

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 Eduardo Spragg, Presiding Elder
Bishop Paul Stewart, Presiding Prelate

Volume 2, Issue 7

April 2008

Patricia McKinney Lewis, Editor



Rev. and Mrs. Buchanan

Pastor's Corner

Who's Who at St. Luke

Sunday School Superintendent



Sister Ernestine "Tina"

March, St. Luke's multi-talented servant, was born the eighth of thirteen children to Alice McNeal and the late Joe Willie McNeal. Born in Tuwylie, MS, Sister Tina and her family moved to Champaign, IL when she was six years old. Although her walk with Christ began at an early age at Salem Baptist Church, she became a member of St. Luke thirty years ago under the pastoralship of the late Rev. Earl Kennedy. Tina first served as an usher, but later joined the Youth Choir under the direction of Brother Willie Summerville. The youth choir and the senior choir were combined in 1989 by Rev. John Deron Johnson to form the New Life Choir.

Sister March is a graduate of Central High School. She became a licensed cosmetologist in 1970, and she is a certified cosmetology instructor. Sister March is also a certified seamstress having earned a certificate in sewing from Certified Educational Direct located in Pennsylvania. Sister March is a trained upholsterer, and has operated an upholstery business from her home.

Sister Tina is presently the Sunday School Superintendent and she serves on the Board of Christian Education, Women's Fellowship, and is a member of the New Life Choir and the Discipleship Club. She has attended many Annual Conferences, Winter Councils and Spring Convocations. Her talents as a seamstress can often be observed in the many costumes she has designed and sewn for St. Luke's praise dancers and the African attire worn by church members during Black History Month.

Sister March has been married to Minister Phillip March for nine years. She is the mother of two, Camelia and Cle Jr. She has three grandchildren: Tamesha, Juan and Tianna.

Favorite scripture: Matthew 6:33 Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven...

Favorite song: "Blessed Assurance"

April Events

- 9th-11th Spring Convocation
- 13th Kennedy Club Program
- 19th New Life Choir Musical
- 23rd Secretary's Day
- 27th Stewardess Day

Birthdays



MAY

- 2 Julie Kendrick
- 4 Tina March
- 5 Vada Lewis
- 6 Helen Creighton
- DeAndre Hill
- 20 Michelle Carr
- 29 Ron Williams
- Jeanette Wright

Three Bullets

**With God all things are possible* - Matthew 19:26*

There once was a man who had nothing for his family to eat. He had an old rifle and three bullets. So, he decided that he would go out hunting and kill some wild game for dinner. As he went down the road, he saw a rabbit. He shot at the rabbit and missed it.

The rabbit ran away. Then he saw a squirrel and fired a shot at the squirrel but missed it. The squirrel disappeared into a hole in a cottonwood tree. As he went further, he saw a large wild "Tom" turkey in the tree, but he had only one bullet remaining. A voice spoke to him and said, *"Pray first, aim high, and stay focused."* However, at the same time, he saw a deer which was a better kill. He brought the gun down and aimed at the deer.

But, then he saw a rattlesnake between his legs about to bite him, so he naturally brought the gun down further to shoot the rattlesnake. Still, the voice said again to him, *"I said, 'Pray, Aim high, and Stay focused.'" So, the man decided to listen to God's voice. He prayed, then aimed the gun high up in the tree, and shot the wild turkey. The bullet bounced off the turkey and killed the deer. The handle fell off the gun, hit the snake in the head, and killed it.*

And, when the gun had gone off, it knocked him into a pond. When he stood up to look around, he had fish in all his pockets, a dead deer, and a turkey for his family to eat. The snake (Satan) was dead simply because the man listened to God.

Moral of the story: Pray first before you do anything, aim and shoot high in your goals, and stay focused on God. Never let others discourage you concerning your past. The past is exactly that, "the past." Live every day one day at a time, and remember that only God knows our future, and that He will not put you through any more than you can bear. Do not look to man for your blessings, but look to the doors that only He has prepared in advance for you in your favor. Wait, be still, and patient; keep God first, and everything else will follow.

Submitted by: Faye Weatherspoon



Bethel AME Celebrates 145th Church Anniversary

St. Luke First Lady, Sister Christine Buchanan, was the guest speaker for Bethel's remarkable 145th church anniversary. The celebration theme, "We have Come This Far By Faith," was extended to include "In A Faithful God". Sister Buchanan's message included a demonstration of emphasizing part of the scripture which speaks of the digging and dunging of a fig tree to allow it to continue to grow one more year. St. Luke members Ronald Lewis and Landon Walker helped Sister Buchanan illustrate the importance of digging and fertilizing a new church to allow growth while

also maintaining faith in a faithful God, and believing that His grace and mercy would bring the congregation through the tough times.

Technology Lab Dedicated in Honor of Retired School Administrator and St. Luke CME Steward Board Chairman



Patricia McKinney Lewis with present principal, Murial Bondurant.

Patricia McKinney Lewis, a retired school administrator, was the first female appointed to the Steward Board at St. Luke CME in Champaign, IL in 1977 by Rev. Earl Kennedy. She served as the Recording Steward for three pastors during the twenty-three years she held that position at St. Luke. Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan is the current pastor. Mrs. Lewis is presently the Chairman of the Steward Board and editor of the church newsletter, The Christian Griot.



Mrs. Lewis with benefactors, Kim and Peter Fox.

During Mrs. McKinney-Lewis' tenure as principal at Kenwood Elementary School in Champaign, IL, the school established common goals and implemented interventions to support students who were not mastering essential learner outcomes. The school made phenomenal gains in 2004 on the state tests which identified the school as being on track to becoming a high performing school. After three consecutive years of sustaining academic success toward closing the achievement gap, the school was recognized by the state of Illinois as a high performing Spotlight School.



(Seated) Sisters: Sandra McKinney Houston, Virginia McKinney and husband, Vernon Lewis; Standing: Patricia Lewis with St. Luke members Dora Jamerson and Gloria Dixon.

Through Mrs. McKinney-Lewis' development of a professional relationship with a local business, Kenwood Elementary School was adopted by the business, Fox Development Corporation, and has benefited from its generosity. In the spring of 2005, one of the school's courtyards was designed to create a Learning Tree Labyrinth with plants native to Illinois. The business partner gave the school \$30,000 in October of 2005 to purchase high tech equipment and tablet computers. In the spring of 2006, the business partner announced the school would receive a state of the art technology lab as a retirement gift to the school in Mrs. McKinney-Lewis' honor. The renovated lab received new Smart Boards, White Boards, an electronic screen,

a stationary LCD projector, carpeting, drapes, new cabinets replaced storage areas. An architect from Chicago was commissioned to design the renovation project. The students and staff are proud and amazed to receive such a generous gift that enabled the school to be on the cutting edge of technology.



KNOW YOUR HISTORY!

Debi Thomas, M.D. is a former figure skater.

She was the first African American to win a medal at a Winter Olympics, winning the bronze medal in ladies figure skating at the 1988 winter Olympics. She is now an orthopedic surgeon.



Thomas won the 1986 U.S. National ladies' figure skating title and the Ladies' title at the 1986 World Figure Skating Championships; those achievements earned Thomas the ABC's Wide World of Sports Athlete of the Year award that year. She represented the Crystal Springs Figure Skating club and was coached by Alex MacGowan. In 1987, Thomas

struggled at the U.S. Nationals, placing second to Jill Trenary, but rebounded at the World Championships, finishing a close second to East German skater Katarina Witt. Thomas was a pre-med student at Stanford University during this time, and she became the first and only African American to hold U.S. National and World titles in ladies' singles figure skating (Tai Babilonia was previously a U.S. and World champion in pair skating.)

In January 1988, Thomas reclaimed the U.S. National title. At the 1988 Winter Olympics held in Calgary, she and Katarina Witt engaged in a rivalry that the media dubbed the "Battle of the Carmens", as both women skated their long programs to the music of Bizet's opera *Carmen*. Thomas skated strong compulsory figures and performed well in the short program to an instrumental version of "Something in My House" by Dead or Alive but performed poorly in the long program, finishing third and winning the bronze medal behind Witt and Canadian skater Elizabeth Manley. Thomas won the bronze medal at the 1988 World Figure Skating Championships and then retired from amateur skating.

After her figure skating career, Thomas went back to school to become an orthopedic surgeon. She graduated from Stanford University in 1991 with a degree in engineering and from the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in 1997. Thomas followed this with a surgical residency at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Hospital and an orthopedic surgery residency at the Martin Luther King Jr./Charles Drew University Medical Center in South Central Los Angeles.

In June 2005, Debi graduated from the Orthopaedic Residency Program at Charles R. Drew University in Los Angeles. She spent the next year preparing for Step I of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgeons' exam and working at King-Drew Medical Center as a junior attending physician specialist. In July 2006, she began a one-year fellowship at the Dorr Arthritis Institute at Centinela Hospital in Inglewood, California, for sub-specialty training in adult reconstructive surgery. In September of 2007, Thomas joined the orthopedic staff at Carle Clinic in Urbana, Illinois.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia