

The Christian Griot

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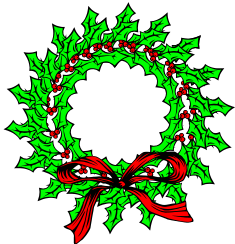
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Rev. Dr. Clarence and Mrs. Christine Buchanan



Who's Who in God's Church:

**Jesus Christ:
King of Kings!**

Merry Christmas! Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

Birthdays

December

- 4 Marvarine Pirtle
- 5 Evelyn Walton
- 7 Dana Cockrell
- Ethel Kennedy
- 8 Mehidiah Jarumi
- 8 Tristen Thomas
- 13 Lonnie Kinard
- 16 CME CHURCH
- 16 Joyce Cowan
- 17 Xavier Jarumi
- 19 Lovay Williams
- 20 Emmitt Elam
- 22 Tiffany Harrington
- 22 J.W. Pirtle
- 24 Lemond Peppers
- 24 Mark Creighton
- 24 Jennie Sheffield
- 27 Kendell Adams
- 27 Joyce Bradley
- 27 Lawrence Parks
- 29 Dora Jamerson



Who is Jesus?

IN CHEMISTRY— HE TURNED WATER TO WINE.
IN BIOLOGY—HE WAS BORN WITHOUT THE NORMAL CONCEPTION;
IN PHYSICS—HE DISAPPROVED THE LAW OF GRAVITY WHEN HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN;
IN ECONOMICS—HE DISAPPROVED THE LAW OF DIMINISHING RETURN BY FEEDING 5000 MEN WITH TWO FISHES & FIVE LOAVES OF BREAD;
IN MEDICINE—HE CURED THE SICK AND THE BLIND WITHOUT ADMINISTERING A SINGLE DOSE OF DRUGS,
IN HISTORY—HE IS THE BEGINNING AND THE END;
IN GOVERNMENT—HE SAID THAT HE SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, PRINCE OF PEACE;
IN RELIGION—HE SAID NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH HIM;
 SO WHO IS HE?

HE IS JESUS!

The Greatest Man in History

Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him, **Master**.

He had no degree, yet they called Him, **Teacher**.

He had no medicines, yet they called Him, **Healer**.

He had no army, yet kings feared Him.

He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.

He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.

He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

I feel honored to serve such a Leader who loves us!

If you believe in God and in Jesus Christ His Son,

LET'S CELEBRATE HIM;

HE IS WORTHY!

Relationships Are Worth Restoring

by Rick Warren

"If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you . . . agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends" (Philippians 2:1-2 Msg).

Relationships are always worth restoring.

Life is all about learning how to love, and God wants us to value relationships and make every effort to maintain them instead of discarding them whenever there is a rift, a hurt or a conflict.

In fact, the Bible tells us that God has given us the ministry of restoring relationships. For this reason a significant amount of the New Testament is devoted to teaching us how to get along with one another.

The Apostle Paul taught that our ability to get along with others is a mark of spiritual maturity. Since Christ wants his family to be known for our love for each other, broken fellowship is a disgraceful testimony to unbelievers. This is why Paul was so embarrassed that the members of the church in Corinth were splitting into warring factions and even taking each other to court. He wrote, "Shame on you! Surely there is at least one wise person in your fellowship who can settle a dispute between fellow Christians" (1 Cor. 6:5 TEV). He was shocked that no one in the church was mature enough to resolve the conflict peaceably. In the same letter, he said, "I'll put it as urgently as I can: You must get along with each other" (1 Cor. 1:10 Msg).

If you want God's blessing on your life and you want to be known as a child of God, you must learn to be a peacemaker. Jesus said, "God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God" (Matt. 5:9 NLT).

Notice Jesus didn't say, "Blessed are the peace lovers," because everyone loves peace. Neither did he say, "Blessed are the peaceable," who are never disturbed by anything. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who work for peace"--those who actively seek to resolve conflict.

Peacemakers are rare because peacemaking is hard work, but because you were formed to be a part of God's family, peacemaking is one of the most important skills you can develop. Unfortunately, most of us were never taught how to resolve conflict, so over the next few days, we'll consider the steps necessary to resolve conflict.

HOW TO STAY YOUNG

1. Try everything twice.

On one woman's tombstone she said she wanted this epitaph:

"Tried everything twice. loved it both times!"

2. Keep only cheerful friends.

The grouches pull you down.

(Keep this in mind if you are one of those grouches!)

3. Keep learning:

Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever.

Never let the brain get idle. 'An idle mind is the devil's workshop.'

And the devil's name is Alzheimer's!

4. Enjoy the simple things.

5. Laugh often, long and loud.

Laugh until you gasp for breath.

And if you have a friend who makes you laugh, Spend lots and lots of time with HIM/HER.

6. The tears happen:

Endure, grieve, and move on.

The only person who is with us our entire life, is ourselves.

LIVE while you are alive.

7. Surround yourself with what you love:

Whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever.. Your home is your refuge.

8. Cherish your health:

If it is good, preserve it.

If it is unstable, improve it.

If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.

9. Don't take guilt trips.

Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county, To a foreign country, but NOT to where the guilt is.

10. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.

11. Forgive now those who made you cry. You might not get a second chance.

Have You Heard? Good News! Halleluiah, Praise Corner!

This is for all the people that have teenagers, have already raised teenagers, have children who will soon be teenagers or those who will be parents someday .
Submitted by Marvarine Pirtle

Poem to MOM

My son came home from school one day,
With a smirk upon his face.
He decided he was smart enough,
To put me in my place.

'Guess what I learned in Civics Two,
that's taught by Mr. Wright?
It's all about the laws today,
The 'Children's Bill of Rights.'

It says I need not clean my room,
Don't have to cut my hair
No one can tell me what to think,
Or speak, or what to wear.

I have freedom from religion,
And regardless what you say,
I don't have to bow my head,
And I sure don't have to pray.

I can wear earrings if I want,
And pierce my tongue & nose.
I can read & watch just what I like,
Get tattoos from head to toe.

And if you ever spank me,
I'll charge you with a crime.
I'll back up all my charges,
With the marks on my behind.

Don't you ever touch me,
My body's only for my use,
Not for your hugs and kisses,
that's just more child abuse.

Don't preach about your morals,
Like your Mama did to you.
That's nothing more than mind control,
And it's illegal too!

Mom, I have these children's rights,
So you can't influence me,
Or I'll call Children's Services Division,
Better known as C.S.D.'

Mom's Reply and Thoughts

Of course my first instinct was
To toss him out the door.
But the chance to teach him a lesson
Made me think a little more.

I mulled it over carefully,
I couldn't let this go.
A smile crept upon my face,
he's messing with a pro.
Next day I took him shopping
At the local Goodwill Store.
I told him, 'Pick out all you want,
there's shirts & pants galore.



I've called and checked with C.S.D ...
Who said they didn't care
If I bought you K-Mart shoes
Instead of those Nike Airs.

I've canceled that appointment
To take your driver's test.
The C..S.D. Is unconcerned
So I'll decide what's best. '

I said 'No time to stop and eat,
Or pick up stuff to munch.
And tomorrow you can start to learn
To make your own sack lunch.

Just save the raging appetite,
And wait till dinner time.
We're having liver and onions,
A favorite dish of mine.'

He asked 'Can I please rent a movie,
To watch on my VCR?'
'Sorry, but I sold your TV,
For new tires on my car.
I also rented out your room,
You'll take the couch instead.
The C .S.D. requires
Just a roof over your head.

Your clothing won't be trendy now,
I'll choose what we eat.
That allowance that you used to get,
Will buy me something neat.

I'm selling off your jet ski,
Dirt-bike & roller blades.
Check out the 'Parents Bill of Rights',
It's in effect today!

Hey hot shot, are you crying,
Why are you on your knees?
Are you asking God to help you out,
Instead of C.S.D..?'

MOM (Mean Old Mother)



KNOW YOUR HISTORY: Night Watch Service

I received this reminder from several St. Luke members who wanted to take you down memory lane, also. Thank you to Sisters Pat Walker, Kathy Lockett Marvarine Pirtle and Fay Weatherspoon. The unknown author wrote:



Growing up in the South, we always attended Night Watch on December 31st. We all gather at the Baptist Church at around 9:00 pm. We had members giving testimonies on how good God had been to them.

The following information describes why the Baptist had Night Watch Service. We should never forget what our ancestors had to endure; so many young African Americans do not know about Night Watch Service.

Many of you who live or grew up in Black communities in the United States have probably heard of "Watch Night Services," the gathering of the faithful in church on New Year's Eve.

The service usually begins anywhere from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and ends at midnight with the entrance of the New Year. Some folks come to church first, before going out to celebrate. For others, church is the only New Year's Eve event. Like many others, I always assumed that Watch Night was a fairly standard Christian religious service -- made a bit more Afro-centric because that's what happens when elements of Christianity become linked with the Black church.

Still, it seemed that predominately White Christian churches did not include Watch Night services on their calendars, but focused instead on Christmas Eve programs. In fact, there were instances where clergy in mainline denominations wondered aloud about the propriety of linking religious services with a secular holiday like New Year's Eve.

However, there is a reason for the importance of New Year's Eve services in African American congregations. The Watch Night Services in Black communities that we celebrate today can be traced back to gatherings on December 31, 1862, also known as "Freedom's Eve." On that night, Blacks came together in churches and private homes all across the nation, anxiously awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation actually had become law. Then, at the stroke of midnight, it was January 1, 1863, and all slaves in the Confederate States were declared legally free .

When the news was received, there were prayers, shouts and songs of joy as people fell to their knees and thanked God. Black folks have gathered in churches annually on New Year's Eve ever since, praising God for bringing us safely through another year. It's been 147 years since that first Freedom's Eve and many of us were never taught the African American history of Watch Night, but tradition still brings us together at this time every year to celebrate "how we got over."

Author Unknown

**Joint Night Watch Service With Bethel A.M.E. Church
At Bethel A.M.E.
December 31, 2009
10:00P.M.**



Centennial Harvest Tea Queen Crowned!



Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan and Queen Gloria Dixon

The Seventeenth Annual Harvest Tea, sponsored by the Steward Board, was held on Sunday, November 1, 2009 at St. Luke CME Church in Champaign, IL, where Rev. Clarence Buchanan is the pastor.

Mrs. Gloria Dixon, Vice Chairman of the Steward Board, was crowned Centennial Queen of the Harvest Tea. Mrs. Dixon was named the Centennial Queen of the Harvest Tea by the Chairman of the Steward Board, Patricia McKinney Lewis. The crown was won by the Steward Board due to raising the most money, \$1895, for the tea. The runner-up was the New Life Choir who had held the title and crown since 2006.

The Harvest Tea began in 1990 by former pastor Rev. John Deron Johnson. The first Harvest Tea was held at the Douglass Center. The following St. Luke members have served as the chairperson of the Harvest Tea: Bertha Williams, Donna Tinsley, Kathy Lockett, Belle Miller, Jacqui Davis and Rosalind Mason Minor. The tea continued under Rev. Roland Brown, but was not held during the years 1997-1999.

In the year 2000, Sister Patricia McKinney Lewis decided to bring back the tea as a contest among the Boards/Auxiliaries of the church and to emphasize the many gifts and talents within St. Luke. Other highlights of the tea included entertainment in the form of songs, instrumentals and readings. Each year, in addition to the tea fare, the gala features beautifully decorated tables and a variety of dishes, including soul food, prepared by members of each board or auxiliary which is called the "Taste of St. Luke", as the food evolved from serving finger food to a "Soul Food Tea".

This year, St. Luke members were recognized as **Centennial Living Legends** or **Centennial Memorial Angels** for their devotion and dedication to their respective Boards/Auxiliaries over the years. This year's Centennial Harvest Tea was dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Bertha Williams.

Centennial Living Legends

Steward Board: Ezell Derricks, Patricia M. Lewis, Jan Thomas, Henrine Luckett Casey, Nathan Wallick

Missionary Society: Maxine Brown

Trustee Board: Jo Samuel

New Life Choir: Willie T. Summerville

Board of Christian Education: Kathy Lockett
and Tina March

Kennedy Club: Belle Miller

E.P. Murchison Club: Gloria Dixon

Senior Usher Board: Katherine McCutchen

Centennial Memorial Angels

Steward Board: Clarence Williams and John Hannett

Missionary Society: Rosie Easley

Stewardess Board: Edna Booker and Genora Jarrett

Trustee Board: Dorothy Jordan Luckey

New Life Choir: Louise Abernathy

Kennedy Club: Margaret Minor

E.P. Murchison Club: Mary Peppers

Men's Fellowship: Vincent Townsend

Welcome New Members

New Member Baptisms and Christenings



Gabby Linard accepted the Invitation to Christian Discipleship at St. Luke CME on November 8, 2009.



Gabby Linard 's baptism on November 15, 2009.



Amarion Onterrio Brown with mother, Marrisona Abernathy; grandparents, Charles (pictured behind Amarion) and Clarissa Abernathy and family and friends.



Amarion Onterrio Brown christened on November 22, 2009 by Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan.