

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 A. G. Stewart, Presiding Prelate



Rev. Dr. Clarence and Mrs. Christine Buchanan

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



Who's Who in the C.M.E. Church: Bishop James B. Walker

OCTOBER EVENTS

- 8 Quarterly Conference
- 9 Lay Day
- 15 Food Pantry
- 23 Harvest Tea
- 29 Hallelujah Night

Birthdays

October

- 1 James Brown
- 4 Teresa S. Williams
Gail Thorpe
Edward Hicks
Tyanne Parker
- 6 Mia Sibley
- 8 Logan Parks
- 9 Gabby Linard
- 9 Dayesha James
- 10 Ronald Lewis
- 11 Scott Nesbitt
- 14 Vernon Harrington
- 15 Tatiyana Peppers
- 16 Camiyah Kinard
- 20 Mikya Robinson
- 21 Sydni Williams
- 22 Ashlee Saddler
- 23 Shawn Lewis
- 25 Raymond Hill
- 26 Josie Harmon
- 28 Tyrone Parker
- 30 Carleigh Parks
- 30 Elijah Johnson



Bishop James B. Walker is a native of Boley, Oklahoma. He is married to Delois Woody-Walker and they have two daughters and one grandson. Bishop Walker is the presiding-prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E.) Church. The Ninth Episcopal District encompasses congregations in the following states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Oklahoma, Oregon, Nevada, New Mexico and the state of Washington.

Bishop Walker was elected the 56th bishop of the C.M.E. Church at its thirty-seventh General Conference, held in Mobile, Alabama. He was the first of five new bishops elected including the denomination's first female bishop as well as its first indigenous bishop for Africa.

As former pastor of Phillips Metropolitan CME Church in Hartford, Connecticut for 27 years, he brings extensive pastoral experience. Bishop Walker is a graduate of Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma and he received the Master's of Divinity degree at Phillips School of Theology of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. He is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.



The College of Bishops—Front row, l-r: Bishops Wallace E. Lockett (deceased), Kenneth W. Carter, Henry M. Williamson, Sr., Paul A.G. Stewart, Sr., Senior Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt, Jr., Lawrence L. Reddick, III, Thomas L. Brown, Sr., James. B. Walker, Sylvester Williams. Back row, l-r: Bishops Teresa Snorton, Othal H. Lakey, William H. Graves, Dotcy I. Isom, Nathaniel Linsey (deceased), Marshall Gilmore, E. Lynn Brown, Ronald M. Cunningham, and Godwin T. Umoette.

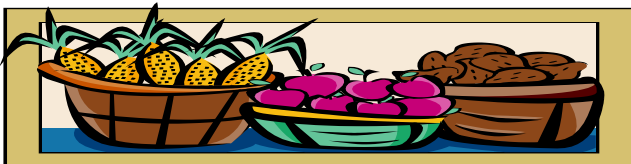


Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit

O Holy Spirit, Divine Spirit of light and love, I consecrate to Thee my understanding, heart, and will, my whole being for time and eternity. May my understanding be always submissive to Thy heavenly inspirations, and to the teaching of Thy Church, of which Thou are the infallible guide. May my heart be ever inflamed with love of God and of my neighbor; may my will be ever conformed to the divine will; and may my whole life be a faithful imitation of the life and virtues of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom with the Father and Thee be honour and glory forever. Amen.

Seven Steps to a Spiritual Breakthrough

1. **Confession:** Confess who God is.
2. **Supplication:** Confess your needs to God.
3. **Adoration:** Give God the glory.
4. **Communion:** Seek a relationship with God.
5. **Intersession:** Let the Holy Spirit take over, and pray for others.
6. **Praise:** Praise him from your heart.
7. **Thanksgiving:** Live with faith and thanksgiving; give thanks for God's mercy.



St. Luke Harvest Tea
October 23, 2011
3:30 PM

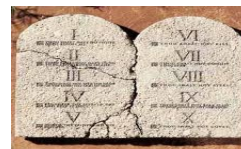
Who will be crowned
the King or Queen
of the Harvest Tea?

Layman's 10 Commandments

Someone has written these beautiful words. Must read and try to understand the deep meaning of it.

- 1] Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.
- 2] Why is a car's WINDSHIELD so large and the rear view mirror is so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, look ahead and move on.
- 3] Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
- 4] All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.
- 5] Old friends are Gold! New friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a base of Gold!
- 6] Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"
- 7] When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.
- 8] A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"
- 9] When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
- 10] WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.

Submitted by Clarissa Abernathy.



St. Luke Food Pantry
October 15, 2011
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



Latisha Harris represented St. Luke CME Church in the Annual King/Queen Pageant during the Leadership Training School in Saint Louis, MO. The annual event is held to raise money for scholarships to present to students attending college in the Third Episcopal District. She was escorted by Kendall Adams.

At St. Luke, Latisha attends Sunday School and is active in the Young Adult Fellowship and Voices of Praise Choir. She aspires to be a journalist, and she is a student at Parkland College. She has been a contributor to the official publication of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, *The Christian Index*.

Kendall Adams is a senior at Centennial High School in Champaign. At St. Luke, he is active on the Usher Board and the Voices of Praise Choir.

FAITH

“When all around is deadened gray,
 help me, God, keep on believing.
 When dulled my soul, though the song birds sing,
 help me, God, keep on believing.
 When even I dare doubt your grace,
 help me, God, keep on believing.
 When dreams collapse and bright hopes die,
 help me, God, keep on believing.”

By Edwina Gateley

Holy Humor

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

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"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

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A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note: "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

Welcome Back



Sis. Suzanne Jordan has returned to the Champaign-Urbana community and to St. Luke CME Church.



KNOW YOUR HISTORY!

Alexandria, Virginia's African American History



Editor's Note: *During a recent visit to the Washington D.C. area, I explored snippets of the history of Alexandria, VA. Nestled in Old Town Alexandria, I found the Alexandria Black History Museum.*

While visiting the museum, I learned the history of free African Americans co-existing with the booming slave trade in Alexandria during the 1800's. PML



A statue was erected in 2010 as a memorial to the Edmondson sisters and others who passed through the Bruin Slave Jail.

In 1790, when the first federal census was taken, 52 free blacks were recorded as living in Alexandria, VA. This free blacks population increased dramatically to 836 by 1820 and continued to expand until 1846 when Alexandria was returned to the Commonwealth of Virginia from the District of Columbia. The black population began increasing again after 1860 and reached 5,300 by 1870. Prior to the Civil War, Alexandria was also home to one of the largest slave-trading operations in the country. In the 20th century, American's first Sit-Down Strike took place at the Alexandria Library, ushering in the very early days of the Civil Rights movement.

The Bruin Slave Jail

The Bruin Slave Jail, at 1707 Duke Street, is on the National Register of Historic Places, and featured on the National Park Service website "Aboard the Underground Railroad." The building is not open to the public.

Joseph Bruin, a slave dealer in Alexandria, Virginia, used this brick Federal-style dwelling as his holding facility, or "slave jail" for slaves awaiting sale to individuals and other dealers. Bruin purchased the large house in 1844. Bruin had been a slave dealer in the Alexandria area since 1840, and with the purchase of the Duke Street house and its adjacent two acres (used as an exercise area), he had sufficient space in which to conduct his trade. In December 1845, he and partner, Henry Hill, advertised in the Alexandria Gazette: "NEGROES WANTED: All persons having Negroes to sell will find ready sale and liberal prices for them by calling at the new establishment of BRUIN & HILL."

Harriet Beecher Stowe, in *The Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1854), described how she employed her knowledge of Bruin's slave jail as background for her explosive 1852 novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Harriet Beecher Stowe's critics accused her of creating false images of the South. In this book, *The Key*, Stowe provided the real-life stories she used to create her novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

In *The Key*, Stowe also described the escape of a number of slaves from Washington, DC, on April 15, 1848, in the ship, Pearl. They were later captured and returned for eventual sale in New Orleans. Bruin & Hill purchased a slave family known as the Edmondsons, and brought them to the slave jail. According to Stowe, Bruin's daughter begged that Mary and Emily Edmondson be excluded from the group that was eventually sent to New Orleans for sale there. Their father, Paul Edmondson, a former slave who had been set free by his owner's will, traveled north to try and raise funds for the purchase of two of his daughters. He eventually met Reverend Lyman Beecher, Stowe's father, who raised the sum overnight. Bruin and his "large slave warehouse" are mentioned approximately 20 times in *The Key*. At the onset of the Civil War, Bruin fled Alexandria, but was captured and then confined in the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, DC, until the end of the war. In his absence, his slave jail was used as the Fairfax County courthouse until July of 1865.



1st Annual Usher Olympics September 11, 2011

The Procession



Lighting the Olympic Torch



The Competition



The Winner!



Benita Rollins Gay
Bethel A.M.E. Church Usher Board

From the Desk of Patricia M. Lewis, Editor

Technology and the Essential Church



St. Luke Christian Methodist Episcopal Church has been identified as a Community Anchor Institution with the UC2B project. As a representative of St. Luke, I have attended several meetings of eBlackCU. eBlackCU is a Collaborative Portal on African American Experiences in Champaign-Urbana that is funded by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and administered by the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, UIUC. eBlackCU is working to make sure the African American institutions in Champaign-Urbana are knowledgeable of the resources available and the benefits of connecting with the UC2B project.

On August 4, 2011, Rev. Buchanan, Noah Lenstra (from eBlackCU), Martin Wolske (UIUC), Noah Brown and I (Patricia McKinney Lewis) met to discuss the technology needs at St. Luke CME. At that meeting, it was decided that we would establish a Technology Committee at the church to work with University of Illinois college interns who will help us implement a technology plan. The first task of St. Luke's Technology Committee will be to assess the technology needs by determining how technology could be used within each church ministry. From there, the committee would create a technology plan citing how the church would implement levels of technology.

On September 12, 2011, the Church Conference approved the establishment of a Technology Committee. The Technology Committee members are: Noah Brown, Evelyn Walton, Jo Samuel, Brenda Foster, Nina Richardson, Min. Dion Broughton and Patricia M. Lewis, Coordinator.

On September 15, 2011, I represented St. Luke as part of eBlackCU at the UC2B Open House at Siebel Computing Center located on the campus of the University of Illinois. In future newsletters and in church announcements, I will share with St. Luke the status of the Technology Committee and other important information regarding UC2B in the Champaign-Urbana community.

UC2B GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

(Reprinted from UC-IMC)

The UC2B ground breaking took place on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 in Douglass Park, the location chosen to symbolize the low-income neighborhoods the federally-funded broadband project is supposed to impact the greatest. The initiative is aimed at bridging the "digital divide" by installing high-speed internet in communities across the United States.

Funded by the federal stimulus package, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the broadband project in Urbana-Champaign (nicknamed UC2B) is expected to serve as a national model. As Urbana City Council member Brandon Bowersox told the crowd assembled in the park, UC2B was to serve 250 community institutions and 2,500 homes. The local project, said Bowersox, was a "public-public-public-private partnership." It involves Champaign, Urbana, the University of Illinois, and private contractors. Champaign Mayor Don Gerard compared the broadband project to Edison's light bulb.

The broadband project was established to service communities lacking access to the internet. The network laid down will service city buildings, schools, libraries, churches, and community centers.