

The Christian Griot

St. Luke C.M.E. Church
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Elder Harlan K. Jones Presiding Elder
Bishop Paul Stewart, Presiding Prelate

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March EVENTS

13-14 Women's Weekend

19-21 Minister and Minister Spouses Retreat

28 Palm Sunday Tea



Rev. Dr. Clarence and Mrs. Christine Buchanan

Who's Who at St. Luke

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP PRESIDENT : Min. Noah I. Brown



Minister Noah Imanu Brown, Sr. is a man of many talents, but first and foremost, he loves the Lord. Minister Noah was born in Champaign. His musical talents came naturally as his father, Rev. Roland Brown, played the bass guitar in the choir before being called to the ministry. His mother, Mrs. Willa Brown, was a featured soloist in the choir. Noah and his sister, Tyra, grew up in St. Luke before their father became an itinerant minister in the CME Church and was assigned to pastor churches in other cities. The musically talented family returned to St. Luke in 1993 and blessed us with their singing and unique musical arrangements when Rev. Roland Brown was named

the pastor at St. Luke.

As a gospel recording artist, Minister Noah is the founder of the singing group, NOAH I. BROWN and COMPANY. He is also the co-director of New Life Choir. Professionally, he has been involved in a project with producer Derek Dickerson of Detroit, MI. Noah and singer Ella Worthington of Danville, IL, have completed a CD that is slated to be released in April, 2010.

Currently, Minister Noah is a stay at home dad caring for his two children, Glory Imanu and Noah, Jr. fondly called "Buster". His other passion besides singing is writing stories. He is presently working on a book. While working at home, he does a "heap" of cooking. His specialties are chicken egg rolls and his famous chocolate cookies. (He is a confirmed chocoholic.)

Besides singing, he spends his spare time writing songs, reading the bible, going to movies, and spending time with his lovely wife, Gloretha, and children. Although he loves his chocolate delights, he has vowed to incorporate a healthier lifestyle with exercising more by walking and lifting weights.

Favorite Scripture: Romans 8:28 Favorite Songs: Hymn: "All Hail the Power" and Song: "You Shall Receive A Just Reward"

March

4 Kaitlyn Shackelford

5 Tazyah Kinard

6 Wenda Townsend

7 Irene Lee

7 Stacy Walton Long

11 Pam Pirtle

18 Aryanna Dodd

18 Reyanna Dodd

19 Terrell Tinsley

21 T.J. Jackson

23 Jean Minor

Yvette Pirtle

25 Harold Jones

27 Jo Samuel



*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
(John 3:16 KJV)*

Palm Sunday: Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

Palm Sunday: Jesus Rides into Jerusalem on a Donkey

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey." (Zech. 9:9)

First known as the Pascha (Passover), the meaning of Palm Sunday can be understood by looking at the history of the Christian church. Palm Sunday originated in the Jerusalem Church, around the late fourth century. The ceremony consisted of prayers, hymns, and sermons recited by the clergy while the people moved among various holy sites throughout the city. At the last site, where Christ ascended into heaven, the clergy would read from the gospels concerning the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. In the early evening they would return to the city reciting: "Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord." The children would carry palm and olive branches as the people returned through the city to the church, where they would hold evening services.

By the fifth century, the Palm Sunday celebration had spread as far as Constantinople. Changes made in the sixth and seventh centuries resulted in two new Palm Sunday traditions - the ritual blessing of the palms, and a morning procession instead of an evening one. Adopted by the Western Church in the eighth century, the celebration received the name "Dominica in Palmis," or "Palm Sunday".

The Meaning of Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The gospels record the arrival of Jesus riding into the city on a donkey, while the crowds spread their cloaks and palm branches on the street and shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David" and "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" to honor him as their long-awaited Messiah and King.

The significance of Jesus riding a donkey and having his way paved with palm branches is a fulfillment of a prophecy spoken by the prophet Zechariah (Zechariah 9:9). In biblical times, the regional custom called for kings and nobles arriving in procession to ride on the back of a donkey. The donkey (or domesticated ass) was a symbol of peace; those who rode upon them proclaimed peaceful intentions. The laying of palm branches indicated that the king or dignitary was arriving in victory or triumph.

Palm Sunday in Modern Times

Today, Palm Sunday traditions are much the same as they have been since the tenth century. The ceremony begins with the blessing of the palms. The procession follows, then Mass is celebrated, wherein the Passion and the Benediction are sung. Afterwards, many people take the palms home and place them in houses, barns, and fields.

In some countries, palms are placed on the graves of the departed. In colder northern climates, where palm trees are not found, branches of yew, willow, and sallow trees are used. The palms blessed in the ceremony are burned at the end of the day. The ashes are then preserved for next year's Ash Wednesday celebration.

In the simplest of terms, Palm Sunday is an occasion for reflecting on the final week of Jesus' life. It is a time for Christians to prepare their hearts for the agony of His Passion and the joy of His Resurrection.

Written by: **David Katski**



MIZPAH - Benediction, Blessing & Beyond

MIZPAH goes back thousands of years, symbolizing a sanctuary and place of hopeful anticipation, a place where seemingly impossible may happen as of divine intervention or an inspiration.



MIZPAH is mentioned for the first time in the Bible (Genesis 31, around 1800 BC) as a powerful watchword, when Jacob and Laban agree at Gilead to a godsent peace. They built a memento of stone and named it like their wise covenant MIZPAH, saying: **The Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another"**. Mizpah of Gilead became the "blueprint" for more places called MIZPAH in the Scriptures.

Building MIZPAH monuments was an ancient tradition in the promised land. MIZPAH signified a striking humane, tolerant and solution orientated approach to human issues, (a thought and act more than becoming to certain corners of the globe today).

Before MIZPAH, and sadly until today too everything was about material possessions, hatred, power - the holy scriptures alone are full of it, let alone history. MIZPAH introduced the clearly defined moral qualities of GOODNESS, KINDNESS and the courage to UNDERSTANDING to a time so very tough that we can hardly imagine it now. Yet everything, any obstacle can be overcome with good will and determination. That was, is and always will be the heart of the true meaning of MIZPAH.

A Tribute to Women's History Month

Christian Sisters

Just Beautiful!!

What makes me weak? My fears.....

What makes me whole? My God.

What keeps me standing? My faith.

What makes me compassionate? My selflessness.

What makes me honest? My integrity.

What sustains my mind? My quest for knowledge.

What teaches me all lessons? My mistakes.

What lift's my head high? My pride, not arrogance.

What if I can't go on? Not an option.

What makes me victorious? My courage to climb.

What makes me competent? My confidence .

What makes me sensual? My insatiable essence.

What makes me beautiful? My everything.

What makes me a woman? My heart .

Who says I need love? I do.

What empowers me? My God & Me.

Who am I?

I AM A PROUD STRONG WOMAN!

Know Your History: Bethune Cookman University



Dr. Mary McCleod Bethune



Editor's note: *The quad of the campus is uniquely adorned with trees decorated by the fraternities and sororities represented on the campus. I was impressed with how well maintained the campus looked. Above are three of many trees decorated on the quad. PML*

Bethune-Cookman University is a small, historically black private, co-educational, and residential institution. The university meets its commitment to excellence through expanding and modifying academic programs and innovative curricular offerings by preparing students to meet the demands of the future.

Marching Band

The Marching Wildcats are a 325 member unit that includes instrumentalists, the Sophisticat Flag Corps and the 14 Karat Gold dancers. Known as "*The Pride*," the band is under the direction of a Bethune-Cookman alumnus and former Marching Wildcat, Donovan Wells.

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune was born in South Carolina to parents who had been slaves, and she had to work in fields at age 5. She took an early interest in her own education. With the help of benefactors, Bethune attended college hoping to become a missionary in Africa. When that did not materialize, she started a school for black girls in Daytona Beach. Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune founded the Bethune Educational and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls in 1904. The school underwent several stages of growth and development through the years and in 1923, it merged with the Cookman Institute of Jacksonville, Florida. and became a co-ed high school. From six students it grew and merged with an institute for black boys and eventually became the Bethune-Cookman School. A year later in 1924, it became affiliated with the Methodist Church. By 1931, the school had become a junior college. The school became a four-year college in 1941 when the Florida Board of Education approved a 4-year baccalaureate program in Liberal Arts and Teacher Education.

Youth and Young Adults "Turning the World Upside Down"



Min. Vernon Harrington



Young Adult President, Min. Noah I. Brown and Company



Shawn Tatum



Stephanie Cockrell and "One Voice"

Youth and Young Adult week was observed January 31- February 7, 2010, at St. Luke CME church in Champaign, IL, where Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan is the pastor. Min. Noah Brown, Young Adult President, and Min. Dion Broughton, Youth President, along with their committees spearheaded the events for the week. The week started with a spirit filled service infused with excitement for Jesus to "Turn the World Upside Down". Minister Vernon Harrington eloquently delivered the message, "Jesus is Calling You to Help Turn the World Upside Down" on January 31, 2010.



Youth President, Min. Dion Broughton, delivering his message.

On Friday, February 5, 2010, Minister Dion Broughton delivered a soul stirring message, "Rolling with Jesus", which warmed the hearts and rocked everyone within hearing his voice. Setting the stage for receiving the message were performances of music ministry by Noah I. Brown and Company and other guest artists, Shawn Tatum and Stephanie Cockrell and "One Voice".

St. Luke members were treated to a luncheon on Saturday, February 6th, by the Young Adults. The luncheon featured motivational speaker, Charles Hopkins, who



African American Read-In participants: Latisha Harris, Jennie Sheffield, Tiffany Harrington, Hattie Hicks, Jasmine Harrington, Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan, Ebony Shackelford, Jo Samuel, Amber Parrish, and Patricia McKinney Lewis, African American Read-In Coordinator.

gave a dynamic personal testimony which included setting goals and never giving up on a dream.



Motivational speaker, Charles Hopkins

The week culminated on Sunday, February 7th, with church members dressing in African attire; feasting on a soul food dinner hosted by the Christian Women's Fellowship; and the Youth and Young Adults participating in the 21st Annual African American Read-In.

Congratulations Young Achievers! Honor Roll



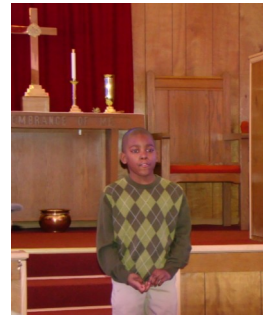
Jasmine
Harrington



Logan Parks



Raymond Hill and
Ebony Shackelford



Cyrus Williams and Ebony Shackelford

Naming All the Books of the New Testament!



Praise Reports!



After convalescing at home for two months from surgery in December, Sister Ether Huffman attends church on February 14th .
TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



Sister Henrine Casey is headed to Florida to be with her grandson, Conner; daughter, Carmen; and son-in-law, Curtis. Curtis is recovering from a stroke, and is planning to return to work.
PRAISE GOD!



Brother Lemond Peppers is walking without the aid of a cane.

A Kodak Moment



Brother Terrell Tinsley blesses us by singing a song from his new CD that will be released soon!

St. Luke's Shepherd demonstrates to the male sheep how to treat a lady. Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan surprises First Lady, Christine Buchanan, with flowers on Valentine's Day.