

The Christian Griot

St. Luke C.M.E. Church

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Elder Harlan K. Jones Presiding Elder
Bishop Paul Stewart, Presiding Prelate

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Who's Who at St. Luke CME

Rev. Dr. Clarence and Mrs. Christine Buchanan

MISSIONARY SOCIETY PRESIDENT: Sister Jennie Sheffield



Birthdays

January

- 3 Janet Gilbert
- 3 Amber Parrish
- 5 Mary Williams
- 6 Henrine Casey
- 6 Ebony Shackelford
- 10 Jasmine Alvarado
- 12 Donna Tinsley
- 14 Hattie Hicks
- 17 Iesha Towns
- 19 Nate Dixon
- 23 Marilyn Thadison
- 26 Eve Foster
- 30 Josephine Weatherspoon
- 30 Nina D. Richardson



Sis. Jennie Sheffield

Sister Jennie Sheffield, the newly elected president of the Missionary Society, has hit the ground running with new projects. Among them are monthly visits to the sick and homebound members where lunch is provided by the Missionary Society. Leftovers remain at the home to be eaten later. This year, fruit baskets were also given to the sick and homebound members, and two of the members received Thanksgiving baskets as well. The children of St. Luke have received Secret Pals. Random acts of kindness have been provided by the secret pals. A reveal party will be held at the end of the year to allow the children to find out who has been secretly doing nice things for them. Jennie is truly dedicated to exemplifying the work of a missionary. She spends every Friday visiting the nursing homes in the Champaign-Urbana area.

Sister Sheffield is the president of the tenant council at Skelton Place where she resides, and she works part-time as an administrator making sure the building is open every morning and doors are locked every evening. She can often be found in the Skelton Place community room where she hosts birthday dinners for the residents. Every holiday, Jennie cooks dinner for all the residents in the complex.

Sister Sheffield is the mother of four children: Robin, Kathy, Jackie and Jeffrey Smith. She has thirteen grandchildren. In her spare time, she keeps her grandchildren every weekend, mingles with the residents of Skelton Place, and reads. Jennie worked at Head Start and Manor Care for twenty years.

At St. Luke, besides being president of the Missionary Society, she is a member of the Kennedy Club and Evangelism Team. She is a former member of the Stewardess Board. Sister Sheffield united with St. Luke in 1996.

Favorite Scripture: Revelations 3:20 Favorite Song: "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

Restoring Relationships: Talk to God

by Rick Warren



Editor's note: Below are steps 1 and 2 of a series in restoring relationships. Steps 3,4,and 5 will appear in February's Christian Griot.

"What causes fights and quarrels among you? . . . You want something but don't get it . . . You do not have, because you do not ask God" (James 4:1-2 NIV).

(#1) The first biblical step toward restoring a relationship is to talk to God before talking to the person.

Discuss the problem with God. If you'll pray about the conflict first, instead of gossiping to a friend, you'll often discover that either God changes your heart or he changes the other person without your help.

All your relationships would go smoother if you would just pray more about them. As David did with his Psalms, use prayer to ventilate vertically. Tell God your frustrations. Cry out to him. He's never surprised or upset by your anger, hurt, insecurity, or any other emotions. So tell him exactly how you feel.

Most conflict is rooted in unmet needs. Some of these needs can only be met by God. When you expect anyone--a friend, spouse, another pastor, or family member--to meet a need that only God can fulfill, you are setting yourself up for disappointment and bitterness. No one can meet all of your needs except God.

The apostle James noted that many of our conflicts are caused by prayerlessness: "What causes fights and quarrels among you? . . . You want something but don't get it . . . You do not have, because you do not ask God" (James 4:1-2, NIV).

Instead of looking to God, we look to others to make us happy and then get angry when they fail us. God says, "Why don't you come to me first?"

(#2) The second biblical step toward restoring a relationship is to take the initiative.

"If you enter your place of worship and are about to make an offering, but you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God" (Matthew 5:23-24 Msg).

It doesn't matter whether you are the offender or the offended, God expects you to make the first move. Don't wait for the other party. Go to them first.

Restoring broken fellowship is so important, Jesus commanded that it even take priority over group worship. He said, "If you enter your place of worship and are about to make an offering, but you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God" (Matt. 5:23-24 Msg).

When fellowship is strained or broken, plan a peace conference immediately. Don't procrastinate, make excuses, or promise, "I'll get around to it someday." Schedule a face-to-face meeting as soon as possible. Delay only deepens resentment and makes matters worse.

In conflict, time heals nothing; it causes hurts to fester.

Acting quickly also reduces the spiritual damage to you. The Bible says sin, including unresolved conflict, blocks our fellowship with God and keeps our prayers from being answered, besides making us miserable. Job's friends reminded him, "To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish, senseless thing to do," (Job 5:2, TEV) and "You're only hurting yourself with your anger" (Job 18:4, TEV).

The success of a peace conference often depends on choosing the right time and place to meet. Don't meet when of you are tired, rushed or could be interrupted. The best time is when you both are at your best.





WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 Sermons. But for the life of me I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

Are you hungry? Get to a church and be fed. You don't realize what you are missing in life without a church and it's family.

IT'S IN THE VALLEYS I GROW

Sometimes life seems hard to bear,
Full of sorrow, trouble and woe
It's then I have to remember
That it's in the valleys I grow.

If I always stayed on the mountain top
And never experienced pain,
I would never appreciate God's love
And would be living in vain

I have so much to learn
And my growth is very slow,
Sometimes I need the mountain tops,
But it's in the valleys I grow.

I do not always understand
Why things happen as they do,
But I am very sure of one thing.
My Lord will see me through.

My little valleys are nothing
When I picture Christ on the cross
He went through the valley of death;
His victory was Satan's loss.

Forgive me Lord, for complaining
When I'm feeling so very low.
Just give me a gentle reminder
That it's in the valleys I grow.

Continue to strengthen me, Lord
And use my life each day
To share your love with others
And help them find their way.

Thank you for valleys, Lord
For this one thing I know
The mountain tops are glorious
But it's in the valleys I grow!



Know Your History

HISTORY OF JUNETEENTH

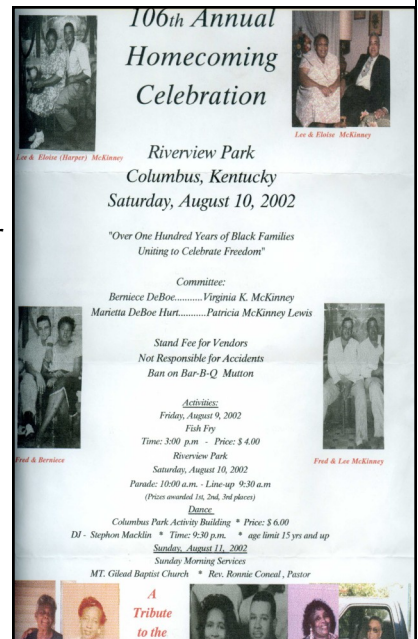
Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

Later attempts to explain this two and a half year delay in the receipt of this important news have yielded several versions that have been handed down through the years. Often told is the story of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with the news of freedom. Another, is that the news was deliberately withheld by the enslavers to maintain the labor force on the plantations. And still another, is that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. All or none of them could be true. For whatever the reason, conditions in Texas remained status quo well beyond what was statutory.

Editor's note: *The slaves in my parents' (Frederick and Rohelia McKinney) hometown of Columbus, Kentucky, learned of their freedom on August 15th. It is still celebrated today on the second Saturday of August as a Homecoming and a time for family reunions. My family has been connected to and or in charge of this celebration for 114 years. It is held on my family's land, Riverview Park, which overlooks the Mississippi River; located*

west of Route 51 and one mile from the Columbus Belmont State Park where a historic Civil War battle took place.

Paducah (Eve Foster's hometown) and Hickman, Kentucky, celebrate on August 8th.



106th Annual Homecoming Celebration

Riverview Park
Columbus, Kentucky
Saturday, August 10, 2002

"Over One Hundred Years of Black Families
Uniting to Celebrate Freedom"

Committee:
Berniece DeBoe.....Virginia K. McKinney
Marietta DeBoe Hurt.....Patricia McKinney Lewis

Stand Fee for Vendors
Not Responsible for Accidents
Ban on Bar-B-Q Mutton

Activities:
Friday, August 9, 2002
Fish Fry
Time: 3:00 p.m. - Price: \$ 4.00
Riverview Park

Saturday, August 10, 2002
Parade: 10:00 a.m. - Line-up 9:30 a.m.
(Prices included in 2nd, 3rd photos)

Dance:
Columbus Park Activity Building * Price: \$ 6.00
DJ - Stephen Macklin * Time: 9:30 p.m. * age limit 15 yrs and up

Sunday, August 11, 2002
Sunday Morning Services:
Mt. Giload Baptist Church * Rev. Ronnie Conzel, Pastor

A Tribute to the

Patricia McKinney Lewis

Welcome New Member



Charles Drake accepted the Invitation to Christian Discipleship on December 6, 2009.

Evangelism Team's Community Outreach



Evangelism Team Members : Eve Foster, Jacqueline Davis, Jennie Sheffield and Belle Miller serving their Christmas dinner.

Champaign Unit 4 School District Recognizes St. Luke CME Church



"It Takes A Village To Raise A Child"



Patricia McKinney Lewis accepting the A+ Partnership certificate from Champaign School District Superintendent Arthur Culver.



Recognitions
December 14, 2009
Board of Education Meeting



1. *Champaign Central High School's* production of *Sweeney Todd* was selected for the State Benefit Performance at the Illinois State Theatre Festival at Illinois State University in January 2010. The cast performed a benefit performance of *Sweeney Todd* on December 12 at Central High School.
2. Kudos to St. Luke Christian Methodist Episcopal Church for adopting the *Academic Academy Alternative School* for its One Church, One School initiative. Members of St. Luke have provided cookies/baked goods for special events, speakers to talk with students about careers and character building, have donated \$400.00 for a college tour for senior students, and donated a gift certificate to purchase children's clothing. Former Kenwood Principal Patricia Lewis is the St. Luke One Church One School Coordinator. Thank you St. Luke for believing that "It takes a village to raise a child." (Pictures will be shown on the screen while this is read.)

St. Luke was recognized at the December 14th Champaign School District Board of Education meeting for its One Church One School initiative at the Academic Academy. A certificate designating St. Luke as an A+ Partner was presented to Patricia McKinney Lewis, St. Luke's One Church One School Coordinator, by Superintendent Arthur Culver.

Pictures of staff members from the Academic Academy attending a worship service at St. Luke were projected on a large screen during the presentation.



On December 17, 2009, Tanya Chillis, a nurse, spoke to female students about respecting their bodies and maintaining positive images. Mrs. Chillis is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, a collaborator with St. Luke's One Church One School Initiative.



Christmas Program 2009



FYI—NEW LAW

Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Secretary of State and Illinois State Police, along with corporate partners, joined together to remind Illinois motorists of new laws taking effect **January 1, 2010**.

On August 6, 2009, Governor Pat Quinn signed into law House Bill 71 & House Bill 72. **The new laws ban motorists from sending text messages while driving in Illinois, and make it illegal to talk on a cell phone while driving through a highway construction zone or school zone.** In addition, it will become illegal to compose, send or read text messages, instant messages and e-mail on a cell phone or surf the internet while driving. The ban also includes personal digital assistants and portable or mobile computers, but does not include global positioning systems (GPS) or navigation systems.