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The Weekly Challenger

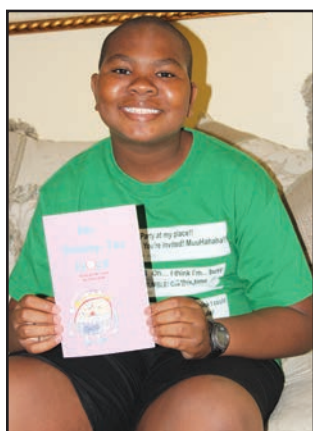
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VOL. 46 NO. 38

MAY 15 - MAY 21, 2014

50¢

Bay Point Middle student gets published



Davon Miller

BY HOLLY KESTENIS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Davon Miller has loved to write for as long as he can remember. Now, in the sixth grade at Bay Point Middle School, Davon is riding high with the publishing of his first book, “Mr. Tickety-Toc Clock, Goodnight Mr. Clock,” a story about a clock that mistakenly sets his alarm to the wrong time and has to overcome some crazy antics in order to get back to sleep.

Both Davon’s mother and father recall his beginnings as an author. As early as kindergarten, Davon would take his favorite stories and rip out their pages before reassembling them into a new tale.

“When he first started doing that I used to say, ‘this doesn’t make any sense,’” Davon’s mom Sandra admitted. “The first book he did like that, was so long, I’m ashamed to say I threw it away.”

But as the years went on and Davon kept writing more and more, Sandra began to think there was a little more to his passion than she realized.

See **AUTHOR**, page 8



The 2014 Naomi Recognition Awards was held at the Vinoy Renaissance Resort Sat., May 10.

6th Annual Naomi Recognition Awards

BY HOLLY KESTENIS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Women have long been touted as the backbone to, well...everything! And on Saturday morning from nine o’clock to high noon, prestigious local women were honored at the 6th Annual Naomi Red Carpet Recognition Brunch packed with good food, inspirational talk and a myriad of gifts.

Women in their best dresses, shiniest shoes, and hair done just right, were treated to a day of appreciation for their selfless

contributions. Whether someone’s mother, friend or even a teacher, these women, all over the age of 50, have spent countless hours over their lives in the service of others.

Held at the Vinoy Renaissance Resort, located at 501 5th Ave. N.E., matriarchs in the community gathered to be honored by family and friends for their unwavering faith and a lifetime of sacrifices. Each year this event aims to spotlight and recognize extraordinary women who represent the legacy of the biblical

character Naomi.

This year’s honorees consisted of over 40 local women all highly regarded for their ability to mentor and guide others while positively impacting the community through their willingness to make a difference in the lives of others.

Stepping out to receive accolades were such St. Petersburg icons as Sister Diane Hughes who spends her time spreading the gospel on WRXB AM 1590, Janice Starling who just recently was featured in *The*

Weekly Challenger for her dedication to all those suffering from kidney disease, and former Mayor Rick Baker’s wife, Joyce Baker, who remains active in the St. Petersburg community.

Organized by the Naomi and Titus 2 Covenant Alliance that was established in 2009, the morning’s activities reinforced the mission of restoring aged women to the position of being teachers in the community. Naomi’s are encouraged to recommit to

See **NAOMI**, pages 6

Carrera Youth Art Exhibit

BY JOYCE NANETTE JOHNSON
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The Carrera Summer and Afterschool Program has become the latest casualty of positive programs for the youth. It will close its doors in July.

Launched in the summer of 2011, it was modeled after the pioneer program that began in Harlem. Housed at the Enoch Davis Center, the program pulled children from John Hopkins Middle School to help with their academic and emo-

tional needs.

The program was funded through the Office of Adolescence, the Juvenile Welfare Board and the Pinellas County Health Department.

The news of their afterschool haven being closed has not dampened the kids’ spirits about the upcoming art show. They’ve been studying various art techniques for most of the year, and they are really excited about The Second Annual Carrera Youth Exhibition that will be held at The

See **EXHIBIT**, page 9



Imani Johnson getting ready for the art exhibit.

St. Pete’s finest: Shanelle Amor Freeman



Shanelle Amor Freeman

BY MARLO SCOTT
Columnist

ST. PETERSBURG — The old adage, “those who can, do; those who can’t, teach” certainly does not apply to Shanelle Amor Freeman. If she’s not teaching dance, she’s doing it all over the State of Florida.

The St. Petersburg native began her classical dance training at John Hopkins Middle School for the Performing Arts at the age of 10 and later at The Academy of Ballet Arts. She is a graduate of the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School where she studied classical ballet and the Horton dance technique.

While still in high school she won third place twice in the Omega Psi Phi Talent Hunt Competition and after graduating received a full dance scholarship to attend Florida Dance Theatre’s summer intensive dance program.

There she was asked by director/founder Carol Erkes to join Polk County’s only premiere professional contemporary ballet company in Lakeland and danced there for the 2009-10 season. While there, she had the chance to dance at the Historic Polk Theatre, Polk Museum of Art and the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce just to name a few.

See **FREEMAN**, page 9

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Pinellas Democratic Elected Officials

May 12, 2014

Dear Constituents,

As elected Democratic officials, we are excited about the positive policy and legislative progress in our community. Much of that progress is due to the election of forward-thinking Democratic legislators, commissioners, council members and mayors. The Pinellas Democratic Executive Committee, under the leadership of Chairman Mark Hanisee, has been instrumental in that progress.

However, Chairman Hanisee's recent comments regarding the potential Congressional candidacy of Reverend Manuel Sykes, do not reflect the principles and values of the Democratic Party. As elected officials, we are compelled to respond – to Reverend Sykes, to the Democratic Party, and to the community at large.

In our view, the tone and content of Chairman Hanisee's comments, left in a voice mail to Reverend Sykes (and publicly available on the *Tampa Bay Times* website), were inappropriate and do not reflect the Democratic Party's longstanding commitment to inclusion, fairness and equal opportunity. Furthermore, the Chair's refusal to provide a straightforward apology has allowed the situation to deteriorate, and has drawn negative commentary from a diverse group of local thought leaders and longtime Democratic supporters.

To that end, the undersigned Democratic elected officials do hereby:

a) Offer our apologies to Reverend Manuel Sykes for the content and tone of the message from Chairman Hanisee, in which he urged you not to run for Congressional District 13, and made other inappropriate remarks.

b) Urge Chairman Hanisee and the Democratic Executive Committee to avoid future actions that discourage viable candidates from running for elected offices.

Trust and respect between officials and constituents is critical for the success of the Democratic Party. It is our hope that by sending a strong message of our support for the Democratic Party's core principles of inclusion, respect and equal opportunity – that we can return our focus to the critical legislative, policy and electoral issues before us, in the interest of building a better community for all.

Sincerely,

State Rep. Dwight Dudley
School Board Member Rene Flowers
State Rep. Darryl E. Rouson
School Board Member Linda Lerner
Commissioner Charlie Justice
Council Member Amy Foster
Commissioner Janet Long
Council Member Wengay Newton
Commissioner Ken Welch
Council Member Jim Kennedy
Mayor Pat Gerard
Council Member Steve Kornell
Mayor Sam Henderson
Council Member Karl Nurse
Mayor Rick Kriseman
Council Member Darden Rice
Vice-Mayor Jeff Larsen
Commissioner Michael Smith
Commissioner Julie Ward Bujalski

Note – due to time constraints, not all Pinellas Democratic elected officials were able to be contacted for this letter before submission.

The tent has closed

BY MARIA L. SCRUGGS

ST. PETERSBURG — Now that the proverbial cat is out of the bag, it is true; the Pinellas Democratic Executive Leadership Committee (PCDEC) has long since fostered an environment that is inherently insensitive and dismissive of one of the party's most loyal constituency: African Americans. As of April 2014, there were 52,579 African-American voters within Pinellas County. Of that amount, 42,888 or 82 percent are registered Democrats.

My acceptance of this truth is based on my attempts to participate in the PCDEC; not only for the purpose of developing strategies to include minority participation but also as a candidate whom about a depth and breadth of public service experiences that yielded results.

However, after continued disrespect and exclusion by party leaders and elected officials, I finally concluded that neither my talents, nor my experience were welcomed in the PCDEC. That reality could not have become any clearer than when I too, received a disrespectful phone call in 2010 from someone in the organization.

Mark Hanisee and I explored and eventually decided upon running together as a ticket; Hanisee as Chair and me as Vice Chairperson of the local PCDEC. We talked about and strategized on our individual and collective strengths on a daily basis. After weeks of

meeting with him, and with little to no explanation, the daily phone calls came to an abrupt halt. Imagine my surprise when arriving at an event hosted by Florida's Black Legislative Caucus, that I too received the call.

The individual on the other end of the phone line, a white male, whom was very congenial, yet apologetic, explained to me that "the party was just not ready at this time to have an African American in leadership." I was asked to consider taking a position that I would be appointed to that would afford me the opportunity to have a title. He also advised me that the party leaders had chosen to support Karen Hodgen as Vice-Chair instead.

In total disbelief, I contacted Hanisee, whom confirmed that he too received a call from various leaders within the party. According to Hanisee, he was advised that if he insisted on remaining on a ticket with me, he too would be persona non grata!

Local elections of the PCDEC in 2010 resulted in an all-white leadership team, with the exception of a young African-American male whom was recruited as the Sergeant-At-Arms. However, the picture posted of the PCDEC's leadership team at the time was void of a photograph of that young man.

In his column, Dr. Goliath Davis alluded to Hanisee's call being reminiscent of a directive that "Massa" would give to his slaves. In addition to




Maria L. Scruggs

Hanisee's tone and the boldness to make such a call, as equally egregious and reminiscent of the slaves' experiences are those African Americans either in the party or elected officials whom co-signed on Hanisee making the call as evidenced through their silence either before or after the call was made.

Dr. Davis posed the question: "Has the tent of inclusion within the Pinellas Democratic Executive Committee shrunk?" My response is a resounding YES, and in my humble opinion the tent has closed!

Mark Hanisee's call to Rev. Sykes was merely an example of the systemic exclusion that has occurred within the party for some time. While some will certainly contest this statement and point to the one or two exceptions, the one thing we can be assured of is that those one or two African Americans that will be lifted up are the one or two who remained silent during these acts of exclusion!



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When: Thursday, May 22, 2014
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Where: Sylvia's Restaurant
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Lunch provided by NxStage Medical, Inc.


Agenda:

- 11:00 Welcome and introduction – Janice Starling, group founder
- 11:15 Lunch buffet
- 11:45 My Story – Joe Karan, former home hemodialysis patient
- 12:15 Presentation – Janice Starling, kidney patient advocate
- 12:45 Questions and discussion
- 1:30 Next meeting – topics and timing



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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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COMMUNITY NEWS



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Budgeting considerations: What to do when you have more expenses than income

Today's column continues our series of up-to-date tips and reports, which will help a family prepare a reasonable, affordable financial plan with a goal of achieving financial freedom.

In the last two columns we discussed creating a family budget, tracking income and expenses, in order to take control of your money. If your budget shows that you have more expenses than income, it is easy to feel that you're not in control. But if that situation occurs, there are ways to get out of trouble. What's important to remember is that everyone has different priorities. You have to make the decisions that are right for you.

Generally speaking, it is perhaps most important to pay your necessary household expenses, such as rent or mortgage, utilities, and food, first. You need to pay your rent or mortgage to ensure that you do not get evicted or have your property foreclosed on. Think about the health and safety of your family when making these decisions.

Many utility companies, such as the telephone, electric and gas companies, have programs to lower your bill if you qualify. Contact your utility company to see what programs it offers if you think you need assistance.

If you can pay your monthly household expenses but are having trouble paying all of your loans, there are options for you to consider:

- Paying off the loan with the highest interest rate first to save on interest payments.
- Talking to your creditor. Your creditor may be willing to reduce your payments or change the terms to accommodate your situation. Some creditors might offer extensions, accept smaller payments over a longer period of time, or accept partial payments.
- Getting credit counseling. A non-profit organization that provides free credit counseling services can work with you to address your financial problems. A reputable credit counseling organization can advise you on managing your money and debts, help you develop a budget, and offer free financial education classes. Counselors discuss your entire financial situation with you and help you develop a personalized plan that will help you resolve your money problems. An initial counseling


session typically lasts an hour, with an offer of follow-up sessions.

- Enrolling in a debt management plan (DMP). DMPs are not for everyone. You should sign up for a DMP only after a certified credit counselor has thoroughly reviewed your financial situation and has offered customized advice on managing your money.
- Declaring bankruptcy. This is a last resort. Bankruptcy is a legal proceeding that adjusts the debts of individuals who cannot meet their credit obligations. Although bankruptcy eliminates most debts, certain back taxes, child support, alimony, and student loans must still be paid. With a bankruptcy proceeding on your credit report, you may pay higher credit rates and receive less favorable terms on loans in the future. Bankruptcy might also make it difficult to get a mortgage, open a bank account, or buy life insurance, because creditors can run a credit check to determine your history of past financial commitments. The law requires you to get credit counseling before you can file for bankruptcy. Bankruptcy stays on your credit record for 10 years.

Not having enough money to cover all your expenses can be stressful and overwhelming. It's important to remember that there are solutions. The sooner you address financial worries, the more in control you will be. For example, if your expenses have gone up because your monthly rent has increased, first time home purchase with down payment assistance might be an option. Whatever your situation, consider possible solutions and reach out to reputable agencies that will work with you.

For more information, visit us on the web at www.nhsfl.org or stop by at 1600 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. S., St. Petersburg.

NHS is a 501(c) 3 non-profit HUD-certified 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 Fund, Pinellas County Community Development and the City of St. Petersburg. The source for this article was the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's Money Smart program.



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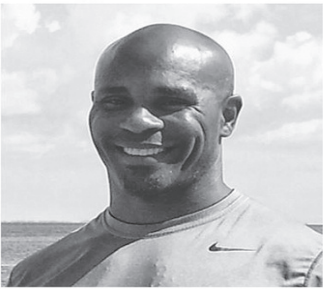
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Looking for a car?

BY HOLLY KESTENIS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Car breaking down? Or maybe you just want a new ride. When it comes to shopping for a new car most head to the internet to check out what cars they can afford on their budget. Well one local dealership wants you to explore all your options. Including the luxury cars found at Crown Eurocars of St. Petersburg.

When shopping for a car, Mercedes-Benz or the Jaguar brand, don't normally pop into the typical consumer's mind. They can be quite pricey, some going as high as \$300,000. But what most don't know is that you can still get the quality of a Mercedes without falling into debt.

Larry Casto is the general manager of Crown Eurocars, an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealership, located at 6001 34th St. N. He's been selling cars since the 1980s. Casto has always believed in the Mercedes name and has made a living finding the right car for the customers who enter his dealership.

Casto just doesn't sell cars to make a profit though; he has risen to the top because of his down-home love of St. Petersburg and the diversified group of people who reside within its borders.

He builds relationships that last a lifetime, a trait that speaks to his character and the Mercedes name. When you buy a Jaguar or Benz at

Crown you are not only getting a quality car, but a friend for life.

No one knows this better than James Canon. A few years ago Canon decided he wanted a new car. A long-time Lexus owner, Canon's expectations of what to expect in the car buying process were pretty high. He had had a good experience with his car and the company he bought it from, so Canon knew what to look for at the dealerships.

So on the day he decided he was coming home with a new car, Canon shopped around. He visited various dealerships within the city not quite knowing just what kind of car he wanted to settle on.

"There were a couple, I drove off, out of the lot," said Canon speaking of the dealerships he visited. "I just drove away."

With salesmen standing around socializing, Canon was forced to look at the cars himself. No one came to assist him until a manager noticed him sitting in a car unattended. By then Canon had had enough and refused service.

"I would never buy that particular car," said Canon as he recalled how he was feeling that day, "and it had nothing to do with the car, just the onetime experience I had with that dealership, I would never even look at that brand [again]."

But when he stepped on the lot at Crown Eurocars, his experience rivaled the best he had ever had. He

had his eye on a Jaguar and even while wearing his trademark shorts and flip flops, Canon was pleasantly surprised with his treatment.

"They made me feel comfortable," he said. "They gave me the same service as they gave everyone else on that lot."

Canon was so impressed with the service, follow-up and family atmosphere he experienced at Crown Eurocars that he bought his wife a Mercedes not too long after that, and just last year he purchased a Kia from Crown as well.

A trademark that not only shows the professionalism at Crown corporations, but their commitment for repeat customers, no matter their race, gender, or economic status.

And although race doesn't play a factor in customer service, Casto has done his research. According to his findings, African Americans are the fastest growing group when it comes to purchasing high-end cars in the St. Petersburg area. He states that income levels among the African-American community have risen roughly 20 percent since the 1990s and with about 50 percent owning their own homes.

But it is Casto's love of building those long-term relationships that has kept his families coming back. He remembers the first day he sold a Mercedes to a local jewelry storeowner. They've been friends for nearly 30

years now and he still is buying cars from Casto. Today his daughter has graduated from college and works as a pharmacist. She too has bought her first Mercedes from Casto, and the cycle continues.

Society as a whole, according to statistics furnished by Casto, in his opinion, has become more transient. But he feels it is just the opposite among the African-American community in Pinellas County.

"It's nice to see people who you have dealt with and their families grow up and they're being successful," he said.

So, what if you're not a college grad with a professional job...yet? Well owning a luxury car doesn't have to be put on hold. The typical car owner nowadays trades in their vehicle around every three years. The same holds true for luxury car owners.

"We change cars more often now," said Casto whose customers trade within the Benz family and leave behind a well taken care of used vehicle. Nestled on the lot between the new Mercedes and Jags are the pre-owned cars, which Casto stands by as far as quality.

"If it's a nice trade-in, we keep it and sell it," he said of both the Mercedes-Benz and Jags they have on their property. Casto touts these as the perfect car for someone wanting the luxury and safety associated with their product, but who may not be



James Canon owns a Jaguar, Mercedes and Kia all purchased at Crown Eurocars.

where they need to be financially for a new vehicle. It also is a great idea for a teenager looking for their first car.

"When you put a 16-year-old out there you want them in a tank and the Mercedes is just like a little tank," he said, "A great car for beginners."

A used Mercedes can be had at the Crown Eurocars dealership for a song. "You can get a really nice used one in the mid-teens," Casto quoted.

Mercedes has 2014 CLA 250 four door that starts under \$30,000. This may not have all the bells and whistles of say a Benz twice its sticker price, but safety is standard with the Benz name and upgrades can always be added to this entry-level luxury sedan.

"Go look, you'll get shocked," Casto urged bent on dispelling the misconception that Mercedes products are out of the grasp of the everyday professional. "Most people think it's not affordable until they actually come in. They'll say, 'I couldn't believe I can get a Mercedes-Benz for that.'"

In the next few months,



Larry Casto

the Mercedes-Benz Company plans to unleash their latest addition to their entourage. An SUV is set to hit the market starting around \$30,000.

So if you're looking for a new vehicle, don't eliminate Mercedes-Benz from your list anymore. Head on down to Crown Eurocars and check them out. You can get an idea of what they have in stock by viewing their website at www.crowneurocars.com.

And remember, graduation is right around the corner.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

St. Petersburg to form a branch of ASALH

ST. PETERSBURG – Perceptive members gathered last Sat., May 10 for an introductory meeting to discuss the formation of a local branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH).

ASALH was founded in 1915 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Their mission is to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about black life, history and culture to the global community.

In 1915, few could have imagined the future contributions of African Americans in every aspect of American life. No rational person can deny the fact that African Americans and people of African descent have played a tremendous role in the development of the United States.

Black historians, writers, public figures, scholars, artists, musicians, athletes, veterans and politicians have worked tirelessly to show the world their achievements throughout the making of this great nation.

Attorney Jacqueline Williams Hubbard welcomed the attendees to Sylvia's Queen of Soul Food Restaurant and gave a brief history of ASALH and Dr. Woodson while Tyna Middleton, president of the Tampa Bay branch, gave an overview of the organization.

Chair of the Woodson Museum, Terri Lipsey



L-R, Reginald and Mendee Ligon, Jacqueline Hubbard and Irene Pridgen.

Scott, was on hand to speak about the museum. Dr. Nancy Bryant described what it was like to be the first African-American female Ophthalmological Surgeon in private practice in St. Pete, and paid homage to her mentor Dr. Angela Ayer.

Imam Muhammed Aquil talked of the historical contributions of black veterans while Gwendolyn Reese spoke of the impending historical marker project on 22nd Street and the involvement of the African American Heritage Association in which she chairs.

Mozzell Davis spoke about little known facts of black history in St. Petersburg, and Irene Pridgen gave a short oral history quiz. There were also brief discussions of black genealogy, the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Civil Rights Movement and the history of black medical schools.

The group intends to of-

ficially organize by January 2015 just in time for the centennial year of ASALH.

Other involved citizens in attendance were Dr. Ron Sheehy, Franca Sheehy, Professor Cynthia Hawkins-DeBose, Dr. Kenneth Bryant, Linda Bradley Aquil, Virginia Jones Scott, Rev. Pierre Loomis Williams, Eileen Boozy, Colleen Priester-Vieux and Jennifer Gamble.

Several other interested persons expressed their regrets at being unable to attend but indicated strong support for a local branch. Among them were Dr. Mendee Ligon, Dr. Reginald Ligon and Dr. Paul McRae and Mrs. Donna McRae.

There will be monthly meetings until the branch is officially incorporated. In addition to the Tampa Bay branch, there is also a large Sarasota-Manatee branch and approximately 30 more throughout the United States.

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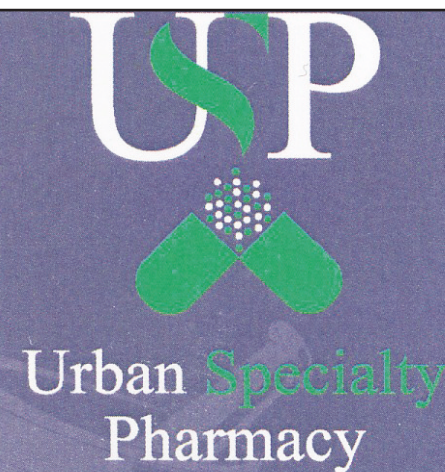
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Appreciating loved ones while they're still alive

From **NAOMI**, page 1

fulfilling God's mandate and reestablishing a purpose for their lives.

2012 Naomi Honoree Ruth Johnson preached to those in attendance extolling the virtues of a spiritual life in which one gives back to those in need and makes themselves a servant to not only the Lord, but the people seen on the streets every day.

"We live in a society that has connected service with greatness," she said claiming those who give of themselves may sometimes feel entitled and look for recognition from others. "It is my prayer today that we will look at greatness in service a different way and that we will leave here not the same way that we came."

Humbleness was the attitude on display and Johnson urged the past, present, and future Naomi's, as well as others in the community, to walk like a Christian and submit to the will of God, to become a vessel for good.

Johnson spoke of a mother's love and her initial instinct to raise her children's status above others, always wanting them high and lifted toward the light, toward recognition. She laughed as she encouraged the other women in the room to own up to doing the same, while reminding them that hubris isn't always the best choice.

"We must become so small that our lives are not our own," Johnson said revealing true service is a life-long commitment that needs no recognition or ap-

plauds. "We must stop glancing at mankind and what he might think and we need to start gazing at Jesus Christ."

Johnson urged those assembled to not ask where their reward is, but to say they serve neither for recompense, nor thanks, but out of gratitude for all that has been done for them in their own lives. To pay it forward – because everyone is in need of a little help from time to time.

"I think we've forgotten that we should never look down on a brother or a sister unless were picking them up," said Johnson who feels if someone comes to you in need of something you shouldn't bombard them with questions about their ordeal, but instead do as God told you to do.

"Our problem is we gotta know too much, we want to know what you want to pray about," she said signifying that she doesn't need to know all the details. "I just need to pray for you, because God already knows."

After a buffet of eggs, bacon, cheese grits, fruit and pastries, in which honorees were served so they didn't have to maneuver through the hungry crowd, Naomi Cynthia Chance of WINGS Fellowship Church was joined by Ruth Jaida Taylor-Herring of Word of Life Fellowship Church, both taking to the podium as mistresses of ceremonies.

The crowning of the

Naomis followed as honorees received gifts of love. Certificates, flowers, a sash and tiara were presented to the women of the court and sealed with a kiss in an elaborate ritual of giving.

Ruth Catina Hicks was the 2014 Naomi and Titus 2 Covenant Alliance

(NT2CA) Outreach Recipient of the Year and gave a special testimony where she emphasized that will and faith can only equal success. Special Recognitions, Faith Based Awards, and Chosen Charities Award Recipients were honored throughout the afternoon, with NT2CA President and Founder Naomi Teralyn Hodge giving the closing remarks.

The red carpet honorees finished the afternoon with smiles on their faces and love in their hearts. A sure sign they will continue their efforts in the community to bring together families around the bay and beyond.

The Naomi and Titus 2 Covenant Alliance Ministries is a nonprofit organization involved in various activities including lending services to displaced women, mentorships for adults and youths, character development programs for teens, as well as after school support programs for the youth of St. Petersburg.

For more information on the organization and upcoming events, check out their website at ntcaministries.net.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Women of the Bible: A prelude to Mother's Day

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The Deaconess and Mothers Board of First Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, located at 1121 22nd St. S. Church sponsored "Women of the Bible" Prayer Breakfast last Sat., May 10 to commemorate the coming of Mother's Day.

Sister Ashley Shorter presided over the early morning celebration of First Mothers of the Christian faith. Missionary Cynthia Jenkins from the host church began the program as she talked about Rebekah, the mother who bore twins that would lead two opposing nations.

Sister Mildred Jackson of New Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church spoke about Mary and her immaculate conception of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. She talked about how Mary initially felt about other's perception of her being pregnant without a husband. But her concerns were laid to rest with Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus.

Sister Cynthia Ford of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church shared the story of Sarah, the woman who laughed when God revealed to her that she would bare a son despite her advanced age. Interestingly, her future son's name, Issac, meant laughter.

Salome, a follower of Jesus and mother of the Apostles James and John, was also introduced by Sister Ford. According to the New Testament, Salome was present with Mary — the mother of Jesus — and Mary Magdalene at the Crucifixion.

Missionary Sharon Bonner discussed the significance of the barren woman Hannah who was married to Elkanah. Hannah was ridiculed by his second wife because she could not bear children for her husband until God interceded and blessed her with a son by the name of Samuel. According to biblical accounts, Hannah prom-



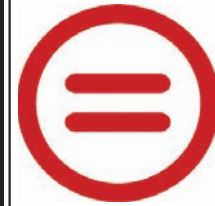
ised to give her son back to God, a promise that she kept.

Sister Bonner of Greater Central Missionary Baptist Church gave a dynamic synopsis of the five biblical mothers and a full breakfast was served to all who attended the pre-Mother's Day ceremony.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Friday, May 16 — Spring into wellness with the Sunshine Center annual free Health Fair. Learn ways to improve your health and enjoy life during the free health fair located at, 330 5th St. N. from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Fair features Healthy Vision screenings, along with checks for hearing, memory, blood pressure, stroke risk, and depression. Vein leg ultrasounds and free massages will also be offered. For more information, call 727-893-7102.

Saturday, May 17 — PYA Presents, "The 2014 Job Fair & Career Expo," Stop the Violence Initiative." This is a training and employment session for youth ages 16-25 years old. This event will be held at Ultimate Medical Academy, located at 1255 Cleveland Street, Clearwater. (Across from Greek Towne Grill in Downtown Clearwater.) This event will take place from 10-4 p.m. and will cover resume writing, job training and interview skills. Students will be expected to be dressed in business casual attire. Employers will be present at the event.

Saturday, May 31 — Next STEPP Shoe-A-Thon Shoe Drive Fundraiser will take place from 9-Noon. Help Next STEPP Pregnancy Center, 1210 22nd St. S., St. Pete, raise funds by donating gently used shoes! The goal is to fill 300 plastic bags with 25 pairs of shoes each. Collect as many pairs of shoes as you can! Adult or kids shoes of any style. Ask your family, friends, church, club, etc. to help you. Please call (727) 896-9119 for more information.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Omega Psi Phi presents local high school talent hunt program

BY TOM PACKER
Guest Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Omega Psi Phi Fraternity – Eta Rho Chapter presented its annual talent hunt program at the Enoch Davis Community Center May 8. The evening was filled with anticipation and excitement as students took the stage to showcase their talents in the classical arts.

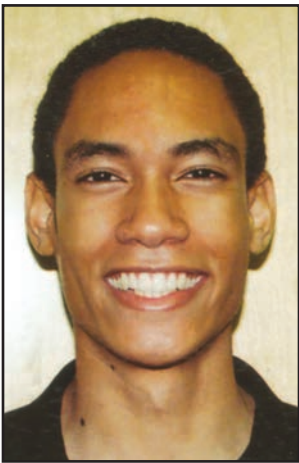
The program is held for the purpose of selecting one accomplished student to represent the chapter at its Florida State organization meeting. This year the meeting will take place in Panama City Beach Florida.

Though it was difficult

to select a first place winner from among so many talented students, this year's winner was Gibbs High senior Jayson Grant. He treated the audience to a beautiful guitar composition of "Recuerdos de la Alhambra" by Francisco Tarrega.

As students successfully compete at the state and district levels, they qualify for full college scholarship consideration. Jayson is an honor student with future plans of attending Florida State University in the fall as a Music Performance major.

This year's Talent Hunt Chairman, Brother Tom Packer, wishes to thank the Chapter Basileus, James Jackson,



Jayson Grant

Jr., the Talent Hunt Committee, all participants from the Pinellas County Center of the Arts and Dr. Cody Clark for his steadfast support and encouragement.

St. Pete's finest: Kelley Collier III

ATLANTA – Kelley and Linda Collier along with their family wishes to extend congratulations to Kelley Collier III on his recent promotion to Lieutenant in the Field Operations Division (Zone 5) with the Atlanta Police Department (APD).

Collier III is a native of St. Petersburg and graduate of Dixie Hollins High School where he was a team leader in the ROTC program. After graduating high school, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Florida State University.

After joining APD in 1998, the 43 year old rose through the ranks to become a Sergeant of Detectives. He received recognition for his recent promotion to lieutenant at a formal ceremony earlier this month.

Collier III and his wife Reba have one son and one daughter. His father Kelley Collier, Jr. is a freelance photographer for *The Weekly Challenger*.



CONNECT WITH US!



12-year-old author Davon Miller

From **AUTHOR**, page 1



Davon sits between his parents, Sandra and DeWitt Miller, Jr.

"He would put all of his time and energy into it," Sandra recalled noting that he must have a creative streak. She began fostering his love for the written word and encouraged him to keep up with his stories and the cartoon drawings that oftentimes would accompany them.

But it wasn't until just last year that fate walked in the door of his classroom at Bay Point Middle that Davon started to believe he could do more to further his dream. Armed as always with a journal of his work, he was inspired to come out of his shell and share when a substitute teacher, published author Linda Mobley, began discussing her own accomplishments that started with the pen.

Mobley hooked up the Miller's with a local editor and in a few months were ready to publish. When Davon first brought his story to the editor he was told it was too long, contained too many characters, and would have to be cut down.

But Davon wasn't interested in doing that, so instead he just wrote another story.

"It happened while I was staring at the clock in the class and then I thought, 'Hmm, I could write a story about a cartoon and a clock,'" said Davon who estimates it didn't take him long to compose his short story once he got started. He illustrated it himself and has already composed the next

three books in the Tickety-Toc series.

His parents, Sandra and DeWitt Miller Jr., have always been proud of their son. Throughout school Davon has proven his devotion to his academia by alternating between honor roll and principal's list each grading period. Although he doesn't have a class dedicated to creative writing this year, Davon has had teachers throughout the years who've encouraged him to follow his natural talent and his dream of becoming an author.

But Davon's dad believes his boy's academic prowess and love of books all started before Davon could even walk and credits his wife for having the wherewithal to read to him while he was still in the womb.

"When my wife was carrying him, people thought she was nuts because she would actually sit and read to him while she was pregnant," said DeWitt who acknowledges his son isn't big on getting his hands dirty or in athletics right now. "I think his calling is to be an author, this is what he's going to be doing."

And as a preschool teacher, Sandra had the right idea. Every night before and after Davon was born, both she and her husband would hold story time, no matter how tired they were from their jobs. "We both agree that reading is very, very important," Sandra said.

Today Davon loves to read on his own, although

he doesn't say no to the occasional offerings of story time from his mom, and dives into fantasy novels like New York Times best-selling author Chris Colfer's, "The Land of Stories" series. When asked what motivates Davon to continue writing, he quite simply states, "Me."

"I kind of get encouraged by me because I love to write," Davon said. "I think I got inspired writing because I have so many ideas in my head to write about."

Davon, with the help of his family, hopes to prepare the second book in the series this summer and set up book signing opportunities around the city. The Miller's have donated copies of "Mr. Tickety-Toc Clock" to his current school and his old stomping grounds at Bay Point Elementary where he was involved in a writing club and received help and encouragement from his fifth grade teacher Mr. Dodge. Plans are already underway for Davon to do readings at local afterschool programs and even his mom's preschool.

So at 12 when most kids are still finding their niche in life, Davon can say he's a published author with more to come; an accomplishment that many adults are still hoping to claim.

If you'd like a copy for a loved one or perhaps even yourself, log onto amazon.com and type in "Mr. Tickety-Toc Clock, Goodnight Mr. Clock." Books are priced at \$9.95.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The last art exhibit from the Carrera Program

From **EXHIBIT**, page 1

Studio@620, located at 620 1st Ave., this Friday and Saturday. The event is free to the public and the student's artwork will be up for sale.

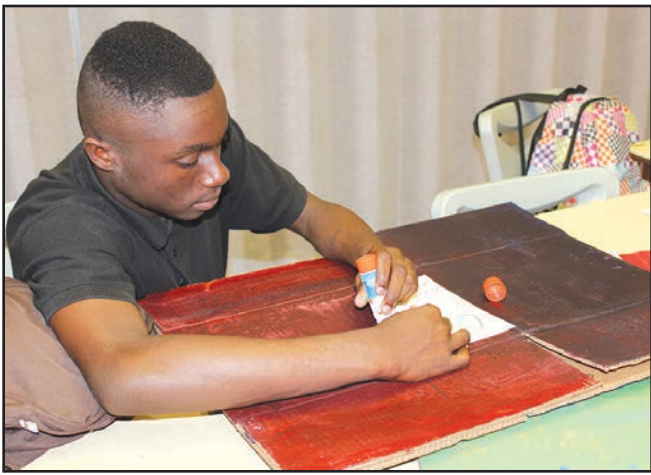
Self-expression Coordinator Marcela Estevez is still excited about the soon to be defunct program, the dedicated staff members and her kids. She explained that the Carrera Program not only offered homework and mentoring help, but it also positively impacted the students' entire educational experience with life skills and core values.

"This year we have been primarily focused on how to use watercolor and acrylic paints. A good portion of the works in the exhibit will showcase this," she said.

Along with being taught watercolors and acrylics, they learned how to use charcoal and alternative media such as metal cans and fabrics. The young artists were introduced to cubism, still life, landscapes and surrealism, and were exposed to music from classical to jazz.

The Carrera program participates in the Job Club program where children earn a stipend for completing educational sessions where they learn about financing and managing checking accounts. Estevez said any money earned from their paintings will be entered into the student's account. The children learned how to save and spend in appropriate situations.

On top of self-expression, the Pregnancy Prevention program was put in place to help girls avoid that pitfall. "We want the girls to respect themselves,



their bodies and their mind. We don't consider them at risk, we consider them at promise," said Estevez.

She credits Carrera's staff for their dedication: Arelia Parker and Kyler Reynolds in Education, Brenda Smith-Jones, Mental Health Specialist, Freeman Hinson, Job Club Coordinator, Marquise Grey and Lynne Swain, Family Life and Sexuality Education and Vader Green, Health and Lifetime Individual Sports coordinator.

Estevez is excited about the upcoming 2nd Annual Carrera Youth Art Festival to be showcased at Studio@620 starting this Friday. "Special thanks go to Keirsten Johnson, co-leader of the Self Expression component, for her

unconditional support in the completion of the artwork for this exhibit," Estevez stated.

The work of approximately 50 students will be on display and Estevez feels that the kids' artwork will be surprising in their professionalism and subject matter, and feels the art will reflect some of the student's inner emotions. "Kids have feelings and every day they go through changes. Art is used to express how they feel," finished Estevez.

Free and opened to the public, The 2nd Annual Carrera Youth Art Festival will take place Fri., May 16 and 17. The reception will take place Friday from 5-7 p.m. Studio@620 is located 620 1st Ave. S.

Shanelle Amor Freeman: St. Pete's Finest

From **FREEMAN**, page 1

She also received two dance scholarships for Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts summer intensive dance program, and was recently awarded a full dance scholarship at St. Petersburg College.

Not content with just performing, Freeman decided to teach others her craft. She jumped at the opportunity to teach and choreograph at The Academy of Florida Dance Theatre, The Studio Dance Company, The Royal Theatre, the Lakeland Housing Authority outreach programs and the list goes on and on.

Freeman has had the privilege to work with a number of notable choreographers including one of Beyonce's choreographers Darrell Grand Moultrie and Ailey School graduate Freddie Dejesus. She's performed at Six Flags Over Georgia with Team Illuminate, a traveling dance crew that was a finalist on America's Got Talent; Busch Gardens Theme park, Wild 94.1's The Last Damn Show and Wild Wheels Car and Bike Show and Wildsplash 2013-14 at Coachman Park.

Freeman recently choreographed and was the feature dancer for rising star Shyann Roberts on the BET Rap-It-Tour on the Clark Atlanta University campus in Atlanta. This tour is the largest event of its kind targeting historically black colleges and universities.

If that wasn't enough excitement, she was a 2014 Tampa Bay Buccaneers Cheerleader finalist, and although she didn't make the team this year she continues to prepare for other opportunities that will help propel her to the next level in her dance career.

This young entrepreneur doesn't wait on the phone to ring; she goes out and secures her own future. She started a company called "Heels of Steel" that offers services for anyone that is interested in receiving tools and instructions to further their career in dance. She offers dance classes in styles that include jazz funk, hip-hop and a stiletto dance class for women to help enlighten, encourage, self-esteem and empower them through the art of dance.

The stiletto dance class will help each woman to learn how to exude confidence, learn about who they are as an individual while allowing them to feel secure in their own skin. Women of all colors, shapes and sizes are welcomed.

In addition, the company offers private dance instruction, coaching for competition, artist development, choreography, mentorship for youth in the arts, bookings for events including birthday parties, weddings, and any other performances requested.

You can catch Freeman performing in the production of "Shadows of the Mind," which is a dance production that will take place at John Hopkins Middle School Sat., May 24 at 7 p.m. and Sun., May 25 at 3 p.m. Tickets are on sale now, for more info please email shadowsoft-hemindinfo@gmail.com.

Freeman has a lot on her plate, but come Sun-



day morning, you can find her singing on the praise team at The Greater Purpose Christian Church where Pastor Christopher St. Julian Sr. presides. Her motto is: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

She would like to thank God, The Greater Purpose Christian Church, Cedric Doss Photography, Artistry of Makeup, Edgestone Group and Shyann Roberts, Nancy Smith at SPC, Holy Spirit Apparel, LLC, The Studio Dance

Company, Hair-it-iz Salon, and of course, her beautiful, strong, mother, family and friends that have nurtured and guided her throughout the years.

For more information on how to book Shanelle Amor Freeman or about Heels of Steel, contact her at shanelleamorbooking@gmail.com or 813-507-7250. Follow her on Twitter and Instagram and like her on Facebook. She also has a Youtube channel at Shanelle Amor.

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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




**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

Elder Cedric L.
Williams
PASTOR



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

Bro. Robert Smith

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.

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.

“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.

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

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




Claude S. Williams,
Pastor

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 St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 906-8300 www.fmbctheship.org



Dr. John A.
Evans, Pastor

WORSHIP EXPERIENCES
Sunday Worship.....7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Wednesday.....Noonday Bible Study and Bread of Life
7 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study
Thursday.....7 p.m. Youth Enrichment - Awana

Our Mission: 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.



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

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



Rev. Manuel Sykes



Edgar & Sarah Edwards,
Overseers

The Crossing Point
Christian Cultural Empowerment
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, Sundays, 11 a.m.
Community Prayer & Bible Study, Tuesdays, 12 noon
Mid-week Bible Study, Wednesdays, 7 p.m.
Single Grown Folks Bible Study & Fellowship,
Saturdays, 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

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.

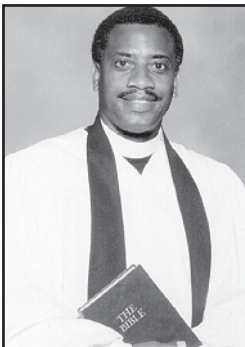


Rev. Brian K. Brown

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 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



Presiding Bishop
Warren Hawkins

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)

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 YPPW 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.

Calendar Events for May
May 18 - 1st Annual CYM Youth Explosion at 4 p.m. Youth Ministries from the Tampa Bay

Area will perform and showcase their talents through song, mime performances and spoken word.

May 26 - Memorial Day- Church Office Closed
May 30 - Business Meeting at 7 p.m.

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.

Mime/Praise Dance Rehearsal on Sundays from 2-4 p.m.

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.

Children Youth Ministry Bible Study every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.



Pastor's Corner

THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS GIVEN TO OUR PASTOR BISHOP WARREN HAWKINS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT WE OBEY (John 16)
The House of Yah New Yisrael Commandment Keeping Church
Yahweh Sabbath means ...

S=SCRIPTURE (And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us) John1:14
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.

Mt. Zion Progressive

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.

Join us in the Moth of May as we celebrate the 15th Anniversary under the leadership of Rev. Louis M. Murphy, Sr. Each Sunday we will have a dynamic guest speaker at both the 7:45 and 10 a.m. service.

May 18 – Pastor Jeffrey A. Johnson Sr., Eastern Star

Church, Indianapolis, IN

May 25 – Dr. Joel Gregory, Fort Worth, TX

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 -is now holding Dial-a-Meetings. Phone meetings are held every Tuesday from 7 to 8 p.m. Phone in to: 605-477-2100, Access Code: 212213.

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 (Keyword: MZPMBC). Visit our website and let's get connected today! www.MZProgressive.org

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.

Friendship MBC

Our Mission: 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 - Dr. John A. Evans, Sr., Pastor

2014 "Total Surrender, Total Sacrifice, and Total Stewardship" – II Corinthians 9:6-8.

Mark your calendar
Sun., May 18 at 10:45 a.m.: Single's Reconnection Sunday - "Singled Out By God." The guest speaker for this moment-

tous occasion, Reverend Reginald Edwards, Sr., Greater Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, Callahan, Fla. Please make plans to join us as we support our Single's Ministry. Registered donations have started until Sun., May 4. For further information please contact Dr. Sharon Wilson, Director. Church Office: 727-906-8300.

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., Pastor

and the Friendship family welcomes you to our open doors. Friendships' Sunday Praise and Worship are 7:45 and 10:45 a.m. Sunday Church School begins at 9:30.

Come join us each Wednesday for Bible Study at Noon and 7 p.m. Dr. Evans, Sr., Pastor, invites you to come join us and share in the study of God's word

Friendship is located at 3300 31st St. S., St. Petersburg. Phone: 727-906-8300.

www.fmbctheship.org
God Bless You – The Ship!

First Mt. Zion MBC

All are invited to come out as the First Mt. Zion Family officially kicks off their Unity Day activities with "May Day" on Saturday, May 17.

There will lots of good

food and fun for all to come out and enjoy. All ministries of the church will have a little something for everyone and there will be other events in the coming months. The Unity Day celebration will be

finalized on Sunday, October 26, 2014 at the 11:00 AM worship service.

First Mt. Zion is located at 1121 22nd Street South, where Rev. Wallace Elliott, Sr. is pastor

Real Talk With Kisha Jordan National T.V. Show

Every Monday Night
@ 10:30 P.M.
On Comcast,
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Real Talk With Kisha Jordan

For more information:
<http://kishajordanenterprises.org>
www.facebook.com/KishaFanPage
813-380-7771 (TV Show Number)

Radio Show
Every Saturday
1:30 - 2:00 P.M.

Call In To The Station:
727-864-1600
(Radio Number)



Pastor's Corner

BY PASTOR SARAH EDWARDS
Visible Voices Christian Community Association

Why don't you believe me?

Have you ever explained in great detail something to someone with a sincere effort so that they would understand your position in the particular situation you were speaking about and no matter how many different ways you expressed yourself to them, you sensed that they just did not believe you even though they remained silent and did not comment to you?

If you have, I'm sure you will attest how painful it is when someone you care deeply about – just did not believe you and would not respond to you.

Then you cried out to God for His understanding and peace; it appears that either He is not listening or accepting our perceptions of had taken place. Even your constant petitioning Him does not arouse His peace. The heavens become as brass as God also remains silent.

But there is an important point we need to see here about our relationship with God. God has paid us the ultimate compliment. He allows us to make our own decisions. He allows us to call our own plays. When He created us in His own image, this was primary among the characteristics with which He endowed us - the ability to understand, to reason & to choose. The Holy Spirit can keep us from temptation. However, we all will be tested by our Father on what we have already been taught in life.

With this in mind, whenever you are being tested the teacher is always silent. Passing your test allows you to examine the lifestyle choices you've made and respond with the correct answer. Regardless, of the question: the answer is always the same. Jesus Christ, Him crucified and the finished work on the cross. If we do not answer ourselves correctly, we will repeat the test. The only thing God want us to do is to just believe Him. Who He says He is and what He has already done for us. Therefore, no one could respond to you when you are ventilating your woes. Our testing is highly personalized. If they did give you the only correct answer you would be cheating and not comprehend with clarity what God has already done for you. You would have heard but not understood what the LORD requires of you. You must trust and obey what you have already been taught by the Master Teacher.

Keep in mind, "Jesus took the 12 aside and told them, 'We are going up to Jerusalem & everything that's written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be handed over to people who do not believe what the Father have purposed for the earth. They will mock Him, insult Him, spit on Him, flog Him & kill Him. On the third day He will rise again.'" [Luke 18:31-33]

Stop for a moment & think about what I have just read from the Holy Scriptures. Then answer this question, "Did you understand what I read?" Or, did you just understand those words used? I expect you to answer, "Yes, I understood them." After all, they are pretty simple words. We do understand words like "mock, insult, spit, flog, kill," & "rise again." Now what could be clearer than that? We understand very well the words Jesus was using. Did they or you in fact believe His message? The apostle Paul said, "I preach unto you Christ crucified. Unto the Jews that is a stumbling block. Unto the Greeks it is foolishness to those who are saved it is the power of God & the wisdom of God."

The old rugged cross is the very heart of how we live. Jesus didn't tell them that just once, but over & over again. In Matthew 16, 17 & 20 Jesus tells them the same thing just as clearly as He does here.

"The disciples didn't understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them & they didn't know what He was talking about." No one can believe what they do not understand. They nor the people we talk to are not hard of hearing. However most have 'selective hearing'. Did you hear [understand] that? If the political rulers-Gov. Pilate, Caiaphas the High Priest, religious leaders, members of the Sanhedrin, and the military [Roman soldiers]-had understood who Jesus was, they wouldn't have crucified the Lord of Glory. [1Corinthians 2:8]

But when the church functions the way Jesus established it to function it can be a safe place where we can bear one another's burdens, encourage each other and have unconditional positive regard for someone whether or not we approve of everything they do. Have you been silent while God is speaking and pleading with you?



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To Make an Impression

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\$299 Per Mo.
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2014 Mercedes-Benz GLK350

\$379 Per Mo.
FOR 36 MONTHS **



**Available only to qualified customers at participating authorized Mercedes-Benz dealers through Mercedes-Benz Financial Services (where applicable to advertised lease) through 5/31/2014. Advertised lease rate based on a gross capitalized cost of \$36,507. Includes destination charge \$925 and optional premium package/P1 \$2500. Excludes title, taxes, registration, license fees, insurance, dealer prep. and additional options. Total monthly payments equal \$8613. Cash due at signing includes \$4065 capitalized cost reduction, \$2950 acquisition fee \$795, and first month's lease payment of \$379. Total payments equal \$12358. Subject to credit approval. No security deposit required.



855-256-3566 | CrownEurocars.com
6001 34th St. North St. Petersburg, FL 33714