

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 6, Issue 7

April 2012

Patricia McKinney Lewis,
Editor Email:
patlvjss1123@att.net



Rev. Dr. Clarence and Mrs. Christine Buchanan



April EVENTS

- 1 Palm Sunday Tea
- 8 Easter Sunrise Service
- 8 Easter Program
- 15 Annual Stewardess Day
- 19-20 Spring Convocation
- 28 Young Adult Car Wash

April

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Cyrus O. Williams
- 2 Ether Huffman
- 3 Zachary Wood
- 4 Karen Stevens
- 5 Dorothy Chapple
Imogene Smith
- 8 Dominique Brown
- 9 Cedric Richardson
- 10 Cyrus L. Williams
- 11 Jean Nesbitt
- 12 Larry Williams
- 16 Willene Howard
- 18 Ave Alvarado
- 19 Micheal Wright
- 21 Carmen Wood
- 23 Princess Miller
- 26 Latisha Harris
- 28 Joseph Sibley

Who's Who at St. Luke CME: Sister Tressa Easley

"St. Luke has always been known as a friendly church. I love my church."

Sister Tressa Easley



Sister Tressa G. Easley has lived in the Champaign-Urbana area all of her life. She attended Willard and Lawhead Grade Schools and graduated from Champaign Jr. and Sr. High Schools.

Tressa G. Easley is presently active with the Missionary Society, but as a lifelong St. Luke member, she is a former member of the Kennedy Club and the Progressive Club. Growing up in Champaign has afforded her to see many changes over the years. When wanting to know anything about St. Luke C.M.E. Church, she has always been one of the people to go as a source of information. During one recent conversation with her, she recalled the fun she had during her childhood and teenage years. Some of her fondest memories were when the church went on hayrides and church picnics that were held with other churches (Baptists) in the community such as Mt. Olive, Freewill and Pilgrim. She stated that in those days the churches also exchanged pulpits.

When Sister Tressa was growing up in St. Luke, she participated in the Epworth League. What is known today in the Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church as the Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF) was called the "Epworth League". In researching the Epworth League, I found that according to *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*, the Epworth League is a Methodist young adult association for individuals ages 18-35. It traces back to the founding of the organization by the United Methodist Church's predecessor denomination, the Methodist Episcopal Church, formed in 1889 at Cleveland, Ohio, by the combination of five young people's organizations then existing. At its conception, the purpose of the league was the promotion of intelligent and vital piety among the young people of the Church. This organization still exists in the United Methodist Church..

Sister Tressa reminisced that the Epworth League met every Sunday at 6:00 PM at the church. The activities primarily included reading Bible stories (Usually the stories were read to them.) and performing skits. The leaders were Mrs. Clara Jackson Mrs. Odelia Wesley.

She shared that St. Luke has always been considered a friendly church. Sis. Tressa and her husband for over 60 years, Syral (deceased), were married at St. Luke by Rev. Crowder. They raised their children in St. Luke. She said the church service was always good, but the third Sunday was when the Youth Choir sang. On that Sunday, there would be standing room only. The formation of the Youth Choir, under the direction of Willie T. Summerville, attracted youth from all over the twin cities. (Continued on page 2)

THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God stuck U in the name of His Son..
And each time U pray, you'll see it's true,
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.
You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.
And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.
Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?
The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
And this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.
When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to
mention.
"Go into the world and tell them it's true
That I love them all - Just like I love U."
So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?
It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know,
But it all starts with U.

(Sister Tressa Easley Continued from page 1)

There were over 50 youth and young adults in the choir including her own children: Kathy, Sheila (for a short while before she married and moved to Ohio) and Wayne (deceased), who was one of the musicians. The Youth Choir travelled all over the United States performing. During that time the choir recorded two albums.

Since the Methodist Church has an itinerant pastorate (assigned each year), over the years, Sister Tressa Easley has seen many pastors assigned to St. Luke. Each minister possessed a special quality or gift. She expressed that she loves her church and although every church has its challenges from time to time, she has never believed in "church hopping". She has remained committed to St. Luke all her life. "Mother Tressa", as I sometimes call her, can always be seen with her warm smile, encouraging others and spreading joy. She is a role model and an inspiration to the young women of the church.

Sister Easley spends her spare time working crossword puzzles and visiting with her 5 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Favorite Scripture: Psalm 23

Favorite Songs: Any of the Old Spirituals

A Celebration Of Jesus' Resurrection

By Pastor Linda Begley

**It was love that nailed you to the cross that day
It was the love of the Father that pathed the way
It was obedience and love that you done the Father's will
It was the power of resurrection that today you live still
It was you Sweet Jesus that paid the final cost
That whosoever will could have eternal life to not be lost
It is you that offers salvation to impart
It is you that wants to fellowship and live within our heart
It is you that sits at the right hand of the Father now
Watching over a sin sick world of many refusing to bow
Yet you with all your sovereignty knows the beginning to the end
Knowing someday every knee will bow
To You...the Lord of lords and King of kings
For you are the Alpha and The Omega the beginning and end
The redeemer of the world that washes away our sins
The one that sticks closer to us than any brother
With agape love that can be felt like no other
So as we are here to celebrate the day of your resurrection
I just want to send up praises for God's perfect gift of salvation
I love you my Savior with every fiber of my being
As I look forward to the day of your face I will be seeing
I know it won't be long for I can see the signs
As I anxiously await for my Savior Lord divine
Appearing in the clouds to rapture up your church
Glory, honor and praise I give to you for this rebirth
Glory Hallelujah, Christ arose that day
The precious lamb of God that takes our sins away
Glory Hallelujah, He lives forever more
And he is my Redeemer in whom I trust and adore.**

What's Cooking With Min. Noah Brown?

With the arrival of spring, Min. Noah Brown is sharing his mouth watering Chicken Eggroll recipe.



Egg roll is a term used for many different foods around the world. In the United States it most commonly refers to a variety of spring roll. In mainland China, many Chinese-speaking regions of Asia, and Chinese immigrant communities around the world, an egg roll, also known as a love letter, predominantly refers to the egg-based, flute-shaped pastry, with typically yellowish, flaky crust often eaten as a sweet snack or dessert commonly eaten by Asians.

Min. Noah's Famous Chicken Eggrolls

- 1 bag dry coleslaw cabbage mix with carrots
- 1 large yellow onion chopped
- 1 whole chicken baked
- Season salt
- Pepper
- Onion powder/ garlic powder
- Butter or margarine

1. Sauté coleslaw mix in one stick of butter until softened. Add chopped onion, season to taste with season salt, pepper, and garlic powder. Pout into a bowl and set aside.
2. After baking the whole chicken, de-bone it and add to the coleslaw mix. Season with more pepper, garlic powder, and onion powder. (to liking)
3. Wrap in the egg roll wraps (1 ½ tablespoons). Follow directions on eggroll wrap package on how to wrap them.
4. Drop into heated vegetable oil and let fry until golden brown. Yields 20-25 wraps.



Optional: Shredded cheese, sautéed mushrooms or cooked chicken flavored rice may be added to the mixture.



St. Luke Food Pantry
10:00 AM 12:00 PM
April 21, 2012

ANOTHER DAY

By Marilyn Dean Cleveland

Another day has passed and today's river of life I have crossed.
 Again I have watched the world's uncertainty enslaved in misunderstanding and lies.
 Sometimes there is true calmness but the unrest fills the air.

In the midst of all this I have found new wonders of happiness to fill my heart.
 New knowledge fill my seeking mind.
 A better understanding of myself is a halo around my head.
 Filling my spiritual being with greater awareness.
 I have found strong undying love from God with each breath.

That gives me a deep concern and love for mankind.
 As I stand, a woman alone, I am never frightened for the Lord watches over me.
 Another day has passed.
 I may have seen a sky of darkness and sorrow passing by and brightened by the sun.
 The words of my lips have been strong.
 Whispering secrets of time and the lies of the unknown truths.

But I stood fast for strong I must be.
 I have tried to live one minute at a time for I want to endeavor all things.
 New conquests that life brings me each day.
 Each edge of night, each dawn, each sunset bring much greater hope.

There are new bridges built, new paths and roads to walk.
 New rivers never crossed.
 Another day I have crossed the rivers of life, a new day I see.

I must not hurry for time will not run.
 Let me make the best of each and everyday and give my best in all that is put before me.

Palm Sunday Tea
April 1, 2012
4:00 PM
Douglass Center

KNOW YOUR HISTORY

Rose Marie McCoy

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Rose Marie McCoy (born April 19, 1922, Oneida, Arkansas) was one of the most influential and prolific songwriters of the 1950s and 1960s.

McCoy moved to New York City in 1942, pursuing a singing career. Her vocal talent got her bookings at many famous venues such as Harlem's Baby Grand, Detroit's Flame Show Bar, Cincinnati's Sportsmen's Club, and Toronto's Basin Street.

In 1952, Rose Marie McCoy wrote and recorded two songs for the newly formed Rhythm & Blues label Wheeler Records, "Cheating Blues" and "Georgie Boy Blues". After publishers heard these songs they began seeking her out. One of the first songs she was asked to write was a half-spoken, half-sung song, "Gabbin' Blues" sung by Big Maybelle with the talking part provided by Rose Marie McCoy. "Gabbin' Blues" turned out to be the first big hit for Big Maybelle and also the songwriter's first hit.

McCoy went on to write other songs for Big Maybelle, as well as other popular Rhythm 'n' Blues artists including, Louis Jordan ("If I Had Any Sense I'd Go Back Home" and "House Party") and co-wrote, with Fred Mendelsohn, Nappy Brown's 1955 single "Don't Be Angry".

Around this time Rose Marie McCoy teamed up with songwriter Charles Singleton, also known as Charlie Singleton. They soon scored their first hit, "It Hurts Me to My Heart", recorded by Faye Adams. Their collaboration lasted about eight years and together they penned many hits for the top artists of the time, including Elvis Presley's "I Beg Of You", The Eagles' "Trying to Get to You" (later recorded in Presley's *Sun Sessions*), Ruth Brown's "Mambo Baby", and Nappy Brown's "Little by Little". Singleton & McCoy tunes were also recorded by Nat King Cole, Little Willie John, Eartha Kitt, Aretha Franklin, Eddy Arnold, The Five Willows, Big Joe Turner, The Du Droppers, Little Esther, The Clovers, and many other top artists of the time.

After the Singleton and McCoy team broke up, Rose Marie McCoy continued to write songs on her own and in collaboration with other writers. Her most successful song of the 1960s was "I Think It's Gonna Work Out Fine," which became Ike and Tina Turner's first top 20 pop single and their first Grammy nomination. Though she is most often associated with songs recorded by legendary Rhythm & Blues artists of the 1950s and 60s, Rose Marie McCoy has written many jazz, pop, rock 'n' roll, country, and gospel songs. Legendary jazz vocalist Jimmy Scott has recorded nine Rose Marie McCoy tunes. Sarah Vaughan has recorded six of her songs, five of them found on the singer's 1974 album *Send in the Clowns*.

Many other artists have recorded some of the over 800 songs she has had published, including but not limited to: Pearl Bailey, Maxine Brown, Shirley Caesar, Les Paul & Mary Ford, Patti Page, Debbie Reynolds, Lenny Welsh, Dinah Washington, Barbara Lewis, Del Shannon, Joe Medlin, Freddie Scott, Billy & Lillie, Tommy Sands, Marie Cole, Shirley and Lee, Sammy Turner, Solomon Burke, Toni Arden, The Crew-Cuts, Ellerine Harding, Annie Laurie, Al Hibbler, Vera Longus, Jimmy Rushing, Eartha Kitt, Otis Williams, Bette Midler, Billy Eckstine, Ella Mae Morse, Chuck Jackson, Eddy Arnold, Dizzy Gillespie, Brook Benton, Buddy Ace, Varetta Dillard, Ivory Joe Hunter, Big Dee Irwin, Jane Froman, Shirley Ellis, Jimmy Rushing, Peggy Lee, Jean Wells, Jo Stafford, Georgia Gibbs, Joe Erskine, Bobby Vee, Wilbert Harrison, Linda Hopkins, The Plat-ters, The Four Preps, Dakota Staton, The Harptones, Moms Mabley, Etta James, Gloria Lynne, Faith Hill, Linda Ronstadt and James Taylor.



Rose Marie McCoy is Irene Lee's sister-in-law and Jo Samuel's cousin. Rose and her husband James did not have any children, however, she is called Aunt Re by a generation of family members. After living more than 50 years in Teaneck, NJ, Aunt Re has recently made her home in Campaign with her niece, Helen Brown.

History of Gospel Music Program February 18, 2012



E.P. Murchison Club's Black History Program February 26, 2012

