

2012-11-15

The Weekly Challenger : 2012 : 11 : 15

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The Weekly Challenger

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VOL. 45 NO. 12

NOVEMBER 15 - NOVEMBER 21, 2012

50¢

Thank you to the community

BY CEDRIC F. GORDON

On Saturday, Oct. 13, our daughter, Army Spec. Brittany Bria Gordon, of the 572nd Military Intelligence Company, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, tragically lost her life in Kandahar, Afghanistan, while doing what she loved — protecting and serving her country.

As a soldier, Brittany understood and accepted the moral obligation to serve a cause greater than her own self-interest.

This was an overwhelming, devastating loss that brought great sorrow to me, my family and many of you. In spite of this difficult and trying time, my faith continues to be renewed and inspired by the overwhelming and loving outpouring of support from the people in this great community, state and nation.

I had a monumental task and moral obligation to memorialize Brittany in a way that would be deserving of her act of heroism and bravery. This could not have been accomplished without the support of all of you. As a community, we united in a common cause to achieve this goal.

Thanks to you, by all accounts, we exceeded our goal and met our responsibility to Brittany. Again, this could not have been accomplished without you.

My family and I are eternally grateful. Your over-

See **THANK YOU**, page 6



Gordon being comforted by community.



Attorney James Flynn, standing, consults with President and CEO Watson Haynes, II of the PCUL.

Southside Lawyer joins the Urban League

BY JEANIE BLUE
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Legal counsel is an integral part of any corporation and most pay dearly for this needed service; however, this is not a problem for the Pinellas County Urban League (PCUL).

The civil rights organization dedicated to economic empowerment to underserved communities located at 333 31st St. N., has been blessed with the free services of Attorney James Flynn — the Southside Lawyer.

neey James Flynn — the Southside Lawyer.

The 34-year-old Flynn volunteered to serve as legal counsel for the PCUL about three months ago, and since that time has assisted with the filing of a friend-of-the-court brief with the U.S. Supreme Court on their behalf in a discrimination case.

Due to the confidential nature of the case, the other party in the suit will not be named.

“As Mr. Haynes comes in he needs protection and guidance that we can offer,” Flynn said referring to the recent hiring of President and CEO Watson Haynes, II in May. “I am one of the running backs for the quarterback.”

“When I asked Mr. Flynn to consider being the legal counsel for the Pinellas County Urban League, he didn’t hesitate and said right away ‘I’ll do it,’” Haynes said. “He comes to us at a great time to help work out legal challenges and issues facing the League.”

Haynes explained that as the PCUL grows, they will need a second set of eyes to review contracts and grants and will need a lawyer to “bounce legal issues off of.”

The PCUL has been in this community for the past 37 years. Among its many programs includes a home owner weatherization program, utility payment assistance, student advocacy and mentoring, career connection center and crime prevention.

See **LAWYER**, page 6

Frank Peterman, Jr.: Pastor, councilman, author

BY KENDALL QUEEN
Staff Writer

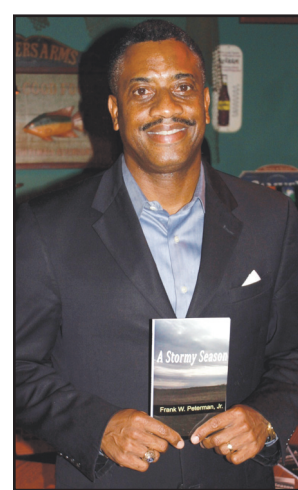
ST. PETERSBURG — Midtown Sundries Sports Bar in downtown St. Petersburg was the scene for Frank Peterman, Jr.’s Nov. 9th book signing party for his novel “A Stormy Season.”

For Peterman, the writing of the book itself was the success. Graduating with an English degree from Morehouse

College in 1985, this is his first published novel.

His mother, Peggy Peterman, had been a reporter for the St. Petersburg Times for over 30 years, so writing was instilled in him at a young age. Though, after graduating, his time was spent dealing with politics and religion.

Peterman wears many hats for he has been on the St. Petersburg city council for over 10 years, is a pastor at



Frank Peterman, Jr.

the Rock of Jesus Missionary Baptist Church and has just started his own consultant group.

“This is the first time I have done anything with the creative side, the literary side. I had written articles and short stories, and poems, but I always said I wanted to write books,” said Peterman.

He had a couple of ideas for books in mind,

See **BOOK**, page 8

Breaking Free celebrates eight years

BY JEANIE BLUE
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — A crowd of people were on hand to celebrate Breaking Free By Faith Outreach Ministries’ eighth anniversary last Sat., Nov. 10 at the Enoch Davis Center.

Housed at 1701 18th Ave. S., Breaking Free By Faith provides shelter, with transitional and affordable/permanent housing to help ex-inmates transition back into society and work toward self-sufficiency.

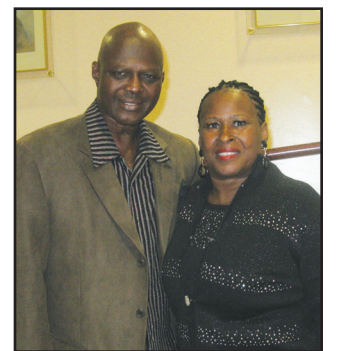
They also serve the homeless population with substance abuse programs and provide appropriate services for those dealing with domestic violence and mental health issues.

Several people reflected on and gave testimonies to the meaningful work performed at the ministry including Mayor Bill Foster, who was there to congratulate founders Ernest and Clarissa Hersey-James for their many years of devoted service to the community.

“It’s all about people and loving your neighbor and everybody whether you have an addiction or are recently released from incarceration,” said Foster. “It’s not about them; it’s about reaching others and helping them break free of chains by faith. I support this ministry. When you break free from things pulling you down you dance and give thanks.”

The more than 60 attendees, who included residents of the program and community members, enjoyed good

See **FREE**, page 6



Ernest James and Clarissa Hersey-James

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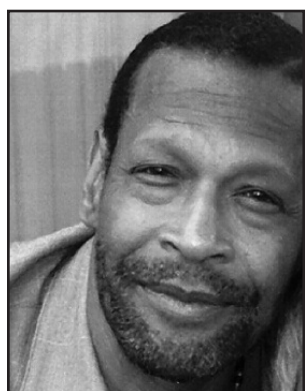
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OPINION

Democracy or hypocrisy?



JONATHAN SCOTT

When one looks into the original intent of this country "founding fathers," they might be surprised to learn they had no intention of providing a democratic society for all the people, or a government for, of, and by the people.

The constitution was created for an elite class of white males who were committed to their own financial interest. The notion of a majority rule of all its citizens was not to ever be in the Americas.

At best this government was set up as a business with total control centered only among white male property owners with democratic theories that held everyone else hostage. It was about economics then, and it is about economics today.

It is no doubt that the words in the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States are inspiring to say the least. Surely they would interest anyone in living under a government whose foundation is based on those moving expressions of freedom.

Many folks both black and white would like to think we live in a country whose government genuinely cares for its citi-

zenry. We would like to believe the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is doing all it can to keep contaminated foods and dangerous drugs from reaching consumer markets. We want to believe that the Hippocratic Oath motivates the American medical Association (AMA) and their medical doctors.

Would not this country be great if in fact this was really the utopian democratic experience that the language of those documents represents? What if in this country's medical industry really cared for our health and not just simply making money? What if their goal was to cure illnesses versus treating them? What if the legal system was fair across the board and justice was administered equally regardless of economic status and race?

What if those outdated FDA rules that allow poisons to be tolerable as long as the lethal effects takes several years were permanently discontinued? What if politicians really represented all the people and not their special interests? And what if commercials told the truth about their products?

Yes this would surely be a utopian society, but the reality of what we have here is a deceptive system of institutions that has created a society that keeps the majority of its people in some form of economic bondage.

Last but not least, there was a time when America's fighting forces left the boundaries of the United States and the citizens felt that these brave soldiers

were fighting to preserve democracy and their lifestyles.

However, far too few people today understand that America's form of democracy is just a smoke-screen for its capitalist economic system. When this country is engaged in conflict, it is not about establishing democracy; on the contrary, it's about the control and/or being heavily influential in that countries economics and/or its natural resources. It has nothing to do with the establishment of a purely democratic government.

What's ironic is that it does not matter if the occupied country is ruled by a notorious dictator. As long as the United States can do business with them, they are accepted and will receive preferential treatment to include money and military support.

Those countries that choose not to do business with the United States, well we know what that makes them - (un)natural enemies.

We want to believe that the majority of wars being fought are fought in the name of freeing people from oppressive governments with the overall mission of restoring, replacing, or implementing a democracy.

Yet there has to be a reason why this country is the most hated country on the planet, and there must be a reason why people all over the world are hailing the Obama administration with his message of peace and diplomacy — something the world has not seen from this country in decades.

Obama's historic re-election



BY RIVERS-CLEVELAND

It's finally over, and Barack won again! Four years ago former Chief of Staff and Secretary of State Colin Powell called Barack Obama a "transitional figure" and announced his support for him. Powell went against his party and courageously did what he thought was best for his country.

Obama won in spite of the fact that from day one Republicans, such as Rush Limbaugh and the speaker of the house openly declared their number one goal was to make him a one term president. Even though Obama won the 2008 election fair and square, these clowns put their own ideology and hatred above the express will of the American people.

Fair-weather blacks, who complain about Obama's handling the gulf oil spill, accused him of being weak and nonassertive, and are now scrambling to jump back on the Obama train.

While all these whirlwinds have been raging around him, President Obama has remained relatively calm and dignified despite being surrounded by people who not only disrespected him but disrespected the office of the presidency. In many ways Obama's presidency has in some ways been defined, by the "800 pound elephant" in the middle of the room — race.

Many of the percep-

tions about Obama and his presidency have been filtered through the prisms of bigotry and racism. America has moved forward and made great strides in race relations; the election map showed clearly that in the south, there is a serious anti-black, anti-progressive agenda. With the exception of Virginia and Florida, Pat Buchanan's Southern strategy is still in effect after almost 40 years.

Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, Alabama and even Georgia still vote against candidates who are popular with black people. Examples include the Kennedys, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and now Barack Obama. Obama has been the latest reincarnation of the liberal progressive legacies of Hubert Humphrey, Robert Kennedy and the late George McGovern.

Obama particularly owes a lot to Bill Clinton whose convention speech reinvigorated the Obama campaign. Obama is the political fulfillment of the Clinton agenda without the scandals. The foolish people who say history is not relevant needs to understand as the writer Faulkner once wrote, "history is now."

Jesse Jackson, an unsung hero in the evolution of the black presidency, has gone as far as to call this election a battle between the "Selma Coalition" and the Confederacy. The Selma Coalition in reference to the civil rights battleground in 1965, which consisted of moderate whites, women and blacks.

What the Obama team has added to this coalition are the emerging Latino power, young whites and an advanced understanding of the internet. Obama revolutionize the election process by using cyberspace the same way John F. Kennedy capitalized the newly discovered medium of television.

The Romney people actually thought they would win this election! Republicans spent millions of dollars to get rid of this president and the number one question in my mind was: "What part of the greatest economic collapse since the Great Depression, don't you understand!?"

Just as Bill Clinton said, no one would have been able to conquer this recession in four years. Too many politicians on both sides of the aisle are not able to articulate to the American people that economies go in cycles. Although the president can affect how long an economic cycle can last, the president is not the final or even major factor.

It's foolish to blame Obama or even President Bush alone for a worldwide economic collapse. Unscrupulous politicians prey on ignorance people especially when those people have not the time or desire to understand.

This presidential election was very divisive however; this election could actually end up helping Romney and the rest of the nation. If Gov. Romney could come clean and return to being the conservative to moderate person he was as a governor of Massachusetts, he might lead the Republican Party back to the center.

The extreme wings of both parties threaten to damage progress and further polarize us as people. Hopefully the Republican Party has learned that they cannot continue to alienate or marginalize everybody who's not a white male. For this is the great lesson of the Obama coalition — everyone needs to feel they can get the piece of the pie. As Martin Luther King said years ago, "America needs to live up to the true meaning of its creed, that all men are created equal."

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Ethel L. Johnson,
CEO/Publisher Emerita

Lyn Johnson,
Publisher/General Manager

Lorrie Bellinger,
Art Director

PUBLISHED WEEKLY
on Thursdays

READERSHIP
100,000 monthly

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
\$50 for 1 year (local only)

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50 cents

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All news items, advertising copy and related art submitted for publication on Thursday must be at the office of The Weekly Challenger no later than 4 p.m. Monday.

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Volume 45 • Number 12
Published Thursday,
November 15, 2012
12 pages • 1 section

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COMMUNITY NEWS



By Dr. Basha Jordan
www.HopeAliveMinistry.org

Food addiction freedom, Step #3- "God, What Did You Say?"

If you heard God tell you, "No more fried chicken from Popeyes and no more hamburgers from McDonald's because they are bad for your health," what would you do? Would you continue to eat fried chicken and hamburgers but not get them from Popeyes or McDonald's? Or, would you follow God's guidelines because you know He really has your best interest at heart? Would you listen to God or to your stomach; the flesh or the Spirit?

The 3rd step of 12 Step Recovery programs says: "Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him." In the book of Matthew chapter 16:24-25 Jesus says, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

Last week Dr. James Dail, Sr. Ph. D., Th. D., ND, (doctor of naturopathy) and an anointed man of God conduct four sessions on "Walking In Divine Health" at our church in Baltimore, Hope Alive Ministry Deliverance Fellowship.

Dail said that the number one addiction in America today is food, and that all diseases and health issues are related to what we put in our stomachs.

He led us to what God has to say about what we are to eat by in Genesis 1:29 in the bible.

It says, "And God said, See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food."

This means we are to eat fruit and vegetables that have within them, seeds, and also herbs. Our bodies are not made to eat meat and junk food high in salt.

In our communities, so many are

plagued with high blood pressure, diabetes, being overweight, and cancer, just to name a few. More people die annually from these food related addictions than all the street drugs and prescription drugs combined.

For some of us, it would be extremely difficult to turn our stomachs and taste buds over to the care of God because this is all we have ever known. We would act like we did not hear Him and pose the question: "God, What did you say?"

We may challenge God's Word and wisdom whether it is revealed in a 12 Step Program or the bible. Some of us will never change until the pain becomes great enough. For so many, we are powerless over food and our lives have become unmanageable.

When I heard Dail say last year at our church that "all meat can cause cancer," it did something to me way deep down inside. I made a decision to try to avoid cancer, live better, and walk in Divine health because I was tired of my weight going up and down for years.

Meat has not gone in my stomach since September of 2011. Can you imagine what it was for me, a black preacher to give up the gospel bird, fried chicken? Only by much prayer. I feel better and my weight has been maintained so much better.

You too can have freedom from a food addiction and other addictions by finding out what is God's will for you in that area and doing it.

For help, please call me at (443) 250-9635 or send an email to ProphetBasha@aol.com. You can also send a letter by snail mail to Dr. Jordan, P.O. Box 16622, St. Petersburg, FL 33733.

Don't forget to listen to us on WRXB AM every 1st & 3rd Sat. at 8:30-9 a.m.

And remember, "No matter what's going on with you today, there is hope for you." I'm Dr. J. — Be blessed.

Rainey's Bulletin

By Pastor Martin Rainey



The Parent Support for Education Council (PSFEC) recognizes that increased parental support is one of the major keys to greater academic excellence. Therefore, they recommend the implementation of a back-to-basics model.

With increased parental engagement, the incorporation of the three best practices below serving as guiding principles, struggling elementary schools could become a demonstration model advocated by a prominent education research center under the leadership of Dr. Willard R. Dagget.

The three guiding principles include:

- Academic rigor (ready for global competition)
- Relationships (teacher to student)
- Relevance (application for marketable future)

The Model consists of the following:

- Target implementation in South County struggling schools as a demonstration - model project and expanding later to other schools.

- Establish a community -based PSFEC that assist in increasing significant parent and community knowledge base, bonding with the school and increase parental engagement.

- Contract with outreach specialists from targeted neighborhoods to obtain the cooperation and permission of natural parent and/or guardian for the pilot participation.

- Contract with organization consultants (Randy Lewis and others) to ensure the availability of the pool of parental advocates and, conduct the necessary background screening and parental engagement for maximum

benefit to the struggling students.

- Employ a 3-5 year comprehensive marketing plan that facilitates Parent Council recruitment and engagement.

- Include a comprehensive evaluation component.

- Implement, but not limited to, the PSFEC six-point initiative. (Will require a special meeting for clarification)

The NAACP, Parent Support for Education Council, Inc. JWB SCCC have invested time by reaching out to the south community to listen to parents to determine what is needed to increase parental and caring adult participation in the lives of children.

After more than six community forums and summits, the PSFEC will recommend a back-to-basis concept that can readily be developed into a program the will effectively deal with academics, increase graduation rate, decrease discipline and last but not least, be cost effective by using existing funds.

Next article: the back-to-basics concept and six point plan.

Your input and critique is appreciated.

Pastor Rainey is the President of the Parent Support For Education Council, inc., Chairman JWB South County Community Council and also serves as Outreach Pastor for Faith Memorial MB Church, Rev. Dr. Bragg L. Turner, Senior Pastor.

Pastor Rainey may be contacted at mrainey390@verizon.net or 727-420-1326.

PSFEC meets every third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Hospitality House located at 3647 18th Ave. S., St. Petersburg, adjacent to South Side Tabernacle Baptist Church.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Long time educator dies

Katherine Louise Dorsey Valentine of St. Petersburg passed away peacefully on Nov. 13 at 1 p.m. surrounded by her daughter and friends. She was 91.

She was the beloved wife of Kenneth Valentine for more than 60 years. They moved to Alachua County over 55 years ago from Nashville, Tenn., after both graduating from Tennessee State University.

After a visit to St. Petersburg, they were so enthralled with the closeness of the beaches and the promise of sunshine every day, that they were soon packed up and were driving down to make this area their home.

A teacher in the Pinellas County School System for over 30 years, Katherine generously gave her time, gifts and talents to her community.

She said in an interview with *The Weekly Challenger* back in March of this year, "I don't have time to sit around and feel sorry for myself. I am doing things while I can still do them."

That statement couldn't ring any clearer, for she was an active member of McCabe United Methodist Church where she served on numerous boards, councils, and committees; a charter member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority; member of Tennessee State Alumni Association St. Petersburg/Tampa Chapter, member of Pinellas County Retired Educators Association.

She was a past president and member of the Mel Tan Neighborhood Association, and



Katherine Louise Dorsey Valentine
a member of the Silver Slippers at the St. Petersburg YMCA.

Katherine will be deeply missed by her family and close friends. Survivors include her daughter, Sharon Valentine, and sister, Willa Dorsey Taylor of Nashville, Tenn., nieces, nephews, other relatives and countless friends.

Viewing will be held today, Nov. 15 from 6 - 7 p.m. at the Lawson Funeral Home & Cremation Services, located at 4535 Central Ave. in St. Petersburg.

Funeral services will be held Fri., Nov. 16, at McCabe United Methodist Church, 2800 26th Ave. S. in St. Petersburg.

The legacy of Clinton Falana

BY JON WILSON
Staff Writer

Clinton C. Falana, St. Petersburg's first African-American bus driver and a community figure noted for his kindness, died Sun., Nov. 5. He was 88. Funeral services are 11 a.m. this Friday at First Baptist Institutional Church, 3144 4th Ave. S.

"He was quite a guy. He made his life count," said son Sherman Falana. "And he never knew a stranger."

Born in farm country near Ocala, Mr. Falana came to St. Petersburg in 1932. He lived in the Methodist Town community and attended Davis Academy, Jordan Elementary and Gibbs High School. While a senior at Gibbs, he drove a second-hand bus known as the Blue Goose to transport students to and from school.

After serving in World War II, Mr. Falana returned to St. Petersburg and studied mortuary services. For a time, he worked the McRae funeral home. Then he worked for General Material Concrete for 14 years. He once told an interviewer that he mixed most of the concrete for the original Sunshine Skyway, which opened in 1954.

When Mr. Falana left General Material to sell insurance, he painstakingly typed a formal letter of resignation. Impressed with his professionalism, the bosses said he would have a job waiting at the company any time he needed it.

Mr. Falana sold insurance for about a year. Then civil rights activist Dr. Gilbert Leggett told him that he had arranged to have African Americans take the test to drive city buses. Mr. Falana passed and began driving in 1964 as the city's first black driver. It wasn't easy at first. He received threatening letters and he was shot at three times while driving.

But Mr. Falana was not to be discouraged, sometimes working 96-hour weeks, he continued for 25 years, never having an accident or receiving a ticket. He was named driver of the year in 1982.

It was during his tenure as a driver that Mr. Falana became known to the wider St. Petersburg community. Passengers lauded him for his considerate ways and care for passengers. He was known to help elderly pedestrians cross busy downtown streets.

Sometimes mothers would bring their children on a bus, leaving them in Mr. Falana's care until they could meet

a relative at a stop down the line. He patiently answered tourists' questions even if it meant missing his short breaks.

In a 1976 letter to a newspaper editor, a passenger called Mr. Falana a "gentle" and "beautiful" man he had seen "under very difficult conditions with crotchety septuagenarians and never once did he blow his cool."

During the holiday season, Mr. Falana put on a Santa outfit and gave passengers candy. Officials referred to him as the transit system's ambassador, and passengers wrote so many laudatory letters that the bus system director jokingly told Mr. Falana he must have organized a fan club.

He once found a green bank bag in the street – and discovered that it contained \$6,487. Mr. Falana turned it into his bosses and the money was returned to its owner, who gave Mr. Falana a \$150 reward.

Known as "Deacon Falana" to many, Mr. Falana was a lifelong member of First Baptist Institutional. He is survived by his children, Clementine, Cynthia, Rosalyn, Sherman and Jacqueline.

The wake will be held this evening from 6-8 p.m. at Zion Hill Mortuary located at 1700 49th St. S. in St. Petersburg.

Funeral services will be held Fri., Nov. 16 at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Institutional, 3144 3rd Ave. S.

Some of the information for this article came from a dissertation by Dr. Evelyn Newman Phillips, available at <http://faculty.usfsp.edu/jsokolov/mclin/res.1.html>



Clinton Falana in the 1970s

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In Memory Of Verna Ruth Charles Ford



Verna Ruth Charles Ford

Verna Ruth Charles Ford was born January 23, 1949 in St. Petersburg. She attended the public schools in St. Petersburg and Daytona Beach, where she lived for seven years. Verna graduated in June 1966 from Gibbs Senior High School.

Verna departed this life Fri., Oct. 19. She was preceded in death by her mother, Eddie Lee Driskell Charles, her father, Benjamin Strouse, eldest brother, Wilbur Charles, youngest brother, Ronald Strouse Charles, older sisters, Annie Laura Charles, Mary Charles Perry, maternal grandparents, Rev. John and Mrs. Laura Driskell, and paternal grandparents, Mr. Robert and Mrs. Annie Bell Eady Strouse.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity-Eta Rho Chapter 50th Achievement Week Program

BY TOM PACKER

ST. PETERSBURG – The theme for this year's program: "A Look at the Past with an Eye on the Future," served as the hallmark for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity-Eta Rho Chapter 50th Achievement Week Program celebration.

The culmination of all the festivities took place at Sun., Nov. 11 at the Greater Mt. Zion AME Church in St. Petersburg, where the past year of service was recognized both from within the fraternity and the community at large.

The chair person for this year's event was Brother William "Bill" Puller, a 42 year life member of the fraternity, and the keynote speaker was pioneering attorney Brother Delano S. Stewart, Esq.

Brother Stewart's message reminded all present that the youth are the future and a most precious gift to humanity, and that each adult has the responsibility to build life bridges that will aid them along their journey.

The program featured Eta

Rho's Talent Hunt winner, Maiya Stevenson, who will represent the chapter at the fraternities 7th District Meeting, to be held in April of 2013 in Tampa. Four scholarships were awarded to college bound students or those in their freshman year pursuing a four year degree.

The evening would witness the presentation of four major awards that represented the pinnacle of a successful year of service. The Omega Man of the Year Award, the highest award an Omega man can receive, was presented to Brother James E. Jackson, Jr. Basileus of Eta Rho Chapter.

Brother Jackson was recognized for his advanced organizational skills and the many innovative concepts he placed into practice that saved the chapter both time and money. Under Brother Jackson's leadership, Eta Rho holds a place of honor among chapters in the bay area and is sought after to join many new fraternity initiatives.

The Citizen of the Year



L-R James E. Jackson, Jr., Watson Haynes II, William "Bill" Puller, Harry Harvey

Award was presented to Brother Watson Haynes II, CEO of the Pinellas County Urban League for his major involvement in numerous grassroots organizations that includes education, minority support, religion and community organizing. Brother Haynes is known for his one stop solution approach; taking care of a problem the first time it is presented.

The Superior Service Award was presented to Brother William "Bill" Puller for the many successful chapter projects he chaired. Brother Puller, a "go to per-

son" when deadlines must be met, was the guiding force that saw the restoration of Eta Rho's golf tournament.

The Founders Award was awarded to Brother Harry Harvey for his many years of representing Eta Rho at all levels of the fraternity's hierarchy. Brother Harvey is a respected adviser and mentor to newly elected fraternity officers. He is sought out for his working knowledge of fraternity procedures and protocol.

The program concluded with a salute to youth achievement and a commitment to service.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Courtesy of



Publix

Ongoing — Publix now offers their customers access to free Wi-Fi service inside their supermarkets - a blessing for customers who shop with their mobile devices. The Wi-Fi service will help mobile users access the Internet and check out products, ingredients, prices and other useful tools shoppers want access to while grocery shopping.

November 23 thru 25 — Studio@620 and The Palladium Present: Langston Hughes' Black Nativity. A musical African-American Holiday Tradition. FREE and open to the public. For more information, go to mypalladium.org or call 727-822-3590

Friday, November 23 — The city of St. Petersburg kicks the holiday season off with a Holiday Tree Lighting community event with Mayor Bill Foster flipping the switch next Friday from 5-7 p.m. in North Straub Park on Bayshore Drive on the waterfront. Entertainment begins at 5 p.m. with Radio Disney and the Vesper Bells Choir from Lutheran Church of the Cross, 6 p.m. St. Petersburg Community Band.

Saturday, December 1 — Let's ring in December with a breakfast with Santa from 8 a.m. to Noon. There will be a full breakfast, holiday music, entertainment, crafts, games, door prizes and more! Photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus can be purchased for \$5.00. As one of our chapter's largest community outreach events, Breakfast with Santa event touches the hearts of kids both young and old. The event will be located the Salvation Army Citadel Corps Community Center located at 3800 9th Ave. N. in St. Petersburg. If you have any questions, please contact the St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta at 727-744-2083.

Food basket giveaway

BY KENDALL QUEEN
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Members of the community gathered at the Glad Tiding Assembly of God located at 4200 17th Ave. N., to worship and fellowship during the Pre-Thanksgiving Food Basket Giveaway for needy families last Sat., Nov. 10.

This was the fourth year of the event hosted by radio personality Princess Denise Wright of Matters of the Heart Radio and Connecting Point Ministry. This year 70 families were provided with baskets filled with canned and boxed goods, and gift cards to local grocery stores were raffled off for families to win turkeys.

Local Comedian "Goldiee" performed one of his hilarious routines, Swiyah Muhammad stirred the crowd with a moti-

vational speech, and Minister Kimberly Blackman took the stage to discuss the wonders of Thanksgiving.

In the lobby, booths were set up for different speakers to promote their causes. Veronica Blakely, author of "Depression is a T.H.I.E.F.," was on hand to discuss the effects of depression and how to manage the disease.

The Matters of the Heart Ministry began in August of 2004, and works on empowering and encouraging men, women, boys, and girls through the word of God.

Every third and fourth Saturday of the month between 1-1:30 p.m., Princess Denise inspires individuals to "never give up" through her radio show on Praise 1590 WRXB AM and on www.wrxbs.us.

The most effective way Wright reaches the commu-

nity is through her radio show, but she also participates in many community events such as securing donations for the boy scouts and contributing to cooking classes within the community.

Wright explained that she really enjoys reaching out to the community, and bringing them in.

"Some people haven't even gone to church all year long, so we have a spiritual service to enjoy and they receive something as a gift," she said.

Wright has sacrificed much of her time and energy finding local donors and sponsors in order to get gift cards for the needy, but explains that she does it because she just loves helping people.

"Helping people is something that I've always done," she finished.

This year, the food for the



Princess Denise Wright at the annual Pre-Thanksgiving Food Basket Giveaway

event and gift cards were donated by Wal-Mart, Publix, Sweetbay, and other ministries who supports what Wright is striving for — helping others.

Later this year, Wright will coordinate a Toys for Tots toy drive. Stay tuned to her radio show on Praise 1590 WRXB AM for more details.

Food baskets adorned the pews at Glad Tiding Assembly of God.

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James E. Flynn Jr.

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DOG DAYS



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Writer Needed! Start TODAY!

Writers will cover events and feature stories in Pinellas County and the Bradenton/Palmetto area.

Stories must be factually correct, between 500-600 words unless told otherwise and be accompanied by pictures of the event. Correct grammar and punctuation is a must. AP style of writing is required. Schedule must be flexible.

Email resume to
generalmanager@theweeklychallenger.com
or call 727-896-2922 for an interview.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Eight years of helping the community

From **FREE**, page 1



L-R, Honorable R.W. Merthie, Dr. and first lady Patricia Merthie, Clarissa Hersey-James, Ernest James and Mayor Bill Foster

food and uplifting music. One such resident who gave a personal testimony was Tim Jordan.

"I entered the program on September 1, 2011 when I was truly broken," Jordan said. "My drug addiction made me hit rock bottom. I have been blessed ever since then and now I help with taking care of others. I have also been blessed with a vehicle with nice rims. I am getting my relationship back with my family and reuniting with my children."

Founding member Clarissa Hersey-James credits her faith and support from

others as key to the success of the ministry. As a recovering addict, she can relate to the struggles of those she helps.

"The challenge is always present," said James. It's all about the souls of the people. Once the ministry started, I went and got a little out of order. I had to commit to the ministry and with help from others, along with prayers, I pushed ahead..."

Emcee and 1590 AM WRXB radio personality, Maurice Sebastian made an appeal for donations for the program reminding everyone that all donations are tax deductible.



Resident Tim Jordan

Thank you to the community

From **THANK YOU**, page 1

whelming acts of kindness came, and continue to come, in all forms for Brittany and my family – contributions, countless cards, letters, poems, emails, text messages, phone calls, children's drawings, candles, flowers, food, well wishes, prayers, and acts of service by those just pitching in to help – just to name a few.

I would like to thank all the law enforcement agencies and military personnel who supported our family at the services for our daughter Brittany. The entire nation has given, and continues to demonstrate, tremendous love and support to our family.

Please continue to remember the legacy of Brittany by being a beacon of everlasting hope and peace. Please keep our family in your thoughts and prayers. We must never forget the significance of her sacrifice and remember that all of our destinies are intertwined as



we, the nation, continue to come together on a higher plane of dignity, peace, trust, respect and love.

As we celebrated this Veteran's Day, let us never forget these brave men and women who are the best and brightest that this world has to offer, and always give them

the support and love that they have earned and deserve.

As my daughter Brittany would say to me, "Dad, make it do what it do, and get 'er done!"

Thank you,
Cedric F. Gordon
Asst. Chief of Police
St. Petersburg, Fla.

LET'S TALK LAW



BY JACQLYN F. BRYANT, ESQ.

Paying Child Support on SSD

News Flash: An obligation to pay child support does not go away when you apply for Social Security Disability or begin receiving SSDI benefits!

First of all, the minor child of a person who is found to be disabled under the Social Security Act (for SSD not SSDI) is entitled to receive children's benefits based on their parent's disability. The child must be unmarried, dependant, and also be under age 18 or still in the 12th grade.

So how does this affect a disabled person's child support obligation? Generally, in Florida, the children's benefit is said to be paid on behalf of the parent on disability, and the parent on disability is then only responsible for paying the remainder of the monthly child support payment, if any.

In other words, when the State of Florida performs the guideline child support calculation to determine the amount the disabled parent has to pay each month, the children's benefit that the child receives from SSA are subtracted from the disabled parent's payment; therefore, this amount is a payment of the child support on behalf of the disabled parent.

If the benefits the child receives is LESS THAN the court-ordered child support obligation, the disabled parent must pay the rest. If the benefit the child receives from Social Security is MORE THAN the disabled parent was obligated to pay by the court, the full amount, even if it is extra, still goes to the child.

If you have a child support obligation, but you are disabled and are applying for Social Security Disability because you can no longer work, it may be very important for you to ask the Court for a modification of your child support payment due to the change in your income status or ability to pay. Sometimes the child support obligation can be lowered by the court (at times) until you receive SSD or even after.

As always, it is important to contact a qualified attorney if you have questions concerning a denial or reconsideration of Social Security Disability benefits and how this could affect your child support obligations.

If you would like to know more about this topic; have questions; or just want to say hello; please email me at Jacqlyn.Esq@gmail.com. I would love to hear from you!

James Flynn and the PCUL

From **LAWYER**, page 1

They boast of such successes as helping approximately 10,000 people with utility payment assistance last year, and the interviewing of 228 people for job eligibility at the new Sam's Club that opened late last month.

"My ultimate reward," said Flynn, "is being in the middle of the Urban League helping to create a skilled work force. This has a direct impact on the local economy."

Flynn invites everyone to stop by and become more familiar with the programs at the PCUL.

"Get vetted, get polished, get skilled and become a productive citizen of society. A strong community represents strong healthy families, which helps my business too," urged Flynn.

Haynes and Flynn have become fast friends over the last few months, and their working relationship is "almost organic like a father and son relationship. We are proud to be a part of an organization that does important work," related Flynn.

Both men have extensive experience working in corporate America with Haynes once being the



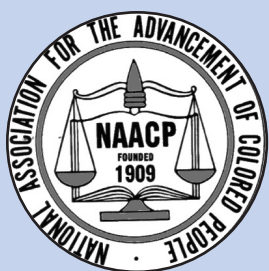
Watson Haynes, II and Attorney James Flynn

executive vice president of Operation PAR, and Flynn working with the prestigious law firm Butler Pappas Weihmuller Katz Craig in Tampa.

Flynn likens the PCUL to corporate America in one respect — if it doesn't produce positive results, then it is scrapped.

"I came out of corporate America and the nice thing about the Urban League is that it mirrors it. If something doesn't work, it gets removed," Flynn said.

With youthful exuberance, Flynn exclaimed, "I am excited about the future."



St. Petersburg Branch of the NAACP announces election of officers and Executive Committee Members 2013-14

When: Monday, Nov. 26, 2012

Where: Branch office, 1501 16th Ave South, St. Pete. FL. 33705

Time: 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

SLATE OF OFFICERS:

Rev. Manual L. Sykes, President
Reginald Davis, 2nd Vice President
Cleopatra Sykes, Secretary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Ed Van, Patty Van Alstine, Eleanor Rogers, Harry Harvey, Poul Hornsleth, April Hornsleth, "Momma T." Teresa Lassiter

To vote you must be a member in good standing, having a current NAACP membership.
Please bring your personal ID and NAACP membership card with you in order to vote.

DISTRICT APPLICATION PROGRAMS

Information Workshops for Parents and Students

Interested in learning how to apply for magnet, fundamental, career academy and Center of Excellence programs for the 2013-14 school year?

Workshops about the application process will be held from 7-8 p.m. at the following locations:

- Nov. 14, Pinellas Park High, 6305 118th Ave. N., Largo
- Nov. 27, Gibbs High, 850 34th St. S., St. Petersburg
- Nov. 29, Countryside High, 3000 State Road 580, Clearwater

Workshops are for parents of students entering kindergarten through 10th grade.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

✓ APPLICATION PERIOD
Jan. 9-23, 2013

✓ DISTRICTWIDE INFORMATION FAIR
Pinellas Park High, Dec. 1, 2012

✓ SOUTH COUNTY INFORMATION FAIR
Gibbs High, Dec. 4, 2012



For more information, call Student Assignment at (727) 588-6210.

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www.pcsb.org



COMMUNITY NEWS

Parent Support for Education Council, Inc. in partnership with *The Weekly Challenger* presents:

Parent of the Week Award

This award is not a contest; rather the purpose of the award is to celebrate parental engagement in education by parents and caring adults. While encountering many challenges, these parents continue to be engaged in all aspects of their children's lives.



Rare but wonderful, Anthony Wilson, II is a single father of three holding down a day job and actively engaged in the lives of his children. He is engaged in many activities with his children including: playing computer games, visiting local parks, going to Chucky Cheese, Astro Skate Center, etc.

Wilson says he firmly believes and instills in his children respect for their peers and adult authority. He insists on his children completing their homework and other school assignments and visits the school at least twice each month.

Dequelle Turner is a single parent of four, and attends St. Petersburg College. Her children see a strong mother who is a provider, nurturer and someone who strives to take care of them despite many obstacles.

Turner makes sure the children are well groomed, is actively engaged with them and keeps them busy with school and other wholesome activities.

She is in contact with the school on a daily basis because education is highly valued in her home.

Without a doubt, Turner is indeed to be commended for her efforts to care for and educate her children. Congratulations!



A Salute to Active Military Persons

Captain Earnest D. Smith, Jr. United States Army

BY EMMA CAVIN
Staff Writer

Captain Earnest D. Smith, Jr. is working out of Fort Belvoir, Va. as commander of a company of 113 soldiers. This company provides communications services to the President of the United States, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and combatant companies that are deployed overseas. He has served in this position for a year.

Prior to his assignment to Fort Belvoir, Captain Smith was deployed to Iraq. There, he served as a logistics officer, a position that required him and his company to provide strategic, operational, and tactical level support as well as the management of the overall logistic process in support of mission objectives.

His company was responsible for covering existing needs, anticipating future needs, and offering alternative processes when and where they were deemed necessary. In short, his job was to insure that the troops were supplied with enough food, water, fuel, ammunition and other goods or services to complete the task they were assigned.

Smith was deployed to Iraq twice; through the Operation Iraqi Freedom Mission, he and the second and third Brigade, Third Infantry Division participated in the New Dawn Campaign. His awards and decorations include Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal (with two devices), and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Parachutist Badge.

An honor graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point with a degree in Systems Engineering, Smith was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant five years



ago and began his military service. He completed the basic training at Fort Benning, Ga.

Other service and training took place at Fort Stewart, Ga. between overseas tours and prior to his present assignment.

Because of his upbringing and military training, Smith believes in tough love. He sees the preparation for deployment as a very serious task since troops must be ready to fight whatever adverse forces they meet. To him, his job is to help them obtain that necessary degree of readiness.

However, as difficult as his job may be or the time and effort required to fulfill it, Smith expressed enjoyment in doing his job and pride at the level of his performance up to this point.

As a second grader, Smith enjoyed doing things. When he told his mom that he was bored with the toys, books, and games he had, she and his father decided to get him involved in cub scouts. They also got him enrolled in the Florida Boys choir, his school's choir, a soccer league, and piano lessons. At church, he was involved in the choir and all other youth activities.

He never complained of boredom again. Indeed, he flourished in his school work, played soccer, football, travelled across the United States, Caribbean Islands and Europe on family trips and with various groups. With the scouts, he rose through the ranks, earning badges and awards all the way from Cub Scout to Eagle Scout. Smith graduated from Keswick Christian High School.

When asked about people and things that influenced him most, Smith readily listed his parents, Earnest Smith, Sr. and Olinda Smith. In addition, he remembers the zany personality of his godmother, the late Barbara Moseley.

"My godmother taught me to enjoy life by controlling what I can and looking to God to do the rest. My parents are just the greatest parents anyone could have. They have always been there for my siblings and me as well as for anyone else who needs them," said Smith.

Smith is especially proud that God has allowed him to be a husband to his wife, Rachel; a father to his daughter Stella Joi and an honorable man in service to his country.

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

My silence has been broken. How is it that America, the birthplace of freedom and equality among its own colonies, still leaves injustice trails among a broken few? At what point can a past be over looked by the quality of the man and the character of his walk. How do you establish an understanding among equals who have a blind eye? What am I trying to say?

I myself, a convicted felon, find myself at a constant dead end seeking an opportunity to have a second chance in society. I did the crime and I also did the time, probation, counseling, community service and self-reconstruction. I am a changed man with a new mind and heart looking to progress this change only to find that my change isn't accepted because of past encounters.

We as people make mistakes; some of us learn from them, and some of us continue down the wrong path. But why continue to a person who is seeking to move beyond their past mistakes, to focus on a brighter future. I'm not asking for a hand out, but requesting an equal opportunity at having success. I and so many others like me are looking for a chance to prove our self-worth.

Some say try filling out an application and get a job. Try filling out hundreds of applications and receiving an interview for half. You go on this interview dressed to impress and ready for work. You answer each question intelligently and respectfully. The interviewer seems to be interested in employing you.

Now comes the part when they say: "I see you checked off for a crime." The employer face begins to change in an instant. You begin to explain the charge and the result from it, while telling your transformation to a new man. Now that you're done, the interviewer speaks and says, "Sorry I can't hire you because company policy says you have to be seven years clean to be even considered."

When I tell them that I'm going on four years of no arrests, I've finished school, and I've obtained a job until recent layoffs, the interviewer usually says they hire me if I didn't have the charge, and then I'm wished luck on future job searches.

I could understand if the nature of my crime affects the position in which I'm applying for, but it doesn't. For example a pedophile trying to work around kids would be a very good reason to deny that person employment at that facility.

I'm no hardcore criminal that committed murders, robberies or sexual assaults. I chose to sell drugs in my teenage years and decided to change in my middle 20s; I am now 30. I have a wife and three kids that I'm trying to support financially while setting an example to my son of what a man is.

I graduated high school with a diploma; completed technical school weatherization installation, residential and commercial electrician, CPR and OSHA certifications. I also pursued certifications as a Weatherization Auditor while receiving Weatherization Contractors Training. I attend New Hope Missionary Baptist



Church regularly; I joined a ministry and became director. Yet, those accomplishments mean nothing in a society that doesn't believe in change.

I am living proof of that change and that change can happen. I overcame many obstacles and endeavors through God to pursue the American dream while trying to leave a legacy for my children. Even clothing gets a second chance after having received a stain.

We believe in recovery for addicts, but not a felons, why is that? I just ask that company policies and society views see a felon in a different light. We want lower crime and people to change their misguided ways, but what choice are they left with when there seems to be no choice in which you live.

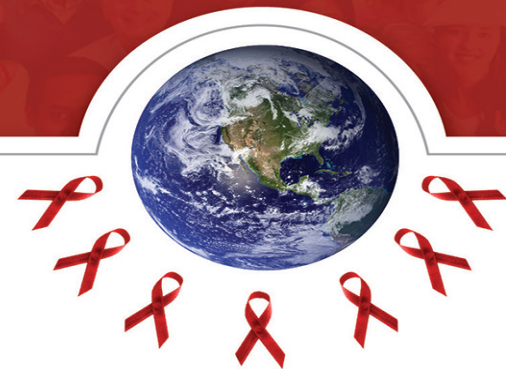
This isn't just a plea to corporations or the public's judgmental views on a person's mistake, but this is also encouragement to those who seek change and struggle to maintain that change while patiently waiting for a break.

In no way am I attacking the views or opinions of a group or person, but merely being a voice for a silent few who's changed.

Sincerely,
Brian Senior

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

World music livens up Art Walk

BY KENDALL QUEEN
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — For musicians Edward Burrows and Abasi Ote, sometimes the sidewalk serves as their stage. Sat., Nov. 10, these two were found setting up drum kits and other worldly instruments on the 600 block in downtown St. Pete during the monthly Second Saturday Art Walk.

Burrows was asked to set up around the corner on 6th Street in order to draw more attention to the additional art shops that have recently opened. In addition to his intricate drum work, Ote offered an interesting sound by adding a conch shell, and a didgeridoo among other seldom used instruments.

Burrows has a different perspective on music that encourages onlookers to participate.

"I love to encourage people to do what they do, whatever it is that they do, especially musicians. The musicians I play with inspire me," said Burrows.

That evening, local musician Blaine Lewis joined in on guitar and bass, an elderly woman played pan flute and even a street person joined in with the harmonica.

"I thrive on working with group musicians, and most of the time we don't practice, but we bring enjoyment to a venue," explained Burrows.

Ote, originally a master carpenter, began making instruments out of his natural surroundings.

"Most of the instruments I play I have made," he stated.

Ote has even created his own form of the African mouth bow which he calls the "Ote bow." He has been working with the Hillsborough art counsel for about 15 years, and spends time recording in the studio and making instruments.

"Every now and again, creative musicians like Ed (Burrows) connect me to join them and play and I do. I want to be connected with different cultures through music," he said.

Burrows has been playing music since junior high school, where he was under the direction of Wilbert Bakehouse. He states that he remembers the director putting a piece of music on the stand and him not being able to read it.

"I sat in the drum section behind, what I thought, was the most inconspicuous instrument — the symbol," Burrows explained.

Bakehouse called his mother later that day and advised her to put him in private lessons and he would allow him to stay in the band. She did, and the next year Burrows became the head drummer of the drum section and has been playing ever since.

Burrows has had many experiences in his life which have exposed him to a variety of music. He now plays regularly at Ruby's Elixir and throughout downtown St. Pete, and has even been known to ride his scooter all the way to Land'O Lakes to perform.



Ed Burrows and Abasi Ote invite local musician Blaine Lewis and a flutist to play along.



Abasi Ote plays along with his didgeridoo.



Edward Burrows plays outside of the art shop Taormina on 6th Street.

Peterman's debut novel, "Stormy Weather"

From **BOOK**, page 1

but really wanted to write a fictional story.

"A Stormy Season" is about a rural, close knit black family in 1950s New-fall, Ala., who experience an alleged tragedy concerning one of their sons.

"The book attempts to express the horror of racism in a small town. It demonstrates the environment in which racism thrives and how ordinary people, throughout the rural south and beyond, have dealt with it in their communities. Towards the end, though, the family realizes that what happened really wasn't that tragic at all," explained Peterman.

His inspiration to write the story came from a power outage spent with his children, where he

began telling a story set in the 1950s.

"I really felt like it was God inspired," said Peterman. "It was like an epiphany. The story just began to roll out of me, and the kids were captivated, so I just kept going and putting the pieces together."

A few months later, Peterman found himself setting an hour out of each day to dedicate to writing his new fictional story.

Next on his agenda is a non-fictional story about an event that happened to his family during one Christmas.

"Who knows what might happen in the future, but I am enjoying dealing with the creative writing muse, this is fun for me," finished Peterman.



Frank Peterman, Jr. and family friends Dorothy and Corey Givens

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CHALLENGER SPORTS

1st round regional quarterfinal matchup

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 8A: Palm Harbor University (8-2) @ Vero Beach (8-1), Citrus Bowl
 8A: Orlando Freedom (7-2) @ Plant (9-1)
 8A: Wharton (8-2) @ Orlando Dr. Phillips (10-0)
 7A: Venice (7-3) @ Pinellas Park (6-4)
 7A: Northeast (7-3) @ Manatee (10-0)
 7A: Tampa Bay Tech (7-3) @ Durant (10-0)
 7A: Newsome (6-4) @ Gaither (8-2)
 6A: Armwood (7-3) @ Largo (10-0)
 6A: Osceola (7-3) @ Hillsborough (8-1)
 6A: Ocala Vanguard (5-5) @ Springstead (9-1)
 6A: Hernando (6-4) @ Gainesville (10-0)
 5A: Atlantic (8-2) @ Robinson (9-1)
 5A: Lakewood (9-1) @ Orlando Bishop Moore (8-2)
 5A: North Marion (5-5) @ Pasco (10-0)
 5A: Anclote (6-4) @ Gainesville Eastside (5-5)
 Thursday

Region semifinals

3A: Frostproof (6-4) @ CCC (9-1)
 3A: Tampa Catholic (7-3) @ Fort Meade (8-2)
 2A: Moore Haven (9-1) @ Carrollwood Day (9-1) at Alonzo
 2A: Indian Rocks @ Naples First Baptist (10-0)



Have any questions or comments about TWC Sports? Email Us!

High school football playoffs

BY PHILLIP HAYWOOD
Sports Writer

ST. PETERBURG — This football season was full of surprises, such as state runner-up Admiral Farragut not making the playoffs, or the season ending injury to Ryan Green, one of the best players in the country. How about the debacle with the Countryside Cougars having to forfeit games because of a player's ineligibility.

Indian Rocks Christian High School is making a playoff appearance for the first time. The Osceola Warriors who got off to a rocky start strung together some victories to make the playoffs. The Lakewood Spartans, Largo Packers and the Clearwater Central Catholic (CCC) all figured to make the playoffs.

Northeast, who benefited from the forfeits by the Cougars, will face the number one team in the

country — Manatee High School. North county powers, East Lake and Palm Harbor University, are also in and may be primed to go deep into the playoffs.

For those of you who do not follow football, Pinellas County has never won a state football championship. In 1984, the St. Pete team, who was lead by Stacey Manning, was soundly beaten by Pensacola's Escambia High School 47-14, which featured the NFL's leading rusher of all time Emmitt Smith.

And of course, last season Admiral Farragut Academy made it but they were clearly out matched by the superior North Florida Christian team.

For the most part there are several teams that can go deep such as Lakewood, Largo and CCC. When the dust settles we will see who made it deep into the playoffs, only time will tell.

Campbell, 1st black Olympic decathlon winner, dies

GAINESVILLE, Ga. (AP) — Milt Campbell, who became the first African-American to win the Olympic decathlon in 1956 and went on to play pro football and become a motivational speaker, has died, his family said. He was 78.

Linda Rusch, Campbell's partner of 13 years, said Campbell died Friday at his home in Gainesville, about 55 miles northwest of Atlanta. She said he had been fighting prostate cancer for a decade.

"He was extremely disciplined," Rusch told The Associated Press on Saturday. "He had huge passion. For you to win the gold you have to be so self-motivated and so self-disciplined. And you have to have a very strong mind."

"He literally had to train himself to have this incredible mind, to be such a positive thinker," she added. "He carried that way of life throughout his whole entire being."

A native of Plainfield, N.J., Campbell was a rising high school senior when he won the silver medal in the decathlon at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, finishing second to Bob Mathias. The Americans swept the decathlon that year. Four years later, Campbell won gold at the Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia.

"World record holder

Rafer Johnson was hampered by injury, but even in full health he probably couldn't have beaten Milt Campbell in Melbourne," according to The Complete Book of the Summer Olympics by David Wallechinsky.

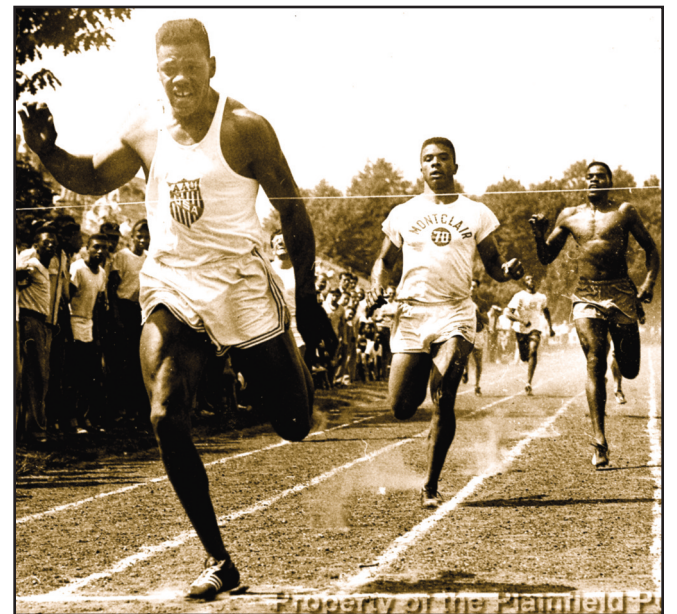
Campbell had hoped to qualify for the Olympic team as a hurdler, but he finished fourth during tryouts.

"I was stunned," Campbell said in the book. "But then God seemed to reach into my heart and tell me he didn't want me to compete in the hurdles, but in the decathlon."

The 6-foot-3, 217-pound Campbell, who attended Indiana University, was drafted in 1957 by the Cleveland Browns, where he played one season in the same backfield as Jim Brown. Campbell then played for various teams in the Canadian Football League until his football career in 1964.

Campbell was inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1999 and was honored this year by the International Swimming Hall of Fame. In 2000, the New Jersey Sportswriters Association named Campbell its New Jersey Athlete of the Century.

In June, he was inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame along with nine others, including actor Michael



Douglas, author Joyce Carol Oates and the late New York Giants owner Wellington Mara.

Linda Rusch said Campbell dreamed of being a great athlete as a young boy competing with his older brother, Tom.

"He actually would look at the ceiling and say 'I am going to be the world's greatest athlete' every day," she said. "He needed to beat his brother."

Rusch said Campbell became a motivational speaker, and maintained a positive outlook despite the loss of a son to cancer and as he himself fought the disease. In addition to Rusch, he is survived by three grown children.

"Someone would say, 'How are you feeling?' He'd

say, 'Great,'" Rusch said. "He was such a fighter. And with this cancer, he tried to fight it until the end. For his wife. For his family. And for his friends."

Rusch said Campbell was a whirlwind of activity — playing tennis as well as riding bikes, horses and motorcycles — until cancer treatment began slowing him down. She said the past year was a special one, with him being honored by the New Jersey and the International Swimming halls as well as being invited to attend the Olympic trials in Oregon.

"People called and said, 'We need you out here,'" she said. "He didn't get the recognition in the '50s. He got it all this year and he died."



Northeast tip-off classic

BY PHILLIP HAYWOOD
Sports Writer

ST. PETERBURG —For all of you basketball fans, yes it's that time of the year again. The high school season has officially begun, as the Northeast Vikings host their yearly Tip-Off Classic. This year's tournament features Boca Ciega, Northeast, Tampa Catholic and Osceola.

In the early game, Osceola squared off against Tampa Catholic. The Crusaders used their size and athleticism to take an early

lead behind the post play of Chivarsky Corbett who scored a game high 24 points to go along with 8 rebounds.

Team mate Isaiah Thomas also chipped in with 19 points and 8 assists, while Jio Molina controlled the boards. The Crusaders applied pressure defense from start to finish as they took a 40-25 lead into the locker room.

In the third, the Warriors picked up the pace and started to cut into the deficit, however the Crusaders went on a run to go up by 20.

The Warriors again whittled the lead down to 74-63 in the fourth but could get no closer as the Crusaders pulled out an 84-63 win to advance to the finals.

Chris Ridenour led all scorers for the Warriors with 19 points and Freeman Hinson chipped in with 13 points, Nate Ezulike contributed 11 points in a losing effort.

In the night cap, the Boca Ciega Pirates, which features a team with nine players that are at least 6'3 or better, quickly jumped all over Northeast from the

onset.

D.J. White and Dallas Moore combined for 13 points in the first quarter as the Pirates took a commanding lead. The Pirates would not let up as they used their quick defense to thwart any threat of scoring by the Vikings.

By the time the third quarter rolled around, Coach Randy Shuman pulled his starters and cleared the bench. Moore led all scorers with 24 points while White chipped in 9 with only two quarters of play. The Pirates defeated the Vikings 67-37.

Spartans win the Mayor's Cup

BY PHILLIP HAYWOOD
Sports Writer

ST. PETERBURG — Once upon a time in St. Petersburg, public high schools played each other year in and year out. However, with all the redistricting, city rivalry games have been curtailed such as Boca Ciega and Lakewood.

Over the last two years, St. Petersburg's Mayor Bill Foster came up with a grand idea to have a game at Al Lang Stadium that would pit two city teams against one another. In its inaugural game Lakewood faced Gibbs and defeated them.

The Spartans were

crowned as the city champions and placed on the schedule to defend their title. Fast forward to 2012, and Lakewood found themselves defending their title against the St. Pete Devils.

The Spartans brought only one loss into the contest, while St. Pete had high expectations at the beginning of the season, but was somewhat of a disappointment.

Each team exchanged possessions during the first quarter which was scoreless. St. Pete likes to run a ball control style offense. In the second quarter they chewed up a lot of time off the clock and scored on a 1

yard plunge by Corey DeAngelo to go up 7-0 at halftime.

After halftime the Spartans came out of the locker room looking like a different team. They made some key adjustments with their personnel. They came out on their first possession of the quarter and drove down the field for an 80 yard drive in which Jocqui Ellison ran for a 6 yard touchdown run to close the gap to 7-6 the extra point was blocked.

After stopping St. Pete, they came back on the ensuing drive and marched down the field on a 99 yard touchdown drive in which Rodney Adams was responsible for 2 catches for 60

yards and another key run for a first down as Lidell Golden helped to resuscitate the Spartans running game as he bulled his way in from 3 yards out as they would go up 12-7 and never relinquish their lead.

In the fourth quarter, Ellison ran 23 yards for a score and threw a 7 yard pass to Adams for a 26-7 lead.

For the second year in a row, Lakewood was handed the Mayor's Cup trophy. Their next opponent is Orlando's Bishop Moore where they will travel to Orlando tomorrow for a first round playoff matchup.

CHURCH DIRECTORY



955 20th Street South • St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 894-4311

Email: info@mzprogressive.org
Website: www.mzprogressive.org

Sunday Worship Services7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Mid-Day Bible Study.....Noon - 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.
Youth Chapel Services - 921 20th Street South
2nd & 4th Sunday Worship Services.....10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer6:00 p.m.
Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.

Mission Statement:
*Impact the world by equipping believers
to reach the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Rev. Louis M. Murphy Sr.
Senior Pastor

First Baptist Institutional Church

3144 Third Avenue South,
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Phone: 727-323-7518

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Praise Time 10:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Tuesday Night Live -
Prayer Service & Bible Study 7 p.m.

Come Worship With the First Baptist Family



REV. DR. WAYNE G. THOMPSON,
PASTOR

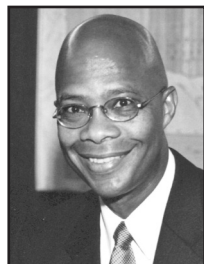
BETHEL METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

3455 - 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Telephone (727) 327-0554 • Fax (727) 327-0240

E-mail: bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com Web site: www.bmmbc.org

Sunday Worship Service10:15 a.m.
Sunday School9:00 a.m.
Teen Summit (Wednesday)7:00 p.m.
Bible Study (Wednesday)7:00 p.m.



Rev. Rickey L. Houston,
Pastor

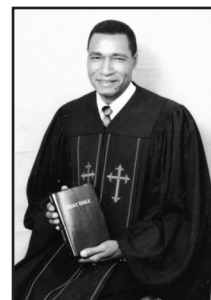
“God’s House In The City”

First Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church

1121 22nd Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 327-8708

Sunday Worship Services 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting (Tuesday)6:00 p.m.
Bible Study (Tuesday)7:00 p.m.
Baptist Training Union (Sunday) 4:00 p.m.

“The Little Church Where Everybody Is Somebody”



Rev. Wallace Elliott
Sr. - Pastor

ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1301 - 37th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL
(727) 321-6631 • www.stmarkch.org

Schedule of Services

Church School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 5:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.



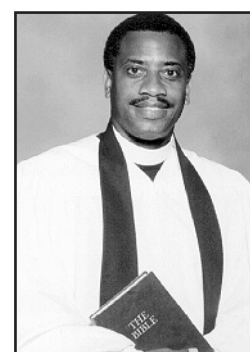
Rev. Brian K. Brown

THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

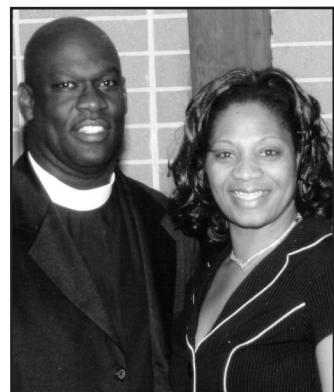
Church School:9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Devotion:10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.
Praise and Worship:10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service:10:30 a.m.
Saints of Prayer each Monday12:00 Noon
Bible Study each Tuesday:6:30 p.m.
Van service is available by calling: (727) 327-0015

THE ROCK OF JESUS IS LOCATED AT:
3940 – 18th AVENUE SOUTH
St. Petersburg, Florida

Telephone: 727-327-0015 • Fax: 727-327-0021
Office Hours: Tuesday and Friday
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



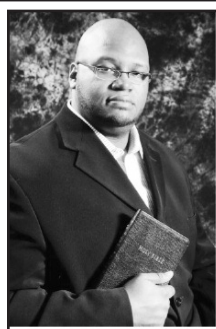
Rev. Frank W.
Peterman, Jr.
Pastor



GENESIS WORSHIP CENTER CHURCH

1818 29th Avenue N.
St. Petersburg, Florida
727.898.5571
Sunday Worship
11:30 a.m.

Pastor Michael T. and
Elect Lady Sheila Culbreth



Elder Cedric L.
Williams
PASTOR

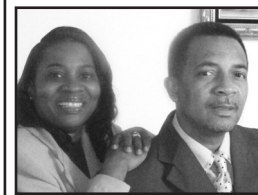
Need a ride? Our Transportation Ministry is available Sundays and Wednesdays
Growing people with a passion for God's principles

NEW MT. OLIVE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

3001 18th Ave. S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Church 727-327-9904
Fax 727-322-0409

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Church School 9:30 a.m.
and Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Power hour of Prayer
Wednesday from noon to 1:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting / Bible Study
Wednesdays 7:00-8:30 p.m.
W.W.E. (Wednesday Worship Explosion)
Wednesday after the 1st Sunday monthly



Pastor Minister Tyrone Ford
and 1st Lady Kadell Ford

United for Christ Freewill Baptist Church

4116 34th Street South
Pinch A Penny Plaza
St. Petersburg, Florida 33711
727-258-4993
www.ufcfwbc.com

Wednesday Night Bible Study7:00 p.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

**Living, Teaching and Preaching the
True Gospel of Jesus Christ, to Save Lost Souls.
Come join in with us.**

MOUNT PILGRIM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

4000 5th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711
Telephone: 727-321-7375



Pastor Clark Hazley, Sr.

**“God’s People Return to
the Word of God”**
Service Schedule

SUNDAY
Sunday School 8:45-10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Communion - 1st Sunday of each month
New Members Orientation - Sunday at 8:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Tutoring offered Tuesday &
Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study 11:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Youth Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Mission Statement
Having been led, as we believe, by the
Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus
Christ as our Saviour; and on the pro-
fession of our faith. We the people of
God returning to God’s Word, pro-
claiming, God’s Will in provoking His
love among one another.

10th Street Church Of God

207 - 10th Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33705
(727) 898-9407



Rev. Ronald L. Bell
Pastor

Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Prayer6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study7:30 p.m.

*The church where
what God’s word teaches
is practiced!*



Bro. Robert Smith

20th Street Church Of Christ

825 20th Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Home: 896-8006

Sunday Morning Worship7:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Bible Class9:20 a.m.
Sunday Morning Second Worship10:40 a.m.
Ladies Bible Class Monday7:00 p.m.
Monday Evening Bible Class7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Morning Bible Class10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class7:00 p.m.

Prayer Tower Church of God in Christ

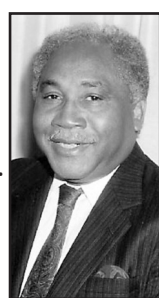
Elder Clarence Welch, Pastor

Elder Carson Skinner, Assistant Pastor

1137 37th Street South, Saint Petersburg, FL 33711
(727) 321-0670

SERVICES

Sunday Sunday School – 10:30 a.m.
A. M. Service – 11:30 a.m.
YPWW (1st & 3rd Sunday) – 5:30 p.m.
P.M. Service (1st & 3rd Sunday) – 6:30 p.m.
P. M. Service (2nd & 4th Sunday) - 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday Morning Prayer – 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service – 7:30 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study (for all ages) – 7:30 p.m.



Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

3300 31st Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 906-8300
www.fmbctheship.org



Dr. John A. Evans,
Pastor

Sunday7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Worship
Sunday School9:30 a.m.
WednesdayNoonday Bible Study and
Bread of Life; 7 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study
Thursday7 p.m. Youth Enrichment - Awana

“Serving and Saving”

“Helping and Healing”

“Inspiring and Instructing”

“Praying and Praising”



Pastor Shurrea Daniels

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CHURCH NEWS

Friendship MBC

"The Ship – One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One Church."

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is a Family of believers in Christ, reaching out to the world, preaching the gospel to the unsaved and teaching the saved to serve by demonstrating the Love of Christ.

With all of the blessings that God bestows on us, we will be honoring our pastor and his family that proudly stands behind him.

A joyous recognition for the tireless dedication of teaching the Word that continuously help us to improve our relationship with God will be highlighted throughout our Pastor's 15th Anniversary celebration.

We sincerely request your presence during our special recognitory events to Give

God The Glory for Dr. Evans, Sr., and his Family invaluable contributions to the Church community.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Pastor's 15th Anniversary Events. Theme: "Declaring a Blessing for the Man of God in his Divine Grace." Numbers 6:24-26

Nov. 16 — 7 p.m.
Black Tie Banquet – Banquet Master, 8100 Park Boulevard, Pinellas Park. Please call the Church Office for donation information.

Nov. 18 — 7:45 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Pastor Robert Evans, Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, Akron, Ohio.

Nov. 18 — 10:45 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Dr. Gaston Smith, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Miami.

Nov. 18 — 4 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Dr. Larry Mills, Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, Orlando, FL.

Have you found the key? If you're looking for the key to happiness or heaven, you'll find it through Jesus Christ. Dr. John A. Evans, Sr., and Friendship welcomes you to our open doors. Friendships' Morning Services starts 7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sunday School begins 9:30 a.m.

Prayer still works for the glory of God. Come join us each Wednesday for Noonday Bible Study or each Wednesday night at 7 p.m. as we study in the Book of MARK, Dr. John A. Evans, Sr., facilitator.

Friendship is located at 3300 31st St. S., St. Petersburg, Florida 33712. Our telephone number: 727-906-8300. God Bless You – The Ship!

Mt. Zion Progressive MBC

"Impact the world by equipping believers to reach the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Reverend Louis Murphy, Sr. and the entire Mt Zion family extend an open invitation to join us not only in Sunday worship, but also throughout the week for various programs and ministries.

Nov. 15 – Single Mom's Ministry Just Us Three, Jesus the Kids and Me. Please join us for our continued study "What Does My Child Say About Me?" The naked truth at 5:45 p.m. at the C.A.R.E. Bldg 1906 9th Ave. S. For more information call (727) 289-6957

Nov. 15 – Men's Unity Ministry - Invite all men to come out Thurs. Nov. 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Mt. Zion Youth Fellowship Hall to understand what a "Man of God should look like." Also, join the ministry every 3rd Thursday of the month for a unity fellowship.

Nov. 17 – Be My Guest Vision Walk – Mt Zion's Per-

forming Arts Ministry will be out in the community extending an invitation to residents to join us for our Thanksgiving Service, Sunday, Nov. 18. If they do not reach your home, please consider this your open invitation to fellowship with the Mt. Zion family.

Nov. 21 – There will be no evening bible study.

Nov. 27 – Women's Ministry Presents "Life After Abortion" every choice has a consequence at 6:30 p.m. in the Mt. Zion Youth Fellowship Hall.

One-80 Teen Ministry will host "College Prep 101" Parents and Teens if college is in your future please join College Prep 101, held the 1st and 3rd Tuesday's of each month in the Youth Fellowship Hall 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

C.A.R.E. weekly Tuesday night meetings have changed to the 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m. Join us at the CARE building. For more information contact Min. Keith Murphy at (727) 289-6957.

MPAC – Seeking experi-

enced Saxophonist, Trumpet and Trombone musicians for the Main Sanctuary Choir. Please inquire by calling the church office.

Reading & Math Enhancement Tutorial Program – Grades K – 9th will be offered homework assistance, math, reading, and vocabulary skills, and much more. Applications available at Mt Zion Human Services or contact Ms. Doris Newton at (727)822-0443, ext. 301

Let's Get Connected!
Mt. Zion Progressive is now social. Checkout the latest events, ministry news, and more by following us on FACEBOOK, TWITTER and YOUTUBE. Visit our website and let's get connected today! www.MZProgressive.org

For additional information on any of these announcements, contact the church office.

Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church. 955 20th St. S., St. Petersburg Fla. Phone: 727-894-4311, email: info@mzprogressive.org.

St. Mark MBC

The St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, its pastor, the Reverend Brian K. Brown, its official staff of Deacons and Trustees, and the entire congregation, extends to the community at large, its wish that there would be an overflowing of God's blessings upon their lives.

St. Mark is grounded in a Christ-centered doctrine that has as its central theme, a belief that we are a haven of hope, help, and healing for a world hungering for and thirsting after the enlightened word of God. At St. Mark, we are Christians willing to work and partner in unity, praising God for His awesome gift, His son Jesus Christ.

Calendar for the month of November
Nov. 18 - Right Hand of

Fellowship Extended to all new members at the conclusion of morning worship

Final Food Drop-off date for Thanksgiving Baskets

Church Outing: Macedonia M. B. Church, Rubonia, FL at 3 p.m.

Nov. 19 - Thanksgiving Food Bag Distribution

Christmas with the Community Informative Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 22 - Thanksgiving Day

Weekly Scheduled Activities for St. Mark

Sunday School held for both children and adults of all ages. Sunday School starts each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to come out and join us.

Baptist Training Union is each Sunday at 5 p.m. Mem-

bers and the general public are invited to come out study the Bible with us, and learn "What Baptist Believe".

Children and Youth Ministry Meetings are held every Tuesday at 6 p.m. Children in the community are welcomed to join us.

N.I.K.E. After School Tutoring (4:30-6 p.m.) on Tuesdays & Thursdays

Young Adult Ministry every Monday from 6:30 p.m. (Bible Study)

Sunday School Teachers' Meeting is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Senior Hour of Power Bible Study is held every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting and Bible Study every Wednesday evening at 7.



Pastor's Corner

BY PASTOR SHURREA DANIELS
Kingdom Restoration, Inc. Faith Based Outreach Ministry
A Ministry with a Vision

The power of agreement

In the book of Amos 3:3, a question is asked. Can two walk together, except they are agreed? When we think about this question, we often ask it in the context of marriage, however, if we really examine this question then we realize that this pertains to any organization, ministry, marriage, or relational networking, where two or more individuals are involved.

If we don't agree on any one matter then how are we able to walk? Walking requires us to be moving in one direction or another. Therefore, without simply agreeing there is no way anything will ever be accomplished?

Over the last two elections we have been able to see the power of agreement at its best. When a group of individuals are able to agree upon a given thing, change does occur. The change that comes about can render good or bad. It depends on the intent in which the individuals come together to agree.

Genesis 11:1-8; "Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. They then said to each other, Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly. Then let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth. But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. The Lord said, if as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other. So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it

was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world."

First of all why did the people come together? They wanted to make a name for themselves. When we use the power of agreement for selfish gain the language becomes confused. If we as a nation and a people can come together to make a difference in the society in which we live, then what hinders us as the body of Christ from coming together to bring about a change in the lives of God's people?

The Church is still doing today what was being done many years ago. We are taking brick and mortar and building for ourselves cathedrals that appear to be uplifting the word of God, but in reality we are using them for selfish gain. When we allow selfishness to occur within our infrastructures, we become like the city of Babel. Our language is distorted and confused and we the Church cease to produce miracles and wonders.

Scripture denotes that God came down to see this city that was being built. What moved Him to come down? It was the oneness of the people. Our nation will never speak one language again. However, this should not be the case for the Church. The body of Christ should be speaking the same language. What is that language?

Salvation, which is Christ, died, He was buried, He rose, and He is sitting at the right hand of God making intercessions for those that believe. We have been given the power to agree. Mathew 18:19-20 instructs us that: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. In addition, let us declare as David did in Psalms 141:2, "Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice."

Peace and Blessings!



Pastor's Corner

BY PASTOR SARAH EDWARDS
Visible Voices Christian Community Association

Things I learned from a bird brain

Turning over to take another snooze I was suddenly awoken; being startled with a low but constant rapid fire machine gun like noise outside my window. Sitting up in bed I thought dear God, is it morning already. After a few seconds my thoughts proclaimed absolute certitude that was not the alarm clock.

I wondered what in the world that noise was! I noticed my husband had already slipped out of bed. I thought maybe he's making our coffee and doing something to cause that strange noise. Now being fully awake, flipping the covers back while putting my feet on the floor that weird noise stopped. At breakfast, I asked my husband if he had made that unusual noise. He told me no in fact he had not even heard it.

This same ambiguous noise outside our window continued to wake me up for the next two days. I was determined to find out what was going on. The following morning, I got up extra early and went to the dining room. By the time I got there, the noise had stopped.

Looking out the patio door, to my utter amazement I saw a rare red headed woodpecker flying from the soffit of our home to a palm tree nearby. He was so beautiful.

I pondered in my heart; dear God was that who was continually making that noise for the last few days outside our window? The Holy Spirit whispered to my heart "yes." I asked, "why would a woodpecker peck on our soffit because it is metal?"

Again, the Holy Spirit spoke to my spirit mind that the bird knew he was to build a nest before winter, but was resolved to do it his way. I then explained to the LORD that bird would have had an easier time building a nest at our neighbor's house, as it has a wooden soffit and ours a metal perforated soffit.

The lessons I learned from that bird brain was:

1. That woodpecker understood perfectly who he was, whose he was and what God's purpose was for him.

Yet, like many of God's creations, he had certain privileges that involved certain duties that could not be violated. Having a zeal without knowledge. (Proverbs 3:6)

2. That woodpecker, just like a lot of

"church folks" are too often moved by what they see.

Therefore, self deception contested that we could have whatever our heart's desires!

3. That woodpecker presumed that God provided "starter holes" at our house just for him to make his way easier.

He'll be patient and wait on the Lord to renew his strength. I'm sure that bird was humming to himself "favor isn't fair." After all he was called, blessed and highly favored of the Lord. However, the natural heart is corrupt. [Acts 10:34]

4. He began to persevere, pecking longer and harder for days without reaping any increase for his labor.

When in reality our metal soffits having, a lot of tiny holes in them, had nothing to do with God, his purpose or him at all. Isaiah 30:1-5

5. This woodpecker surrendered his situation to God's ways of completing what he was designed to do.

He finally got it! That trying to peck into those small holes in a metal surface in order to make them bigger could not be accomplished in his own strength. (Zechariah 4:1-6)

Amazingly the next morning, there were no more irritating noises waking me up at daybreak. Just peace and quiet. Yet, I got up extra early again, went to the dining room, looked out the patio door and saw absolutely nothing. Upon returning to the bedroom, I noticed through the window in our backyard a perfectly large round hole in a tree trunk.

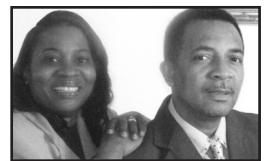
The last revelation I learned from that bird brain was:

We all must daily examine, watch and pray for ourselves for God's wisdom as it's very easy to get off the pathway of righteousness. (Jeremiah 6:16)

Therefore, never forget to remember: It is God that began a good work in us and He is able to complete what we commit to Him. We must let go and let God complete His work by His Spirit.

We just need to exercise common sense everyday and in every way! (Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 & Hebrews 5:14)

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