

The Christian Griot

**St. Luke C.M.E. Church
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**Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan, Pastor
Elder Karen Walker McClure, Presiding Elder
Bishop Paul A. G. Stewart, Presiding Prelate**

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Rev. Dr. Clarence and Mrs. Christine Buchanan



**Merry Christmas! Jesus is the
Reason for the Season!**

Who's Who at St. Luke : Sis. Ether Huffman

Fifty-Eight Years of Dedicated Service



"I am a child of God and I trust in Him for all my needs. I understand that I could do nothing had it not been for God's grace and mercy. I love my church, and I still want to help where I can." Ether M. Huffman

Sis. Ether Mae Pirtle Huffman was born April 2, 1927, in Bolivar, Tennessee (Hardman County), to the late Willie I. and Nishie Allen-Pirtle. She is a product of the Dyersburg, TN, school system. Sis. Huffman was the first black female hired in Champaign-Urbana as a grocery store checker. She took much pride in her work as a checker, a title she held for over forty years in various retail grocery stores. She began her career as a checker in 1952, at the former family owned and operated Giagliana's IGA that was located on north Fifth Street in Champaign, IL. After the closing of Giagliana's, she worked at Hankies' grocery store, and in 1973, Sis. Huffman was hired by Eisner's Grocery Store. While at Eisner's, Mrs. Huffman became a union steward for Eisner's United Retail Workers' Union #881. She held that position for over ten years. She traveled throughout Illinois and Indiana helping checkers and fighting for their rights. In 1979, she was named "Union Steward of the Year". In 1981, she was presented a Certificate of Recognition citing her as a union leader impacting labor on the job from the University of Illinois. For the past twelve years, Sis Huffman has worked part-time as the receptionist at WBCP 1580 AM radio station.

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**Happy 140th Birthday
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church**

**JOIN ST. LUKE FOR OUR CELEBRATION
ON DECEMBER 12, 2010!!**

December

- 3-4 Winter Council
- 12 140th Birthday Celebration
- 18 Food Pantry
- 19 Christmas Program
- 31 Night Watch

Birthdays

- 4 Marvarine Pirtle
- 5 Evelyn Walton
- 7 Dana Cockrell
Ethel Kennedy
- 8 Mehidiah Jarumi
- 8 Tristen Thomas
- 13 Lonnie Kinard
- 16 CME CHURCH
- 16 Joyce Cowan
- 17 Xavier Jarumi
- 19 Lovay Williams
- 20 Emmitt Elam
- 22 Tiffany Harrington
- 22 J.W. Pirtle
- 24 Lemond Peppers
- 24 Mark Creighton
- 24 Jennie Sheffield
- 27 Kendell Adams
- 27 Joyce Bradley
- 27 Lawrence Parks
- 29 Dora Jamerson

Have You Heard? Good News! Halleluiah, Praise Corner!

(Continued from page 1)

Sis. Huffman has been a Methodist all her life. Her mother was a Methodist and saw that she attended church as a child. She accepted Christ at Boatels Chapel C.M.E. Church in Whitesville, TN, as a young child. In 1952, she joined St. Luke when the late Rev. J. S. Turner was the pastor. She gratefully became a member of the Sr. Usher Board in 1955, and was appointed the president of the Sr. Usher Board in 1958, under the pastorate of the late Rev. Dr. A. W. Bishop. While in the position of president of the Sr. Usher Board, she worked to establish the Jr. Usher Board. Sis. Huffman gives much credit to her mentor, the late Mrs. Sophie Roberts, for her continuous encouragement and relentlessly giving her spiritual and moral support. Sis Huffman has chaired many programs such as pastors' appreciations and annual usher day programs.

Sister Huffman loves working for her church. She currently holds the position of keeping the supply room stocked with paper goods needed for all major programs when meals are served. Sis. Huffman has often said that God gave her the ability to be a leader. Uniting with St. Luke was no accident. God had a plan and work for her to do at St. Luke. Sis. Huffman took great pride in being part of the Sr. Usher Board, a doorkeeper in God's house. She also enjoyed her duties as a checker and as a union steward helping others and listening to their concerns.

Sis. Huffman was married to the late Herman Lincoln Huffman, Sr. Their two children are: Rosemarie Huffman-Thomas and Herman Huffman Lincoln Huffman, Jr. She has four grand children and three great-grand children. In her spare time, she likes cooking, spending time with her grand children, working in the yard, and watching Tyler Perry movies.

Favorite Scripture: Psalm 13

Favorite Song: "I Made It"



Editor's note: Pastor Julio Andujo, a son of St. Luke, is the pastor of Amos Temple CME Church in Riverside, California. His mother Johnnie Jackson is a member of St. Luke. He has a Facebook page which ministers with inspirational messages he writes to his C.O.F.F.E.E. (Christians on Fire For Eternal Enlightenment!) Facebook friends. Below is a message from November 9, 2010.

You Are a Piece of Work

"I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." I am the result of what He wanted. God pressed me into being because He wanted to. It was his pleasure. God presses into being whatever is His pleasure; I exist at his pleasure, and I serve at His pleasure. It is called His will or thelema in the Greek.

He knows that "yet being unperfect", I am still "marvelous"! This would be a work-in-progress. God is used to working with works-in-progress because he formed us while we were in the belly. "We are his workmanship", Ephesians 2:10. So if someone says, "You are a piece of work!" Say, "Yes, I am...but I am a masterpiece in the making!"

Praise God for yourself today, Gal. 6:4, as we become more like Jesus this day.

Enjoy the Latte.



**Happy 90th Birthday,
Mrs. Ethel Mae Kennedy!
December 7, 2010**



"O Holy Night"



“O Holy Night “

The words and lyrics of the old carol, 'O Holy Night', were written by **Placide Cappeau de Roquemaure** in 1847. Cappeau was a wine seller by trade, but was asked by the parish priest to write a poem for Christmas. He obliged and wrote the beautiful words of the hymn. He then realized that it should have music to accompany the words and he approached his friend Adolphe Charles Adams. He agreed and the music for the poem was therefore

composed by Adolphe Charles Adams. Adolphe had attended the Paris conservatoire and forged a brilliant career as a composer. It was translated into English by John Sullivan Dwight.

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the Spirit felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, the night when Christ was born;
O night, O Holy Night, O night divine!
O night, O Holy Night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
O'er the world a star is sweetly gleaming,
Now come the wisemen from out of the Orient land.

The King of kings lay thus lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friends.
He knows our need, our weakness is no stranger,
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory ever more proclaim!
His power and glory ever more proclaim!



Sunday School Christmas Program
December 19, 2010
9:30 AM

Joint Night Watch Service
With Bethel A.M.E. Church
December 31, 2010
10:00 P.M.

2010-11-05-0500

KNOW YOUR HISTORY: The CME Church December 16, 1870



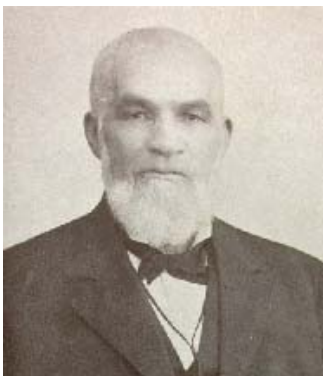
l-r: First CME Bishop William H. Miles; Graduating class at Paine College, circa 1901; early CME mission church.

Roots of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church CME Beginnings *(From Tender Plant to Sturdy Tree)*

The Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, or the CME Church as it is commonly called, came into existence as a result of the movement from slavery to freedom. During the years following the birth of Methodism, the denomination grew rapidly. The Methodist Episcopal Church South was an outgrowth of Wesley's Methodism. Some Blacks, converted to Christianity by slave masters, accepted the Methodist doctrine as it was. However, with the passage of time, the emancipation of Blacks from slavery created the desire by Blacks to have and control their own church. This desire led formerly enslaved persons who had been members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, to start their own independent religious organization.

The Organizers: Forty-one men who has exemplified leadership qualities gathered together in Jackson, Tennessee on December 16, 1870. With the advice and assistance of the white brethren of the M.E. Church South, the Black religious leaders organized the colored branch of Methodism. On Tuesday, December 20, they adopted the Methodist South's Book of Discipline and on Wednesday, December 21, they elected two of their own preachers - William H. Miles of Kentucky and Richard H. Vanderhorst of Georgia - as their bishops. Gathering in Jackson with only a dream, the religious leaders departed with their own church a reality.

In the words of Bishop Randall Albert Carter, "this tender plant of God" had taken root and "was here to live or die." (Biblical basis: Psalm 80.) *(Reprinted from the CME Website)*



Bishop Isaac Lane

Isaac Lane, a prominent bishop in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and founder of Lane College, was born a slave in Jackson, Tennessee on March 3, 1834. His mother, Rachel, was a slave on the plantation belonging to his white father, Cullen Lane. Isaac enjoyed certain privileges as the master's illegitimate son and was able to attend religious services held by white Methodists. However, he never received a formal education, and he learned to read and write on his own. In 1853 Isaac married Frances Anne Boyce, a slave on a nearby plantation, and brought her to live with him on Cullen Lane's property. Shortly thereafter he experienced a religious conversion and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, South on September 11, 1854. Although white Methodist officials denied

Lane's petition to preach because of his race, he was granted an exhorter's license in 1856. A decade later he was ordained a deacon and an elder at a regional conference where African American members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South gathered to debate a formal break from the white congregation. A special session of the newly formed Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in 1873 elected Lane bishop. In this new role, Lane formed conferences and built churches throughout Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, while focusing on the higher education of both clergy and lay people. To further his cause Lane purchased four acres of land in Jackson, Tennessee in 1882 for the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church High School, which was later renamed Lane College. Lane retired from the bishopric in 1914, but continued to organize churches throughout the Midwest. He died in Jackson, Tennessee on December 5, 1937 at the age of 103.

2010 Harvest Tea Queen Crowned!



Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan and Queen Patricia Walker

The Eighteenth Annual Harvest Tea, sponsored by the Steward Board, was held on Sunday, October 31, 2010, at St. Luke CME Church. Mrs. Patricia Walker, New Life Choir President, regained the "Queen of the Harvest Tea" crown. This year's tea was dedicated to the memory of former first lady, Mrs. Willia Mae Brown.

Harvest Tea Memorial Angels

Steward Board: Arzell Chapple and Armster Jarrett
Kennedy Club: Ruth Fonville
New Life Choir: Willia Mae Brown

Harvest Tea Living Legends

Stewardess Board: Malinda Wallick
Missionary Society: Belle Miller
Trustee Board: Syral Easley
New Life Choir: Willie T. Summerville
Board of Christian Education: Donna Tinsley
Kennedy Club: Thelma Pealer

Baptisms and Christenings



Tatiyana Peppers, surrounded by friends and family, was baptized on November 7, 2010, by Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan.

Honor Roll Students

LETTING THEIR LIGHTS SHINE

LETTING THEIR LIGHTS SHINE



Congratulations to: Cyrus Williams, Tre Sanders, Logan Parks, Lawrence Parks, Miesha Howard, Ebony Shackelford, Kaitlin Shackelford, and Maddie Williams.



Sis. Alberta Fenderson



Bro. Andtrice Vaughn



DEPARTMENT OF LAY MINISTRY
CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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Bishop Teresa Snorton, Chair

CONNECTIONAL PRESIDENTS

Mrs. Barbara C. Campbell, Connectional Lay Council
Mrs. Jolinda Dugger, Connectional Stewardesses

Ms. Diana Winton, Connectional Ushers
Mr. Charles Taylor, Connectional Stewards

November 18, 2010

TO: CME Laity
SUBJECT: Thank You

As always, may the joy of the Lord be yours!

First, allow me to say thank you for your attendance at the 2010 CME Convocation and support of the Lay Department meeting and the Connectional Ministry Workshop sessions. The attendance was excellent for the Tuesday, October 21st Departmental Meeting and the Thursday, October 23rd workshops. During both the Departmental Meeting and the Connectional Lay Council/Steward Workshop the attendance was approximately 80 attendees for each day; the Stewardess workshop recorded 55-60 in attendance and the Ushers Workshop totaled 40-50 attendees. Those of you who were not able to be in Louisville, - all is not lost . . . You can begin your preparation now to attend the **25TH** CME Convocation, scheduled for September 2011 in Atlanta, GA.

Second, thank you to all Lay Councils who recognized and celebrated National Lay Day and to the clergy at all levels who shared in and supported local, district, and regional services. I am also appreciative of the free will offerings that many of you received for the Graham-Webb Scholarship; contributions are still being received. If you have yet to charter your lay council, and/or install your officers, you may still do so in cooperation with your pastor. You may also continue to renew and/or distribute Lay Membership Cards. Remember, all of this information can be found on the [Department of Lay Ministry Web Site](#). When you are accessing the web site you will also find the latest **Helping Hands Bulletin**, "[Building Unity Amidst Diversity](#)".

Last, thank you to all who continue to answer the call to service and leadership in Lay Ministry and throughout our Zion. As always, I pray God's favor on each of you and may He lift you as you continue to lift Him!

Sincerely & In Christ I trust,

Clifford L. Harris

Clifford L. Harris, General Secretary
Department of Lay Ministry