

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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UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

McKinney-Lewis Essays Due	9
VBS	12-14
Back to School Celebration	14
Church Conference/Planning Meeting	17



Rev. Dr. Clarence and Mrs. Christine Buchanan

Who's Who at St. Luke



Bro. Syral Easley: A Longtime Devoted Member

Bro. Syral Easley – born to Bracy B. and Rosie L. Easley, Sept. 10, 1927, in Huntington, Tennessee. He has one sister, Mrs. Mildred Feazell, who now is a resident of the Champaign-Urbana area. The Easley Family moved to Champaign when Bro. Easley was a young boy. He attended junior and senior high school in Champaign. In 1945, he joined the armed services, serving two years. He met Tressa Gatlin before entering the military service, and they later married on October 24, 1947. To their union, they raised three children – Sheila, Wayne and Kathy. They now have 7 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.



Bro. Easley's employment (outside of working at the family-owned Easley Dry Cleaners) included the White Line Laundry and Fallon's Cleaners where he was a manager. Later after taking an interest in the electrical field, he enrolled in classes and soon was awarded a license to become an electrician. While employed as an electrician, he worked various jobs including the Rantoul AFB; businesses and private homes in the Danville area; installed highway lights in Streator, Illinois; and performed electrical wiring jobs at several local churches including Salem, Jericho, and Greater Holy Temple. Bro. Easley worked at the Clinton Power Plant until his retirement in 1995. While working at Clinton, he became a member of the IBEW Local 601. He performed electrical work for many private residents in the Champaign-Urbana area including many members of St. Luke.

Bro. Syral is a St. Luke "Living Legend" whose shoulders we proudly stand. He is also a role model for our young men at St. Luke. His accomplishments at St. Luke include: President of the Senior Choir; Recording Steward; Trustee (of which he now is emeritus); and Coordinator of the Church Van Ministry. Both he and Bro. Ezell Derricks were instrumental in acquiring the first church van for St. Luke. One could find both Bro. Easley & Bro. Derricks often at the church assessing the needs of St. Luke – or "just piddling". Whatever needed to be done at the church, he and Bro. Derricks completed the task, or they found the right person to do the job. Bro. Easley's last major job at St. Luke, before his retirement, was installing the light fixtures in both the narthex and the finance/secretary's office.

Many thanks to Bro. Easley for the countless years of dedication to St. Luke. His love for the Lord and for St. Luke are evident by his many years of service.

Favorite Scripture: 23rd Psalm

Favorite Song: "Your Grace and Mercy"

Birthdays

AUGUST

- 1 Gloria Dixon
- 2 Marissa Abernathy
- 5 Jacqui Davis
Wesley King
- 6 Rev. Buchanan
Nicole Dunlap
Luanna Williams
- 11 Vincent Townsend
- 13 Malinda Wallick
- 20 Ben Walton
Willie T.
Summerville
- 24 Robert Sadler
- 27 Thelma Pealer
- 28 Nina Sibley
- 29 Ronald Casey

St. Luke CME Vision

Our vision is to be a church where we live under God's new covenant, following His commandment to love one another as He has loved us. By giving and receiving the love of Jesus Christ, we will show to the world that we are His disciples. Through our discipleship, we will lead others to the way of eternal salvation. St. Luke will be a sanctuary where the Holy Bible is taught as the true and living word of God, where the preached word of God will go forth to the people, and where the people fervently pray for God's grace and mercy to flow here on earth. We see St. Luke providing a refuge for the homeless, being a haven of peace and rest for the old and weary, and a place of strength and encouragement for the weak and downtrodden. St. Luke will become like a light set on a hill, so that all can see the goodness of God here on earth and make them yearn even more for His treasures in heaven.

Bible Corner

By the Board of Christian Education

When was the first book of the New Testament written?

It is generally agreed that the Book of Matthew was the first Gospel written and that it was written between A.D. 50 and 75. Of the four Gospel's, John's is considered to have been the last one written, around A.D. 85. The Book of Acts, a historical account of the establishment of the early Christian church, is believed to have been written by one of the Apostle Paul's associates, around A.D. 62 (near the end of Paul's imprisonment in Rome).

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

Names of God: His Titles Revealed in Scripture

"ELOHIM" (or *Elohay*) is the first name for God found in the Bible, and it's used throughout the Old Testament over 2,300 times. *Elohim* comes from the Hebrew root meaning "strength" or "power", and has the unusual characteristic of being plural in form. In Genesis 1:1, we read, "In the beginning *Elohim* created the heaven and the earth." Right from the start, this plural form for the name of God is used to describe the One God, a mystery that is uncovered throughout the rest of the Bible. Throughout scripture, *Elohim* is combined with other words to describe certain characteristics of God. Some examples: *Elohay Kedem* - God of the Beginning: (Deuteronomy 33:27). *Elohay Mishpat* - God Of Justice: (Isaiah 30:18). *Elohay Selichot* - God Of Forgiveness: (Nehemiah 9:17). *Elohay Marom* - God Of Heights: (Micah 6:6). *Elohay Mikarov* - God Who Is Near: (Jeremiah 23:23). *Elohay Mauzi* - God Of My Strength: (Psalm 43:2). *Elohay Tehilati* - God Of My Praise: (Psalm 109:1). *Elohay Yishi* - God Of My Salvation: (Psalm 18:47, 25:5). *Elohim Kedoshim* - Holy God: (Leviticus 19:2, Joshua 24:19). *Elohim Chaiyim* - Living God: (Jeremiah 10:10). *Elohay Elohim* - God Of Gods: (Deuteronomy 10:17).

"EL" is another name used for God in the Bible, showing up about 200 times in the Old Testament. *El* is the simple form arising from *Elohim*, and is often combined with other words for descriptive emphasis. Some examples: *El HaNe'eman* - The Faithful God: (Deuteronomy 7:9). *El HaGadol* - The Great God: (Deuteronomy 10:17). *El HaKadosh* - The Holy God: (Isaiah 5:16). *El Yisrael* - The God Of Israel: (Psalm 68:35). *El HaShamayim* - The God Of The Heavens: (Psalm 136:26). *El De'ot* - The God Of Knowledge: (1 Samuel 2:3). *El Emet* - The God Of Truth: (Psalm 31:6). *El Yeshuati* - The God Of My Salvation: (Isaiah 12:2). *El Elyon* - The Most High God: (Genesis 14:18). *Immanu El* - God Is With Us: (Isaiah 7:14). *El Olam* - The God Of Eternity (Genesis 21:33). *El Echad* - The One God: (Malachi 2:10). "ELAH" is another name for God, used about 70 times in the Old Testament. Again, when combined with other words, we see different attributes of God. Some examples: *Elah Yerush'lem* - God of Jerusalem: (Ezra 7:19). *Elah Yisrael* - God of Israel: (Ezra 5:1). *Elah Sh'maya* - God of Heaven: (Ezra 7:23). *Elah Sh'maya V'Arah* - God of Heaven and Earth: (Ezra 5:11).



The Fern and the Bamboo.....



One day I decided to quit....
I quit my job, my relationship, my Spirituality..
I wanted to quit my life.
I went to the woods to have
One last talk with God.

"God", I said.
"Can you give me one good reason not to quit?"

His answer surprised me...
"Look around", He said.
"Do you see the fern and the bamboo?"

"Yes", I replied.

"When I planted the fern and the bamboo seeds,
I took very good care of them. I gave them light.
I gave them water. The fern quickly grew from
the earth.
Its brilliant green covered the floor. Nothing
came from the bamboo seed.
But I did not quit on the bamboo.

In the second year the Fern grew more vibrant
and plentiful.
And again, Nothing came from the bamboo seed.
But I did not quit on the bamboo".

He said. "In the third year, there was still nothing
from the bamboo seed.
But I would not quit.

He asked in return.

"As high as it can?" I questioned.

"Yes." He said, "Give me glory by rising as high
as you can."

I left the forest and brought back this story.
I hope these words can Help you see that God
will never give up on you.....
In the fourth year, again, there was nothing from
the bamboo seed.
But I would not quit.

He said. "Then in the fifth year a tiny
sprout emerged from the earth.
Compared to the fern it was seemingly
small and insignificant.

But just 6 months later the bamboo rose
to over 100 feet tall.
It had Spent the five years growing roots.
Those roots made it strong and gave it
what it needed to survive.
I would not give any of my creations a
challenge it could not handle."

He said to me. "Did you know, my child,
that all this time you have been struggling,
you have actually been growing roots?
I would not quit on The bamboo.
I will never quit on you.
Don't compare yourself to others."

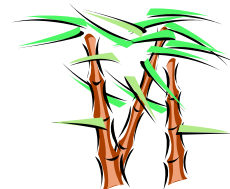
He said. "The bamboo had a different pur-
pose than the fern, yet, they both make the
forest beautiful."

"Your time will come, " God said to me.
" You will rise high!"

"How high should I rise?" I asked.

"How high will the bamboo rise?"
Never regret a day in your life.
Good days give you Happiness.
Bad days give you Experiences.
Both are essential to life.
Keep going...
Happiness keeps you Sweet,
Trials keep you Strong,
Sorrows keep you Human,
Failures keep you Humble,
Success keeps You Glowing,
But Only God keeps You Going!

The Sun is shining!!





Ronald E. McNair was born October 21, 1950, in Lake City, South Carolina. Ronald E. McNair graduated from Carver High School, Lake City, South Carolina, in 1967; received BS in Physics from North Carolina A&T State University in 1971 and Ph.D. in Physics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976; received honorary doctorate of Laws from NC A&T State University in 1978, an honorary doctorate of Science from Morris College in 1980, & an honorary doctorate of science from the University of South Carolina in 1984.

McNair perished during the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger on January 28, 1986. He was survived by wife, Cheryl, and two children. McNair was 5th degree black belt Karate instructor and a performing jazz saxophonist. He enjoyed running, boxing, football, playing cards, and cooking.

A variety of public places and people have been re-named in honor of McNair.

- The crater McNair on the Moon is named in his honor.
- Watson Chapel Jr. High was renamed the
- R. McNair Jr. High School in his honor.
- Ronald McNair Boulevard in Lake City, South Carolina is named in his honor and lies near other streets named for astronauts who perished in the Challenger crash.
- The U.S. Department of Education offers the Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program for students with low income, first generation students, and/or underrepresented students in graduate education for doctorate education.

Welcome New Members



Mrs. Betty Burton and daughter,
Latisha Harris

Christnings/Dedications



Chmyah Kinard



Joseph Sibley



- ▶ 5:30 p.m. ~ Snacks & Registration
- ▶ 6:00 p.m. ~ Assembly
- ▶ 6:15 p.m. ~ Class sessions