

2013-12-19

The Weekly Challenger : 2013 : 12 : 19

The Weekly Challenger, et al

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/challenger>

Recommended Citation

The Weekly Challenger, et al, "The Weekly Challenger : 2013 : 12 : 19" (2013). *Newspaper collection*. 259.
<https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/challenger/259>

This is brought to you for free and open access by the The Weekly Challenger at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Newspaper collection by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.



2 COMMUNITY: Senator Joyner



3 COMMUNITY: Jingle Mingle



4 COMMUNITY: Freedom Ball



7 COMMUNITY: Urban League

The Weekly Challenger

We Value Diversity | We Value Education | We Value History

VOL. 46 NO. 17

DECEMBER 19 - DECEMBER 25, 2013

50¢



Happy Holidays

from the Staff of The Weekly Challenger



McCabe Community garden

MLK Day of Service project



Leroy Williams

BY FRANK DROUZAS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Leroy Williams feels fortunate to lend his green thumb to the McCabe Community Garden Project for the MLK Day of Service.

"We started this garden last year for the Day of Service and it was very successful," said Williams, who has been a member of McCabe United Methodist church for 30 years. "We have set up eight planting beds for our projects that are 16ft x 4ft, contributing to the variety of food for our community. The garden is open to anyone who wants to pick or cut food from it."

But such a venture needs more than just care to maintain. "I believe that we will require funds for next year," explained the 56-year resident of St. Pete.

There will be 20 to 25

See **MCCABE**, page 5



The 6th Annual Toys for Tots Christmas Event was held at Glad Tidings Assembly of God last Sat., Dec. 14.

Matters of the Heart Ministry Toy Drive

BY HOLLY KESTENIS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — When you think of toy giveaways, visions of children waiting in long lines to see Santa before grabbing a wrapped gift may come to mind, but not at Matters of the Heart Ministry 6th Annual Toys for Tots Christmas Event. They always go about the season of giving

a little differently.

Princess Denise Wright has put on the Toys for Tots Christmas event, which was held at Glad Tidings Assembly of God, 4200 17th Ave. N., for six years now. A radio personality for WRXB 1590 AM and 96.5 FM Radio, she hosts a bi-monthly praise worship via Matters of the Heart Radio & Connecting Point Ministry. Their mis-

sion is to provide outreach that will not only empower and touch people, but bring them into the church to engage in fellowship.

"Some people probably haven't been to church all year," she said. Upfront with the families she helps, Wright explains the meaning behind the giveaway and informs them they will receive their gift at the end of the ceremony. "That's

why I have the events here," she continued, "to minister and tell everybody it's not about coming to get something free."

Wright admits it's a bait and hook, but fully believes in spreading the message "Jesus is the reason for the season," throughout the community. A message she feels is too often forgotten in the wake of commercial-

See **TOY DRIVE**, page 8

You're never too old to learn



Autra Wilson Hall

BY FRANK DROUZAS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Autra Wilson Hall is a living embodiment of the adage: "Better late than never." The lifelong St. Pete resident graduated from Springfield College in Tampa Dec. 15, earning her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education at the age of 71.

Hall attended Gibbs High School where she reached the 12th grade, but did not graduate with her class of 1960. "My education was postponed because I got pregnant with my first child," Hall explained. "I was determined to complete my high school education and in 1988 I earned my GED."

In subsequent years Hall attended St. Petersburg Junior College where she took several classes, but didn't secure a sheepskin. She did, however, earn her Certified Development Apprenticeship credentials in 2003 and renewed it in 2008. "The CDA allowed me to work as a preschool teacher and I graduated from Pinellas

See **LEARN**, page 2

Lakewood football stars honored

BY HOLLY KESTENIS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The verdict is still out as to which sport claims the title of America's favorite pastime. But no one was debating that issue last week when the City of St. Petersburg honored more than 30 local football players and the staff that coach them.

Lakewood High School home of the Spartans has a long history of excellence on the football

field. With six consecutive winning seasons to boast about, the tradition of excellence has always been 100 yards strong.

But this season players rose to a new level—a higher level. One that put them in the state semifinals and almost saw them running away with a state championship.

"Unbelievable, any time we make it to a state tournament in the state of

See **FOOTBALL**, page 6



Councilman Newton gave each football player a certificate from the city council.

46 Years of Service to the Tampa Bay Area • www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com • 727-896-2922

INDEX: COMMUNITY NEWS 2 - 9 • CHURCH NEWS 10 - 11

Now Serving Breakfast

Sylvia's
Queen of Soul Food™
RESTAURANT™
St. Petersburg

Breakfast available starting Saturday, December 21st
Sunday through Saturday, 7:30 am to 12 noon
642 22nd Street South in St. Petersburg (Ground floor of the historic Manhattan Casino)

ROUSON &
ASSOCIATES P.A.

Focusing on cases of wrongful death, serious injury, car accidents, medical negligence, and criminal defense

4055 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, FL 33713
727-873-3999 • RousonLaw@aol.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Senator Joyner calls for Voting Rights Act

MEMPHIS, TN – Recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings regarding voting rights have caused great social stir nationwide. Following the historic vote to strike down the coverage formula within the Voting Rights Act of 1965, legislators across the country are responding. Last Friday, Senator Arthenia Joyner (D-Tampa) joined the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) in its state-by-state call for the full restoration of Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act for every American.

“Florida was part of the Southern push to stack the ballot outcomes to maintain political power and the only thing that often stood in the way was the protections guaranteed by the federal law the U.S. Supreme Court eviscerated,” said Senator Joyner. “Without that safeguard, Florida has been free once again to run roughshod over the rights of voters, especially Democratic voters. Too many people fought and died for the right to vote to stand quietly by and allow this to continue.”

“The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a cornerstone of our nation’s civil rights laws. It is abundantly clear that preclearance provisions within the law continue to regularly protect Americans



from discriminatory state and local voting practices to this day,” said NBCSL President Joe Armstrong. “Current evidence has shown that the Voting Rights Act should be strengthened and expanded—not gutted.”

Since the organization was founded, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators has fought against the efforts waged to prohibit, suppress, and limit the vote. For members of NBCSL, this fight happens on the ground, in statehouses, districts, and communities across the country.

The NBCSL asserts that voting is a fundamental right and an important civic duty that should not be infringed upon. Each state – especially Florida – is

charged to preserve and protect this fundamental right.

“State lawmakers are essential in the battle for voting rights,” said Armstrong. “We know the poll watchers, we experience the barriers to the ballot box, and we represent the people who continue to fight for representation in government.”

The National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) is a membership association representing over 600 African-American state legislators from 45 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. NBCSL members represent upwards of 50 million Americans of all racial backgrounds. To learn more visit www.nbcsl.org.

Better late than never

From **LEARN**, page 1



Autra Wilson Hall surrounded by her family at her graduation.

Technical Educational Center in 2010. With my certification as a director this would allow me to supervise and/or own a day-care center.”

Presently, Hall is a teacher at R’ Club Head Start at the Fillmore Center, which was formerly the Glenoak Elementary School located at 1900 12th St. S., St. Petersburg. She was initially employed by Head Start in 2001.

Hall said she was encouraged by Pinellas County Head Start in 2010 to further her education so she could meet the mandate of 2013 which states that all preschool teachers must earn a bachelor’s degree to better serve the early childhood programs in the state of Florida.

“Personally I wanted to earn my four-year degree as it was a goal of mine in high school. Many of the students graduating from Gibbs High School in the 1960s pursued a teaching career, and the bachelor’s degree was the one to earn in order to teach,” she said.

Hall said she chose to get her bachelor’s in Early Childhood Education because she enjoys working with young children. “I feel I’m having an impact on their future learning in a positive way,” she stated. And now with her degree, Hall plans to continue teaching. “I may also explore business opportunities where I can utilize my business skills as well as

my teaching skills now that I have earned my degree.”

Of course, things have changed in universities the world over since Hall was typical college age, and grappling with some of the advancements posed a challenge. “The computer is a must in the school environment whereas when I was freshman age, we just had books and maybe an old typewriter, and not even an electric one,” Hall said.

The toughest thing about going back to college? “Writing 15-page papers and understanding how the professors wanted the assignment completed, i.e., APA format versus MLA format.” The most rewarding thing? “When I would complete my 15-page papers, earn an A and conquer the technology to assist in the completion. I felt exhilarated.”

Hall did notice that more adults seem to be going back to college. It is understandable since the burden of raising children lessens as they go off to college, marry or go into the workforce. Her fellow students were not surprised to see a person of Hall’s age in their classes, she said.

“There was diversity across the board. The 25 year olds were there because they were told about the school by an older relative who finished their own degree at Springfield. So they knew mature stu-

dents attend Springfield as well as younger students,” she said.

Hall said that she made several friends, as the school atmosphere is conducive to a cohesive and close-knit student body. She even attended some school functions and a cookout, but restrictions on her time didn’t allow for many extra-curricular activities, as she worked full time while attending school full time as well.

Yet the determined Hall did get through it, and had a support system on which to rely. When she first told her grown children, some of whom are now parents of college graduates, that she’d be going back to earn her degree she said they were extremely supportive. “They helped with transportation, editing papers, moral support, encouragement and prayer.”

Indeed, Hall firmly believes that with God all things are possible. “I do believe in prayer and that God is in charge of everything in my life in the past, future and forever. All things work together for good for those who love the Lord. Take God with you everywhere you go because if it had not been for God, I would not have earned my Bachelor of Science degree at this late age.”

To reach Frank Drouzas, email fdrouzas@theweeklyphal-lenger.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

LEMA CONSTRUCTION WILL BE ACCEPTING BID PROPOSALS ON BEHALF OF ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE FOR THEIR NEW MIDTOWN CENTER, SITE 16

Bids for furnishing all labor, material and performing all work necessary and incidental to the completion of the bid packages shall be for;

BID GROUP C – BUILDING EXTERIOR PACKAGE: Roofing, Glass & Glazing, Doors & Hardware, Stucco

Three (3) sets of sealed proposals along with checklist and proof of bonding capacity must be received by LEMA Construction at 10001 16th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33716, by 5:00pm on the 14th day of January 2014. Any bids received after the above date and time or delivered to a different address or location will not be considered. Only qualified subcontractor bid proposals will be reviewed. There will be a list of the minimum requirements posted on www.lemaconstruction.com and will be an integral part of the bid proposal packet. There will be a Beneficial Community Impact (BCI) goal of 30% or more included but not limited to SBE’s MBE’s & WBE’s participation.

LEMA Construction and St. Petersburg College will review bid proposals and select the subcontractor or vendor based on the combination of their BCI, Base Bid and overall bid proposal. The College is seeking to have the most positive impact possible on the local community.

Qualified bidders will be provided three (3) pre-marked envelopes with the following information to be used for bid proposals;

Attn: St. Petersburg College
Bid: Midtown Center, Site 16
Title: Building Exterior Package
Trade: (Roofing, Glass & Glazing, Doors & Hardware, or Stucco)
Your Company Name

Interested Bidders may obtain bid packet with specific trade proposals beginning December 20th 2013, by contacting LEMA Construction at 727-563-0298. You can also request a bid packet by sending an email to spcmidtown@lemaconstruction.com. There will be a public Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting on January 3rd, 2013, at 2:00pm in room 107, at St. Petersburg College Midtown Center, located at 1048 22nd Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712. At this meeting, Lema will go over the scope of work and answer questions. Any questions after the meeting will have to be sent to above email address and will be shared publicly. St. Petersburg College will have the final approval on the selected contractor and reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

The Weekly Challenger

Home Delivery to South St. Petersburg for \$50 yearly
First Class Mail Subscription Cost: \$80 yearly

RATE
REDUCTION
SPECIAL!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone No: _____

Email Address: _____

New Subscription _____ (or) Renewal _____

Date: _____ Amount Paid: \$ _____ Cash _____ Check _____

Comments: _____

Make Checks Payable to: The Weekly Challenger

Mail this form & payment to: The Weekly Challenger, P.O. Box 35130, St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Email: editor@theweeklyphallenger.com • Phone: (727) 896-2922 • Fax (727) 823-2568

The Weekly Challenger

is distributed in the following cities:

St. Petersburg • Clearwater • Largo
Tarpon Springs • Dunedin • Safety Harbor

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)

SINGLE COPY
50 cents

ATTN. POSTMASTER:
Send all address changes to:

The Weekly Challenger
P.O. Box 35130
St. Petersburg, FL 33705

NO PAPER?

If you have not received your paper during delivery, call (727) 896-2922

DEADLINES

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.

COLUMNIST'S DISCLAIMER

The views expressed by The Weekly Challenger columnists/ advice columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of The Weekly Challenger. By publishing such columns, The Challenger is not advocating the following of any advice or suggestion expressed.

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

Submissions to The Weekly Challenger may be edited for reasons of space, clarity or for considerations of liability. All submissions become the sole property of The Weekly Challenger. The Weekly Challenger reserves the right to run all or part of any submission at a later time. Some submissions may take precedence due to timeliness or newsworthiness.

THE BLACK PRESS

believes that America can best lead the world from racial antagonism when it accords to every man, regardless of race, creed or color, his human and legal rights. Hating no man, fearing no man... the Black Press strives to help every man in the firm belief that all men are hurt as long as anyone is held back.



Volume 46 • Number 17
Published Thursday,
December 19, 2013
12 pages • 1 section

© The Weekly Challenger

All rights reserved. No portions of this periodical may be reproduced without expressed consent.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Making home affordable

What is the worst thing you can do if you as a homeowner are experiencing financial hardship due to unexpected expenses, job loss, reduced hours or decrease in business and, as a result, are struggling with your mortgage payments or are at risk of foreclosure? In such a situation, the worst thing is to do nothing. Millions of Americans are facing these difficulties, and help is available.

The Making Home Affordable (MHA) Program, administered by the U. S. Treasury Department and U. S. Housing & Urban Development Department (HUD), is a critical part of the federal government's broad strategy to help homeowners avoid foreclosure, stabilize the country's housing market, and improve the nation's economy.

What does this mean for worried homeowners? MHA solutions mean there is breathing room for the unemployed, more affordable payments, help when you owe more than the home is worth. MHA enhancements are designed to provide relief to more homeowners through expansion of program eligibility, extension of application deadlines, and increase in investor incentives for principal reduction.

Homeowners can lower their monthly mortgage payments and get into more stable loans at today's low rates. And for those homeowners for whom homeownership is not affordable or desirable, the program can provide a way out which avoids foreclosure. Additionally, in an effort to be responsive to the needs of today's homeowners, there are also options for unemployed homeowners and homeowners who owe more than their homes are worth. Below are program summaries:

Modify or Refinance Your Loan for Lower Payments

- Home Affordable Modifications Program: This program lowers your monthly mortgage payment to 31 percent of your



Neighborhood Home Solutions

1600 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
727-821-6897 • www.nhsfl.org

verified monthly gross (pre-tax) income to make your payments more affordable. The typical modification results in a 40 percent drop in a monthly mortgage payment. Eighteen percent of eligible homeowners reduce their payments by \$1,000 or more.

- Principal Reduction Alternative: This option was designed to help homeowners whose homes are worth significantly less than they owe by encouraging servicers and investors to reduce the amount you owe on your home.

- Home Affordable Refinance Program: If you are current on your mortgage and have been unable to obtain a traditional refinance because the value of your home has declined, you may be eligible to refinance through this option. It is designed to help you refinance into a new affordable, more stable mortgage.

Assistance for Unemployed or Underemployed Homeowners

- Florida Hardest-Hit Fund: The federal government has allocated funding to help pay the mortgages of qualified homeowners who are unemployed or underemployed through no fault of their own. The Florida Hardest-Hit Fund program aims to assist qualified Florida homeowners by providing mortgage assistance for up to twelve (12) months capped at \$24,000 or until the homeowner finds adequate employment to resume paying the mortgage (whichever comes first),

with up to \$18,000 available to reinstate a delinquent first mortgage prior to payments being made for a homeowner who is recovering from unemployment or underemployment, up to \$25,000 is available as a one-time payment to reinstate a delinquent first mortgage.

Managed Exit for Borrowers

- Home Affordable Foreclosure Alternatives: If your mortgage is unaffordable and you are interested in transitioning to more affordable housing, you may be eligible for a short sale or deed-in-lieu of foreclosure.

- "Redemption" is a period after your home has already been sold at a foreclosure sale when you can still reclaim your home. You will need to pay the outstanding mortgage balance and all costs incurred during the foreclosure process.

To help you determine which program options may be best suited for your particular circumstances, call Neighborhood Home Solutions (NHS) to schedule an appointment with a certified and experienced professional. Don't wait!

NHS is a 501(c) 3 non-profit, HUD-approved housing counseling organization. All services are provided free of charge. Partners include the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), HomeFree USA, Florida Housing Finance Corporation, Florida Hardest-Hit, Pinellas County Community Development, and City of St. Petersburg.

NAACP 2013 Christmas Food Basket Giveaway!

The NAACP feels that it's better to give than to receive. So to say thank you for your continued support of the NAACP, we would like to feed 50 families in need this year. All baskets are being given away on a first come basis.

The baskets will be available for pick up this Sat., Dec. 21 from 9-2 p.m. at the St. Petersburg branch, 1501 16th St. S, in St. Petersburg.

If you need additional information you may call the office at 727-898-3310 or the branch secretary Tammara Anderson 727-768-1317.



2nd Annual Jingle Mingle

ST. PETERSBURG — The International Free and Accepted Modern Masons and the Order of Eastern Stars presents Chester Gooden's 2nd Annual Jingle Mingle Sat., Dec. 21 at Midtown Sundries, 200 1st Ave. S., St Petersburg, from 9-11 p.m.

There is no cover charge, however willing monetary donations and noiseless stuffed animals will be gladly accepted and appreciated. A percentage of all proceeds will be used towards bringing smiles to the faces of the patients at All Children's Hospital.

All brethren, sisters,



families and friends, please come out and support this charitable event for these wonderful kids.

Everyone is being asked to check in upon arrival for seating procedures.



Paradise Fashions LLC presents Annual Kids Appreciation Day

FREE
games and toys

Sat., Dec. 21
from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

2154 9th Ave. S.

JPPNA Scholarship Holiday Gala

Jordan Park Project Nostalgic Association presents
3rd Annual Scholarship Holiday Gala

DECEMBER 26, 2013
8:00 p.m. to MIDNITE
GULFPORT CASINO
5500 SHORE BLVD SOUTH
GULFPORT, FLORIDA 33707

Fellowship and Fun
B.Y.O.F. ("Bring your own food")
Cash Bar Available

DONATION: \$20.00 per person

Cash accepted or make your check, or money order payable to: **JPPNA**

All proceeds will go to the JPPNA Scholarship Fund. JPPNA is a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Agency

For additional information please contact Committee Chair Victoria "Cookie" Gaskin, (727) 866-7946 or any committee member listed below: Betty Crawford (727) 645-3893

Leeroy Lewis	(727) 894-8246
Annie R. "Penny" Thornton	(727) 867-5504
Jean Burney	(727) 289-2416
Martina Haywood	(727) 867-1968
Minson Rubin	(727) 204-9013
Louis Williams	(727) 864-6811

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST, 2013
2pm & 7:30pm
Duke Energy Center for the Arts
MAHAFFEY THEATER
400 First Street South
Saint Petersburg, Florida

Tickets \$17, \$27, \$37 each
Groups of 30 or more receive \$3 off each ticket
To purchase group tickets, call 813.451.4410


To purchase tickets, call or visit
Mahaffey Theater 400 First Street Saint Petersburg, Florida 727.893.7832
ARTZ 4 Life Academy 1751 Kings Highway Clearwater, Florida 727.216.3519

BrightHouse and Artz 4 Life Academy present the **16th Annual 2013**

Nutcracker Twist

formerly
The Chocolate Nutcracker
lifeofculturalarts.com

CONNECT WITH US!



COMMUNITY NEWS

One Africa, One Nation 2013 Freedom Ball

BY ALLEN BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

GULFPORT – The 6th Congress of the African People's Socialist Party recently convened for five days at its headquarters in St. Petersburg. Kicking off the festivities was the "One Africa, One Nation" 2013 Freedom Ball that was held Sat., Dec.7 at the Gulfport Casino.

The night was a splendid evening of dazzling African attire, good food and an education on the state of African people around the globe.

The ball launched with dinner and a chance to preview silent auction items on sale as part of the fundraiser for Uhuru community programs. Deputy Chair Ona Zene Yeshitela welcomed the hundreds of people gathered together as John X, a comedian, opened the entertainment portion of the banquet.

Hosts Ron Bob Semple and Princess Williams, dressed in traditional African attire, introduced the audience to the next generation of superstars starting with the Reality DC Dance Group from the nation's capital. The five-

member boy dance group showed off their diverse hip-hop, breaking, and street dance moves.

Antrez Singer, a local vocalist, followed with a solo and dance. The Kandy Girls Rap Group mesmerized the audience with their dancing and rap routine which helped them win a local talent competition in the Bay Area. Rounding out the wide range of talent for the evening was singer Siadha King who is currently studying classical music at Tampa University.

The exuberant youthful performances let everyone know that a new generation is always emerging to take over where their predecessors have left off. However, the highlight of the evening was the poignant message of the significance of African unity in the community, the United States, and internationally by Chairman Omali Yeshitela.

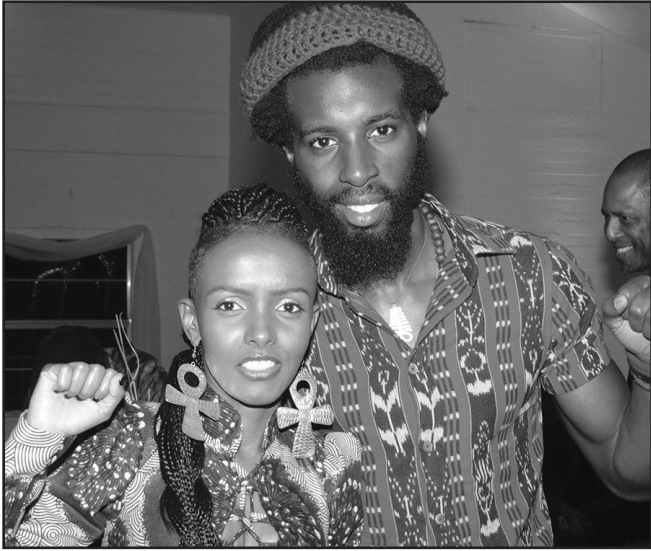
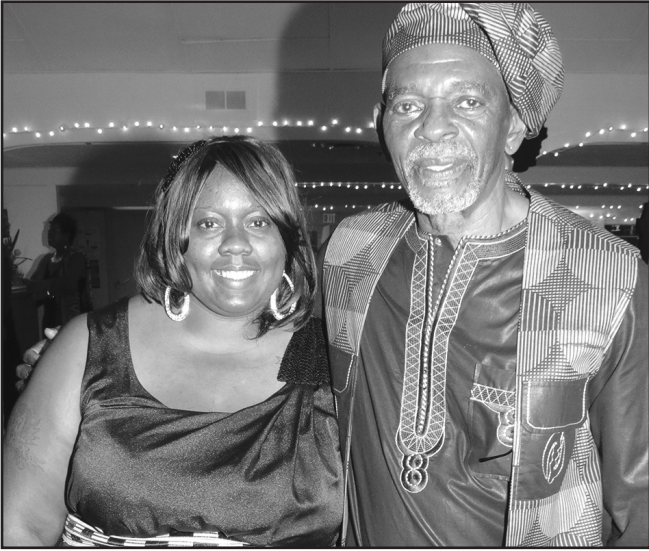
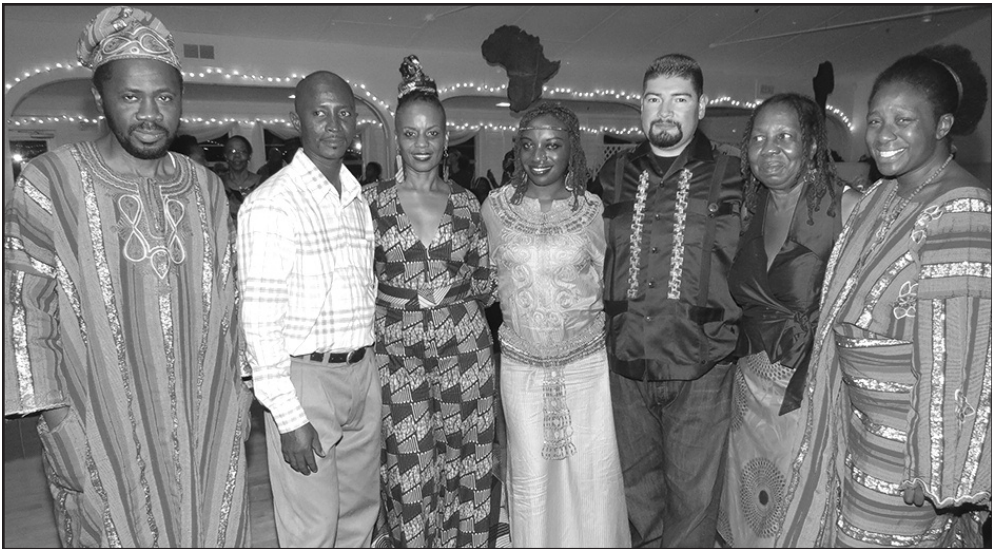
Yeshitela's message underscored the fact that people of color should not forget their heritage or leave it behind no matter how successful they have become. He gave multiple examples of how people of color are constantly facing the reality that their free-

dom is fragile. For instance, he spoke of the racial disparities in America's prison system.

"Why is it that one of the richest nations in the developed world has the highest number of prisons and incarcerated prisoners in the world," asked Yeshitela.

No country incarcerates a higher percentage of its population than the United States. At 716 per 100,000 people, according to the International Centre for Prison Studies, the U.S. tops every other nation in the world and according to reports laid out in the Huffington Post, one in three black males and one in six Hispanic males will go to prison in their lifetime compared to one in 17 white males if current incarceration trends continue.

In essence, Yeshitela's message was a wake-up call that we as a nation and a people are not quite there yet but still have a bit of work ahead of us. His battle cry to the community to stand up and fight whatever vestiges of racism, disparities, or inequalities that still exists ended in classical African style, community dancing and celebration of life.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Community garden being planted at McCabe United Methodist Church

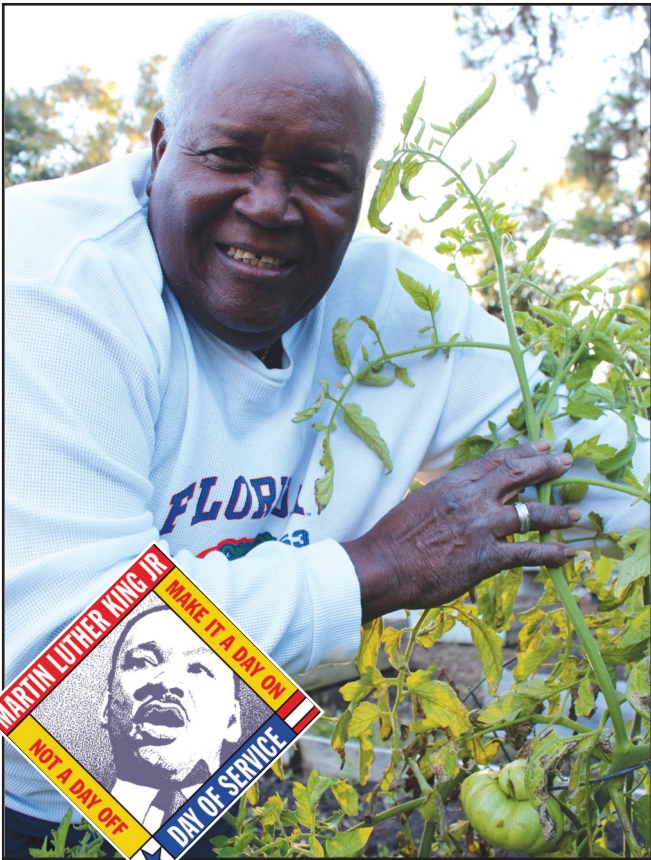
From **MCCABE**, page 1

people involved in the project and the overall outcome, Williams hopes, will be to continue to provide an abundance of food to the community, namely to the needy. The garden, located on the west side of the McCabe church grounds at 2800 26th Ave. S. in St. Pete, already has tomato plants. But this year Williams and other volunteers will focus mostly on planting greens — of the collard, mustard and turnip variety — in addition to bell peppers and herbs.

Williams said he chose this project primarily to urge people to work together in helping the community. He also strives to teach the youth of St. Pete the value of helping others less fortunate than themselves.

"I will have an ongoing commitment to see this project grow and prosper so it continues to teach the youth of the community the skill of growing fresh vegetables from start to finish, while providing food for those in need," he said.

No stranger to providing services to his community, Williams has served as President on the Board of Directors for Boley Centers, Inc., a mental health organization, and has also served on the advisory board at Saint Anthony's Hospital in the 1970s. He's been a member of the Downtown Kiwanis Club for 10 years and served three years on the Lakewood Junior Spar-



tans Youth League Football program.

"I am an active volunteer for Canterbury Schools of Florida, Inc., as assistant equipment manager for the junior varsity and varsity football teams. I also do the game statistics for the basketball team," he said as he finished his list off.

Indeed, Williams' love of sports is apparent and when he's not tending to greens in the garden, he likes to swing for the greens on the golf course. "I am an avid golfer," the 70 year old said. "When my knees will allow me to play," he added.

But at his age Williams has had the opportunity to participate in some historic events in St. Pete, and fondly treasures those

memories. "I grew up in the Martin Luther King Jr. era and all of the things that he stood for became a part of my life," he explained. "Especially when he came to Webb's City Department store and I was one of the individuals that participated in a sit-down at the store. I was able to meet and interact with Dr. King and that experience is one I have carried with me throughout my life."

Williams will be receiving some needed help from the men of Eta Rho Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity this weekend, and hopes church members will also pitch in.

To reach Frank Drouzas, email fdrouzas@theweekly-challenger.com

Your Family Vision Center



Dr. Deborah C. Flanagan
Optometric Physician

*"A Personal Touch
from Caring Professionals"*

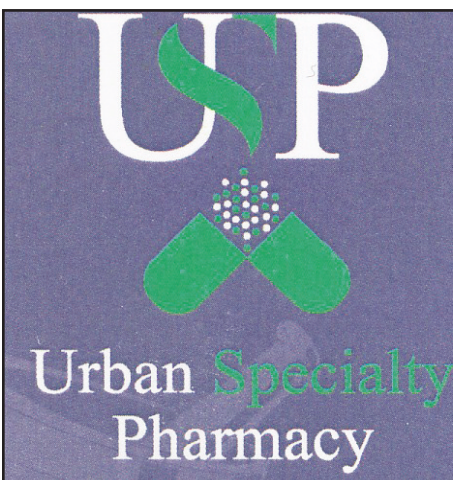
DC EYE ASSOCIATES

- Comprehensive Eye Examinations
- Children's Vision Care
- Contact Lens Specialist
- Eye Disease Management
- Medical Consults for Laser Refractive and Cataract Surgery

**MEDICARE AND
MOST VISION PLANS ACCEPTED**

Students
Professionals
Adults
Athletes

Conveniently Located
4940 Central Avenue
727-321-6600 x1



NO COST MEDICAID & MEDICARE REVIEWS

727-327-9881 • 3535 Central Ave.
St. Petersburg, FL 33713

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Prevention • Awareness • Education •
- Testing • Counseling • Referrals •

HELP - US - HELP - U • Access

Food Stamp Application/SNAP
Medicaid Application - Recertification

727.403.3366

www.helpushelpuinc.org

S U P P O R T O U R A D V E R T I S E R S



Mercedes-Benz

The Better Way To Define Luxury



Introducing The All-New
2014 Mercedes-Benz

C250 Coupe

\$399

Per
Month

\$399/month for 36 months, \$3,844 due at signing. Price plus tax, tag, title and dealer fees. With approved credit, see dealer for details.



\$579/month for 27 months \$4,699 due at signing.
Price plus tax, tag, title and dealer fees. With approved credit, see dealer for details.

2014 Mercedes-Benz

E350 Sport Sedan

\$579

Per
Month



CROWN EUROCARS

The Better Way To Buy

855-256-3566

6001 34th St. North St. Petersburg, FL 33714

CrownEurocars.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Student athletes recognized by the city council

From **FOOTBALL**, page 1

Florida you've done something really, really worthy," Councilman Charlie Gerdes said, speaking to both the young men and their female running back who graced the field this fall, as well as, the group of coaches that helped the Lakewood team become part of the school's history. "This is the first time the Spartans have reached the semifinals, they're represented well," remarked Councilman Wengay Newton who presented each Spartan with certificates of appreciation during the St. Petersburg City Council weekly meeting Dec. 19. Lakewood players and coaches were honored for their appearance in the Class 5A state semifinals. "They played their hardest."

Head coach Cory Moore thanked the council and Lakewood Principal Bob Vicari, "for allowing us to be part of the great thing that you have going in the area." He also took a moment to praise his staff of assistant coaches for a job well done.

Members of the council all had something to say and continued to chime in, each having a story to tell of their good old days. Some were athletes in high school, like Gerdes whose old stomping grounds at Bishop Barry, now St. Petersburg Catholic, instilled in him the knowledge of what it takes to succeed in athletics. Hard work, dedi-

cation, determination and a whole lot of grit. A mix of qualities he enjoyed watching throughout the 2013 football season.

"Those of us who are sports fans, who played high school sports, don't care that you didn't go to my high school," Gerdes remarked. "I'm rooting for you."

Others, such as Councilman Bill Dudley, went on to coach for other schools in their early careers. Like Northeast High School.

A coach for 14 years with the Vikings in both wrestling and football, Dudley remarked on the athletes who were wearing medals urging them to keep them safe for future reflection. "You'll be able to hold them up and say, 'this is what I accomplished, this is what I did.'"

However he preached academics and urged each player to get their high school diploma, continue their education in college, and prepare themselves for a life that doesn't include going pro.

"The sad reality is that even though you want to make it to the pros, just look at the numbers," he said explaining he too wanted to play professionally although he admits to being, "slow, small, couldn't jump, but I wanted to be there."

Even the mayor who announced he'd be retiring the Mayor's Cup this year, which currently resides at



Student athletes: Some players on the 2013 team have GPAs of 3.8 and 3.9. There are some very high ACT scores and a few are in the National Honors Society.

Lakewood, spoke a few words exhibiting his pride for the semifinalist. But he couldn't first resist a little banter with Council member Dudley.

"The Vikings...they were in it, they were in it... for the first three minutes," joked Mayor Bill Foster as he too praised the Lakewood team and coaching staff for their tremendous accomplishment. "It's been a joy to watch this group of young men, and a young woman, compete really well."

Although a run at the state championship is a worthy achievement for any school, the positive impact the coaches at Lakewood have on the lives of the players is what Newton holds most dear. A retired high school player himself,

he got choked up when speaking of his old coach and the effect his words had on him.

"That man told me when I was 15 that you can be whatever you want... and that was big," said Newton. "You never know how what you say to a person is going to affect them," he remarked, "It's going to have a dramatic ef-

fect on how they turn out, believe me."

Practice, hard work, and a desire to win at all costs made it possible for the team to soar to new heights and make history for the Lakewood Spartans. A skilled group of players and the coaches behind the scenes calling the shots made for a successful and memorable fall season. A


season the Spartans will mark down in their own history books.

The Lakewood Spartans lost in the semifinals at the Florida state championship to Green Cove Springs' Clay High School, 40-38. They were 10-3 on the season.

To reach Holly Kestenis, email hkestenis@theweekly-challenger.com



L-R, front row, Hassan Lang, Principal Robert Vicari, Head Coach Cory Moore, Ms. Miller. Back row: Donald Graham, Thomas Williams, Torry Gammage, Aldolphus Barnes, Zephania Hawkins, Michael Lawless, Sergeant First Class Roosevelt Kimble, Athletic Director Edward Lane



163 3rd Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

JANUARY 22 - FEBRUARY 23, 2014


"Its stunning monologues are gorgeous, funny, and savage." -LA Times

August Wilson's

2 TRAINS RUNNING

Directed by Bob Devin Jones

THE 7TH INSTALLMENT IN OUR STUNNING CENTURY CYCLE!




2013-2014 MAINSTAGE SEASON SPONSOR:
RAYMOND JAMES®


Starring Bryant Bentley, Cranstan Cumberbatch, Renata Eastlick, Alan Bomar Jones, ranney, Kim Sullivan, and Wilbert L. Williams, Jr.

It is 1969, a young man comes to Memphis Lee's diner which is slated for demolition. This is Wilson's most compassionate and humorous work about lives in transition, evolving social awareness, and spirits rising.

(727) 823-PLAY (7529) • AMERICANSTAGE.ORG



National Council of Negro Women Inc. proudly presents



The 28th Annual

MLK

LEADERSHIP AWARDS BREAKFAST

Monday 20 2014
January 20 7:30 AM

Keynote Speaker
Delatorro McNeal, II


The Coliseum
535 Fourth Avenue North
St. Petersburg

\$25.00 per person


Tickets available at
The Coliseum Box Office:
(727) 892-5202

www.mlkbreakfast-stpete.com
NCNW (727) 896-6556

Presenting Sponsors:



DUKE ENERGY



THE Edwards GROUP

Supporting Sponsors:

The City of St. Petersburg | Brighthouse | St. Petersburg College

COMMUNITY NEWS

Urban League holiday celebration

TREASURE ISLAND — The Pinellas County Urban League Guild held its Annual Holiday Celebration at The Club at Treasure Island Thurs., Dec. 5. Over 200 guests enjoyed beautiful soft holiday music from pianist Steve Wilson as they entered the Gala.

Urban League Guild President Rene Flowers and President and CEO Watson L. Haynes, II honored event sponsors Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services and the New York Yankees for their commitment to the Urban League.

Mayor Bill Foster,

Guild officers and Gala committee members were also honored for their dedicated service.

Several community leaders were in attendance, Pinellas County Commissioners Ken Welch and Charlie Justice, Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, Mayor Bill

Foster, School Board Superintendent Dr. Mike Grego, School Board Member Carol Cook, Judge Patrice Moore and Alex Sink.

Prymetime entertainment provided the music and videos for the evening. Photos are provided by Tim Kelly.



Emancipation Proclamation Service



ST. PETERSBURG — The St. Petersburg Branch NAACP invites the public to the 2014 Emancipation Proclamation Service that will be held Jan. 1, 2014 at the Greater Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, located at 1045 16th St. S., St. Petersburg.

The service will start at 9 a.m. Breakfast will be served immediately following the service and will be catered by Sofia Forte's.

History has declared that the Watch Night Service, normally held on December 31 of each year, took on a different meaning during the Civil War. Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Senator Charles Sumner, Senator Thaddeus Stevens and other abolitionists worked to encourage President Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation to free enslaved Africans in the Confederate states that rebelled against the Union.

On that night, Dec. 31, 1862, many enslaved African men and women and their families gathered to hear "the word." Then at midnight in many African-American churches, "the word" came that President Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation. After midnight,

African men and women, who along with their ancestors had experienced over 244 years of slavery in America, began thanking God for the dawn of freedom.

The next day, Jan. 1, 1863, became known as "Jubilee Day" to the newly freed African men, women and children. They enjoyed a freedom feast of collard greens, yams, black-eyed peas, roasted meats pies and cakes. They sang songs and played games of all kind as they reminisced on slavery's past and mused on freedom's future.

January 1, 2014, we will give thanks for the many blessings that have been bestowed upon our brothers and sisters as we strive to reach new heights in the political, social, and judicial realms of our society. We would appreciate it if you would set aside time to come join with us as we make anew our pledge to work to make life better for all citizens of Florida and states throughout the United State of America.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at the branch at (727) 898-3310 or contact Kelvin L. George, Emancipation Proclamation Chair at (727) 641-2907.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE
Cancelled or Non-Renewed??
WE CAN HELP!!!
727-393-4617
Larry Eugene Walker • Insurance
Great Automobile Rates • Over 20 Years of Experience

Make \$\$\$
as a certified braiding stylist!!!
76 hr Hair braid Certification
Get your share of the
Multi-billion dollar
Hair industry now!!
1-855-427-4849
www.hairitizsalon.com

SYLVIA J. TAYLOR P.A.
ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW
Specializing In Real Estate Closings,
Refi's and Probate
1900 Main Street, Suite 750
Sarasota, FL 34238
(941) 309-5188
Fax (941) 309-5201
sylviajtaylorpa@cs.com

B. Brinson Insurance Agency
Auto, Life, Health and Home Owners
brinsoninsagy@yahoo.com
Bennie Brinson
1830 49th St. So.
St. Petersburg, FL 33707
Tel: 727-328-9878
Cell: 727-215-3048
Fax: 727-328-9545

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS



To be a foster parent, you can be single or married, have a family of your own or be an "empty-nester." For more information, call the Eckerd Recruitment Line toll-free at 1-866-233-0790.

Pasco-Hernando COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Assistant Dean of Instructional Services (Job # 0351) West Campus, New Port Richey
- Associate Director of Management Information Services (Job # 0343) - Search Reopened West Campus, New Port Richey
- Associate Director of Network Services (Job # 0342) - Search Reopened West Campus, New Port Richey
- Instructor, Nursing (ADN) (Job # 0352) - College-wide
- Instructor, Practical Nursing (Job # 0295) - 2 Positions Search Reopened - College-wide
- Instructional Designer (Job # 0349) West Campus, New Port Richey

Pasco-Hernando Community College (PHCC) is accepting applications. For more information and to apply online visit our website at www.phcc.edu/jobs. Application closing date is 1/3/14. THE COLLEGE IS CLOSED DECEMBER 13, 2013 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2014 FOR WINTER BREAK. EOE/ADA Compliance

Imagine... Believe... Achieve

LOOK NO FURTHER FOR CHURCH SUPPLIES
Communion Items • Choir Robes
Bulletins • Bibles • Sunday School books
Gospel CDs / DVDs and so much more
Reader's Choice Book & Gift Store
4341 34th St. S., St. Petersburg
(Across from Wendy's)
(727) 867-3696
Open: Wednesday - Sunday

COMMUNITY NEWS

Matters of the Heart Ministry 6th Annual Toys for Tots Christmas Event

From **TOY DRIVE** , page 1

ism and the need to keep up with others who may have more.

A nonprofit, Matters of the Heart hands out what they take in. With four events scheduled throughout the year to help families get by, the ministry relies on word of mouth to locate those most in need and the families that may have slipped through the cracks, or who aren't widely known to be struggling.

Seventeen families were helped out this holiday season with generous donations resulting in Wal-Mart gift cards of various amounts. For some however, the fun in giving is the shopping that goes along with it. These donors chose instead to provide gift bags for their holiday adoptees. Most sponsors gave \$25 or \$50, with some families receiving \$15 if they had a young child such as a six month old.

"My daughter came back and said, 'I went and got a fifty dollar one,' said Wright speaking of the gift card Kewa Wright bought, her generous nature toward those in need quite evident. "If I asked her for one, she probably wouldn't give it to me," Wright joked, "but that family was truly blessed."

Although she posts notices in the paper, sends out messages on the radio, and even gets her information out to the local news, Wright still finds that people in the community refer one another when they know of someone in need.

"I'm not sure how all

these social workers get my information," she joked. With a contact messaging system sending out to nearly 1,500 people though, it's pretty obvious. "Sometimes they will send me messages through email saying, 'I know a family, I know somebody who's having a hard time, would you be able to help them?'"

But some families may not have known about the Matters of the Heart toy giveaway and Pastor St. Julian of Greater Purpose Christian Fellowship in Tampa urged them to instead look toward the real message of Christmas by rejoicing in the birth of Jesus, an event he feels is sorely misrepresented in today's society. Never having preached a Christmas message, the pastor feels the church, as well as its parishioners, should rejoice in the meaning of Christmas 365 days of the year.

"It doesn't give him the glory that he deserves to talk about his birth one time," he said.

Pastor St. Julian admits he understood the children were there to gain some free gifts, one young man even approaching him during his sermon. Yet he continued to spread the word that the act of providing for family is the ultimate present one can give a child.

"How many know that it's not about the gifts," he asked those in attendance. "If you take care of your children, your active in their life, providing love, food, clothes, and shelter...don't go broke on

Christmas. Don't spend all your bill money."

Along with the toys for tots giveaway, Matters of the Heart Ministry gives back to the community throughout the year. Some 90 families were blessed at Thanksgiving time with food baskets, turkeys, and gift cards. Wright also holds an anniversary event in August and a prayer breakfast in the spring in an effort to spread the word of God and to pass on blessings to the less fortunate.

"I feel like the ones that I end up getting are the ones I'm supposed to help," confided Wright, who was taking messages and requests for assistance the morning of the Christmas event. Wright admits she is not able to help everyone in need, but places each person she hears about on her list for when future donations come in.

For Wright, who raised three children as a single mother, she can remember standing in line for food baskets and toy giveaways.

"No matter what trials, tribulations and painful circumstances that crossed my path during my early years of parenting, God had a divine plan for my life specifically designed with my name on it," she said.

That plan included her being blessed with the opportunity to help others. Matters of the Heart is a non-profit organization that gives back to the community through humanitarian causes for less fortunate and poverty stricken families dur-

ing the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons by hosting two annual events.

"One thing that I will never forget is to show love and appreciation daily, respect others, and having a heart of gratitude, she finished.

She urges everyone to celebrate this holiday season by honoring Jesus, their neighbors and anyone in need. If you'd like to donate, Wright and the Matters of the Heart Ministry is still accepting donations for those remaining on her list.

For more information log on to www.mattersoftheheartministry.org

To reach Holly Kestenis, email hkestenis@theweekly-challenger.com



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MLK DAY OF SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

A & L Enterprises
African American Heritage Association
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. - Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter
ANSO of Tampa Bay
Assisted Living Community Garden
Bay Point Middle
Bay Vista Church of Christ
Bethel AME Human Services and Education Foundation, Inc.
Breaking Free by Faith Outreach Ministries, Inc.
Care Cones
CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse, Inc.)
Chasing the Dream
Christ Gospel Church Of St. Petersburg
Christian Recovery Center, Inc. Faith House
Clothes To Kids, Inc.
Coco Entertainment Events LLC
Cosmetique Beauty Salon
Divine Image Salon
Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter
Dr. Carter D. Woodson (Book Club)
Dr. Carter D. Woodson (Garden)
ETA RHO Educational Services Inc.
Fifth Avenue Mentoring Program (F.A.M.P.)
God's Anointed Hands
Gramps Raising Grands
Greater Pinellas Point Civic Association
Green Florida
Hair By Ashile (HBA)
Help Us Help U, Inc
HIV/AIDS Action Committee
Jungle Terrace Civic Association, Inc
Kingdom Restoration, Inc
Knights of Knowledge Chess Club

L.I.F.E. Organization Inc.
McCabe United Methodist
Mercy Keepers. Inc.
Metropolitan Charities Inc
Mt. Zion Christian Academy
Mt. Zion College Prep 101: "Be Prepared!"
Mt. Zion Human Services, Inc.
Girl Scout Troop 1023, a program
Mt. Zion Human Services, Inc. - Sistahs Surviving Breast Cancer program
My Daughter's Keeper of Tampa Bay, Incorporated
Pasadena Bear Creek Neighborhood Association
Pinellas County Urban League BOBCPP
Pinellas County Urban League
The Sojourner Truth Garden
Pinellas Ex Offender Re Entry Coalition
Pinellas Opportunity Council, Inc.
Pinellas Opportunity Council, Inc. - Chore Services
Pinellas Park Middle School
Sickle Cell Disease Association of American
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church Youth Ministry
St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta P.P.D.
Students Come First
SUAC (Sustainable Urban Agriculture Coalition)
Suit Up - Mojays Smoke House
Tax alert Tax and Money Services LLC.
The Deuces Live
The Gathering of Women, Inc.
The Hosea Mission Inc
TMAX Promotions LLC./ Health
Tmax promotions/ Education
Triumph Learning Center, LLC
Woodlawn Elementary
Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
Youth and Family Christian Community Center

GET INVOLVED!

Volunteer to serve in a local project on MLK Day of Service Jan. 20, 2014

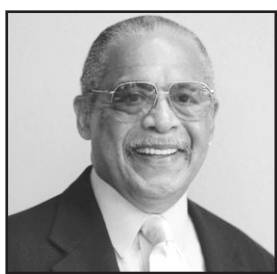
MLK Day of Service A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF Monday, Jan. 20, 2014



Learn more

www.spcollege.edu/MLKService

COMMUNITY NEWS



Rick Gee's
JAZZ JAMMI

Joyful jazz for the holidays



RUSKIN —The holidays arrived early at the Firehouse Cultural Center in Ruskin last Friday — holiday music that is! That's when Lorri Hafer's Haferhouse Jazz Quartet inspired an enthusiastic audience with holiday music in a "jazzy" style that vocalist Lorri Hafer delivers so effectively.

Comprised of some of Tampa Bay's top jazz musicians, vocalist Lorri Hafer, pianist Mike Hafer, bassist Paul Hafer, and drummer Joe Renda, the group was definitely on point with tunes that captured the holiday spirit and winter season.

If you're unfamiliar with Lorri Hafer, here is a concise bio about her. At the tender age of five years, she began her vocal career singing on the Guy Mitchell record, "If You Ever Go Away." Mitchell starred in his own ABC variety show, the Guy Mitchell Show, and as an international recording star of the 1950s achieved record sales in excess of 44 million, including six million singles.

Confirming the old adage: "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree" she was also a vocalist with the Hillside Singers along with her mother Mary Mayo. She and her mother Mary enjoyed their greatest commercial success with a huge thanks to Coca-Cola, as lead singers for the folk group The Hillside Singers.

Some of our readers may recall the pop jingle they recorded "I'd Like to Give the World a Coke." Amazingly, the commercial tune became a cultural hit, and was re-recorded by The Hillside Singers under the title "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing."

In addition to the family's musical talents, her father, Al Ham, was also in the music business. As an arranger and bass player, he worked for Columbia Records, Johnny Mathis, Les Elgart and the ever so popular and successful series of "Sing Along with Mitch" albums.

Lorri is married to pianist Mike Hafer, and their son Paul is the bass player in the group. It's no doubt that in the Hafer Household, the family that prays together not only stays together, but they also jam together!

They started the first set with the fa-

mous jazz standard "Blue Bossa" and followed with an interesting interpretation of "Silent Night." Lorri then came on stage singing tunes with lyrics familiar to most of us such as "Let it Snow, Let it Snow." One tune she sung was a beautiful ballad, but one that I was not familiar with, "The Christmas of Your Life."

Tunes that followed included the contemporary Christian song, "Christmas Child" and "Gonna Sit Myself Right Down and Write Myself a Letter," the Fats Waller tune from the Harlem Renaissance era featured in the Broadway musical "Ain't Misbehavin." Lorri also presented her version of the Gershwin tune made popular by Frank Sinatra, "What About You?"

Later on in the concert, she sang many heartwarming songs such as a song made popular by Judy Garland, "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and an age old favorite of mine recorded by jazz icon Nat "King" Cole; you know...the Christmas song with the lyrics of "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost nipping at your nose..."

Many other tunes reflecting the holiday spirit were sung by Lorri and played by the rhythm section. The concert ended with her wishing the audience a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. This concert was exactly what the doctor ordered leaving the audience upbeat and joyous; yours truly included.

The next jazz concert scheduled at the Firehouse Cultural Center takes place February 21, 2014. Performing will be The Ken Loomer Jazz Quartet. This tight-knit group is comprised of Tony Castellano, vocals & keyboard, Bruce Wallace, bass, Frank Marino, tenor saxophone, and Ken Loomer, drums & leader of the group.

The Firehouse Cultural Center is located at 101 1st Ave. NE, Ruskin. Ticket information available at (813) 645-7651.

Remember to "Keep Jazz Alive" by "Supporting Live Jazz!"

Jazz fans – do you have any feedback? I would like to hear from YOU! You may visit my website at: www.rickgeesjazz-jamm.com or email me at jazzjamm@aol.com.

Community holiday wish

BY DEXTER MCCREE
Staff Writer

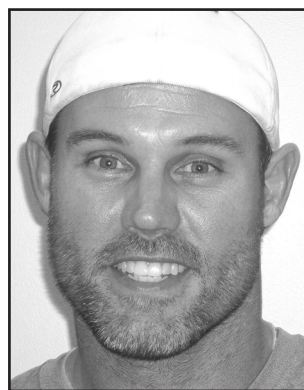
Holiday wishes help to spring people into action serving families and the community. The holiday season brings people together in support of one another and puts smiles on faces. Stories are told that remind people of the importance of loving the family and building communities. A few good citizens pondered the question, "What is your holiday wish for the community?" With smiles and laughter, they responded.



Zachary Peterson
"I wish we would return to our first love which is Jesus and everything else will fall in place."



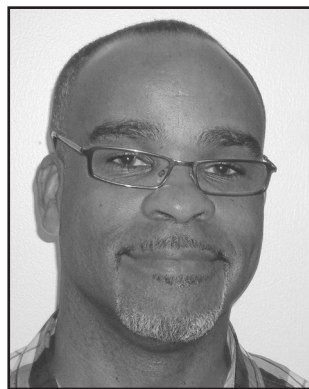
Vickie McNeal
"I wish every family could have a happy Christmas without worry of not having what they need."



Mike Alstott
"I wish that everybody would have a blessed holiday!"



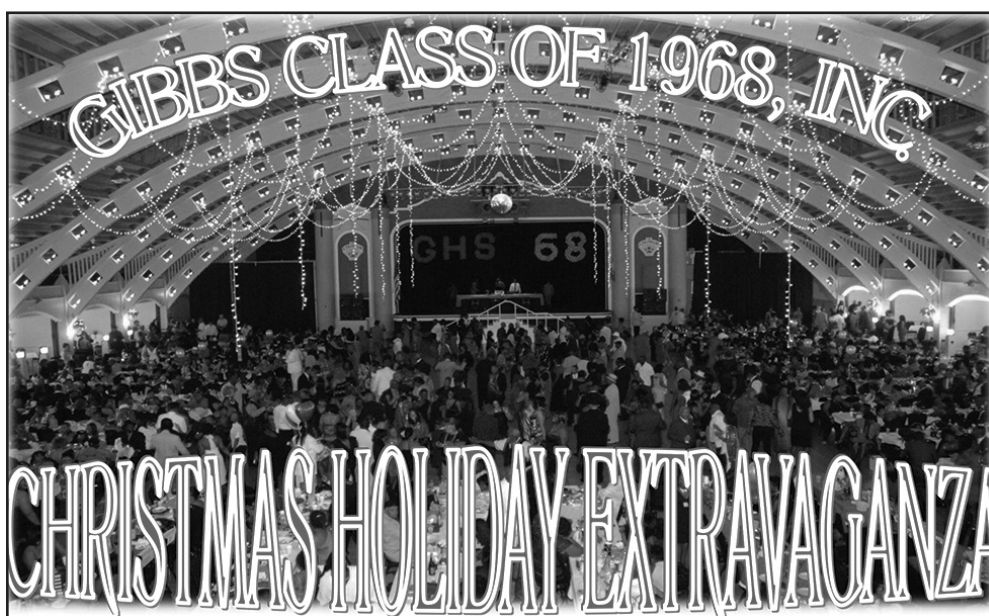
Hannah White
"I wish that people would reach out and get involved with each other. I wish that people would be more helpful."



Rodney Norton
"Unity! I wish families would be restored and come together in unity. I wish families would relinquish anger toward one another and love."



Ashley Gilghrest
"I wish there were more places that will serve food to those who don't have families or need a hot meal."



Saturday December 21, 2013

8:00 PM to 1:00AM

THE ST. PETERSBURG COLISEUM BALLROOM

535 - 4TH AVENUE NORTH

FEATURING OLD SCHOOL MIX AND TODAY'S TOP 40 CLASSIC SOUL HITS

Ticket Price in Advance \$20.00

Ticket Price the day of the Dance \$25.00

Ticket Outlets

St. Petersburg Coliseum
535 4th Avenue North
(727) 892-5202
Monday - Friday

Looking Good Fashions
2201 34th Street South
(727) 327-1756
Monday - Saturday

Sports Cuts Barber Shop
3166 18th Avenue South
(727) 323-8388
Monday-Tuesday
Thursday-Saturday

Frogue's Beauty Salon
2535 MLK Street South
(727) 896-3555
Wednesday-Saturday

SEMI-FORMAL ATTIRE – ABSOLUTELY NO JEANS

NO RESERVE SEATING

BYOB SET-UPS AVAILABLE



**BE SURE
TO CHECK
OUT OUR
WEBSITE!**

TheWeeklyChallenger.com



PICK OF THE WEEK!

28 6 11

CASH 3
969
113
604

DOG DAYS



6-4 1-3
2-1 8-5
7-2 5-6

CUSTOMIZED ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS

WRXB
PRAISE

STREAMING LIVE GLOBALLY!



WRXB 1590 AM & 96.5 FM
D.J. LINE-UP

7AM - 12 NOON MAURICE IN THE MORNING
12 NOON - 2PM SISTER DIANNE HUGHES
3PM - 7PM BROTHER MICHAEL WALKER
7PM - MIDNIGHT RICHARD C. GUESS
12 MIDNIGHT - 7AM JOE SIMIAN
HOTLINE 727-864-1600

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 StudyNoon - 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study6:30 p.m.
Youth Chapel Services - 921 20th Street South
2nd & 4th Sunday Worship Services10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer6:00 p.m.
Bible Study6:30 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”



Rev. Wallace Elliott
Sr. - Pastor

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”



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

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

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



Bro. Robert Smith

w20th 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.

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 profession of our faith. We the people of God returning to God’s Word, proclaiming, 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!

Victory Christian Center Church
3012 18th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Fla. 33712
(727) 321-0911
www.victorychristiancenterchurch.com



Claude S. Williams,
Pastor

Schedule of Services
Sunday Worship* 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study* - 7:00 p.m.
Friday Prayer - 7:00 p.m.
Intercessory Prayer - 9:00 a.m. (except Wednesdays)

Victory Christian Center is a Word of Faith Church.
For more information about the other services and ministries at Victory Christian Center, please call (727) 321-0911.
**Nursery and Youth Services Available*

Prayer Tower Church of God in Christ
Pastor Ricardo Welch
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

WORSHIP EXPERIENCES
Sunday Worship7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School.9:30 a.m.
WednesdayNoonday Bible Study and Bread of Life 7 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study
Thursday7 p.m. Youth Enrichment - Awana

The “S.H.I.P.” - Serving and Saving, Helping and Healing, Inspiring and Instructing, Praying and Praising



Pastor Shurrea Daniels

Kingdom Restoration, Inc. Faith Based Outreach Ministry
3530 1st Avenue North, Ste. 217
St. Petersburg, Florida 33713
(727) 564-1389
Motto: Restoring One Life At A Time

We provide independent services to young women, between the ages of 18-21, that have aged out of foster care.

Services Offered:
Community Housing, Life Skills, Financial Planning
Performing Arts and Technical Assistance

We also Offer:
E.V.E. Enrichment Classes on Monday and Wednesday 6-8 p.m.
Every 3rd Saturday Women’s Ministry 1-3 p.m.

Visit Us At <http://www.kingdomrestoration.info/>

BETHEL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
2901 - 54th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL. 33712
(727) 866-2567



Rev. Manuel Sykes

SERVICES
Sunday School: 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
Bible Study: Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.



Edgar & Sarah Edwards,
Overseers

The Crossing Point
Christian Cultural Community Center
“JESUS, the same yesterday, today and forever.” Hebrews 13:8
900 22nd St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712
727-821-0304
Email: thechurch@thecrossingpoint.net
www.thecrossingpoint.net

Worship & Praise, Sundays, 11 a.m.
Prayer, Praise and Bible Study, Tuesdays, noon
Women’s Bible Study, Thursdays, 7 p.m.
Visible Voices Neighborhood Fellowship 3rd Mondays, 7 p.m.
Common Grounds Coffee House Ministry, Fridays, 7 p.m.

“We are a Movement with a Message. The results are that we build people; not programs.”

Anointed Word Fellowship
1150 49th Street North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33710
727-656-2615
www.anointedwordonline.org

*Mailing address: P.O. Box 35128
St. Petersburg, Florida 33705*

- “One Accord” Prayer Conference call 1-424-203-8075 access: 1044849#
- New Partners Fellowship Sunday, 9 a.m.
- Sunday Morning Live, 10 a.m.
- Word Power Thursday, 7 p.m.

“Not Church as usual”



Pastors Dexter and Wanda McCree

VISIT US ONLINE!
www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com

ATTENTION! You MUST Read This!
Mrs. Rogers - Christian Advisor
Do you have any questions concerning health, money, love?
Call Mrs. Rogers, the one who knows all the answers.
Call Today ... Tomorrow May Be Too Late! GOD BLESS YOU 229-769-5399

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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.



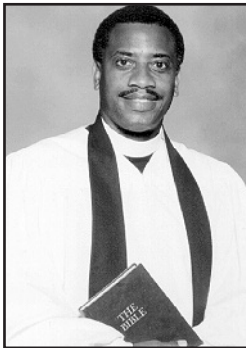
Rev. Brian K. Brown

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 Monday 12:00 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

The House Of Yah New Yisrael Commandment Keeping Church

CHURCH MOTTO: ALL IN ONE AND ONE IN ALL; WHEN WE GET OUT OF ONE WE'RE OUT OF ALL. NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND; WE NEED TO KNOW WHO JESUS IS!

Addresses

- 1st and 3rd Sabbath at 3931 Central Ave. St. Petersburg, FL
- 2nd, 4th and 5th Sabbath and Wed. nights at 3900 Dr. Martin Luther King St. South Petersburg, FL

Service times and Contact information

- 10:30 am -12:00 noon Sabbath School
- 12:00 noon -1:30 pm Worship service
- 7:30 pm Bible Study on Wed. Nights
- 727-290-8115 after 5 pm (Bishop Hawkins)
- 727 614 6994 after 2 pm (secretary)



Presiding Bishop
Warren Hawkins

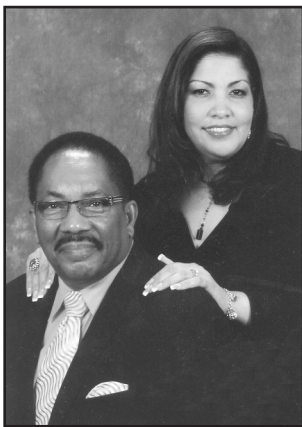
Queen Street Church of God in Christ

Elder Willie Williamson, Pastor

First Lady, Patricia Williamson
1732 9th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
727-896-4356

SERVICES

Sunday Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
A. M. Service – 11 a.m.
Tuesday Morning Prayer – 9 to 10 a.m.
Wednesday YPWW Bible Study – 7:30 p.m.



CHURCH NEWS

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.

Events for December
Dec. 21 - Christmas Presentation by the Music Depart-

ment at 5:30 p.m. "Go Tell It" (Jesus Christ is Born)

Dec. 22 - Operation Love in Action (Sharing of love and holiday cheer with sick and shut-in; hospital or nursing home bound members) after church services. All Members and Ministries involved.

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve
Dec. 25 - Christmas 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. All are invited to come and join us.

Baptist Training Union is each Sunday at 5 p.m. Members 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 (closed during holiday seasons and school breaks)

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 PRESIDING BISHOP WARREN HAWKINS
The House of Yah New Yisrael
Commandment Keeping Church
Yahweh Sabbath means ...

S=SCRIPTURE (And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us) John 1:14

A=ANGELS (the seven stars are the seven angels of the churches) Rev.1:20

B=BELIEVE (He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me) John 12:44

B=BIBLE (Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth)

A=ALL (For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father) Ephesians 2:18

T=TRUTH (Sanctify them through thy truth thy word is truth) John 17:17

H=HOLY (But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Spirit is come upon you) Acts 1:8

S=SAVIOR (For I am the Lord thy God the Holy one of Israel, thy Savior :) Isaiah 43:3

Scripture background text: Genesis 2:1-3, Exodus 20:1-17, Isaiah 58:13-14, 66: 22-24, Ezekiel 20, Malachi 3: 6-9, Mark 2:28-29, Hebrews 4:1- (8)-11, Acts 13:38-52, John 1:1-9, Romans 11, vHebrew 12:14, Matthew 12:39-40, 1st Peter 1: 15-16, John 14: 17, Acts 1:8, 2:34-38, 17: 30

THERE ARE MORE SABBATHS THAN THE WEEKLY SABBATH.

Friendship MBC

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

2013 "Total Surrender, Total Sacrifice, and Total Stewardship" – II Corinthians 9:6-8.

Friendship is a committed church family open to all who wish to embrace it. Worship, Fellowship and Learn with us!

Mark your calendar

Dec. 31 at 9:45 p.m.: "To God Be The Glory." Watch Night Service featuring The Dynamic Duo, Dr. Joseph Gordon,

Pastor Emeritus, New Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church and Dr. John A. Evans, Sr., Pastor, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. We are looking forward to seeing you and your entire family.

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' worship experiences are 7:45 a.m. and

10:45 a.m. Sunday Church School begins at 9:30 a.m.

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 Street South, Saint Petersburg, Florida 33712. Our telephone number: 727-906-8300. www.fmbctheship.org

God Bless You – The Ship!

Mt. Zion Progressive MBC

"Celebrating 85 years of service in His name!"

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.

Wednesday Bible Study – Noonday and 6 p.m.

Dec. 19 – Join the Men's Ministry for Living Courageously in Christ, 6:30 p.m. in the youth chapel.

Dec. 21 – College Prep 101: Tailgate Fellowship. Noon to 4 p.m. Contact Kathie Lewis at 894-4311 for more information.

Reading and Math Enhancement Tutoring is now available for grades K – 9th. If your child is in need of tutoring in math, reading or im-

proving their FCAT scores, we can help. For meeting times contact the church office.

Calling all Tuesday's our Male Chorus rehearsal takes place at 7 p.m., in the main sanctuary.

3rd Thursday of the month – Men's Unity Ministry – Calling all Men... The Men's Ministry invite you to come out on the third Thursday of each month for their unity fellowship and study of "What a Man of God Should Look Like."

CARE- Choosing Addiction Recovery Efforts - Now meeting the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7 p.m., CARE building, 1906 9th Ave. S., For more information contact Min. Keith Murphy at 727-289-6057.

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 BRAND NEW website and let's get connected today! www.MZProgressive.org

Join our email list and have your weekly announcements and event updates delivered straight to your inbox. Visit mzprogressive.org and sign-up today.

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

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



Pastor's Corner

BY PASTOR SARAH EDWARDS
Visible Voices Christian
Community Association

Have a very Mary, Mary Christmas

Yes you can! All because of two women's responses to our great and amazing God, desire for the world. The first woman was a 14 year old who kept herself pure, holy and undefiled. She was chosen by our LORD for Him to literally use her soul, spirit and body as the matrix for peace, joy and righteousness to fill the earthly realm by untangling all the confusion that had been implemented in the Garden of Eden by Satan. This young lady wasn't required to fight the devil nor do any good works for this to be manifested. She had to simply subject herself to God Almighty, his purpose and will.

Therefore, when the angel announced to her that God had need of her she humbly said, "Let it be unto me, according to your Word" (Matthew 1: 18-25; Isaiah 7:14; Genesis 3:15). The Holy Spirit overshadowed her as a virgin and she became pregnant with a holy infant, meek and mild. I'm really glad she did not abort him. After having her baby boy, she laid him in a manger. The little LORD Jesus slept in the hay among the farm animals along with Mary and her husband because no one would make room for them to stay with them. The Word of God had arrived on the earth poor and homeless. The Word of God was given an earth suit of flesh and walked among people and they could not or would not receive Him according to who God had

said that he was.

Thirty three years later, an older woman also predestined by Almighty God entered with the boldness and confidence of a lion into a room full of men (Jesus disciples). She refused to be intimidated. After all, she had survived society's attitudes towards her and other women who the Law of Moses permitted ridiculing [Luke 8:2; John 20:2-16; John 3:16]. It's not recorded if she was that woman who was caught in adultery when this same Jesus asked her where are her accusers and set her free from condemnation of men. Or if this is the same woman who sat at Jesus' feet while her sister Martha did all the housework.

But for sure, whatever her encounter was with Jesus this Mary understood, accepted and subjected herself as being the righteousness of God regardless of poor past lifestyle choices. She had found a man who loved her as only God could and who she could trust her heart to. She humbly bowed herself before Jesus and passionately prepared Him for the cross. She washed His feet with expensive perfume and tears then dried them with her hair. You know, a woman's hair is her glory. She was not ashamed that she comprehended and embraced who Jesus is. Truly, those who are forgiven much love much.

Too often in today's society we are being asked to greet each other with "Happy

Holidays!" Unbeknown to them they are saying "Happy HOLYday(S)." instead encouraging others to go have themselves a very Mary, Mary Christmas! – Whatever!

Jesus CHRIST, the anointed one was sent from our Father God unlike us He passed all His tests when the devil tempted him. Jesus took ALL power and ALL authority in the heavens and the earth away from Satan and hisimps. He allowed Himself to be beaten and bruised for our iniquities and by His strips we were given divine health. He left all His riches in heaven before He entered into the matrix so that we may become rich. He took the punishment of our sin. As He died in our stead He declared and decreed on that old rugged cross that: "It is finished". The battle was over. There'll be no more wars for the soul of mankind if we just receive his finished work on the cross.

The term 'mas' in Christmas means 'to celebrate'. Are you celebrating Jesus yet as the Christ, LORD, GOD, Redeemer of all mankind and, our soon coming King? If not, subject your soul to God's will and way. Acknowledge that you want to be used by Him according to His purpose and not according to yours. Keep Mother Mary and Mary Magdalene roles assigned to them by our Father God in your heart and you shall experience a very Mary, Mary Christmas this year!

OUR FAMILY. OUR FOOD.

OUR CELEBRATION.

Harambee!



As part of Kwanzaa tradition, after enjoying family dinner, an elder leads guests in the Harambee (ha-RAM-bee) salute, where everyone says “Harambee!” seven times in unison. In Swahili, the word *Harambee* means “all pull together.” This year, Publix pulls together with your family to celebrate the special holiday.

Happy *Kwanzaa* 2013

Publix®

WHERE SHOPPING IS A PLEASURE®

publix.com