Sunday School Educational Program has been restructured. As a result of God adding so many youth to the Pilgrim Baptist Church family, an additional youth Class has been created. Youth Classes include Mustard Seed I ages 2-5, Mustard Seed II ages 6-8, Soldiers of the Cross ages 9-11, Starbrights ages 12-14, and Young Men and Women of Courage ages 15-18. The adult classes are now co-ed and structured by age! Adult Classes include: Prayer Warriors of Righteousness for Young Adults, Pilgrimites, Courageous Men and Women and Kingdom Seekers for the Seasoned Citizens.

The Pilgrim Baptist Church has continued to move in the direction towards Gods' vision for His people: The Family Life Center. After months of legal litigation and prayer, the Pilgrim Baptist Church was able to secure all of its' land and property, To God be the Glory! The loan was approved and accepted from Colonial Bank. On January 18, 2003, the Pilgrim Baptist Church held its' Ground Breaking Ceremony. The theme was "Empowered by Vision" Ezra 3:11. The ceremony was opened with a congregational hymn, "To God Be The Glory". There were several officials and members present and were recognized by Deacon Gary Wright. A brief history of the Church was presented by Church Clerk, Sis. Teresa Boyd. Our Anointed Praise Team sang, "Write the Vision", which was very appropriate, inspirational and moving. Pastor Kennedy provided the audience with a profound, yet inspirational statement of purpose. Since the ceremony there has been much progress in the building project. A new parking lot has been paved which is surrounded by beautiful landscaping. The old parking lot is now ready for construction of the Family Life Center. Oh, What a sight! Pilgrim Baptist Church is indeed a "Work in Progress!"

Amended April 2003

Wow, 2003-2004 has been a year of bountiful blessings. 2003-2004 was also a year of mistakes and mercy, test and triumph, frustration and favor, and finally, lessons and love. Our church family has grown qualitatively (spiritually) and quantitatively (numerically).

The word of God says, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be rightly dividing the truth." (2 Timothy 2:15). One of the most important aspects of Christian growth is the reading and studying of God's Word daily. The Christian Education Ministry at the Pilgrim Baptist Church is flourishing. Sunday School enrollment has increased to 187. In efforts to continue to meet the need of the students, yet another Sunday School class has been implemented, which is being taught by Pastor Kennedy. We now have a total of 10 Sunday School classes! Bible study continues to be life applicable and life enriching. Youth bible study attendance has out numbered Adult Bible Study!

The importance of Mission and Ministry has been once again embraced. Mission Ministries such as the Matrons now support Samaritan's Purse. Samaritan's Purse is a Christian organization which helps meet the needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. Youth ushers now visit the elderly in the nursing homes. The Pilgrim Baptist Church humbly, supports foreign mission, including the ministry of Rev. Daniel Chelagat of Kenya, Africa. In fact, Rev. Chelagat presented a powerful message in the fall of 2003, during Wednesday night bible study. Our Church family was truly inspired by Rev. Chelagats' testimony.

Other new ministries have been developed to reach the needs of our members including the Singles Ministry. The Singles Ministry, which is named, "Single at Heart", is led by Sis. Lisa Askew. The goals of "Single at Heart" is for every single person to feel complete and whole, to enjoy singleness as God intended, and to enjoy a Christian lifestyle without worrying about the future!

The Music Ministry has embraced the movement of Praise and Worship. This embracement has enriched our Worship Service. God has blessed us with a gifted musician, Sis. Eleashia Jones. God has also blessed us with a talented percussionist, Bro. Ryan Henderson. In 2003, The Pilgrim Baptist Church Mass Choir purchased beautiful robes. We also have a Youth Praise Team.

The work of the Church Trustee is very demanding. Until October 2003, the Pilgrim Baptist Church Trustee ministry had only 2 active members, which include Torey Combs, Chairman and Carl Cullwell. In October 2003, the Trustee ministry was restructured and 3 additional trustees in training were appointed, Felecia Melton, Ryan Henderson, and Teresa Boyd. A trustee training class was implemented entitled "Becoming an Effective Church Trustee", which was taught by the chairman, Torey Combs. This class is mandatory for all trustees. In March 2004, each of the trustees were awarded a certificate for the completion of the class. The Trustee ministry is now an integral part of the mission of the Pilgrim Baptist Church.

Finally, the Family Life Center, what a beautiful sight! The Family Life Center, has an official name, "The Pilgrim Development and Outreach Center." The building process was a time of disappointment and delight, grumbling, growth, and grace, lessons and learning, and finally, ridicule and revelation. The Pilgrim D.O.C. is a result of God's favor. God gave the vision and brought it to fruition. For Habakkuk 2:2-3 says, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not

tarry.” Praise be to God! When it appeared that the building process would never be completed, Pilgrim waited, and the vision was fulfilled, it did not tarry. For God is indeed a Promise Keeper. I am reminded of the song, “Write the Vision” which was sung by the Praise Team at the Groundbreaking Ceremony. The vamp says, “It is so.... Yes, it is so. He will do just what he said.” God did exactly what He said He would do. The Pilgrim D.O.C. is a blessing. It is our prayer that the ministries that will be housed through the D.O.C, will bring lost souls to Christ, minister to those who Know Christ and those who don’t Know Christ, and overall bless this community. The Board of Directors include: Willie Murry, CEO; Felton Melton, CFO; Frank Kennedy, Jr., Board Advisor and Lisa Askew, Secretary. Other members of the Board include: Deidra Dozier, Jennifer Trammell, Torey Combs and Beverly Cullwell. One of the most important tasks that the board has is grant-writing. The building is beautiful, carefully designed and decorated. The landscaping is breathtaking. We now have a 2nd parking lot. On April 11, 2004, we held the Blessing Ceremony of the Development and Outreach Center.

The sanctuary has also experienced a makeover. The sanctuary now has plush carpeting.

And just when you thought this stage of the Vision was complete, God blessed us with Eternal Life, a Christian Bookstore. The Pilgrim Baptist Church now has a fully operational bookstore. My, My, My! Although the “Excuse our Progress” signs have been removed, be sure to look for new signs such as “The Future Site of.....” Yes, Lanett Alabama is a small city, but God has Metropolitan Plans for the Pilgrim Baptist Church. Praises be to God!

Amended: April 2005

To our dismay, the Eternal Life Christian Bookstore closed in 2006. But to our excitement, God has opened new doors of opportunities and blessings. An additional lot, located directly adjacent to the lot acquired in 2003, was purchased in 2006. In March 2007, the Pilgrim Baptist Church demolished the old Market Plaza, located on its’ lot across the street.

We have also taken on additional foreign mission projects which included the Shoe Drive in which the church family, sent boxes of shoes to residents in Africa.

In 2006, God blessed us with an anointed and gifted Minister of Music and singer, in that of, Thomas Shaver Autry. We also have an additional drummer named Nathan Fredericks. In 2006, a new keyboard and drum set was purchased for the Music Ministry.

God has also increased the ministerial staff which includes: Minister Leonard Autry, Minister Kanisha Billingsley, Minister John Copeland, Minister John Frederick, Minister Frederick James, Minister Uconda McCants, Minister Frederick Stanley, and Minister Howard Upshaw.

In March of 2007, The Pilgrim Baptist Church was hit with an electrical fire, in which, miraculously; no one was injured, although the physical edifice of the D.O.C. experienced some damage. To God Be the Glory!

All computers in each church office were upgraded. In 2007, 2 copiers were also upgraded.

Since our Anniversary in 2006, God has graciously shown so much favor, in increasing the Pilgrim Baptist Church membership. In this year alone, God has given us 61 new family members, and of those, 30 were new converts!

The Pilgrim Baptist Church also hosted the North East District Christian Conference.

As we continue to embrace God's blessings, we can only wait in expectation, HIS future plans for the "Family"!

Amended: April 2007

Over 2000 years ago, according to Matthew 16:18, the Lord Jesus said, "I will build My Church. "The Family" has witnessed the manifestation of this very scripture. For today Christ is building HIS church, including the local body of Christ, in that of the Pilgrim Baptist Church.

HE (Christ) has built a competent, dedicated, and Christ-centered Ministerial Staff. A Ministerial staff that is faithful to God, faithful to Pastor Kennedy, faithful to the Pilgrim Baptist Church family and faithful to the community at large. New members of the Ministerial Staff include Minister Lisa Askew, Minister Denise Mosley, Minister Beverly Snell, Minister Amanda Whipple, and Minister Michael Winston.

HE (Christ) has built the membership of the Pilgrim Baptist Church. HE is adding Seniors, Children, Teens, and Families. In this last year alone, HE has added some 85 souls to this Church family. God is so awesome!

HE (Christ) has built several new ministries including The Recreation Center Ministry and The Mentoring Through Mission Ministry.

The Recreation Center Ministry (aka The REC) has taken a life of it's own. The REC Room is a safe, recreational environment supervised by an experienced staff. The REC Room also provides employment for our college students. The REC has X-Box games, Flat Screen TV's, Inside and Outside Basketball Goals, a Ping Pong table, a pool table, a variety of other games, and even a Snack Bar. The REC was built with Evangelism in mind. (Yes, evangelism!) Through the Recreation Ministry, several youth and teens have accepted the gift of salvation.

The Mentoring Through Mission Ministry (aka MTM) is a four-week mentoring program based on Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." MTM provides the opportunity for our teens to work in different venues such as the Lanett Mayor's office, The Lanett Police Department, The Lanett Fire Department, Valley Haven, local nursing homes, George H. Lanier hospital, and local doctor offices. And although the teens are paid for their services, they are taught the importance of saving, spending wisely, and tithing. The teens are taken on various field trips. The importance

of academics is also stressed through visits to the local library and road trips to colleges such as Auburn University and Alabama State University.

HE (Christ) has revived several ministries including the Evangelism Ministry and the Marriage Enrichment Ministry. The Evangelism Ministry is reaching near and far to ensure that people are exposed to the Gospel. The Evangelism Ministry is spreading the gospel from Cherry Drive in Lanett to Hogansville Road in Lagrange. The Marriage Enrichment Ministry has gone global with its' Keeper's of the Flame Retreat. The Keeper's of the Flame Marriage Ministry, which was founded by Pastor Frank Kennedy, Jr. and Rev. Tyshawn Gardner, has a mission to "Empower, Enliven, and Educate couples to facilitate strong, qualitative, and passionate relationships using biblical principles as a foundation. The Keeper's of the Flame Retreat locations have varied from Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia to a Caribbean Cruise in the Bahamas and Nassau.

Finally, HE (Christ) has built and revived the Media Ministry, enlisting the talented and humble Technological Genius in that of Theodore Gipson (Ted). God has moved us from just making cd's and dvd's for the "Family" to a Radio and TV Broadcast with thousands of listeners and viewers.

As HE (Christ) continues to build the Pilgrim Baptist Church, we continue to wait in expectation of what God is really up to, as we press toward Vision 2012.

(To be continued !)

Updated May 2009

The Pilgrim Baptist Church family has continued to embrace its* journey to a N.E.W Experience! God has blessed us with NEW members and a NEW Vision.

New Members

The word of God continues to be prevalent and powerful, in which HIS people,are compelled to conversion and membership at the Pilgrim Baptist Church.HE continues to add NEW members to our Church family.In fact, some NEW members, were once old members.

New Vision

God has given Pastor James a NEW vision for PBC which includes the Hour of Power and the Ezra Project.

God has called PBC to strengthen our relationships with neighboring, church families. One effort towards this goal is the Hour of Power. The Hour of Power can be described as a Community Worship Experience. The Hour of Power is held every other month, in which we worship and fellowship with a neighbor during our Mid-Week Worship Hour.

We have also been called to Beautify the Sanctuary. Ezra 7:27 says, "Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers, which hath put such a thing as this in the heart,....to beautify the House of the Lord." Ezra is a book of the Bible where the people covenant themselves to the LORD! The people in the book of Ezra are not only covenanted to the LORD, they are furthermore committed to glorify the LORD! Part II of God's vision is the Ezra Project! During this project we plan to do just that; Covenant with the LORD and glorify HIS holy name! The goal of this endeavor is to make necessary renovations and repairs to the sanctuary as we worship GOD in the beauty of HIS holiness (Psalms 96:9). Pastor James and the PBC family is excited about this call to beautify the sanctuary. In fact, Pastor James expresses with excitement, "What a wonderful vision GOD has put into the heart of Pilgrim..."to beautify the house of the LORD".

Amended May 2014

The Pilgrim Baptist Church family has continued to be a pillar in the community.

As our church family continues to grow, strong leadership is a necessity. With a rich history of 69 years of ministry, one leadership role that has always been prevalent, is the deacon ministry. It is a role of service, of sacrifice, and of commitment to others' needs. The reward of the deacon's office is not the earthly glory that comes from human applause, but rather the eternal blessing that comes from living a life of spiritual service to the glory of God. The appointment of deaconship is very important. Each individual who is appointed to serve in this capacity is carefully selected. So, it was not a surprised when, Christopher Day, was ordained as a deacon. What a celebration!

Amended May 2015

According to Miriam-Webster Dictionary, to upgrade is an occurrence in which one thing is replaced by something better, newer, or more valuable.

Today's society is obsessed with the phenomena of upgrading. In these modern times, people must have the latest I-Phone, Computer, Smart TV and other technological advances. We are actually living the fabulous life of the famous cartoon family, the Jetsons! Our neighbors are driving electrical cars. Even homes are futuristic. Homeowners are no longer using traditional energy sources to power their household, but are now using solar energy. Times have truly changed.

So in keeping up with the times, we recently made some upgrades of our own. Pilgrim Baptist Church was almost 70 years old and was in desperate need of some repairs and modernizations. Repairs and Modernizations can be very expensive, however, because God has blessed the people of Pilgrim financially, we were able to upgrade with no debt. Repairs were made to the bricks, mortar, roof and other building damages. The sidewalks and the ramps were updated. We also modified and modernized the steps that were damaged and unsafe. We also had a Consecration Ceremony to celebrate these repairs and modernizations.

We live in a time where evangelism has to also be "upgraded". Yes, we still go from door to door professing the Good News, but, to be equipped to reach the masses, our Social Media presence had to also be upgraded. In an age of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snap Chat, and You Tube, Pilgrim had to comply. In addition, to Facebook, we also have a You Tube account, where sermons can be viewed, from the comforts of your home. We have also revived our television broadcast—"The Good News".

As one can see, Pilgrim has made several changes, but--some things will never change, for we will continue to be "A Servant Church Reflecting Christ to the Community"!

Amended 5/30/2017