

The Christian Griot

St. Luke C.M.E. Church
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Rev. and Mrs. Buchanan

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St. Luke's History

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, ST. LUKE! 1909-2009

In 1909: There was no church in Champaign and Urbana connected with our great CME conference of today. The Lord saw fit to send a family from Kentucky, namely Mother Hopkins, Sister Pickens, Sister Tisdale, Brother Tisdale and others of that family. In 1909, the faithful band of workers began holding services in a store front in Urbana after God sent them a minister to lead them in the person of Rev. W. M. Townsend.

The Supreme Judge who presides over all continued to guide and direct the little band and as on the day of Pentecost added daily to the church. Located on Eads Street in Urbana, the church was called CME Mission. Many God fearing ministers were sent to pastor St. Luke during its 100 years of existence:

Rev. Townsend	Rev. Whitsitt	Rev. Samples
Rev. Jacobs	Rev. Cregg	Rev. Womack
Rev. Crain	Rev. Browning	Rev. Doty
Rev. Black	Rev. Blackshear	Rev. Forrester
Rev. Parker	Rev. Wolf	Rev. Pendelton
Rev. Cregg	Rev. Croon	Rev. Colclew
Rev. Davis	Rev. Thomas	Rev. Coleman
Rev. Adams	Rev. Turner	Rev. Triggs
Rev. William	Rev. Taylor	Rev. Crowder
Rev. Bishop	Rev. Thornton	Rev. Kennedy
Rev. Johnson	Rev. Brown	Rev. Douglas

Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan and Mrs. Christine Buchanan

January

3	Janet Gilbert
3	Amber Parrish
5	Mary Williams
6	Henrine Casey
6	Dorothy Davis
6	Ebony Shackelford
12	Donna Tinsley
14	Hattie Hicks
19	Nate Dixon
21	Dana Barnhill
23	Marilyn Thadison
26	Eve Foster
30	Josephine Weatherspoon
30	Nina D. Sibley

Life Lessons

I've learned.... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned.... That when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned.... That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

I've learned.... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned.... That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned.... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

I've learned.... That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned..... That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned.... That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I've learned..... That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned.... That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

I've learned.... That money doesn't buy class.

I've learned.... That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've learned... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned.... That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

I've learned.... That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I've learned.... That love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've learned.... That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

I've learned... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I've learned..... That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

I've learned... That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I've learned.... That opportunities are never lost, someone will take the ones you miss.

I've learned.... That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I've learned.... That I wish I could have told my Mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.

I've learned.... That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

I've learned.... That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I've learned....' That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life. '

ALSO

I've learned.... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

I've learned.... That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.



CHRISTIAN ONE LINERS

**The task ahead of us is never as
great as the Power behind us.**

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**The Will of God never takes you to
where the Grace of God will not protect you.**

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Prayer:

Don't give God instructions -- just report for duty!

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He who angers you, controls you!

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

If God is your Copilot - swap seats!



HOW TO STOP CHURCH GOSSIP

Mildred, the church gossip, and self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business.

She made a mistake, however, when she accused Frank, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon.

She emphatically told Frank (and several others) that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing. Frank, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned, and walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny... He said nothing.

Later that evening, Frank quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house...walked home...and left it there all night!!!

You gotta love Frank!

Know Your History



PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR

1872-1906

Paul Laurence Dunbar was the first African-American poet to garner national critical acclaim. Born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1872, Dunbar penned a large body of dia-

lect poems, standard English poems, essays, novels and short stories before he died at the age of 33. His work often addressed the difficulties encountered by members of his race and the efforts of African-Americans to achieve equality in America. He was praised both by the prominent literary critics of his time and his literary contemporaries.

Dunbar was born on June 27, 1872, to Matilda and Joshua Dunbar, both natives of Kentucky. His mother was a former slave and his father had escaped from slavery and served in the 55th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment and the 5th Massachusetts Colored Cavalry Regiment during the Civil War. Matilda and Joshua had two children before separating in 1874. Matilda also had two children from a previous marriage.

The family was poor, and after Joshua left, Matilda supported her children by working in Dayton as a washerwoman. One of the families she worked for was the family of Orville and Wilbur Wright, with whom her son attended Dayton's Central High School. Though the Dunbar family had little material wealth, Matilda, always a great support to Dunbar as his literary stature grew, taught her children a love of songs and storytelling. Having heard poems read by the family she worked for when she was a slave, Matilda loved poetry and encouraged her children to read. Dunbar was inspired by his mother, and he began reciting and writing poetry as early as age 6.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Gwendolyn Elizabeth Brooks was born in Topeka, Kansas to Keziah Wims Brooks and David Anderson Brooks. Brooks' mother was a former school teacher who left teaching for marriage and motherhood, and her father, the son of a runaway slave who fought in the Civil War, had given up his ambition to attend medical school to work

as a janitor because he could not afford to attend medical school.

When Brooks was only six weeks old, her family moved to Chicago, Illinois, where she grew up. Her home life was stable and loving, although she encountered racial prejudice in her neighborhood and in her schools. She first attended Hyde Park High School, a leading white high school, before transferring to all-black Wendell Phillips. Brooks eventually attended an integrated school, Englewood High School. Her enthusiasm for reading and writing was encouraged by her parents. Her father provided a desk and bookshelves, and her mother took her, when she was in high school, to meet Harlem Renaissance poets Langston Hughes and James Weldon Johnson.

Brooks published her first poem in a children's magazine at the age of thirteen. When Brooks was sixteen years old, she had compiled a portfolio of around seventy-five published poems. Aged 17, Brooks stuck to her roots and began submitting her work to "Lights and Shadows", the poetry column of the *Chicago Defender*, an African-American newspaper. Although her poems range in style from traditional ballads and sonnets to using blues rhythms in free verse, her characters are often drawn from the poor inner city.

LEGACY

- Brooks Jr. High School, later renamed Brooks Middle School in 2001 (named after Gwendolyn Brooks) opened in Harvey, Illinois
- In 1995, Brooks Elementary School (named after Gwendolyn Brooks) opened in Aurora, Illinois
- In 2002, Ralph Waldo Emerson Junior High School in Oak Park, Illinois was renamed *Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School*.

In June 2003, the Illinois State Library in Springfield, Illinois was renamed the *Gwendolyn Brooks Illinois State Library*.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

We often start each new year with resolutions. This year we have some help. Below are tips to living a better life. If you can't follow all 42, try starting with 21, and then add the other 21. You will be on your way to living a better life starting today.



Forty-two Tips For a Better Life

1. When you wake up in the morning, always start your day with a prayer/vision.
2. And then, complete the following statement, My purpose is to _____ today.
3. Take a 10 to 30-minute walk every day. And while you walk, smile. It is the ultimate anti-depressant.
4. Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day. Buy a lock if you have to.
5. Eat more foods that grow on trees and plants and eat less food that is manufactured in plants.
6. Drink plenty of water and fresh juices. Eat blueberries, salad, wild Alaskan salmon, broccoli, almonds, etc.
7. Make at least three people smile each day.
8. Don't waste your precious energy on gossip, energy vampires, issues of the past, negative thoughts or things you cannot control. Instead invest your energy in the positive present.
9. Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a college kid with a maxed out charge card.
10. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone, so give the best of your kindness.
11. Take yourself seriously.
12. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
13. Make peace with your past so it won't spoil the present.
14. Don't compare your life to others'. You have no idea what their journey is all about. Don't compare your partner with others either.
15. No one is in charge of your happiness except you. So, be happy.
16. Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
17. Remember the three R's: Respect for self; Respect for others; Responsibility for all your actions. Realize that life is a school and you are here to learn.
18. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.

19. Problems are simply part of the curriculum that appear and fade away like algebra class but the lessons you learn will last a lifetime.
20. Forgive everyone for everything.
21. Read more books and watch less TV than you did last year.
22. What other people think of you is none of your business.
23. God has everything you'll every need in life so hook up with Him.
24. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
25. In disagreements with loved ones, deal with the current situation; don't bring up the past.
26. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
27. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your family and friends will. Stay in touch.
28. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
29. Keep believing that the best is yet to come.
30. Once a year, go someplace you've never been before.
31. Each day give something good to others.
32. Don't over do. Keep your limits.
33. Sleep for 7 hours every day or whatever your body needs.
34. Don't trust someone who doesn't close their eyes when you kiss them.
35. Remember that the best relationship is one where your love for each other is greater than your need for each other.
36. Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a stroke of luck.
37. Do the right thing!
38. Each night before you go to bed complete the following statements:
I am thankful for _____
Today I accomplished _____
39. Remember that you are too blessed to be stressed.
40. Trust in God, but lock your car.
41. Realize that as you get older, you are not approaching death, but heaven.
42. Know that GOD heals everything.



Christmas Program 2008 Highlights

