

2015-08-20

## The Weekly Challenger : 2015 : 08 : 20

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# The Weekly Challenger

We Value Diversity | We Value Education | We Value History

VOL. 47 NO. 52

AUGUST 20 - AUGUST 26 , 2015

50¢



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## Going Forward with a Purpose, Inc.



Minister Eddie Lee Pelham

BY JOYCE N. JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Minister Eddie Lee Pelham's harrowing life led to multiple imprisonments, crack cocaine addiction and eventually homelessness. Having been incarcerated for over 25 years, he was another statistic of a black male life being lost.

Pelham had been in and out of correctional facilities since the age of 14 beginning with a stint at Pinellas County Juvenile Detention Center. He also spent time in Sumter and Martin Correctional Institutions.

But his story is also a story of redemption. He credits his late grandmother Beullah Pelham for instilling in him the power of prayer.

"Now I can't tell her how sorry I am," he said. "Through her death God began to work in me."

He then had another spiritual intervention when a prisoner, who was serving a life sentence, invited him to weekly Bible studies.

See **PURPOSE**, page 4



Darlene Butler-Welch, second from left, and pastor Ricardo Welch view the women's caskets at Saturday's ceremony.

Reprint with permission of the *Tampa Bay Times*

## The Welch Sisters graduate to their heavenly home

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Close to 1,500 people from all around the nation came out to First Baptist Church to bid a tearful farewell and give joyous praise at the home-going graduation ceremonial service for three sisters who transitioned to their

heavenly estate Aug. 9

Three white coffins stood at the foot of the altar. Family members put flowers on each casket as they said goodbye to their angels. A white flower for La'Mour, yellow for India and orange for Tehira.

These three young women, along with a friend, were headed back to St. Petersburg after a

religious convention in Ft. Pierce when they were in a horrific car accident that claimed their lives and the life of the driver of the truck that hit them.

Although the three sisters are no longer with us, they left an indelible mark on all who knew them.

"Tehira and I, we met when we were in the first grade. I was about seven

years old," signed Sabila Beganovic, one of her closest friends. "We had been together for eight years in school. We were almost like twins, always together. We laughed together, we cried together, we joked together, we made plans together."

She explained that the

See **SISTERS**, pages 10

## Celebrating success in closing the achievement gap

BY CINDY CARTER  
Staff Writer

LARGO – A fundraiser banquet was held last Thurs., Aug. 13 at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 13255 118th St. N, in order to spotlight the successes the Bridging the Achievement Gap (BTAG) program has made over the last 12 years.

"We're going to spotlight our students and celebrate what this program

is all about," said Minister Bambi Jones who believes in the message of the BTAG program.

Armed with retired teachers to help, BTAG has taken the staggering statistics of over a decade and shattered them. It's no secret African-American children were left behind in education, citing a devastating 57 percent failure rate among black students

See **SUCCESS**, page 9



BTAG founders  
Gwen and James Feazell

## POC successfully operates 3 youth employment programs



Eleanor Brooks,  
Program Dir., POC

BY SKYLA LUCKEY  
Staff Writer

PINELLAS COUNTY – Pinellas Opportunity Council, (POC) Inc. Youth Development Program completed another summer serving the Pinellas County community with 71 students participating in its pre-employment and job skills development program. For 32 years, POC has provided youth an opportunity to engage in summer employment. Three groups of students were celebrated for their participation in this year's program.

For six weeks, students ages 14-17 were energized through training provided by POC and STEM TEC staff. They spent the time gaining hands on practical part-time work experience.

**Fri., June 26**

Eleven students from the Pinellas County System's Homeless Education Assistance Team (HEAT) Program were recognized for their participation in the pre-employment/life skills development-training component provided by POC staff.

The training included,

See **POC**, page 8

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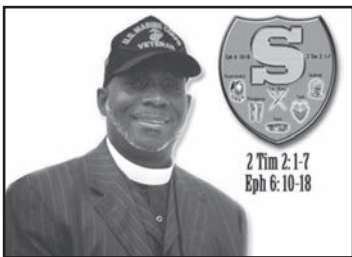
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# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Breaking the Cycle

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

### Debunking well-known beliefs

Praise the Lord Saints.  
Here's a freebie.  
I'm not saying I agree wholeheartedly with 100 percent of this but it is good reading and gives a different perspective on some very important subjects.  
It also debunks some well-known beliefs or philosophies taught and perpetuated for many moons.

#### The 7 Laws of Spiritual Success by Dr. Deepak Chopra Key Ideas

Based on natural laws which govern all of creation, this book shatters the myth that success is the result of hard work, exacting plans, or driving ambition.

Deepak Chopra offers a life-altering perspective on the attainment of success:

Once we understand our true nature and learn to live in harmony with natural law, a sense of well-being, good health, fulfilling relationships, energy and enthusiasm for life, and material abundance will spring forth easily and effortlessly.

##### 1. The Law Of Pure Potentiality

This law is based on the fact that we are, in our essential state, pure consciousness. According to Chopra, pure consciousness is pure potentiality; it is the field of all possibilities and infinite creativity. Being infinite and unbounded, it is also pure joy. Other attributes of consciousness are pure knowledge, infinite silence, perfect balance, invincibility, simplicity and bliss.

The more you experience your true nature, the closer you are to the field of pure potentiality. The experience of the Self, or "self-referral", means that our internal reference point is our own spirit and not the object of our experience. Through meditation you will learn to experience the field of pure silence and pure awareness. In that field of pure silence is the field of infinite correlation, the field of infinite organizing power, the ultimate ground of creation where everything is inseparably connected with everything else.

In the Bible is the expression, "Be still and know that I am God." This can only be accomplished through meditation. Spending time in nature will also give you access to the qualities inherent in the field: infinite creativity, freedom and bliss. Another way to access the field of pure potentiality is through the practice of nonjudgment. Judgment is the constant evaluation of things as right or wrong, good or bad. When you are constantly evaluating, classifying, labeling, analyzing, you create a lot of turbulence in your internal dialogue. This turbulence constricts the flow of energy between you and the field of pure potentiality.

As you gain access to your true nature, you will also spontaneously receive creative thoughts, because the field of pure potentiality is also the field of pure infinite creativity and pure knowledge. The affluence of the universe - the lavish display and abundance of the universe - is an expression of the creative mind of nature. The more tuned in you are to the mind of nature the more you have access to its infinite, unbounded creativity.

##### 2. The Law Of Giving

In order to keep energy and prosperity coming to us, we have to keep the energy circulating. A river must keep flowing, otherwise it begins to stagnate, to suffocate and strangle its very own life force. Circulation keeps a river and every living thing in it alive and vital. Giving and receiving are different aspects of the flow of energy in the universe. If you stop the flow of either, you interfere with nature's intelligence.

The universe operates through dynamic exchange; giving and receiving are different aspects of the flow of energy in the universe. In our willingness to give that which we seek, we keep the abundance of the universe circulating in our lives.

The more you give, the more you will receive, because you will keep the abundance of the universe circulating in your life. Anything that is of value in life only multiplies when it is given. The flow of life is nothing other than the harmonious interaction of all the elements and forces that structure the field of existence. This harmonious interaction of elements and forces in our life operates as the Law of Giving.

It is the intention behind your giving and receiving that is the most important thing. The intension should always be to create happiness, because happiness is life-supporting and life-sustaining and therefore generates increase. The return is directly proportional to the giving when it is unconditional and from the heart. Practicing the Law of Giving is actually very simple: if you want joy, give joy to others.

If you want love - learn to give love, if you want attention and appreciation, learn to give the same, if you want material abundance, help others to get material abundance. The easiest way to get what you want is to help others get what they want. If you want to be blessed with all the things in life, learn to silently bless everyone with all the good things in life.

Chopra suggests that the best way to put the Law of Giving into operation is to make a decision that anytime you come in contact with anyone, you will give them something. It doesn't have to be in the form of material things. It could be a flower, a compliment or a prayer. The most powerful forms of giving are nonmaterial.

The gift of caring, attention, affection, appreciation and love are some of the most precious gifts you can give. They don't cost you anything. When you meet someone, you can silently send them a blessing wishing them happiness, joy and laughter. This kind of silent giving is very powerful. As long as you are giving you will be receiving. Our true nature is one of affluence and abundance. We are naturally affluent because nature supports every need and desire.

More to come.  
Till next week,  
God Bless and Keep Us All.  
Rev. Dr. Robert L. 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

Parent Support for Education Council Board Member | Dept. Juvenile Justice Chaplain for Circuit 6

## Reasons why voters must reject *Times* endorsement



In two separate *Tampa Bay Times*' articles, they make it clear why voters in District 7 must reject their endorsement of Lisa Wheeler-Brown for the St. Petersburg City Council District 7 seat.

In one article entitled "Failing Factories: Officials announce stepped up efforts after *Times*' Failure Factories school investigations," *The Times* enlightens us about Superintendent of Pinellas County Schools Michael Grego's plans to make Fairmont Park, Lakewood and Maximo magnet schools. This is his solution to the issue of black children being disproportionately behind academically in the five elementary schools in south St. Petersburg. Over 50 percent these schools' population is African American.

Translated, that means that black children would be bussed out of the community again, white children would be bussed and we would be unable to discern the magnitude at which black children were failing because they would be spread throughout the county, making it difficult to ascertain the depth and magnitude of the problem.

Whatever side of the argument you sit on in regards to desegregation, the one fact that can't be disputed is that the problem of the district failing to educate our children has been illuminated by them being concentrated in one area.

Yet, in spite of their own in-depth investigation into the academic failure of black children, *The Times* encourages us to vote for Wheeler-Brown because she will join Karl Nurse and others in ensuring the Rays are afforded the opportunity to look for a new home, not because she would be an effective advocate for the residents within District 7.

In a second article specific to the District 7 race entitled "Candidates move away from Wengay Newton's legacy," *The Times* thought it important to remind us that Sheila Scott Griffin's law practice had problems and as a result her practice closed. Her law practice failing is synonymous to what many businesses experienced during the onset of this country's economic decline.

However, as opposed to highlighting the fact Scott-Griffin took on the challenge of starting a law practice while caring for a disabled husband until his death and after completing years of academic preparation to earn her bachelor's degree, masters in public administration and a law degree, they chose to remind us of what happens when African Americans pursue excellence—the message was we fail!

Interestingly enough, *The Times* chose not to remind us of Wheeler-Brown's criminal record, a fact that many may find relevant when deciding on whom to vote for!

District 7 voters this election has a lot at stake. There are plans to develop the 14 acres of land across from Sylvia's. It is going to be imperative that whoever wins the seat has a base of knowledge and skills relevant to complex deals such as redevelopment within the public sector.

This past May the city approved a community redevelopment plan aimed at addressing the multitude of blight and social issues connected to that blight such as education. It is going to be imperative that the person elected to represent District 7 be familiar with the back door deals that traditionally accompany the potential of millions of public dollars within the Community Redevelopment Area and have solutions on how to avoid the systemic rape of the black community once more!

Lastly, the Pinellas County School Board's failure to educate black children within neighborhood schools is an issue that must be addressed by the individual representing District 7. The representative must be a student of public education. The representative must also elicit a depth of understanding consistent with the sacrifices made by parents who are their children's first teachers and providers.

Voters in District 7, let's for once reject the notion once and for all that others have to choose our elected officials for us!

Maria Scruggs

## Look Out For Each Other.

My most vivid memory of my mother was of her always working. If you saw the movie "The Help," you will understand the work she did. She was a divorced, single mother with eight children. Each day she told us to "Look out for each other."



Will Newton and his mother Susie Newton.

My name is **Winthrop Newton**. People call me **Will**. I'm a candidate for St. Petersburg City Council, District 7. My brother is Councilman **Wengay** Newton. He's leaving office.

I am someone who has **lived** what many of you are living today. I would not be where I am today without **programs** like food stamps, Head Start, and a summer job from "CETA."

I want to help find options and opportunities that **change** people's lives. Only then will we address crime, homelessness, hunger and unemployment. Only then will St. Petersburg become the seamless city we dream of.

#### ENDORSED OR RECOMMENDED BY

Darryl Rouson  
Wengay Newton  
Steve Kornell  
Amy Foster  
International Association of Fire Fighters  
Police Benevolent Association  
Pinellas Realtors Organization  
West Central Florida Federation of Labor

With your vote, I will work **tirelessly** to make that dream a reality.

— WINTHROP "WILL" NEWTON

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for ST. PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL  
DISTRICT 7

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believes that America can best lead the world from racial antagonism when it accords to every man, regardless of race, creed or color, his human and legal rights. Hating no man, fearing no man... the Black Press strives to help every man in the firm belief that all men are hurt as long as anyone is held back.



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Dear Editor,

After reading Thomas Tobin's excellent article in the *St. Petersburg Times* dated April, 18, 2003, it raised the question: Will school choice lead to re-segregation?

The short answer to this question is "yes". In school districts around the country, court orders have been lifted, parents have been given a choice, and they have overwhelmingly elected to have their kids go to school near their homes. That has led to schools that are, for all practical purposes, re-segregated.

In Pinellas we recently exercised our right to choose, and we came up with the same results. Parents and grandparents want their kids near the house, plain and simple.

Would we be better off if we had integrated schools? Yes. But we live in a largely segregated society. And the present reality is that in 2007 the racial ratios in Pinellas schools will be lifted.

In Pinellas we are living with a terrible irony. It's important to remember that this all began in 1951 in Topeka, Kan., where little Linda Brown was forced to walk a mile over a broken-down railroad yard to get to a black school, when there was a perfectly good white school just seven blocks from her house. Her father protested, the NAACP got involved, and Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas changed the landscape of education in America. Now, in St. Petersburg, we have hundreds of black children who are going to be bussed past brand-new schools in their own neighborhood so that they can attend largely white schools on the other side of town.

The real issue is quality of education. The real question is whether we as citizens are willing to commit ourselves to the belief that a quality public school education is the great leveler in a democratic society, a foundation upon which all people can have the opportunity to excel? And the ultimate question is: Are willing to commit the resources now and in the years ahead to make this an on-going reality?

Now is the time for us to be vigilant. Now is the time to get organized to see that black kids don't get left behind after 2007. Now is the time when we as citizens must put in place structures of accountability that will measure student achievement, resource allocation, class sizes, disciplinary policies, and other factors contributing to the quality of education, now and in the years ahead. Now is the time for all parents and grandparents, family members and friends to make a personal commitment to the education of our children. Now is the time for us to begin insisting that the greatest amount of resources be given to the schools that need it the most.

If we don't do this now, then we all know what will happen. After 2007, the majority of the money, programs, teachers, and other resources will begin moving to north Pinellas.

The "structure of accountability" I'm referring to was supposed to be provided by the District Monitoring and Advisory Committee. DMAC was appointed by the court to serve as the community's watchdog group, and has the responsibility to see that we don't revert to "separate but unequal." I was appointed as one of the first members of DMAC, and served for over a year. However, during my tenure it became clear to me that DMAC was not fulfilling its responsibility, and was emerging as simply a "rubber stamp" for the school administration.

While on DMAC I insisted that the committee get more direct community input, and that they hold meetings in the schools throughout the county, not just at school administration headquarters in Largo. Some DMAC members agreed, but a majority refused. I then discovered that not only was DMAC refusing to meet in the community, but they were also distorting the public record and changing committee minutes to make it appear otherwise. From this instance and others, it became clear to me that DMAC could not be counted on to openly and honestly protect our children.

Until DMAC demonstrates that it will live up to its court-ordered responsibilities it falls to the community to ensure a just and quality education for all our kids. Organizations such as AAVREC, the NAACP, the Urban League, Concerned Organizations for Quality Education for Black Students, Coalition for a Safe and Drug-free St. Petersburg, the Pan Hellenic Council, the IMA, CUCA and other like-minded groups can play a huge part in seeing to it that our kids attend a school system that stresses quality, accountability, equality, and justice.

Such organizations must form committees, do research, visit schools, and meet with students, parents and teachers. They must open up dialogues, measure success and failure, suggest remedial actions, and ensure accountability. They must make their voices heard and join together to ensure quality and justice.

This will not be a short-term process, and it will not be easy. Differences will emerge, and people of good conscience will disagree. But the risk of inaction is great.

How re-segregated we will become is up to us. And so is the quality of our kid's education. And so is the strength of our community. It will take courage, honesty, and vigilance to press forward in this time of change."

*James Barrens served on the District Monitoring and Advisory Committee and is the former Head Organizer for Congregations United for Community Action.*



### In the Circuit Court for the sixth Judicial Circuit in and for Pinellas County, Florida civil Division

**WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS  
INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE  
PRIMESTAR-H FUND I TRUST**  
**Plaintiff,**

**vs.**

**CASE NO.: 12-005630-CI**

**Kathy A. Thompson, et al.,  
Defendants.**

#### NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** Pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 27, 2015, and entered in Case No. **12-005630-CI** of the Circuit Court of the Sixth Judicial Circuit in and for Pinellas County, Florida in which **WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE PRIMESTAR-H FUND I TRUST**, is the Plaintiff and **Kathy A. Thompson; Cypress Trace North Association, Inc.; Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc.**; are defendants, Ken Burke, Clerk of the Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in/on Sale to be conducted online at [www.pinellas.real-foreclose.com](http://www.pinellas.real-foreclose.com). Public computer terminals will be available for use during sales in the Clerk's Offices located in the back of the Official Records Department of the Clearwater Courthouse at 315 Court St, Room 163, and the Judicial Building in St. Petersburg at 545 1st Ave. North. in accordance with chapter 45 Florida Statutes, Pinellas County, Florida at 10:00 am on the 25th day of August, 2015, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

**THAT CERTAIN CONDOMINIUM PARCEL COMPOSED OF UNIT NO. 2103, AND AN UNDIVIDED INTEREST OR SHARE IN THE COMMON ELEMENTS APPURTENANT THERETO, IN ACCORDANCE WITH, AND SUBJECT TO THE COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS, EASEMENTS, TERMS AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM OF CYPRESS TRACE NORTH. CONDOMINIUM, AS RECORDED IN O.R. BOOK 5510, PAGE 1765, AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO, AND THE PLAT THEREOF. AS RECORDED IN CONDOMINIUM PLAT BOOK 68, PAGES 28 THROUGH 37, CONDOMINIUM PLAT BOOK 68, PAGES 101 AND 102, CONDOMINIUM PLAT BOOK 71, PAGES 80 AND 81 AND OTHER AMENDMENTS MADE THERETO, PUBLIC RECORDS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

**Property address: 1717 LAKE CYPRESS DR UNIT 2103, SAFETY HARBOR, FL 34695**

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

/s/ Damian Waldman, Esq.

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Florida Bar No. 0090502

• Ezra Scrivanich, Esq.

Florida Bar No. 28415

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## Mother seeking daughter

If you are female and were born in 1966  
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Al & Margaret Thompson, please call (662) 708-1627.  
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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## THE RECENT LOSSES OF CHARLESTON, S.C. ASALH MOURNS THIS TERRIBLE TRAGEDY



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### WHY CHARLESTON ?



An exciting panel of experts, including Dr. Ray Arsenault, Rev. James Golden and Ms Sandra Gadsden will Explore Charleston, S.C., A.M.E. Church history and the results of the tragedy on Aug. 22, Sat., 10 a.m., at Carter G. Woodson African American Museum. Come join the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), St. Petersburg Branch, for this seminar.

Come at 9:30 a.m. to watch a video interview of Rev. Pinckney by Dr. Louis Gates

## From prison to the pulpit

From **PURPOSE**, page 1

Surprised by the violent gangs, rape and the availability of drugs behind the suffocating walls of prison, Pelham began talking to the young inmates about his personal life, crime and prison life, offering them hope and positive choices versus negative ones.

This concept became the nucleus for a program he co-founded called “Moving Forward with a Purpose, Inc.” He took his life experiences and developed a program for at-risk youth from ages 7-24 that addresses the needs and dangers of being a young, black man today.

He also wanted young men to be exposed to powerful influential black men.

“Moving Forward with a Purpose, Inc.” has a team of ex-offenders who go out into the community and speak to young men,” Pelham explained. “I have nothing against counselors. I find that our kids respond better to us because we’ve been there. You can’t “scare straight” kids that carry a 9 millimeter with word of mouth. Listening to reality affects them. Kids talk to me and trust me when I share my testimony.”

Wilbert Speights, Jr. is

co-founder and vice-president of the program, which is under the umbrella of Community Opportunity for Our People, or COOP.

COOP is a group of diverse programs that offer multiple assistance including ex-offender re-entry programs, parenting, sports and fitness, education, entrepreneurial training, civic engagement and other major life skills.

It partners with St. Petersburg Police Department, the City of St. Petersburg Urban Affairs and the City of St. Petersburg Community Affairs. COOP’s mission is to motivate, empower and encourage African-American boys and men through biblical teachings, educational programs, mentoring and various other sources.

“We decided to join these groups together because we are all serving the same purpose,” Pelham explained. “We believe that we can reach more families in our community if we join together.”

He explained that Nikki Capehart, director of Urban Affairs for the City of St. Petersburg, really gave COOP the boost it needed. “She put so

many things in perspective and into action for us, he averred.”

Some of the organizations under COOP are Tony Macon’s ACT Right, Carl Lavender’s many groups, the Childs Park Neighborhood Association and the Poynter Institute’s Write Field Program just to name a few.

His life mirrors many of the challenges that young black boys and men face every day, such as being raised primarily by his mother without his father being in the home; peer pressure and living pillow to post with various family members.

For a time he lived with his father in Washington, D.C., and joined a gang feeling it was the only way for him, a biracial child, to get protection from other gangs. “I made mistakes in my young adult life, and I’m sorry for the pain and hurt that I’ve caused,” Rev. Pelham said. “Accept responsibility,” he cautions young men. “I did everything I was charged with. When I accepted that, it helped me to grow up and to be a better person and a better man.”

He also believes that fathers need to “step up and

be fathers” and stop thinking of their children as a necessary bill to pay.

Pelham became an ordained minister in 2013 and has been an associate pastor at St. John’s Primitive Baptist Church in Clearwater ever since.

Pastor Benjamin Adams of St. John’s brought Pelham into his ministerial staff because he believes he is being divinely navigated.

“I didn’t have to ponder over him long because he came with a story. His story is life changing. He is living proof that there is truly life after prison. God has called him for such a time as this as a living example of what He can do when you give Him your life,” said Adams.

He feels Pelham loves God and loves God’s people with a strong passion for the down trodden, the lost and the imprisoned. “It’s a pleasure having him there because he makes the Lord’s name great among men.”

To contact *Going Forward with a Purpose, Inc. or COOP*, please call Kiara Williams at (727) 346-8631, (727)895-6562 or email [wearecoop.1@gmail.com](mailto:wearecoop.1@gmail.com)



“I made mistakes in my young adult life, and I’m sorry for the pain and hurt that I’ve caused,” Rev. Pelham said.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## St. Pete Decides 2015 Council Primary Forum

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area conducted and official St. Pete City Council Primary Election Candidate Forum last Thurs., Aug 13 at City Hall.

League member Pat Wood served as the moderator. Before getting started, she went over a few house-keeping items, such as voter registration for the Aug. 25 primary election closed July 27, and there will be no early voting for this primary.

One minute was allowed for reply to the audiences' written questions.

The two candidates who earn the most votes in this election will go on to run in the general election Nov. 3.

*Why do you want to be on the city council?*

**Aaron Sharpe** – Wants to continue the work of the people that came before him.

"By working together we can make a difference. I have a very long history of bringing diverse teams together from all over town and helping them become successful."

**Lisa Wheeler-Brown** – Wants to have a working relationship with her constituents to make sure that she advocates for what the community needs.

"People see me in the community as a neighborhood mom because they know that if they bring an issue to me, the issue will get solved."



Aaron Sharpe



Lisa Wheeler-Brown



Elvert Lewis Stephens



Winthrop "Will" Newton



Sheila Scott Griffin

**Elvert Lewis Stephens** – Wants to address the issues of crime, broken families and needs of the district.

"I'm dedicated to give everything I got to change the hearts and souls of the people in District 7."

**Winthrop "Will" Newton** – After 23 years of serving St. Pete as a firefighter, he wants to continue to serve by helping move families out of poverty.

"My reason for running for council is to have an opportunity to move those families out of the situation they're in, and show them that there is an opportunity and that they can share in what this city has to offer."

**Sheila Scott Griffin** – Feels that District 7 is in a major transition; whether it's related to the CRA or housing, and that she is the candidate to pull it together.

"It's going to be important that the transition is made using all the elements and pulling all elements together to work for the people."

*Regarding the infrastructure of District 7, how would you continue to make improvements to the neighborhood?*

*hood?*

**Lisa Wheeler-Brown** – Excited about the CRA.

"The one thing that it will bring to the community is the ability to get rid of the blighted homes, to bring not only jobs but job readiness programs and educational things for youths."

**Elvert Lewis Stephens** – Feels that city officials make a lot decisions not knowing what the people really need, and is also excited about the CRA.

"One of the first things that I would do if I were elected is find out from the citizens what is it that we need to do to bring up the community."

**Winthrop "Will" Newton** – Excited about the CRA.

"That is going to be the vehicle, along with the partnership with the county and the funding mechanism that's included, that will allow us to remove those blighted homes and vacant buildings and boarded up buildings into a position where they are on the tax roll and families are living within them."

**Sheila Scott Griffin** –

Excited and concerned about the CRA. Wants to make sure it is a comprehensive plan.

"It neither has goals nor objectives. It does not tell us land use or land mix. It does not tell us what percentage small business to large business, who we will recruit, how many will stay or who will we hire."

**Aaron Sharpe** – CRA is a great opportunity.

"We need to ensure that as much of every dollar possible is spent in the CRA zone and then kept there. We do that by making sure that all of the stakeholders are part of the process."

*Prior to running for office, what was your greatest professional achievement, and how does it prepare you for serving on city council?*

**Elvert Lewis Stephens** – Winning the hearts and souls of the young people.

"Being able to work with them every day; being able to see lives being changed. Being able to see students and young men that I work with enter into college [and] become better citizens here in the city of St. Petersburg."

**Winthrop "Will" New-**

**ton** – As a firefighter/EMT, he was drafted to represent workers in areas of contractual concerns and became their business agent.

"I fought hard and often to maintain their wages, hours and their terms of conditions for employment...Many times we had to enter into different agreements with the City of St. Petersburg, and that prepared me for what we will be doing here on the city council."

**Sheila Scott Griffin** – Have served as a planner with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Housing and Redevelopment with Pinellas County Community Development and U.S. Civil Rights Monitor.

"The greatest thing I've ever done in my life was actually to watch my foster children from diverse populations...grow and become citizens and understand and learn how to contribute."

**Aaron Sharpe** – Spent 20 years in different leadership roles; 15 years in building teams and supporting others; president of his neighborhood for 10 years and sat on code enforcement for six years.

"When I have folks that worked for me or I worked for...folks from all of the different organization like partners on code enforcement, and folks like Charlie Gerdes and Bill Dudley or Mayor Foster...have support from folks like that...that's the greatest achievement because I did the right thing."

**Lisa Wheeler-Brown** – Would not call it a professional achievement, but a courageous achievement when she found her son's murderer. Received an award in Washington, D.C. from Attorney General Holder.

"It took me out of the four walls of my house into the streets of St. Pete where drug dealers were to solve my son's murder and to hold someone accountable for what they had taken from me and my family."

*If you were elected, what would your top three priorities be for District 7?*

**Winthrop "Will" Newton** – "Inclusive into one priority."

1. Move quickly to remove the stigma and the

See **FORUM**, page 7



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## JWB hosts ‘Read & Feed’

ST. PETERSBURG – Combining two of its summer initiatives – feeding hungry children and promoting summer reading – the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County (JWB) hosted a “Read & Feed” event for more than 20 children Wed., Aug. 12, at St. Luke’s Methodist Church, 4444 5th Ave. N, St. Petersburg.

St. Luke’s is a pilot site for a new faith-based summer food program that JWB hopes will be replicated next year. Under this new model, neighborhood children come Monday through Friday for free nutritious lunches and enrichment activities such as reading, arts and crafts.

The program is subsidized by the USDA summer food program (Summer BreakSpot) and coordinated through United Methodist Cooperative Ministries. St. Luke’s pastors and congregation volunteer each day, plus transport children to/from the site using the church van when needed.

Since June when the program launched, St. Luke’s has provided more than 400 nourishing meals to neighborhood children, aged Kindergarten through fifth grade, who might otherwise have gone without this summer.

At the Read & Feed event, children participating in St. Luke’s summer food program received an added treat – a new book of their own to take home! This is part of a larger effort by JWB aimed at getting new books into the hands of about 10,000 Pinellas County children over the summer under the Early Readers, Future Leaders grade-level reading campaign.

JWB and its partners became interested in increasing BreakSpot sites and utilization when they learned that only about 10 percent of Pinellas County children who qualify for free or reduced price meals during the school year access BreakSpot sites during the summer.

St. Luke’s was selected as a pilot site because it is located within the only Pinellas County zip code (33713) that appears on Florida’s Top 20 list of highest hunger and food gap needs for children during the summer, according to the Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger and Florida Impact.



Juanita Grey, right, has two children attending the St. Luke’s BreakSpot this summer. She shared: “It’s very important. This program provides a safe place for my kids to eat nutritious meals, play with other kids and continue to learn over the summer. My kids come home telling me how much fun they had and all the activities they did. This is truly a blessing.”



Pastor Rick Neil, volunteer with the BreakSpot, enjoys a board game with two children.

## Notice of St. Petersburg Branch NAACP election

ST. PETERSBURG — We are pleased to announce that the St. Petersburg Branch of the NAACP will hold an organizational meeting Sept. 3 at McCabe United Methodist Church, 2800 26th Ave., S., beginning at 6 p.m.

The election of officers and at-large members of the executive committee will take place at 7 p.m.

All memberships must be current as of Sept. 3. Nomination will be by petitions that will be available at meeting and signed by at least three current St. Petersburg NAACP members.

In order to vote in this branch election, one must be a member in good standing of the St. Petersburg Branch, either living or working in the area and showing a membership card or receipt. A form of identification is also required.

Interested citizens are encouraged to obtain membership prior to Aug. 26 and may do so by contacting Harry Harvey at (727) 385-3364 for further information. You may also request a consent petition at the same time if you are considering being a candidate for office. They will be collected at the organizational meeting, Sept. 3 prior to the Election.

Officers and members at-large elected at this election will hold office until December 31, 2016.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation’s oldest and largest civil rights organization. From the ballot box to the classroom, the thousands of dedicated workers, organizers, leaders and members who make up the NAACP continue to fight for social justice for all Americans.



Pictures taken at the July 31 meeting held at Mt. Pilgrim MB Church.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## St. Pete Decides

From **FORUM**, page 5

perception of District 7

2. Work towards removing all seven factors dealing with poverty

3. Ask that his colleagues attack the problems all at once.

### Sheila Scott Griffin

1. Families
2. Education
3. Economics

### Aaron Sharpe

1. Opportunities for business
2. Opportunities for residents
3. Opportunities for neighborhoods

### Lisa Wheeler-Brown

1. Public safety
2. Job creation
3. Education

### Elvert Lewis Stephens

1. Build relationships with citizens of District 7
2. Youth
3. Economics

*What is your position on the effort to make it easier to establish local historic districts?*

**Sheila Scott Griffin** – Finds it a problem for the government to be involved in the day-to-day movement concerning her home.

“If for some reason I find that my home is the most incredible place and belongs in an historic archive then I should be able to make that initiative; however, circling a complete residential area as an historic district creates a lot of issues relating to those particular properties...”

**Aaron Sharpe** – Concerned when talking about taking away people's rights and ability to do something.

“More importantly there are so many other areas where we need to spend our time and our focus, especially in District 7.”

**Lisa Wheeler-Brown** – “[I] support whatever the homeowners in that neighborhood want, and then I

would advocate on their behalf. It's just that easy for me.”

### Elvert Lewis Stephens

– Feels you cannot take the voice away from the citizens.

“[T]o build a strong relationship that will keep the voices of the citizens there in District 7 to be able to make decisions on what takes place in their own community.”

**Winthrop “Will” Newton** – Supports property rights.

“I don't know if there is even a need for an ordinance.”

*What would be your approach to juvenile crime in District 7?*

**Aaron Sharpe** – Feels the Second Chance program is a great first step and need to expand it.

“We need to stop putting our kids in jail and ruining their futures.”

**Lisa Wheeler-Brown** – Need to steer our youth toward mentorship programs.

“For the past seven years I've been doing nothing but fighting for communities; fighting for the juveniles to keep them out of jail; to give them a better chance; to let them know that there are choices outside of the ones that they are making.”

**Elvert Lewis Stephens** – Feels the city needs to create opportunities for the youth.

“If a young man wants to be a barber one day, why is he not teamed up with one of the barbershops, with one of the owners?”

**Winthrop “Will” Newton** – Stated statistics that last year the city incarcerated 2,400 youths.

“Even if we have a jobs program and try to employ them, we rely on their records as to whether or not we let them into those pro-

grams. We got to do something different.”

### Sheila Scott Griffin

Feels that children's aptitudes are tested too late in life.

“Begin to pair them at a young age, between ninth grade and tenth grade, with different business, social services, non-profits that actually do what they're in love with.”

*How would you propose to improve the homeless problem?*

**Lisa Wheeler-Brown** – Feels that the homeless have to want the help.

“The city should continue to embrace our homeless, create a little bit more programs [and] educate them on the programs that we have. And that will help our homeless problem because some of them just don't know about the programs that are out there.”

**Elvert Lewis Stephens** – Feels that it takes years to get into the position of homelessness.

“Until we can work on those issues that they face every single day...we have to be able to offer those people better jobs, better living situations, be able to give them a place that's there to teach them how to have a better life and give them the resources that we have here available...”

**Winthrop “Will” Newton** – Look at the homeless in a holistic manner, and continue to support the programs that are already in place.

“Some of our homeless are mentally ill and they may not have access to know about different resources that are out there for them.”

**Sheila Scott Griffin** – Gave different instances of homelessness.

“When we are looking at

this problem we have to look much deeper and much greater so we'll know that it's not who can you see that's homeless, many of us are.”

**Aaron Sharpe** – Bring jobs into the area so that people can support themselves.

“When we talk about District 7 in particular, we're one accident away, one loss job away; it's not that far-fetched.”

*Are you concerned with gentrification now that the CRA plan is in place? What would you do to prevent it?*

**Elvert Lewis Stephens** – Feels they need to do better with informing citizens on resources.

“Our people just don't know the resources that's [sic] out there that's able to keep them from losing their home, or if they need repair on their home or some of the elderly that can't afford to repair their homes.

**Winthrop “Will” Newton** – Feels gentrification is a real threat.

“When you have poverty and folks can't move from low income situations to where they can actually own homes...you're going to continue to have these kinds of problems.”

**Sheila Scott Griffin** – The city can help by creating lease to own properties.

“We want to see revitalization, but we must put in place things that allow people to stay there in an economic mix.”

**Aaron Sharpe** – Feels the neighborhood and the CRA need to be part of the conversation.

“Already we've seen with the very first project in the CRA with Commerce Park that the CRA Board was not included in on the process. The mayor is picking it by

himself.”

**Lisa Wheeler-Brown** – Feels that they need to teach residents how to make their voices heard.

“So we educate our residence. We teach them about raising their credit scores; we teach them about budgeting so that they can become a homeowner. We walk them through that loan process.”

*As a city council member, what would you do to craft an enforceable noise ordinance policy for residential areas outside of downtown?*

**Winthrop “Will” Newton** – Hold a town hall meeting to see if that is what they are interested in.

“[F]ind out if it's an ordinance that's needed, or if it's an individual situation that needs to be address.”

**Sheila Scott Griffin** – Feels that they should never start automatically increasing ordinances.

“I agree that it is necessary for us to document and to be able to say that we need something else, otherwise we just simply need enforcement.”

**Aaron Sharpe** – Feels an ordinance is not the answer to everything.

“We need to bring the parties together to work through what the issues are...By working together that we solve problems. Then holding people accountable to do the right thing...”

**Lisa Wheeler-Brown** – Feels communication is the key.

“Come together and let's talk about what is it going to take to let us get along.”

**Elvert Lewis Stephens** – Feels we have to work together.

“I believe that we can come to some mutual agreement that we really wouldn't

have to make an ordinance for...I believe we are just lacking communication with one another.”

*Name the one issue in the city budget you would address immediately?*

**Sheila Scott Griffin** – “This issue of affordable housing and how we are utilizing some of our housing finances.”

**Aaron Sharpe** – “Look at the budget in the city and city staff...The first thing I would want to do is have a salary review done; a history looked at for all of those folks who got skipped year after year after year.”

**Lisa Wheeler-Brown** – “I would definitely look at increasing the funding for summer youth jobs.”

**Elvert Lewis Stephens** – “If we do not put our focus and our money into our youth here in this city, we're going to continue to miss the mark.”

**Winthrop “Will” Newton** – “I would like to have the budget reviewed and look at the restrictive policies that exists.”

The primary election takes place Aug. 25.

**What does a member of the city council do?**

The council serves as the legislative branch, and has a chair and a vice chair. They must approve city policies, city budgets and confirm the mayor's appointments for city administrator, city attorney and city clerk. Eight city council members are elected by voters in their district during a primary election and voted on at-large in the general election.

Members served four-year terms in office and are limited to two consecutive terms. Their annual salary is \$40,485.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## POC creating summer jobs

From *POC*, page 1

“True Colors” presented by Priscilla McFadden and Dawn Sarmienta from Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB). Sergeant Dwight Barber and Specialist Melvin Duperon from the National Guard provided information on military opportunities.

Students also participated in field trips to the St. Petersburg College (Downtown campus) and the Holocaust Museum, which included a tour and lecture on “Hope” by a Holocaust survivor. Etiquette training was presented by Wyvonnia McGee, retired home economics teacher.

Each student received a certificate and an incentive gift of \$100

**Mon., July 27**  
POC recognized 35 students at JWB in Clearwater at a ceremony that included a lunch for parents, students, supervisors and community partners.

Assistant Principal Keila Bowers-Victor from Madeira Beach Fundamental School, Tiffany Long, fiscal records specialist from Juvenile Justice Center and Beryl Colbert,

owner of Live The Rhythm Company delivered motivational and inspirational speeches to the students.

Students received certificates and an incentive check of \$550.00.

**Friday, Aug. 15**  
The POC 2015 Taskforce 2020 Youth Program campaign initiative held its culmination ceremony at the Pinellas County Job Corps Center in St. Petersburg. Twenty-five students were recognized for their participation in this initiative. These students also received pre-employment skills training and spent six weeks gaining hands-on part-time work experience.

Guest speakers included Deborah Figg-Sanders, executive director, Child Park YMCA and campaign chairperson, Carl Lavendar, senior consultant, Mt. Zion Human Services, Senita Robinson, former participant and ESE associate, Pinellas County School System and POC Executive Director, Carolyn King. The event was attended by parents, supervisors and community partners.

“Think about where you want to go in life,” said guest speaker Pastor Robinson. “Think about failure is not an option. You guys still have potential, and think about where you want to go in the next couple of years.”

Robinson shared that during her youth she was a struggling student, and didn’t know if she would graduate high school. But with the knowledge and confidence that POC empowered in her, she graduated high school and graduated from the University of South Florida with a bachelor’s degree. She encouraged the youth to realize that even though they aren’t where they want to be yet in life, that getting there is a work in progress. And with determination and hard work their goals can be met.

Alex Street, 16, is proud to have completed his second summer of training with Junior Achievement. “I enjoyed everything,” said Street. “It was a fantastic opportunity. I really appreciated Mrs. Annette Long because she helped me get

into the program, and really explained how the program worked.”

Street was motivated to participate in POC because he learned that he could gain computer skills. Through STEM TEC, he has earned PowerPoint and Microsoft Office certifications. This summer, through Junior Achievement, he taught children in daycares and churches about the city government structure of St. Petersburg, and how city employees contribute to making the community a better place.

“I don’t like to hear that other people are doing bad things and going down the wrong path,” said Street. “I work well with anybody who allows someone to help them out. I’m just an outgoing person, and have always been a helpful person. I like helping kids because when I was a little kid, people helped me out, and helping other people will bring blessings to you in return.”

The program is a big confidence booster when it comes to self-development and job applications. Many

POC alumni have found outside jobs with the help of POC. It helped Street find employment with the Police Athletic League for his upcoming junior year at Gibbs High School. He’ll be working with children after school in PAL’s after school programs.

“I see many kids every year who say, ‘Mrs. Williams, we got a job,’” said Carol Williams, an eight-year volunteer. “Many students continue employment after this program. Many of them are working for the City of St. Pete many years after they complete the program.”

It’s encouraged for anyone who is interested in applying to the summer POC Youth

Development Program, to apply early because the slots fill up quickly. Many of the business partners require the students to have anywhere between a 2.5-3.0 GPA.

“Even though income is the criteria,” explained Williams, “we try to place every applicant into a program or refer them to one, even if the income is too

high.”  
Graduates received a certificate and a check at the end of the ceremony.

Employers providing job placements and supervision included: City of St. Petersburg Recreation Department, Daystar Life Center, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Neighborhood Family Center Clearwater, St. Petersburg College (Downtown campus), The Boys and Girls Club, Pinellas Sheriff’s Police Athletic League, Lealman, Manor Care Health Services, Palm Harbor, Advantage Village Academy, Bay Area Legal Services, Duford Tools, Citizens Alliance for Progress Inc., Baby Cycle Diaper Bank, Aldersgate Christian Learning Preschool, Gibbs High School, Faith Memorial Church, Southside Tabernacle Church, Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church, Surface Engineering, St. Petersburg Pregnancy Center, Enoch Davis Center and the St. Petersburg Sunshine Center.

For more information about the POC Youth Development Program, visit [poc-inc.org](http://poc-inc.org)





for City Councilwoman

**Perfect Fit**



for St. Petersburg, District 7

[www.griffin4council7.com](http://www.griffin4council7.com)

**GRIFFIN**

[griffinourgamechanger@gmail.com](mailto:griffinourgamechanger@gmail.com)

**“OUR GAME CHANGER”**

- ✓ **Background/Skills**
  - Life long resident of District 7
  - Youth, prisoners & homeless volunteer
  - Worked as federal judge law clerk, county housing specialist, Tampa Bay Regional Planner and regional human resource attorney
  - Read, interpret legislation and statutes
  - Spokesperson - boards, courts and hearings
- ✓ **Duties Performed**
  - Knowledge of local, state & national laws
  - Civil Rights Monitor & Police Citizen Review; Ordained Pastor
  - Community development/real estate closings
  - Evaluate developments of regional impact
  - Review Government Comprehensive Plans
- ✓ **Administrative Skills**
  - Draft, negotiate and advise on contracts, development of workplace policies
  - Federal, state and local advocacy
  - Personnel, benefits, risk management policy development and training

**NONPARTISAN PRIMARY  
PINELLAS COUNTY, FL  
AUGUST 25, 2015**

**OUR CHOICE!**

**District 7**

**City of St. Petersburg**

**Sheila Scott**

**GRIFFIN**

**COUNCIL MEMBER  
DISTRICT 7  
(Vote for #1 on the Ballot)  
VOTE GRIFFIN!**



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Bridging the Achievement Gap

From **SUCCESS** page 1

who took the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

"We often see the negative side of what's going on with our children," said District 7 School Board Member Rene Flowers. "You don't see Bay News Nine, Channel 10, 8, 13, or 28 in this room acknowledging the fact that over 1,700 students have made it."

James Feazell and wife Gwen are credited with undertaking the awesome responsibility each year to not only bridge the gap, but to shut the door on it forever. "There are awesome communities working together," said Feazell. "Black, white, trying to help."

That's where Patrick Helms of BTAG comes in. He had no issues appealing for donations. He believes there are so many issues facing American today, but the

one that most everyone can agree on is the need to help students in need.

"Tonight we are a community, citizens who have come together for one common cause," he said noting that education is the cause that transcends racial boundaries, church denominations and any of our differences. It's something everyone needs and that everyone has in common.

Flowers used the platform to reference a recent report highlighting the current failure of local elementary schools in the heart of south St. Petersburg. She acknowledged that there is still much work to be done, but didn't want to point fingers. "We all have a role in making sure that our future is secure," she explained. "And to do that you don't point fingers. You pull up your pants, roll up your sleeves and you

just dig in and do the work."

Flowers also stated that high schools such as Gibbs, Boca Ciega, Dixie Hollins and Lakewood, African-American students, who were struggling in past years, are now surpassing their Caucasian counterparts.

Students enrolled in BTAG are offered reliable transportation and qualified retired and current educators spend their time making sure that they excel academically. Positive reinforcement and praise are relied on to help close the achievement gap.

Seminole High School student Arielle Sorrells even spoke of the great difference that BTAG had made in her life. A rising senior, she has always been involved in student life. Being a section leader for her school marching band and academic clubs

have made her college ready.

Sorrells has benefitted over the years from the services of BTAG and credits the Feazell's for making her educational success a reality with their guidance and support. Help was always made available to her. She recalls her BTAG instructors staying late to help her with her studies in pre-calculus. "I have not yet come short of at least honor roll," she said.

Guest Speaker Barbara Thornton, a former principal of Largo High School, spent nearly 40 years in education as a teacher, principal and assistant superintendent before retiring in 2011. She has sat on the BTAG advisory board from its inception. She collects quotes to inspire herself and others to make a difference.

"It helps me to see the hope in something," Thornton

said. "There's a lot of negativity."

She spoke of Feazell's original vision to involve the entire community, the entire village. That meant being involved in a student's life and using every resource to back them up, such as the church, the school, families, the community, and of course, the students themselves.

Some of the schools BTAG reached out to are Pinellas Park High, Osceola Fundamental High School, Boca Ceiga, Tarpon Springs and Seminole High.

"We were asking for some of their school funds," said Thornton. "That's not an easy thing to do." The principals were happy to oblige giving students such as Simone Yuille, a young lady at the University of Florida, a chance at a quality education.

She too felt the support from her BTAG instructors and credits them for getting her through the difficult times, guiding her in the ways of higher education. "Each and every one of those students all know that this program is for them individually and each one has their own stories on how they benefitted from it," said Yuille.

Feazell was awarded the Shaft of Light Award from Bethune Cookman University for demonstrating how to turn years of hardship, frustrations, disappointment and confusion into shafts of light. Gwen also was honored for her contribution to BTAG and for displaying love, courage and dignity. She was awarded a framed copy of an excerpt from the Last Will and Testament of founder Mary McLeod Bethune



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studying to become a paramedic.*

Shovon,  
Heart Recipient

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## A final goodbye to the Welch sisters

From **SISTERS**, page 1

first time they were separated was when they went to different high schools, but they still kept in contact.

"I will never forget her smile. She always supported me; she always loved me, she always cared for me and she inspired me...I am so happy to have known her and to have met her...I know someday in the future, I'm going to see her again," said Beganovic through a sign language interpreter.

"She had God's love in her; she expressed it to all her friends and family," said Nicole Philip about India. "She taught a lot of us a couple of things. The first thing is to capture the moment, the essence of a moment."

Phillip explained that India was always taking pictures or shooting video because she felt that every moment was important and

she wanted to remember as much as she could to savor that moment in time.

"She encouraged everybody to live their purpose, and to be faithful to God above everything else. We can have gifts, we can have talents, but if we are not faithful to the one who gives it to us, we have nothing," said Philip, choking back the tears.

"Me and La'Mour grew up like sisters," said Nhakia Bryant, her first cousin and God sister. "We were together from Monday through Sunday."

Bryant explained that La'Mour was someone you could tell anything to, and she wouldn't tell a soul. She would go over to La'Mour's house at two or three o'clock in the morning and they would eat bacon and have long spiritual talks.

"La'Mour was my sister. I don't know God what I'm supposed to get from this,

but I'm listening to you now," cried Bryant.

In any conversation about the Welch sisters the word "spiritual" was a resounding quality that was echoed over and over again. It was obvious just looking around at the diverse audience of all races, ages and personalities that these three young ladies laid down a legacy of compassion, creativity and spirituality.

James Anthony Corbett struggled through tears and sometimes just paused to catch his breath as he reflected on his sisters.

"I'd like to take the time to thank God for the 29, 24 and 18 years that he loaned his angels to us. While I'd really like to have more time with them, I can understand why heaven could not wait," he said.

Corbett said his sisters had been speaking to him and wanted him to deliver a message to their parents.

"My first message is for my dad. It is to let him know that his girls are alright; to let him know that they are better now than they ever could be on earth. God said he allowed this to happen, and he knows it will catch the attention of so many people, particularly young people. And he wants them to get ready because a change is coming."

Corbett went on to deliver a message to her mother about taking care of La'Mour's children and her health; God's message of comfort to his stepmother and to his niece and nephews.

Bishop Jimmie L. Williams, Florida Eastern Jurisdictional Prelate of the Church of God in Christ, gave the eulogy and declared Saturday, August 14, 2015, as a day of heavenly graduation for the sisters.

Despite the bishop's

prophetic outcome for the three sisters on a spiritual plane, many people who came out to support the Welch family may have had the same question in the back of their minds as Gideon in the book of Judges had during a time of great trials and tribulations—why?

Williams responded by letting the family and well wishers know that the events on the evening of Sun., Aug. 9 was transformative on earth as well as in heaven.

"And oh, if you could see them now as they walk in their heavenly robes across the stages," said Williams. "And if you think the praises are loud here, oh if you could only hear it in heaven!"

And the praises in the church definitely reached heaven. The choir's powerful harmony in songs such as "Total Praise" and

"Thank You Lord For All You've Done For Me" had the walls vibrating while the people danced and swayed in the pews and in the aisles. When soloist Derrick Isham took to the stage, not a dry eye could be seen.

Just as the talented sisters used their gifts to carry out God's will on Earth, they will carry out their heavenly assignments on the frontlines as heaven's angel warriors.

"When Satan attacks us as he has, what we can do is declare war," Williams preached as the choir joined him in a brief rendition of "This Means War!"

Mayor Rick Kriseman, former Mayor Rick Baker, council Chairman Charlie Gerdes, council member Wengay Newton and State Representative Daryl Rouse were in attendance, as well as a number of bishops from the COGIC.



**Poynter. RAYS**

## THE WRITE FIELD

The Write Field members Qimar Gordon, De'Qonton Davis and Aaron Williams prepare to march in the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade on January 19, 2015  
Kenny Irby/Poynter

### ARE YOU A CANDIDATE FOR THE WRITE FIELD 5.0?

NATIONAL REPORTS show that in Pinellas County and across America, minority boys are most at risk. The Write Field Program is making a positive difference through its engaging academic enrichment and mentoring program that strives to stop the pipeline from drop out to prison. The Poynter Institute, one of the world's premier journalism schools, and the Tampa Bay Rays have decided to act by joining with local schools, law enforcement, businesses and community groups to create The Write Field.

The Write Field is a dynamic mentoring program designed to improve the academic performance and life skills of selected middle school boys. We are pleased to be underway in the fifth year of our program. The Write Field 5.0 meets on the first Saturday of every month from September 2015 until June 2016. We are also currently seeking mentors.

"The Poynter Institute has been inspiring and educating people of all ages to write for four decades. The Write Field is a transformational experience for young boys in not just writing — but in life. We're proud to partner with the Tampa Bay Rays. Together, we'll help these young men aspire to swing for the fence in life."  
— Tim Franklin, Poynter President

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

Special thanks to the Greater Mount Zion A.M.E. Church; Sacino's Formal Wear; Academy Prep; Gratzki Italian Grill and St. Petersburg College

**SPC**  
Center of Excellence

## Annual County & Regional Brain Bowl Competition

### ATTENTION!

#### MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

### DO YOU THINK

## You Have What It Takes To Compete?

If you love math, culture/history, spelling, essay writing, and public speaking – then this is the competition for YOU!

### TAKE THE CHALLENGE!

Each fall elementary, middle, and high school students from Pinellas County schools, churches, community centers, clubs and other organizations form Brain Bowl teams to compete at the local, regional and state levels. Teams winning at the County and Regional levels advance to the State level and may be eligible for scholarships offered by colleges and universities in Florida.

### INTERESTED?

**Contact: Esvicloria Blasingane by September 4, 2016**  
[blasingane.esviclori@spcollege.edu](mailto:blasingane.esviclori@spcollege.edu) – (727) 614-5335  
The County/Regional Competition will be held  
January 9, 2016 at St. Petersburg College.  
A coach's meeting will be scheduled soon. – Hurry & Sign Up Now!



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Messages to the Welch family



Michele Bolden –  
“Keep your head up  
and let God guide you  
in the right path.”



Christian Pryor – “I want to give  
you all my condolences  
from my whole family.”



Shirley Thornton –  
“I am praying for you and your  
family. Our loss is God’s gain.”



Robert Vincent – “Know that we  
love you and we’ll continue to  
pray for your strength.”



Christine Smith –  
“My heart and my  
prayers go out to you.  
God has a plan.”



Mary Boyd –  
“I pray that God gives  
your family strength to  
get through this.”



Lachelle Walton – “I pray  
that you get closer to one  
another.”



Armelia Williams – “God is in  
control of every situation.  
My prayers are with you.”



Gwen & Faye Snead – “We will keep the family  
lifted up in our prayers.”



Queen Mims – “We know  
that God knows best and  
He makes no mistakes.”



Wanda Simpson, Deborah Cross-McCray &  
Brenda Cross – “We know that God will  
make a way in due time.”



Mandy Beaton –  
“You have shown the  
community how to be an  
inspiration in a time of  
tragedy.”



Pastor Okoye & Kay  
Morgan – “God is too  
wise to make a  
mistake.”



Brenda Mims Foster &  
Sundra Harris-Caldwell –  
“We’re praying for you  
and we love you.”



Christal Daughtry – “God  
is in control and he’ll  
strengthen you as time  
goes by.”



Kamara Cooper & Adrienne Garrett –  
“Our prayers are with you. Anything you  
need please reach out to us.”



Rudy Smith – “If there is  
anything that I can do,  
please let me know.”



Carrie Kirksey – “Earth has  
no sorrow that heaven  
cannot heal.”



Kristina Hollingsworth – “God  
is with you all and we know  
that they are not suffering  
anymore.”



Ruby Oliver – “I will  
keep you in my  
prayers.”



Willie Mae McGarrah –  
“I wanted to be with you  
and encourage you.”



Paulette Goolsby – “Many  
prayers were answer just by  
hearing what the people  
were saying.”



Floria Sheppard –  
“You are in my prayers  
day and night.”



Elaine Sheppard - “Please  
know that I am praying for  
you constantly, day and  
night.”



Angelia King – “We’re  
praying for you all. We  
love you and trust God.”



Carolyn Newson-Green –  
“Know that God has His hands  
on the situation.”



Leroy & Stacey Stanislas –  
“We are here in whatever  
capacity needed.”



Princess Denise Wright –  
“My prayers and heartfelt  
sympathy goes out to the  
family.”



Peggy Elias –  
“May God bless you.”



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## The Welch sister's celebration of life

ST. PETERSBURG – Hundreds upon hundreds of people came out to celebrate the lives of the Welch sisters: LaMour, 29, India, 24 and Tehira, 18, Fri., Aug. 14. The evening was filled with song, dance and reflections.

Prayer Tower Church of God in Christ was standing room only with family, friends and those who just wanted to pay their respects to the family of the three angels that were called home.

Senior Pastor of Prayer Tower Ricardo Welch, First Lady Darlene Welch and Lillie Welch lost their three daughters in a tragic car accident Sun., Aug 9 on State Road 70 in DeSoto County.

Their father took to the pulpit and asked the crowd if they knew how to worship God, and if they had a

relationship with Him.

“God demands, he requires us to worship him,” preached Welch. “My baby was a worshiper. God created her to worship. India was a worshiper. Tehira in dance was a worshiper. My baby LaMour, with her bossy self, she was a worshiper...she made sure that you did it right.”

He went on to say that he wouldn't have wished this tragedy on his worst enemy, and because of God his girls were able to touch so many people. “God blessed them with me, but he gave them to y'all,” he said.

Welch thanked the crowd for lifting him and his family's spirits.

To hear Pastor Welch's complete sermon, log on to [theweeklychallenger.com](http://theweeklychallenger.com)





# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Candlelight vigil

ST. PETERSBURG – The community came out to the Carter G. Woodson African American Museum last Wed., Aug. 12 to a candle vigil for the three Welch sisters who lost their lives in a tragic car accident.

Chair of the Woodson Museum, Terri Lipsey Scott, Deputy Mayor Kanika Tomalin, Pastor Manuel Sykes, Minister Watson Haynes, Pastor Louis Murphy, Sr., Dr. Cody Clark and the girls' aunt Sharon Welch all choked back the tears in front of hundreds of people while remembering the lives of La'Mour, India and Tehira Welch.

The night was filled with song, prayers and loving tributes to God's chosen angels.



**OPERATION KIDSAFE - CROWN HONDA - "SAFETY DAYS"**

**FREE digital fingerprint and photo safety program.** Specialized digital imagery equipment will only be in your area for a limited engagement! Did you know over 2,000 children are reported missing everyday in the United States? Don't miss this opportunity to get your **FREE** Child Safety Kit, including digital fingerprints and photograph. **Safety tips will help you set up a family safety action plan.**

**AREA DATES AND LOCATION:**

**Location**

**Crown Honda**  
7671 U.S. Hwy. 19 N  
Pinellas Park, FL 33781  
(727) 521-4000  
Crownhonda.com

**Dates**

**Thursday, Aug. 20th**  
through  
**Sunday, Aug. 23rd**  
Stop in during normal store hours  
**Thursday & Friday, 9am-8:30pm**  
**Saturday, 9am-7pm**  
**Sunday, Noon-6pm**

**How it Works:** Operation KidSafe captures your child's picture and fingerprints using a digital video capture device, digital ink-less fingerprint capture device and specialized software. The captured data is assembled and a quality 8 1/2 x 11" printout is given to the parent. The parent can use the printout they receive to provide to law enforcement anywhere in the world to *instantly* aid in an investigation.

**NOTE:** No database or records of children are maintained. The only record of the visit will go home with the parent for safekeeping.

All children 1 year and older and special needs adults are encouraged to attend.

Special equipment is being shipped in and will be available only the days listed. This is a rare chance to get a lifetime Safety Bio Document for your child with photo and digital fingerprints. **Totally FREE and PRIVATE.**

Local Schools and Organizations that agree to provide this information to parents are not endorsers of the program. They provide this strictly for informational purposes for parents.

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www.stpeteyymca.org



# 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.  
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PASTOR

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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.  
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**WEEKLY SERVICES**

Sundays	9:30 am Spiritual Education Classes 10:30 am Praise & Worship 11:00 am Morning Service	Tuesdays	6:30 pm Bible Study	Thursdays	6:30 pm Prayer & Healing Service
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**Queen Street Church of God in Christ**  
**Elder Willie Williamson, Pastor**  
First Lady, Patricia Williamson  
1732 9th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
727-896-4356

**SERVICES**

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



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



**Pastor Clark Hazley, Sr.**

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

**“God’s People Return to the Word of God”**  
**Service Schedule**  
**SUNDAY**  
Sunday School 8:45-10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Communion - 1st Sunday of each month  
New Members Orientation - Sunday at 8:45 a.m.  
**WEDNESDAY**  
Tutoring offered Tuesday & Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Bible Study 11:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.  
Youth Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

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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 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

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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.*

**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*

**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.

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is practiced!*



Pastor Michael T. and  
Elect Lady Sheila Culbreth

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CHURCH**  
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Gulfport, FL 33707  
727.898.5571  
Sunday Worship  
10:30 a.m.



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.

**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.**

YOUR CHURCH AD COULD BE HERE!  
Contact: [www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com](http://www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com)



# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

**Schedule of Services**

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



Rev. Brian K. Brown

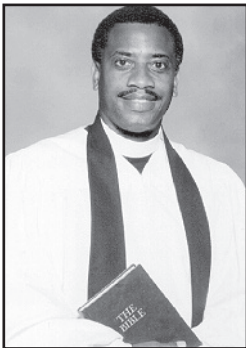
**THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**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**

## 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.

Coming in August  
Pre Anniversary Activities St. Mark Celebrates 84 Years of God's Blessings... Standing on His Promises

(Deuteronomy 28: 1-14). Pre Anniversary Activities are starred  
Aug 26-29 - Convening of Congress No. 2 with Southside Tabernacle hosting.  
Aug 29 - \*84th Church Anniversary Event: Movie Spectacular for the St. Mark Family, 1-4 p.m.  
Aug 30 - \*Shades of Orange (wear different shades of orange) during 10:45 a.m. service Mission Emphasis Sunday: Operation Love  
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: 7 p.m.  
Children Youth Ministry Bible Study 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month: 7:30 p.m.

### Friendship MBC

NEED A PLACE TO CALL HOME? LOOKING FOR A CHURCH THAT IS "FIRED UP?" 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. WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT 7:00 PM – THE COMMUNITY IS WELCOMED TO JOIN US IN SOMETHING REALLY REALLY GREAT – BIBLE STUDY, STUDYING FROM 1ST JOHN, CHAPTER 3.  
AUGUST AT A GLANCE  
August 20-21, 2015 – Pre-Back to School Camp, Kindergarten to Grade 5, Camp Hours 6:30 AM - 6:00 PM – The Community is welcomed. See Sharon Wilson and Gale Jenkins, who will be stationed in the Atrium at the Camp's Registration table. Reliable Volunteers are Needed. Contact the Church Office for additional details and donations (727) 906-8300.  
August 22, 2015 – 9:00 am – THE MENS 33 SERIES – This is the Last of the Series.  
10:00 am – WALKING FOR SOULS (WFS) – An Evangelism Ministry Event.  
August 23, 2015 - 4:00 pm -

Friendship is Fellowshiping with Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, held at Mt. Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, 4000 5th Avenue South S, St. Petersburg, Dr. Deborah A. Green, Senior Pastor. Pastor Evans is asking the Adult and Male Choirs, Ushers and Members to go and Fellowship with Mt. Calvary in their Celebration.  
August 24-25, 2015 – 7:00 pm – Married Couples, Pastor Evans is sponsoring a Married Couples Seminar, please plan to attend. Sign-up Sheet located in the Atrium of the Church.  
August 29, 2015 – 10:00 am – West Coast Baptist Association 5th Sunday Workshop – Host Pastor – Rev. Dr. Rickey L. Houston, Bethel Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, 3455 26th Avenue South. Facilitator: Bishop Errol Thompson- Orlando – Theme: Defining Truth In The Church.  
Sunday, August 30, 2015 - 4:00 pm - Friendship is Fellowshiping with Travelers Rest Missionary Baptist Church, 2183 22nd Avenue S, St. Petersburg, Dr. Wm. Mark Greene, Senior Pastor. Pastor Evans is asking the Adult and Male Choirs, Ushers and Members to go and Fellowship with Travelers Rest Pastor's Anniversary Celebration.  
Thought for the Week: WHAT IS THE GREATEST THING FOR YOUR CHILD ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL?

THAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS WHAT HIS/HER WHOLE NAME IS, HOW TO SPELL AT LEAST HIS/HER FIRST NAME AND CAN ACTUALLY WRITE IT, KNOW HIS/HER WHOLE ADDRESS AND THEIR TELEPHONE NUMBER, AND OH YES, WHAT ARE THE NAMES OF HIS/HER MOTHER AND FATHER. HELP A TEACHER OUT, NOT ONLY THAT, JUST THINK HOW PROUD YOUR CHILD WOULD BE IN KNOWING THAT HE OR SHE HAS ACHIEVED SOMETHING WONDERFUL ON THE VERY FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.  
Don't let "THE SHIP" sail without YOU! For additional information on any of the announcements, please contact us by the following methods: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 3300 31st St. S., St. Petersburg, Florida 33712 Church Office: (727) 906-8300 E-Mail: [fmbc3300@verizon.net](mailto:fmbc3300@verizon.net)  
NOW "LIVE STREAMING": Visit Our Website: [www.fmbcsheship.net](http://www.fmbcsheship.net) & CLICK on the PASTOR'S IMAGE at the top of the Page. Also, US-TREAM - Visit West Coast Baptist District Association Website: [www.expericencehcoast.com](http://www.expericencehcoast.com)  
NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH? Call our Transportation Ministry – (727) 906-8300 and LEAVE YOUR INFORMATION.

### 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 PM.  
The Family Touch Team Ministry invites you to a meet and greet, "Make Your Way to the Zone!" on Sun., Aug. 30 after the 10 am service in the parking lot. Rain location will be the 3rd floor. Come and get acquainted with your Family Touch Team Zones and what resources are available to assist you!

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 @ 727-215-8952 or Sis. Cheryl Clinton @ 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: MZPMB). Visit our website and let's get connected today! [www.MZProgressive.org](http://www.MZProgressive.org)  
For additional information on any of these announcements, contact the church office. Mt. Zion Progressive MBC 955 20th St. S., St. Petersburg Florida. 727-894-4311, email: [info@mzprogressive.org](mailto:info@mzprogressive.org).

### First Mt. Zion

First Mt. Zion plans to hold a spirit filled revival starting Wed., Aug. 19 thru Fri., Aug. 21. Nightly services begin at 7:30 p.m. The revivalist for this year is the

Reverend James Holt, pastor of the True Faith and Deliverance Church of our city.  
All are invited to come hear God's word that is

needed to feed, revive and encourage our souls.  
First Mt. Zion is located at 1121 22nd St. S. Reverend Wallace Elliott, Sr. is pastor.

### Tried, tested and approved

The Mt. Calvary M. B. Church, known to many as "CALVARY" would like to invite the community to their Pastor-Rev. Dr. Deborah R. Green's 2nd Pastoral Appreciation celebration. The event is scheduled from, Wed., Aug. 19 through Sun., Aug. 23. The theme for the week of celebration is: Tried, Tested and Approved, coming from NIV-1 Thessalonians 2:4 and the colors are: Black, White and Sliver.  
The line up includes: Thurs. 8/20/2015 – 10th Street Church of God – Pastor Carl Mobley and Fri. Calvary Worship Center – Pastor Fred Hinton. The celebration will also include

an Apperception Brunch that will be held at the Historical Manhattan Casino and Rev. Dr. Louis Murphy from Mt. Zion Progressive M.B. Church will serve as guest speaker. The celebration will close with Friendship M. B. Church "The SHIP" and Rev. Dr. John A. Evens who is Pastor Deborah's Father and Mentor in the Gospel.  
All week night services will be held at "CALVARY" 2321 Hartford St. S. And the closing service will be hosted by Mt. Pilgrim M.B. Church, 4000 5th Ave. S.; where Rev. Clark Hazley is Senior Pastor.  
FMI: please contact Sis. Beatiz Harvey at 727-224-



Reverend Dr. Deborah Green  
3348. We extend Blessing, Favor and Overflow to you and we pray that you will share in this experience with us.

### Pastor's Corner

BY REV. DR. DORAL R. PULLEY,  
SPIRITUAL LEADER  
Unity of Midtown



### Who's holding your leader?

The First Pastoral Anniversary Services ended with a grand celebration thanks to Sister Joi Davies, the Special Operations and the Administrative Ministry. The members of Unity of Midtown were really blessed by the ministry of the Word and song that were ministered effectively by Pastor Wm. Mark Greene and Travelers' Rest Missionary Baptist Church Choir. After the worship experience, there was an Ice Cream Social in the Rev. Catherine & James

Brooks' Fellowship Hall where members from both congregations had an opportunity to fellowship.  
One of the congregants from Unity of Midtown stated, "It was such a blessing that my mother (a member of Travelers' Rest) and I were able to worship together. We've haven't done that in years."  
Pastor Greene through one message inspired both the pastor and the church. He encouraged Dr. Pulley that if he

continued to be humble and obedient to God's guidance that he would see even greater growth and development. He admonished the congregants of Unity of Midtown to hold the ladder for their Spiritual Leader by being steady in their commitment, secure in their faith and supportive to the pastor's vision. Both pastors and congregations look forward to building on this firm foundation of fellowship.

New Faith Free Methodist Church will host a three-night revival, Aug. 26-28 featuring evangelist Rev. Misty Long of Devoted to HIM Global Ministries of Tulsa, Okla.

New Faith is located at  
2427 Irving Ave. S, St. Pete.

Also, New Faith invites you to attend our 25th Anniversary Banquet Sat., Sept. 12. This elegant extravaganza will be held in the multi-purpose room on the second floor of Pinellas Technical College, 901 34th St. S, St. Petersburg.

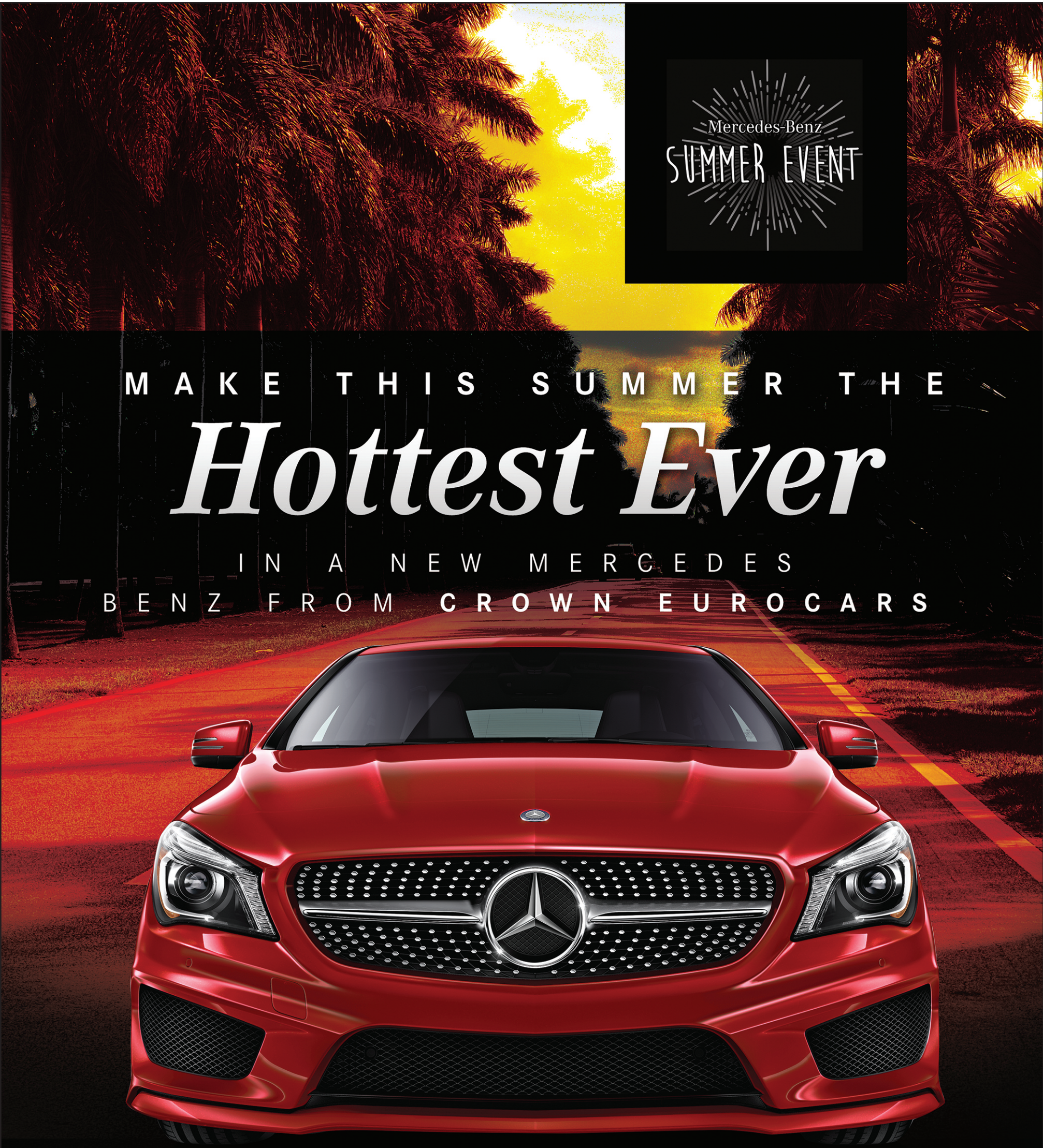
The keynote speaker for the event will be Dr. Frita McRae Fisher, daughter of local doctor Freddie L. and Inez McRae.

Tickets are \$40 each and can be purchased from any New Faith member, or online at [www.newfaithfmc.org/banquet](http://www.newfaithfmc.org/banquet).

Come out and celebrate 25 years with us!!







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