

The Christian Griot

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

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Elder Karen Walker-McClure, Presiding Elder
Bishop Paul A. G. Stewart, Presiding Prelate**

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Rev. and Mrs. Buchanan

Who's Who at St. Luke:

**Mrs. Nina P. Sibley,
MATRIARCH OF FIVE GENERATIONS**



Mrs. Nina P. Sibley proudly stands with five generations of her family. Her daughter, Teresa Sibley Williams is the mother of Christina Sibley. Christina is the mother of the Mia Sibley whose son, Joseph, is the first born of the family's fifth generation.



Mrs. Nina P. Sibley is holding her great-great grandson, Joseph, son of Mia Sibley. Joseph is the first born of her family's fifth generation.

Mrs. Nina P. Sibley was born the twelfth of thirteen children to Hattie and Herman Harmon on August 28, 1929, on her great Aunt Agnes Harmon Turnipseed's place right outside of Sallis, Mississippi. She grew up in the same county, Attala County, as Oprah Winfrey in Kosciusko, MS. On March 19, 1949, she moved to Champaign, IL, where she met and married Samuel Sibley on November 19, 1949. To this union were born two

sons: Samuel Jr. and Adolphus (deceased); and one daughter: Teresa. Mrs. Sibley and her husband, Samuel Sr., were married 54 years. He passed from this life to be with our heavenly Father on January 9, 2004.

Mrs. Sibley accepted Christ at the age of twelve at Arlo Methodist Church in Sallis, MS. Several years after relocating to Champaign, IL, she joined Mount Olive Baptist Church and was a member there for forty years. In 1993, Mrs. Sibley joined St. Luke CME church when Rev. Roland Brown was the pastor. A faithful member of St. Luke, she attends Sunday School and the worship service every Sunday.

Her number one pastime is gardening. She grows, sells, and gives away vegetables. Although she is known throughout the Champaign-Urbana community for her gardening expertise and generosity for giving food to many families, she has worn many hats over the years. She worked as a barber for many years. She also has experience in carpentry, automobile body work, plumbing, laying tile, and roofing.

Mrs. Sibley has travelled extensively to over forty states in the contiguous United States, and her travels abroad have taken her to ten countries in Europe.

Favorite Scriptures: Psalms 24;27; and 121
Favorite Song: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"



On May 2, 2010, Mrs. Sibley was honored as a "Living Legend" by the National Council of Negro Women of Champaign-Urbana, IL.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

12 Usher Day
18 Food Pantry
10:00AM – 12:00PM

Birthdays

September

2 James Tinsley
10 Syral Easley
13 Clarissa
Abernathy
15 Bruce Green
19 Beverly Lewis
20 Tammy Green
21 Dionne Jones
26 Katherine
McCutchen
26 Cle Easley
27 Scott Lockett

Praise Corner

BY THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Living In The Rain of God's Favor

God longs for us to be like a well watered garden, flourishing, full of joy, always in blossom. Yet many times, due to situations that are happening in our lives, we don't necessarily feel like we are in full blossom, rather we feel like we're in a dry spell.

When this happens, instead of giving up and accepting your present circumstance as your lot in life, decide to praise God more than you ever have. In the Bible, the psalmist said, "I will keep on hoping for You to help me. I will praise You more and more." When we decide to give God praise, something powerful and supernatural happens. Peace, joy and divine favor begin to rain down over our lives.

By praising God at all times, what happens in the natural with rain, will be the same spiritually over your lives; a cloud can only hold so much condensation, so many vapors, before it releases. In the same way, when you keep sending up praise, you keep singing, "God is good all the time," that cloud can only hold so much before the blessings come bursting back down. When you stay full of praise, God's blessing will begin raining down, making sure that you are always in blossom; causing you to bloom where you're currently planted, even if you're in a dry spell!



A Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, today I choose to rejoice in You. Thank You for this day and for every opportunity that You've given me to bless and praise You. I give You everything I am today and always. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Through the Eyes of a Child

A four-year-old child, whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman, who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there.

When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy just said, 'Nothing, I just helped him cry.'

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On my way home one day, I stopped to watch a Little League base ball game that was being played in a park near my home. As I sat down behind the bench on the first-base line, I asked one of the boys what the score was?

'We're behind 14 to nothing,' he answered With a smile.

'Really,' I said. 'I have to say you don't look very discouraged.'

'Discouraged?', the boy asked with a puzzled look on his face...

'Why should we be discouraged? We haven't been up to bat yet.'

THE CHRISTIAN GRIOT  
ST. LUKE C.M.E. CHURCH  
809 N. FIFTH STREET

# Inspirational Corner

## Who's B.A.D.?

While shopping at a local Wal-Mart, a woman spotted a man with an acronym on his shirt that had **B.A.D.**

Being the person that she was (curious), she stopped the man and asked, "What does **B.A..D.** Stand for?"

And trust me, you'll be amazed at what his response was. He replied, "B.A.D. " **Stands for: "Blessed And Delivered".**

That thought stuck with her as she finished doing her shopping that day. So she came up with a little advice for you today.

1. When the enemy tries to attack you, be **B.A.D.**
  2. When things don't seem to be going right on your job, be **B.A.D.**
  3. When things are not looking good in your marriage, be **B.A.D.**
  4. When folks scandalize your name, just be **B.A.D.**
- Get with somebody who you know that you can be **B.A.D.** with!!!

May God Bless You And Have A **B.A.D.** Day!

Any person that can kneel before God can stand before anything.

## Congratulations McKinney-Lewis Essay Award Scholarship Recipients!

The twelfth annual McKinney-Lewis Essay Award Scholarships were presented to students at the elementary, middle school, high school and college levels who successfully completed reading and writing requirements established to qualify to receive the award. Each student had to read a book, write book summary, and write an essay on the topic: "How will I use my gifts, talents, and skills to let my light shine?"



Front row: Vernon Lewis, Dominique Brown, Latisha Harris, Elijah Johnson, Jamir Harvey, Tiffany Harrington, Jasmine Harrington, Mahadiah Jarumi, Ebony Shackelford, Raymond Hill  
Back row: Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan, Mrs. Christine Buchanan and Patricia McKinney Lewis.



The essay award scholarships, created to help students purchase school supplies, were established to encourage children to read and write during the summer months. Students were presented monetary awards from \$50 to \$100 and a certificate in the memory of Frederick and Rohelia McKinney, parents of Mrs. Patricia McKinney Lewis.

## Civil Rights Leader: Benjamin Hooks



**Benjamin L. Hooks**, who for 15 years led the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as it struggled to remain an effective champion of minorities in an era of rising political conservatism, died April 15, 2010 at his home in Memphis. He was 85. Leila McDowell, a spokeswoman for the N.A.A.C.P., said the cause was heart failure.

**Benjamin Hooks** was born in Memphis, Tennessee. He was the fifth of seven children of Robert B. Hooks and Bessie White Hooks. His father was a photographer and owned a photography studio with his brother Henry known at the time as Hooks Brothers, and the family was fairly comfortable by the standards of black people for the day. Still, he recalls that he had to wear hand-me-down clothes and that his mother had to be careful to make the dollars stretch to feed and care for the family.

Young Benjamin's paternal grandmother, Julia Britton Hooks (1852–1942), graduated from Berea College in Kentucky in 1874 and was only the second African American woman to graduate from college. She was a musical prodigy who began playing piano publicly at age five, and at age 18 joined Berea's faculty, teaching instrumental music 1870–72. Her sister, Dr. Mary E. Britton, also attended Berea, and became a physician in Lexington, Kentucky.

With such a family legacy, young Benjamin was inspired to study hard and prepare himself for college. In his youth, he had felt called to the Christian ministry. His father, however, did not approve and discouraged Benjamin from such a calling. Benjamin was a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Yet under his leadership the N.A.A.C.P. faced a growing white backlash against school busing and affirmative action programs intended to redress past discrimination. And it repeatedly tangled with the administrations of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush to preserve the gains that minorities had made in the 1960s and '70s. When Mr. Bush selected a conservative black federal judge, Clarence Thomas, to serve on the Supreme Court, the N.A.A.C.P. ultimately opposed the nomination.

"I've had the misfortune of serving eight years under Reagan and three under Bush," Mr. Hooks said in 1992, the year he stepped down as executive director. "It makes a great deal of difference about your expectations. We've had to get rid of a lot of programs we had hoped for, so we could fight to save what we already had."

Mr. Hooks shifted much of the N.A.A.C.P.'s focus to increasing educational and job opportunities for blacks as recession gave way to economic recovery in the Reagan years. But the association had been weakened under the weight of declining membership and shaky finances.

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August 28, 1963



Dr. Martin Luther King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech.



Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Leadership Training School/ Annual Conference Pictorial Highlights

