

# The Christian Griot

St. Luke C.M.E. Church

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Elder Harlan K. Jones, Presiding Elder  
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Rev. Dr. Clarence and Mrs. Christine Buchanan



Men's Prayer  
Breakfast  
October 17th

Men's Day  
October 18th

Missionary  
Outreach Day  
October 24th

Harvest Tea  
November 1st

## Who's Who at St. Luke: Minister Phillip March



**Minister Phillip March** was born in 1958, the ninth of thirteen children, to the late Genevieve and Warwick March in Danville, IL. His walk with Christ began at an early age at Carter Metropolitan CME Church in Danville. Min. March graduated from Danville High School in 1978. He lived in San Diego, CA, from 1984 to 1994. While living in San Diego, CA, he earned a certificate from the Pacific Coast Technology Trade School as a machinist. He was a member of Phillip's Temple CME in San Diego, CA.

In 1994, he returned to Danville to care for his ailing parents. It was under the tenure of Rev. Boatknight at Carter Metropolitan CME Church in Danville, IL, that Min. March answered his calling to the ministry in 1996. He became a member at St. Luke in the year 2000 when Rev. Jesse L. Douglas, Sr. was the pastor. While at St. Luke, he has served as a member of the Ministerial and Evangelism teams. Minister March has been faithful about visiting the sick and helping our senior pastor serve Communion to the sick and shut-in members. He is the newly elected Chairman of the Trustee Board, and has served on the Trustee Board several years. He is relentless about making sure the lights are turned off and the doors are locked every Sunday after the morning worship service. He devotedly attends Sunday School, and he is a former chairman of St. Luke's Christian Methodist Men's Fellowship.

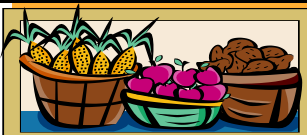
Minister March has been employed at Kraft Foods for seven years. He has been married to the love of his life, Tina McNeal March, for ten years. He recently stated that they are still on their honeymoon. In his spare time, he likes restoring houses, and in the past, he has also restored furniture.

Favorite Scripture: Romans 8:31-32 Favorite Song: "Give Me a Clean Heart"

### Birthdays

#### October

- 1 James Brown
- 4 Teresa S. Williams  
Gail Thorpe  
Edward Hicks  
Tyanne Parker
- 6 Mia Sibley
- 8 Logan Parks
- 10 Ronald Lewis
- 11 Scott Nesbitt
- 14 Vernon Harrington
- 15 Tatiyana Peppers
- 20 Mikya Robinson
- 21 Sydni Williams
- 22 Ashlee Saddler
- 23 Shawn Lewis
- 25 Raymond Hill
- 26 Josie Harmon
- 28 Tyrone Parker
- 30 Carleigh Parks
- 30 Elijah Johnson



## Having Patience in the Midst of Discouragement

by Rick Warren

*“You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For in just a very little while, ‘He who is coming will come and will not delay’” (Hebrews 10:36–37 NIV).*



If you're discouraged because of God's delay in answering your prayers, understand the delay is *not* a denial. Just because the answer or the miracle hasn't come—yet—that doesn't mean God isn't going to answer, or that he's forgotten you, or that he doesn't care about you. It simply means “not yet!”

Spiritual maturity is knowing the difference between “No” and “Not yet,” between a denial and a delay. The Bible tells us, “He who is coming will come and will not delay” (Hebrews 10:37 NIV).

The delay may be a test of your patience. Anybody can be patient once. And, anybody can be patient twice. And, just about anybody can be patient three times. So God tests your patience over and over and over. Why? To see how patient you are?

No, he does it to show *you* how patient you are. So you'll know what's inside of you, and you'll be able to know your level of commitment. God tests you so that *you* can know he is faithful, even if the answers you seek are delayed.

If you're discouraged, turn it around by remembering God teaches you patience during delay. Ask him to transform your discouragement into patience. You may be going through difficult times right now and feel like dropping off the planet. You're discouraged because the situation you face seems unmanageable, unreasonable, or unfair.

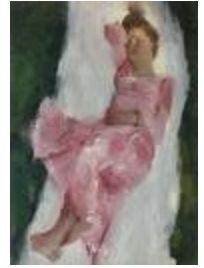
It may seem unbearable and inside you're basically saying, “God, I can't take it anymore. I just can't take it anymore!”

But you can. You can stay with it longer because God is with you. He'll enable you to press on. Remember, you are never a failure until you quit. Don't quit. Resist discouragement and finish the race God has set before you.



## The Pink Dress

There was this little girl sitting by herself in the park. Everyone passed by her and never stopped to see why she looked so sad. Dressed in a worn pink dress, barefoot and dirty, the girl just sat and watched the people go by. She never tried to speak. She never said a word. Many people passed by her, but no one would stop. The next day I decided to go back to the park in curiosity to see if the little girl would still be there. Yes, she was there, right in the very spot where she was yesterday, and still with the same sad look in her eyes.



Today I was to make my own move and walk over to the little girl. For as we all know, a park full of strange people is not a place for young children to play alone. As I got closer I could see the back of the little girl's dress. It was grotesquely shaped. I figured that was the reason people just passed by and made no effort to speak to her. Deformities are a low blow to our society and, heaven forbid if you make a step toward assisting someone who is different.

As I got closer, the little girl lowered her eyes slightly to avoid my intent stare. As I approached her, I could see the shape of her back more clearly. She was grotesquely shaped in a humped over form. I smiled to let her know it was OK; I was there to help, to talk. I sat down beside her and opened with a simple, 'Hello'

The little girl acted shocked, and stammered a 'hi ' after a long stare into my eyes. I smiled and she shyly smiled back. We talked until darkness fell and the park was completely empty. I asked the girl why she was so sad. The little girl looked at me with a sad face said, 'Because, I'm Different...'

I immediately said, 'That you are!'; and smiled.

The little girl acted even sadder and said, 'I know.' Little girl,' I said, 'you remind me of an angel, sweet and innocent.'

She looked at me and smiled, then slowly she got to her feet and said, 'Really?' 'Yes, you're like a little Guardian Angel sent to watch over all the people walking by.' She nodded her head yes, and smiled.

With that she opened the back of her pink dress and allowed her wings to spread, then she said 'I am.' 'I'm your Guardian Angel,' with a twinkle in her eye.

I was speechless -- sure I was seeing things.

She said, 'For once you thought of someone other than yourself. My job here is done'..

I got to my feet and said, 'Wait, why did no one stop to help an Angel?'

She looked at me, smiled, and said, 'You're the only one that could see me,' and then she was gone. And with that, my life was changed dramatically..

So, when you think you're all you have, remember, your angel is always watching over you.



# KNOW YOUR HISTORY!



## Clarence Otis, Jr.

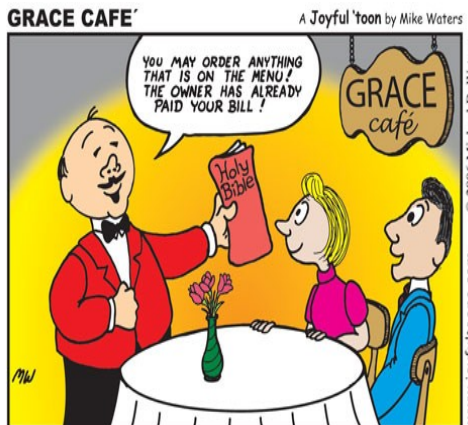
Each week tens of thousands of diners eat at an Olive Garden or Red Lobster restaurant. Few of these diners know that the CEO heading these large restaurant chains is a black man.

Clarence Otis, Jr. is the CEO of Darden Restaurants Inc., the largest casual dining operator in the nation. The firm operates nearly 1,400 company-owned restaurants coast to coast serving 300 million meals annually. Darden employs 150,000 workers and has annual revenues of \$6 billion.

Born in Vicksburg, Mississippi, Otis moved to Los Angeles when he was 6 years old. His father was a high school dropout who worked as a janitor. The family lived in Watts at the time of the 1965 riots. In the post-Watts period, Otis recalls being stopped and questioned by police several times a year because of the color of his skin.

A high school guidance counselor recommended him for a scholarship at Williams College, The highly selective liberal arts institution in Massachusetts. Otis graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Williams and went on to earn a law degree at Stanford. Otis landed on Wall Street as a merger and acquisitions attorney for J.P. Morgan Securities. He joined Darden Restaurants in 1995 as corporate treasurer. He became CEO in 2004.

*Submitted by Sis. Fay Weatherspoon*



For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. - II CORINTHIANS 1:20

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