



St. Luke CME Church

809 N Fifth St.
Champaign, IL 61820
Phone/Fax 217.356.4922
saintlukecme@gmail.com
Website: slcme.webs.com

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Words of Consolation to the Family & Friends of Deacon Willie J. Summerville

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.”

Psalm 37:23

It was with stunned disbelief that Pastor Havis, the officers, and members of St. Luke learned of the untimely passing of Deacon Willie T. Summerville. It seemed impossible to even imagine the church and community without a Willie T Summerville. His larger than life presence and overflowing enthusiasm for people, music, life in general, and the God he loved and served was absolutely contagious. He brought an uplifting spirit to any gathering that he was a part of. A lack luster gathering took on a vibrancy when he breezed in and struck the first cords on the organ or piano.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Summerville's children and family for having shared him with us over the years. I am sure that there were times when it was a tight fit and we are forever grateful and the better for your selfless sharing.

Those of us who found ourselves in the presence of Mr. Summerville knew that he was an anointed man of God. His steps had been ordered by God. He had no fear of sharing his time, his talent, and his wisdom with everyone. God was the light of his life and he wanted to share his God with all of us. He dearly loved and cherished his family, he honored and respected the church and pastors. His love had no boundaries and we all got caught up in it.

It is not enough to say that Mr. Summerville was and is an icon of the Champaign-Urbana Community. Over the years, he became a thread in the fabric of the community. He has woven himself throughout the community no matter the socio-economic or religious background, a person's color, or educational achievement he encouraged and uplifted us all. What a giant of a man!

Family, cherish your memories and build on his legacy. Just as God ordered the steps of Willie Thomas Summerville he will order yours and at the end of this earthly journey you too can say in the words of the old spiritual, “every day will be howdy-howdy and never good-bye”:

“One of these mornings
Soon one morning
I'm gonna lay down my cross
Get me a crown
Soon one evening
Late in the evening
I'm going home to live on high”

Willie T. Summerville has moved on up a little higher and our souls shout Hallelujah!

Prayerfully Submitted,

Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Havis, Pastor
St. Luke C. M. E. Church
Champaign, IL

Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Havis, Pastor

Elder Karen Walker McClure, Presiding Elder

Bishop Sylvester Williams, Sr., Presiding Prelate