

# 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



St. Luke CME began its Centennial year with a special program and candle lighting ceremony sponsored by the Steward Board on January 4, 2009. Sis. Jo Samuel, Chairman of the Board of Christian Education, served as the worship leader. Special prayers were rendered by Ministers: Jacqui Davis, Vernon Harrington, Phillip March; Sisters: Christine Buchanan and Dora Jamerson; and Bro. Lemond Peppers.

Participating in the candle lighting ceremony were Sis. Jamerson representing the past; Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan representing the present; and Bro. Lemond Peppers representing the future. Special music was provided by the New Life Choir under the direction of Bro. Willie Summerville. The program began with a song of sanctification: *Holy, Holy, Holy* and ended with a song of high praise: *Total Praise*, followed by *Oh Happy Day* as church members exited the sanctuary.



The Women's Fellowship served a light meal after the morning worship service which allowed church members to remain at church while group photos were taken prior to the candle lighting ceremony.

The program and candle lighting ceremony were created and written by Sister Patricia McKinney Lewis, Steward Board Chairman.



### February

- 9 Betty Thomas
- 11 Shalinka Huffman
- 12 Sylvester Pelmore
- 17 Venola Towns
- 21 Robert Wright
- 24 Tony Bailey
- Sandra Nesbitt Martin
- 27 Ceola Kinard







Centennial  
Candle  
Lighting  
Ceremony  
With  
Prayer and  
Praise



## It's Your Time

"The vision is yet for an appointed time..." (Habakkuk 2:3).

God has planted seeds of greatness on the inside of you, and He has predestined that those things in your heart come to pass. You may have had more than your share of unfair things happen in your life. You probably have plenty of reasons to just settle where you are. But understand, the depth of your past is an indication of the height of your future.



If you've been through a lot of negative things in the past, it just means that your future is bigger and brighter and greater than you can even imagine. It's your time to step out and embrace all that God has for you! Are there dreams and promises that you've let go of? Are there things that God has placed in your heart, but because of time, because of disappointments, you've given up on them?

Today is the day to give your dreams a new beginning. Today is the day to allow faith to rise in your heart. Remember, what's happened to you is not nearly as important as what's happened in you, and you are stronger and wiser than ever before. It's your time; it's your season to move forward into the destiny that God has prepared for you!

*Joel Osteen Ministries*

*To get something you never had, you have to do something you never did.'* When God takes something from your grasp, He's not punishing you, but merely opening your hands to receive something better. Concentrate on this sentence... 'The will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you.'

## Happy Valentine's Day

**Valentine's Day** or **Saint Valentine's Day** is a [holiday](#) celebrated on [February 14](#). In the West, it is the traditional day on which lovers express their love for each other by sending [Valentine's cards](#), [presenting flowers](#), or offering [confectionery](#). The holiday is named after two among the numerous Early Christian [martyrs](#) named [Valentine](#). The day became associated with [romantic love](#) in the circle of [Geoffrey Chaucer](#) in the [High Middle Ages](#), when the tradition of [courtly love](#) flourished. Numerous early Christian martyrs were named [Valentine](#).<sup>[4]</sup> Until 1969, the Catholic Church formally recognized eleven Valentine's Days. The Valentines honored on February 14 are Valentine of Rome (*Valentinus presb. m. Romae*) and Valentine of Terni (*Valentinus ep. Interamnensis m. Romae*).<sup>[5]</sup> Valentine of Rome<sup>[6]</sup> was a priest in [Rome](#) who suffered martyrdom about AD 269 and was buried on the [Via Flaminia](#). His relics are at the Church of Saint Praxed in Rome.<sup>[7]</sup> and at [Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church](#) in Dublin, Ireland.





## Know Your History

This policy backfired when the Air Corps received an abundance of applications from men who qualified even under these restrictive specifications, many of whom had already participated in the Civilian Pilot Training Program, which the Tuskegee Institute had participated in since 1939.<sup>[2]</sup>

The U.S. Army Air Corps had established the Psychological Research Unit 1 at Maxwell Army Air Field, Alabama, and other units around the country for aviation cadet training, which included the identification, selection, education, and training of pilots, navigators and bombardiers. Psychologists employed in these research studies and training programs used some of the first standardized tests to quantify IQ, dexterity, and leadership qualities in order to select and train the right personnel for the right role (bombardier, pilot, navigator). The Air Corps determined that the same existing programs would be used for all units, including all-black units. At Tuskegee, this effort would continue with the selection and training of the Tuskegee Airmen.

By the spring of 1944, more graduates were ready for combat, and the all-black 332nd Fighter Group had been sent overseas with three fighter squadrons: the 100th, 301st and 302nd. Under the command of Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, the squadrons were moved to mainland Italy, where the 99th FS, assigned to the group on 1 May, joining them on 6 June. The Airmen of the 332nd Fighter Group escorted bombing raids into Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Poland and Germany.

Flying escort for heavy bombers, the 332nd earned an impressive combat record. Reportedly, the Luftwaffe awarded the Airmen the nickname, "Schwarze Vogelmenschen," or "Black Birdmen." The Allies called the Airmen "Redtails" or "Redtail Angels," because of the distinctive crimson paint on the vertical stabilizers of the unit's aircraft. Although bomber groups would request Redtail escort when possible, few bomber crew members knew at the time that the Redtails were black.

*Reprinted from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*



### Tuskegee Airmen

On 19 March 1941, the 99th Pursuit Squadron (Pursuit being the pre-World War II descriptive for "Fighter") was activated at Chanute Field in Rantoul, Illinois.<sup>[3]</sup> Over 250 enlisted men were trained at Chanute in aircraft ground support trades. This small number of enlisted men became the core of other black squadrons forming at Tuskegee and Maxwell Fields in Alabama.

In June 1941, the Tuskegee program officially began with formation of the 99th Fighter Squadron at the Tuskegee Institute, a highly regarded university founded by Booker T. Washington, through the work of Lewis Adams and George W. Campbell (Tuskegee, Alabama) in Tuskegee, Alabama.<sup>[4]</sup> The unit consisted of an entire service arm, including ground crew. After basic training at Moton Field, they were moved to the nearby Tuskegee Army Air Field about 16 km (10 miles) to the west for conversion training onto operational types. The Airmen were placed under the command of Captain Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., one of the few African American West Point graduates. His father Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. was the first black general in the U.S. Army.

Prior to the Tuskegee Airmen, no U.S. military pilots had been black. A series of legislative moves by the United States Congress in 1941 forced the Army Air Corps to form an all-black combat unit, despite the War Department's reluctance. In an effort to eliminate the unit before it could begin, the War Department set up a system to accept only those with a level of flight experience or higher education that

