

# 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**

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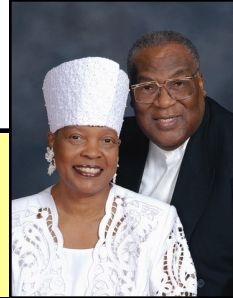
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## Who's Who at St. Luke CME Church: Former First Lady Ethel Kennedy



Rev. and Mrs. Buchanan

## August Events

**13 Back to  
School  
Celebration**

**21 Food Pantry  
Distribution**

## Birthdays

### AUGUST

- 1 Gloria Dixon
- 2 Marissa Abernathy
- 5 Jacqui Davis
- 5 Wesley King
- 6 Rev. Buchanan
- 6 Nicole Dunlap
- 6 Jasmine Harrington
- 6 Luanna Williams
- 13 Malinda Wallick
- 17 Willie T. Summerville
- 17 Anayvia Lockett
- 20 Ben Walton
- 21 Jamir Harvey
- 22 Alexandra McVay
- 24 Robert Sadler
- 27 Thelma Pealer
- 28 Nina Sibley
- 29 Ronald Casey



**Mrs. Ethel Kennedy**, former first lady of St. Luke CME (1974-1989) during the tenure of Rev. Earl Kennedy, continues to let her light shine at St. Luke and in the Champaign-Urbana community. Mrs. Ethel Kennedy was born on December 7, 1920 in Bessemer, AL. She was married to the late Rev. Earl Kennedy fifty-one years and twenty-three days. Rev. Kennedy was the longest serving pastor of the church. Rev. Kennedy was known as the "waving pastor." In the history of St. Luke, Rev. Kennedy set a precedence of appointing women to traditionally all male boards. In 1977, Rev. Kennedy appointed Mrs. Patricia McKinney Lewis to the Steward Board to serve as the first female appointment to that board, and later Dorothy Jordan Luckey was the first female appointed to the Board of Trustees. Rev. Kennedy became a vital advocate and participant for Douglass Park, Douglass Center, and the Douglass Senior Citizens. He became a favorite in the annual Douglas Senior Citizens Fashion Show. He retired in 1989 and became a supply preacher in the Southeast Missouri, Wisconsin and Illinois Conference. He made his transition from worldly existence to his spiritual life in 1995.

Mrs. Ethel Mae Kennedy remains an active and inspiring member of St. Luke. At St. Luke, Mrs. Kennedy serves on the Stewardess Board, Missionary Society, Christian Women's Fellowship, St. Luke Food Pantry Committee and the St. Luke Ministers and Wives Board. She loves attending prayer service, bible study, and supports all church programs. She is a member of Church Women United of Champaign-Urbana. She is a dedicated member of the Ministers Wives and Spouses Alliance of Champaign-Urbana. At the CME Annual conference level, she is a member of the Southeast Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin Conference Missionaries and the Ministers' Wives and Spouses Alliance.

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



### 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*

**Who wrote** Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon?

King David's son, Solomon is credited with writing Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon, during his reign (971 - 931 B.C.). The seventeen Prophetical books of the major and minor prophets span Israel's history from 700 - 450 B.C. For 400 years after the writing of the Book of Malachi, the Lord was silent and the Old Testament was closed.

### Water Baptism - What does it symbolize?

According to the Bible, the symbolism of baptism declares that three things happen to believers who are baptized: (1) they die with Christ to their old self; (2) they rise with Christ become a new creature; and (3) they are incorporated in their new life with living community which looks for the coming of the Lord (Romans 6:1-11). Contrary to what some denominations teach, it seems obvious that a Christian's baptism must necessarily require a responsible decision to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and therefore, must be delayed until an age of reason or discretion (knowing right from wrong within God's perspective).



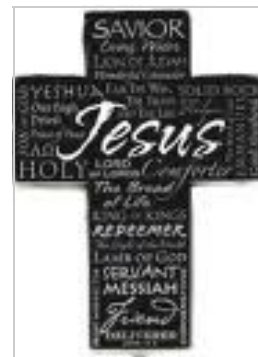
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In short, Jesus Christ commands baptism for His followers. Although the act of baptism does not cause eternal salvation, it seems that any believer who refuses baptism should truly examine his or her conversion.

*"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age'" (Matthew 28:18-20).*

## God Gives Enough

**Always Remember God gives you...**  
 Enough Happiness to keep you Sweet  
 Enough Trials to keep you Strong  
 Enough Sorrows to keep you Human  
 Enough Hope to keep you Happy  
 Enough Failure to keep you Humble  
 Enough Success to keep you Eager  
 Enough Friends to give you Comfort  
 Enough Wealth to meet your Needs  
 Enough Enthusiasm to make you look forward  
 Enough Faith to banish depression, and  
 Enough Determination to make each day a better day than the last.



## God's Cake



Sometimes we wonder, 'What did I do to deserve this?' or 'Why did God have to do this to me?' Here is a wonderful explanation! A daughter

is telling her Mother how everything is going wrong, she's failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away.

Meanwhile, her Mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, 'Absolutely Mom, I love your cake.'

'Here, have some cooking oil,' her Mother offers.

'Yuck' says her daughter.

'How about a couple raw eggs?' 'Gross, Mom!'

'Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?'

' Mom , those are all yucky!'

To which the mother replies: 'Yes , all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake! '

God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful!

God is crazy about you. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen. He can live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart.

## A Test to Know if Your Salvation Is Secure

Some people doubt whether their salvation is secure and genuine.

To help determine this, a good question to ask yourself could be this one: How much do you think about God as opposed to things of the world (Matt 6:21 & 24 and 1 John 5:21). How often is your mind on him?

For example, do you find yourself in church services thinking about fishing or golfing? Or do you instead find yourself thinking about God when you're fishing or golfing?

Only you yourself can determine whether you truly know him and are truly saved. But one thing is for certain. The Bible is chocked full of verses that clearly explain God's plan of salvation so you can know for sure.

Another good question: Have you honestly surrendered your whole life to him and staked everything on him? Have you truly fallen in love with him and the scriptures through the power of the Holy Spirit?



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Walter Hawkins, famed gospel singer, dead at 61. (May 18, 1949 – July 11, 2010) was an award-winning American gospel music singer, and a pastor. Hawkins became an ordained bishop in 1992. He died at his home

in Ripon, California, from pancreatic cancer.

The gospel singer was born in Oakland, California and obtained his divinity degree from the University of California at Berkeley.



## KNOW YOUR HISTORY

### Newly Elected Bishops of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church



- **Bishop James Walker, 56th Bishop**
- **Bishop W. E. Lockett, 57th Bishop**
- **Bishop Sylvester Williams, 58th Bishop**
- **Bishop Teresa Snorton, 59th Bishop**
- **Bishop Godwin Umoette, 60th Bishop**

## The Christian Methodist Church Makes History

**The Christian Methodist Church made history by electing its first female bishop to the College of Bishops at its 36th Quadrennial in Mobile, AL.**



#### *Biographical Information:*

Rev. Dr. Snorton is the Executive Director of the national Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. (ACPE), ([www.acpe.edu](http://www.acpe.edu)). She is the former Executive Director of the Emory Center for Pastoral Services in Atlanta, Georgia and former Director of Pastoral Services at Crawford Long Hospital. She has been adjunct instructor in Pastoral Care at Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

She is a fourth generation, life-long CME. Her great-grandfather, father and uncle were all CME pastors and her grandmother was an active missionary. Her two sisters are also CME ministers. As an ordained minister in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, she was a former pastor in Kentucky. Prior to moving to Atlanta, in addition to being a pastor, she was a Psychiatric Staff Chaplain in Louisville, on the adjunct faculty of the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Kentucky, and on the faculties of the Patient Counseling Program at the Medical College of Virginia and the School of Theology of Virginia Union University in Richmond.

Rev. Snorton has a B.A. degree from Vanderbilt University, a Master of Divinity degree from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, a Master of Theology in Pastoral Care from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a Post-Graduate Certificate in Patient Counseling from Virginia Commonwealth University, and the Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

Rev. Snorton has a B.A. degree from Vanderbilt University, a Master of Divinity degree from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, a Master of Theology in Pastoral Care from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a Post-Graduate Certificate in Patient Counseling from Virginia Commonwealth University, and the Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

*Editor's Note: Bishop Teresa Snorton spoke at St. Luke C.M.E., Champaign, IL, after the General Conference in 1990 when Rev. John Deron Johnson was the pastor. At the time, she was the pastor of a C.M.E. church in Kentucky.*

# Pictorial Highlights From the 36th Quadrennial General Conference Mobile, AL ~ June 26-July 4, 2010



New Bishops



The Hon. Zelda Birdsong, 101 years young, with our newly elected Bishop Teresa Snorton.





# St. Luke VBS Students and Youth Letting Their Lights Shine!

# New Life Choir's Annual Day!

July, 18, 2010

“O LORD, you are my God;  
I will exalt you and praise your name,  
for in perfect faithfulness  
you have done marvelous things,  
things planned long ago.” ISAIAH 25:1



Carleigh Parks (front), Mia Sibley, Victoria Smith, Amber Parrish, and Ronisha McClure.



Guest Speaker, Apostle C.D. Nesbitt, Glory Center Int.; Choir President, Patricia Walker; Worship Leader, Min. Jacqui Davis; and Pastor, Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan.



Apostle C. D. Nesbitt with the Glory Center Int. Choir.



Praise God for 44 years of service as Choir Director and Minister of Music by Bro. Willie T. Summerville.



Min. Noah Brown preparing to sing, “God Is In The Room”.



New Life Choir