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## The Weekly Challenger : 2014 : 10 : 02

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# The Weekly Challenger

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VOL. 47 NO. 6

OCTOBER 2 - OCTOBER 8, 2014

50¢



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## Sickle Cell Dinner



Neema Pitts

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Not even heavy tropical storm like rains could dampen the spirits of the hundreds of people who came out to attend Sickle Cell Dinner and Extravaganza 2014 at the downtown Hilton in St. Petersburg last Saturday evening.

Mistress of ceremonies Rene Flowers welcomed everyone to the event that celebrated the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (SCDAA), St. Petersburg Chapter's 38th year of service to the Tampa Bay area. The evening got underway with the smooth jazzy sounds of the Taabu Band as people poured into the ballroom from the thunderous wet weather outside.

After everyone joined to sing the first verse of the Negro National Anthem, Deputy Mayor Dr. Kamika Tomlin read the proclamation from the mayor's office declaring September as Sickle Cell Month in St. Petersburg.

Mary Murph, President of the St. Petersburg chapter of SCDAA, addressed the audience by thanking all the local organizations, civics groups and the community at large for contributing to the organization's success. She then introduced Sickle Cell Poster

See **DINNER**, page 8



Tues., Sept. 30 soft opening of the Creole Café was well attended.

## Chief's Creole Café coming soon

BY HOLLY KESTENIS  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — If you're taste buds are craving the Cajun flavors of New Orleans, you're in luck. A new restaurant is set to open mid-October in Midtown and it's sure to delight the senses.

The Brayboys over the

last few years have taken up the role of entrepreneurs, buying up property in south St. Petersburg and renovating the buildings to house small businesses in the area. Their latest endeavor is that of Chief's Creole Café and it promises to deliver on flavor.

"I was raised on that cooking," said Elihu Bray-

boy, who along with his wife Carolyn, have salvaged recipes from the good ole' days of steaming hot jambalaya trying to bring back the type of flavor that Brayboy remembers from his childhood. "When my mother passed away, I didn't realize that everybody didn't eat like that," he said.

Brayboy emphasized their food is not soul food, and listed off some of the home cooking that will be available in a few weeks. Their signature dish will be a Creole gumbo complete with seafood, sausage and chicken, with other gumbo selections available for the more picky palate.

See **CAFE**, pages 4

## Hattitude & Fashion Extravaganza Brunch

BY HOLLY KESTENIS  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The Pastor's Aide Ministry of The Rock of Jesus Missionary Baptist Church, under the guidance of Rev. Frank Peterman Jr., threw their third annual Hattitude & Fashion Extravaganza Brunch last Sat., Sept 27.

Linda Brewton, owner and operator of Grand Mode House of Fashions in Clearwater provided the hats for the

promenade. She described the meaning behind the Hattitude and Fashion extravaganza best.

"Hattitude says that I take my hat, tip it, bring it back, [or] bring it down, but when I walk out I decide who I am by the hat I put on my head," she said. "That's having a hattitude."

Food was served to those in attendance, everyone enjoying the

See **HATS**, page 9



The Pastor's Aide Ministry

## See what's new at PTC



Boe Norwood

BY FRANK DROUZAS  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — To give prospective students and the community the opportunity to see first-hand the variety of programs that Pinellas Technical College has to offer, the St. Pete campus at 901 34th Street South will host an open house on Oct. 15 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

"All our technologies and all our programs will be represented with the instructors," explained Boe Norwood, the newly named director of the St. Pete campus. "They can actually go to the site where the program is being taught. They can come to register if they want—we'll be prepared!"

Formerly known as Pinellas Technical Education Center, PTC is receiving a record number of enrollees aiming to pursue lucrative career paths, learn valuable skills or simply broaden their horizons.

"Enrollment over the summer was great!" said Norwood, who has been with PTC for six years. "It was the biggest number we've ever taken in for a term."

With nearly 30 programs available that run a

See **PTC**, page 7

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# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Breaking the Cycle

REV. DR. ROBERT L. HARRISON, PH.D.  
Men of S.T.E.E.L. Ministries  
www.menofsteelministries.com

## Temple maintenance - the spiritual approach

Praise the Lord Saints.  
It's me again but this time in a different capacity.  
Some that know me know that I have been a coach and personal trainer for more than 30 years and have trained several kids in this area to championship levels.

Just to name a few Demilo Wise (multiple state titles and All American at the University of Oklahoma), Louis Murphy, Jr. (state champion, second leg of Lakewood's 4x100 in 2003), Ryan Hallaum (set AAU record for most stolen bases in one state tournament and recorded first ever unassisted triple play for his age group in same tournament), Nick Gallaur (Pinellas County Tennis Player of the Year in 2005), Xavier Harrison (PCAC, District Sprint Champion in 100/200/4x100 in 2012). I'm not sure of the spelling of a few names but they know who they are and they can attest to it.

I've been certified in SST, Sport Specific Training, Master Fitness Training (Military) and Sports Nutrition.

I have many more I could name but that's not important.

However, what is important is that we are and have been at an epidemic status for over 10 years "fighting" this demonic disease called obesity. As a direct result, our people are at the top of the charts with diabetes, high blood pressure, various cancers, cardio vascular disease, the list goes on and on and is continuing to increase yearly.

You can attribute it to whatever you want but no one is holding guns to your head saying eat!

We have got to stop this. Lord Jesus every time I look at a church choir, it's abundantly evident that the pastor is either not teaching on this subject or doesn't think it's important enough or they are a part of the growing number themselves.

I have to be blunt because they need to be called to the carpet.

You should be a good steward of the resources you are over and bring people like me in to teach the saints of God that it's not hard if God is with you in the battle. This is no different than with smokers and alcoholics or drug abusers.

I encapsulate these together because each poisons the temple of the Living God, if you have the Holy Spirit dwelling on the inside of you.

I started this column to better inform and equip you to winning this battle for a better living and more abundant way of life.

I will do as Jesus did to show you I have genuine love and compassion for you and your life by giving you this attached eating schedule. I usually charge clients for this but this battle is too serious and important for me to have greed for money.

I pray you use it to better control your eating and if there are any questions, PLEASE feel free to contact me for more specific personalized directions at pastorrobharrison@gmail.com; @drrobharrison (twitter).

In the coming weeks I will be addressing many other ailments and issues in this health, wellness, fitness, training department so that you can save money on trial and error snake oil remedies.

It takes work but most importantly, it takes knowledge.

Till next week,  
God Bless.  
Dr. Rob

### BASIC HEALTH AND TRAINING KNOWLEDGE – Revised 02/2010

\$75.00

- 1 Gm Of Protein Or Carbs = 4 Calories
- 1 Gm Of Fat = 9 Cals
- Daily Intake of Protein for Average Person = 1.0-1.5 X Your Current Body Wt.
- Daily Carb Intake = 100 Gms for Average Person; More for Active Person.
- Your Last Meal Should Be 3 Hours Prior To Going To Sleep, Not Going To Bed.
- You Should Minimize Your Complex Carbs Intake During The Evening Hours.
- Complex Carbs Are Your Starches Like Bread, Rice, Noodles, Etc.
- Simple Carbs Are Your Broccoli, Beans, Fruits, Etc. And Are Ok In The Evening Hours.
- Basic Calorie Intake Ratio To Reduce Body Fat: Protein 60-70%; Carbs 20-30%; And Fats 10-20%.
- Some Fat Sources Include Flax Seed Oil, Omega Fish Oils, Poly Unsaturated Fats.
- Decrease Your Sodium Intake And Substitute Herbs And Spices For Flavor.
- Do Low To No Impact Cardio At Least 3 Times A Week For 30-45 Minutes Each Session. These Include Speed Walking, Treadmill Walking, Biking, And The Elliptical Glider (Build Up To This One, More Intense). The Best Time for Cardio is in the Morning on an Empty Stomach, This Forces the Body to Burn Body fat Instead Of Carbs.
- Supplement Daily With Multi-Vitamin-Minerals, And Other Supplements to Help Aid in Getting All Your Essentials and Carbs and Proteins. You Should Be Using Herbs Also For Wellness And Immune Building.
- You Should Eat 5-7 Small Meals Evenly Spaced Out Throughout The Day As Detailed Below. Some Substitutions Are Allowed To Prevent Boredom.

### PREFERRED FOODS BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- CHICKEN, FISH, TURKEY, LEAN BEEF, TUNA
- EGGS WITH A RATIO OF 1 YOLK PER 3 WHITES
- OATMEAL, CREAM OF RICE, BROWN OR WHITE RICE, SWEET OR BAKED POTATOES, MULTI- GRAIN OR WHOLE WHEAT BREAD, FRUITS AND VEGGIES

This sample eating schedule is designed so that you choose you how much to eat. If weight loss is the goal, use the lower end, if weight gain is the goal, use the higher end. If you eat cold cereal, you can eat Honeynut Cheerios, Raisin Bran Crunch, and Frosted Shredded Mini Wheats in place of oatmeal  
Meats should be broiled or baked. Chicken can be fried but the skin must be discarded.

Meal 1	Meal 2	Meal 3	Meal 4	Meal 5	Meal 6	Meal 7
0500-0800	0800-1100	1100-0200pm	0200-0500pm	0500-0800pm	0800-1100pm	Optional
4-8 oz. oatmeal, cereal, cream of rice	8 oz. of fresh fruit	4-6 oz. of meat ; can make a sandwich	8 oz. of fresh fruit	8-12 oz. meat entrée	Protein drink with all you supplements.	Depends on nutritional goals.
8-12 oz. low fat or skim milk	6-8 oz. of veggies	2 slices of ww bread	6 oz. of fruit yogurt	1 sweet potato or baked potato (miked instead of baked)		If gaining weight is your goal eat a complex carb or take weight gain smoothie here.
1-2 slices of ww toast	16-32 oz. of bottled water	1 banana or apple or grapes	16-32 oz. of bottled water	6-8 oz. of steamed veggies		If weight loss is your goal eat a small protein meal or drink here.
3-8 eggs: using ratio		16-32 oz. of bottled water		16-32 oz. of water or light drink mix		This meal is at least 2-3 hours after the last meal.
8 oz. of bottled water or fruit juice	A meal replacement drink can be used here.		A meal replacement drink can be used here.			A meal replacement drink can be used here.

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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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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.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Three-Day festival to open African-American Heritage Trail

ST. PETERSBURG — A three-day kick-off event to celebrate the opening of St. Petersburg's new African-American Heritage Trail is Oct. 10-12 at 22nd Street S and Ninth Avenue S in St. Petersburg.

Receptions, a gospel brunch, a marching band, guided tours, vendors and a reenactment of Stokely Carmichael's 1968 speech on 22nd Street are among the featured events.

The Heritage Trail is one of the few such paths in Florida. It is the result of more than two years' work and features more than 20 markers, each with detailed histories about the people, places and events that made the 22nd Street S and Ninth Avenue neighborhood St. Petersburg's most vibrant African-American community.

A VIP Garden Reception is 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Fri., Oct. 10 at the Carter G. Woodson African-American History Museum, 2240 9th Ave. S.

On Sat., Oct. 11, a street festival will be held 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on The Deuces — 22nd Street's enduring nickname — and part of the street will be closed off. There will be guided tours and vendors will be set up. At 7 p.m. on Saturday, a reunion of African-American nurses from 1947 to the present day will be held in the Royal Theater at 1011 22nd St. S. The reunion is free and open to the public.

Sun., Oct. 12 will be given over to music. A Singin' and Swingin' Sunday Gospel Brunch is 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Sylvia's Restaurant, 642 22nd St. S. A jazz program presented



Gwen Reese

by the Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz Association starts at 6 p.m. in the Manhattan Casino, which is on the second floor of Sylvia's.

Sponsorship packages are available. For information, call Gwen Reese, (727) 418-6888, email [gwen-reese@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:gwen-reese@tampabay.rr.com); or Jon Wilson, (727) 488-3382, email [jon.wilson912@gmail.com](mailto:jon.wilson912@gmail.com)

## Steve Jones: Hall of Famer

### STAFF WRITER

ST. PETERSBURG — The Dixie Hollins High School Alumni Association (DHHSAA) inducted four members into the Dixie Hollins Athletic Hall of Fame last Thurs., Sept. 26. Held in the school's cafeteria, the small ceremony was attended by friends and family of the inductees.

This year Joe Petruccelli, Class of 1966, was instated for his accomplishments on the gridiron. David Boyd, Class of 1982, was inducted for his undertakings in wrestling. Meagan Thomas, Class of 2014, didn't have to wait for praises in girls basketball and Steve Jones, class of 1966, who had to wait far too long.

Some of you may not be able to imagine how it feels to attend a school where only a handful of the people look like you. You might not be able to imagine how it feels to be met with opposition simply because of your skin color, but Steve Jones does.

Back in the turbulent 1960s, racial tensions were at an all-time high. All around the country African Americans were standing up to the status quo and St. Petersburg was no different.

Steve Jones attended Jordan Elementary and 16th Street Junior High.

When it was time to go to high school everyone thought that he would attend Gibbs High. During that time schools were on the brink of being integrated, so when Jones was handpicked along with seven other African-American students to be the first to integrate Pinellas County schools, he seized the opportunity and attended Dixie Hollins.

Since Jones was very athletic, he decided to go out for the school's varsity football team, and football coach Forest Page took notice of his athletic ability.

During this time in 1963, having a black quarterback at an all-white public high school was virtually unheard of; in fact, Jones was the first African American to play in a high school football game sanctioned by the Florida High School Athletic Association.

"Racism existed but it was never blatant. But I always had the feeling that there were subtle comments being made about me being black," Jones said in an interview back in 2012.

During his illustrious high school career, he made the Pinellas County All Conference team as the quarterback, along with Glen Edwards of Gibbs High. Later, his second coach, Frank Goddard, or-

chestrated a deal where he would then earn a football scholarship to the University of Toledo.

Jones would go on to start as the quarterback at Toledo for two years and during his tenure they played in 1969 Tangerine Bowl.

Later Jones became the first African-American certified public accountant at a firm called Ernst & Ernst in Toledo, Ohio.

Unable to attend the ceremony, Jones asked his nephew Phillip Haywood, who fought tooth and nail to get him inducted, to read a prepared statement. Humble as ever, he graciously accepted his induction.

"I accept this honor reluctantly because so many people had a hand in my journey from the Jordan Park Projects to high school, college and a successful career and family," Jones wrote.

He thanked former teachers, coaches, schoolmates and even his principle, but he saved the best for last when he wrote, "I thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who provided a gift to me that will endure long after the memories of this ceremony have faded, the gift of eternal life."

Congratulations to all four inductees.



L-R, David Boyd, Joe Petruccelli, Meagan Thomas and Phillip Haywood.



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## Why do I need to know about foreclosure intervention programs?

Today's column is a call to action. Another round of foreclosures is occurring. People you know from work or with whom you worship may be at risk of losing their homes; people in your neighborhood could be at risk. They may be suffering in silence, unaware that FREE foreclosure intervention programs exist for eligible homeowners. By knowing about these programs and sharing the information with your human resources department at work, with your pastor, your neighbors and friends, you can offer hope to those who are struggling.

At the direction of the Florida Legislature, the state courts are now clearing a foreclosure backlog.

"Victims of a foreclosure speedway" was the headline of a recent editorial in the Tampa Bay Times about what is happening. The editorial, and the Center for Public Integrity (CPI) report which prompted the editorial and was featured by the Times, put a human face on the consequences of "dispensing of foreclosure cases with deliberate speed." The Times editorial noted a perception by some homeowners that the courts "are more interested in moving cases quickly than in providing due process."

According to the editorial, there have been cases where the homeowner and the lender appeared together in court to express their interest in working out a

deal only to have judges move for foreclosure. There is a human cost to this not only in terms of those who are losing their homes but also to the communities and local economies where the foreclosures are taking place.

Neighborhood Home Solutions (NHS) is offering a FREE foreclosure intervention workshop on Wednesday, Oct. 15 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. This is an opportunity to learn about FREE available programs that could save homes. Please contact NHS by calling 727-821-6897 or emailing [admin@nhsfl.org](mailto:admin@nhsfl.org) to reserve a seat for the workshop or to find out more information. Come by the office at 1600 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street South to pick up flyers to share.

Please join with NHS in reaching out to those who may be at risk of losing their homes.

*NHS is a 501 (c) (3) HUD approved nonprofit housing counseling organization. Services are provided free of charge. Partners include the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), HomeFree USA, Florida Hardest-Hit Fund, Pinellas County Community Development, and the City of St. Petersburg. Sources for this article include the FDIC Money Smart program and Hands on Banking (Money skills for life), a financial education curriculum provided by Wells Fargo as a public service.*

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**PICK OF THE WEEK!**

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1-5	3-4
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7-1	6-7

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Chief’s Creole Café soft opening a hit

From **CAFE**, page 1

Talks are in the works to import crawfish when in season from Louisiana. Brayboy plans to offer it up in a boil, like locals do to crab, including corn, potatoes and shrimp.

“We have a beautiful patio seating area where we can put the tables out there and have an all you can eat situation,” he said emphasizing his willingness to cater to special events.

The property sits on the corner of 22nd Street and 9th Avenue South, an area Brayboy knows hasn’t been popular since its heyday when it was “the place to be.” The area has been plagued with crime, neglect and a shifting of priorities.

But as you pull up to the coral building with its outdoor patio, those old time memories when bands used to frequent the area and the Sidney Harden corner grocery, which incidentally is the restaurants new home, used to be the place to be, come flooding back and you begin to feel the neighborhood coming alive again.

It’s no secret that even though money has been funneled into the area in the last few years with the building of the new St. Petersburg College campus and the restoration of the Manhattan Casino, that this part of town is struggling to get back on the map.

“It is very difficult in this city to restore historic buildings when people don’t initially have the appreciation for that restoration,” said Brayboy who realized after buying the property that

banks were reluctant to loan to them due to the restaurant’s location. “The buildings are called the ghetto and the area, no matter how much work we’ve done in it, is still referred to as ‘that area of town.’”

But even though the property was initially raw, no landscaping, nothing but a sandy lot, Brayboy hopes the community will forget the past, fast forward to 2014, and take a second look now that some tender loving care has been bestowed upon it.

“We’ve been working on this for almost two years,” he said, “so to us it’s like months delayed.”

The inside will instantly astound patrons. Vintage artwork hangs on the walls, while granite tops every table. Twelve-foot tin ceilings speak to the historical significance of the place, originally constructed in 1939. “You really got to put your eyes on it,” Brayboy said. “It’s a wow factor.”

The pergola leads from Chief’s Creole Café to the Brayboy owned ice cream parlor next door. So after a little sizzling hot, patrons can cool down with a scoop of tasty ice cream.

He hopes the neighborhood and the St. Petersburg community will recognize the hard work that has gone into every detail of the restaurant. From rehabbing the building, to furnishing its interior, to allocating a menu and picking the staff, the Brayboys have dedicated countless hours on creating an inviting New Orleans type ambiance that is sure to

please.

As for whether or not there will be another addition to the Brayboys’ corner, they also own a fitness center, consignment shop and a hair salon, Brayboy can’t say for sure.

“The only thing we can focus on at this time is getting this restaurant up and running,” he said, “and hopefully it meets the community’s needs.”

If the soft opening Chief’s Creole Café had Tues., Sept. 30 is any indication of what business will be like once the café is up and going, you can expect great food, great music and a packed to capacity house.

The Brayboys gave St. Pete a sneak peek of what’s to come. Lucky patrons were treated to gumbo, Spanish cornbread, potato salad and delicious bread pudding for desert.

The soft opening also served as a test to the staff. Brayboy does not want any surprises come opening night.

“We wanted to get the wrinkles out of the operation. How the staff flows with each other, the taste and the quality of food is very important, did we hit it or did we miss it and to see how they would act under pressure.”

The Brayboys spent the night asking for suggestions on the food, drinks and atmosphere, but there is only one suggestion that this reporter feel they should heed and that is get ready. Get ready for the influx of hungry crowds looking for some down home Cajun delights.



## PROTECT OUR CHILDREN



# VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 2

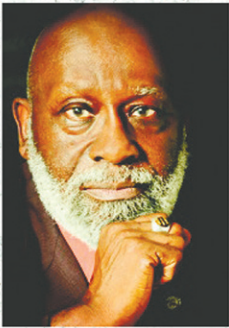


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• **AMENDMENT 2** “Would have a negative impact on public safety for our residents ... is a threat to African-American children and their pursuit of educational excellence ... I will not vote to legalize the street drug marijuana, label it medicine and make it available to anyone, at any age, for any condition.”

– T. Willard Fair,  
CEO, The Urban  
League of Greater  
Miami; former  
Chairman,  
Florida State  
Board of Education



• The Obama Administration continues to oppose the legalization of marijuana because it “affects the developing brain and substance abuse in school age children has a detrimental effect on their academic achievement” \*

\*Source: White House Office of  
National Drug Control Policy, July 28, 2014

• **AMENDMENT 2** imposes NO age limit and allows teens to get marijuana WITHOUT parental consent

• **AMENDMENT 2** is opposed by the Florida Medical Association which represents 20,000 Florida doctors



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# COMMUNITY NEWS



GENERAL ELECTION - NOVEMBER 4, 2014

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- Deadline to request a ballot is October 29, 2014



DEBORAH CLARK - PINELLAS COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS





# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Caring for Girls Inaugural Seminar

BY HOLLY KESTENIS  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Caring for Girls Academy, Inc. held its first ever seminar last month in an effort to not only get their name out in the community, but to help young girls and boys get talking about one of the most serious issues that plagues them daily – sex.

The taboo topic was unleashed to a roomful of boys and girls of varying ages. Not to mention some adults in the room as well.

“The topic here is date rape,” said Hyacinth Dyer, a teacher at the Lew Williams Head Start program, “so it might get a little uncomfortable in here.”

But even with the heavy topic, speakers were able to keep the atmosphere light. All in an effort to get the kids talking. Before diving into the date rape topic, one exercise they played consisted of taking M &M’s and answering questions on their sexual experiences based on the colors in their hands.

Program participants were encouraged to write their answers down and were asked such questions as what age they were when they had their first boy/girlfriend, first kiss or first discussion with their parents about sex. Some never had a deep discussion beyond “don’t have a baby,” while others had the talk after they were already sexually involved.

One adult in the room was quite candid in her response when it came to her mother’s heart-to-heart.

“She told me it’s going to hurt,” she said divulging that the talk came when she entered middle school because a lot of her friends were getting pregnant. But her mom’s tactic to scare her daughter into abstaining from sex backfired.

“Just being around my peers and hearing the other opinions, I wish she would have told me the truth because maybe I would have waited a little longer.”

Although shy at first, most of the other teens began to open up, although the red M&M’s, which meant you had to disclose how old you were when you had your first sexual experience, seemed to be disappearing at an alarming rate.

Those who did answer that one cited their first experience, which Dyer emphasized could be touching and not necessarily intercourse, happening as young as 12, the majority getting involved in sexual situations before even graduating middle school.

When it came time to reflect on their sexual experiences almost every teen and adult in the room said if they had it to do all over again, they would wait longer before getting involved with the opposite sex. But others took their experiences as blessings, a way to learn from their past mistakes and to change their futures.

“I’m going to start talking to my son pretty early,” said one adult who hopes to have open communication with her child when the time comes. “I don’t want to be his friend, but I want to have

communication where he’ll ask questions and come and talk to me about it.”

Once teens were talking the topic of date rape was once again brought up. “Do you guys know what rape is,” asked Kiara Pittman, rape crisis advocate with Suncoast Center, Inc.

Pittman delved into the myths associated with rape, such as that more rapes occur by total strangers. In fact, according to Pittman, nearly 80 percent of the rape exams she performs point to a friend or family member as the culprit.

“Acquaintance rape is higher than with a stranger,” said Pittman who discussed the reasons behind the epidemic. “They think that they can take advantage of that person because they know that person.”

Pittman encourages women and men who have been sexually assaulted to speak up, get counseling and report the abuse. As an advocate, Pittman walks the victims through the process of reporting the crime “so they have someone to be with them every step of the way.”

For those not involved in rape, but who are having sex, Pittman went on to discuss the law behind having intercourse before the age of 16, citing it’s illegality in the state of Florida.

“I know some of you guys are having sexual experiences before that age, I’m not judging you,” she said. “That is called still statutory rape, even if it’s consensual because of the ages.”

Caring for Girls Academy

Inc. is a nonprofit organization started in 2011 that works with female victims of sexual and physical abuse through individual and group family counseling to enrichment classes. Their goal in phase one of their program is to provide therapy, in-home counseling to girls from 12-18 years old.

Long-term, Caring for Girls Academy would like to expand to providing not only therapeutic services to those suffering from physical and sexual abuse, but to also provide housing.

“Sometimes we would be sleeping in the office at two o’clock in the morning waiting for a phone call,” said Dr. Shari Hooker, president and founder of the Caring for Girls organization.

Once a soldier on the front lines of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Hooker experienced the trauma these young girls faced firsthand. Time and time again, Hooker would have a difficult time placing the abused girls in foster care because most only wanted to go to a female.

“If they heard a man’s voice they wouldn’t go into the home,” she said. “That was an issue because there wasn’t that many [female homes].”

From this her desire grew. Hooker went back to school earning a doctorate in psychology and started up Caring for Girls. Now she is looking for sponsors and applying for grants so that she can embark on the second phase of her journey, providing 24 hours of supervision in



a group home setting for up to 20 girls who may not get placed in a home otherwise.

In the meantime however, Hooker hopes to keep the seminars going once a month – open to both boys and girls. She is partnering with smaller nonprofits in the area such as My Daughter’s Keeper and Thaise Educational and Exposure Tours, Inc. which is a tutoring and mentoring program along 18th Avenue South, that also provides counseling to youths 10 -18 while exposing them to local colleges and area tours.

“We’re going to be working with kids in the neighborhood talking about issues



that relate to them,” explained Hooker who hopes word of mouth, along with her flyers will bring more teens out.

For more information on Caring for Girls or how to donate to the organization, check out [Caring4girls.org](http://Caring4girls.org) or call 727-346-8197.

Governor

RICK SCOTT

is

ROUGH

on

US

He’s against our  
CIVIL RIGHTS

Rick Scott reversed policies that gave people a second chance after they served their time. He ignored the horrors we face under the Stand Your Ground law. He refused to change the law despite the fears haunting parents every day.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Rick Scott ignored pleas to stop creating and supporting discriminatory policies that diminish our quality of life. He said no to Medicaid expansion. He disrespected public school teachers for years. He slashed over \$1.3 billion from Florida classrooms. He refused federal funds that would have created thousand of jobs.

VOTING RIGHTS

Rick Scott wrote the playbook on voter suppression in 2011 by trying to stop Souls to the Polls and shortened early voting days. He continues to work hard to keep us from exercising our right to vote.

RICK SCOTT  
TOO SHADY  
FOR FLORIDA





# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Open house Oct. 15

From **PTC** page 1

diverse gamut from Auto Collision Repair to Digital Video Production to Practical Nursing, there is no shortage of variety when it comes to available career courses.

Always looking to expand its offerings, the St. Pete campus has recently added new programs such as Applied Welding Technologies and Early Childhood Education. Even with the sizable list of eclectic courses already provided at PTC, Norwood would like to bring more programs to St. Pete.

"I personally would like to try solar energy," he said. "This is the state of Florida! Just being able to produce our energy by using the sun? We'd love to bring that in!"

Anne-Marie Clarke, assistant director at PTC since 2012, added that she'd like to bring in more technology programs like those that are currently available at the Clearwater campus.

"I would like to see more of the computer-based technology," said Clarke, who has been in the Pinellas school system for 25 years.

Norwood explained that certain programs had moved to the north campus but have been brought back to St. Pete, like Automotive, Cosmetology and Culinary Arts.

"Those programs are full now, so they were wanted where they were needed!" he stated enthusiastically. "Our goal is to cater to the community."

PTC also continues to be a venue for community events, and even recently held a packed gathering



**Asst. Director Anne-Marie Clarke and Director Boe Norwood**

for Vision 20/20. Norwood stated that PTC is happy to offer its campus for meetings and events of various organizations within the school system, the community and local businesses and industries.

Norwood said that although he feels good about all the students PTC is bringing in, he would love to attract more young people just coming out of high school.

"Our number one focus this year is to get some of these high school graduates," he stated, adding that he planned to recruit students currently attending high school. And in addition to wanting to get the word out to the parents about what PTC can offer high school age students, he also stressed that PTC can be an affordable alternative to a conventional college or university.

"You can't even begin to explain the difference in the cost," he asserted, "when talking about the rising costs between four-

year colleges and PTC."

Some of the PTC programs offer dual enrollment to high school juniors and seniors, to help give students a jump on their career education.

"We've had some success stories," Clarke said, "with some of our formerly dual enrollment students who came back to finish as adults. And they are now ready to start their careers, six months out of high school!"

Norwood underscored that in addition to the "excellent staff of guidance counselors and instructors" involved with PTC, the college will do whatever it can to aid a student with enrollment.

"We'll go above and beyond to get a student in," Norwood said firmly. "We'll find a way."

Noting that the average starting salary for many PTC graduates in their new careers is anywhere between \$23,000 and \$38,000, Norwood said "nine times out of ten" students will graduate

without owing a dime, and as many as 85 percent of PTC students take advantage of grants available to them, like the Pell Grant.

"You can do it all here from taking the TABE to getting your GED to starting a career," he said. "PTC is the place to be. It's an opportunity to change your life."

Contact the St. Pete campus of PTC at (727) 893-2500 or visit myptec.org.

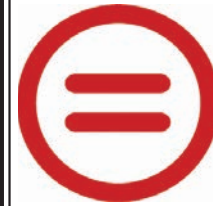
*At the School Board meeting in August, members voted to rename Pinellas Technical Education Center to Pinellas Technical College.*

*District administrators say the former name does not adequately describe the scope of the programs and instruction offered at the centers. It also fails to acknowledge the key role the career centers play in our community's local industry training and economic development.*

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Courtesy of



**Pinellas County  
Urban League**

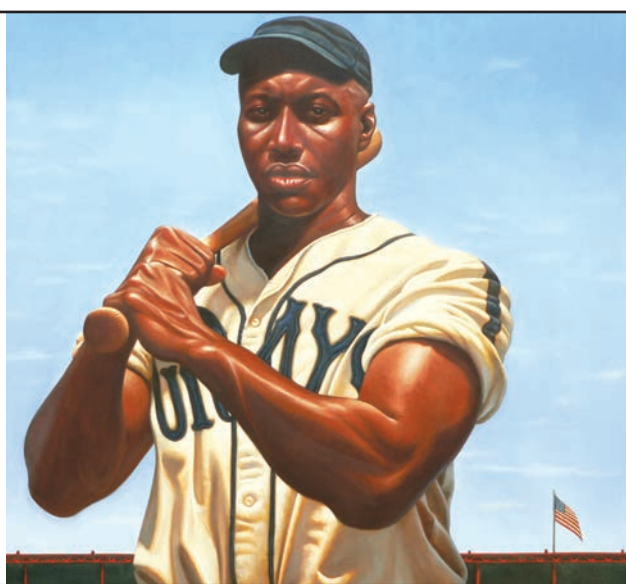
**Tuesday, October 7 --** 211 Tampa Bay Cares Informational Session Churches United for Healthy Congregations (CUFHC) will host informational session on 211 Tampa Bay Cares at the James B. Sanderlin Neighborhood Family Center, 2335 22nd Ave. So., St. Petersburg at 6 p.m.. This session is opened to church health representatives (nurses guild/health ministry) to attend with the goal of obtaining information on how this resource can provide assistance in accessing needed services in the community. The church health representatives will share this information with their congregation. To sign up for this activity, contact the Sanderlin Center at 727-321-9444. To obtain further information about CUFHC, visit the website, [www.cufhc.org](http://www.cufhc.org).

**Saturday, October 11 -** Sistahs of Compassion Supporting Cancer Survivors, Inc. is hosting a community yard sale from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Location donated by Dr. Frogue's Hair Salon, 2535 MLK Jr. St. S. (corner 9th St. & 26th Ave. S.). Come join us, sell your goods and put your profit in your pocket. \*\*Your sale items may not include food or drink\*\* Secure your space for only \$10. Limited space available! Set up includes 10x10 area (space does not include a table). Please feel free to bring your tent/canopy. Sistahs of Compassion reserve the right to sell food and beverage items. We'll be preparing and selling fish combos for only \$6 with your choice of ... fish, grits and beverage ... or fish sandwich, desert and beverage reserve your space! Please call or text 727-455-7827

## WE ENCOURAGE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Coming October 16, 2014**  
**The Thomas English Report**

"See, Hear and Enjoy"  
bi-weekly journals and  
stories about black baseball,  
taken from a book soon to  
be published called  
**"Negro Baseball is back  
without The Negro"**



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**Associate Dean (Job # 0436)**  
East Campus, Dade City  
Closing Date 10/17/14

**Instructor/Coordinator, Law  
Enforcement and Corrections  
Programs (Job # 0416)**  
Search Reopened - East Campus, Dade City  
Position opened until filled

**Advisor/VA (Job # 0435)**  
Spring Hill Campus  
Closing Date 10/10/14

Pasco-Hernando State College (PHSC) is now  
accepting applications. For more information  
and to apply online visit our website at  
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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Sickle Cell Dinner & Jazz Extravaganza 2014

From **MOTHER**, page 1

Child of 2013-15, Neema Pitts, to the audience as they gave her a standing ovation.

Murph gave Neema a hug and thanked her for being an excellent ambassador for SCDA.

“Although she has had some challenges this year, she has won two school awards, so we’re very proud of her,” said Murph.

After a three-course dinner, 16-year-old saxophone phenom, Kenneth Goolsby, Jr., from Lake-

wood High School graced the audience with a solo, and community service awards were handed out. This year Dr. Brett R. Bolhofner and *The Weekly Challenger* were awarded with this prestigious honor.

The association’s objectives are to promote, educate, develop and improve public understanding of sickle cell disease and the sickle cell trait. Also to participate in activities de-

signed to lend economic, psychological, social and emotional assistance to individuals and/or families affected by sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait.

Programs and services are provided by the Community Outreach Coordinator, Myron Mill, a certified sickle cell educator is available upon request to provide free sickle cell educational presentations to community groups, organizations,

professional, schools, etc. Programs available to sickle cell clients and families are family support group, scholarships, educational programs, genetic counseling, Christmas activities and gifts.

They are located in the Johnnie Ruth Clarke Health Center, 1344 22nd St. S., St. Petersburg. You may contact them at 727-896-2355 or [stpetesicklecell@verizon.com](mailto:stpetesicklecell@verizon.com), website: [www.sicklecellstpete.com](http://www.sicklecellstpete.com)



## LEARN about the plan

After four years of conversations with the public, the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) finalized the Greenlight Pinellas Plan in December 2013. A 1% sales tax has been proposed to pay for the plan. If Pinellas voters approve the sales tax in November 2014, PSTA would eliminate its current property tax.

The Greenlight Pinellas Plan will have many benefits:



**Economic:** Attracts new jobs and redevelopment



**Community:** Promotes safe, walkable, stable neighborhoods by focusing development in specific areas



**Travel Options:** Substantial increases in the frequency of buses, new connections to Tampa and TIA, bus rapid transit lines, and a future rail system with 16 stations creates real options and real choices for how citizens can travel



**Environment:** Reducing emissions, protecting lands, and encouraging smart growth will help maintain the Pinellas lifestyle



**VISIT**  
[GreenlightPinellas.com](http://GreenlightPinellas.com)



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Find us on Facebook!  
[/gogreenlightpinellas](https://www.facebook.com/gogreenlightpinellas)





# COMMUNITY NEWS

## The Pastor's Aide Ministry has Hattitude

From **HATS**, page 1

delicious fare of wraps, fruit and pastries while models sauntered down the catwalk showing off their church fashions, jewelry and of course hats. Even though the fashions and of course the attitude that went along with it took center stage, Johnson took the time to discuss religion and how it has helped her through difficult times in her life. "You all know that whatever the Lord will take you through, he takes you through to make you better," she preached urging those in attendance to not forget there is a purpose for their suffering. "Somehow we forget that." Johnson hails from

Georgia, but has lived in St. Petersburg long enough to know her way around. A mother of two daughters and a grandmother to boot, Johnson is a retired government worker of 40 plus years. "She worked longer than a lot of young people dare to work," said Jura Philpot who introduced her and is a long time friend. Johnson loves teaching the word of God and lives a life of obedience to the Lord shunning titles and accolades, instead opting to spread the word of how to get to heaven. On the second Sunday of each month you can find her on 49th Street speaking to the inmates, letting

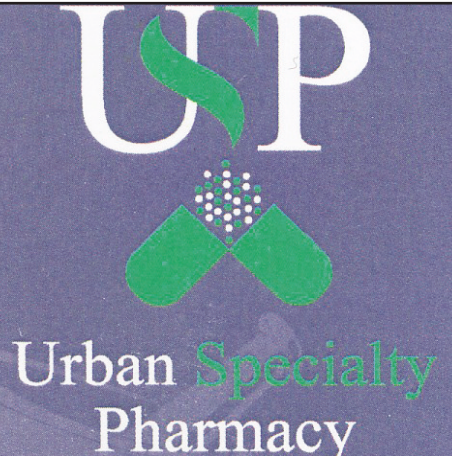
them know there is hope. When some on the inmates get out, they look her up because they recognize that she is a vessel to which God speaks through. "When you leave this place today, I know beyond a shadow of a doubt, something will be rooted in your spirits," she Philpot. Johnson recited the age-old wisdom to be careful what you wish for adding that those things you don't get are really a blessing in disguise. Patience was her word of choice. Learning patience and to live by the word of God. Before the promenade, Brewton reminisced about

life years ago. "A lady never walked out the door without her gloves, her purse, and her hat on her head," she said recounting the era of the 30s and 40s. "She did that every day; that was a lady." The room gushed at how lovely the models were dressed up in their dresses, wrap around skirts and matching shoes. "A hat defines a lady," remarked Brewton whose enthusiasm was catching as she described in detail what every model wore. Every color of the rainbow was represented, and even some outside the spectrum. A beautiful African outfit was modeled and Brewton explained how to

accessorize and change them up in order to make more outfits out of one. "We have you looking so beautiful here today, all of you," she said extolling the need to look your best at every event whether it be church, an interview or even walking around town. Brewton believes in dressing to feel good about yourself and in showcasing an attitude that you are worth something. "If I didn't know any better I would think you was the first lady," she said to one of the models. "She looks that good." Even the keynote speaker, Missionary Johnson of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church

strutted her stuff. Brewton gave a lesson to the ladies on how to strut. Holding hands, the models paraded themselves down the center aisle to rounds of applause, and joyous singing. Brother Gregory Porter played upbeat piano melodies throughout the event and the atmosphere could only be described as a religious experience. So if you're looking to experience some of the attitude that comes from hat-titude, stop by Grand Mode House of Fashions in Clearwater. It's located on 1118 Harris Lane, or you can call them at 727-461-3784. Don't forget to check out their website at wed-





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**Sunday Worship Services** .....7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.  
**Sunday School** .....9:00 a.m.  
**Wednesday Mid-Day Bible Study** .....Noon - 12:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday Prayer Service**.....6:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday Bible Study**.....6:30 p.m.

**Youth Chapel Services - 921 20th Street South**  
**2nd & 4th Sunday Worship Services**.....10:00 a.m.  
**Wednesday Prayer** .....6:00 p.m.  
**Bible Study**.....6:30 p.m.

**Mission Statement:**  
*Impact the world by equipping believers  
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Rev. Louis M. Murphy Sr.  
Senior Pastor

**First Baptist Institutional Church**  
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Phone: 727-323-7518

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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.

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Sunday Worship Service .....10:15 a.m.  
Sunday School .....9:00 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 School .....9:30 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting (Tuesday) .....6:00 p.m.  
Bible Study (Tuesday) .....7:00 p.m.  
Baptist Training Union (Sunday) 4:00 p.m.

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Fax 727-322-0409

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Power hour of Prayer  
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W.W.E. (Wednesday Worship Explosion)  
Wednesday after the 1st Sunday monthly

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Williams  
**PASTOR**



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St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
Home: 896-8006

Bro. Robert Smith

Sunday Morning Worship .....7:45 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Bible Class .....9:20 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Second Worship .....10:40 a.m.  
Ladies Bible Class Monday .....7:00 p.m.  
Monday Evening Bible Class .....7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Morning Bible Class .....10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Evening Bible Class .....7:00 p.m.

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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**  
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(727) 898-9407




Rev. Ronald L. Bell  
Pastor

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Morning Worship .....11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Evening Prayer .....6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Bible Study .....7:30 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](http://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*


**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.**

**Friendship  
Missionary Baptist Church**  
3300 31st St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 906-8300 [www.fmbctheship.org](http://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**  
4238 Narvarex Way South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712  
(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/>**



**“Learn How To Love  
Our City Into The  
Kingdom Of God”**  
Beginning Sunday, Sept. 14 at 6 p.m.

Rev. Sarah Edwards will be teaching a 13-week Certified Servant Leadership Course for Clergy, Lay Ministers and Christians of all ages who desire to serve their neighborhood and city for the glory of God. Synopsis: Whereas God’s methods are many, His principles are few. You will be taught how to love our city into the Kingdom of God by embracing your true value in Christ.

Glad Tidings Assembly Of God Church • Randy Helms, Pastor  
4200 17th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33713 FMI: 727.323.5017

**Anointed Word Fellowship**  
1150 49th Street North  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33710  
727-656-2615  
[www.anointedwordonline.org](http://www.anointedwordonline.org)



Pastors Dexter and  
Wanda McCree

*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”*

**YOUR CHURCH AD  
COULD BE HERE!**

Contact:  
[www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com](http://www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com)

VISIT US ONLINE!  
[www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com](http://www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com)



# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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



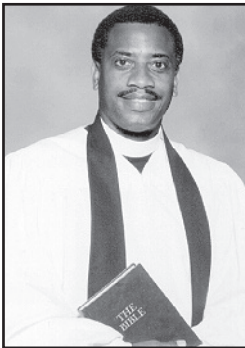
Rev. Brian K. Brown

## 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

## YOUR CHURCH AD COULD BE HERE!

Contact:

[www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com](http://www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com)

## 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.

Coming events for Oct.  
Oct. 3 - Monthly Business Meeting at 7 p.m.  
Oct. 7-11 - South Florida Progressive Baptist Association-Held in Ft. Pierce, FL  
Oct. 12 - St. Mark 83rd Anniversary Kickoff Service-Family and Friends Day Featuring the Glory Train Skit during the 10:45 a.m. worship services. An ice cream social will follow morning worship in the Fellowship Hall. All family and friends of the St. Mark Missionary Baptist

Church are invited to share in this wonderful event with us.  
Oct. 15-17 - 83rd Church Anniversary Celebration-Theme: The Covenant... 83 Years and God is Still Faithful (Hebrews 8: 10-12). The theme song is "Come Along My Friends, Come Along" and the celebration colors are black/gold/teal. Week night Services begin at 7 p.m.  
Oct. 15 - Rev. Wayne Thompson and the First Baptist Institutional Church  
Oct. 16 - Rev. Clarence Williams and the Greater Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church  
Oct. 17 - Rev. Troy Adams and the New Jerusalem M.B. Church  
Oct. 19 - 83rd Anniversary Finale during the 10:45 a.m. Services  
Oct. 21 - Church outing to Mt. Sinai M.B. Church at 7 p.m.  
Oct. 24 - Fall Festival Sponsored by the YAMS (Young Adult Ministry) - More details forthcoming  
Oct. 31 - Monthly 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.

## First Mt. Zion

You are invited to join First Mt. Zion as they will be "Cruising on The Living Water With God" during the spring dates of March 29 - April 2, 2015. This four day cruise will be sailing from Port Canaveral aboard the Carnival Sensation to

Freeport and Nassau in the Bahamas.  
For adult and children's rates and specific details, you may contact Cruise Consultant, Gloria Campbell at 727-434-0072, or Reverend Joseph Bell at 727-865-7539.  
The deadline for the \$50

per person deposit has been extended to Sept. 29.  
Mrs. Campbell will be available at First Mt. Zion on that date, from 6-8 p.m. to assist you with registration.  
First Mt. Zion is located at 1121 22nd Street South. Rev. Wallace Elliott, Sr. is pastor.



**Pastor's Corner**  
BY PASTOR SARAH EDWARDS  
*Visible Voices Christian Community Association*

## Are you telling yourself the truth?

"Let the words of my mouth and the mediation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord my strength and my redeemer." Psalms 19:14 is a powerful affirmation to repeat to God about ourselves every day. Of course, it's easier to deflect our self-talk about what others may or may not be saying and doing. It takes the attention and responsibility of judging ourselves away from us. It then becomes easier to judge everyone else without understanding we are judging others from the reflections we see within our hearts.

Unfortunately, too many church folks have a very big problem telling themselves the truth. We know God's Word is the truth. We further recognize that Jesus living proved He loved us; dying, he saved us, buried, He carried our sins far away and raising He justified us forever and He's coming back one day.

Whoa!! Stop that tape that's playing in our minds. Understand it's "a" truth that being justified by the finished work of Jesus on the cross positions us as if we have never sinned. Yeah-justified! But in our getting all this good stuff from God, we must get understanding. Wisdom is the foundation what we are telling ourselves is build upon.

So you know the truth. Why then are you not free? Why are you not manifesting the fruit that God has said you have? [Galatians 5:22-23] Perhaps there are too many voices in the conference

room of your mind. Are you seeking counseling from people who do not have any real or genuine love for you when you're hurting? Are you seeking advice from those who don't hear what you are really saying and instead cut you off while you are attempting to express your pain?

You seek understanding about what you are facing from spiritual minded folks and they in return use the Word of God to beat you down for thinking or feeling the way you do. Have you mistakenly considered the person in whom you seek answers from is not more disturbed than you are? Be careful how you hear [Luke 8:15-18]

James teaches us that wisdom [how we apply what we perceive we know] will justify herself whether it's the wisdom from God or the devil. [James 3:15-17]. Who are you listening to? What are you telling yourself about yourself? Are you telling yourself the truth?

If not, adjourn that meeting. Excuse all those voices including yours. As we are living in a day where even church folks are devising their individual reality show in their hearts that's being recorded over and over in their minds. Most things happen in our life because of the way we think. Are you telling yourself the truth? Some tell themselves they are like the people they see on TV, movies, commercials, at church and other people who impresses them.  
The problem is not un-

belief but misbelief. Unbelief is when you in a subconscious state of denial, mistake your identity and self-worth; then hide out on your personal fantasy island attempting to live the lies you keep telling yourself as if no one knows that you have serious issues.

Misbelief is when you refuse to reward yourself with kind and smoothing words for obeying your Lord. You seek others approval of you instead. When was the last time you told yourself "good job" when you had successfully completed a task? There is only one who can redeem our soul and strengthen us. It is Jesus the anointed one sent from God; the Creator of everything and everyone and the Father of some of us.

If you don't tell yourself the truth, you can never tell the truth to or about others. Stop justifying what you think, feel or desire. Shakespeare said: "To thy own self be true."

Examine every aspect of your life with absolute honesty by yourself and with yourself. God already knows the truth about you. He's waiting for you. He'll stand by you. He'll gently lead, guide and provide for you. Are you worthy? Absolutely not! God loves everyone the same. He's not a respecter of persons. If you accept Him as your Savior, He'll make you worthy and righteous. He will never leave nor forsake you. He'll stick by you closer than any brother, church folks or any other.

## Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

The Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, the Pastor, Dr. John A. Evans, Sr., Official Broad and the entire Church Family extend a cordial invitation to our entire community to join "THE SHIP" in fellowship at our 7:45 a.m. or the 10:45 a.m. worship service, and Sunday Church School at 9:30 a.m. Feel free to set sail with us throughout the week for various programs and ministries. Come join us as we take this Christian journey for it is Our Mission as a Church 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.  
Weekly Bible Studies and other Church activities: Wednesday, Noon Day (12 p.m.) and Prayer and Bible Study (7 p.m.); AWANA Youth Enrichment program is back every Thurs. at 7 p.m., something special for every child, learning about God while having fun. The Bread of Life Ministry is up and running, volunteers are

still needed, please see Sister Renetta Williams for further information. The Clothing Pantry will now be opened every 2nd and 4th Thurs. of the month, from 9 a.m. to noon. Donations of gently used Men and Women Business attire are needed.  
Month of October:  
Oct. 5 - Voters Registration Sunday at the Ship, following Both Worship Services.  
Oct. 6 - The Committee to Meet of the 17th/37th Pastor/First Family Celebration  
Oct. 7 - 3:30 p.m. - Monthly Nursing Home Ministry at the Suncoast Nursing Home.  
Oct. 8 - 7 p.m. - Wednesday Night L.I.V.E.  
Oct. 11 - The Susan B. Komen "Race for the Cure," Breast Cancer Run. The Race will begin at 8 a.m., from Carillon Park. For information, contact Minister Sharon P. Saulsby (727) 821-0161.  
10 a.m. - Fourth Quarter Leadership Conference.  
Oct. 12 - 3 p.m. - Join Friendship as we fellowship with: Greater Mt. Zion AME

Church, 1045 16th St. S., Pastor Evans, Designation Choir, Ushers and Congregation are looking forward to Celebrating the 15th Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Clarence A. Williams.  
Need a Ride to Church? Call our Transportation Ministry - (727) 906-8300 and PRESS 2Continue to Pray for our Sick, Shut-in, Children, and Bereaved families.  
Thought for the Week: We need to find God, and He cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence.  
Don't let "THE SHIP" sail without YOU! For additional information on any of the announcements, please contact us by the following methods:  
Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 3300 31st St. So., St. Petersburg, Florida  
Church Office: (727) 906-8300  
Visit Friendship's Website: [www.fmbctheship.com](http://www.fmbctheship.com)  
Also Visit West Coast Baptist Association Website: [www.experiencethecoast.com](http://www.experiencethecoast.com)



# COMMUNITY NEWS

# Jack and Jill annual celebration of Carole Robertson's Day

BY NIKKI BARFIELD

ST. PETERSBURG — The Suncoast Chapter of Jack and Jill held the annual celebration of Carole Robertson's Day Sept. 21 at the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum.

This event commemorates Carol Robertson and the other children who lost their lives in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Ala. on September 15, 1963. Each September, Jack and Jill of America honors Robertson with an activity highlighting the goals of human rights, civil rights and, racial harmony that she did not live to enjoy.

The event featured a review of the Exhibit "Endangered" by Dr. Dallas Jackson. A presentation by Jackson provided information on the theme and subtext of the exhibit. The event culminated in the presentation and donation of civil rights themed books to the Childs Park Community Li-



brary. Librarian Kathleen Dort was in attendance to receive the donation for the library.

Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated is an African-American organization of mothers who nurture future leaders by strengthening children through chapter programming, community service, legislative advocacy and philanthropic giving. The mothers believe every child, with proper guidance and opportunity can be a leader.

The Suncoast Chapter of Jack and Jill is celebrating its 24th year. The local Chapter hosts monthly activities for each age group within its

membership. Nationally and/or regionally, an annual mother' convention and teen conference are held to assure the continued development and enrichment of the members.

The Suncoast Chapter is composed of 25 families and 40 children residing in Pinellas, Manatee and Sarasota Counties. The children range in age from 2 to 19 years.

If you would like additional information about Jack and Jill of America, Inc., you may visit the national website at [www.jackandjillinc.org](http://www.jackandjillinc.org) or local chapter website at <http://www.jackandjillpinellasmanatee.org>.



# Gibbs Homecoming 2014

**BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN**  
*Staff Writer*

ST. PETERSBURG — Ominous clouds rolled in from the east and clashed with warm, western gulf winds that sighed to the crackling thunder as the rains moved in. One by one the cars and trucks came, headlights on, and circling the lot off of 31st Street South. Should they park or continue on.

All appeared hopeless. In the flicker of an eye, more and more cars arrived and stayed. People, some with umbrellas and some without, bravely emerged from their vehicles and into the wet, sultry stream of what appeared to be an endless soaking.

Visitors gathered in the halls outside the gymnasium wondering if it was going to be held inside.

They were talking about the Gibbs High School Homecoming 2014 ceremonies. A loud crack of thunder and multiple streaks of lightning followed. People's minds shifted from the ceremonies to whether there would be an actual game.

The Gibbs Gladiator Dance Team ran a few drills with their instructor as family members and school staff looked on. The evening was getting late. One more deluge and damp calm fell over the Gibbs campus complex.

It was as if the Gods were saying, "We've negotiated the terms for the rest of the evening and it's going to be all right. The game will go on!"

## The Gibbs Gladiators and



the visiting Clearwater Tornadoes took to the saturated field as the rains were letting up. People emptied out of the Gymnasium Complex to fill the benches behind the Gladiators to cheer them on.

The Gladiator Dance Team and Band filed in one-by one just before half time and took their positions on the southwest side of the bleachers. At the southwest entrance to the football field were the Homecoming participants of 2014 awaiting

their turn to circle the track

During half-time ceremonies with the help of Gibbs ROTC and Principal Stephanie A. Adkinson, Ed.S., Deandre Johnson and Duineshia Latimore were crowned King and Queen of Homecoming Court for 2014.

Despite a gallant effort, the Gibbs Gladiators lost to the Tornados 20-14.

To reach Allen Buchanan,  
email [abuchanan@theweekly-challenger.com](mailto:abuchanan@theweekly-challenger.com)



**KINSHIP SERVICES NETWORK**

*Pinellas - Hillsborough - Pasco*

**Programs of  
The Children's Home Inc.**



**REFERRAL LINE: 1.888.920.8761**

# SUPPORT SERVICES

Kinship Services Network provides relative caregivers with a whole new world of support.

Families receive a thorough in-home assessment to determine family support needs.

The Family Support Coordinator works with the family to link to the services they need such as:

- Public Benefits Application Assistance
- Counseling / Therapy
- Legal Services
- Access to Medical Care
- Mentoring
- Respite Assistance
- Academic Tutoring / Support
- Social / Recreational Activities
- Neighborhood Support
- Transportation
- Vocational Support
- Substance Abuse Treatment

## REFERRAL TO KINSHIP SERVICES NETWORK

### WHO?

Any *Relative Caregiver* may participate in the program. A *Relative Caregiver* may be a grandparent, aunt or uncle, sibling, or even a cousin - any relative caring full-time for a child.

### HOW?

THE REFERRAL PROCESS IS SIMPLE. Call the Kinship Services Intake Line at 1.888.920.8761

### WHAT THEN?

A Family Support Coordinator will contact the *Relative Caregiver* and coordinate the needed support and services with the family. In-home services available.

Pinellas Technical College

# OPEN HOUSE

**St. Pete Campus**  
Wed., Oct. 15  
5:30 - 7 pm  
901 34th St. S.  
St. Petersburg

**Clearwater Campus**  
Tues., Oct. 14  
5:30 - 7 pm  
6100 154th Ave. N.  
Clearwater

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