



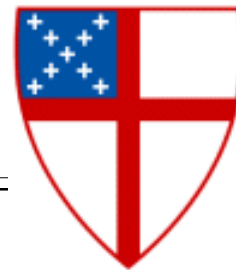
2009 Fall Issue

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ST LUKE'S TIMES

My Window to the Black Episcopal Church



Due to my father, Rev. James C. Jackson being a priest, I have many memories of the Episcopal Church. He was either the Priest-in-Charge or the vicar of churches in different towns or cities. He was in charge of churches in Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas; Little Rock, Pine Bluff, and Hot Springs, Arkansas; Denmark and Orangeburg, SC. Do you know what was so funny? Each of his main churches in each state was called **St. Philip's**. My parents and I used to laugh about that.

However, when I reflect on my overall memories of the church, I am impressed with the activism of these little congregations. Each church – no matter how small – was encouraging its members to be active in having children to participate in church activities from vacation bible schools, Easter egg hunts, Christmas pageants, girl scouts, boys scouts, choirs, and sports to Sunday Schools – of course; reaching out to members and others in need; and being part of the whole church community - no matter what the religion.

I remember the women of St. Philip's (Dallas) preparing the church for midnight Christmas service and the men preparing the food for Mexican Night as a fundraiser. I remember going to Okolona, Mississippi for a week with many other Black families, who were there to share the insight and the fun of being a Christian. As many of you did in your teenage years, I had the experiences of Religious Emphasis Week at Voorhees High School and Junior College. I was lucky that I attended an Episcopal high school that was willing to introduce students to the world of academics in conjunction with religion.

I remember the first time that I heard about apartheid. When I was only 8 or 9 years old in the late fifties, the Baptist church on the opposite corner from St. Philip's (Little Rock) had invited the community to discuss issues affecting Africans and African Americans. I still remember sitting in that hall and looking at the movie. Even though I do not remember the name, that movie gave me a glimpse of an African world. Later, in my adult life, I saw people treating apartheid as a new thing. I knew that it had been around a long, long time and this evil had been allowed to exist in Africa.

Although my perspective is from a child's point of view, I remember the civil rights movement in Little Rock and my father's participation. In the beginning of the integration of Little Rock Central High School, it was not safe for the students to ride the bus. My father and other volunteers would rotate driving the students to and from school. First, He would take and drop me off at school; and then pick up one of the Central High students and take him/her to school. I can still feel the tension and apprehension of the times.

For several years (even though no children were allowed), I went with my parents to St. Augustine College where there was a week of workshops for our priests and laypersons. Basically, I would sit and read or talk to the secretaries, who did not mind keeping an eye on me while my parents were in the workshops. Out of that setting, I saw the activism of priests and laity along with others in the civil rights movement. I remember watching members of this group marching to downtown Raleigh in their efforts to support the desegregation of stores and eating facilities. Out of this and other gatherings of Black Episcopalians, I saw a movement of church civil rights through the establishment of the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity (ESCRU, 1957); the Union of Black Clergy and Laity (UBCL, 1968), and later, the United Black Episcopalians (UBE).

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Whenever there are visitors or new faces at our worship please take the time to welcome them warmly before the liturgy, during the exchanging of the peace or after church. It only takes a brief moment –

Hello, welcome!" "How are you? So glad to see you- please come again!"

If during worship you notice that she or he is having a problem finding a hymn or the right page in the Book of Common Prayer offer yours – you both will be the richer for it! Often it is these small gestures that will go a long ways to make the person feel like returning. Let's let St. Luke's be known as the warmest welcome in Upper South Carolina.

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares
Hebrews 13:2

What are the 2009 graduates doing now?



The graduates' of 2009 at St. Luke continue to fulfill their dreams and goals.

Erika Johnson completed the Master's of Arts program at American University and received her degree in Public Communications. She is looking for full time employment, however is currently working part time for Temple Law Offices in Washington, DC. She is also studying for the LSAT exam to be taken this fall. Her ultimate goal is to practice entertainment law.

Stephanie Janae' Riley will attend the Pharmacy program at the University of South Carolina.

Jai Marshall is enrolled in a graduate program at the Arts Academy of the University of San Francisco.

Michael Bradley Turner is a Computer Scientist in the Command & Control Department of the Space and Naval Systems Center Atlantic, duty station Charleston, SC.

La'Tonia Holloway is employed at the Joe Nathan Chaplin's Law

Firm. La'Tonia plans to continue her education pursuit in the future.

Teara McClain will attend Midlands Technical College.

Terri McClain will attend Midlands Technical College.

Skye D Robinson-Dunbar will attend Winthrop University.

We ask the members of St. Luke and friends to remember each graduate through prayer.

2009 COFFEE HOUR

SEPTEMBER

- 6th Mr. & Mrs. Ladson Hayes
- 13th Perry Palmer
- 20th Corliss Wise, Venetia Hammonds, & Francis Goodwin
- 27th United Thank Offering

OCTOBER

- 4th Gael & Mary Ann Rabb
- 11th Available
- 18th Available
- 25th Saint David's Usher's Guild

NOVEMBER

- 1st Denell Hickman
- 8th Mary Martha Guild
- 15th Church Annual Meeting
- 22nd Dorothy Shiver
- 29th Men's Club -1st Sunday in Advent

DECEMBER

- 6th Tannie B. Smith
- 13th Available
- 20th Gwen Meadows & Gerald Martin
- 27th Available

Dates are available. Please sign the fellowship calendar.

MEMORIES...

My most memorable time at St. Luke's Episcopal Church was celebrating my 85th years' young birthday party given by my daughter, and son-in-law, Corliss & Rudolph on March 29th 2009, during fellowship. I felt so special when my son, Curtis, grandson, Rudy, Jr. niece, Sandy, and my sisters and brothers from my hometown of Jenkinsville, and other dear friends came to celebrate with me. The food and fellowship was great because I got a chance to talk and laugh with all of my other church family on that day. Also, when Father Griffin said, "Mrs. March, thank you for sharing your birthday fellowship with us at St. Luke's," I really thought that was pretty special. I love St. Luke's and that was one of my most memorable times I have had at church!

Love, Larsen March

Good Times: DO you remember? Well, I do, it was one of my most memorable times at St. Luke's ...

On June 6th, of 1999, St. Luke's had one of its largest graduating classes (12) on Youth Day, honoring our high school, college, and Master's degree graduates. Dr. Fulton Porter, III, gave our youth a commencement address with all pomp and circumstance. He was dressed in his doctoral (cap & gown) regalia, of Northwestern University of Chicago, and delivered a profound speech of knowledge and truth of the 'TRINITY'. However, it was not his regalia, which stood out the most, it was his speech that he imparted to the graduating class of 1999, when he began his speech quoting Benjamin Mayes; and I quote:

"It must be borne in mind that the tragedy of life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach. It isn't a calamity to die with a dream unfulfilled, but it is a calamity not to dream. It is not a disaster to be unable to capture your ideal, but it is a disaster to have no ideal to capture. It is not a disgrace not to reach the stars, but it is a disaster to have no stars to reach for not failure, but low aim is sin."

That left an indelible mark on those graduates, because they (graduates) have accomplished and are continuing to pursue more goals (2009) today, and knowing that all those accomplishments have come from a higher power, known as the Triune God! That June, of 1999, was one of my most memorable times at St. Luke's.

..... Corliss Wise

Our Prayers are asked:

For Healing: Ed Bynum, Dorothy Hayes, Emerson Hazzard, Helen Jefferson, Lorraine Marshall, Mildred Murray, Major Roberts, Fred Thompson, Talmadge Moore, Ed Bingham, Jackie Coles, Adell Adams, John Rumph, and Eddy Brown

For Our Young People Away From Home: Ebony Saxon, Ann Bingham Johnson, Patrick and Rebecca Cokley, Natalie Moore Fulton, Rudy Wise, Jr., Erika Johnson, Victoria Julian, Michael Turner, Justin Battiste, Russell Griffin, Cedric Johnson, Ashley Scott, Skye Robinson-Dunbar, and Jai Marshall

For Our Loved Ones in Nursing Homes: Vivian Hampton, Elizabeth Middleton, Charlotte Osbia, and Fannie Mitchell

For Members of the Armed Forces: Chad Williams and Peter Utley

For Our Loved Ones at Home: Eddy Brown, Bernice Johnson, Ella Lenoir, and Abram Coles

For the Ministry: With many stars in their heavenly crowns this is our prayer for the parish of St. Luke's.



MISSION STATEMENT: "The mission of St. Luke's Episcopal Church is to spread the Word and share the love of God with all people."



Church Calendar of Events September- October 2009

September

- 02 Wednesday Eucharist & Bible Study, 10 am
- 10 Quilters/Crafters, 11:00 am-3:00 pm
- 17 Vestry Meeting, 6:00 pm
- 19 Parish Fellowship Movie, 11:00 am
- 24 Crafters/Quilters, 11:00 am-3:00 pm
- 26 Feeding Ministry, 11:00 am

October

- 02 Men's Fish Fry, 11:00 am-5:30 pm
- 07 Wednesday Eucharist & Bible Study, 10 am
- 09 Quilters/Crafters, 11:00 am-3:00 pm
- 15 Vestry Meeting, 6:00 pm
- 16, 17 Diocesan Convention
- 16 Celebration of Bishop's Retirement, 7 pm
- 17 Parish Fellowship Bingo, 11:00 am
- 18 St. Luke The Evangelist
- 23 Quilters/Crafters, 11:00-3:00 pm
- 24 Feeding Ministry, 11:00 am

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MY WINDOW

From those memories I realize that the membership in the southern Black Episcopal Church has always been small but viable when compared to the Episcopal Church as a whole; but, it has had a significant impact.

Although established in 1871, our church has been in the Waverly community since 1958. St. Luke's has always been an activist in helping its members and the surrounding community. I remember Father O'Neal. Through my father I heard of his activism in the community and in the realm of politics. Many persons like me would ask him for assistance in finding a job or to write a letter of reference.

This church has had and still has programs for the youth such as Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, EYC, the Acolytes, and league basketball; for adult members – the Vestry, the Men's Club, Mary Martha Altar Guild, ECW, Adult Sunday School, the monthly Wednesday Eucharist and Bible Study, the Quilters/Crafters, and other clubs; for the community - the HIV/Aids Program and the Feeding Ministry as well as our participation in the Waverly Community and NAACP. We have been a major part of the history of Columbia, Cayce, and West Columbia. Through our activism, I see us continuing to do good works as our Father calls and directs us.

Always Love and Faith,

Pat Cokley

P. S. Checkout this website: http://www.episcopalchurch.org/documents/eLife_insert_030908_eng_lettersize.pdf and see a window (picture) of history.

Our **Diocesan Convention will be Oct. 16-17** with the celebration of our bishop's retirement on Friday evening (banquet and roast). There will be a mass choir, which will include St. Luke's choir, and break-out sessions. Our rector is serving on both celebration committees (The Celebration Committee and the Celebration-Liturgy sub-committee). All communicants of the diocese are invited to join the celebration!

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