

2015-05-28

## The Weekly Challenger : 2015 : 05 : 28

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# The Weekly Challenger

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VOL. 47 NO. 40

MAY 28 - JUNE 3, 2015

50¢



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## Celebrating 28 years of empowering women



BY ANALEIGH SBRANA  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Christian Women's Fellowship, Woman of Excellence International held its annual Women's Empowerment Brunch Sat., May 23 at the St. Petersburg Country Club. The theme this year was "Honoring Women on Our Journey."

A heartfelt welcoming speech was presented by founder and St. Petersburg native Dr. Ada Davis, and with continued motivating spirit, the opening prayer was delivered by Pastor Karalynn Brubacker.

Brubacker captured the theme of truly empowering each other with her statement, "Let us look beyond each other's faults and see each other's needs." She encouraged the importance of sharing ones stories with others.

Apostle Lolita Holman lifted the hearts of all in worship and prayer by raising her voice to God singing and speaking enlightened words touched by love and power that resonated throughout the Fellowship. The prayer reminded all of

See **WOMEN**, page 8



The 21st AKA AKAdemy Showcase/Awards Program was held Sun., May 24 at the St. Petersburg Coliseum.

## AKA AKAdemy Showcase/Awards Program

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Each year the Youth Development Foundation (YDF) of the Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. hold its annual AKA

AKAdemy Showcase/Awards Program. Last Sun., May 24 upwards of 1,500 people packed the St. Petersburg Coliseum to get a glimpse at this year's extravaganza entitled "Celebrating an Empire State of Mind."

The evening's preshow

featured the AKAdemy/Dream Choir directed by Dr. Kevin B. Parrot, who also served as Master of Ceremonies, and the high energy Kali Kali Dancers.

Parrott and Mistress of Ceremonies, Rachel Nunn, kept the show mov-

ing with their wise cracks and jabs at each.

Cassandra Williams, president of the Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and Manitia Moultrie, AKAdemy program director, delivered the

See **AKA**, pages 10

## 2015 Kidz World graduates shine

BY HOLLY KESTENIS  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Parents, extended family and friends all gathered Sat., May 23 at Bethel Community Baptist Church, located at 2901 54th Ave. S., to celebrate a milestone in their children's lives.

"I can remember sitting in the first row in my blue cap and gown," said Te'Leah Bethel, a sixth grader at Bay Point Magnet Middle School and a 2008 Kidz World graduate, as she welcomed

everyone to the ceremony. "I was both nervous and excited."

Parents, family members, friends and guests were invited to sit back and enjoy the program, which consisted of music, awards and performances by graduates. In fact, the afternoon was a showcase of academic talent as members of the 2014-2015 graduating class expertly showed off what early learning has given them.

Founder Arthurene

See **KIDZ**, page 6



Kidz World graduation was held Sat., May 23 at Bethel Community Baptist Church.

## Educator by day, artist by night



Dallas Jackson

BY JEFFREY ZANKER  
Neighborhood News Bureau

ST. PETERSBURG – When he finds himself in boring meetings, middle school principal Dallas Jackson likes to sketch on a small piece of paper.

But Jackson is not an ordinary doodler. He is a painter, and some of his sketches have led to colorful work and exhibits.

His latest series – 11 paintings on jazz titled "The Dallas Jackson Collection" – is on display at the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum at 2240 Ninth Ave. S through June 5.

Jackson, 46, a St. Petersburg native and resident, is principal of Sligh Middle School in Tampa. He is also a jazz aficionado who saw performances by musicians such as Wynton Marsalis while attending college in Louisiana.

The collection reflects his jazz-listening experience, he said, and its main theme is "how man and instrument merge as one with the music."

He has paintings of jazz icons such as Louis Armstrong and Dizzy Gillespie, but he wanted to give a different perspective of jazz.

"I didn't want the viewer to focus on icons," Jackson said. "It's about the broader experience of the music."

For example, there are

See **ARTIST**, page 13

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Curb recycling

Dear Editor,  
Within the last few weeks residents throughout St. Petersburg have demonstrated emotions that have ranged between upset and ecstatic to come home to find huge blue recycling containers adorning their curbsides.



While there are many citizens whom breathed a sigh of relief that St. Petersburg had finally started down a path that keeps us in step with other major urban communities, not everyone in my neighborhood and neighborhoods throughout St. Petersburg welcomed what they initially perceived as an intrusion and yet another hit to their yearly budgets.

Of course there are those whose budgets could support the additional cost per year, however it was about the principle of the matter—they didn't have a choice and that have initially caused some grief.

For those who have scoffed at the notion that residents in Midtown would complain about the city's new curbside recycling, consider these realities for many whom live in that area:

- The 1990 Census revealed that the unemployment rate in the city of St. Petersburg was 5.6 percent compared to an unemployment rate in Midtown of 10.6 percent.

In 2013 the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners commissioned an update on the economic impact of poverty within Pinellas County. Within that report the following facts emerged regarding the economic realities of some in South St. Petersburg:

- South St. Petersburg is the largest At-Risk Zone, with an estimated population of 74,275 and an average household size of 2.4, approximately 25 percent of our population (18,569) live at or below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level
- Within this zone, meaning Midtown, there is a high concentration of poverty.

Forty-eight percent of people whom live in poverty live within Midtown

- Of the individuals living in poverty in south St. Petersburg 63 percent are African American, 27 percent are white, 5 percent are Hispanic and 5 percent are of another race

With these facts it should have been indisputably clear, there was going to be a level of angst among those who just have not felt the heat from the rays of sunshine, quite yet!

However, now that curbside recycling is here, like any other major life change, the change becomes easier to embrace when we understand what we are facing. In a brief conversation with the City of St. Petersburg's Sanitation Director Ben Shirley, let's begin the education about curbside recycling with a couple of facts:

- Curbside recycling collection will begin on June 29, 2015
- Your recycling items will be collected the day opposite your trash pick-up, for example, if your trash is picked up on Tuesday, your recycled items will be picked up on Mondays
- The \$2.95 fee will be assessed to your bill even if you insist you do not want to recycle
- If your recycling bend is filled with items other than recyclable items your container will not be emptied
- The sanitation truck and the recycling bend are equipped with technology that can track the items collected from your bend, therefore if the city finds that you are consistently filling your recycling bend with inappropriate items you will be visited by a city inspector.

As a community it is my hope that we embrace curbside recycling as a necessary strategy aimed at saving the planet that we depend on and that we hope will be around for our future generations!  
*Maria Scruggs*

Midtown Celebrity Club prepares for the 150th anniversary of Juneteenth

ST. PETERSBURG — Midtown Celebrity Club, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, is busy finalizing the plans for the 2015 Juneteenth Festival that will be the 150th year celebration of the Juneteenth holiday. Juneteenth is the oldest African-American celebration dating back to June 19, 1865 in Galveston, Texas, which is officially recognized as the end of slavery.

Paulette Jones, president of Midtown Celebrity Club, started the organization with the mission to provide a foundation for youth to promote their creativity, seek out their dreams and believe all wonderful things are possible.

The public is welcomed to all of the Juneteenth activities starting June 14 and ending June 20. For more info, call Paulette Jones at 727-565-6094.



# 2015

## Juneteenth Freedom Celebration

Sponsored by  
**Midtown Celebrity Club, Inc.**  
a 501(c)(3) corporation

### Day of Worship

Sunday, June 14, 2015  
11:00AM - 3:00PM  
Co-sponsored by  
**Pastor Eddie Robinson**  
**Brister Temple**  
2901 18th Avenue South  
Saint Petersburg, FL

### “Hands Up Don't Shoot”

**Panel Discussion**  
Tuesday, June 16, 2015  
6:00PM to 8:00PM  
Co-sponsored by  
**Zeta Gamma Zeta Chapter**  
**of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority**  
**Enoch Davis Center**  
1111 18th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL

### “Let Freedom Ring!”

A musical/dance production  
Directed by **Beryl Colbert**  
**Live the Rhythm, LLC**  
Friday, June 19, 2015  
6:00PM to 8:30PM  
Studio 620  
620 1st Avenue South  
Saint Petersburg, FL

### Community Service Day

Co-sponsored by  
**Local SCLC Chapter**  
**Toriano Parker**  
President  
Saturday, June 20, 2015  
11:00AM to 4:00PM  
**My Place in Recovery**  
1655 16th Street South  
Saint Petersburg, FL

FOR MORE INFO, CALL PAULETTE JONES 727-565-6094

Congratulations, graduate

Congratulations to Shamarri Hartzog, a recent graduate of Florida Atlantic University with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications Studies. We are so proud of you! We wish you all the best as you go forth to pursue your master's degree.

Love,  
Daddy, Mommy and Lil Kevin



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**Volume 47 • Number 40**  
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**May 28, 2015**  
**16 pages • 2 sections**

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Family and Friends’ Day

ST. PETERSBURG — Guests are always welcome to any service or class at Unity of Midtown. Since I became the Spiritual Leader of the church nine months ago, we’ve been blessed to have first time and returning guests every Sunday. Nevertheless, Family and Friends’ Day is a special opportunity for members of the church to invite their family and friends to worship with them.

Many churches have family and friends’ days. Some have it monthly, and others have it annually. At Unity of Midtown, we have it quarterly. Every fifth Sunday is Family and Friends’

Day. It is an exciting time in the life of our church because everyone is focused on sharing their spiritual growth.

Our last event in March was called “Full Capacity Sunday.” Our goal was to fill every seat in the sanctuary, which we thought that was 146 people. We experienced increase, abundance, overflow and more than enough. We had 163 people comfortably seated in the church.

Our next Family and Friends’ Day is this Sun., May 31 beginning at 10:30 a.m. The theme is “Let’s Do It Again” because we desire to fill every pew again. We expect so many guests that

we have contracted with Johns Hopkins Middle School for the use of their parking lot to accommodate every vehicle.

As a part of the festivities, we are having a little, friendly competition. A special gift will be given to the member who brings the most family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, classmates, etc. All of our guests will receive a free CD of the message. After service, we are also having a light reception.

Join us for Family and Friends’ Day to enjoy a great service, obtain your free CD and see which member wins the prize.

## MYcroSchool Pinellas: Largest graduating class in school’s history

ST. PETERSBURG — MYcroSchool Pinellas will hold its Spring Commencement Ceremony Tues., June 2 at the Manhattan Casino Ballroom starting at 6 p.m. The Class of 2015 will be the school’s largest graduating class in its three-year history. Forty-six students will be receiving their high school diplomas at the ceremony.

This year’s commencement address will be delivered by Pinellas County Commissioner Kenneth T. Welch. In November 2000, Welch was elected to the Pinellas Board of County Commissioners, representing District 7.

MYcroSchool is a tuition-free public charter high school offering a community-based, personalized learning program that prepares at-promise students for college and career.

Corson, Philip  
Croom, Travis  
Currington, Alysia  
Denny, Antonio  
Deonarine, Robert  
Doctor, Devante  
Duncan, Blake  
Guarino, Hunter  
Hameed-Jones, Muslimah  
Hawk-Baker, Andrew  
Jacobs, Kieron  
Johnson, Brandi  
Johnson, Devin  
Johnson, Justin  
Kelley, Quetavia  
Lewis, Janaye  
Markman, Brandi  
Melin, Owen  
Mostarlic, Ervina  
Musgrove, Charles  
Overton, Mitchell  
Prodey, Shane  
Reed, Immanuelle  
Riber, Austin  
Rodrigues, Rebecca  
Schrage, Kevin  
Scott, Demario  
Simmons, LaShaunta  
St. John-Ford, Daijah  
Taplin, De Ojai  
Tucker, Sheldon  
Walcott, Steven  
Watson, Tradarius  
Williams, Sadequa  
Yhanes, Juan

**Graduating class of 2015:**  
Adams, Brandon  
Andriese, Justin  
Basulto, Anissa  
Bowley, Savannah  
Brodnax, John  
Brown, Rashaud  
Busard, Eric  
Chann, Sylva  
Collins-Byrnes, Krystal

www.UNITYofMidtown.org

Join us for  
**Friends & Family Day**  
Sunday, May 31st

**Dr. Doral R. Pulley**  
Spiritual Leader  
511 Prescott Street South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 898-2457  
unityofmidtown1957@gmail.com

**WEEKLY SERVICES**

Sundays	9:30 am Spiritual Education Classes 10:30 am Meditation 11:00 am Morning Service	Tuesdays	6:30 pm Bible Study
		Thursdays	6:30 pm Prayer & Healing Service

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**ANYBODY CAN HAVE HIV. USE PROTECTION.**

Right now, AIDS is the leading cause of death among African-Americans aged 25 to 44. If you’re having unprotected sex, you’re at risk. Be smart: Use protection, and get tested. For a testing site near you, text your zip code to 477493.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## 80 years of life celebrated

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — They came from Georgia, north, central and south Florida. Well over a 100 relatives, co-workers and friends poured into the Enoch Davis Center last month to celebrate the life, legacy and birthday of 80-year-old matriarch Hattie Mae Smith, a 31 veteran of the Forest Hills Head Start program.

The festive occasion started with everyone who attended taking a picture with Smith, lovingly referred to as Ma Hattie. The program began with a prayer by Moore’s Chapel A.M.E. pastor Rev. James D. Sykes Jr., who talked about the Bryant-Smith family as one of the cornerstones in the history of the 92-year old house of worship.

“They’ve been here from the beginning, one generation after the other from the old white building to where we are now,” said Sykes.

Lynette S. Buchanan, the elder child of Smith introduced family members who shared their own special tale about their beloved Ma Hattie.

“She is the last aunt that we have,” said Pierce Bryant, the cousin of Buchanan. “She is the last aunt period that we have on my mom’s side and on my dad’s side. It’s just a blessing being here with her today, and I told her earlier that she’s lookin’ so pretty that she’s trying to make Leroy jealous. We’re just so proud of you Auntie!”

Born April 6, 1935, in Pidcock, Ga., Ma Hattie and Leroy Smith, Jr. were married for 41 years before he passed away on August 27, 1997.

A mini oral history segment ensued as several additional family members shared special moments about Ma Hattie, who sat and listened patiently, quietly and attentively.

Miami native and nephew Rod Love, who now resides in Orlando with his wife and two daughters, recalled a coming-of-age experience with Ma Hattie.

“Out of five kids I was the one they had to knock in the head all the time to get the message,” said Love jokingly. “My aunt used to show up in Miami whenever she got ready to, not when it was convenient...and every time she would show up and

my mom would say, ‘Come out here and get your aunt’s bags out of the car.’ I’d be the first to run and hug her and say, ‘Auntie I got your bags but when are you leaving?’”

Love went on to say with appreciation that the auntie, who would come to visit in the summertime and make them work, taught them that “at the end of hard work, you will see your labors.”

Although Ma Hattie did not have the opportunity to go to college and become a nurse as she once dreamed, she and her husband insisted that their three children — Lynette, Charles and Mark — completed college.

Buchanan stated that her mother may not have had the opportunity to go to college, but she intuitively knew every psychological way to deal with people.

“Positive reinforcement, negative reinforcement, extinction, behavior modification—she knows all that stuff they put in them books,” said Buchanan.

Although Ma Hattie’s compassion to care for others may not have materialized in the healthcare profession, her desire to help others was not extinguished but put towards helping children.

Her former supervisor Gwen Seay praised Smith for the way she worked with pre-school youngsters, especially those with disabilities.

“We had children who had problems, I mean physical problems, and Hattie would take care of those children,” said Seay.

Seay described several of the children that Ma Hattie took care of: one student who needed to have a tube put down her throat, another student who had only one eye and a missing socket where the other would be and a student with spina bifida. All of these students mentioned by Seay were in pre-school.

“And you’d never, ever hear her complain. She loved her church, her family and she was very devoted to her work,” Seay concluded.

Daisy Talbert talked about growing up with Ma Hattie and how the two became so close that they were treated like twins at home, at church, and elsewhere.

“We slept together, bathed together, fought to-

gether, got whippings together,” said Talbert.

A self-proclaimed “bad child,” Talbert said, “Hattie was the good one.” When Talbert’s mother would leave the house and give directions on what and what not to do, she would make sure she got down the block and proceed to do what she wanted. Hattie Mae would always warn: “Alright Daisy, you gon’ get a whipping,” which never deter her.

Talbert brought the house down when she talked about Wednesday night happenings at Gibbs High School in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

“They would ask me if we were going to the school game, and I’d say: ‘No, we’re going to Tampa girl...and we’d be right there in Moore’s Chapel in St. Pete!’”

Sharon Mitchell who also grew up with Ma Hattie in Jordan Park talked about the project’s heyday. Mitchell talked about how the two families not only shared porches but protective dads who were friends and looked out for both families.

Sitting at the co-workers table, Valerie McGarrah, expressed how blessed they all are to see each other laugh. She also highlighted an injustice that was quite prevalent at the time when she talked about how teachers would treat light-skinned girls with long hair better than the darker-skinned girls with shorter hair.

The one thing that McGarrah loved about Ma Hattie is that she treated all children the same and would take them anywhere with her.

“No matter what the girls looked like, I never saw Hattie treat any of the girls differently,” said McGarrah.

Despite all the wonderful comments about Ma Hattie’s kindness, generosity and compassion, she was not a pushover and would push back if anyone decided to take her to that point as exhibited in a story told by Myra Wilson, her oldest granddaughter.

Wilson and her cousins Wesley and B.J. used to stay over at Ma Hattie’s house after school. She would always make sure that they had plenty to eat. One day her husband was home while Ma Hattie was making the sandwiches! He complained about how much meat was being used.

That’s when Ma Hattie flipped the script.

According to Wilson, her grandmother responded to her husband by saying: “If you don’t like the way I’m making the sandwiches then why don’t you come make them yourself!”

Both Buchanan and her brother Charles Wesley Smith thanked the individuals who have helped in the caregiving phase of Ma Hattie’s life. Minerva Evans who was the local daytime caregiver for six years and Fannie Mae Smith (Leroy’s little sister) who rode on the bus many times from Miami to help care for her big sister. Smith thanked his wife Angela for her unselfish dedication and healthcare experience since Ma Hattie moved to Texas with them in 2011.

With so much more that was shared about Ma Hattie, she witnessed from the lips of many people that her life on this earth has been and will continue to be cherished.



Duval Park is an 87-unit apartment community located at 5025 Duval Park Circle in St. Petersburg, Florida. The property has 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom apartments, and it is designed to provide permanent, affordable and supportive housing to U.S. Military Veterans and their families. Preference will be given to U.S. Military veterans and families who reside in, or are transitioning to, permanent housing. To that end, 36 of Duval Park’s units (40%) will be set aside for those veterans with a service-connected disabling condition.

Duval Park is a Section 42 Low Income Housing Tax Credit project with 44 vouchers for HUD Section 8 rental assistance. In order to be eligible for housing in this community, you must meet the income eligibility requirements established by the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program. Your gross household income cannot exceed 60% of the Pinellas County area median income (AMI), which is currently set at the following limits:

1 person: \$24,780	2 people: \$28,320	3 people: \$31,860
4 people: \$35,400	5 people: \$38,280	6 people: \$41,100

The property is currently under construction, with the first units scheduled to be released in August 2015. Management will begin accepting applications on Monday, June 1st, for placement on the waiting list for an apartment. Applications will be processed in the order that they are received. To request an application or more information about the property or the admissions criteria, please contact the Property Manager at 727-522-1400 (FL Relay TTY 800-955-8771). The site is an active construction zone, so visits to the property must be scheduled by appointment only. You may also request information or return applications via email (duvalpark@carteretmgmt.com) or mail to Management’s corporate office at 5300 W. Cypress Street #200, Tampa FL 33607. Applications are also available for download on the property’s website, [www.duvalpark.com](http://www.duvalpark.com).



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

Health Disparities Series:

## Diabetes: What’s the big deal about A1C?

**What is this A1C test?**  
The A1C test is a blood test that provides information about a person’s average levels of blood glucose, also called blood sugar, over a three-month period. The A1C test is sometimes called the hemoglobin A1c, HbA1c, or glycohemoglobin test.  
This is the primary test used for diabetes management and diabetes research. The test result is reported as a percentage. The higher the percentage, the higher a person’s blood glucose levels have been and the greater the risk for

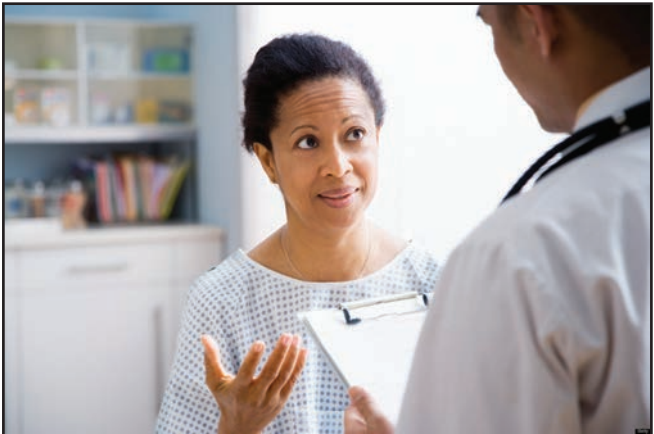
diabetic complications such as retinopathy (eye disease), nephropathy (kidney disease) and neuropathy (nerve disease). A normal A1C level is below 5.7 percent. The goal is to have an A1C level less than seven percent.  
**The disparities of diabetes**  
Diabetes Mellitus (DM) is defined as the absolute absence of insulin (type 1) or the decrease production of insulin (type 2). Also type II individuals have a problem utilizing the insulin that is produced. Insulin is needed to carry glucose

into the body’s cells for energy. Most people have type 2 DM.  
According to the Journal of Public Health, African Americans are 50 percent to 100 percent more likely to have DM than their white counterparts. African Americans have a rate two to four times than non-Hispanics whites of having renal disease, blindness, amputations and amputation-related deaths.  
End stage renal disease (ESRD) is 2.6 times higher among African Americans. Rates of blindness are only half as high for whites as they are for the rest of the population. No consistent evidence shows disparities between minorities and their white counterparts for diabetic-related neuropathy (especially in feet and legs). However, African Americans and American-Indians have a high rate of lower extremity amputation than whites.  
A normal glucose level is 70mg/dl-110mg/dl. DM is diagnosed by an A1C

level > 7, a fasting blood glucose >125mg/dl or a random level > 200mg/dl. DM can only be diagnosed by a healthcare provider. There are a lot of medications used for the management of DM and each medication regimen is structured to the individual’s specific needs.  
Some patients may have higher sugars in the morning; some may have very high sugar levels after eating and others at bedtimes. Medication care plans are adjusted according to the levels recorded by the blood glucose monitoring devices.  
Type 2 DM are typically controlled by “by mouth” medications, whereas type 1 DM is only controlled with insulin therapy. Unfortunately, some type 2 patients with high initial A1C levels of 10 or greater may require insulin injections also. The higher the A1C level the more risk of complications. Studies show for each one percent drop in A1C it reduces the risk of kidney, eye and nerve complications by 33 percent.  
Diabetes is a complicated disease and along with family support and medication therapy, diet and exercise plans are also extremely important. Community Health Centers of Pinellas, Inc. offers free cooking classes for diabetics and free exercise classes for all people at the Johnnie Ruth Clarke Community



Health Center location. Please take advantage of these services offered to better your health.  
*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.*



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## The future is bright for Kidz World graduates

From **KIDZ** page 1

Williams introduced all the teachers that in one way or another had a hand in each and every one of the 32 graduates earning their VPK diplomas.

“Parents, preschool is not what it used to be,” she said going on to explain how preschool is now considered the foundation of all learning and not a place to drop your child off for playtime. “Look what the expectations are in Kindergarten, it is very important that we make sure we prepare our children for the next level.”

Founded by Williams and her late husband, Pinellas County School Board member Lew Williams, Kidz World, located at 50-50th St. S., has become a ray of sunshine for parents wishing to get a jumpstart on education for their children.

“The reason that my husband and I even attempted to purchase a pre-

school was because we wanted to make sure that the children that came through Kidz World’s doors would be prepared,” said Williams who has dedicated years to the center. Proud of her teachers, staff and the students that enter her doors each and every day, Williams can’t help but glow in the awesomeness of the moment.

“They say that students can’t learn, that is not true,” she continued. “If they have not been exposed, they won’t get it, but they can learn if they are exposed.”

So with knowledge as her weapon, Williams, a retired educator and behavior specialist, along with her educators continue to teach the fundamentals of academics to children as young as one.

Students at Kidz World are immersed in learning throughout the day, mastering vocabulary to include

prefixes and compound words, how to form sentences to make them better readers and even dabble in Spanish.

Graduates proved their knowledge by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in both English and Spanish, as well as identifying and verbalizing in Spanish various objects, parts of the family, and numbers. The display of knowledge continued with students listing all the states along with their capitals and directions on a map.

But perhaps most impressive of all was the reading of the books. Each graduate had his or her moment in the spotlight. Stepping up to a microphone, their sweet voices ringing throughout the church as they read a book to their family and friends.

Thanks to Karen Davis Pritchett, Pinellas County Educational Specialist for Title 1, VPK parents re-

ceived two books every month. By writing a grant tapping into funds from the private sector, she made it possible for a program normally reserved for public schools to be offered to the students at Kidz World. She hand delivered the books herself and always spent a little time reading the books to the children before sending them home with their own copy.

Graduating students received the red carpet treatment, along with a medal inscribed with their names, a picture plaque and a goody bag filled with pencils, crayons, coloring books and reading books, all in an effort to promote reading at home.

As part of a literacy partnership, students who completed reading calendars all year earned two free books, a certificate,

bookmark and a McDonald’s gift certificate.

School board member Renee Flowers, Childs Park YMCA Executive Director Deborah Figgssanders, Pritchett and Williams’ son, Brandon, all helped to give out diplomas. Each student was handed a Spanish diploma along with a regular diploma with their picture on it. And for those children who started at Kidz World as one year olds, a bobble head with their name on it was reserved for them. Williams was even able to secure a two-dollar bill for each graduate.

The afternoon closed with the announcement of a new scholarship at Kidz World entitled Ms. Bernice’s “Babies.” The scholarship is named after their beloved one-year-old teacher who recently passed.

The recipient of the first award was Braelyn Rose, Ms. Bernice’s great niece. The scholarship will be awarded each year to a student to help pay for their tuition.

“Ms. B was very passionate and dedicated,” said Williams.

She started at Kidz World in 2005 as a VPK assistant. After two years of being an assistant, she earned her own class working with one year olds. She

was a surrogate mother and wiped away many tears. Some of the children that went across the stage on Saturday were in her class. Today her legacy lives on as her two daughters work at Kidz World, teaching the same one-year-old class.

“Although she wasn’t their mother, she cared for them each day, cuddled, sang and read to them,” said Williams who couldn’t hold back all her tears.

For more information on how you can sign your child up, check out their Facebook page or give them a call at (727) 322-6316.

**Kidz World Class 2015 graduates:**

Da’Kahri Avery, Gianna Bailey, Jaden Bowman, Jha’Nayla Bryant, Kaliyah Bryant, Elijah Burden, Malia Council, Jordan Gooden, Amyla Graham, Ramon Green, Jha’Myria John, Brelyn Johnson, Peyton Jones, Arianna Kelly, De’Neah Lewis, Lathan Lott, Jullian Martinez, Derrick Mims, Jr., Malik Nixon, Stephanie Plummer, David Poole, Karrington Posley, Jaelieah Samuels, Da’Marion Scott, Darion Scott, Mansur Sultan, Kyran Thomas, Don’Keria Waller, Rheanya Walls, Denia Washington, Brooklyn Williams, Calvin Witcherd





# COMMUNITY NEWS



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Courtesy of



**Pinellas County  
Urban League**

**Saturday, May 30** – FREE ACT Math Boot Camp from 10-1:30 p.m. at the Childs Park YMCA, 691 43rd St. S. in St. Pete. The purpose of this math boot camp is to help students prepare for and raise their scores on the June 13 ACT Math Test. It will benefit students in Grade 8 through 12. This program is being facilitated by Linea Baker of So-Serious.com. Sis Linea is an Applied Mathematician and Mathematics Scholar. She received her B.S. in Mathematics and Physics from the University of New Orleans where she also had the pleasure of teaching Mathematics. Linea is passionate about sharing her gift of teaching with all students. She has worked in Global Technology for the past 10 years. Her goal is to equip individuals with the tools and techniques for success by starting with writing realistic, measurable, and time specific goals. [www.ACTMathCamp.Eventbrite.com](http://www.ACTMathCamp.Eventbrite.com)

**Sunday, May 31** – Celebrating the Courageous 12 at the Carter G. Woodson African American Museum, 2240 9th Ave S., St Pete at 5 p.m. The Dolman Law Group in conjunction with St. Petersburg Police Dept. and the Pinellas County Sheriff's office will pause to share the history of this movement through song, a live interview with a surviving member, a photo display and will honor selected officers.

**Friday, June 5** — Flick & float movie night at Walter Fuller Pool from 7:30- 9:30 p.m. at 7883 26th Ave. N. in St. Pete. St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation presents a family friendly movie. While Tinkerbell and her friends aren't so sure about this scary addition to Pixie Hollow, the elite Scout Fairies set out to capture the monster before he destroys their home. Fawn must trust her heart and take a leap of faith if she hopes to rally the girls to save the NeverBeast. Floats provided. Flume slide and diving boards open, lawn chairs welcome. Price: \$2/ages 3-12, \$3/age 13 & up. [www.stpeteparksrec.org](http://www.stpeteparksrec.org)

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

*Angie Bilbo Adams*

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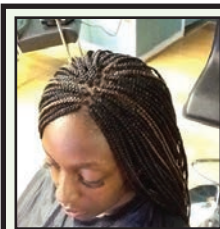
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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Christian Women’s Fellowship

From **WOMEN** page 1

the grace of thankfulness and faith, and was collaborated with “amen” by many in agreement and acknowledgement of her spiritual words of encouragement. Elder Devenia Novarolia continued the emotional climb to empowering women in 2015. Novarolia listed and analyzed the ways they stood to empower their fellow women through the acronym of the word itself: “EM” stood for Emmanuel, “P” for the Prince of Peace, “O” stands for Omega, the “W” for worship, “E” for everlasting father and “R” for righteousness. The minister in charge of the festivities, Pastor Deborah Hill, instilled the

importance of “always having to stay in that state of learning, that state of growing, that state of always evolving and moving...this helps me to be a woman of excellence.” Keeping in the spirit of the theme, celebrated author Linda Mobley spoke of her successful book “I Hate My Teen Age Years.” Mobley’s theme as related to her book was how to break the generational cycle of domestic abuse by realizing ones’ own worth and the worth of our children and the importance of keeping them safe. This was listened to reverently as a testimony about the power of God’s relationship and love to seek-

ing women in prayer. His comforting presence was felt and celebrated by the fellowship. The women lifted their voices together in conclusion singing, “I need you to survive.” The beautiful chorus states: “It is His will that every need be supplied; you are important to me, I need you to survive.” This song was a perfect conclusion to the morning’s festivities, and everyone left revived. Christian Women’s Fellowship started in a living room in April of 1987 with only seven women. This past Saturday they had the honor of celebrating 27 years of empowering, equipping and encouraging

women at the celebratory brunch. After recognizing specific members for charity their work around the community, multiple gifts were given out to various members of the group. Many of these women gave personal, social stories of strength, hardships and blessings from God. The meeting closed with a brief history of the group, announcements and a closing prayer by Davis. She encourages women to come forward and register in order to help the community by joining the Christian Women’s Fellowship. Davis is the CEO and founder.



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**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.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Blue Phi Barbeque huge success

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The local Phi Beta Sigma, Inc. Alumni Chapter held its inaugural Blue Phi Barbeque at the Enoch Davis

Community Center by drawing over 150 people Sat., May 16. The event was catered by Heavy D's Food Truck.

In addition to some of the best soul food in town, the fraternity raffled off a

50 inch high definition television donated by Brother Kendrick Scott.

"He came out of his own pockets to donate the 50' TV that was raffled away, and also donated \$900 of his proceeds to the chap-

ter," said Chapter President Cedric A. Ferrell. Glenn Barney was the lucky winner of the television.

By the end of the event, the fraternity raised over \$1,000.

"This signals only the

beginning of what's to come," said Corey Givens, Jr. who is part of the recent line of new generation of Sigmas.

Ferrell expressed his gratitude to the fraternity brothers for making the

event a success and looks forward to expanding the service organization with more young professional men to strengthen the brotherhood of Phi Beta Sigma.



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Celebrating an Empire State of Mind

From **AKA**, page 1

Welcome and introduced the night's showcase.

"Tonight we are blessed to highlight the accomplishments and talents of our Gems and Pathfinders," said Williams.

After a year of workshops focused on leadership, education and community development, as well as numerous opportunities to build character, patience, self-confidence and determination, the students are prepared for a bright future.

She went on to explain what celebrating an empire state of mind means.

"Tonight we are celebrating our empire of kings and queens. Our empire of youth destined for success; our empire of families that love and support our youth and our community empire that embraces, nurtures and guide our youth into

their future," said Williams.

A brief State of the Empire report was giving by Moultrie who informed that 20 years ago it was a struggle to find the first group of 30 girls known today as Gems. Now there are approximately 263 students in the academy, which include the young men known as Pathfinders.

"I'm proud to say that we have our second generation of AKAdemy students. I call them our AKAdemy Grandkids. Their parents were the first students in the mid-1990s that were part of the academy," she said.

Moultrie also reported on their growing and exciting annual curriculum. They've added the MLK Lecture Series as an annual event, went on college tours, promoted various HBCUs and provided

homework tutorial systems. Also, this year they piloted a mentoring program that they plan to expand over the summer and roll out for the 2015-16 year.

With pride spilling over in her voice, Moultrie reported on several recent alums that are now doctors, lawyers, Ivy League graduates and a Gates Millennium Scholar.

The night saw dancing, a fashion show and a "friendly" step challenge between the Gems and the Pathfinders. Although the step challenge was purported to be friendly, rumors have it that the boys had been sneaking in practice time since last year, and the girls pulled together their routine in just three weeks.

The second half of the showcase featured the AKAdemy Class of 2015

Award Presentation. The AKAdemic Perfection Award was given to students who made the Dean's list all year; the AKAdemic Excellence Recognition for those students who made the Dean's list at least once during the school year; AKAdemic Achievement Recognition for those students who maintained good grades and made the honor roll at least once during the school year.

The AKAdemy Awards included the Angel Award, the Character Award, the Ernest Fuller Citizenship Award and the Scott Williams Pathfinder of the Year Award.

The YDF AKAdemic Scholarships were as follows:

**2015 Scholarship Award Recipients**  
\$1,400 Jelani Pitts  
\$1,200 Jae'Lyn Dorsey  
\$1,000 Zackary Murray

\$1,000 Kayla Crawford  
\$900 Brittany Smith  
\$800 Victoria Williams  
\$700 Julie West  
\$400 Sherie Moody  
\$400 Matthew Pinckney  
\$400 Andrew Baker

**President's Council/Merit Scholarship**  
\$500 Kevon Neal-Parker

\$500 James Chaney  
**AKAdemy Book Scholarships (Each will receive \$250 Book Scholarship)**

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Caitlin Skinner  
Auhria Newton-Reynolds  
Mar'Kisha Sherrod  
Terrell Lumpkin  
A'Niya Livingston  
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**Dr. David T. Welch Scholarship**  
\$500 Shelby Fintak  
\$500 Kevon Neal-Parker

**Madame Vivian Rousson Scholarship**  
\$250 Shelby Fintak  
\$250 Jelani Pitts

To read more about the 26 graduates in the AKAdemy Class of 2015, their biographies and post-graduation plans will be posted on the sorority's Facebook page.

The Youth Development Foundation - AKA AKAdemy receives over \$109,000 annually from the Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board. The program is administered by the ladies of Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha in collaboration with the men of the Eta Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

For more information regarding the AKA AKAdemy please visit the website at [www.zuochapter.org](http://www.zuochapter.org).





# COMMUNITY NEWS

The Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. works hard to promote their motto: "Sisterhood and Service." Sunday night's donations totaling \$7,000 were given to the following community organizations to help them reach their goals and help further their missions in the community:

Alzheimer's Association, American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, Community Action Stops Abuse, Childs Park

YMCA, Community Health Centers of Pinellas, Inc. (Johnnie Ruth Clarke Health Center), Enoch Davis Center (City of St. Petersburg), James B. Sanderlin Neighborhood Family Center, Leukemia/Lymphoma Society, Pinellas County Urban League, Sickle Cell Disease Association of America - St. Petersburg Chapter, Suncoast Hospice/Empath Health, St. Petersburg Free Clinic - Food Bank and the United Negro College Fund





# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Blind Eddie giving back

BY FRANK DROUZAS  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Sitting cross-legged on a sidewalk in St. Pete is a familiar spot for Eddie Maultsby.

Strumming his acoustic guitar with a purpose and shaking his head back and forth to his own rhythm, the street musician belted out a spirited version of the Michael Jackson classic “Wanna Be Startin’ Somethin’” while pedestrians strolled by in the twilight. He could not see the passersby coming and going, occasionally stopping to drop a few bills into his tip canister, but he could hear their footsteps.

A fixture of downtown for over 30 years, Maultsby lost his sight at age 11 when he was struck by sarcoidosis, a rare inflammatory disease.

“It stunted my growth,” he explained. “It strikes all your major organs, it takes your eyesight, it attacks your lungs, your liver, your kidneys, pancreas and heart. I’ve been through a lot of hospitals.”

Eventually Maultsby decided to turn to street performing to supplement his meager disability income.

“I was receiving a check but it was a very small amount,” he said. “I had a fiancée and I wanted to try to make a living for myself.”

His street performing days began at Williams Park, but he soon realized he had to compete with the loud buses that frequently made stops all around the park. Someone suggested he take his act outside the McCrory’s store on Central Avenue where there was good foot traffic. With the blessing of the store manager, Maultsby started strum-

ming his tunes in what became a regular spot for him from 1983 to 1999, even continuing to play in front of the store a few months after it closed that year.

Soon after he retired from playing regularly, but when First Fridays became a permanent part of the re-birth of downtown St. Pete’s nightlife, he decided to return to play for the weekend crowds. Eventually he moved to his spot on Central Avenue and Second Street.

A self-taught musician, the 52 year old generally plays about three hours or so at a stretch. He gravitates toward the classics that are crowd pleasers but also plays newer songs, dipping into the catalogs of artists such as Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Lionel Ritchie, Mary J. Blige and Beyoncé.

“People like new songs when they’re hot,” he said. “If they’re not hot anymore, then you can do some old classics and they’ll still love it.”

For many years Maultsby has wanted to break into mass media, and now cohosts a paid radio program with Larry Facyson every Saturday from 8:30-9 a.m. on WRXB 1590 on AM radio.

“It’s a Christian station, they play religious music 24 hours a day,” he explained, “but they do have paid programs. I’ve always been into gospel and the Lord, and I’ve wanted to start something where I can give back and help people and I figured I can on the radio and this is what I’ve been doing for the last couple months.”

On “The Florida Blind Boy Show,” as his program is called, Maultsby spins religious music, talks and gives away prizes such as gift cards for essentials like gas and groceries. Though



he has an outreach website [www.gofundme.com/tryuwc](http://www.gofundme.com/tryuwc) that he hopes will encourage people to donate and does receive help with his dues for the radio program through a couple local businesses, Maultsby puts up the money for the prizes himself from his disability check and tips he collects when performing.

“I come down here on Friday nights, and on that Saturday show, whatever money I’ve made I give away,” he said. “Not all of it, but the majority.”

With the help of Eric Wright, Maultsby has even arranged for groceries to be delivered to random callers. He specifically remembered how grateful an elderly lady was a few weeks ago when she was the winning caller. She asked how she would get them and Maultsby told her they’d be delivered right to her door.

“She was so thrilled!” he recalled. “I’ve given

away a lot so far, but that was one person that I knew I made a difference.”

Performing for over three decades, Maultsby has touched many people directly with his gift of music—some who have found themselves at low points in life. Maultsby recalled one such evening when a man named John who had worked at the yacht club approached him as he played and sang.

“His wife had left him, he lost his job, he was really down,” Maultsby remembered. “He said, ‘Could you play me a song?’ I said, ‘Sure,’ and I played ‘Easy Like Sunday Morning.’ I got through it and he was crying. He said, ‘I was thinking of giving up on life. Since I met you, I just want to tell you thank you.’ I saw him much later, he had gotten a job, his life had turned around. You can imagine how those types of

things can impact your own life.”

Maultsby also has his share of stories of people who have wanted to extend a helping hand to him, just like he is doing now with his music and radio show. He recalled a time more than 20 years ago when it had rained steadily all week and he couldn’t come out to perform. Consequently he came up short on the money needed for some of his bills, and the city shut his water off. When he finally hit the streets one day to earn enough money to pay the bill, a man approached Maultsby’s spot on the sidewalk.

“The Lord wants me to do something for you,” the man had told Maultsby. “Is there anything you need?”

Maultsby politely declined, so the man dropped “a little something” in Maultsby’s tip basket and Maultsby could hear him walking away and starting

up his car a short distance away. A minute later Maultsby heard the car engine being shut off and footsteps approaching again.

“Look, I can’t leave,” the man had told him directly. “God wants me to do something for you. I cannot leave.”

Reluctantly, Maultsby confided that he was trying to earn the money to get his water turned back on. After getting Maultsby’s name and disappearing for a while, the man returned with a receipt.

“He said, ‘Your water will be on today,’” Maultsby remembered. “I said, ‘God bless you—what’s your name?’ ‘That’s not important,’ he said. ‘Have a good day.’ Those types of things make me want to give back.”

To reach Frank Drouzas, email [fdrouzas@theweeklychallenger.com](mailto:fdrouzas@theweeklychallenger.com)

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INFORMATION SESSIONS

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter &  
St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter Educational Services, Inc.

2015 -2016

Beautillion Militaire

2015-2016 Male High School Juniors, Seniors and Parents,  
Please attend the information session on Saturday,  
May 16, 2015 or Saturday, June 6, 2015 at South Branch  
Library (2300 Roy Hanna Dr. South ) @ 12:30 PM. FMI:  
Please contact 727.228.0096 or email [dstbeautillion@gmail.com](mailto:dstbeautillion@gmail.com)

What is a Beautillion?

A Beautillion is a rite of passage in which young men move from one stage of their lives to another. It signals a young man’s coming of age. There is a public presentation of young men to society at a formal ball.

The St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and S.P.A.C.E.S. Inc., has proudly implemented this important event to create our Beautillion Militaire Crème de la Crème.

FREE Family Cooking Classes

Come learn how to make healthy meals on a budget!

We'll be measuring spices, grating cheese, washing lettuce, drizzling olive oil and much more in this series of family cooking classes!

Classes will be held at  
Childs Park Recreation Center  
June 10 to July 15  
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Pre-registration is required.

This is a special 6-week series designed for families with children ages 8 and up that focuses on good nutrition, making healthy choices on a budget and gaining valuable culinary skills.

- Kids are more likely to try new foods if they play an active role in choosing and preparing them.
- Together, parents and children can help each other form lifelong healthy eating habits.
- Children gain confidence in the kitchen and parents get an opportunity to create family time.

Childs Park Recreation Center is located at  
4301 13th Ave S, St Petersburg, FL 33711  
727-893-7463



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Painting to celebrate jazz

From **ARTIST**, page 1

paintings of a saxophone-playing musician turning into a bass and a woman blending with a cello. The freedom of expression in jazz is a theme reflected in his paintings of nightclubs, said Jackson.

“Everything about the music just comes together when you see these pieces, jointly or separately,” Jackson said. The significance of jazz is “the music put into it. It’s what humans respond to. It soothes the savage beast.”

Jackson, who grew up

in Midtown, said he has been drawn to the arts since childhood, an interest that was supported by his parents. An early inspiration was Salvador Dali, whose surrealist work Jackson admired during visits to the Dali Museum. At Northeast High School, he joined the art club and National Art Society.

When he left for college, Jackson said, he intended to pursue a career in the arts and earned a bachelor’s degree in fine arts at Southern University

in Baton Rouge, La. But he changed goals after mentoring kids in the arts during college. He received a master’s in education curriculum and instruction at National Louis University in Chicago and a doctorate in education leadership at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale.

When he returned to St. Petersburg, he worked first as a probation officer for the state. His career in education began in the mid-1990s, when he worked as

a program coordinator at the Pinellas Technical Education Center (now Pinellas Technical College), helping school dropouts learn job skills.

He next became assistant principal at Fitzgerald Middle School in Largo, which led to three principal jobs, starting with Thurgood Marshall Fundamental Middle School in St. Petersburg in 2006. He left in 2012 to become principal of Martinez Middle School in Tampa and moved to Sligh Middle School in Tampa in 2014.

He, his wife Kaydianne and their four children live in St. Petersburg.

Their house is filled with his artwork, Jackson said. He paints during free time on nights and weekends. He uses various materials such as stencils and acrylic paint in his work.

“The whole process is work ... to express a genre of research,” he said.

Jackson describes his work as “a visual representation of deep thoughts, research and investigation.”

An exhibit at the Woodson museum last year was titled “Endangered” and expressed his concern over global and national issues like the 2014 abduction of Nigerian school girls, the



Jackson’s exhibit features jazz icons such as Louis Armstrong and Dizzy Gillespie.



This painting reflects what Jackson calls his main theme: “how man and instrument merge as one with the music.”

endangerment of African-American male figures, and human self-destruction.

The exhibit’s inspiration was a school research project Jackson did on the disproportionately high suspension rates of minority students in urban school districts.

Though he views art and education separately, they both give him skills for solving problems, he said. “Art can help solve problems more creatively.”

He has two new projects in the works. In one,

he plans to extend his “Endangered” series. The other, he said, focuses on the white, aristocratic traditions in American values and their influences on African-Americans and immigrants from the late 19th century until today.

*Jeffrey Zanker is a reporter in the Neighborhood News Bureau at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Information from the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum website was used in this report.*

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## Dinner time.

### A perfect moment to talk about alcohol.

An alarming number of pre-teens are drinking alcohol — which makes it urgent to find every opportunity to talk to your kids about the dangers of underage drinking. For tips on how — and when — to begin the conversation, visit:

**[www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov](http://www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov)**

Want ideas on what to say?  
Need help with starting the conversation?  
Contact Operation PAR, Inc. at 1-888-PAR-NEXT



# CHURCH DIRECTORY



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

**Sunday Worship Services .....7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday School .....9:00 a.m.**  
**Wednesday Mid-Day Bible Study .....Noon - 12:30 p.m.**  
**Wednesday Prayer Service.....6:00 p.m.**  
**Wednesday Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.**  
**Youth Chapel Services - 921 20th Street South**  
**2nd & 4th Sunday Worship Services.....10:00 a.m.**  
**Wednesday Prayer .....6:00 p.m.**  
**Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.**

**Mission Statement:**  
*Impact the world by equipping believers to reach the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.*



Rev. Louis M. Murphy Sr.  
Senior Pastor

**First Baptist Institutional Church**  
3144 Third Avenue South,  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
Phone: 727-323-7518

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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Praise Time 10:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Tuesday Night Live -  
Prayer Service & Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Come Worship With the First Baptist Family**



REV. DR. WAYNE G. THOMPSON,  
PASTOR

**BETHEL METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3455 - 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711  
Telephone (727) 327-0554 • Fax (727) 327-0240  
E-mail: [bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com) Web site: [www.bmmbc.org](http://www.bmmbc.org)

Sunday Worship Service .....10:15 a.m.  
Sunday School .....9:00 a.m.  
Teen Summit (Wednesday) .....7:00 p.m.  
Bible Study (Wednesday) .....7:00 p.m.



Rev. Rickey L. Houston,  
Pastor

**“God’s House In The City”**



Rev. Wallace Elliott  
Sr. - Pastor

**First Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church**  
1121 22nd Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
**(727) 327-8708**

Sunday Worship Services 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School .....9:30 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting (Tuesday) .....6:00 p.m.  
Bible Study (Tuesday) .....7:00 p.m.  
Baptist Training Union (Sunday) 4:00 p.m.

**“The Little Church Where Everybody Is Somebody”**



Rev. Dr. Doral R. Pulley



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511 Prescott Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712 • (727) 898-2457  
[www.UNITYofMidtown.org](http://www.UNITYofMidtown.org) • [unityofmidtown1957@gmail.com](mailto:unityofmidtown1957@gmail.com)

**WEEKLY SERVICES**

<b>Sundays</b>	9:30 am Spiritual Education Classes 10:30 am Praise & Worship 11:00 am Morning Service	<b>Tuesdays</b>	6:30 pm Bible Study
		<b>Thursdays</b>	6:30 pm Prayer & Healing Service

**YOUR CHURCH AD COULD BE HERE!**

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



Pastor Michael T. and  
Elect Lady Sheila Culbreth

**GENESIS WORSHIP CENTER CHURCH**  
1601 49th Street South  
Gulfport, FL 33707  
727.898.5571  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

**MOUNT PILGRIM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
4000 5th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711  
Telephone: 727-321-7375



**Pastor Clark Hazley, Sr.**

**Mission Statement**  
Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour; and on the profession of our faith. We the people of God returning to God’s Word, proclaiming, God’s Will in provoking His love among one another.

**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. Carl Mobley, Sr.

Sunday School .....9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship .....11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Evening Prayer .....6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.

*The church where what God’s word teaches is practiced!*



Bro. Robert Smith

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

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

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



Dr. John A. Evans, Pastor

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

*Our Mission: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is a family of believers in Christ, reaching out to the world, preaching the gospel to the unsaved and teaching the saved to serve by demonstrating the Love of Christ.*

**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](http://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](http://www.anointedwordonline.org)



Pastors Dexter and Wanda McCree

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

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

*“Not Church as usual”*

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

**COME JOIN THE FUN AT VBS FAMILY DAY**  
SATURDAY - MAY 30, 11 am – 2 pm

**FIRST BAPTIST INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH**  
3144 3rd Ave. S.,  
St. Petersburg, Florida

**Save the Dates**  
VBS Dates June 8-12 and June 15-19  
**FOLLOW THE TRUE SUPERHERO**



# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### Schedule of Services

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



Rev. Brian K. Brown

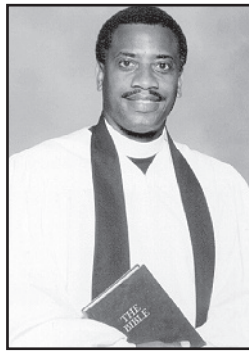
## THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

### 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](mailto:rojmbc@knology.net)**  
**Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**



Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.  
Pastor

## HOLY TEMPLE CATHEDRAL PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, INC.

3101 Freemont Terrace South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
727-452-3191 • [www.holytemplepaoc.com](http://www.holytemplepaoc.com)

"A Church Where the Fire of the Holy Ghost is Burning and Holiness is Still Right!"



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 School .....Sundays at 9:00 AM  
Morning Worship .....Sundays at 10:15 AM  
WRXB (1590) Radio Ministry .....2nd 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 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 a.m. or the 10:45 a.m. worship service, and Sunday Church School at 9:30 a.m. 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 p.m. Bible Study - Studying from 1st John. Know that you have an open invitation to join us in the Study of God's Word.  
Month of May:  
May 30 - West Coast Baptist District Association - The Fifth Sunday WCBA Workshop will be held on Sat., May 30, at 9 a.m.

Place: True Faith Inspirational Baptist Church, 2526 W Sligh Avenue, Tampa, Dr. Brett Snowden, Host Pastor. Please plan now to attend. June 5 - 7 pm - Second Quarter Church Conference.  
Save the dates in June:  
June 1 - 7 p.m. - Last church anniversary meeting (special call meeting)  
June 5 - 7 p.m. - Second Quarter Church Conference.  
87TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY - THEME: "Giving God Glory and Praising His Name for 87 Years" - Scripture: Psalm 86:12 - Colors: Royal Blue, Ivory and Silver.  
June 7 - 87th Church Anniversary Kickoff - 7:45 a.m. - Dr. John A. Evans, Sr., Pastor - Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and at 10:45 a.m. - Dr. Joseph Gordan, Pastor Emeritus of Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church.  
June 8 - 7 p.m. - Bishop Lewis W. Sherman, Pastor - Holy Christian Cathedral Church.  
June 9 - 7 p.m. - Rev. Troy Adams, Sr., Pastor - New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church.  
June 10 - 7 p.m. - Rev. Clarence A. Williams, Pastor - Mt. Zion AME Church.  
June 14 - Culmination of the

87th - Both Services - The Saint Michael Baptist Church, New Orleans, Louisiana, Reverend Darius Jeffries, Pastor.  
JUNE 15-18 - 6 p.m. - Vacation Bible School (VBS) All are welcome  
June 21 - Father's Day  
JUNE 22-26, 2015 - NBCUSA, INC. - CONGRESS - Detroit, MI.  
Need a ride to church? Call our Transportation Ministry - (727) 906-8300 and LEAVE YOUR INFORMATION.  
Thought for the Week: If you love Jesus, but you can't stand me, you hate me, than How can you say you love God.  
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](mailto:fmbc3300@verizon.net)  
NOW "LIVE STREAMING":  
Visit Our Website: [www.fmbctheship.net](http://www.fmbctheship.net) and CLICK on the PASTOR'S IMAGE at the top of the Page. Also, US-TREAM - Visit West Coast Baptist District Association Website: [www.experiencethecoast.com](http://www.experiencethecoast.com)

## 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.  
Graduation Sunday is coming! This year Mt. Zion will be honoring graduates from high school and college on May 31 at 10 am. Also on Graduation Sunday wear your favorite college or military branch logos or colors. Rev. Tyler J. Green will be our guest speaker. So invite your family and friends to join us for this special day.  
Celebrate, Thrive and Enjoy with the Sistahs Surviv-

ing Breast Cancer and other community organizations for a Survivor's Brunch on Sat., June 6 at 10 a.m. For more information contact Sis. Cheryl Clinton at 727-692-6477.  
Get Ready to set sail with the Sistahs Surviving Breast Cancer on the Royal Caribbean's "Freedom of the Seas," April 3-10, 2016. This is a cruise you don't want to miss. For more information contact Sis. Carolyn Swanson at 727-215-8952 or Sis. Cheryl Clinton at 727-692-6477.  
Stay Connected by keeping us updated. If your address or other information has changed just check the change of address box on your envelope or go to [www.mzprogressive.org](http://www.mzprogressive.org) and

click the resources link. All personal info is kept confidential and is for church use only.  
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](http://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. 727-894-4311, email: [info@mzprogressive.org](mailto:info@mzprogressive.org).



## Pastor's Corner

BY PASTOR SARAH EDWARDS  
Visible Voices Christian  
Community Association

### Have you reached the 5th dimension yet?

No, I do not have in mind that singing group called the fifth dimension that was very popular in the 70's even though they were sensational.  
But rather, am referring to the five levels or dimensions that is required for everyone to enter into God's rest that is only found within His Government. We have to do is submit to His rules of engagement in order to receive the benefits of being a King's kid and servant of the only true and living God.  
We are in the world; but not of it. Citizens of the Kingdom of God do not reason the way the world systems reason and come to their final conclusions. That's why I want to know do you boast on 'being too bless, to be stress', I'm the chosen one; but I haven't decided who I want you to be yet' or 'I've got my mind made up and I'm gonna have anything I want from God'. If you do; you are not anywhere near the fifth dimension. In fact, you lack understanding what the Kingdom of God is, how it functions and how one can become a citizens of it. Owing a green card will not allow you to enter in; nor will a Visa card will not permit you to tour God's Kingdom.  
The first level or dimension that is required of every person

who became a Christian is that they recognized and acknowledged that even though they were created perfect; their soul had become contaminated with the world systems of reasoning/logic. However, the second dimension for you to step onto happens once you were evangelized with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and realized that your sin nature was ruling and reigning in your heart. In return, an acknowledgement that Jesus loves them, he suffered and died just to pay their pardon. Paying their sin debt; Jesus set them free from the law of sin and death. In fact, made them righteous. The results are that you are now 'born again' of the Spirit of God upon accepting Him as your Savior and are a citizen of God's Kingdom.  
The third dimension for you to step into is to allow yourself to become teachable as a student under the tootle of one of God's call, chosen, appointed and anointed teachers. That is, humble yourself enough to be mentored by a more experience officer of the Church that is qualified to guide you in becoming one of Jesus' disciples.  
Once you have more than an intellectual assent with book knowledge; you will acquire a truthful spiritual understanding that is referred to as revelations.

Only then will you be able to experience a deeper and intimate relationship with our Master because you now truly understand who God has said that He is. Deep calls to the deep.  
The fourth dimension is to receive the baptism into the Holy Spirit and you shall receive power from on high. No doubt praying in your prayer language; your soul will be enlighten beyond measure and your spirit strengthen.  
Heaven gates will be open wide unto you as the Holy Spirit will travel with you as your comforter. This elevates you to the fifth dimension. You will comprehend what Jesus meant in practical terms when He said: "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you. Therefore, you go to every ethnic group and make 'disciples' of them.  
If you bypass any of these dimensions or levels in attempting to become what God has purposed in His plan for you. You will be driven to do works of your flesh. If you build your hope on anything else other than the foundation of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross; you will be ineffective. Therefore, God shall not bless it. Because of this, many have determined to rely on themselves or

## 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 9:00 am for Sunday School and at 10:15 am worship service. Bible Study and Teen Summit/Children Rising are held on Wednesday evening, at 7:00 pm.  
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 encour-

age 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 6:00 pm.  
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 Se-

mester (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..  
JOIN US FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
JUNE 8-12, 2015 6:30 pm  
"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](mailto:bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com) Website: [www.bmmbc.org](http://www.bmmbc.org)



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\* Available with approved credit through Mercedes-Benz Financial Services through June 01, 2015. Not everyone will qualify. Advertised 36 months lease payment based on a total gross capitalized cost of \$33,900. Includes Destination Charge and Premium 1 Package. Excludes title, taxes, registration, license fees, insurance, dealer prep and additional options. Cash due at signing is \$3,623 which includes \$2,499 capitalized cost reduction, \$795 acquisition fee and first month's lease payment of \$329. No security deposit required. At lease end, lessee pays for any amounts due under the lease, any official fees and taxes related to the scheduled termination, excess wear and use plus \$0.25/mile over 30,000 miles, and \$595 vehicle turn-in fee.