

# The Christian Griot

St. Luke C.M.E. Church

809 N. Fifth Street

Champaign, Illinois 61820 Phone: 217-356-4922

Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan, Pastor

Elder Karen Walker McClure, Presiding Elder

Bishop Paul Stewart, Presiding Prelate

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Patricia McKinney Lewis, Editor  
Email: patlvjss1123@att.net



Rev. Dr. Clarence and Mrs. Christine Buchanan

## Who's Who At St. Luke: St. Luke Ministers of Music: Bro. (Deacon) Willie T. Summerville, Min. Noah Brown and Dr. Victor Mullins



*In honor of Black Music Month, St. Luke's Ministers of Music are being highlighted this month. St. Luke is blessed with three talented musicians who along with the choirs provide the music ministry. Their individual bios are quite impressive.*

Bro. (Deacon) Willie Summerville, Min. Noah Brown and Dr. Victor Mullins

**Willie T. Summerville**, was born in Sunshine, Arkansas, and was reared in Crossett, Arkansas. He attended the TW Daniel School (Grades 1-12) and Arkansas AM&N College of Pine Bluff. He came to St. Luke CME Church when he was a first year graduate student at the University of Illinois in June of 1966. That same year, he became the director of St. Luke's Youth Choir. With Mr. Summerville's hard work and discipline the Youth Choir rose to more than fifty-five voices, travelled extensively, and recorded two albums, *Hold the Light* and *We've Come to Praise His Name*.

**Mr. Summerville has published the following songs:** Jesus How I Love you, Keeping the Dream Alive, Dear Old Urbana, The Chocolate Flavored Birthday Song. He wrote special patriotic lyrics to "United We Stand" and special lyrics to "Thank You For The Teaching." Mr. Summerville also appeared in the MENC Journal. (The National Music Educators Magazine) in a rebuttal to an article on the use of Gospel Music in the Schools. Mr. Summerville has written a Course Syllabus for the following classes: Afro 498 "Harmonizing Differences Through African-American Sacred Music; Black Music In The Early 20th Century (both at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign); ME 414 Elementary Skills and Methods Milliken University, Decatur, Illinois.

Mr. Summerville is a retired choir director and music teacher from the Urbana Unit 116 School District. He also taught music in the Champaign Unit 4 School District. Currently, he is an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois.

He and wife, Valerian, are the proud parents of three children, Derrick, Shandra, and William Moses. They have three grandsons and a great-granddaughter.

## EVENTS

JUNE

- 9 Chicago District
- 10 Kennedy Club Annual Day
- 16 Food Pantry
- 17 Father's Day
- 18-23 Vacation Bible School
- 24 New Life Choir Annual Day

## June

### BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Lincoln Huffman
- 8 Maurice Horton
- 9 Larry Parks
- Kendra Huffman
- 10 Phillip March
- 12 Amanda Davis
- Alvin DeSayles
- Timothy Hill
- Faye Weatherspoon
- 13 Kanetra Towns
- Betty Wash
- Marshanna Jarumi
- 17 Robert Elam
- 18 Maurice Horton
- 19 Nettie Howell
- 20 Jayda Millan
- Helen Warren
- Bradley Wright
- 21 Bishop Paul Stewart
- 22 Rosa Mae Allen
- 24 Jada Minor
- Darlene Easley
- Mae Kendrick
- 27 Victoria Smith
- 30 Suzanne Jordan

**Minister Noah Brown** is a gospel recording artist embarking on a singing career. Blessed with a lovely wife, Gloretha, and two beautiful children Glory and Noah Jr., Noah knows the importance of family both immediate and extended. He loves his church almost as much as he loves the Lord, and is an active member of Bible Study on Wednesdays, Chaplain of the Young Adult Fellowship, and Assistant Director of the New Life Choir. In 1998, he formed the singing group "Noah I. Brown And Company," and they have been ministering locally, and traveling throughout central Illinois and beyond, spreading the Word of God through song. Along with songwriting, Noah has written many poems, play productions, and is working on a book entitled "Looking Through Glass Eyes." Recently, he received his Local Preacher's License from the C.M.E. Church, and ministers through the preached Word as well. His column, What's Cooking With Min. Noah Brown is a regular addition to St. Luke's newsletter, *The Christian Griot*.

**Dr. Victor Mullins** started as the Minister of Music for New Life Choir three Sundays each month in the fall of 2006. Later, in 2009, he became the musician for the Voices of Praise Choir .

Victor C. Mullins, his wife Nancy, and their two children (Justin and Audrey) moved to Illinois from New York City in 2003 when Dr. Mullins accepted a position as Assistant Dean for the MBA Program in the College of Business at the University of Illinois. Since his arrival, Dr. Mullins has been promoted to Associate Dean for Undergraduate Affairs in the College of Business. He now serves in this position at the University of Illinois.

At New York University (New York, NY), Dr. Mullins began as an Assistant Director for Undergraduate Admissions and before he left New York University (10 years of service at NYU), he had been promoted several times, leaving NYU as Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Affairs in the College of Business at NYU. Dr. Mullins has also served as a Residence Hall Manager at St. Peters Jesuit College in New Jersey and as a Program Analyst for the Fairfax County (Virginia) Office of Equal Employment Opportunity.

Dr. Mullins received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Speech Communication at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia; a Master of Arts Degree in Higher Education Administration at New York University; and a Doctor of Arts Degree in Higher Education Administration at New York University.

Dr. Mullins and his family will soon relocate to the state of Maryland as he starts his new position at the University of Maryland. He and his family will be missed by all at St. Luke. May God continue to bless the Mullins family as they start their new chapter of life in Maryland.

### WHAT'S COOK- ING

WITH MIN. NOAH  
BROWN!



Here's a great food tip:

This summer, for added FLAVOR, try using frozen fruit, like cubed mangos, pineapple, oranges or limes in your favorite drink to keep it cool!!! This beats "Ice Cubes" any day! :-). This is healthy, nutritious, AND simply delicious!

### St. Luke Food Pantry

10:00 AM 12:00 PM

June 16, 2012



New Life Choir Annual Day

Featuring: Rev. Deron Johnson, Pastor

Calvary CME Church

Pasadena, CA

June 24, 2012

3:30 PM

Vacation Bible School

June 18-23, 2012

# Happy Father's Day

## Former St. Luke Pastors



Rev. Dr. Clarence Buchanan,  
Pastot



Rev. John Deron Johnson



Rev. Roland Brown



Rev. Dr. Jesse Douglass, Sr.



Bishop Paul A.G. Stewart  
Third Episcopal District Presiding Prelate

To God be the Glory  
for  
Wonderful Fathers!



One night a father overheard his son pray: "Dear God, make me the kind of man my daddy is."  
Later that night, the father prayed: "Dear God, make me the kind of man my son wants me to be."

Author Unknown

# Happy Father's Day to St. Luke Fathers



## KNOW YOUR HISTORY: African-American Music Appreciation Month.

*Black Music Month* takes place in June. **President Jimmy Carter**, who on June 7, 1979, decreed that June would be the month of black music. For the past 28 years, presidents have announced to Americans that we should celebrate Black Music Month. For each year of his term, **President Barack Obama** has announced the observance, under the new title, *African-American Music Appreciation Month*.

### *The History Of Gospel Music* By Dennis L. Slaughter

At its most basic level, gospel music is sacred music. It is a unique phenomenon of Americana which had its earliest iterations toward the end of the nineteenth century. It is folk music which suggests that it and its secular counterparts are greatly influenced by each other. Just as much of the contemporary gospel music of today sounds like R & B and Hip-Hop, so did most of the early gospel music sound like the Blues.

Gospel, meaning "good news," derived its name from its close connection with the gospels (books in the New Testament). As we look at the common themes in the gospels of St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John, we find many references to God's goodness and mercy.

In order to reach the widest possible audience, there are no "style" restrictions on gospel music; only the thematic content remains constant. Coming out of an oral tradition, gospel music typically utilizes a great deal of repetition. This is a carryover from the time when many post-Reconstruction blacks were unable to read. The repetition of the words allowed those who could not read the opportunity to participate in worship. Gospel music over the centuries has ministered to the downtrodden and disenfranchised. To sing about a God who comes in the nick of time to deliver his people from uncomfortable circumstances is a consistent theme, which has been at the core of gospel music. This music has been enjoyed for many decades and it continues to grow in its variety and sound.

Gospel music has a history which can be traced to the 18th century. During this time, hymns were lined and repeated in a call and response fashion and the Negro spirituals and work songs came on the scene. Because the enslaved Africans attended their masters' worship services, the seventeenth century influences on Negro spirituals and work songs were traditional hymns the enslaved Africans heard in worship. Worship services served several purposes; not only were they a means by which the Africans could be monitored, but they also served as a reinforcement of the slavery indoctrination. Quite often readings were from St. Paul where made to being good servants and loving, obeying, and trusting one's master. At this time it was also illegal for more than a handful of blacks to congregate without supervision. This meant that the blacks were not free to worship on their own they had to attend worship services with their master. At these services they would grow closer in their understanding of Christian doctrine and role that music played in that experience. The worship music (hymns) of the whites masters became the backdrop for the music the enslaved Africans would use at their eventual worship meetings.

The unlawfulness of the blacks congregating did not keep them from secretly holding "campground" meetings. These meetings were typically held at a distance from the main house to assure discretion and avoid possible punishment. It was during these such meetings that "newer" renditions of traditional hymns were developed. It is often wondered how such creativity and beauty could have come out of such a dismal time. As we listen to gospel music today with its sometimes downtrodden themes, it continues to be curious how such beauty and richness can emanate from troubled times. In the tradition of the black church, call and response in singing and in speaking has been and continues to be a foundation on which the gospel is delivered. Through this participatory delivery system beliefs are reinforced. There is an expectation that when there is agreement with either the spoken word or song because of either its content or its contexts that verbal affirmation will be given. Those who are witnessing, speaking, or singing are encouraged by the responses and those who are about to experience issues are empowered to be victorious.



Mrs. Dora Jamerson was honored by Church Women United as Gallant Woman of the Year 2012.



Thank you, Champaign School Board member, Jamar Brown, for volunteering at St. Luke's Food Pantry on May 19, 2012.



Missionary Society President Eve Foster and Treasurer, Donna Tinsley lead the processional during the afternoon program on April 29, 2012.

## Missionary Day 2012



Below: Mrs. Dora Jamerson was recognized for her many years of service to the Missionary Society.



Missionary Society President Eve Foster, Rev. Buchanan and Missionary Society members congratulate the morning speaker, Min. Deborah Banks, speaker during the morning worship service on April 29, 2012.



Missionary Society President Eve Foster, Rev. Clarence Buchanan, Mrs. Christine and Rev. Jacqueline Davis congratulate the afternoon speaker, Interim Pastor of New Light Baptist Church, Rantoul, IL, Rev. Edger Reed.



Mistress of Ceremonies, Marilyn Thadison

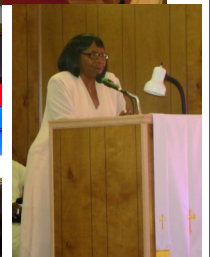
## 103rd Church Anniversary



St. Luke Praise Dancers



Mime Praise Dancers from New Hope Baptist Church, Springfield, IL.



Chairperson, Hattie Hicks