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Act F.A.S.T. for stroke



Dr. Charlie W. Colquitt

ST. PETERSBURG — Stroke is a leading cause of death in the United States, killing 130,000 Americans each year. One out of every 20 deaths can be attributed to a stroke making it a top five disease state killer.

Every 40 seconds someone has a stroke, and every four minutes someone dies of one. Strokes disproportionately affect African Americans at a higher rate than their white counterparts. A higher percent of black women (39 percent) died of stroke before age 75 compared with white women (17.3 percent) as did black men (60.7 percent) compared to white men (31.1 percent).

Stroke is a leading cause of disability and reduces mobility in more than half of stroke survivors age 65 and over.

There are three types of strokes: ischemic, hemorrhagic and transient ischemic attacks (TIAs). Most strokes (85 percent) are ischemic strokes, the arteries that supply the brain become block by a blood clot.

Hemorrhagic strokes occur when an artery in the brain breaks open. TIAs, or mini strokes, are also

See **STROKE**, page 7



The 7th Annual Naomi and Titus 2 Covenant Alliance Recognition Brunch was held Sat., May 9 at the Vinoy Renaissance Resort.

2015 Naomi Red Carpet Recognition Brunch

BY HOLLY KESTENIS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — It was the 7th Annual “Just For You Day,” at the Naomi Red Carpet Recognition Brunch held at the Vinoy Renaissance Resort, located at 501 5th Ave. N.E. The theme: “A Woman of Noble Character,” where 23 women were honored for their noble contributions to the community.

Women in their best

clothes and hair done just right were treated to a morning of appreciation for their selfless sacrifices. Whether someone’s mother, friend or even a mentor, these seasoned women have spent countless hours of their lives in the service of others. For the seventh year in a row, worthy women were treated to good food, inspirational talk and a myriad of gifts as a small thank you.

Ruth Johnson and Jaida Taylor-Herring both served as Mistresses of Ceremonies, and kept the program moving with their loving personalities and anointed spirit.

“Everybody is somebody else’s mother,” Johnson said as she addressed the gathered admirers urging them to remember that although we set aside one day a year to honor those women in our lives that

mothers give of themselves year round.

Organized by the Naomi and Titus 2 Covenant Alliance (NT2CA) that was established in 2009, the morning’s activities reinforced the mission of restoring aged women to the position of being teachers in the community. Naomis are encouraged to recommit to fulfilling God’s mandate and reestablishing

See **NAOMI**, pages 8

The El-Amin of style

BY FRANK DROUZAS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Dressed in a mustard-colored shirt, stylish tie and a round, spiffy hat, Badr El-Amin stood next to Stanley Wright at the store mirror as they both admired the smart, summer hat Wright was sporting. El-Amin, the owner of El’s Menswear, voiced his approval of how well the hat looked on customer Wright.

“Look at that!” he said, breaking the quiet in the small shop on Central Av-

enue.

Wright grinned as he looked at his reflection, first turning his head right then left. His smile said he liked what he saw. After having spent some time with Wright perusing a catalog for shirts to order, El-Amin wasn’t done. He is always willing to suggest that something extra to round out an outfit.

Among the rock and roll boutiques, hipster beer joints and gritty band ven-

See **MENSWEAR**, page 4



Stanley Wright, left, and Badr El-Amin

My Daughter’s Keeper



Donna Welch

BY JOYCE NANETTE JOHNSON
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The world of young black girls can sometimes be a minefield to navigate through. It is a world that can spin out of control with substance abuse, teen pregnancy, the staggering statistics of absentee fathers and low self-esteem.

Many of the responsibilities for raising these girls are left to either the mothers or family members that have been thrown into the roll of a substitute caregiver.

These caregivers, who are attempting to communicate with the girls, are sometimes saddled with their own past demons and inadequacies. Some of them have issues such as previous sexual abuse and relationship problems that are still impacting their own lives and now the lives of the girls.

My Daughter’s Keeper (MDK) is the brainchild of Donna Welch, who launched the program back in 2008 to provide a safe haven for young ladies to express themselves while offering a lifeline of assistance to help to their anxious caregivers.

They presently have 25 young girls who meet weekly to voice their concerns in their own words. Words that are filled with

See **DAUGHTER**, page 12

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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

Get it together, together

Praise the Lord Saints.

All I have to say this week is if you don't have you one like I do, just keep looking.

Sisters are the backbone of many, if not all, churches in our communities, and are very spiritually in tune. They are here to help us knuckleheads mellow out from time to time.

I hope you all had a wonderful Mother's Day.

I was talking to a young brother and he seems to feel that he has to get "all his ducks lined up" before making his fiancé his wife. Although she wanted to be his beautiful bride years ago, he is postponing it because he feels he's not ready.

Truth be told, not many are ever truly 100 percent ready for a lifelong commitment, and if you have someone that isn't as concerned about you getting "everything" together, make the date and let God take care of the particulars.

I told him to ask her how she felt, if it doesn't matter to her, you are doing her a disservice by telling her wait until you get everything together. Satan might not ever let you think everything is together and you could miss out on the best thing to ever happen to you. Have her help you get it together, together.

The family is the first unit Satan attempts to disrupt. If he can divide or make it unstable, then he can begin to tear it apart.

God created three unions or relationships when he decided to create man. The first was between Him and man; the second was between man and woman and finally parents with children. Once He created and established each of these, He then proceeded to set boundaries and rules whereby each is to be formed and built. Once the foundation had been established, it was then up to us to fulfill and replicate what was set forth.

When we decide to step outside the boundaries, which had been established by God Himself, chaos, deceit, malice, division and a bucket load of other issues are ushered in and ultimately relationships are dissolved, usually on bad and sometimes irreparable conditions.

Once the order is reestablished, then and only then can we begin to recondition or create a paradigm shift towards repairing this mess Satan has so masterfully orchestrated.

Getting in front of a microphone or camera and yelling with anger in your tone only ensures the right people will tune you out and label you as hostile and unapproachable.

I have associations with so many good folks that mean well for this community, neighborhood and city as a whole. The problem or issue is, they can't stand each other and I'm caught in the middle. I guess God has placed me here because I don't have no nickel in this quarter or no horse in this race, but he has given me the solution. Once I'm able to reestablish the channels of communication between these folks, then rebuild the bridge with love, this city will begin to mend its wounds.

I guess I need to run for office soon. If I pull this one off, I should be a shoe in. I'm just wondering sometimes if it is worth it, but since God has me on this path, it doesn't matter what I think or feel.

Grown folks fighting like cats and dogs,

and they all want the same thing but feel the others aren't doing anything but helping themselves and when they get into positions to do the greatest work, some feel they turn their backs on their people and the very ones that put them in those positions.

There are more issues than most know and with the help of the Lord, I will do my very best to squash them all and bring harmony.

A Virtuous Woman (Proverbs 31: 10-31)

10 Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.

11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

13 She seeketh wool and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household and a portion to her maidens.

16 She considereth a field and buyeth it; with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

18 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good; her candle goeth not out by night.

19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.

23 Her husband is known at the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

24 She maketh fine linen and selleth it, and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

25 Strength and honor are her clothing, and she shall rejoice in time to come.

26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.

27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

28 Her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her:

29 "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all."

30 Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman who feareth the Lord, she shall be praised!

31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her at the gates.

Till next week,
God Bless and keep Us All.
Rev. Dr. Rob Harrison, PhD – pastorrobharrison@gmail.com, @drrobharrison
Chaplain - Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Pinellas
The Apostolic Open Door Church of God & True Holiness - 2800 41st Ave. N, St. Pete
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Definition of a thug

Dear Editor,

Within the last couple of weeks President Obama and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake took some heat for their use of the word "thug" in describing some of the actions of individuals who chose to make a mockery out of the protests centered on the murder of Freddie Gray.

Many conservative news outlets and even liberal journalist such as Don Lemon attempted to somehow take President Obama's and Mayor Rawlings-Blake's use of the word as insensitive to the cause and struggle of those who chose to use Gray's death as an opportunity to exercise their free will to burn buildings, loot business and throw bricks at police.

Through the rhetoric, I caught the real issue of another black man was dead in what appeared to be unjustifiably at the hands of law enforcement officers.

However, because it is imperative that I place my own emotional intelligence in check, and be slow to anger, I took a deep breath and took a little time to research the word "thug" just in case in my quest to understand the plight of my ancestors I had somehow missed the fact that somewhere in our history white supremacists used the word to describe black people in a degrading or demeaning manner.

My research revealed that the word "thug" originates from the Hindu word "thuggie." Thuggies were groups of criminals who went around robbing tourists. Well it certainly appeared to me that President Obama and Mayor Rawlings-Blake had used the word in the context for which it was derived.

There were groups of people who used the death of Gray to burn buildings, loot stores for Nike tennis shoes, and assault law enforcement officers. I would say those actions, as described in multiple media accounts, could be classified thuggery.

However, just as I was about to bring my research to a close, up pops the urban dictionary. The source gave Tupac the credit for defining the word "thug." Tupac's lyrics established the definition of a thug as the following: "You haven't had it good your whole life, and you intend to change that, and get out of the ghetto if that's where you are, you're what's right, you don't take s... from anyone, and stand up for your friends and don't let them take s... from anyone!"

I didn't know whether to laugh or cry!

While there are many of us who support the gangsta rap movement as a movement that afforded many of our young talented musicians to become millionaires in addition to finding an avenue to express themselves, there are also many of us who struggle with the fact that this is the same movement that has loudly and boldly proclaimed that black women as bitches are whores.

I am keenly aware that Tupac's gangsta rap made some social commentary; I do not believe that his definition of the word "thug" has somehow transcended the generations and now is representative of the struggle of many black



folks.

During the same time President Obama and Mayor Rawlings-Blake was swirling there were also many references to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s definition of riots as the voice of the voiceless. I truly believe in the early 1960s that the weight of racism was too much for many people and as a result riots did provide an outlet for black people to express their frustration at the social and economic issues that plagues them.

However, I am not convinced it was people who felt voiceless who torched and destroyed their own neighborhoods. Like President Obama and Mayor Rawlings-Blake said, those were thugs who took advantage of a bad situation to steal shoes and destroy many of the institutions black people depended on in Baltimore.

I am also of the belief that the very moment some of those same behaviors are targeted toward some of the same individuals talking about the insensitivity it is my guess that many would retort back to describing the individuals as thugs and more times than not, names or descriptions of people would be a lot worse than the word "thug"!

Once again my prayer for our community is that we not allow the flavor of the day to distract us from our cause! President Obama was absolutely correct in his stand for the use of the word. The individuals who brought destruction to Baltimore have made the goal of addressing this very complex issue much more difficult to achieve.

While Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. proclaimed the "riot" as the language of the "unheard" in the 1960s, I am of the belief that the criminal actions displayed in Baltimore last month have made the ability for the community to focus on concrete solutions to address the complex issues in an agency with a history of paying out billions of dollars for law enforcement misconduct much more difficult.

There are really folks in our community whom believe when black people act illegally and/or immorally, we should not call them out. I believe the criminals call it "snitchn"! Fortunately or unfortunately, depending on how you choose to look at the matter, I am not one of those black people!

I believe as a community when folks do things to dishonor or disrespect our heritage as queens and kings, they should be called out!

Maria L. Scruggs

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Irene Johnson-Pridgen
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P.O. Box 35130, St. Petersburg, FL 33705
Phone: (727) 896-2922
Fax: (727) 823-2568
Email: editor@theweeklychallenger.com
www.theweeklychallenger.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS

5th Annual Fibromyalgia Awareness event



Last year's Fibromyalgia Awareness event held at Campbell Park.

ST. PETERSBURG — Keep Hope Alive, a local Fibromyalgia Awareness Support Group, is hosting its 5th Annual Fibromyalgia Awareness event this Sun., May 17 from 3:30–5:30 p.m. on the corner of 22nd Street and Ninth Avenue during Sunday Market on the Deuces.

The goal of the support group is to provide support, education and information to individuals diagnosed with fibromyalgia, rheumatoid arthritis and chronic fatigue syndrome in a positive, encouraging and up-beat environment. Event organizer, Valerie Dorn Roberts, invites the entire community out.

Often fibromyalgia is described as a chronic condition that is thought to be the result of overactive nerves. It is a condition that results in chronic widespread pain and tenderness all over. Chronic means that the pain lasts a long time, at least three

months. Many people experience this condition for years before being diagnosed. Widespread means that the pain is all over the body. Tenderness means that even a small amount of pressure can cause a lot of pain.

Fibromyalgia, which translates as “fibrous tissue muscle pain, is not related to muscular strain, rather it appears to stem from stress related hormonal changes. These changes affect the muscles’ ability to heal themselves properly.

Muscles typically undergo a process of tissue breakdown and restructuring, but in those affected with this disease, the process goes off center leading to the development of painful “knots” and spasms in the muscles. While the disease does not cause permanent damage to the body, the ongoing discomfort, accompanied by feelings of fatigue and mental foggi-

ness, can be physically and emotionally grueling.

Fibromyalgia is one of the most common chronic pain conditions. It affects more than 5 million people in the United States. That’s nearly one in every 60 Americans. Mostly women have it, but the condition also affects men. Most people begin feeling the symptoms of fibromyalgia when they are middle aged, but symptoms can start before then.

Join Dorn Roberts this Sunday to find out more about the fibromyalgia and enjoy the market.

Sunday Market on the Deuces, a local vendor and produce market, runs through June 7. There is currently a promotional special for the purchase of fresh produce, purchase \$5 get \$5 free, limited to the first 20 customers each Sunday. Promotional special is for produce vendor only.

Sanderlin’s 6th Annual Tortuga Trot taking action for JDRF

ST. PETERSBURG – Students and staff from Sanderlin Elementary took to the streets for the sixth annual one mile fun run/walk and 5K Tortuga Trot as a fundraiser to benefit Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).

The Trot evolved six years ago as a way to promote family fun and fitness while taking action for JDRF!

“We anticipate after this year’s event we will have raised over \$10,000 for JDRF,” said Traci Pyhel, family and community liaison at Sanderlin Elementary. “Our committee is small but mighty. Six volunteer members meet on weekends and after school hours to plan and prepare for this fun family event. Taking action in our community is a big part of being an International Baccalaureate school.”

What is diabetes? Diabetes is a group of metabolic diseases where the body’s pancreas does not produce enough insulin or does not properly respond to insulin produced, resulting in high blood sugar levels over a prolonged period.

There are several different types of diabetes, but the most common forms are type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Both impact glucose



levels, and if left untreated, can cause many complications.

Sanderlin Elementary’s students and staff have joined JDRF to help find a cure. They depend on businesses, family, community sponsorships and donations to help offset the cost

of t-shirts, student participation medals and other event expenses.

If you are interested in getting involved with James B. Sanderlin Elementary for this cause, please contact Family and Community Liaison Traci Pyhel, at (727) 552-1700.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Old fashioned haberdashery

From **MENSWEAR** page 1

ues, El's Menswear at 672 Central Ave. stands out like a silk black tie coupled with a studded leather jacket. Ducking out of the noisy street and into his quiet store is in a way like stepping through a portal into a time where men never left the house without a fedora.

Before stadium-sized department stores, mega malls and about a gazillion online shopping sites, men bought their fine apparel at shops like El-Amin's. Racks of fine suits and shirts along with displays of ties, hats and even shoes stand out in a colorful array. There is even a shoeshine box positioned by the wall ready for use, as El-Amin himself handles the shine duties.

And El-Amin is no stranger to fine men's apparel. He worked for 21 years at the legendary Arnold's Men's Wear, which was run by Arnold Argintar and a fixture on Central Avenue from 1935 until it closed its doors more than 70 years later.

"Arnold knew me when I was a little kid," the 64 year old remembered. "When I was going to school I bought my clothes there. Everybody bought their clothes at Arnold's. He was the go-to man during that particular time."

As a young, business-savvy man, El-Amin actually began to move Arnold's merchandise even before he officially worked for there.

"I worked at Suncoast Manor nursing home," El-Amin explained, "and one day I came into Arnold's and he had a lot of whey, now called 'vintage.' He had a lot of inventory that had gone out of style. He had the Nehru suits, he had what you call the big apple hats, he had a lot of suits with the peg leg pants, but he wasn't selling them."

Where others may have seen simply piles of outdated duds, El-Amin saw potential. He viewed all this booty as an untapped treasure and made the decision to cash in on the opportunity.

"Arnold, what do you want for those hats," he asked.

"I'll sell them to you for four dollars," Arnold replied. "The Nehru suits?"

"I'll let you have them for seven dollars."

Now his idea had developed into a plan, and after buying about \$20 dollars' worth of big apple hats at wholesale, he decided to hit the streets directly to hawk them to passersby. A born salesman, he sold every single one. Then it was back to Arnold's to secure fresh inventory.

"So I came back and asked him about the shirt with the high collar," El-Amin recalled. "They had gone out of style—he had stuff for years, now—so I bought all these shirts and I started selling them."

After getting the same result with the shirts, next came the Nehru suits and the peg-leg pants. Though Arnold had initially purchased these clothes and hats while they were in vogue and had sold them at a decent price back then, there was no place for the stock that remained by the mid-1980s. But the key, according to El-Amin, was that the clothing was still brand new and he could still sell it.

"It didn't matter how old they were, as long as they were brand new," he maintained, slapping his hands together for emphasis.

He estimates he spent about \$5,000 purchasing Arnold's unsold stock and made a thousand or two in profit by moving it on street corners with his charismatic salesmanship.

Arnold's wasn't the only place El-Amin frequented in hopes of replenishing his sidewalk stock. One day, he had parked his car in front of Arnold's during a downtown trip to Maas Brothers, on one such mission to find fresh stock to resell. When he returned to his car he found a note on his windshield. It was from Arnold, and it instructed El-Amin to come inside the store. Arnold wanted to talk to him.

El-Amin opened the door to see Arnold and his wife waiting for him.

The septuagenarian clothier asked him bluntly:

"Do you have a job?"

"Yeah, I've got a part-time job," El-Amin lied.

In actuality, he already had a full-time job at the Suncoast Manor nursing home, in the shipping and handling department. Arnold then told him that he needed someone new to work in the store since an employee he'd had walked out.

El-Amin told him he'd think about it, and went back to his regular job, but his thoughts kept coming back to Arnold's proposition. He recalled sitting in the store room at work in July and thinking, "You know what I can do? I can take my two week vacation and work for Arnold and see how that works out!"

"I came to work, and he told me what he expected of me and told me, 'If you stay with me, I'll make it worth your while,'" El-Amin said, adding that he was even given suits and ties to wear while working at the store—another perk.

Now it was time to return to his regular job at the Suncoast Manor, but El-Amin honestly didn't know which path to take. Arnold had no benefits while at Suncoast he could retire with benefits being part of the package. Yet there was something about Arnold's that pulled him. It turned out that the decision was ultimately made for him.

After a shakeup in the pecking order at Suncoast, El-Amin found himself with a new, no-nonsense manager who apparently believed El-Amin could do his job in 20 hours rather than 40. So he called him into the office and informed El-Amin stoically that his hours had been cut in half. At first El-Amin was flabbergasted, but after collecting himself he said: "I'll tell you what. Write me a recommendation."

But he already knew a place where there was a job waiting for him. And he held his post at Arnold's over the next two decades.

In 2007, when the venerable shop finally closed its doors, El-Amin purchased the remaining stock of men's clothes from Arnold while

Arnold's daughter got the postal uniforms. The postal workers receive about a \$400 allotment, El-Amin explained, to spend on uniforms and shoes, and it had been a profitable business in itself for Arnold's store over the years.

They opened El's Menswear just down the street on Central, going into it as partners. But after about a year, Arnold's daughter decided to pull out altogether and sell the uniforms in her own shop. Consequently, El-Amin now had the space to himself to carry the torch by selling men's fine apparel.

At his current location for eight years now, El-Amin still serves some of the clientele that was faithful to Arnold's. Many of Arnold's customers were African American, El-Amin explained, as Arnold extended credit when many other stores refused.

The customers at El's Menswear range from young men in their 30s to old-timers, including a 92 year old who still shops there regularly. El-Amin believes he has been earning the trust of the people all these years, and strives to continue to do so. More than a few of his customers can attest to this.

"I come in here on a regular basis, I'm always buying something out of there—I like the 'hands on,'" Wright attested, explaining why he prefers to shop for garments at a store like El's rather than take the online route. "I like to put it on, I like to feel it and I like to see how it looks on me right then."

Robert Mobley, who remembers being taken to clothing stores around St. Pete as a young man by his father, was a steady customer at Arnold's and now continues to buy his dress clothes at El's. Mobley said he likes the personal service he gets at the store, where he visits about twice a month, or more if there is an event that calls for a special outfit.

"For instance, if we would have an annual ball downtown at the Coliseum," Mobley said, "I might do a suit and tie combo, with shoes.



(L-R) Wright, El-Amin and Robert Mobley

So I give him my business."

El-Amin claims that people these days still seek the personal touch.

"It's more than selling," he affirmed.

He often sits outside his shop and engages passersby in his effortless way as they walk by the stores on Central. Even these impromptu sidewalk chats come back to El-Amin in a small cosmic way.

"Once a homeless man came into the store and said, 'Remember you were talking to me out there? You talked to me nicely out there. Well I want to bless you. I need a black suit,'" El-Amin recalled.

El-Amin had told the man that he didn't have a black suit but had a nice blue suit that he could try on. The man put it on and it fit him perfectly.

"Then he said, 'I need a shirt and everything, a pair of socks and a pair of shoes,'" El-Amin said. "I'm looking at him and saying to myself, 'He doesn't have much money.' So I said, 'Man, give me \$90 for everything!'"

The man promptly handed El-Amin the money. It turned out that a woman had given this down-on-his-luck man \$3,000 to help him out, and this man decided to pass on some of his good fortune to the shop owner who

had been so kind and friendly to him.

El-Amin mans his men's store daily; open to close, except when the shop closes on Sundays. He never takes time off for himself and even illness doesn't stop him from showing up on time in the morning to open the store.

"I'll come in here and lock the door and take some TheraFlu," he said. "And I haven't had a vacation in eight years."

He maintains that the interest he has is "bigger than just selling." He likes to see people come back.

"I love connecting with people," he affirmed. "I like being around people because it energizes me."

Wright continued modeling the hat in front of the shop mirror as El-Amin looked on.

"It's only money!" El-Amin, smiling broadly, urged. "It's only money!"

After a few more approving glances in the mirror, Wright finally removed the hat and lets El-Amin know he'd probably be back for it.

"He gets me every time!" Wright said, chuckling and shaking his head on his way out of the shop.

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

Florida Style Landscaping Workshop Series

Learn how to create and maintain an attractive, Florida-Friendly Landscape that saves water, time, and sweat!



Where: St. Petersburg Water Resources Department's "green" administration building, 1650 Third Avenue North
When: 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on all dates
Who: Pinellas County Extension and St. Petersburg Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ specialists

Workshops are FREE
Registration is Strongly Suggested as Seating is Limited!

Spring 2015 Workshop Schedule

May 14, 2015: Florida-Friendly Landscaping™, Avoiding Bad Plants, Gardening for Wildlife

May 21: Protect our Water Ways: Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels, Proper Fertilizer Use

After attending Workshop (this day only), Rain Barrels are available for purchase! (\$35.00, incl. tax)

*May 28: Landscape Design 1- Basics (the first of two classes). Bring your home landscaping ideas!

*June 11: Landscape Design 2 - Clinic (continuation from May 28th class). Experts work with you on your landscape plan! Also, Proper Plant Installation & Establishment (latest research).

June 18: Landscape Maintenance – Proper Pruning, Mulching, Composting, Fertilizer and Pesticide Use

June 25: Micro-Irrigation and Sensible Sprinkler Systems Clinic. Do you know how much water you use watering your lawn and landscape? Is it enough? Too much? Come Find Out!

To Pre-Register, visit www.floridastyle.eventbrite.com
For more information, call 727-892-5688



How Understanding Your Heart Can Save Your Life

Free Community Education Classes

Barbara S. Ponce Public Library
7770 - 52nd Street North, Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Family members, students, professionals invited to attend.

Tuesdays, at 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Instructors: Doug Valverde, RN and Henrietta Hight, RN

May 5 - Heart Health & What It Means to You

May 12 - The Heart and How It Works

May 19 - The Plumbing System of Your Heart

May 26 - Preventing & Improving Heart Disease

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COMMUNITY NEWS

‘Your Personal Injury Team’ expands to south St. Petersburg



ST. PETERSBURG — The Dolman Law Group practices Personal Injury Law and has expanded the firm’s territory to St. Petersburg. The new satellite office is located at 1663 1st Ave. S., across from Tropicana Field.

This location was specifically designed for your convenience and to be closer to their growing clientele. The Dolman Law Group has two other locations, one in Clearwater and the other in Bradenton. The south St. Pete office is now open but will have an official open house July 9. More details to come!

The Dolman team is led by Managing Partner, Attorney Matthew Dolman. He is a top local litigator of auto accidents and catastrophic injuries, including wrongful death cases. He is joined by his staff of dedicated, highly credentialed, professional attorneys: Becky Dolman, Alexander Knapp, Julia McGrath, Stephanie Valentine and Coleman Hengesbach. The Dolman Law Group demonstrates small firm values with big firm results!

There are NO fees unless they recover and if your case does not settle, Dolman will file the lawsuit, not

farm it out.

Most people know Attorney Darryl Rouson, who joined the Dolman team last year, from his political work as a fighter for the community, former president of the St. Petersburg Branch of the NAACP and as a four time elected State Representative (representing Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota and Hillsborough Counties).

Rouson is an effective trial attorney who has a successful courtroom career. He will be helping to build the St. Petersburg office, and you may reach him by cell phone at (727) 224 4557, the office at (727) 451-6900 or email him at darryl@dolmanlaw.com.

If you’ve been in an accident, please do not wait until your situation gets any worse. Call Rouson or Dolman Law Group today for a free consultation.

Some of the personal injury issues that Rouson and the Dolman Law Group as a team can help you with include: Automobile, motorcycle and trucking accidents. Also, wrongful death cases, medical malpractice, traumatic brain, back and neck injuries.

Once you hire the Dolman Law Group, they work

for you, not the insurance companies. Accidents are scary. Time is not on your side when you or a loved one has had an accident. You need to get to an attorney quickly who can handle your case with confidence and experience.

This is real life. The fact is that not all insurance companies are fair when it comes to compensating you for your injuries.

Rouson knows the community and addresses the concerns that impact the quality of life for his constituents as a politician. As a personal injury attorney, he listens to your story so that he can assess the situation and work towards a solution.

Rouson has made his personal and professional life’s mission to fight injustices for those less fortunate, with the law on his side. Call Attorney Rouson today for your free consultation at (727) 451-6900 and schedule an appointment to discuss your potential case.

Don’t forget the Dolman Law Group’s new south side location is 1663 1st Ave. S., St. Petersburg. Visit their website for more info: www.dolmanlaw.com

Blockbuster filmmaker inspires Write Field graduates

ST. PETERSBURG — Dressed in black tuxedos, 41 boys experienced a rite of passage as they became the fourth class to participate in the Write Field’s graduation ceremony. The black tie event was held at the Mahaffey Grand Ballroom in St. Petersburg and each participant was allowed to invite their parents and other guest.

Will Packer, a St. Petersburg native and blockbuster filmmaker, was the keynote speaker and the City of St. Petersburg’s Deputy Mayor Dr. Kanika Tomalin was the Mistress of Ceremonies.

“You are going to fail,” Packer explained to the graduates. “But you have to learn how to overcome failure.”

Packer told the graduates to dream big, never use excuses and to look in the mirror every morning and tell themselves: “You can do it.”

Packer attended Maximo Elementary, Bay Point Middle and St. Petersburg High before heading to Florida A & M University. He is now a successful



movie producer and has established himself as one of Hollywood’s blockbuster hit-makers with seven of his films opening number one at the box office.

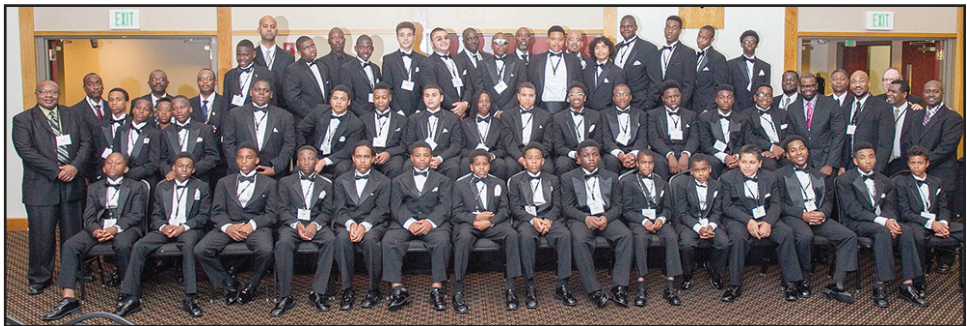
His most successful film to date is Universal’s “Ride Along,” starring Ice Cube and Kevin Hart. The film debuted at number one at the box office in 2014 with receipts totaling over \$48 million.

A self-titled “south St. Pete, public school product,” Packer has been acknowledged on several high profile magazine lists including, “Variety’s” 10 Producers To Watch, “Black Enterprise’s” Most Powerful Players Under 40 and 10 Most Bankable Producers In Hollywood and “Ebony’s” prestigious

Power 100 list.

Write Field is an academic enrichment and mentoring program for minority middle school boys. The program is a partnership between the Poynter Institute, the Tampa Bay Rays, The Tampa Bay Times, the St. Petersburg Police Department, Wells Fargo and Pinellas County Schools. Write Field is a nationally recognized program designed to improve the academic performance and life skills of selected middle school boys.

You, too, can become part of The Write Field. For information about how to become a mentor, a participant or to donate, please contact program director Kenny Irby at (727) 821-9494 or kirby@poynter.org.



URBANAFFAIRSupdate

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Happening! In South St. Pete

Coming to a curb near you! **Delivery of blue, 95-gallon Universal Curbside Recycling containers continues for St. Petersburg residential customers through June.**
Learn more at www.stpete.org/recycle

Sat, May 16 • Midtown Police Resource Center/Community COOP Ribbon Cutting
• 9 a.m. to Noon • Midtown Police Resource Center, 1786 22nd St. S. (Walmart Plaza)

Sat, June 6 • Youth End of School / Start of Summer Celebration • 9 a.m. to Noon
• Midtown Police Resource Center, 1786 22nd St. S. (Walmart Plaza)

Sun, June 21 • Community COOP Father’s Day Breakfast • 9 a.m.
• Bethel AME Church, 912 3rd Ave. N.

Upcoming City Council Public Hearings for the South St. Petersburg Community Redevelopment Plan: **May 21** • 6 p.m.
June 11 • 6 p.m. • City Hall, 175 5th St. N.

For more information about the Urban Affairs Department call 727-893-7885

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OPENING FALL 2015

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The state-of-the-art new Midtown Center will serve as the college’s flagship campus and community center for south St. Petersburg. Opening for the fall 2015 semester, the new center will offer classes toward two-year Associate in Arts degrees, Associate in Science degrees and certificates leading to in-demand and high-wage professions.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

How to spot a stroke

From **STROKE** page 1

caused by an artery being blocked in the brain but only for a short time (less than five minutes).

Risk factors for stroke are high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease and diabetes. These risk factors can be prevented or controlled by going to the doctor and working with your health-care team.

Lifestyle modifications such as avoiding smoking, minimizing alcohol con-

sumption, eating a balanced diet and exercising help to reduce the risk of stroke. Uncontrollable risk factors are heredity, age, gender and ethnicity.

Understanding the warning signs of a stroke and getting help fast is critical to treatment options and the difference between life, disability and death. To help recognize the signs use the act FAST acronym:

Face - ask person to

smile. One side of face will appear to droop. Symptoms include numbness or weakness in the face and trouble seeing.

Arms - ask person the raise both arms. One arm will drift downward. A stroke causes weakness on one side of the body or even paralysis in one arm or leg.

Speech - ask person to talk. Speech will sound slurred or strange. Stroke may cause confusion and

affect a person's speech or understanding.

Time - if you observe any of the above signs, call 9-1-1. This should be done right away and record the time when the first symptom appeared.

Dr. Charlie W. Colquitt is the Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Florida A & M University, College of Pharmacy and provides services for Community Health Centers of Pinellas, Inc.

How do you know if someone's having a stroke? Think...

F.A.S.T.

Check their FACE.
Has their mouth drooped?

Can they lift both ARMS?

What? I don't know what you mean. Could youu dsjgh? Ewngt lrgn ket dkh?
Is their SPEECH slurred? Do they understand you?

TIME is critical.
If you see any of these signs, call 911 now!

Think F.A.S.T. Act FAST! CALL 911

strokefoundation

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Alert! - Could your child benefit from some extra learning opportunities over the summer? Pinellas County Schools Summer Bridge programs provide enrichment activities and intensive instruction to ensure that students are prepared for maximum success when the school year begins. Summer Bridge is designed for students who are not performing on grade level or need additional help to stay on track. Most Summer Bridge programs for elementary, middle and high school students will run Mon. through Thurs. from June 16 to July 23. Parents can register online using the Student Reservation System at <https://reservation.pcsb.org>. The latest information can be found on the district's Summer Bridge website, www.pcsb.org/summerbridge. Please contact your child's school if you need help with registration.

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Closing Date - 5/28/15
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(Job #0483) - New Port Richey Campus
Closing Date - 5/21/15

Pasco-Hernando State College (PHSC) is now accepting applications. For more information and to apply online visit our website at www.phsc.edu/jobs. The College is closed Fridays through August 14th. EOE/ADA Compliance
Travis Bobbe Adair

The Pinellas County Commissioners invite you to a

Community CONVERSATION

Wednesday, May 20th

Participate during the event:

Join Us Live - St. Petersburg College
University Partnership Center—Digitorium
9200 113th St. N., Seminole, FL 33772

Online - www.pinellascounty.org/CommunityConversation

Watch Live - PCC-TV (Bright House 637, WOW! 18, Verizon 44) and SPC-TV

Call - (888) 409-5380

5:30 to 6 p.m.
Open House
Meet Your Commissioners

6 to 7 p.m.
Public Meeting
Community Conversation

Bring Your Ideas & Questions!

Bay NEWS 2

SPC St. Petersburg College
INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC POLICY SOLUTIONS

Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To obtain accessible formats of this document, please call (727) 464-4062 (VTDOD). If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. At least seven days prior to the meeting, contact the Office of Human Rights, 400 S. Fort Harrison Ave., Suite 500, Clearwater, FL 33756, (727) 464-4062 (VTDOD). Produced in cooperation with the Pinellas County Communications Department. 05/15

COMMUNITY NEWS

Naomi and Titus 2 Covenant Alliance event

From *NAOMI*, page 1

a purpose for their lives. Johnson preached to those in attendance extolling the virtues of a spiritual life in which one gives back to those in need and makes themselves a servant to not only the Lord, but also the people seen on the streets every day.

But before the honorees were inducted into history, crowned with a tiara, a sash laid upon their shoulders, the NT2CA took a moment to recognize Monica Smith, the 2015 Community Outreach Recipient.

“The women helped me through my journey,” said Smith who had to overcome many life-altering barriers in order to put a damaging past behind her.

“I was addicted to drugs and alcohol, incarcerated,” she admitted. “I lost custody of my children.”

Homeless and in debt from student loans that had gone into default and child support that she couldn’t pay, Smith needed help and the NT2CA was able to offer it. She was admitted into the women’s residence and there she met many women who helped to encourage her to handle her unresolved issues. “I was angry,” she said. With no communication or life skills, Smith’s self-esteem was at an all-time low.

Today two and a half years sober, Smith now has a relationship with her children. She faithfully pays child support and has learned how to budget her money so that she can become debt free.

Enrolled in college, Smith, who now works at the St. Petersburg Free Clinic, hopes to one day hold an administrative position and give back even more to the

community.

Cindy Burnham also works at the free clinic as the Women’s Residence program director. The program helps to provide safe and supportive transitional housing for single, hopeless, women helping them to become capable of employment and independent living.

“Every single morning I get up, make my coffee, sit in my red chair, and I start my day with a prayer,” Burnham said. And her prayers are now a reality as more women in the community are in line to be helped out with the new housing being built. Transitional housing currently holds around 20 women, but soon will be able to accommodate some 50 women in need.

Burnham couldn’t help but to give a shout out to the NT2CA for their unwavering support over the last five years. “They turned up on the scene and ever since they’ve been a part of our life and we’ve been a part of theirs,” she said.

In fact, in the past year and a half the NT2CA has helped to raise the four million dollars needed for the new transitional housing residence. “When we gave our things away, had yard sales [and worked] with our new building NT2CA was there,” stated Burnham.

Naomis were lavished with the love and appreciation they truly deserve during the crowning ceremony. Presenters entered the ballroom with their gifts of love for the 2015 Naomi court.

Before the raffle that gave away a Dooney and Burke purse, a flat screen television and a portrait worth more than \$600 all for the bargain price of \$20 a ticket, Johnson

took a moment to speak on the occasion. She touched on the need for individuals to mirror their lives in the reflection of Jesus and uphold the teachings of the Bible.

“Although sometimes it can be an uphill battle, and not just with teenagers, with adults too, we have to be reminded again of who we are,” she said, “and to know that there is no other God as great as the one we serve.”

Teralyn Hodge NT2CA founder and president rounded out the day’s festivities by presenting Smith with a monetary gift to help in her efforts to reach her goals while showing support for all her dedication in cleaning up her life.

“We are looking for women: mothers, your aunts, to become a part of this organization,” Hodge said noting that giving back goes far beyond the superficial red carpet. “We can help raise up these women.”

Of course Hodge and the members of NT2CA know it takes a village, which is why they plan to continue to work with the community, church organizations and businesses to cement their goal of making a difference.

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

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

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





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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.

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Wednesday Prayer6:00 p.m.
Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.

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Sunday School9:00 a.m.
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Bible Study (Wednesday)7:00 p.m.



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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.
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St. Petersburg, FL 33705
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Rev. Carl Mobley, Sr.

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Sunday Morning Second Worship10:40 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 Class7:00 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 School9:30 a.m.
Wednesday.....Noonday 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.

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.


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



Pastor
Claude Williams
and First Lady
Cecelia Williams

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*



The Crossing Point Empowerment Ministries
Reaching Out From Glad Tidings Assembly of God Church

Invites you to join Rev. Sarah Edwards
“Think Like A Woman - Act Like A Lady”
Discipleship Bible Study
Wednesdays 7 pm • Fellowship Hall – Room 2
4200 17th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL. 33713
Dr. Randy Helms, Lead Pastor
727-323-5017


“They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.” [Jeremiah 6:14]

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

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

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

“Not Church as usual”



Pastors Dexter and Wanda McCree

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Contact:

www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Schedule of Services

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



Rev. Brian K. Brown

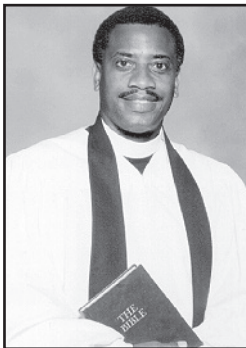
THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES/WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

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
Weekly Bible Study - Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
Adult Choir Rehearsals - Thursday 6:30 p.m.

Van service is available by calling: (727) 327-0015

THE ROCK OF JESUS IS LOCATED AT:
3940 – 18th AVE. S., St. Petersburg, Florida
Telephone: 727-327-0015 • Fax: 727-327-0021
Email: rojmbc@knology.net
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.
Pastor

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Bishop Zema J. Florence, III, Th.D.
& Elect-Lady Shaneeta Florence

Order of Services:

Noonday Prayer.....Wednesdays at 12:30 PM
Pastoral Teaching.....Wednesdays at 7:00 PM
Evangelist Service.....4th Fridays at 7:00 PM
Sunday SchoolSundays at 9:00 AM
Morning WorshipSundays at 10:15 AM
WRXB (1590) Radio Ministry2nd and 4th Saturdays at 10:30 AM

Follow us on Social Media: Facebook Page-Holy Temple Pentecostal
Assemblies of Churches, Inc/ YouTube-Bishop Zema Florence

Queen Street Church of God in Christ

Elder Willie Williamson, Pastor

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

SERVICES

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



CHURCH NEWS

St. Mark MBC

The St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, its pastor, the Reverend Brian K. Brown, its official staff of Deacons and Trustees, and the entire congregation, extends to the community at large, its wish that there would be an overflowing of God's blessings upon their lives. St. Mark is grounded in a Christ-centered doctrine that has as its central core, the belief that we are a haven of hope, help, and healing for a lost world hungry and thirsty for the word of God. At St. Mark, we as a body of believers are Christians willing to work and partner in unity, praising God for the awesome gift of His son, Jesus Christ.

Events for May
May 17 - Right Hand of Fellowship following morning worship

May 18 - Pizza Ministry at 6 p.m. featuring Bible Scavenger Hunt, Bible Study, Kickball, and much more!
May 25 - Memorial Day: Church Office Closed
May 27-30 - Congress No. 2 Host Church First Baptist, Sun City, FL
May 31 - 5th Sunday Mission emphasis: Operation Love & Back to School Bash
Weekly Scheduled Activities for St. Mark
Sunday school held for both children and adults of all ages. Sunday school starts each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to come out and join us.
Young Adult Ministry (YAMS) Every Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
Baptist Training Union

is each Sunday: 5 p.m. Members and the general public are invited to come out to study the Bible with us, and learn “What Baptists 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: 2-4 p.m.
Sunday School Teachers' Meeting is held every Tuesday: 7 p.m.
Senior Hour of Power Bible Study is held every Wednesday: 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study every Wednesday evening at 7.
Children Youth Ministry Bible Study 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month: 7:30 p.m.

Friendship MBC

NEED A PLACE TO CALL HOME? The Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, the Pastor, Dr. John A. Evans, Sr., Official Family and the entire Church Family extend to you a cordial invitation to join “THE SHIP” in fellowship at our 7:45 am or the 10:45 am worship service, and Sunday Church School at 9:30 am. Pray for our Sick, Shut-in, Children, Men/Women in Uniform, and Bereaved Families.
Friendship is a warm Christian community of members, regular attenders and friends who are committed to embodying message of God's unconditional Love and the teachings of Jesus Christ in the church, in our community and in the world! We are truly a church committed to doing “whatever it takes” to become that “city on a hill” that cannot be hidden! Our weekly activities include: Every Wednesday – Bread of Life Ministry, Noon Day Bible Study and 7:00 pm Bible Study - Studying from 1st John. Know that you have an open invitation to join us in the Study of God's Word. The Laymen of Friendship have re-

ally set the bar high this pass Saturday at 4:00 pm, under the Leadership of Dea. Jonnie Douglas. The Event was a Mother's Day Dinner for the Mothers of Friendship, which was catered by Sophie, the music provided by the Male Chorus of the Ship, Poem by Sis. Wanda White and our very own Minister Melva Kendricks brought the Mothers Day Message. The Best part of the Evening was our very own Pastor Evans leading the Laymen, in serving the Mothers, now that was a PRICELESS moment. Each Mother received a Caranation and Certificate at the Dinner, also on Mother's Day received a Caranation and Certificate – both services.
MONTH OF MAY:
May 14 – 7 pm – Y-God Meeting, A Ministry to meet the needs of our Young men from Age 13-17, do not have to be a member of Friendship to be a part of this Ministry.
May 15 – 7 pm – The Young Ladies of Christian Character Graduation Ceremony will be Held. Please plan now to support our Young Ladies
May 18 – 7 pm - 87th Church

Anniversary Committee Meeting. All Committee Members are asked to be present and on time. Thank you, Sis. Loretha Blair Chair and Sis. Cynthia Henderson, Co-Chair.
NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH? Call our Transportation Ministry – (727) 906-8300 and LEAVE YOUR INFORMATION.
Thought for the Week: YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE'S HISTORY – WHY? WHAT ABOUT THE HISTORY YOU HAVE, OH WELL.
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, 33712. Church Office: (727) 906-8300 E-Mail: fmbc3300@verizon.net
We are not “live streaming.” Visit Our Website: www.fmbc-theship.net and click on the pastor's image at the top of the page. Also, USTREAM
Also Visit West Coast Baptist District Association Website: www.expericencethecoast.com

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church, “God's House to the City,” under the leadership of Dr. Rickey L. Houston extend 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.
We cultivate the fullest spiritual life possible both individually 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.

The Laymen Ministry is presenting Tony Evans “Kingdom Man” This is a study on the principles of biblical manhood. Kingdom Man challenges and equips men to fully understand their position under God as well as their position over what God has given them. The Laymen Ministry of Bethel Metropolitan invites all men to join them in this journey. The study is every Tuesday at 6 pm.
The Scholarship Ministry is preparing for The Elizabeth Howard Scholarship Banquet scheduled for Sat., May 23 at 6 p.m. This event helps us to endow our graduates with scholarships for college and technical education. We encourage you to join us and share in this annual event. Call church office for additional information.
Faith Bible Institute

(FBI):2015
The Great Commission commands every Church to teach every member all things that Christ commanded (Mt 28: 19-20). The enrollment for the Fall Semester (July 2015) is now open. This is an intensified 3 year Bible study. The students will study every book and every major doctrine of the Bible. The application and registration fee of is due at enrollment. Tuition can be paid at the first class or can be a payment plan. Interested applicants can pick up a brochure from the church office..
“Knowing Jesus Christ in 2015” II Corinthians 2:2
Philippians 3:8
Telephone: 727-327-0554 Fax: 727-327-0240
Email:bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com Website: www.bmmbc.org

Mt. Zion Progressive MBC

Reverend Louis Murphy, Sr. and the entire Mt Zion family extend an open invitation to join us not only in Sunday worship, but also throughout the week for various programs and ministries. Wednesday Bible Study – Noonday and 6 p.m.
May is the month we honor our great Pastor, Rev. Louis Murphy. This is the time for us to show how much we love, support, and appreciate all he does for our church and our families. Plan to join us on Wed., May

20 at the Pastor's Anniversary Celebration Service and Dinner. Please RSVP to the church office by 5/13.
Teens ages between 16-21 as of April 24th may be eligible for a summer job through the Summer Youth Intern Program. Teens can pick up an application at the church office. This program is sponsored by Boley Centers, Inc.
Let's Get Connected!
Mt. Zion Progressive is now social. Checkout the latest events, ministry news,

and more by following us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube (Keyword: MZPMBC). Visit our website and let's get connected today! www.MZProgressive.org
For additional information on any of these announcements, please contact the church office.
Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, 955 20th St. S., St. Petersburg Florida. 727-894-4311, email: info@mzprogressive.org.



Pastor's Corner

BY PASTOR SARAH EDWARDS
Visible Voices Christian Community Association

The greatest gift God has ever given

On the sixth day, our great God created man in His image and likeness. A male man and the other as a female man. He breathe into them and they became a living soul rather than a spirit [Genesis 2:7; 1 Corinthians 15:45]. God's image is His nature. God's likeness is His character. They were created in God's image/nature and character/likeness as a spirit being. Both were also given the ability to make choices for themselves.
Two things that express the image/nature of God are: First, God is Spirit [John 4:24]. Since God is a pure spirit, He may inhabit a body. While this is His desire, it's not a requirement. Jesus taught us this after His resurrection: “A spirit do not have flesh and bones as ye see me have” [Luke 24:39]. This makes God invisible, which is tantamount to His being omnipresence. [Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:27]
But, that was not the greatest gift God has ever given to humanity. Consequently, every person thereafter is taken from the heart of God as a pure spirit given gifts, a calling and anointing as God watches them being formed and grow while they are in their mother's womb.
Secondly, everything we know about the holiness of God's spirit compels us to believe God's essence is simple, uncompounded and uncreative. Unfortunately, the god of this system desensitizes and contaminates the soul of children the first few years after their birth.
Therefore, God's greatest gift to

humanity was NOT what He did, but rather how He made provisions for establishing His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. God's greatest gift to humanity is the matrix He created so that Adam and Eve and even unto this day could procreate humanity, multiply and replenish the earth.
Notwithstanding, subdue bring harmony in the earth as it is in heaven.
Thus in return, the earth would have, could have and shall become a suburb of Heaven itself upon the return of our LORD. God's matrix, His greatest gift to humanity is the womb. The woman's womb is the only entrance God has ordained for human beings to travel from His heart into this earthly realm.
God's character is His personality. This is clearly seen in His decision making; regardless of who disagrees with it. Therein, like our Creator, when we make choices based on God's truth; we are portraying God's personality for others to see whose we are. We will be known by the fruit of our spirit. A spirit is what a spirit does [Galatians 5].
God's likeness is simply who He says He is. His personality reflects this. God is one. [Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:6; John 17:3; 1 Corinthians 8:4; 1 Timothy 1:17] God is infinite and perfect [Job 11:7-9; Matthew 5:48]. God's designed our personality from conception as He watched us grow in our mother's womb.
Consider that since God is alive; exiting our matrix and entering into

a new frontier known as this world He desires a safe journey for each of us as we enjoy life and that more abundantly as we travel through this land.
God has thoughts, reactions, etc. He has given to each of His children the mind of Christ. All mysteries of heaven may be revealed unto us. God is intelligent, which makes everyone aware of His existence. Jesus commissioned all believers to go to every nation/ethnic group of people for the saving of their soul (emotions, desires and intellect).
God took on a physical body by impregnating a virgin girl named Mary with His Holy Spirit in order to come into this earthly realm, paid everyone sin debt so we may be made righteous. God is immortal and is uncreated. We who abide in him will also experience eternal and everlasting life with Him.
Even though our human bodies are what everyone sees as they are our earth-suits/clothes designed for our journey here. Never the less, we're not to know anyone after the flesh but rather by the content of their character. There is neither male nor female in the Holy Spirit.
Now you know the greatest gift God has every given to humanity is spelled: M-O-T-H-E-R and it's not to be used while cursing. How you treat your mother affects your attitude towards your wife, daughters, sisters and women in general. Go on and celebrate Mother's Day every day and live long!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bridging the gap and strengthening the bond

From **DAUGHTER**, page 1

raw emotion, uncovering deeply buried issues.

“This is a program of prevention,” stated founder and President Donna Welch. “The program was designed to be gender specific, increase social awareness and promote positive changes in a young girl’s life.”

The program endeavors to instill in its participants that self-love and respect is the first character trait that unlocks the door to overcoming life’s unfair circumstances. The girls must believe that they are worthy of the best things in life, and must realize that all negative situations can be overcome by their attitude and the support of other women who have traveled the same path.

Welch, who is married to Pinellas County Commissioner Kenneth Welch, feels that the difference in her program and others is that it requires the caregiver to be involved.

“We work with our mothers/caregivers listening to what they are faced with in raising their daughters, granddaughter etc.,” she stated. “We listen to their concerns, so we know what to work on during our sessions with the girls.”

Welch feels that the program is an opportunity for the caregivers and girls to

learn to work together. She further stated that girls have unique needs. “They feel that they’re not heard or understood,” she explained. “A lot of them feel that they’re just existing.”

The program consists of group discussions and workshops on subjects such as character traits, social and professional etiquette, goal setting/career planning, relationship building, bullying, boys, health and wellness, beauty within and self-image, self-respect, leadership, role modeling and exploring the pitfalls of social media.

MDK has a range of guest speakers to come in and talk to the girls on relevant topics such as Valerie Miller from the Are You Safe Organization speaking about domestic violence and sexual abuse; Metro Wellness and Community Centers on the subject of HIV and health wellness and representatives from the Pinellas County Health Department on sexual transmitted diseases.

“We view our girls as diamonds,” said Program Assistant Martha Henderson. “We’re not here to judge but to show love and compassion and to give them the tools to be successful and become shining lights to others. It takes a village to raise the girls and share

knowledge. We have to step up and stand out for the young girls.”

Welch is a firm believer that where you’ve been does not define where you’re going. “There is a way out. You can’t change the past but you can change your future. They have to believe in themselves,” she stated.

Other members of MDK are Vice President Laverne Roberts, Treasurer Darlene Herring, Financial Advisor Liz Dingle and Program Assistant and Secretary Martha Henderson. Welch said she is also thankful for the additional marketing and web design support she receives from Crystal Hall and NaKena Cromartie.

MDK is a 501(c)(3) organization, but have had limited donations. Most of the funds have come from the board members and volunteer staff. They hope to expand the program to develop a Caregivers Connection support group and to have in place a 50 Plus Inspiring Mentors and Coach Initiative.

MDK meets at The Sanderlin Center, 2335 22nd Ave. S., St. Petersburg, on Thursdays at 6 p.m.

For more information, please call (727) 422-6827 or log onto mdktampabay.org



L to R, The Welch girls: 12-year-old Kenya, proud mother Donna and 22-year-old Keonna who just graduated from FAMU.

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