

The Christian Griot

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

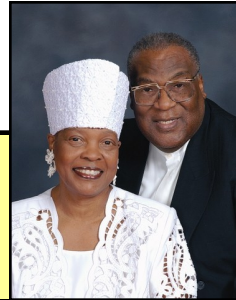
Champaign, Illinois 61820 Phone: 217-356-4922

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

Volume 4, Issue 9

June 2010

Patricia McKinney Lewis, Editor
Email: patlvjsjss1123@att.net



Rev. and Mrs. Buchanan

Who's Who at St. Luke: President of the Pastor's Aide Society: Cyrus I. Williams

Happy Father's Day!

June 20th

June

- 5 Walk-a-thon
- 6 Usher's Day
- 12 District Conference
- 19 Quarterly Conference
- 20 Father's Day
- 26-July 3rd General Conference

June BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Lincoln Huffman
- 8 Maurice Horton
- 9 Larry Parks
- 10 Kendra Huffman
- 10 Phillip March
- 12 Amanda Davis
- Alvin DeSayles
- Timothy Hill
- 13 Faye Weatherspoon
- 13 Kanetra Towns
- 13 Betty Wash
- 17 Robert Elam
- 18 Maurice Horton
- 19 Nettie Howell
- 20 Jayda Millan
- 20 Helen Warren
- Bradley Wright
- 22 Rosa Mae Allen
- 24 Jada Minor
- 26 Darlene Easley
- 27 Mae Kendrick
- 27 Victoria Smith
- 30 Suzanne Parker



Cyrus I. Williams: Continuing a Legacy of Leadership

Service and commitment characterize the Williams family. Cyrus I. Williams, son of the late Clarence Williams and Bertha Williams, leads the second generation of Williams to serve in positions of leadership at St. Luke. Cyrus I. Williams proudly continues the work started by his mother, Bertha Williams, as the President of the Pastor's Aide Society. His father, Clarence Williams, served on the Steward Board and as the Recording Steward for many years.

Cyrus, along with his parents and siblings, moved to Champaign in 1966 from Amarillo, Texas, after the Amarillo Air Force Base closed. The family united with St. Luke in 1966 when Rev. A.W. Bishop was the pastor. Since his youth, Cyrus has been a member of St. Luke and active in various groups for nearly 40 years. Besides being the president of the Pastor's Aide Society, he is a member of the Senior Usher Board, Christian Men's Fellowship, and the Young Adult Fellowship.

Cyrus is a product of the Champaign Unit 4 Schools, attending Kenwood, Jefferson Jr. High School and Centennial High School. After high school, he attended Parkland College and the University of Illinois. He is employed by the United States Postal Service and EcEdEx, a wild life awareness company. Cyrus shares that he misses his job as a DJ and sports announcer on a local radio station. He is starting a clothing line called, LIVE WILD. The website for this venture is: www.livewild.com. One may visit this website to find out more information regarding the apparel and accessories offered.

Cyrus and his wife, Erika, are the proud parents of three children: Cyrus Oscar, Madelenne, and Sydni. In his spare time, he helps his wife, Erika, with her growing business, Erika's Cakes and More. He also tries to find time for his hobbies which include: website design, graphic design, novelist, actor, screenwriter, and tae kwon do.

Thank you, Cyrus, for loving St. Luke CME and being committed to continuing the legacy of service and leadership started by your parents. To God Be the Glory.

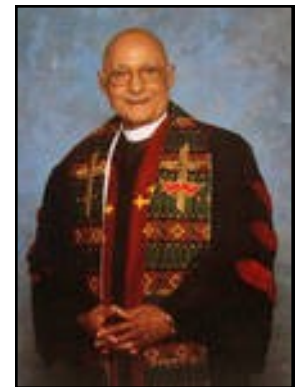
Favorite Scripture: Matthew 7:12 Favorite Song: "His Eye is on the Sparrow"

Pastor, Father, Mayor: A Man of Honor and Integrity

Rev. Lyman S. Parks, Grand Rapids, Michigan's First and Only Black Mayor



"He was the right man at the right time in the right place," said Carl Eschels, who served with Rev. Parks on the City Commission in the late 1960s. "He helped this community move towards accepting more diversity in its people.""



African Methodist
Episcopal Pastor

Editor's note: Rev. Lyman S. Parks was elected mayor of a major city in the early 70's. His election, an important history making event, catapulted him into an elite group consisting of a few African-American men. He was a trail blazer in the political arena. In 1968, Rev. Lyman Parks severed the ceiling of the local government: He was also the first African-American elected to the Grand Rapids City Commission. We, at St. Luke, are blessed to have members of Rev. Park's family, who are part of his legacy, active in our church. The late Rev. Lyman S. Parks was the father of Larry Parks; father-in-law of Dr. Carla Samuel Parks; and grandfather of Logan, Lawrence, and Carleigh Parks.

Patricia McKinney Lewis

(An excerpt of news coverage by a TV-8 newsmen in Grand Rapids, MI.)

I always thought Rev. Parks was a man for his time in this city. Grand Rapids, like so many other urban areas in this nation, was emerging from the ravages of racism and riots. Being black, but equally as important, being a holy man, Rev. Parks felt a calling to bridge the great divide that separated blacks from whites, the inner city from the suburbs, the have nots from the haves. If you knew him, observed him from a distance, or watched him up close in action, you witnessed his dignity and pose. Characteristic of a minister, there was a poeticism in the way he spoke and certainly a spirituality in his approach.

To me, he seemed like a man of conviction not confrontation... reconciliation not reparation. He had a vision and a voice and he used them both to help begin the rebuilding of this city through brick and mortar as well as through human discourse and relationships.

The first black Mayor of Grand Rapids paid a visit to one of the wealthiest white men of Ada, Richard DeVos, and that began a conversation and a relationship that led to a life-long renewal of a city.

In the late 60's and early 70's, Rev. Lyman Parks shattered a myth, an erroneous perception of who a black man was and what he could accomplish. In his high profile position as leader of Michigan's second largest city, Mayor Parks could go where other blacks had no access and he could chisel cracks in the great divide.



Confidant and friend to
Pres. Gerald Ford



With mother, Minnie Parks



Advisor to
Pres. Gerald Ford



Father of eight children. (Only seven in this picture)

Lyman Starling Parks was born on March 12, 1917, the oldest of three sons born to his parents, Madison Lyman and Minnie Etta Roundtree Parks. They lived in a close knit community named Lyles Station just west of Princeton, Indiana.

Despite its limited financial resources, Lyles Station was committed to educating its youth and providing them with the support of a community rich in spirit, family values, love and respect of others which Lyman embraced. His father was only educated through the 8th grade and worked as a tenant farmer to support the family which by 1932 included brothers, Samuel Francis and Oswald Gerald. Lyman had a deep love and respect for his mother and grew up helping with all of the domestic chores including cleaning house, washing clothes, cooking, and watching his brothers. He attended elementary school and Lincoln High School in Lyles Station where he prepared to continue a life devoted to agricultural development. As a young man he accepted Christ and it changed the course of his life forever. He went on to attend Indiana Teachers College before matriculating through Wilberforce University in Xenia, Ohio.



St. Luke members Larry Parks and daughter, Logan, with Rev. Parks.

While at Wilberforce, he was quite popular and became President of his class. He also began his involvement with the Connectional AME Church by travelling to several Annual Conferences with Wilberforce Dean, Rev. Charles Spivey. It was during this time that Lyman answered the call to Christian ministry. He went on to graduate from Payne Theological Seminary and became an AME Itinerant Elder and Pastor. In his 57 years of active ministry with his wife, Cleo, he pastored 7 churches.



Rev. Lyman Parks and Mrs. Cleo Parks with their family. St. Luke members in photo are Larry Parks holding Logan, and Dr. Carla Samuel-Parks standing behind her husband, Larry.

During his seminary education, Lyman served as a supply pastor at Wayman AME Church in Kokomo, Indiana and met Cleo Imogene Sweat who was active in the church there. They were wedded on Sunday, June 25th, 1944 and were married for 65 years until his passing.

Bethel AME Church in Marion, Indiana was his first pastoral assignment after Seminary and daughter Linda Sue was born here. Members were impressed that this college and seminary educated man could also preach and they enjoyed his soul stirring sermons for three years. Bethel AME Church in Richmond, Indiana was his second charge. Here Rev. Parks worked to grow the church, desegregate the movie theatres, and was also active in other civic affairs. The Parks Family increased by five with the birth of twins, Larry Steven and Lawrence Starling, Leo Stanley, Lana Scheryl, and Londa Sharon.

From Bethel Richmond, Rev. Parks was sent to pastor Bethel AME Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan where he immediately purchased a new parsonage for his growing family. He encouraged the college students at the



University of Michigan to attend church and helped to found the Theta Zeta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. in 1962. While in Ann Arbor, Lyman Starling Jr. and Lawana Sans were born to The Parks Family. Rev. Parks spent three years pastoring at St. John AME Church in River Rouge before being assigned to First Community AME Church in Grand Rapids in 1966.

Happy Father's Day

Former St. Luke Pastors



Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan



Rev. John Deron Johnson



Rev. Roland Brown



Rev. Dr. Jesse Douglass, Sr.



Bishop Paul A.G. Stewart
Third Episcopal District Presiding Prelate

To God be the Glory
for
Wonderful Fathers!



Presiding Elder Harlan K. Jones
Chicago District

Happy Father's Day to St. Luke Fathers



Young Achievers! **Congratulations**



Logan and Lawrence Parks earned straight A's on their 3rd quarter report card.

Rev. Byron Smith, Sr. on Earning Your Masters of Divinity Degree From Claremont School of Theology!



Rev. Byron Smith, Sr. (center) with his parents, Landon and Patricia Walker.



Rev. Byron Smith, Sr. with his wife, Jill; mother, Patricia Walker; and children: Deron, Imani, Aaron and Byron II.

Welcome New Member



New member, Marshanna Jarumi with her mother, Ceola Kinard.



First Ladies Shaw and Buchanan

St. Luke Celebrates 101st Anniversary

"Winning Souls and Making Disciples for Jesus Christ in Our Second 100 Years"



Guest speaker, Rev. Richard Shaw, pastor of Walls Memorial CME Church in Chicago; Chairlady Hattie Hicks; and Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan



Worship Leader, Brenda Owens and Dr. Carla Samuel Parks, Flutist



Walls Memorial CME Choir



St. Luke Ensemble

Academic Academy
815 N. Randolph St.
Champaign, IL 61820

May 27, 2010

Dear St. Luke's C.M.E. Church,

We appreciated St. Luke's C.M.E. Church partnering with the Academic Academy this last school year in One School One Church and as a Champaign Schools Unit 4 Schools A+ Partner. The Academic Academy is a small alternative high school utilizing alternative teaching strategies and high academic expectations to prepare students to be competitive beyond high school. We have many challenges and need resources to assist students. We are happy to report that our school has been very successful this year and had 37 students graduate. We want to thank you for all of your support.

Our students and parents have benefited in the many ways because of the congregation of St. Luke's C.M.E. Church assisting us this school year. We have had speakers come to the Academic Academy for our Bridge classes, Just Girls Group, and Just Guys Group to offer career development, skills training, and character building. We definitely want to express our appreciation for each person that spoke to a group or assisted us in finding a speaker.

We have benefited from food preparation for the Academic Academy events and monetary gifts to help out students and their families. All the desserts received helped improve our National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID), Parent Teacher Conferences, and other events. We appreciated the items donated for students, including the gift card that a person had received as a birthday gift that was given to alleviate a financial burden for a student. The generosity of your congregation has really touched our hearts. We value how generously Pat Lewis gave of her time to coordinate our partnership.

We are excited to embark next year on this great educational journey with people at St. Luke's C.M.E. Church. Certainly the ways that people at St. Luke's C.M.E. Church have contributed to our program this last school year is greatly appreciated. ***We thank you*** for your support at our school and the encouragement it has provided to students, staff and families in our community.

Sincerely,

Margie Sitch, MSW, LSW

School Social Worker
Academic Academy
815 N. Randolph
Champaign, IL 61820
Phone: 217-352-4328