

HAPPY 69TH ANNIVERSARY

On today, we celebrate 69 years of ministry in the city, the country and the word . For 69 years, God has blessed **PILGRIM REST** to be a shining light in the community and a place where a **PILGRIM**, weary and worn from the journey of life, may find **REST**.

On this day of celebration, we look back at all of the blessings and miracles that God had given to, and worked through those who came before us. Their faith created a foundation upon which we now stand. They believed God for what He could do, trusted God for what He would do, and God honored their faith. Indeed, as we look back, we see the hand of God in the life of Pilgrim Rest over and over again. We are the benefactors of their faith.

As much as it is necessary to look back, we also look forward. We look forward to the blessings and miracles that God will continue to give to us, and work through us. We look forward because those who have gone before us were looking forward.

They looked forward and saw a church edifice that would be designed, built, financed and all legal transaction conducted by Black people. They looked forward and saw it, then accomplished it.

They looked forward and saw a church that would expand its ministries beyond the walls of the church building through the establishment of Pilgrim Rest East and Pilgrim Rest West. They looked forward and saw it, then accomplished it.

They sacrificed, making choices and decisions in their day to meet the ministry needs of today. It remains a mystery how they prepared us then for what we need now. We pause to remember their sacrifice.

Therefore, we continue looking forward, in expectation of those who will come after us – trusting that we are laying an appropriate foundation upon which they will build, sacrificing, and making choices and decisions today to prepare them for what they will need on tomorrow.

We continue looking forward, with the momentum of those who have gone before us – upon whose shoulders we now stand, and the anticipation of those who will come after us – who will stand upon our shoulders, to ensure that the legacy continues, the stories are shared and the memories are remembered.

We continue looking forward, knowing that this is our time our opportunity, our expression of faith. As we acquire the former Frederick Douglass School Building, we look forward to establishing the **Pilgrim Rest Campus – an Oasis**. A place for refreshing. A place for renewal. A place for restoration. A place for refuge. A place for recreation. A place where a **PILGRIM** can find **REST**.

As we celebrate our 69th Church Anniversary, you can be a part of making it happen. Is your hand raised? Is your hand raised to say, “Yes” to God’s call? May we continue looking forward, and moving forward.

“Together shall we continue to grow and this church shall be as a flaming mountain standing out as a beacon light leading men to Christ, giving our children better religious training, our mission giving aid to those in need and here may the downtrodden find solace and peace.” **Pastor C. V. Harrington, 1964**

“Our hope is that these facilities will enable Pilgrim Rest to engage in a more fruitful Christian ministry to the Milwaukee community.” **Pastor Leroy B. Mixon, 1983**

“Pilgrim Rest possesses the power necessary to stabilize the downward spiral of hopelessness and despair that is prevalent in our community. Even more, we possess the vision and resources requisite for the liberation, transformation and reunification of our community.” **Pastor Martin Childs, Jr., 2002**

