

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 Karen Walker McClure, Presiding Elder

Bishop Paul Stewart, Presiding Prelate

Volume 5, Issue 9

June 2011

Patricia McKinney

Lewis, Editor

Email:

patlvjs1123@att.net



Rev. Dr. Clarence and Mrs. Christine Buchanan

EVENTS

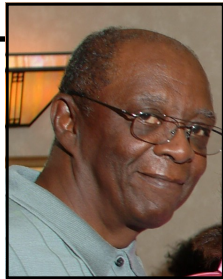
- 2 Ascension Day
- 10 Chicago District
- 12 New Life Choir
Annual Day
- 14-17 Vacation Bible
School
- 18 Food Pantry
- 19 Father's Day
- 25-July 2 Women's
Missionary Council

June

BIRTHDAYS

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

Who's Who At St. Luke: Brother Nate Dixon, A Father Grounded in Christ



Nathaniel (Nate) L. Dixon was born on January 19, 1939 in Sturgis, Kentucky, to John W. and Bettie L. Dixon. He was the eighth of ten children born to this union: four brothers and five sisters. Nate is married to Gloria Hegman Dixon, and together they have five children (two girls and three boys) and eight grandchildren.

Nate grew up in Sturgis, KY, and attended Dunbar Elementary and High School, which was an all black school in Morganfield, KY, until his junior year in high school. In 1956, Nate and nine other black students made a decision to integrate the "all white" Sturgis High School. Everything went smoothly the first day of registration. However, over the Labor Day holiday weekend, word had gotten around that the school had been integrated. On the morning of the next school day, Nate and the other black students arrived for class and were confronted by a mob of 2,000 angry white people. The ten students were turned away, but were later transported to school by the Kentucky State Police. Governor "Happy" Chandler later called on the Kentucky National Guard because the crowd had increased in size and became even more violent. The ten students were escorted by the State Troopers and the National Guard for two weeks.

Subsequently, the Union County School Board filed a lawsuit stating the students' enrollment was illegal. This forced Nate and the other nine students to return to Dunbar High School in Morganfield, KY, to complete their school year. Consequently, the ten black students filed a "Civil Rights" lawsuit through the NAACP against the Union County School Board in December 1956 of which they won. The District Court Judge ruled that all high school grades were to be integrated beginning September 1957.

Nate graduated from Sturgis High School in 1958 and received All State honors in basketball. He received scholarship offers to play basketball at Utah State, New Mexico University, New Mexico State, Idaho State and Idaho University. He chose Utah State. Nate attended Utah State his freshman and sophomore years before taking some time off to work. After working various jobs, Nate enrolled at the University of Illinois ultimately graduating with a B.S. degree in Therapeutic Recreation.

Bro. Dixon worked for the State of Illinois Department of Mental Health as a program coordinator while attending the University of Illinois. Upon graduation, he became an activity therapist at the Adler Zone Center in Champaign. However, in 1972, Nate was offered and accepted a position at the Champaign Park District as the Director of Douglass Center. He

(Nate Dixon, Continued)

worked at the Champaign Park District in a variety of positions for 28 years; retiring on January 19, 2001 as the Director of Community Services.

Being a Methodist all of his life, Nate attends St. Luke C.M.E Church where he has been an active member since 1961 after his arrival in Champaign, IL. He teaches the adult Sunday School class; chaired the Christian Men's group; serves as a trustee and sings in the choir. As one of the original members of the transportation ministry, he enjoyed serving as a van driver transporting members to and from service. He is always willing to do what he can when called upon.

Nate has several state and local affiliations wherein he has served on the board of several organizations that include the Illinois Park and Recreation Board, Illinois Parks and Recreation Ethnic Minority Board (founding member), Urban League of Champaign County, Champaign Lion's Club (having served as president), United Way, and Project 18. With a desire to impact and improve his community, he is a member of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., and he has also served on various committees that include Drug Elimination, City of Champaign Neighborhood Action Committee, Champaign Unit 4 School District Drug Free Schools, and many others.

Favorite Scripture: Psalm 27: 1-6

Favorite Song: "Lord I Want to Be a Christian"

ST. LUKE FOOD PANTRY AWARDED A GRANT FROM EASTERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

St. Luke's Food Pantry's grant proposal was funded. A check in the amount of \$2,971.70 for a True M#T-23 Reach-in Cooler with a lock, associated installation costs, and electrical work was awarded to St. Luke's Food Pantry.

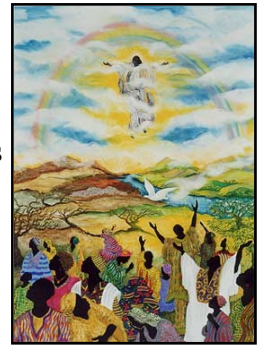
The Eastern Illinois Food Bank awarded \$58,000 in May to 15 agencies across the region so they can stock more produce, meat, dairy products and other healthy fresh food. St. Luke's Food Pantry has been in operation for one year. Its first distribution was on June 19, 2010. The food distributions are held the third Saturday of each month. Patricia McKinney Lewis is the food pantry director.

Ascension Day

Ascension Day marks the day when Jesus Christ ascended up into Heaven. It was 40 days after his resurrection from the dead, which was on Easter Sunday (in A.D. 30). If you begin with Easter Sunday (April 4, 2010) and count 40 days, you end up on Thursday, June 2, 2011.

The Biblical account of the Ascension appears in the book of Acts, chapter one: After his suffering, he (Jesus) showed himself to these men (the apostles) and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command:

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."



Significant June Holidays:

- 2 Ascension Day
- 8 1st Day of Shavuot †
- 12 Pentecost
- 14 Flag Day
- 19 Father's Day
- 21 Summer Begins



St. Luke Food Pantry
10:00 AM 12:00 PM
June 18, 2011



Happy Father's Day

Former St. Luke Pastors



Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan



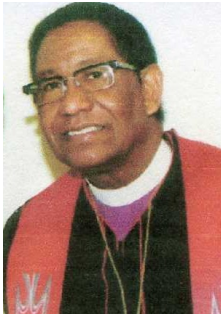
Rev. John Deron Johnson



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!



One night a father overheard his son pray: "Dear God, make me the kind of man my daddy is."

Later that night, the father prayed: "Dear God, make me the kind of man my son wants me to be."

Author Unknown

Happy Father's Day to St. Luke Fathers



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW BLACK HISTORY?

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY

Excerpt from:

Against Great Odds: The History of Alcorn State (1994) by **Dr. Josephine M. Posey**



Alcorn is the oldest public historically black land-grant institution in the United States and the second oldest state supported institution of higher learning in Mississippi. When it was founded in 1871, the institution's three major study components were the four year college track, the two year track, and the three year graded track. The students spent the mornings from seven o'clock until noon in classes. In the afternoon, they worked in the various shops for eight cents per hour. Room and board, including laundry, equated to five dollars a month.

Alcorn State University was founded as the result of the people of Mississippi's efforts to educate the descendants of formerly enslaved Africans. It was named in honor of the sitting governor of Mississippi, James L. Alcorn. The site was originally occupied by Oakland College, a school established by Presbyterians in 1828. The state of Mississippi purchased the Oakland College campus for \$40,000 and named it Alcorn University with the first president being Hiram R. Revels. Revels resigned his seat as a United States senator to assume the post. The state legislature provided \$50,000 in cash for ten successive years for establishment and overall operation of the college. Additionally, proceeds from the sale of 30 acres of land for \$188,928 yielded three-fifths of the proceeds for Alcorn, totaling \$113,400. These proceeds were used only for the agricultural and mechanical components of the college.

FORMER CHAMPAIGN-URBANA RESIDENT INAUGURATED 18TH PRESIDENT OF ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY



In a ceremony full of Alcorn tradition, **Dr. M. Christopher Brown II** was inaugurated as the 18th president of Alcorn State University. Delegates from more than 60 universities around the country, academic associations and elected officials joined the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, Alcorn faculty, staff, students and alumni on campus to celebrate Dr. Brown's formal installation as president.

Dr. M. Christopher Brown II is the former executive vice president and provost at the historic Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he held the rank of university professor. Prior to this appointment, he served as dean of the College of Education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; vice president for programs and administration at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education; director of social justice and professional development for the American Educational Research Association (AERA); as well as executive director and chief research scientist of the Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute of the United Negro College Fund. Dr. Brown has held faculty appointments at Penn State, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, Presiding Prelate for the 13th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, was the featured speaker at the Inaugural Worship Service on Sunday, April 17, 2011. Bishop McKenzie was introduced by Champaign resident, Carmelita Thomas. Mrs. Thomas is a member of Mount Olive Baptist Church, and has often served as a musician at St. Luke CME Church.



KNOW YOUR HISTORY

MAY 2011 MARKS 50TH ANNIVERSARY FOR FREEDOM RIDERS



Rev.
Ben
Cox

The Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth (center) and Freedom Riders discuss plans at Birmingham, Ala., Greyhound Terminal, May 15, 1961, after drivers refused to carry them any farther. Later, the riders caught a plane out of Birmingham to New Orleans. Surrounding Shuttlesworth, clockwise from left: Ed Blankenheim, kneeling, Charles Person, Ike Reynolds, James Peck, **Rev. Benjamin Cox**, and two unidentified Freedom Riders. (AP Photo/The Birmingham News)

Editor's note: Rev. Benjamin Cox, a former resident of Champaign, IL, now resides in Jackson, TN. He formerly taught Social Studies at Jefferson Middle School in Champaign and at Urbana Middle School. He is a former pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Danville, IL. His children still reside in the Champaign-Urbana community.

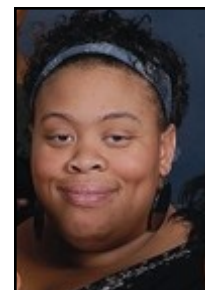
Inspired by the 1947 Journey of Reconciliation, fifty years ago this May, a group of young men and women boarded commercial buses in Washington, D.C., and headed for the "Deep South". The 13 members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) led by James Farmer, planned a deliberate, but nonviolent challenge to the Jim Crow laws in the Southern states. From May until November in 1961, hundreds of Americans, black and white, risked their lives. Some were brutally beaten.

The Freedom Rides began on May 4, 1961 in Washington, D.C.; their route would take the buses through Virginia and the Carolinas, into Georgia and Alabama, and end in New Orleans, Louisiana, on the anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the landmark Supreme Court ruling that reversed the legal basis for school segregation. They made it to Atlanta with only minor incidents. In Atlanta, the riders split into two groups for the next leg of the trip to Birmingham. That was as far as either bus got. One was met by an angry mob of some two hundred people in Anniston, Alabama, who stoned the riders and slashed the bus's tires. The bus escaped, but had to stop outside of town to have a flat tire fixed. When it did, the mob caught up with it again, and someone threw a firebomb inside. The riders barely managed to escape before the bus burst into flames.

Congratulations Graduates!



Erika Williams
Eastern Illinois
University.



LaShaundra Lockett
Ashford University,
Iowa



Byron Smith II
Tuskegee University



Shanice Brown
Central High
School.



Xavier Jarumi
Centennial High
School



Amber Parrish
Central High
School



Myisha Howard
Urbana High
School

Vacation Bible School
June 14-17, 2011