

# The Christian Griot

St. Luke C.M.E. Church  
809 N. Fifth Street

Champaign, Illinois 61820 Phone: 217-356-4922

Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan, Pastor  
Elder Harlan K. Jones Presiding Elder  
Bishop Paul Stewart, Presiding Prelate

Volume 3 Issue 2

November 2008

Patricia McKinney Lewis, Editor



Rev. and Mrs. Buchanan



## Pastor's Corner

Thanksgiving  
Day  
Service  
11:00 AM

### Who's Who at St. Luke: Ronald Lewis, New Edifice Chairman



Ronald G. Lewis, the newly elected chairman of the New Edifice committee, is not a stranger to hard work. As the chairman of St. Luke's Walk-a-thon the past two years, he committed many hours to making sure that event was a success. Ronald is also a member of the Usher Board and the Men's Fellowship.

Ronald is a lifelong resident of Champaign, but was born at the former Mercy Hospital in Urbana, renamed Provena. The last of five children in his family, he is fondly regarded as the youngest of the family. Siblings Vernon, Billy, Rodney and Nada all have many stories and fond memories of growing up with Ronald under the watchful eye of their stern but loving great grandmother, Mary "Ghan" Giles, who lived with them and their parents, Murial and Vernon Lewis, Sr. Ronald graduated from Centennial High School in 1970, and attended Parkland College.

Ronald retired in 2007 after working thirty years for Kraft Foods and twenty-three years for the Mass Transit District (MTD). Currently his picture is displayed on the back of an MTD bus as a faithful employee. He was active as a Pee Wee football coach for fifteen years, and has enjoyed watching several of his former players play high school and college football. Ronald is an avid Kansas City Chiefs fan, but enjoys watching all sports. In his spare time he lifts weights and spends time with his family especially his grandchildren who keep him fairly busy.

He and his wife, Beverly, of almost twenty-five years (December 23rd), are parents to four children and nine grandchildren.

Favorite scripture: John 3:16

Favorite song: "Rejoice"

## Birthdays

### November

- 2 Devan Williams
- 5 Lou Connors
- 6 Ruby Huffman
- 9 Belle Miller
- 11 Timothy Summers
- 12 Lashaundra Lockett  
Erika Williams
- 13 Robin Smith  
Jan Thomas
- 14 Brittany Barnhill  
Candice Samuel
- 15 Vernon Lewis  
Lisa Hicks  
Boothe
- 19 Brianna Wright
- 22 Tressa Easley
- 23 Patricia Lewis
- 24 William Nesbitt
- 26 Amber Kinard
- 28 Brenda Foster  
Carla Samuel  
Parks

# Bible Corner

BY THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## Peace, Be Still

"Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm" (Mark 4:39 NKJ).

What do you do when the storms of life seem to be raging against you? One time Jesus was with His disciples in a boat out on the water when they encountered a great storm. The disciples were very afraid, but Jesus on the other hand, was fast asleep. When the disciples woke Him up to see if He could help them, Jesus got up and simply spoke to the storm, "Peace! Be still." And the seas were calm again.

When difficult times come, you don't have to be overwhelmed by the waves of worry or fear. Just as Jesus stood up and spoke to the storm, you have power in your words, too. As a believer, the Bible tells us that the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in you. That means God's miracle-working power is on the inside of you. He's given you His authority to declare peace over your home, over your mind, and over your family. Remember, no matter what storms may come against you, the Greater One lives on the inside of you, and He'll empower you to live in victory in every area of your life!



## A Prayer for Today

Father in heaven, thank You for filling me with Your Holy Spirit and for giving me Your authority here on the earth. Today I declare peace over every area of my life and thank You for working things out for my good. In Jesus' Name.

## Have Blessed Thanksgiving Day!

### From a Child's Perspective

Little Johnny's kindergarten class was on a field trip to their local police station where they saw pictures tacked to a bulletin board of the 10 most wanted criminals. One of the youngsters pointed to a picture and asked if it really was the photo of a wanted person. 'Yes,' said the policeman. 'The detectives want very badly to capture him. Little Johnny asked, 'Why didn't you keep him

when you took his picture ?'

Little Johnny watched, fascinated, as his mother smoothed cold cream on her face. 'Why do you do that, mommy?' he asked. 'To make myself beautiful,' said his mother, who then began removing the cream with a tissue.

'What's the matter?' asked Little Johnny. 'Giving up?'

# Inspirational Corner

## The Holy Alphabet

**A**lthough things are not perfect  
**B**ecause of trial or pain  
**C**ontinue in thanksgiving  
**D**o not begin to blame  
**E**ven when the times are hard  
**F**ierce winds are bound to blow  
**G**od is forever able  
**H**old on to what you know  
**I**magine life without His love  
**J**oy would cease to be  
**K**eep thanking Him for all the things  
**L**ove imparts to thee  
**M**ove out of "Camp Complaining"  
**N**o weapon that is known  
**O**n earth can yield the power  
**P**raise can do alone  
**Q**uit looking at the future  
**R**edeem the time at hand  
**S**tart every day with worship  
**T**o "thank" is a command  
**U**ntil we see Him coming  
**V**ictorious in the sky  
**W**e'll run the race with gratitude  
**X**alting God most high  
**Y**es, there'll be good times and yes some will  
 be bad, but...  
**Z**ion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!

The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything. Love and peace be with you forever, Amen.

We all need a little help in the workplace from time to time. Below is an acronym for:

### OFFICE PRAISE

O - Oh Lord, help me not to cuss anybody out today

F - Freeze my tongue, if somebody gets in my way

F - Fill me with Your grace, so that I might stay cool

I - I'm trying to do right, but I ain't nobody's fool

**C - Cause me to humble myself, before I get fired**

E - Even a saint like me sometimes gets tired

P - Praise your name, because You've saved me, many times before

R - Rise up in me before I get in the door

A - Almighty One, You know I need you close

I - Inspire me to be kind, if not to all, to most....No...To ALL!!

S - Show me how to be an example of Your love, not hate

E - Even me Lord, I hope it's not too late

**'Today I ask God to meet me at the office door, and sit with me all day' . AMEN**





## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR HISTORY?

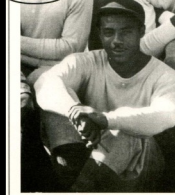


## National Negro League

### Leroy Barnes' Red Sox

Le Roy Barnes' Red Sox  
Champaign

1940



**Vern Lewis**  
Catcher  
AB R H AVG  
57 21 22 .386

A Gallery of  
the Champaign County Forest Preserve  
EARLY AMERICAN MUSEUM  
The Heritage Center of Champaign County

*Vern,  
I thought you might like these -  
we made them for the Jackie  
Robinson Day program Saturday.  
Cheryl*



### National Negro Baseball League Recognition Day "Honoring Our Local Players"

This past spring the cities of Champaign and Urbana held a National Negro Baseball League Recognition Day on May 4, 2008. The purpose of the event was to recognize the teams and players of the **Negro Baseball Leagues** for their achievements, dedication, sacrifices and contributions to both baseball and our nation. The Leroy Barnes Red Sox, a minor team of the Negro Baseball League, located in Champaign, Illinois was honored as well.

One of the team members honored was Vernon Lewis, Sr. the captain of the Leroy Barnes' Red Sox Team. The statistics on the baseball card printed by the Early American History Museum, indicate that he was a pretty good baseball player. Vernon Lewis, also known as "Zip" because he ran so fast, was a member of St. Luke CME Church.

His handiwork as a professional plasterer can still be seen on all the walls in St. Luke's sanctuary. After the church was damaged by fire, "Zip" devoted his time, labor and materials to help restore the sanctuary by plastering the walls free of charge. Many evenings Zip, along with sons, Rodney and Billy, could be found at the church helping Rev. A.W. Bishop rebuild the choir loft as well.

During a conversation with son, Billy Lewis, he recalled an incident that ended their trips with their

dad to St. Luke to help out with the church renovation.

A recent email from, Rodney, recalls the incident as well:

Pat,

The only thing that I remember is that Billy and I were helping Pastor Bishop remove the old altar area prior to building the new choir loft and the back meeting rooms. Billy and I were above and Pastor Bishop was in the basement area. We were letting a large timber down to him and he told us to let it go. We did and it nearly impaled him.

The other thing is that when our father plastered the church he paid his laborer Robbie out of his own pocket. He was generous that way. He did the same for Horace and Myrtle Chatman after Horace had his heart attack and could no longer work. Good memories! Thanks for letting me share them.

Love To All,  
Rodney

Vernon Lewis, Sr. and wife Murial Giles Lewis were the proud parents of five children, Vernon, Jr., William "Billy", Rodney, Nada and Ronald.

Mrs. Lewis' grandmother, Mary Agnes Giles, fondly known as "Ghan", raised her. Mrs. Mary Agnes Giles was a stewardess and a longtime member of St. Luke.