



Preaching, Teaching and Reaching for
Transformation and Liberation

“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM”

Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” Isaiah 6:

THE PASTOR’S PEN May 29, 2022

PILGRIM REST HISTORY

In The Beginning

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day. Genesis 1:1-5

It was a cold Monday in Milwaukee, WI. Reverend CV Harrington and his wife Susie were praying, listening and obeying God’s commandment to them. God spoke to Rev Harrington and told him to establish a place where people weary of this world could find rest in Jesus Christ. That day, February 18th, 1952, by faith, he established the Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church. By faith, Pastor CV Harrington and First Lady Susie Harrington started this family.

By September of that year, Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church purchased the first church edifice at 1932 N. 9th Street. By faith, the congregation continued to work in the community and to grow. Pastor Harrington continued to pray, listen and obey God’s commands to him. This obedience directed him to lead this congregation into a new church building. But not like any other historically Black church in Milwaukee had done before. By faith, the members of Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church purchased land to build a new church edifice. By faith, members of this family banded together to finance the building. And by faith, Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church became the first Black Church in Milwaukee to build a church. Even more, the church was designed, built, financed and legal transactions conducted by Blacks. By faith, God cleared a path of distinction and dedication to the community in which we live.

By faith, on April 22nd, 1962, this family moved into the newly built edifice at 2567 N. 8th St. And by faith, and God’s grace, this family continued to grow thrive and work in this community.

The Great Commission

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. Matthew 28:17-20

Understanding the Great Commission that God gave all disciples, Pastor Leroy B. Mixon was installed as our 2nd Pastor in 1968. Building on the foundation already established, Pastor Mixon quickly expanded the scope and reach of the church.

On a brisk Tuesday, Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church purchased its third edifice. On April 1, 1980, by faith, our family moved from 8th street to a new, larger building at 3737 N. Sherman Blvd. Yet, it did not stop there.

Pastor Mixon believed that his role was to preach and teach to all nations. By faith, and under his leadership, Pilgrim Rest was instrumental in supporting ministries in Mexico, Nigeria and Hong Kong. Locally, we purchased the former Bible

Way Church at 2975 N. Buffum Street. There we established, Pilgrim Rest East, and held Sunday Worship Services, Sunday School classes, Bible Study and outreach ministry to the community.

On May 1, 1987, we purchased a building at 4427-29 W. Fond du Lac Ave., known then as Pilgrim Rest West. By faith, we held Outreach Sunday School classes, tutoring for school age children, and provided a space for social/ recreational activities. Many will remember this space that was simply referred to as, "The Center."

Continuing to support our community and provide outreach ministry, by faith, we continued to grow. On April 1, 1992, we purchased the buildings at 4433-35 West Fond du Lac Ave to provide a food pantry and clothing bank to the community.

Pastor Mixon knew that the calling and vision for the church was not about him. He and First Lady Georgia Mixon, wanted to be vessels in a ministry that would thrive long after they were gone. In tune with the Spirit of God and the needs of the ministry, Pastor Mixon proactively sought out a man of God to become involved with the life of this church family. Staying true to the rich history of this church, Pastor Mixon blazed an uncommon trail of having a standing Pastor of another congregation bring regular messages to our congregation here at Pilgrim Rest. By faith, his visionary spirit led the church to greater its impact in our community, city, state and world. Pastor Mixon retired at the end of 2001 and serves as Pastor Emeritus of the Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church.

Called to Serve

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. Philippians 2:1-7

Continuing on the foundation of prayer and by faith, Pilgrim Rest continued to build on our spiritual foundation, emphasize Christian Education and reach out to the world while remaining relevant to and creatively connecting with the contemporary needs of today.

Reverend Martin Childs, Jr. And Mrs. Thressessa D. Childs were installed as our 3rd Pastor and First Lady on Sunday, December 1, 2002. We also praise and thank God for Reverend John H. Riser, who served as Interim Pastor for nine months as God blessed our family with consistent pastoral leadership. By faith, Pastor Childs and our First Lady have continued the proud charge of service to others and the community. By faith, Pilgrim Rest has embraced this mandate to take ministry beyond the walls of the church building. That cold morning in December of 2002 was the manifestation of a new beginning and commission of Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church.

By faith, Pastor Childs has encouraged this congregation to meet the needs of all people. On May 1, 2003, we purchased a building at 4441 West Fond du Lac Ave. This space is used as a church incubator to assist newly established churches in growing, building capacity and moving to their own church edifice. Between June of 2007 and October of 2012, we purchased five apartment buildings and a duplex, and established the Susie Harrington House to provide ministry to women in need. For the winter months of 2013 and 2014, we operated The Resting Place (Opening the church to provide food and overnight shelter for the homeless from December through March). We have adopted and provided support to staff and students of an elementary school.

In addition, Pilgrim Rest has organized Local Youth Service Projects; Youth Missions Trips to the Mississippi Delta; and Missions Trips to and Ministry Partnership with churches in Uganda, East Africa. Pilgrim Rest has assisted in building a Church in Bulumba, Uganda and provides resources and support to dig wells, build and support schools, and assist in the health and welfare of our brothers and sisters in Uganda. In 2008, we assisted in hosting the Hope For Africa Children's Choir from Uganda – helping to raise scholarships to support the education of children.

By faith, on October 6, 2006, Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church established Nehemiah, Inc., a 501.c.3 non-profit entity, to minister to the community through our Summer Youth Learning Camp, Rental Apartments, a Business Incubator, and a Prison Aftercare Ministry. On September 6, 2016, we established our second nonprofit entity, Hosea,

Inc., to continue our service in the community to support women who are in transition because of abuse and sex trafficking through The Harrington House (Transitional housing for young women and children), The Healing House (Transitional housing for young women and children), and The Hospitality House (Emergency Housing for persons in transition). On June 15th, 2021, we established our third nonprofit entity, Pilgrim Rest Oasis, Inc., to extend our service to the community by creating an environment for refreshment, renewal, restoration, refuge and recreation (re-creation) built upon three foundations: an Education Center (An elementary school with a comprehensive educational program built upon academic rigor, cultural understanding and character development, and to facilitate and expand our Summer Learning Camp), a Community Center (A center to support and invigorate the capacity of residents to thrive in recreation, athletics, performing arts, technology, along with other areas of their lives) and a Community Venue (A venue to support and encourage the creative and innovative work of our neighbors while gathering to discuss and debate, as well as GED/HSED and continuing education classes for adults, intergenerational gatherings, and more.

On July 21st, 2021, we purchased the former Frederick Douglass School building from the City of Milwaukee. We named the school, Pilgrim Rest Oasis, and it will house the ministries of the Pilgrim Rest Oasis, inc.

Our focus on ministry to the community has set us apart from the masses. Pilgrim Rest has a tremendous distinction in our city and state as we have regularly been contacted to serve where other churches have not been willing to do so. Due to our obedience to God for service, God again blessed us with an opportunity to expand. And because of our obedience to God for service, God blessed us with an opportunity to expand.

As news spread about our desire to transform lives, we were approached by All Saints Catholic Church in the fall of 2014 to provide ministry and services to a group of women who would soon be displaced. God's plan was so much bigger than that. That meeting led to broader discussions and led us to where we sit today.

By faith, on the glorious afternoon of Friday, January 30, 2015, God blessed us to purchase this amazing 51,000 square foot campus in which you sit today. By faith, Pastor and First Lady Childs continue to lead our family, ever mindful of the desire to hear the voice of God as He leads us into a bright future. And by faith, we look forward to moving people closer to God and making disciples of all people.



PASTOR C. V. AND SUSIE HARRINGTON
1952 - 1967

PASTOR LEROY AND GEORGIA
1968 - 2002





**1932 NORTH 9TH STREET
SEPTEMBER 15TH, 1952**



**2567 NORTH 8TH STREET
APRIL 22ND, 1962**



**3737 NORTH SHERMAN BOULEVARD
APRIL 1ST, 1980**

HISTORY OF PILGRIM REST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1952 - 1964

Many pages could not fully tell the history of this dynamic church, nor the courageous dedication and determination of its fine pastor, who led these people in the pioneering of building a new church and accomplished the same. Looking back in retrospect, let us change the time picture.

It is now February 18, 1952. The Place is the Mt. Zion Church of God in Christ, 620 West Brown Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the time is 3: 30 p.m.

Having been led by the spirit of God as Abraham was led, Rev. C. V. Harrington, Mrs. Susie Harrington, his wife, Anna Louise Harrington, his daughter, and Calvester Harrington, Jr., his son, went to establish for God a house of worship. Because of the fine spirit of unity and confidence of this fine young leader, the church where he had served as Assistant Pastor, Canaan Baptist Church and the late Rev. C. O. Manney, gave not only letters, but assistance in every way to help Rev. Harrington in the organization. At the time mentioned, housed and welcomed by the late Rev. J. O. Sims, pastor of the Mt. Zion Church of God in Christ, the Charity Mission was born. James Reed and James Jones led in the devotion and Rev. E. M. Kelly officiated, *Moving out on divine order* was the first soul message brought by the leader. Mrs. Devella Norton led the congregation in singing, after which an invitation was extended and the following persons united with the church: Mrs. Susie Y Harrington, Master C. V. Harrington, Jr., Anna Louise Harrington, and Jack Harrington and Phebe Harrington.

The Lord blessed and prospered this work and Mrs. Pauline Weaver Speed gave her services as pianist; Mrs. Aloysia James served as director and together they organized the first choir in the home of Mrs. James.

Time: *May 8, 1952*

The Baptist Council met with the Rev. L. S. Beauchamp officiating and Charity Mission was organized into a church and declared to be a regular Baptist Church named by the pastor, Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. C. V. Harrington, founder and organizer was voted by the church to become its first pastor. The following were the first members of the church: Martha Wilson, Cleora Brooks, Ella Westmoreland Voss, Georgia Harris Strayhon, Beatrice Brooks, Rosa Lee Toliver, Bessie Thomas, Cordilia Brooks, Tiny Draper, and Elijah Voss. Members: of the church and friends of the community liberally gave to this church.

Time: *September 15, 1952*

We purchased the building at 1932 North 9th Street for \$11,500.00. We worked very hard to pay for the building, and then because of growth and progress, we outgrew our church at 1932 North 9th Street. We felt the need for expansion, for building more for God.

Time: *November, 1958*

We located a tract of land at 2567 North 8th Street. We bought the land, paying cash for it, and started on the long trail of building a brand new edifice for God. The members, spearheaded by Mrs. Susie Y. Harrington and Mrs. Hattie Barnett, worked hard and long with King and Queen Contests, Baby Contests, and many other special efforts in order to see our dream come true – a new edifice on the North 8th Street Land.

As is true in any worthwhile effort, there were many crises to pull through – and it would take too much time to try and cite all of the struggles that this pastor and his members had in trying to build a church. However, we think it only fitting and proper to name a few of them – we choose to call them the *Three Major Crises in the Building of Pilgrim Rest*.

“God may challenge you to walk out into what may seem like empty space, but as your feet travel onward and out on faith, underneath you will find a rock.”

FIRST CRISIS

After excavation, there was only five hundred dollars left in the building fund to start building although the membership had pledged over \$5,000. One week remained – faced with the ultimatum from the city to rebuild the walls which had caved in on one side from the torrential rainstorms which had plagued the building – and it seemed as if all was lost. The pastor went to the Board of Building Supervisors at City Hall and stood as Paul did before Apollo and persuaded them to grant an extension of time for rebuilding the walls.

Fate stepped in in the form of the pastor remembering a clipping about an oil millionaire, Mr. William Broadhurst, who made it a practice of helping churches in distress. Mr. Broadhurst was contacted and he wrote the Milwaukee Board of Building Supervisors and informed them that he would lend ten thousand dollars to the congregation to rebuild the walls and place a top on the basement until they could continue with the building.

The members rallied to the rescue and signed personal pledges to the Broadhurst Foundation that would guarantee that the loan would be paid. Their original signatures, reprinted for this history, appear at the end of the history.

Joy and hope once again reigned in the church of Pilgrim Rest – a new church was coming. However, more dark clouds were on the horizon. After rebuilding the walls and having the basement completed, paying off the rest of the contractors for materials, etc., there was no money left for continuing the building. The old building was sold; the new owners were demanding the building; days were dark once more.

SECOND CRISIS

Faced with eviction from their old building, Pilgrim Rest was forced to vacate, with no money in sight and only a basement of the new church standing. The pastor and members were forced to rent the Baptist Center in order to hold services. Disappointment and Discouragement, the two greatest enemies of Progress, stepped right into the midst of the membership. There were grumblings, leavings, crying, and weeping. It seemed as if there was no hope. The lending agencies refused to let go of any money for building the church – the ones who did want to lend the money wanted outrageous interest. Although Disappointment and Discouragement stepped in, many of Pilgrim Rest's members were fighters and they fought off the enemies. After many goings and comings, the spirit of the Lord directed the Pastor's wife to make a personal call to Mrs. Ardie Halyard with a plan that might interest her in lending enough money to build the church. The Columbia Savings and Loan Company, of which Mr. Halyard, Mrs. Halyard's husband was founder and President, had been contacted before and had refused to consider the loan. Mrs. Halyard, touched by the sincerity, the faith, and the courage of Rev. Harrington, his wife, and his loyal members, said that nothing would please her more than to see this church completed. She took a personal stand and appealed to the Board of the Columbia Savings and Loan; she pleaded that they reconsider the request for a loan.

This was good news to the congregation and the pastor requested that they fast and pray and that they, who did not have savings in the Columbia Savings and Loan should immediately start an account. Many rallied to the call and not only put their savings in Columbia, our only Negro Savings & Loan Association in Milwaukee, but also asked their friends in the community and out of town to place their money in Columbia Savings and Loan as evidence of their support. Special thanks to the adopted parents of Rev. and Mrs. Harrington, Frank Mesiah, of Chicago, Illinois, who was the first to give \$100 to the cause and immediately opened up an account with this three million dollar Negro Savings Fund on behalf of the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church. The Executive Board, responding to Mrs. Halyard's appeal, approved a loan of twenty' four thousand and five hundred dollars (\$24,500.00). The building program started anew. Rev. Dawson of Madison, Wisconsin, a Negro contractor, with the assistance of Rev. C. V. Harrington, some of the members and friends of the community, worked on the building of the church until again, all the money was gone.

THIRD CRISIS

The completion of the church was in sight, the permit for completion of the building was rapidly expiring, and the members of the church could not move in until certain parts of the building were completed. Storm-clouds gathered again on the horizon, overshadowing the light of hope, casting despair over the members. Where could we turn, where could we go but to the Lord?

Mrs. Halyard, warm-hearted and sincere, with Christian love in her heart, and having sound business sense, reasoned with the Executive Board, interceded again on behalf of Pilgrim Rest. Although the board had gone their limit according to set business policy, she presented a new plan to them because we were too close to the finish to stop now. The Executive Board of the Columbia Savings and Loan Association once again listened to the appeal made by Mrs. Halyard and loaned us seventy-eight hundred dollars to complete our church for occupancy. Pilgrim Rest obtained the services of Petasnik, who pre- pared the church enough so that we could move in on Easter Sunday, 1962. Pilgrim Rest held its first services on Easter Sunday, 1962, in their new church. Cornerstone services were held August 22, 1964, by the Corinthian No. 5 Lodge.

The congregation of Pilgrim Rest was so happy to get into their new church, Pastor Harrington received special permission to hold service when the church was incomplete – the basement steps were unfinished, the restrooms were inaccessible. Neighbors of the church gave permission for the young people to use their restrooms so that there would be no danger of anyone being injured trying to get to the basement.

We realize that histories are supposed to be short enough to read thoroughly and enjoy, however, we want to be sure that this history will serve as an inspiration to the community and to our youth that faith, prayer, determination, willingness to work and to sacrifice will bring rewards in the achievement of any goal.

Although Pilgrim Rest is not a large edifice, nor does it consist of a large congregation, it is a courageous and creative church which has succeeded in bearing this record for all Negroes to take pride in the fact that it was:

1. Designed by a Negro Architect – Alonzo Roberson
2. Financed by a Negro Savings & Loan Association – Columbia Savings & Loan Association
3. Built mostly by Negro Contractors – Rev. Dawson, Pastor Harrington, Men of the Church
4. Negro Plumber – Octavius Hudson
5. Atty. Clarence Parish – Negro Atty. who donated his services.

There still remains work to be done in our church, but the work is minor, and the faith is Major. We've come this far by faith, foresight, fortitude, and friendship – we can go a little farther and do a little more. God has been good to Pilgrim Rest to give it such loyal members, to bless it with such a wonderful and dedicated pastor, to bless it with a wonderful pastor's wife, and to add all these together in Love of God, Love of Humanity, and a genuine desire to be a beacon light in the community to draw all men unto God.

We have not stopped now – because in our twelfth year, we are happy to report that we have found the answer to our indebtedness – an Investment Fund – wherein the members purchase Church Bonds and receive the interest that would be paid elsewhere – this gives them a true sense of responsibility and independence.

Aside from usual features, we have a Church Library named in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Halyard and a Prayer Room named in honor of Pastor and Wife and the Pioneers of Pilgrim Rest.

This is Pilgrim Rest's History from February 18, 1952, when it was organized as a Mission to now, 1964, twelve years later. We have many more pages to add to our history and with God's grace, we will add to our history – and every page will be a personal tribute to God for having led us by the spirit to this place.

The Pilgrim Rest Oasis

Sharing the Faith · Securing the Future

Through faith God has given us the space to be an oasis in the middle of the city.

An oasis is a fertile spot in the desert where refuge, relief, and refreshment is found.

Be part of God's plan for Pilgrim Rest and this community.

Start contributing to the Oasis today!
Let's continue to make progress!



Thank you for your continued support of God's plan for us.

Beginning



Current



Your contribution can be dedicated to a specific activity or the Oasis, in general.

	Educational Enrichment	Technology Literacy	Athletics & Recreation	Performing Arts	Facility Innovation
\$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Subject books for elementary (math, literature, history, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 iPad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 basketballs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 art sets for aspiring artists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External security lighting to keep the street well-lit and safe
\$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 Summer Bridge books to help students retain learning during breaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 "learn how to code" kits for elementary students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 tennis rackets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 beginner saxophones or 8 beginner violins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camera security system to keep everyone safe
\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 students can be challenged to excel using interactive problem-solving programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 computer for graphic design and website creation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 sets of golf clubs for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Play Scripts with performance/licensing fee and cast instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wireless PA system to easily communicate at the school
\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 smartboard to help teachers engage students in learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 STEM lab cart of materials for a classroom with multiple activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-day Speed and Agility workshop for 15 young aspiring track stars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 pairs of tap shoes for aspiring dancers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery operated floor scrubber to keep the building looking its best
\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 trip for 15 students to visit 1 HBCU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 Robotic kits to reinforce studies in STEAM subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open gym for 20 young people 1 X a week throughout the winter in a safe place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 tickets to see Alvin Ailey Dance Company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LED light fixtures throughout the school to promote learning and natural light

WORK FOR THE WEEK

MAY MEMORY VERSE

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:2

MAY MEDITATION QUOTE

“Don’t be in a hurry to condemn because he doesn’t do what you do or think as you think or as fast. There was a time when you didn’t know what you know today.”

Malcolm X