



















August 29, 1981 Salem Baptist Church  
Voted unanimously to call  
Rev. Claude E. Shilly, Sr. to serve  
as pastor. Rev. Shilly came to Salem  
from Brighton, Missouri, Baptist  
Church of 40 years (Lutheran Pastor)  
Minister who he served for 15 yrs.





August 29, 1981 Let's expect  
Vote unanimously to call  
Rev. Claude E. Shelby, Sr. to serve  
as pastor. Rev. Shelby came to Selma  
from Bridgeton, Missouri, Baptist  
Church of African Church (Pastor)  
Miami who he served for 15 yrs.



4-18-09

## Area's only black-owned station celebrates 2 decades

250 well-wishers, bands mark event

By PAUL WOOD

pwood@news-gazette.com

URBANA — Champaign-Urbana took some time out Friday night to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the only black-owned radio station between Chicago and St. Louis.

On April 9, 1989, Vernon L. Barkstall, Lonnie Clark and J.W. Pirtle started a station that took its name from their initials — WBCP — 1580 AM on the dial.

"We're going to be around another 20 years," sales manager Dwayne Hubbard said Friday.

It was clear that the station has a lot of fans, from the 250 or so people at the party, to the proclamations from the mayors of Champaign and Urbana, to one after another great jazz, gospel and urban contemporary bands.

The station honored current and past staffers and heard kind words from area minis-

ters and William Kyles, representing U.S. Rep. Tim Johnson of Urbana, at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center, 1001 Killarney St., U.

Clark, a former Urbana alderman, said he hopes the station goes on forever — even if he's not at the helm.

"The station is doing well, though advertising isn't as good as it has been. We've had some interest in (buying the station) from some young professionals in the community," Clark said, declining to be specific.

He noted that cities like Springfield and Decatur still don't have what Champaign-Urbana has had for two decades.

When the three men decided the start the station, there were already radio stations aiming at an urban contemporary audience, but not so many here, and none owned by black people, Clark said.

Clark, Pirtle, a Champaign city council member, and Mr. Barkstall, the president and chief executive officer

of Urban League of Champaign, who died in 1995, had three goals, Clark said — to organize, to educate and to inform.

It didn't hurt if the music was entertaining as well.

"We wanted to be a voice for the community, and showcase the talents here," Clark said.

The station, now in offices on North Fourth Street in Champaign, started with the live talk show, "Straight Talk," which continues today.

"We still alternate turns hosting that program," Clark said of his long friendship with Pirtle, the first black person to become deputy mayor of Champaign.

Heath and  
**Vaughn**  
Funeral Home

239-1212

**Affordable**

[www.heathandvaughn.com](http://www.heathandvaughn.com)











INTERVIEW W/ 5 APRIL 2011 MILDRED RANDO (SMITH) BERNICE 3030 IN 8

Chicago and ... On April 9, 1989, Vernon ... Barkstall, Lonnie Clark and J.W. Pirtle started a station that took its name from their initials - WBCP - 1580 AM on the dial. "We're going to be around another 20 years," sales manager Hubbard said. the station; ... professionals in the community," Clark said, declining to be specific. He noted that cities like Springfield and Decatur still don't have what Cham-paign-Urbana has had for two decades. ... the three men decid- ... "We ... hooting that program," ... said of his long friendship with Pirtle, the first black per- son to become deputy mayor of Champaign.

Heath and Vaughn

# STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



RICHARD B. OGILVIE, GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS

To all to Whom these Presents shall Come: Greeting;

Know Ye That reposing special trust and confidence in the integrity, diligence and discretion

of VEOLA TINSLEY  
I, RICHARD B. OGILVIE, Governor of the State of Illinois, for and in behalf of the People of said State, do Commission <sup>HER</sup> HER

A MEMBER, COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL

To have and to hold the said office, with all the rights and emoluments thereto legally pertaining, until <sup>HER</sup> HER successor shall be duly appointed and qualified to office.

In Testimony Whereof, I hereto set my hand and cause to be affixed the Great Seal of State.

Done at the City of Springfield, this 29TH day of MARCH 1972,  
and of the State of Illinois the 154TH

BY THE GOVERNOR



*John W. Lewis*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*Richard B. Ogilvie*  
GOVERNOR