

CONFERENCE CHURCHES

Grand Gorge
(607) 588-6283

Harrisville
(315) 543-2873

Lake Placid
(518) 523-2484

Marcy
(315) 736-4019

Massena
(315) 769-2129

Middleburgh
(518) 827-5241

Monticello
(845) 794-5423

North Troy
(518) 235-1662

Northville
(518) 863-4331

Ogdensburg
(315) 393-8808

Pierrepont Manor
(315) 465-6761

Rockwood
(518) 762-3393

Russell
(315) 347-2259

Schenectady
(518) 355-2295

Scotts Patent
(607) 288-6283

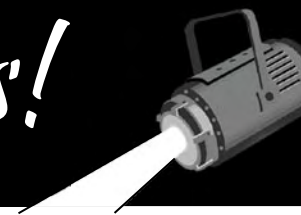
Stone Ridge
(845) 687-7212

Syracuse
(315) 475-2200

Tonawanda
(716) 692-0836

Windsor
(607) 655-1816

The Spotlight is on . . . our Churches!



CONFERENCE CHURCHES

NORTH CAROLINA



Archdale
(336) 431-5174

OHIO



Crooksville
(740) 982-6565

Fostoria
(419) 436-1420

Lisbon
(330) 424-3233

Nevada
(740) 482-2035

PENNSYLVANIA



Franklin
(814) 432-4123

Geneva
(814) 382-1468

Glen Iron
(570) 922-1974

Green Grove
(Nicholson)
(570) 222-3389

Howard
(814) 625-2262

Linesville
(814) 683-4400

Muir
(717) 647-9850

Sayre
(570) 888-2417

Erma, New Jersey

Greetings from the “summer vacation capital of the World” — CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY! Located on the southeastern tip of New Jersey, in the heart of Cape May county, the Pilgrim Holiness Church of Erma has been shining the “light of the glorious gospel of Christ” for over 68 years. From as far back as 1937 our church “has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat.”

As the years passed there was growing concern that the church which we loved dearly had ceased living and practicing the very doctrine its name proclaimed. After much prayer, services were held in the home of Edgar and June Raff and family, beginning April 5, 1964. Due to limited resources, there were not even enough of the same songbooks to sing from among that small, faithful band. This meager yet heart-felt beginning was blessed by the very real presence of God upon the services.

Shortly thereafter, Edward and Lela Oakley, parents of Sr. June Raff, joined this little group as they moved from Grand Gorge, NY. Sr. Lela Oakley had been a faithful member of the Grand Gorge Pilgrim Holiness church even before its connection with our Conference. She had gotten saved while Bro. and Sr. Whipple labored there and surely was “born in the fire.” Her conversion and “death-route” sanctification experience proved itself to be the stabilizing and motivational force behind this effort ordained by God.

The exact date can't be recalled when God laid it upon this faithful family to inquire about the purchase of land adjoining the Raff's property for the sole purpose of erecting a holiness church. However, miraculous is the only explanation for how it was acquired. Melbourne C. and Julia Schellenger, owners of the land in question, had sold the property several times. Each time, the business deal fell through. Edgar Raff approached his neighbor and told him their desire to purchase the land and build a church. Mr. Schellenger, a God-fearing man himself, was delighted with the news. God spared this man, who was very ill, for just the purpose of acquiring the land. A few years later his wife, after selling some other property, gave the tithe on the sale price to our church and yes, it was the exact amount that was paid to the Schellengers for the church property! Praise the Lord!

As a step of faith in July 1971, an architect was hired and drew the plans for our new church and parsonage. Edgar Raff donated much time and energy, and he began clearing the land using his own equipment. Without the church ever asking for finances, the Holy Spirit put it upon friends who had heard of the project to donate money. Building phases continued as funds and workers were available.

In the summer of 1975 our church was finally completed enough to hold the first service. The



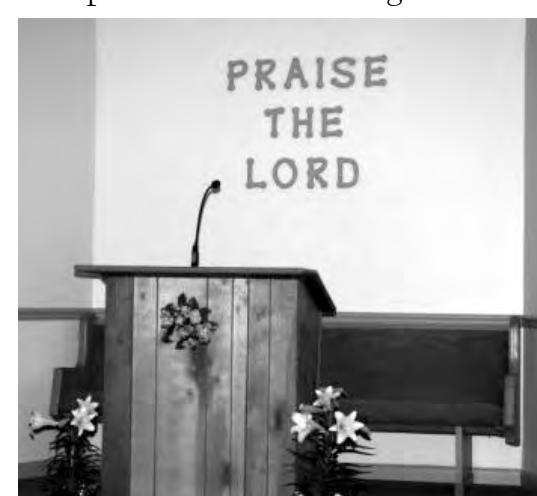
exterior was cement block with an interior decor consisting of just a concrete floor, a few mismatched chairs, our pulpit, and the mourner's bench. Sr. Lela Oakley again took up the mantle fallen to her to preach and “held the fort.” Upon this gathering and thereafter, the Shekinah glory was felt service after service.

During Victory Grove camp meeting in 1981, the Lord laid a burden for the work in Erma on the heart of Rev. M. A. Hobart. Shortly after the Hobarts' arrival, the need for Sunday School rooms and a larger parsonage became the subject of much prayer. Bro. and Sr. Hobart purchased and donated a huge old movie theater building located on the grounds of the United States Coast Guard base in Cape May, NJ. With this tremendous undertaking, Bro. Hobart began dismantling the building board by board. Undaunted by the obstacles, our parsonage was erected and our former parsonage was converted into Sunday School rooms. Praise the Lord!

As the years passed, Peter and Enza Casalino were saved. They had already moved from Hoboken, NJ. God miraculously moved in the lives of the members of this family, “transforming them into the image of His dear Son.” Peter, Jr. was saved. Tony was saved. John Osciak was saved. Andrew was saved. God mightily used this family to be “the Light of the World” in Cape May County. For the last 15 years they have been “pillars of the church.” God has seen fit in His wise providence to lead this family onward in recent months. Words cannot express our deep love and appreciation for the Casalino family and gratefulness to God for allowing them to be a part of God's Kingdom-building here in Erma, NJ.

Names like Lela Oakley, Jessie Timmons, Margaret Crismon, and Sears Babbott have all been cheerleaders here in Erma through the years. Now they have all gone on to their rewards and are in the grandstands of heaven rooting for the ongoing of the work here in Erma. The ongoing of the work is right on! The only direction we know is forward! GOD IS HELPING HIS CHILDREN!!

In the last three years many physical improvements have been made. A brand new lighted church sign has been purchased. A much needed new furnace has been installed. A new roof has been put on our church along with new gutters all the way around. A new well has been dug. A



new outside music sound system has been installed to play music before each service. New landscaping has been done around the church and a new garden wall has been placed around our church sign. Brand new front doors have been installed on the church, and new lights outside. New carpet and vinyl tile have been laid in the sanctuary and foyer. Our sanctuary has been newly renovated and remodeled, with the walls being sheetrocked, spackled, and painted. Thousands of dollars have been donated for all of these improvements and the church sits at this writing debt-free! Hallelujah! To God be the glory!!

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Spotlight on Erma!

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On the spiritual side, the Erma Pilgrim Holiness church is praying for revival. Our ladies have Bible study together twice each month, and this has been a real outreach. Souls are getting help and being influenced on to God. Several have started coming to our regular services. VBS programs are being held each year with nearly packed out crowds on the Sunday morning pro-



grams. Nursing home services are in full swing again. We are starting to meet together on a regular monthly basis with our sister churches to pray and seek God for the spiritual needs all around us. Jonathan Peabody, 14, was taken into the church as a preparatory member on Easter Sunday morning.

A new addition was born into the Peabody home on March 12, 2005. Jianna Denae has won the hearts of all. A beautiful baby girl — 5 pound, 13 ounces, and 18 inches long! We here at Erma are “adding to the church daily.” We are all praying that this might be a sign of a great harvest of “new-born babes in Christ.”



The Erma church presses forward under the banner of holiness and the leadership of a holy God. And so, when you come to Cape May for vacation, we invite you to come and worship with us!



“Until then, our hearts will go on singing. Until then, with joy we’ll carry on. Until the day our eyes behold that city. Until the day God calls us home!!”

—Submitted by Rev. John Peabody

Praise God for what He is doing
in the churches throughout
our Conference!

Anticipate additional spotlight articles in future issues!

Evangelists' Slate

Pilgrim Holiness Church of New York, Inc.

Rev. B. B. Bidwell

80 State Route 224, Van Etten, NY 14889

(607) 589-7581; bbbphc@aol.com

Rev. and Mrs. Randy Neville

Preaching, Singing, and Children's Ministry

P. O. Box 632, Milford, OH 45150

(740) 503-7445 or (740) 503-5548

Rev. B. J. Ward

222 Butler Lane, Mill Hall, PA 17751

(570) 726-6638

Rev. and Mrs. Orlow Webb

Evangelist and Singers

Route 3, Box 1206, Mitchell, IN 47446

(812) 275-3279

Rev. and Mrs. John Whitaker

Evangelist and Singers

925 Broadway, Hanover, PA 17331

(717) 637-6827; whitscorner@juno.com

Other Churches

Evangelists and Singers listed upon proper recommendation

Paul and Robyn Clemens

1904 Young Street, Cincinnati, OH 45210

Rev. Robert England

30205 Carey Road, Salem, OH 44460

Rev. Dale Hallaway

44625 Cloverdale Road

Centerville, PA 16404-9715

(814) 827-3222

Rev. Paul Hosier

R. R. 2, Box 73, McClure, PA 17841

Rev. and Mrs. Allen Hunt

4234 State Route 73S, Hillsboro, OH 45133

(513) 393-9936

Don and Valerie Quales

Song Evangelists

1191 East County Road, 650 North

Petersburg, IN 17567

(812) 354-6389

Rev. and Mrs. William Tillis

Box 189, Penns Creek, PA 17862

(570) 837-5859

Rev. and Mrs. F. Wagner

129 Faith Avenue, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433

(850) 834-3290