

DIAMONDS

2023



Pilgrim Baptist Church
Dr. Gerald L. Smith, Pastor

THREE YEARS LATER AND WE ARE STILL HERE!

In March 2020, our lives were disrupted and our church activities were temporarily placed on hold. We learned to pivot and figure out the best way to worship while staying in our homes and staying safe. Church services resumed online, and we were provided an opportunity to hear the Word via Facebook Live, streaming or by dialing in. Sunday School, Bible Study, Prayer Meeting and Midweek Meditation were all provided online. As the pandemic quarantine was slowly lifted, Pilgrim held two outdoor worship services. Eventually, we safely returned to in-person worship within the Pilgrim Baptist Church sanctuary.

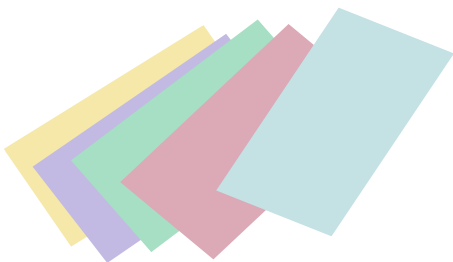


DIAMONDS RETURN TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

After 3 and ½ years of the uncertainty of the pandemic and other challenges, the Diamonds were able to meet in September 2023. The weather was rough, but between heavy winds and storms we were able to gather. As usual, we incorporated our commitment to help others in our community through projects, but above all to give God the praise. At this first in-person meeting, we decided to love on some of our members who were known to be sick or shut-in. Cards were donated, and Diamonds members signed and wrote 80 cards with personal notes to those within our body and their caregivers.

As we prepared these cards, we were able to socialize and fellowship, through singing, conversation and group games. By engaging in activities that involve us physically and mentally, this serves to keep us alert and ready to always be active. It was as if we were never apart.

Before this first meeting, an open invitation was issued from the Diamonds Ministry encouraging anyone age 70 and beyond to join the ministry. During our first meeting, new members were welcomed, and a wonderful lunch was served. Diamonds were asked to submit ideas of possible activities and community service initiatives for the upcoming year. Some wonderful suggestions were made and will be implemented over the upcoming months. Once the greeting cards were packaged up, they were either delivered personally or mailed out. Leftover lunches were provided to some of the shut-in members along with the “Thinking of You” cards from the Diamonds members. One of our new members, Brother Larry Beatty, was unable to attend the meeting. After he heard about the activity, he donated a variety of cards that we will be able to use from time to time when the need arises to acknowledge someone.



One of our church members came to our ministry with a request from one of the local emergency daytime shelters that were in need of supplies. As a part of our community outreach program, the Diamonds Ministry provided these supplies to the New Life Day Center on Martin Luther King Boulevard here in the city. We fulfilled their request for razors, soap, Depends, deodorant, sanitary supplies, thermal socks, gloves and earmuffs.



Diamonds respond to a community request to provide needed items.

Another project involved two local emergency daytime shelters that help persons within the community, Nathaniel Rescue Mission and New Life Day Center.

The Diamonds gathered once again to assemble Blessing Bags. Talk about a lightning quick assembly line! We prepared over 50 Blessing Bags for the participants in these programs which included sandwich crackers, fruit cups, bottled water,

ChapStick, tissues, warm socks, trail mix, nuts, granola bites and much more! We fellowshiped, discussed ministry plans, had activities (with prizes!) and shared lunch after completing our project. The Blessing Bags were delivered to both of the centers the following week.





Planning meeting before the assembly line...





...fellowship and lunch





One of our original Diamonds Ministry members, Sister Sarah Smith, recently moved out of state. We will really miss having Sister Smith here with us, and as part of our ministry. Pilgrim celebrated her and the Diamonds recognized her with a card, a few gifts and a gift card. We look forward to seeing her when she returns to visit us here in Lexington.

Sister Sarah Smith



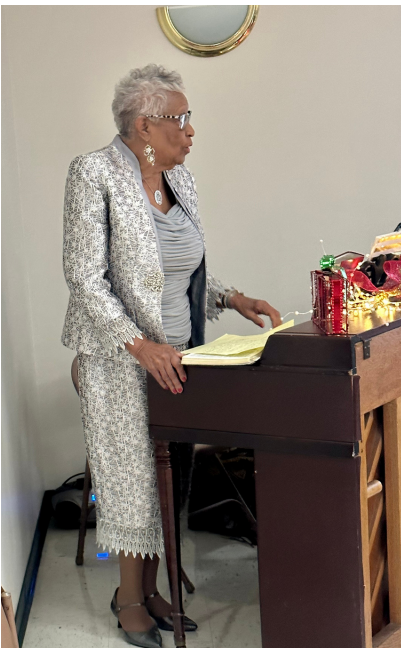
COVID separated us in person but did little to dampen our spirits. We rejoiced at being able to return to in-person services, even though we had to keep our distance to prevent the spread of sickness.

In the past three years, Pilgrim said farewell for now, until we meet again to several of our treasured Diamonds. We keep their memories close as they are truly missed.



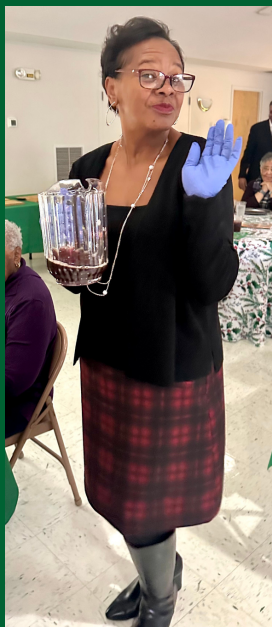
Christmas Celebration Diamonds Style!

On the first weekend in December 2023, we assembled after church and ushered in the Christmas season in style. As on all occasions, we gave the real reason for the season and gave God the praise. We fellowshiped and listened to the music of the season. Delicious food was served as we enjoyed the company of one another and gave God the glory.













I am thankful God has granted me the opportunity to work with some of the best people in the world- the Diamonds! The Diamonds Ministry would like to thank Pastor Smith and the Pilgrim Baptist Church for all that they have done in supporting all of us, our ministry and mission.

“To God Be the Glory,”

***Kathryn Stephens,
Your Diamonds Leader***