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VOL. 47 NO. 7

OCTOBER 9 - OCTOBER 15, 2014

50¢



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Copeland celebrates his 44th with the community



Jeff Copeland

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Jeff Copeland humbly greeted hundreds of well-wishers to his birthday bash held at the spacious Club Nova on Martin Luther King Street North last Friday night.

After a tumultuous down pour, just enough time passed for the streets to dry out before Copeland's birthday celebration, attend by over 400 people, got underway.

When people entered the courtyard of Club Nova, the first thing they noticed was Copeland's birthday present from the Flynn Law Family.

"Tonight, this is just a celebration of Jeff and his life," said Attorney James Flynn, Your Southside Lawyer.

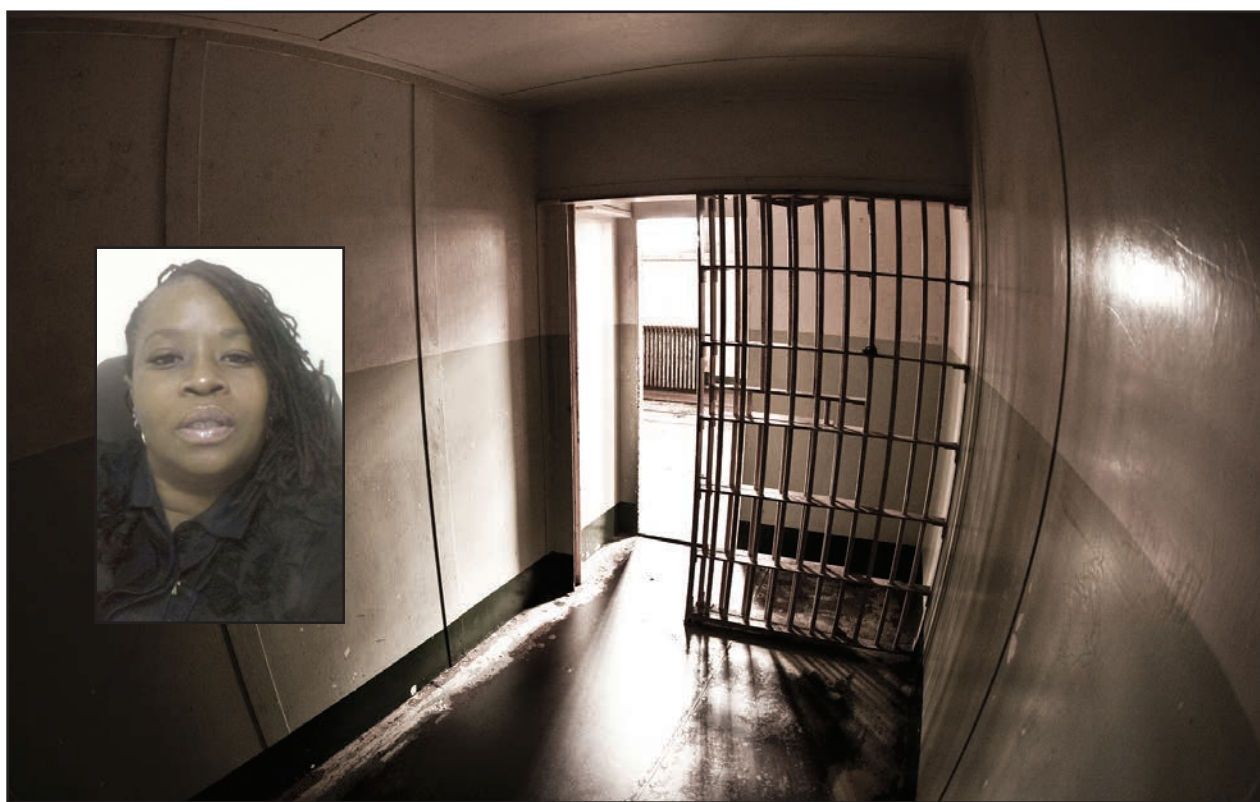
He emphasized that the 2014 Mercedes Benz as a gift was not about business, but it was "100 percent personal because he is a great guy and Flynn and his family wanted to let him know how much he is loved and appreciated.

Flynn described Copeland as one of the most "dedicated

See **BIRTHDAY**, page 4



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While in prison, Monique Baker created a tutoring program and clerked in the law library to stay sane.

Good girl, bad choices: The Monique Baker story

BY FRANK DROUZAS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — For Monique Baker, it's never too late to make the right choices in life. Even if you find yourself facing a 90-year prison sentence.

Though she had a good upbringing and devoured books in her spare time,

she was about 15 when she started hanging around the wrong crowd.

"I started choosing the wrong friends," she said emphatically. "By being a military child, my exposure to different types of people was very limited, and I was a very impressionable and trusting person. I just sort of went with the flow, went

with the crowd. I got caught up into a lot of things and when I decided to make a choice I made a bad choice. And that is what ultimately landed me in prison."

Baker, whose father served in the Air Force, traveled widely in her youth, which exposed her to many different cultures.

Both of her parents attended high school in the St. Pete area, so when her father retired he brought his family back to St. Pete to settle down for good in 1975. Baker attended St. Pete Catholic as a freshman before ultimately graduating from Gibbs High.

See **PERC**, pages 8

Gov. Scott pays visit to Bethel Community

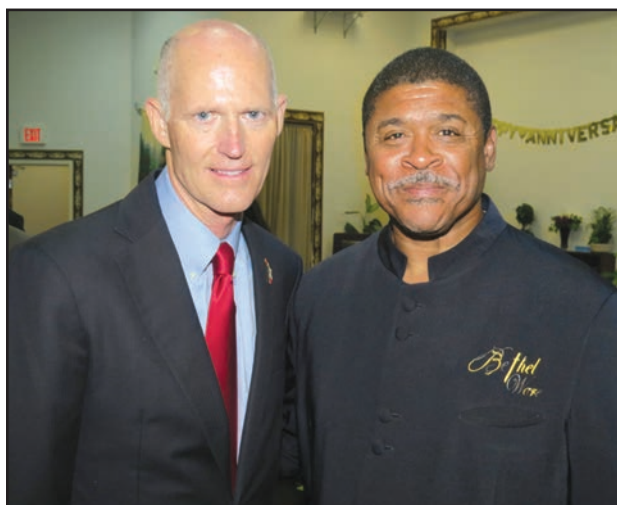
BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — With less than four weeks away from what could be one of the closest gubernatorial elections in Florida history, Governor Rick Scott paid a visit to the congregation of Bethel Community Baptist Church last Sunday. Just two weeks earlier, Charlie Crist had addressed Bethel in his second visit to the church.

"We are just proud to have our Governor with us this morning," said Rev. Dr. Sykes, who gracefully exercised the right of non-partisanship by allowing both the democratic and republican candidates for governor to address his congregation.

Pastor Sykes posed the rhetorical question: "People who know you from the paper or news reports, they really don't know you now do they,"

See **SCOTT**, page 7



Governor Rick Scott and Pastor Manuel Sykes

Breaking chains of abuse



Valerie Miller

BY MARCY PALMERI
Contributor

TAMPA — Although by profession Valerie Miller is a legal secretary III for the Hillsborough County State Attorney's Office for the last 21 years, her real passion is as an advocate and educator for those whose lives are affected by domestic violence.

She is a Certified Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Advocate, is on the Board of Education with the "Are You Safe Organization" and volunteers as a Domestic Violence Educator and Speaker for the organization.

Awarded volunteer of the year with the Are You Safe organization, Miller has decided to once again tackle the difficult topic of domestic violence in her new book "Victorious: Breaking the Chains of Physical, Emotional and Sexual Abuse."

In the book the reader is given advice from Miller, a first-hand survivor of domestic violence, on various aspects of abusive relationships such as the early warning signs and the steps someone should take if they think they are in an abusive situation.

Sat., Oct. 18, Miller will be speaking with the Bruised But Not Broken

See **ABUSE**, page 3

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Call to veterans: Tell the story of your military experience

ST. PETERSBURG — Veterans and their families have a unique chance to tell their communities about what it means to serve.

The acclaimed Telling Project gives veterans and/or family members the chance to go on stage to tell how service affected their lives and attitudes. The performance-based project has been a success in 17 cities in 12 states and now is coming to the Tampa Bay area.

Among goals are to ease veterans' transitions, to allow communities to benefit from the skills and experience the vets bring home, and to foster a level of understanding that will deepen a community's connection to its veterans, to itself, and to its place in the nation and the world.

To register for Telling Tampa Bay, go to www.floridahumanities.org/veterans.



The deadline to register is Nov. 15.

Veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are particularly encouraged.

Those who register will be considered as interviewees for Telling Tampa Bay. Interviewing does not mean a required performance, but many veterans find the process of simply telling their story to be empowering.

Interviews may be followed by training and rehearsals before the staging of five performances in the Tampa Bay area. All stage performances will be free and open to the public and will include an opportunity for the audience to interact with the performers.

For more information, contact Lisa Powers at Lpowers@flahum.org or call her at (917) 822-8710.

Chef Don flips pancakes with a smile!

BY DEXTER MCCREE
Feature Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — On this one Saturday morning, an overcast fill the sky as a ray of sunlight pierced through the waving clouds. A slight breeze fanned through the air as a passerby completed a morning routine of exercise. One after another their paces take them by the church with the sign reading pancake breakfast.

Inside the church building, melted savory butter slowly dripped from the plate of stacked hot-griddled pancakes, peppery Jimmy Dean sausage and crispy end, golden bacon prepared by Chef Don Ketterer. Ice cold, fresh orange juice accompanies the meal along with a hot cup of fresh brewed coffee.

Supporters inside smiled and shared stories of another successful exercise day and the new neighbors who've joined the unofficial exercise club. It's what happens once a month at Trinity United Church of Christ. It's the very thing that puts a smile on Ketterer face.

"I've been cooking every first Saturday for some five or six years," said Ketterer. "We stopped for a while there when we got really slow and people were moving about, but we picked right back up where we left off."

The pancake breakfast held every first Saturday of the month is Ketterer's way of giving back to the community along with his church.

In November, the Pancake Breakfast will include a full garage sale.

"What better way to enjoy the holidays than to have a cleaned out garage, a few dollars in your pocket and hot pancakes with some friends," said Ketterer. "I just really enjoy the fellowship and all the nice people that come around. We do what we can to better the people in the neighborhood."

You can find Ketterer on Sat., Nov. 1 at Trinity UCC and Multicultural Center, 1150 49th St. N. from 8 – noon. He'll be the gentleman with a smile on his face, a spatula in his hand and flipping pancakes on the griddle.

Hopefully, on that Saturday the sun will be shining bright with a cool breeze comfortable enough for a garage sale and some of Chef Don Ketterer's pancakes.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Blast from the past

Natalie Prothro recognized family member Althea Lee Wilson and son Clarence “Butch” Wilson from a circa 1950 photo.



Learn the signs of domestic violence

From **ABUSE**, page 1

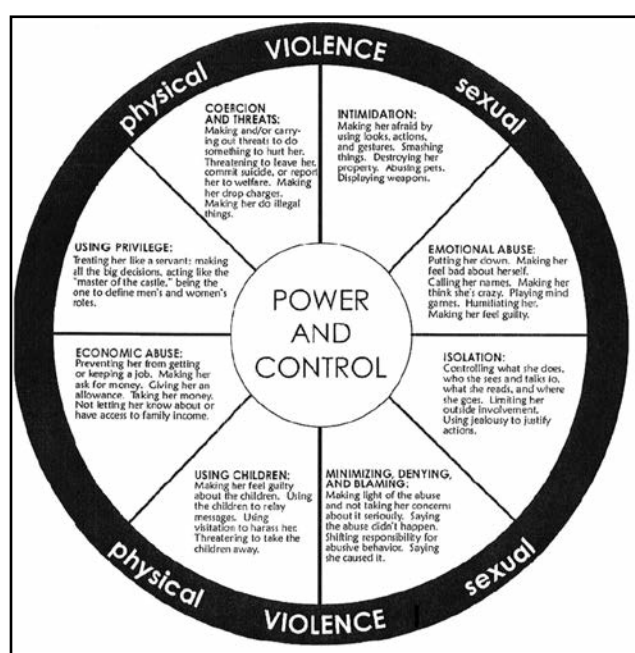
ministry at the Clarion Hotel on Fowler Avenue. The event titled "Till Death Do Us Part" is set to begin at 1:30 p.m. At this upcoming seminar, she plans to cover many aspects of domestic violence, including molestation, sexual abuse and emotional abuse.

Using the information in her new book, along with her past experiences, this survivor is hoping to reach out to teens and men. She is also targeting the tough subject of human trafficking as it pertains to children, teens and adults.

In addition to her volunteer work at churches and teaching at schools, early next year Miller plans to begin doing group sessions on domestic violence. As a newly licensed missionary, she would like to start doing lessons at shelters so she can connect with more victims to help them through this tough time.

Her main mission is to get the point across that if you or someone you know is in a harmful relationship, it is imperative to reach out and seek help.

"There is no shame in seeking help and in disclosing what you are going through. There is hope and help available for everybody, all you have to



do is go out there and ask for it," stated Miller. "If they stay silent, people may not know what is going on. I will tell them to speak out about it and get help."

She went on to say that despite what the abuser in the relationship has programmed you think, you are somebody and you are worth something.

Miller is living proof that you can get out of an abusive relationship and make something of yourself. One of the biggest messages she is trying to convey is that even in a situation as horrible as domestic violence, it is still possible to get out of it and start over.

It may seem nearly impossible while you are staring directly at your problems, but people such as Miller who have been through it all can offer help to those in need. Her seminars can help victims learn how to create a new life for themselves; a life away from the abuse and the horrible memories that may have seemed to take over.

For the cycle of abuse warning signs and more, logon to r-u-safe.org/domestic-violence.

To learn more about Valerie Miller and her triumph over domestic violence, please logon to her website at www.nowlivingvictorious.net

Breaking Free by Faith celebrates 10 years

ST. PETERSBURG – Supporters as well as former and current clients of Breaking Free By Faith Outreach Ministries, Inc. gathered to celebrate with founders Ernest and Dr. Clarissa Hersey-James the tenth anniversary of the not for profit organization last month at the Enoch Davis Center.

With the need for transitional housing for homeless people with substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health issues and those being released from jail or prison so great, St. Petersburg is blessed with the Jameses and their ministry.

Established in 2004, Breaking Free provides shelter, transitional, affordable/permanent housing to help them transition back into society and work toward self-sufficiency. Since then, the organization has served over 1,500 individuals for a total of 32,000 shelters day and night stays.

Well over 100 people were in attendance to show true love and support for all the hard work and dedication to the cause of Breaking Free by Faith Outreach Ministries, Inc., which is synonymous with the labor of love of the birth parents of the organization.

A big thanks to all the sponsors, Southside Accident and Rehab, Peyton Lacy with St. Pete MRI and Attorney Nicholas M.



Ernest and Dr. Clarissa Hersey-James

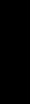
Athanason, who did not shy away and donated so that the event could be enjoyed and celebrated on a grand scale.

The event was prepared and hosted by the population of the ministry. Master ceremony Darius Wilson show up and out for the event, and the keynote speaker of the night was Bonnie Marshall, Residential Director for CASA.

Two leadership awards were given out during the evening. The first one went to Kenold Lucien, in celebration of Zachary John-

son's life, and the second was the Man of Courage Award, which went to Stephen Hersey, who served in the US Navy, in honor of Jesse Abrams' life.

The event was a huge success thanks in part to the event coordinator Susan Canty, the organizers as well as the sponsors, who all cannot wait to do it all over again next year. Be sure not to miss it as it will leave you with such beautiful memories of a great evening with great friends celebrating life.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

A birthday to remember

From *BIRTHDAY*, page 1

people we have in the community.”

“He’s been an active force in my law firm to make sure that we stay connected to the community not just in words but in action,” said Flynn.

The attorney talked about Copeland’s major role in the 500 turkey giveaway and the Fall Family Festival last year. This year Copeland

plans to give away a thousand turkeys to be accompanied by a concert next month.

Flynn sees the E-Class 350 Mercedes as only a symbolic token of friendship that has evolved into a brotherly relationship.

People from all walks of life attended and enjoyed Copeland’s birthday party

late into the early morning hours. Probably one of the most endearing qualities Copeland, the executive director of the Pinellas County Southern Christian Leadership Conference, is his ability to fade into the background as if the party was not about him but about the community he serves without flamboyant fan-fair.



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COMMUNITY NEWS



General Election November 4, 2014

Five things you need to know to be election ready –

1. **Voter Registration Deadline – October 6**
2. **All voters can vote by mail.** All eligible mail ballots are included in final election results. To vote at your convenience, request a mail ballot by visiting www.voteinellas.com or by calling (727) 464-VOTE (8683). Ballots can be returned by mail or dropped off at any drop-off location, but must be received by 7 p.m. Election Day.
3. **Early Voting has new days, hours & locations.**

NEW Days and Hours (Varies by County)
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Locations - Supervisor of Elections Offices:
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501 1st Ave. N., St. Petersburg

NEW Additional Locations:
Centre of Palm Harbor, 1500 16th St., Palm Harbor
Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th St. S, Gulfport
4. On Election Day, **voters must vote in the precincts in which they live.** Precinct, voting districts and polling place information can be found on your current voter information card or online by selecting “Find Your Precinct” at www.voteinellas.com.
5. To avoid delays, **bring photo and signature ID** to the polls and make sure the Elections Office has your current name, address and signature.



Deborah Clark
Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections



COMMUNITY NEWS

POC 50th year commemorative breakfast

ST. PETERSBURG — The 50th Year Commemorative Breakfast celebrating the “War on Poverty” was held last month at the First Baptist Church of St. Petersburg.

The event was a huge success in celebrating this momentous occasion, providing greater public awareness of Pinellas Opportunity Council Inc. (POC) and the many services they offer and the life changing impact that their programs have on program participants.

Kelly Ring from Fox 13 WTVT News served as mistress of ceremonies. Those in attendance included elected officials/representatives, community partners, business sponsors, vendors, funding sources, former program participants, former employees, board of directors and staff.

The “Community Action Partnership Award” was presented to the Young Professional Network for their donations, partnership and sponsorships to assist those in need. During the past four years, this organization has donated more than \$40,000 in goods and services, and over 300 hours of volunteer time to assist families with Thanksgiving dinners and youth with back-to-school supplies and clothing.

Greetings were delivered by Dr. Linda Hogans, president of POC board of directors. Carl Lavender, Capacity Building Consultant, did an excellent job of soliciting donations from the audience.

Testimonials were provided by Evelyn Madera, a previous Family Develop-

ment/Self-Sufficiency Program participant, who while enrolled in the program, earned an Associate Degree from St. Petersburg College and is presently working at SPC and Shavell Martin, an honor student in the Pinellas Park High School, Criminal Justice Academy and former participant in the POC Youth Development Program. Each shared how enrollment in these POC programs created such a positive impact on their lives.

January 8 of this year marked the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s State of the Union address calling on the nation to launch an “unconditional war on poverty.” The War on Poverty put in place an essential society safety net that has helped keep millions of people out of poverty. This safety net included many vital programs such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Head Start, Pell Grants and nutrition assistance.

Community Action was born at the enactment of the Economic Opportunity Act (EOA) of 1964, which created the new community-based organizations called Community Action Agencies (CAAs). There are 1,100 local CAA’s throughout the country (30 in Florida).

The POC, created in 1968, is the private, non-profit Community Action Agency serving Pinellas County. Over the years POC has been instrumental in establishing several other organizations and programs which help address the needs of low-income and elderly resi-

dents in Pinellas County, including: Gulfcoast Legal Services, Pinellas County Urban League, Mobile Geriatric Dental Unit, St. Petersburg Economic Development Corporation and Jamestown and Tarpon Springs Day Care Centers.

From 1968 – 2012, POC was the grantee for the Head Start/Early Head Start programs in Pinellas County. In 1978, POC established and helped operate a low-income credit union, the POC Federal Credit Union, which was merged with the Pinellas Federal Credit Union in 2011.

Programs currently operated by POC include: Emergency Financial Assistance, Youth Development/Employment, Family Self-Sufficiency, Life Skills Training, Small Business Start-up, Individual Development Accounts, Emergency Home Energy Assistance for the Elderly (EHEAP), Chore Services and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program.

Carolyn W. King, POC’s executive director, has served in her current capacity since March 2012. Prior to becoming executive director, she served POC as director of administration, managing the accounting and human resources departments for 36 years.

King is excited about the opportunity to guide the agency into the future building upon POC’s already established history of service delivery with demonstrated tangible outcomes.

While much work has been done, there is still

much to do to eradicate poverty in Pinellas County. They are thankful for the community and the many partnerships that assist them in this effort.

The POC continues their commitment to ensure that those persons they were chartered to serve continue to receive vital and essential services.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Scott stumping for the black vote

From **SCOTT**, page 1

asked Pastor Sykes.

The pastor saw Gov. Scott's visit as an opportunity for the Bethel membership to get a firsthand view and insight into the man behind the political persona. The standing room only congregation stood as Gov. Scott approached the podium.

"I grew up in a Methodist church and my wife in a Baptist church," said Gov. Scott in his opening remarks.

The governor shared that he and his wife got married in a Baptist church because that's what his wife said to do and that's how they have been able to stay married.

Gov. Scott shared the rules that his strong, single mother laid out for him to follow. "I was going to the Methodist church every Sunday, be an Eagle Scout, get straight A's, or face a yard stick."

The governor shared that he and his wife got married at 19 years old and have two daughters, 29 and 32 years old. "We've been

blessed, God has blessed me," said the grandfather of three boys.

"I've never forgotten my roots that Jesus Christ is my savior, so what I try to do today is help people get jobs. That's what helped me find my way," he said.

Gov. Scott grew up in public housing in Illinois, so his track in life epitomizes what happens to a highly driven man determined to pull himself up by the bootstraps and define and redefine his life's mission.

He stated that the biggest thing he has been trying to do is to help people get jobs because that's what helped him in his life. He shared that there are currently over 273,000 state jobs that need to be filled. He gave the name and number of the following person to contact if someone was in need of a job: Chris Hart at 850-410-2315.

"My hope is that we don't go to the polls and decide that just because there's a 'D' or a 'R' by the name that's who I'm going to vote for...but get to

know the person behind the letter first," said Pastor Sykes, referring to the straight party line voting that has been commonplace in many African-American communities.

At the end of service, Gov. Scott greeted and took pictures with many members, young and old, from the Bethel Community church family. A lot of choices in this election could be made at the last minute as people replay

what they have heard, what they have not heard and what may have been inferred by both Gov. Rick Scott and former Gov. Charlie Crist.

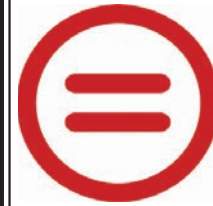
Whatever choice you make, make sure the Civil Rights Movement was not in vain by exercising your right to vote on Tues., Nov. 4.

To reach Allen Buchanan, email abuchanan@theweekly-challenger.com



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Courtesy of



**Pinellas County
Urban League**

Saturday, October 11 - Sistahs of Compassion Supporting Cancer Survivors, Inc. is hosting a community yard sale from 8 am -2 pm. Location donated by Dr. Frogue's Hair Salon, 2535 MLK Jr. Street South (corner 9th Street & 26th Ave South). 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 \$6.00 with your choice of...fish, grits and beverage....or fish sandwich, desert and beverage reserve your Space! Please call or text 727-455-7827

Saturday, October 18 -- Step back in time at the old fashioned festival and farmer's market from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Pinellas Pioneer Settlement, 2900 31st St. So. gate #2. \$5 activity wristband includes: old fashioned hayrides, games, candle making, butter making and crafts. Pumpkins for sale, craft show, farmers market and more. Free Admission, donations accepted. Proceeds benefit the Pinellas Pioneer Settlement. For more information on Boyd Hill Nature Preserve programs, services and programs see our website stpeteparksrec.org/boyd-hill-pioneer-settlement or call 727-893-7326.

Friday & Saturday, October 24 & 25 -- Join the fun at Howl-O-Fest 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Boyd Hill Environmental Studies Area, 2900 31 Street South. Visit the festive trick or treat cabins with free goodies for all participants. Trick or treat bags provided. Activities include inflatable games, a climbing rock wall, arts & crafts, \$1 hay rides, a \$1 Kids Frozen Trail, and a \$1 spooky trail to entertain children of all ages. Live dance show performances featuring Competitive Edge Dance Company. Carnival style concessions available for purchase. Admission \$5/person. Proceeds benefit City of St. Petersburg TASCO Teen Programs. For more details call 727-893-7813

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COMMUNITY NEWS

PERC is presenting their 18th Annual Showcase of Services Mon., Oct. 20

From **PERC**, page 1

Baker said when she started hanging out with some bad apples as a teen things began to escalate. They skipped school, so she skipped with them. They committed petty thefts, so she started stealing, too.

“Little crazy things,” she explained. “Going into the 7-11 and walking out with a soda or a pair of sunglasses, things like that.”

What started off as petty crimes in time escalated until 1989, when Baker was arrested for cocaine trafficking. She was sentenced to a staggering 90-year term.

“That was kind of a mind-blowing thing,” she admitted. “I was surrounded by a lot of people with a lot of time.”

To hold on to her sanity, Baker decided that she had to stay active. She chose the inmates she wanted to emulate, the ones that “still had life in them.” She saw that they participated in programs, took classes—above all, they stayed busy. She decided she would do the same.

“That’s what I began to do,” Baker said. “I created a tutoring program. I was a clerk in the law library—I always stayed in a position where I was doing positive things. And I think that contributed a lot to my clemency. Not that I was perfect, because I had my bumps in prison as well. But I always strove to do better and they saw the progress and the growth in me.”

She was also in an arts program where she and others tried their hands at drawing, writing, singing, performing skits and other types of creative outlets.

“It was very instrumental in helping me maintain my

sanity and working through the issues that I had,” she said.

Eventually her original sentence was reduced to 35 years as Baker served time in a number of state facilities, including Broward Correctional Institution, Jefferson Correctional and Hillsborough Correctional, where she received her clemency.

“I know this sounds crazy but the minute I filed my clemency I knew it was going to happen,” Baker said. “I just knew it was going to happen. People used to look at me like I was crazy. I had my hearing on the ninth and I went home on the 10th.”

When Baker was called in to the administration building at Hillsborough Correctional, her fellow inmates were waiting for her to come out with good news. When she told them she was going home the next day they all erupted in cheers, Baker said.

“They displayed more emotion than I did at that time!” she said, laughing. “I had already given away all my stuff; I was just so sure I was going home!”

After spending two decades behind bars, Baker was released in December 2010, only days away from her 51st birthday. She called it the best birthday present of her life. Once again a free woman, she was able to enjoy life’s simple pleasures, great and small. She said she had really missed her privacy.

“The other thing I missed was being able to go to the refrigerator!” she said, laughing. “Little things, you know? Waking up in the middle of the night really thirsty and just having a taste for

some orange juice or Kool-Aid or something and not being able to get it? That was traumatic for me!”

Baker knows how hard it can be for some ex-prisoners to re-integrate into society, and now works as a job developer with the Pinellas Ex-Offender Re-Entry Coalition (PERC).

“I work with felons and people with misdemeanors who have a hard time re-integrating, getting a job, finding housing, a lot of the basic things that people take for granted,” she explained. “It can become very difficult when you have that conviction on your record because they run background checks. They may not want to rent you places to stay—it just becomes difficult.”

Baker will be at PERC’s 18th annual Showcase of Services Oct. 20 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the St. Pete campus of Pinellas Technical College. The event, which is free and open to the public, will have over 40 service agencies on hand to offer assistance to ex-offenders and their families. The agencies will provide such resources as resume help, identification assistance, employment assistance, voter registration and legal assistance, among many others.

Patti Razor, who has been with PERC since 1992, said that there will be ex-offenders present and also parents of incarcerated children to offer support to those who are struggling.

“We offer to those who want the opportunity at a second chance to be law-abiding and contributing members of our community,” Razor said.

Razor, who was also



Coming Home: Showcase of Services for the Ex-Offender

The Pinellas Ex-Offender Re-Entry Coalition (PERC) is presenting their 18th Annual Showcase of Services Monday, October 20 from 9–2 p.m. at Pinellas Technical College, St. Pete Campus (formerly known as pTEC).

This event is **FREE** and open to the public. More than 40 social service agencies will be there and some of the resources that will be available are:

- Educational Assistance
- Mobile Medical Unit
- Information and Referral
- Resume Help
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Voter Registration
- Clothing Referrals
- Identification Assistance
- Employment Assistance
- And much, much more!!

Pinellas Technical College (formerly known as pTEC)
901 34th St. S., St. Petersburg

For more information please call or email:

Cheryl Kerr	(727) 341-3736	email: kerr.cheryl@spcollege.edu
Heidi Hagedorn Sumner	(727) 344-1611 ext. 414	email: has@dosp.org
Patti Razor	(813) 233-2530	email: pattirazor@fpc.state.fl.us
PERC	(855) 505-7372	

Website: www.exoffender.org

In partnership with Representative Darryl Rouson, Westcare of Florida, & Goodwill Industries

Baker’s probation officer at one time and first met her almost 30 years ago, believes Baker is an ideal role model for newly released offenders.

“Since her release, Monique has made a successful transition back home,” Razor averred. “She has not only set priorities for herself but is continually reaching out to those that want to turn their lives around.”

Baker makes time to speak to young people at

seminars, in churches or wherever she can get her message across. And her message is always the same.

“You always have a choice,” she said simply. “And if you make a bad choice, you can always change your mind and make another choice. No matter what it is that you’re going through, don’t keep it to yourself, don’t feel intimidated, don’t feel like it’s a hopeless situation and

there’s nothing that can be done. There’s always somebody you can talk to, somebody who will help.”

Pinellas Technical College in St. Pete is located at 901 34th Street South. For more information on the PERC showcase, call PERC at (855) 505-7372, Patti Razor at (813) 233-2530 or email pattirazor@fpc.state.fl.us.

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



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- Social / Recreational Activities
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- Transportation
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- 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.
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Clearwater Campus
Tues., Oct. 14
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COMMUNITY NEWS

New life on the Deuces!

ST. PETERSBURG — The Deuces Live, Inc. continued with their revitalization efforts of 22nd Street South with the grand re-opening celebration of the Sunday Market last Sun., Oct. 5.

Local vendors showcased and sold their products including hats, shoes, jewelry, African soaps and oils, hot food, fresh vegetables and baked goods, while the soulful music from Relentless Groove, the live band performing in the background, created a fun community atmosphere.

There was also a ribbon cutting ceremony for PSTA's Route 7, which will aid in efforts to bring potential consumers to the Deuces via public transit. PSTA provided educational materials about the Greenlight Pinellas initiative that will be on the ballot for vote on November 4.

Greenlight Pinellas will swap the current property tax with a one percent sales tax to increase funding for the transit authority. Increased funding will allow the bus service to significantly improve and increase by approximately 65 percent, creating more jobs and better access to employment opportunities, education and healthcare.

The Deuces Live, Inc. has worked tirelessly to create a vibrant community that will attract businesses and consumers locally as well as preserve the history of this great community. The event on Sunday proved they're off to a great start.



Be sure to stop by the market next Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. at the corner of 22nd Street South and 9th Avenue so you can join in on the fun!

For more information, please visit www.deuceslive.org or www.greenlight-pinellas.com.



Campbell Park Elementary School inductees

ST. PETERSBURG — Campbell Park Elementary School is pleased to announce the 2014-15 Girlfriends inductees. Fifty-eight third, fourth and fifth grade students were inducted into the Girlfriends Program on Fri., Oct. 3.

The Girlfriends Program was created to inspire confidence, to exemplify leadership and to instill the value of sisterhood in young ladies.

In a beautiful ceremony organized by Bettie Mack, president of Girlfriends at Campbell Park,

Nikki Gaskin-Capehart, director of Urban Affairs for the City of St. Petersburg and 22 mentors from Campbell Park Elementary.

The young ladies received certificates and pearl necklaces, which began their journey into Girlfriends. A full meal was provided by Olive Garden and photography by Tara Noble, a Pinellas Technical College student.

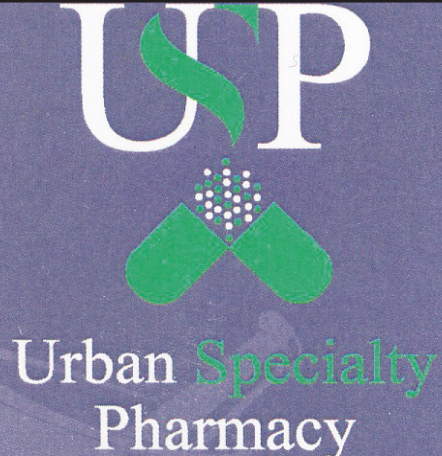
This is the start of a new year of mentoring for the girls that will include field trips in the commu-

nity and support from outstanding women leaders in the community. They will also participate in service learning projects in their neighborhoods.

The young ladies will have their first community presentation Oct. 30 by Raymond James Financial institute to discuss the importance of saving.

If you would like to mentor and volunteer to help with these 58 young ladies please contact Bettie Mack at (727) 893-2650 or Mackb@pcsb.org





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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



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CHURCH DIRECTORY




955 20th Street South • St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 894-4311
Email: info@mzprogressive.org
Website: www.mzprogressive.org

Sunday Worship Services7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Mid-Day Bible StudyNoon - 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.

Youth Chapel Services - 921 20th Street South
2nd & 4th Sunday Worship Services.....10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer6:00 p.m.
Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.

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



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Senior Pastor

First Baptist Institutional Church
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Phone: 727-323-7518

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Praise Time 10:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
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Prayer Service & Bible Study 7 p.m.

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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.

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Church 727-327-9904
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SERVICE SCHEDULE
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and Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Power hour of Prayer
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Bro. Robert Smith

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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.

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Pastor Clark Hazley, Jr.

Mission Statement
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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.
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Wednesday Evening Prayer6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study7:30 p.m.

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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

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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



Dr. John A. Evans, Pastor

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

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

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- New Partners Fellowship Sunday, 9 a.m.
- Sunday Morning Live, 10 a.m.
- Word Power Thursday, 7 p.m.

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

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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

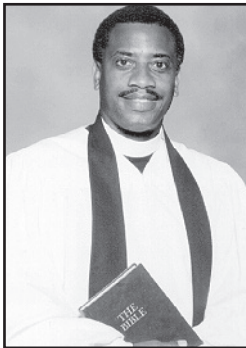
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8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:10 a.m. Breakfast (First Sunday only)
9:30 a.m. Sunday School (First Sunday Only)
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. / Devotion 10:15 a.m.
Praise & Worship 10:20 a.m. / Worship Services 10:30 a.m.
Saints of Prayer - Monday 12:00 noon
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Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.
Pastor

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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, an invitation to join us as we celebrate our 83rd church anniversary. Our theme is The Covenant... 83 Years: God is Still Faithful (Hebrews 8: 10-12). Our celebration begins with Family and Friends Day at St. Mark on Sun., Oct. 12, as part of the 10:45 a.m. worship service. Highlights for the kickoff service include "The Glory Train Skit" and an ice cream social afterwards in the Fellowship Hall. Nightly services are being held Oct. 15-17 at 7. with Anniversary Finale Services at 10:45 a.m. on Sun., Oct. 19. We invite the larger community to join in celebrating 83 years of the favor of God with us.

Events for Oct.
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:
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 to come.
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 out and join us.

Young Adult Ministry (YAMS) Every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

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.

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.

Six weeks of faith-building teaching. "How Faith Works"

Bishop Nathan Taylor is a former Lakewood HS grad, and is returning to the area to build the faith of all believers.

"I believe God has given faith to every person, whether it be natural or spiritual." His assignment is to teach people how to unleash that ability to get positive results in their lives.

"When you discover what you have and how to use it for the ultimate breakthrough and learn how to release that power on a consistent basis, you will conquer your world, and, even defeat Satan on behalf of others."

Meet Bishop Taylor every Wed. night at 7:30p.m. and Sun. night at 7:30p.m. at Faith Deliv-

erance Church 1700 Prescott St S. St. Petersburg. Your life will never be the same.

"God has been equipping me for over 30 years for such a time as this. This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith."

For more info: 813.420.0892

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

The Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, the Pastor, Dr. John A. Evans, Sr., Official Family 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. The Ship is taking up its anchor as we prepare to set sail in the month of October. Please feel free to come aboard as we venture out spreading the mighty word of God. Want to stay close to home, join us at the Church throughout the week for our 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 jointly every Wednesday at 7 p.m., something special for every child, learning about God while having fun. The Bread of Life Ministry is providing a needed service to our Senior and Disabled members,

volunteers are still needed, please see Sister Renetta Williams for further information. The Clothing Pantry will now be opened every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, from 9 a.m. to noon. Donations of gently used men and women business attire are needed. Continue to pray for our sick, shut-in, children, men/women in uniform, and bereaved families.

Month of October: CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY BEGINS/BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Oct. 11- The Susan B. Komen "Race for the Cure," Breast Cancer Run. The Race will begin at 8 a.m., from Carillon Park. Further information, contact Min. 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, Designated Choir, Ushers and Congregation will be ready to Celebrate Rev. Clarence A. Williams, 15th Pastoral Anniversary.

Oct. 18 - Noon -Youth Explosion Rehearsal will be held in Bradenton, FL

Oct. 19 - Both Services-Singles Consecration & Recognition Sunday-Must Register for Din-

ner. 3 p.m. - Join Friendship, Pastor Evans, Designated Choir, Ushers & Congregation, as we fellowship with: New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, 1715 18th Ave. S., the Ministers Wives Women in Red Celebration. Ministers Wives please come dressed in "RED."

Oct. 22 - 11 a.m. -The West Coast AME District Conference Annual Session, held at the Downtown Hilton Hotel, Pastor Evans the Keynote Preacher will deliver the Ecumenical Message.

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH? Call our Transportation Ministry - (727) 906-8300 and PRESS 2

Thought for the Week: No matter how great you think your drama is, remember GOD is Drama Free.

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. S., St. Petersburg, Florida 33712 Church Office: (727) 906-8300 Visit Friendship's Website: www.fmbctheship.net E-Mail: fmbc3300@verizon.net

Also Visit West Coast Baptist Association Website: www.expericencethecoast.com

First Mt. Zion

The First Mt. Zion Unity Day Committee presents their annual "100 Men and Women in Black and White" program. Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, Largo, FL with the Reverend Jerry Booker and his congregation will be in charge. All are invited to come out in your black and white to join in this spiritual celebration. The service will take place on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 12 at 3 pm.



Pastor's Corner

BY PASTOR SARAH EDWARDS

Visible Voices Christian

Community Association

A mind is a terrible thing to waste

We are all becoming. We have not arrived yet; but we're becoming whatever we think about and how we allow our thoughts to be translated into reasoning out our conclusions.

Our imagination propels our prepositions forward into our consciousness. In return, what we presuppose guides how we perceive what is true.

Most children enter the final stage of prepositional reasoning about 12 years of age. They acquire the ability to reason about two or more related things and understand that words or statements can have different meanings depending on the context it's used with. Yet, we have no less than two generations of grown folks attempting to lead whoever is willing to appoint them as their significant leader and follow them without question. Now, that's amazing!

Can you confess: "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put away childish things." [1 Corinthians 13:11]

If you cannot, perhaps it's because the saying "your truth may not be my truth" took on wings of an eagle and infiltrated minds whose cognitive development had not been fully formed. This false dichotomy has circulated for so long and became so popular even the saints started to believe

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 Rev-

erend 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.

Therein is the heart of artists and development of denominational churches. Whenever the blind leads, it must be through self-deception and lies. Both the leader and those following will fall like dominos. [Matthew 15:11-20]

Our great God so deeply desires that we all reason with Him [Isaiah 1:18]. God created every human being the same. As a spirit housed in an earth suit we call our body and He chooses its exterior color, size and shape. We were given a soul that He breath into and caused it to become alive.

Yet, many are still spending more time and efforts on their personal home improvement projects (their house/body). Covering it with brand name clothes, other people's hair and painting artistic expressions around the windows of our soul (our eyes).

Others misplace the worth of the natural educational knowledge they have achieved. Not realizing that no student can learn more than what their professor knows. Some have more degrees than a thermometer then adopt them as truth. The intellectual accomplishments they have acquired elevates their thoughts that they've a gain greater grasp of understanding life.

However, from God our creator's perspective we being created a spirit after His image/character and likeness/

nature where our true value resides. If one's cognitive prepositional reasoning have not been properly acquired while they were a child, once they have become an adult they still think, talk and reason like a child regardless of their age or being born again. They cannot understand those who have received the manifestation of the spirit-mind of Jesus Christ working through them.

Jesus commissioned His students to win the souls of people! Not win people because they were rich, pretty or intellectual giants, but rather by reasoning with their minds. Have you ever seen a mind? What color is a mind? What gender is a mind? Do you not know our mind is where God spirit lives?

That is where the "philo"-brotherly kind of love lives in everyone born of woman. Yet, they have the proclivity to love everybody and still be hateful, mean, evil, prejudice and deceitful. Don't you know that to whom you present yourselves as servants, you shall obey whether of sin to death or of obedience to righteousness? [Romans 6:16]

Indeed! The mind is a terrible thing to waste. Only when someone is baptized into the Holy Spirit of God can they fill themselves up in God's "agape" kind of love. You then are no longer treated as a slave or Jesus younger sibling - God will call you His friend!

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church

Bethel Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, "God's House to the City," under the leadership of Dr. Rickey L. Houston extends an invitation to the community to join us as we declare the living Word of God. Join us at 9 a.m. for Sunday School and at 10:15 a.m. worship service. Bible Study and Teen Summit/Children Rising are held on Wednesday evening, at 7 p.m.

We cultivate the fullest spiritual life possible both indi-

vidually and corporately; and we communicate God's truth at every opportunity. Building a Stronger Congregation and Community to the Glory of God. Living out these principles results in a kaleidoscope of ministries for all ages and interests. We also encourage the community to make use of our Prayer Line. (727-321-9645)

Bethel Metropolitan is looking forward to sharing e in the celebration of Mt Sinai Baptist Church 35th Anniver-

sary on Sun., Oct. 19 at 4 p.m. The Mass Choir Male Ministry Ushers will serve.

Upcoming events for Oct.: 26 - Usher's Ministry Anniversary 31st - Harvest Fest

"Maintaining the Faith to Trust the Unseen in 2014" Hebrews 11: 1, 6 II Corinthians 4:1

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Email: bcchurch5@tampabay.rr.com Website: www.bnmmbc.org



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