



PILGRIM NEWS & NOTES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MIDWEST PILGRIM HOLINESS CHURCH

JUNE 2016

Memories of Midwest Pilgrim Camp

By Dan Plemmons

I remember that day very well. WE were going to be able to attend our very FIRST youth camp! WOW! What a day that was! Growing up in the Detroit, Michigan, area, church youth camps were basically unheard of, or at least we didn't know much about them, but we made our way to Muncie, Indiana, to the Pilgrim Youth Camp of 1982!

First, I need to say that my parents taught us to admire those who were in positions of leadership, whether it be a church, a denomination, or even a Camp Meeting, and when we arrived at the 1982 PYC, I quickly learned to admire and respect those who were in leadership.

Rev. Dan Downing was the Youth Camp President, and from that day to this, he has remained a friend of mine. I recall the afternoon that I was in the tabernacle 'tinkering' on my bass guitar, and he stepped in to hear me play. I knew that he was a phenomenal bass guitarist, but instead of him wanting to show me how good he was, he complimented me, and told me how glad he was that we were able to come to camp! I liked the fact that even though he was in a position of leadership, he never thought of himself as better than any of the youth campers, and we knew that he was our FRIEND.

Rev. Bruce Hawthorn was the Youth Camp Evangelist and his messages held us completely spell bound each night! I cannot even begin to explain to you how many times the spirit of the Lord settled down in the services, but I CAN tell you that even though I was a wayward fifteen-year-old young man who had never been a follower of Jesus Christ, it was during that youth camp that I made up my mind that I WANTED to be a Christian . . . and one year later, I made the complete surrender to Jesus Christ!

Customarily, Pilgrim Family Camp generally follows Pilgrim Youth Camp and such was the case in 1982. The Evangelists were R E Carroll, H E Schmul, with Keith & Ramona Sheridan doing the singing. What a camp meeting it was!

During that camp, I was privileged to meet many people who would become long-time friends . . . Names like Southerland, Nichols, Dunn, Walden, Raines, Leach, Arnett, Farney, and the list could go on and on!

This year, our Conference celebrates our 50th year, and as you peruse this month's PNN, I trust you too, will take a walk down memory's lane, and thank God for His blessings on this great organization!

THE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Rev. James A. Southerland, Sr. originally served as the first Gen. Secretary of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church, prior to being elected to the position of President in 1970, and he served in that capacity until 1986. He was re-elected to that position in 2003 and has ably served as President to this present time. He may be contacted via email [HERE](#)

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU!

It was 1970 and I was 27 years old and got the surprise of my life. There were several ballots cast during our Annual Pilgrim Holiness Church Conference. We had started with three original Conference churches and a small committee of which I was appointed Secretary/Treasurer. Rev. Eugene Gray was named as our Chairman.

With the help of Rev. Andrew Whitney and the Pilgrim Holiness Church of New York, our first Annual Conference was announced. I was ordained during that Conference. A Conference Council was elected. There were twelve churches, then seventeen. Rev. Eugene Gray was elected as our first Conference President. In 1970 I was elected to this office and Sister Southerland and I moved our family from Decatur, Illinois, where we had pastored nearly six years, to our own place in Marshall, Illinois. We served the Conference until 1986 when we resigned to accept the office of President of Union Bible College in Westfield, Indiana. We served in that capacity until 1991.

We conducted revival services and made a number of mission trips to Russia. We were asked to assist in starting a home mission church in Ottawa, Kansas. A church and school was organized and a new building was purchased.

During conference in 2003, Rev. Eugene Gray retired. I was elected again as Conference President. Sister Southerland and I moved into the Conference parsonage near Fairmount, Indiana. We have served as Conference President of the Pilgrim Holiness Churches for a total of 29 years.

I want to thank you, our "Pilgrim Family", for the wonderful opportunity you have given Patsy and me to serve in this capacity. We've been treated better than we deserve. Thank you for your friendship and fellowship over the years. We praise the Lord for our brethren and their spouses who have served on the Conference Council. Thank you and God bless all of our pastors, missionaries, and membership for your prayers and support.

Thank you for the revival, convention, and camp meeting memories as well as your personal friendship and fellowship.

As we move forward to ministering in camp meeting and revival services, we covet your prayers and count it a joy and privilege to dwell among our Pilgrim family and friends.

Yours in Christian Love,
Rev. James and Patsy Southerland

Hitherto Hath the LORD Helped Us . . .

By Dan Plemmons

In the last two issues of *Pilgrim News & Notes*, President James Southerland has been doing a wonderful job at detailing for you how our Conference came into existence.

I thought it might also serve well to once again give a short synopsis of our history especially since this particular issue is the one in which we celebrate 50 years of God's faithfulness to our Conference.

It may come as a surprise to many that the (original) Pilgrim Holiness Church Conference was at one time a very large organization! In fact, from 1919 to 1946, the church grew from 8,000 members to 27,418 members with only 3,200 coming through mergers. The rest came through evangelism.

Two groups developed in the 1960's which still bear the name PILGRIM Holiness. The first developed in New York State in 1963. The New York Conference came into conflict with the General Board for setting qualifications for membership which were seen as exceeding the discipline.

In an appearance before the General Board of Administration, the Superintendent, Rev. Andrew Whitney, indicated that he could not serve under the current Pilgrim Holiness manual. A number of the New York churches then voted to pull away from the General Church and form the "Pilgrim Holiness Church of New York".

In 1966, the pastors of two small churches in Illinois felt the pressure, and believed it was time for them to withdraw from the organization which seemed to smother their love for Godliness and Holy living.

In December of that year, Rev. Eugene Gray informed his Bloomington, Illinois, church that he was resigning and leaving the denomination, and that they were free to do whatever they felt they should. The church felt this should be a decision of the church body, and set the date for the membership vote. During the last week of December, the church voted to withdraw from the denomination.

During this same year in Decatur, Illinois, Pastor James Southerland was also making decisions. The Board had voted unanimously not to go with the merger, and in January of 1967, the church body voted against it also. A Statement of Purpose was drawn up and presented to the Church for its consideration.

This Statement was addressed to the Council of the Illinois District and spoke to three aspects:

1. They felt that (spiritually) they would not benefit due to the trend of worldliness and wavering from the standards and convictions of the Founding Fathers.
2. They also asked the Council to consider letting the Illinois District as a whole be excluded from the merger. If this was not possible, the Decatur church was willing to stand alone.
3. And they asked for a clear title to their property. If these requests were not granted the Church was still standing against the merger and would withdraw from the General Church. After meeting with the Council and a lawsuit, the Decatur Church was able to purchase their property from the General Church, but the Bloomington Church chose not to do so, and purchased the property where they are now worshipping.

These two churches at Decatur, Illinois, and Bloomington, Illinois, considered becoming a part of the New York group, but felt that due to geographical separation, it would be better to form a self-supporting group, and work in cooperation with the New York body.

In December of 1966 a committee was formed by the council of the New York PHC. Rev. Eugene Gray was appointed as Chairman. Rev. James Southerland was appointed Secretary; Rev. John Yount, as Advisor. They petitioned the New York Pilgrim Holiness Church Conference to organize an autonomous conference in the Midwest.

The first five churches to join were:

Bloomington, IL (Pastor: Rev. Eugene Gray)

Decatur, IL (Pastor: Rev. James Southerland)

Evansville, IN (Pastor: Rev. John Yount)

Petersburg, IN (Pastor: Rev. James Sneed)

Franklin, IN (Pastor: Rev. Harold Jordan)

The Pilgrim Holiness Church (Midwest) was formed, and in June of 1967, the 1st annual Camp was held indoors at the Decatur, Illinois, PHC. Rev. Victor Glenn (Director of Faith Missions, Bedford, IN) & Rev. James McLaren (Evangelist- Binghamton, N.Y.) were the evangelists. Mrs. Shirley Gray and Paul Gray provided special singing. Rev. Eugene Gray served as Chairman and Rev. James Southerland as Host Pastor.

The 1st Conference Session was held at the Illiana Camp Ground in Terre Haute, IN, on August 26, 1967. The Holy Spirit placed His seal of approval upon the conference from the opening prayer. Shouts arose from the congregation and numerous testimonies were given as the glory of the Lord descended upon His people.



The following men served as our 1st Conference Council:

Rev. Eugene Gray (President)

Rev. James Sneed (Vice President)

Rev. James A. Southerland (Secretary)

Rev. C. Marion Brown (Treasurer)

Rev. John Yount (Advisory Council Member)

Rev. Ed Shemalia (Advisory Council Member)



Some Memories Were Meant to Last a Lifetime!

A Photo Collection from our past!



The Conference Council (early 1980's)



The very first Ordination service



Rev. & Mrs. John Yount



1964 Ordination service (L-R) Rev. & Mrs. Dale Campbell, Rev. & Mrs. Eugene Gray, & Rev. & Mrs. James Sneed



Rev. Glen Soper - Our ever faithful Bell Ringer!!



Mocking Bird Hill - Our new home in 1982!



Many wonderful memories were made here!!



Sisters in Christ taking their liberty!



Mark & Lana Gray during worship



Rev. & Mrs. James Sneed



Rev. Earl Newton



Dr. & Mrs. Noel Scott



Rev. Bob England



The Victory Trio

17th Annual
CAMP MEETING
 Pilgrim Holiness Church, Inc.
June 17 to 26, 1983
 PILGRIM HOLINESS CAMP GROUNDS
 ANDERSON, INDIANA



Evangelist
Rev. Noel Scott
Ava, Missouri



Singers
The Fullers
Penns Creek, Pennsylvania



Evangelist
Rev. H. E. Darnell
Vivian, Louisiana



Children Youth Workers - The Victory Trio

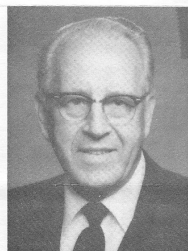
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
 JUNE 16 - 17 1983
 Committees meet Wednesday
 June 15, 6:00 p. m.
 Opening Session Thursday 9:00 a. m.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Rev. James A. Southerland
Conference President

Our 1st year at Mocking Bird Hill

25th Annual
CAMP MEETING
 Pilgrim Holiness Church, Inc.
June 21 - 30, 1991
 PILGRIM HOLINESS CAMP GROUNDS
 Anderson, Indiana



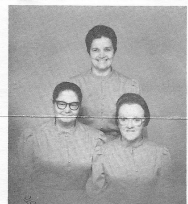
EVANGELIST
Rev. Andrew Whitney
Albany, NY



SINGERS
Keith and Ramona Sheridan
Oblong, IL



EVANGELIST
Rev. Robert England
Cincinnati, OH



CHILDREN & YOUTH
WORKERS
The Victory Trio

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
 June 20-21, 1991

Committees Meet: WEDNESDAY - June 19, 1991 - 6:00 P.M.
 Opening Session: THURSDAY - June 20, 1991 - 11:00 A.M.

Everyone Welcome

Rev. Eugene D. Gray,
Conference President

Celebrating 25 years of God's faithfulness

Memories of the Pilgrim Holiness Conference

By Rev. C. Marion Brown



The date was June 1968 and the location was Illiana Camp Ground, West Terre Haute, Indiana. Rev. O.L. Fay, Rev. A.J. Whitney and others participated in the organization of The Pilgrim Holiness Church, Midwest Conference. The Annual Camp Meeting followed and the crowds increased from night to night until it nearly filled the tabernacle. The singing was inspirational and with great exuberance and amply mixed with shouts of praises and spontaneous testimonies. The night drive-in crowd was interspersed with interested observers on which all the action had a positive effect. The Pilgrim Holiness name attracted many older folk who had fond memories of the General Church.

The merger between the Pilgrim Holiness Church and the Wesleyan Methodist Church had brought a growing discontent within the segments of the membership from both original organizations. There were pockets of unrest to which our fledgling group appealed. Many were concerned about a ‘drift away from outward standards of dress’ and had begun to look for others who also agreed. We were able to be a point stability for those and the movement was on. As I recall only five or six Churches were organized at the beginning, but it quickly grew into many more. The new blended Wesleyan Church, which was identified as ‘the General Church’ gradually moved toward a different direction and this added to our ‘curb appeal’. There was a conscious effort on the part of our leaders to encourage folk to ‘take their liberty’! I recall Bro. Sneed relaying a platform conversation that occurred between him, the Conference President and evangelist, H. E. Darnell. The tide was high and Bro. Darnell leaned over to Bro. Sneed and said, “If they are going to shout, then let them shout, but if not, I want to preach”. Bro. Sneed replied, “I am going to let them shout and if there is any time left, you can have it”! Bro. Darnell turned toward the congregation, clapped his hands together and said “Praise the Lord”! If Bro. Sneed could read this, he would still chuckle! God bless his memory! We didn’t always agree, but he was my brother and I cherish his memory!

There was a remarkable sense of unity and purpose. We had a special conference to ratify our Discipline at the Church in Terre Haute. It passed with a strong majority. Rev. Ed Shemelia remarked to me after the conference adjourned, the words recorded in Acts 15:25, “It seemed good to us and to the Holy Ghost...”

Our accommodations at Illiana Campground were a little less than adequate. We can all remember the black plastic that was strung up to separate rooms in the dorms! We also overloaded the electric and it exploded in the dining room, which had a ‘darkening’ effect on the whole camp! Along the line of obstacles, one afternoon service had to be cancelled because the rain was so loud on the metal roof of the tabernacle that S.D. Herron could not be heard. And who could forget the bridge that connected the tabernacle with the rest of the campground? A very popular place with the children, but we had some hair-raising episodes.

No memories of those early camp meetings can be complete without mentioning our astute ‘camp buyer’ who was always looking for a bargain. At the afore mentioned encampment he found a bargain buy on beef liver. He brought to our good and able cook, Rev Delbert Fletcher, his prize. Not to be outdone, Bro. Fletcher said, “No one will ever know what it is” and true to his word, he prepared it and it was delicious. When asked what kind of meat he was serving that was so good, he replied, “boneless beef”!

Shirley and I gave ten years of our lives to the Pilgrim Holiness Church, Midwest Conference of which I have no regrets. I was young, and now am a little more mature, and I am constantly amazed at God’s leadership and sovereign execution of His will in the lives of all who desire that His will be fulfilled in their life.

Tributes from Various Organizations

It is with great joy that we congratulate the people and ministries of the Pilgrim Holiness Church on this milestone of fifty years of spreading scriptural holiness. Your heritage is filled to the brim with holy men and women of vision and passion. Your people have been marked by their commitment to the old paths and their shouts of victory.

Today we honor the Midwest Conference of the Pilgrim Holiness Church for their influence and commitment to the cause of holiness. It is our fervent desire that the newest generation will contend for the Glory of God.

With sincere appreciation,

James Plank

General Secretary, Interchurch Holiness Convention

Warm congratulations to the officers, ministers, members, and friends of the Pilgrim Holiness Church. Your completion of 50 years of outstanding service to God and the communities you serve is a great achievement. God has enabled you to lay a firm foundation, solidly anchored to the Word of God. Your leaders have been men and women of integrity and grace. Many people have been reached, disciplined, and prepared for heaven because of your efforts.

Thank you, also, for your contribution to the conservative holiness movement. You have given your enthusiasm and prayers to make the larger movement a better place. I trust that God shall lead you onward as you continue to serve Him fervently, reach others faithfully, commune together regularly, and minister grace effectively.

God's blessings be yours,

Leonard Sankey

Your movement came into existence when I was a teenager and I remember well those turbulent days! I am so thankful that across these fifty years you have maintained a steady, balanced commitment to conservative holiness. You have contended for the glory of God and you, as a movement, have been anchor-points for me and many others as you have faithfully served God's Kingdom. HSBC/A as an institution counts it an honor to be able to partner with you in the preparation of young people for service in the Kingdom of God. It is our prayer that God will keep you faithful, effective, and fervent for another 50 years, or till Jesus comes

Dan Stetler

President, Hobe Sound Bible College & Academy

On behalf of God's Bible School & College, I want to extend my most sincere congratulations to the Pilgrim Holiness Church family on this your 50th Anniversary celebration.

All of us here at God's Bible School & College add our voices to the thousands of others who praise God for this glorious church. We also offer our prayers and sincere hopes for the brightest future possible. On behalf of the constituents of God's Bible School & College, best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable 50th Anniversary celebration.

Michael R. Avery

President, God's Bible School & College

Congratulations to the Pilgrim Holiness Church upon completing your fiftieth year of standing for the old paths. We who have been Pilgrims appreciate your faithful preaching of entire sanctification and the holy life and your appropriate emphasis on Bible standards. May the Lord see fit to bless you for many years to come!

Steven E. Hight

President, Evangelistic Faith Missions



PASTOR TO PASTOR

Ministering to those who minister to others

Shade Trees

Dennis Swanberg tells the story of a time when a young man bought a piece of property, came to the home of his girlfriend, and said, "Honey, I just bought a house, come with me, marry me, and let's start a new life together!" She hesitated, not wanting to leave her family just yet, BUT HER SISTER overheard that conversation, spoke up and said, "I'll go with you!" And off they went!!

Dennis Swanberg said, "That man and woman started a family, and they turned out to be my Great Grandparents, and on that property (all around their new house) my Great Grandpa planted shade trees."

At the age of 40, he became ill and passed away, and he never had a chance to sit under ANY of those shade trees, but Dennis Swanberg's Grandpa did, and his MOM did, and HE did, and his BOYS have!!!

The Prophet Jeremiah was called of God to preach a message of doom and gloom, and that's exactly what he did, for FORTY YEARS. You can search the Word of God, and you won't find record of even ONE CONVERT in forty years, but what was he doing? He was planting shade trees that he would never sit under!

Not so long ago I had opportunity to visit the area where I grew up. I drove over to Romulus, MI, and passed the home of Rev. & Mrs. Frank Collier. They've both been in Heaven for nearly 40 years, but in their younger years, things were very tumultuous, in fact, they were in their car, headed to the divorce court!

They stopped at a gas station, and while he was getting gas, she got saved!! She later looked over at him and said, "Frank, I was wondering if we could give it one more shot, go to church, and see if we can make it work?" He pointed the car in the direction of their home, and they were devoted until death!

He got saved a short time later, was called to preach, and felt like God wanted him to build a church! So, with a lot of sweat, and hard work, he single-handedly built the little church in Taylor, MI!

It was a few years after his death that the little church began to blossom, and many people were saved at the altar in that church! You see, he planted shade trees that he never got to sit under, but others did.

As a pastor, there are many times on Sunday morning after I have finished preaching, that as I walk from the church to the parsonage, the Devil will walk right beside me, and will try to convince me that I am the poorest excuse of a preacher that ever lived, but then the Lord reminds me of Dorcas Welch who was saved under our ministry here, after being away from the Lord for nearly 30 years! He will also remind me of Dave Hartkopf who was reclaimed a few short years ago. Then there is his son, David Jr., who told me one day, "Pastor Dan, I want you to know that if it were not for you (and others) I would not be here at GBS today!" He now serves as the Director of the Symphonic Wind & String Ensemble at God's Bible School & College in Cincinnati, Ohio.

You see, whether you realize it or not, YOU are impacting people that you may not even know just by being faithful to the task that God has given you. One of these days, when you get to Heaven, God will introduce you to different individuals, and He just might say, "Because YOU were faithful, these people are in Heaven!"

Many years ago, Rodney Griffin wrote a wonderful song that captures that thought . . .

VERSE I

I dreamed my life was done, and I stood before God's Son
It was time to see what my reward would be
With love he reviewed my life, to count what was done for Christ
For that is what will last eternally.

VERSE II

See I'd done my best to share that Jesus really cares
And He would save if they would just believe
Oh, but seldom did harvest come, so few did I see won
Until the Lord said, "Turn around and see."

CHORUS

Then He showed me the faces of the ones who'd come because of me
So many faces that my life had led to Calvary
For all those years I thought nobody saw, as I labored in lowly places
That's when Jesus smiled and showed me all the faces

VERSE III

He said, "Though you did not see the yield, you were faithful to plow the field
At other times you helped me plant the seed
No matter how small the task, you did just as I asked
And thanks to you these souls have been set free!"

CHORUS

Then He showed me the faces of the ones who'd come because of me
So many faces that my life had led to Calvary
For all those years I thought nobody saw, as I labored in lowly places
That's when Jesus smiled and showed me all the faces

Pastor friend, as you look at the vineyard where the Lord has placed you, I challenge you to remember that God never called you to pastor the largest church in the Conference, with the wealthiest and the most talented people attending your church, but He does expect you to be faithful to keep planting the seeds!

You may be like Dennis Swanberg's Great Grandpa, and you may plant shade trees that you will never even sit under, but if you are faithful to do the task that HE has called you to do, one day He is going to show you the faces of different people who made it to Heaven because of YOU!



Rev. Dan Plemmons pastors the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Rochester Hills, MI where he has served for the past 17 years.

He is married to Leah, and they have two children, Amber Fish, and Clayton.

If you would like to connect with Pastor Dan concerning this article, please click [HERE](#)



A Woman's Perspective

By Stephanie Burley

Reflections

As the Pilgrim Holiness Church celebrates 50 years, I find myself reflecting on this organization and the vital role it plays in my life, as well as the lives of others. Many entities are necessary in their origin but become less relevant with age. Times change, technology advances, and dynamics shift. If managed well, some thrive. Others hold their own. Many collapse. But what about the Pilgrim Holiness Church?

Half a century ago, a handful of principled, Godly men embarked on a journey of faith. They prayed, sacrificed, and linked arms to forge ahead into an unknown future. I'm indebted to those men and to the God who directed their steps. You see, I'm a third generation Pilgrim (on both my mother's and father's side), and one of those men was my grandfather. Although Papa Yount's life was cut short due to a rare illness, I often wonder if he was aware of the impact his legacy would have not only on his children, but also his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. From what I know of his character, he didn't seek the approval of men. He understood discipleship, and he humbly submitted himself to following Christ, whatever the cost.

Today, like many of you, I find myself bearing the weighty responsibility of raising another generation of Christ followers. As parents, we pray. We admonish. We teach. We model. We correct. We love. And we connect ourselves to resources that will help strengthen us as a family and encourage us to bind our hearts to the great heart of God. Being part of the Pilgrim Holiness Church has given our family more than just a tradition. It has become an invaluable source for spiritual strength, encouragement, stability, and growth. Through it, we have:

- A local church to provide accountability, fellowship, and loving support. As we take our family to church each Sunday and Wednesday, we are met with genuine smiles and honest greetings by people who care. We pray together, sing together, worship together, listen to the minister together, and do our best to acknowledge and meet the needs of those who are struggling. Together. The church isn't just a place we frequent. It is a vibrant body of believers of which we are a part. We are given this privilege, but we also have a responsibility to develop and demonstrate our spiritual gifts within this body, and we do our best to fulfill those obligations.
- A Christian day school to assist us in training our children in the fear of the Lord. A small number of our PH churches have a church-school, and several others of our churches are within distance of like-minded Christian day schools. Although this is not the calling of every minister or church, a Christian school has been a blessing to many Pilgrim families.
- An annual youth camp, family camp, and youth lock-in. The pinnacle of the calendar year for the PHC is

the annual campmeeting. Throughout the years, the date and location have varied, but the excitement is the same! Make no mistake, we are a campmeeting crowd! God has used campmeeting, year after year, to encourage and strengthen the saints, to draw sinners to Himself, and to provide an environment filled with the unmistakable presence of the Holy Spirit.

Although the youth camp was begun several years after the establishment of the conference, it has become a powerful week of spiritual growth. Of course, there's plenty of fun, but the youth would agree that the priceless moments are those when God's presence is near. In early Spring, Pilgrim youth gather for the Lock In. This evening of fellowship, sports, and devotions is an anticipated annual event.

- Connection to both home and foreign mission works. A highlight of campmeeting week is the missions service. Our PHC mission fields in the Caribbean are featured, and the annual missions offering is raised. Throughout the year, missionary leaders in the local churches have the opportunity to foster interest in these foreign works, and coordinate efforts to meet needs as they arise. Our children are involved and are developing interest and concern for foreign missions, as well. We are so thankful for the sacrifices made by those who have ministered under Pilgrim Holiness Missions.
- Consistent, faithful leadership. In America, we are living in unsettling times. I think I can speak for most when I say that we are seeing things in our lifetime that we never thought we would see. As our culture drifts further from God, the trend is for the church to do the same.

Fifty years ago, when that small group of men stood by their convictions and consequently had to part ways with the church they had known, a course was set. We must not forget that there was pain and loss. Those decisions were not hasty and half-hearted, but the blessing that has come through obedience is far greater than any temporal sacrifice, and we are reaping the benefit today. At the conference level, God has given us fifty years of strong, faithful leadership. Our churches have some of the best pastors available today. We are blessed beyond measure.

Although we are celebrating, we must not forget that we are in a battle. Satan is trying to distract and divide. He is fighting our youth, our families, and our churches. It is not enough to have fifty years behind us.

Vigilance is demanded. It would be easy to get caught in the current of a godless profession, continuing on with a form of worship. It isn't enough to just be alive. We must have a vibrant relationship with Christ and be ready to make any sacrifice necessary to keep His sweet presence. Without it, we are nothing.

The first fifty years of the Pilgrim Holiness Church are history. Much has been accomplished. Many have been saved. God's presence has sanctioned His work. We can look ahead with confidence knowing that, as we continue to live by His principles and follow His leading, He will continue to use this dedicated body of believers to accomplish His great purposes.

It's a Small World!



A few days ago on Facebook, Sis. Fayerene Walden posted the following story relating how they were able to meet (again) one of her husband's friends from childhood!

How ironic that this reunion would take place . . . Not in Indiana where they were both from . . . But in the state of COLORADO!

Milton (Sonny) Coop and Don Walden were playmates (along with Don's twin brother) in Brown County, Indiana, over 65 years ago! The Walden family did not attend church anywhere, so Sonny invited Don and his brother to his church. That was Don's very first invitation to a church, and he wanted to go! (Age 10-11)

Don asked his Dad if he could go, and his Dad said, "Only if you go to the Church of God (Anderson) which was close by." They rode their bike the 3 mile distance to the church, and they attended that church until they were in their teen years. Sonny and the Walden boys went their separate ways, and never heard from the other again . . . Until a few days ago!

The Waldens were asked to hold a Revival meeting out in Colorado, and a couple that attend the church there, saw Sonny and his wife at the local Burger King restaurant, and invited them to the Revival! So they came, and after the service, he told Don Walden his name, and memories that span back more than 65 years came like a flood! Now, they both have white hair and have aged a great deal, but how awesome God is to reunite friends after 6 decades!

THANK YOU . . .

To the Pilgrim Holiness Conference:

During a time like this, we realize how much our friends and relatives mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered!

- The Frankums

Pilgrim Holiness Conference:

Thank you sincerely for sharing our sorrow. Your kindness was deeply appreciated. Thank you for the beautiful floral arrangement in honor of Leroy's passing. It meant so much to our family and we appreciated your prayers as well. Leroy loved the Pilgrim Holiness Conference and was looking forward to attending this year's 50th anniversary, but God had other plans. We will fondly remember your love and support.

-The Leroy Sneed Family (Cheryl, Leah, and Crystal)

Highlighting the Laity



I was holding a Revival meeting in Lima, Ohio, last year, when Mike Isham stopped by our church looking for the pastor.

I was given his name and phone number, so when I got back in town I gave him a call.

His conversation was very direct and he got right to the point. He said, "I've been attending a Congregational Church here in the area, but a few months ago the pastor announced to our congregation that the church was going to change its stand on the issue of homosexuality, and in all, five of us walked out!"

He said, "Pastor, there are TWO things that I am looking for in a church. I can't stand this new kind of music that has infiltrated our churches, and I want to go to a church where they sing the old HYMNS that I grew up knowing. I also want to go to a church where the WORD of God is preached!" I was happy to tell him. "Mike, you will find both of those things here!"

He came the following Sunday, but was absent the next Sunday, so I called his house to let him know that we missed him in our services. Mike said, "I have been going to church for 69 years, and until now, I have never had a pastor call my house to tell me that I was missed!"

He has been coming to our church since April of 2015 and has been such a blessing!

Not long after he began attending, he started to notice that there were things (regarding the physical appearance of our property) that needed attention, so he approached me after a Sunday AM service and said, "Pastor, I have noticed that there are some things that need done around the church, and I would like your permission to take it upon myself to make sure that they get taken care of - at no cost to the church." Mike doesn't look for praise, or to be thanked publicly for what he does, but he is happy to be able to give to God's work in this way.

You can imagine my surprise, but in short, there would not be enough space in this article to list all of the repairs he has made on the premises of our little church. From replacing siding, changing furnace filters, updating our church sign, purchasing the church a Shark Vacuum cleaner, buying a new front door and wood flooring for two rooms in the parsonage, and much, much more!

Mike and his lovely wife, Kathy, have been married for 25 years, and they have 5 children, and 19 grandchildren. They make their home in Shelby, Michigan, and they both love God with their whole heart.

Mike has a "Card Ministry." He will go to the local Family Christian Bookstore, and buy greeting cards, sometimes dozens of them at a time, and he will send them to different people that he feels need an encouraging word from a friend. They may go to our church, or they may not, but he will send them a card to lift their spirits.

Mike loves to laugh, and he always has a joke or two or three ready to tell!! I can't tell you how many times we have been in a restaurant together, or in our local Lowes store, and Mike will start telling a joke to get the cashier to laugh, and most of the time, they do!

During the summer months, Mike also likes to bless friends with fresh vegetables! He will often come to the parsonage to bring fresh corn, tomatoes, zucchini, peppers, or whatever else looks good. He'll not only do this for us, but for a lot of people.

He recently told me, "You know, Pastor Dan, God has blessed us very abundantly, and I feel it is our duty to try our best to be a blessing in return to as many people as we possibly can."

He certainly has been a major blessing to our local church, and we thank God for sending him our way.

A Point of Interest . . .

What you are seeing here is an ancient piece of Pilgrim Holiness Church history! Our thanks to Rev. Paul Gray for sending me a copy of it!

This is a newspaper clipping concerning Nancy Gray's Grandfather, the Rev. Reuben S. Wheeldon. He used to hold Brush Arbor meetings for the Pilgrim Holiness Church, and this article is announcing a Brush Arbor meeting that was to be held at a church just south of Coffeerville, Illinois - 90 YEARS AGO!

The Rev. Reuben S. Wheeldon started FIVE Pilgrim Holiness Churches in the Illinois District, one of which is our church located in Palestine, Illinois, where Rev. Paul Gray is pastoring!

August 6, 1925

Rev. Mr. Wheeldon of Auburn, Ill. is holding an old time Holy Ghost revival at Coffeyville, seven miles southwest of Charleston.

There has been a large number of conversions and sanctifications.

The services are being held under a well constructed arbor made of the branches of trees.

Exceeding spiritual power is manifested at every service, and people drive a distance of 13 miles to be present.

A Tribute to Rev. & Mrs. James Southerland

By Donald Nichols



My first recollections of Brother and Sister Southerland come from the time when he was serving as pastor of the church in Decatur, IL, and became our Conference President. He was a handsome, young and passionate preacher whom I highly respected. He was a man's man during a time when some in our culture felt that religion was for sissies. Since my father was not a Christian, this young man confirmed what the "older" men of our church were trying to communicate to a younger generation. There really is something to this old-time religion!

Jim and Patsy, as I heard them called by some of the older saints, were dedicated to serving the Lord and making the holiness life-style attractive. I remember on one occasion when they were pastoring in Marshall, IL, and living on the farm, they invited the young people from the churches in the area to come to the farm for a time of fellowship. I don't remember much about the gathering, but recall that we had food, fun and fellowship. (I remember some young girls from Decatur asking me if I was from Texas, as they thought I sounded like I was from the south.)

In the fall of 1971, as I was going through a time of heart-searching conviction, the Southerlands came to our church (Asbury PHC) for a revival. It was in that meeting that my life was transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit in the new birth. I will be forever grateful for the way God used them in that meeting.

From time to time I would see them in camp meeting or revivals and always appreciated their friendly demeanor and Christ-likeness. When I went away to God's Bible School to study, I asked if I needed a license to preach as I had preached a few times before going, but was starting to preach regularly in the GBS missions in Cincinnati. I received a local preacher's license and continued to attend the PHC camp meeting as often as I could, though I was kept busy as pastor of the Main Street Mission, which involved services through the summer as well as the school year. It was in my senior year (1977) that Brother Southerland called me to see if I would be interested in pastoring the church in Lima, OH. I told him that Ruth and I would pray about it and keep in touch. He contacted the board in Lima, recommended us and scheduled for us to go to Lima to meet the people, which we did the last Sunday of January 1977. We met the church, had lunch and a meeting with the board and accepted the call to pastor.

He ordained me to the ministry in 1977, at the Muncie Friends Campground, shortly after my graduation from college. It was always a joy to have the Southerlands to come to our church or to be with them at camp. He called one day and asked me to start a Pilgrim youth camp. It would be held at the Illiana Campgrounds and would have evening services open to all ages. We did, and had 25 youth from across the conference who attended that first Pilgrim Youth Camp. We invited him to speak at our first school graduation in the Spring of 1984, and for special events since that time. It was always fun to pick him up at the Allen County airport when he would fly out for our annual meeting. We would share a meal afterward if he had time, and then watch as his plane would disappear over the horizon.

Thirteen years ago when he was re-elected as conference president I was honored to become the vice-president. I have come to know him better as a result of serving in this capacity. He is a visionary planner, an exponent of church growth and anointed conference leader. I saw him under pressure as division came to our conference and accompanied him to try to help churches going through struggles. Some who had been close friends now chose to separate fellowship, and sadly some became shameful in the way they disrespectfully treated him. In all of these circumstances I never saw an action or reaction for which Brother Southerland would need to be ashamed. He was always gracious, forgiving and grieved the loss of friendship and fellowship.

I thank God for the twenty-nine years of his leadership. I pray that he and his wife will be given a special anointing for the remaining years of their ministry. They have been a friend, confidant, and spiritual leader for which the Nichols family will be eternally grateful. May God richly bless Brother and Sister Southerland.

Pilgrim Youth Camp 2016

June 13-17, 2016

LIFE: CHOOSE WISELY



Featured Speaker

Marc Sankey

Rev. Sankey has served as General Evangelist with the Bible Methodist connection of churches since June 2015. He served as Vice-President of Evangelistic Faith Missions for 3 ½ years, as a missionary to Mexico for 5 years and pastored for 13 years. Bro. Marc Sankey graduated from God's Bible School in 1994. He happily changed Melodie Miller's last name to Sankey in 1992. Marc and Melodie have 3 sons: Jordan, Cameron and Logan. If you look at it closely you'll notice that he has given his entire adult life to the ministry of the Kingdom of God. He enjoys playing basketball with his boys, geo-caching, getting lost in a good bookstore or taking drives with the family.



Daily Schedule

- 7:00 Rising Bell
- 7:15 Staff Devotions
- 8:00 Team Devotions
- 8:30 Breakfast
- 9:30 Bible Bowl
- 10:30 Morning Session
- 12:00 Light Lunch
- 12:30 Recreation
- 3:45 Chow Time
- 5:00 Memory Verse Recitation
- 6:30 Inspiration Service
- 7:00 Evangelical Service
- Afterglow
- 11:00 Lights Out



50-year celebration

CAMP MEETING

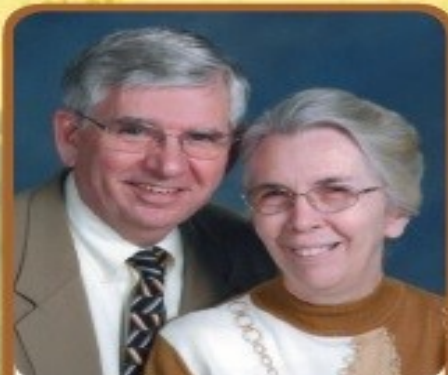
of the THE PILGRIM HOLINESS CHURCH, INC.

JUNE 17-26, 2016

50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION JUNE 26 • 10:00 AM



EVANGELIST & MUSICIANS
REV. BRYAN & CHERI SPANGLER



EVANGELIST & MUSICIANS
REV. JOHN & BETTY CASE



CONFERENCE PRESIDENT
REV. JAMES
SOUTHERLAND, SR.



YOUTH DIRECTOR
REV. JOHN ZEIGLER



CHILDREN'S WORKER
SARAH ROBERTS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE — JUNE 20-22 • 12:30 PM
EDUCATION AND EXAMINING — JUNE 18 • 8:00 AM



Make plans to attend:
A special service for
Rev. & Mrs. James A. Southerland, Sr.
honoring many years of faithful service to
the Pilgrim Holiness Church.

Friday, June 24 • 7:00 PM

Camp Address:

1058 Freeman St., Frankfort, Indiana

Lodging Information:

To stay on the camp grounds, please contact Leanne Zeigler at 812.454.7501

Local Hotels:

La Quinta Inn & Suites - 765.659.4400

Super 8 - 765.670.6068 (CAMP RATE - 69.99 for Double Occupancy)