

2015-10-29

The Weekly Challenger : 2015 : 10 : 29

The Weekly Challenger, et al

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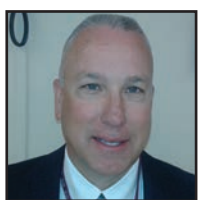
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The Weekly Challenger

We Value Diversity | We Value Education | We Value History

VOL. 48 NO. 10

OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 4, 2015

50¢



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Benefit held for local victim of fire



Diana Jackson

BY JULIA RUDGERS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG —The Fourth of July is a time for barbecues, family, patriotic remembrance, and of course, fireworks. Some of us simply look forward to a quiet and restful night in. This was the case for Diana Jackson and her husband. The south St. Petersburg residents who retired early for the evening took no notice of the night's festivities.

All was well, until stray fireworks launched from a neighboring house landed on the Jackson's wooden back porch.

The fire started between the hours of 11 p.m. and midnight, as later reported by the fire marshal. However, it was not until around 3 a.m. that Jackson and her husband were awakened by the shouts of neighbors and the sounds of the fire.

Trapped in a hazy state between sleep and distress, Jackson was utterly terrified. When she awoke, both the bedroom and the front room of the house were already aflame.

"When I woke up, there was smoke and burning and

See **FIRE**, page 9



Bishop Preston D.H. Leonard shows the flags of some of the countries he has traveled to for humanitarian labors.

Bishop Leonard: 58 years serving the community

BY INDHIRA SUERO
Neighborhood News Bureau

ST. PETERSBURG — Bishop Preston D.H. Leonard, the living pastor with the longest tenure as minister of a single congregation in the city still remembers when his grandfather, who was a slave for 33 years, told him never to stop learning and working.

The leader of Christ

Gospel Church of St. Petersburg, located at 22 Second Ave. S, takes these words seriously. For him, there is no such thing as retirement. Leonard has seen the community change in the 58 years he has lived in south St. Pete.

"A black pastor is really different than most white pastors. We, in the black community, get called for many things that others pastors won't have

to," said Leonard. "I get calls from people all the way for what to do about illness and I don't know all the answers, so now I'm not just a pastor, but I'm a person who is searching for someone who can take care of that person's problem," Leonard added.

Training white bosses
Leonard —originally from Lloyd, Florida — witnessed significant changes in St. Petersburg

including two riots and integration.

He also was one of the first black advisers to the Pinellas County School Board.

"When I look back and see how things were and where they have come from, community-wise and church-wise, I can stand up and say thank you, Lord," said Leonard.

The preacher remembers
See **BISHOP** pages 5

The road to Gambia

BY FRANK DROUZAS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The St. Pete chapter of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) celebrated receiving its national charter to officially become a part of the organization headquartered in the nation's capital last Sat., Oct. 24 at The Florida Holocaust Museum.

With the mission to promote, research, preserve, interpret and dis-

seminate information about black life, history and culture to the global community, this month's meeting featured Patricia Alsup, who was recently appointed by President Obama as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia.

"I want to say how thrilled I am that there is this chapter of ASALH here in St. Petersburg," said Alsup, who grew up in St. Pete and is the

See **GAMBIA**, page 8



Patricia and Yvonne Alsup

Grow your future at PTC



Jacklyn-Rhea Wildey

BY SKYLA LUCKEY
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The horticulture program at Pinellas Technical College (PTC) offers those with green thumbs a chance to be creative artists with nature as their canvas, and those with business in mind a way to be entrepreneurs.

Instructor Jacklyn-Rhea Wildey took over the department in January of this year following her predecessor's retirement, and she aims to prepare students for the real world of nursery and landscape management.

Horticulture is a very science-heavy industry. Science determines how to treat plants, and the best methods both for conserving time, resources and the future health of the plant.

There are three levels to the program. Level A introduces students to chemistry and botany. Levels B and C incorporates it into business knowledge, which helps the students make the best decisions about profits and loss, whether they are working for someone else or working for themselves. This cuts down on environmental waste and/or environmental hazards.

See **PTC**, page 6

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COMMUNITY NEWS

90 a day

Dear Editor,
Before every presidential election we always tend to say “this is the most important election in our lifetime.” This time this narrative might be true. I have been watching national elections since I was 10 years old. When other kids were watching cartoons and playing with crayons, I could identify the platforms of all the major candidates in the Republican and Democratic parties.

I was a nerd before we knew what nerds were. However, I cannot remember any election cycle as puzzling and possibly consequential as the present one we’re in now.

Not since 1968 has there been a bit more drama, propaganda and misinformation. In 1968 the country was dealing with was Vietnam War, which lasted more than 10 years. The assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the riots afterwards highlighted the intense racial divisions. Also, the assassination of Robert Kennedy prompted the first major anti-gun law.

Forty-seven years later in 2015, we are still wrestling with some of the same issues. A war in Afghanistan and the escalation of the war into Syria and Iran has lasted longer than Vietnam. Since 1968, more Americans have been killed by handgun violence than in all of the wars in our nation’s history.

Ninety people a day; high school, college students and even children in kinder-

garten have been killed. Those are the headlines. Today in Florida the state legislature is actually talking about having college students bring guns to school. With a permit of course.

Most murders are not political or the heartbreaking killings that went on this summer in Charleston, S.C., of people in attending church, most gun violence happens in the home between love ones or friends who got upset about something. For whatever reason, 90 people a day in the United States.

This is not a problem that can be solved by simply opposing the National Rifle Association; President Obama or Vice President Biden cannot preach at enough funerals. This is a moral issue whether you believe in carrying guns or not. Ninety people a day should be unacceptable.

Republicans like Donald Trump say they want to make America great again. As if somehow America went down in greatness under President Obama. The political pundits like Joe Scarborough say Americans don’t feel strong anymore. Why? Is it because President Obama tried to make healthcare better for more Americans?

Do Republicans only feel great when we have American soldiers policing the world? Maybe they would feel great about America if we had more soldiers dying in Iran and the Ukraine fighting against the Russians and the Iranians.



But when it comes to gun control, all they talk about is the right to bear arms. Somehow the Republicans don’t see the greatness of America is being civilized. You don’t see this gun violence in Japan, Britain or even Canada. Not even percentage wise.

Conservative thought, at least by the present crop, said you cannot spend your way out of social problems, but they cannot spend enough money fighting wars.

In this election cycle, one guy insults women, Mexicans and even prisoners of war and his poll numbers go up. One woman running for president fired 30,000 people while she was also shown the door. She hasn’t been hired since but she wants to be president. Dr. Carson, a brilliant neurosurgeon, gets his political street credit by insulting the president at a prayer dinner. He’s a Christian who conveniently forgets this is the United States and not Israel of the Bible.

Yes this may be the most important presidential election since 1968, and maybe for not all the right reasons.

Rivers-Cleveland

Our lives, our story

Dear Editor:
We must pay attention to the dialogue of all those that come into our community and offer commentary on the “five failed schools saga.” While Arnie Duncan has it correct that the state of our school are in can be equated to “education malpractice,” the dialogue that he is perpetuating, just as the *Tampa Bay Times* did, is that black children can’t learn if they attend schools with other black children. This is another attempt to retell our narrative.

What is even more disturbing is that African Americans have begun to sing that song not understanding what they are saying. The truth in Pinellas County is that black children in Pinellas County schools have not been learning for a very long time. It wasn’t until our children were placed back in neighborhood schools that the depth of the problem was highlighted.

lighted.

People such as Marva Collins, Harlem School zone Founder Jeffery Canada and Capital Preparatory Founder Steve Perry have taught poor black children with great success. The three things these individuals have in common were an expectation that our children could learn in spite of their socio-economic status. They had the knowledge base to place the appropriate strategies in place to teach our children and they were committed.

If our children are to ever be free from the systemic social injustices associated with education, those that look like them must unequivocally and unapologetically reject the notion that our children stopped learning when they were placed in schools together and the notion that parents bare the blunt of the blame.

Poor teacher preparation, inappropriate allocation of public resources,



public leaders who had little to no interest in our children’s academic success until they were called out are the reasons that our children have not performed as strongly as we know they can!

Those are the facts and we must not get caught up in the narrative that is being intentionally spun by those who have historically demonstrated very little concern about the social injustices that have run rampant in this community for years.

Maria L. Scruggs

St. Petersburg AKA Chapter to Host Cluster II Conference Nov. 13-14

ST. PETERSBURG – More than 400 members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will join together for the South Atlantic Region Cluster II Conference beginning Fri., Nov. 13 and concluding the next day at the beautiful Hilton Carillon Hotel in St. Petersburg.

The purpose of the conference is for members to share in “The Power of The Pearl Connection” by focusing on the sorority’s programmatic thrust, “Launching New Dimensions of Service.” During the conference weekend, members expect to donate hundreds of backpacks filled with school supplies to Pinellas County Schools Homeless Education Assistance Team (HEAT) program. The effort is part of a community service project to assist homeless students in pre-K to 12th grade.

In addition to sisterly fellowship, enriching workshops and recognition of outstanding service, members will also participate in a special Friday night HBCU-themed reception, “Friday Night



Live” as part of this two-day event.

The Cluster, under the dynamic leadership of South Atlantic Regional Director Sharon Brown Harriott and Cluster II Coordinator Donna Douglas, consists of 11 graduate chapters and three undergraduate chapters from areas including Orlando, Lakeland, Tampa, Clearwater, Bradenton and Ft. Myers.

This year’s Cluster II Conference planning is hosted by the members of Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter along with conference chairman, Manitia Moultrie and co-chairs

Sharon Jackson and Yolundra Whitehead.

About Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. is the oldest Greek-letter organization established in America by black women and was founded on January 15, 1908, at Howard University. Led by International President Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, the organization connects thousands of college-trained women who give of themselves to support community service projects and scholarship programs.

For more information, visit www.AKA1908.org.

Dr. Thornton closes private practice

ST. PETERSBURG — Dr. J. Cedric Thornton, MD, the first black dermatologist in St. Petersburg, closes his private practice. For 28 years he served the community with the best dermatological medicines and expert professional medical skin care.

Since August, the office at 6499 38 Ave. S has sat empty, but a closed office doesn’t mean retirement. Thornton is now employed at the VA Hospital.

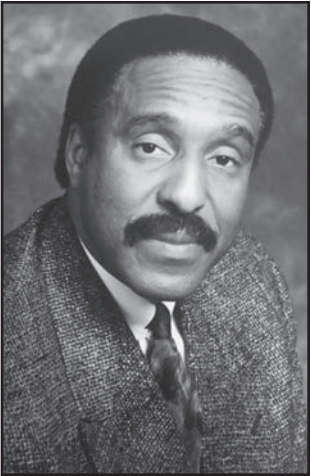
Before closing his private practice, he and his wife, Joyce, did a lot of soul searching and gave the idea a considerable amount of thought. Leaving his patients and staff, many of whom had been with him since he opened his practice

in 1987, was not an easy thing to do.

Thornton will always cherish all the fond, wonderful, memories from his patients, who have shared their lives with him, both personal and professional, and especially the “fish chat” stories.

After serving nine years in the United States Air Force, achieving the best dermatological medical training and becoming a flight surgeon for four years, Thornton decided to move to St. Petersburg with the influence of longtime friends, Drs. Ken and Nancy Bryant.

Once a month, Thornton volunteered his services to the Greenwood Community in Clearwater at the Willa Carson Health Center for



many years.

On behalf of Thornton and his office staff, they would like to thank all of their patients for their valued loyalty. He will be eternally grateful that he had the opportunity to know and serve you.

The Weekly Challenger

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All news items, advertising copy and related art submitted for publication on Thursday must be received no later than 4 p.m. Monday.

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The views expressed by The Weekly Challenger columnists/ advice columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of The Weekly Challenger. By publishing such columns, The Challenger is not advocating the following of any advice or suggestion expressed.

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Submissions to The Weekly Challenger may be edited for reasons of space, clarity or for considerations of liability. All submissions become the sole property of The Weekly Challenger. The Weekly Challenger reserves the right to run all or part of any submission at a later time. Some submissions may take precedence due to timeliness or newsworthiness.

THE BLACK PRESS

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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14 pages • 1 section

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Zeta Amicae Seeking New Members

BY EMMA COOPER
CAVIN
Contributor

ST. PETERSBURG — Following their September meeting, members of the Zeta Amicae Auxiliary have spent numerous hours talking to other women who might have an interest in being involved in activities that will provide services that benefit local communities.

An adult auxiliary of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Zeta Amicae were organized nationally in 1948. They are a group of women from 18 to 80 who work along with the members of post-college chapters of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority to serve their community.

The St. Petersburg chapter has been organized more than 45 year. This is not just a social group (though social activities are included). Indeed, it is an intensely dedicated group of women who follow an organized plan through which they work with the local Zetas to fulfill national projects that make life better for many who are experiencing extreme challenges with health crises and daily life issues.

The local chapter of Zeta Amicae meets monthly to plan and prepare for the community projects in which they will be engaged. Members meet other days within the month to make, pack, collect or shop for whatever they need to implement those plans and to successfully complete community service projects they have chosen.



After the preparation, these caring ladies disperse into pairs or small groups and go to homes or health facilities where those who need them are located. The group's president, Jo Lampley, spoke of the satisfaction she feels when she completes any activity, any day she has the opportunity to do something for someone, old or young.

"It is an awesome feeling when we go to visit, provide information, can write a letter or make a telephone call that relieves anxiety or makes someone feel better. I thank the Lord that he has made my life comfortable and I thank Him for letting me share that comfort with others," said Lampley.

This season's projects mirror those of the Zetas as both groups are presently involved in projects that include the elderly, active veterans and spending time with the children and families at the Ronald McDonald House.

These projects are on going year after year, but there are varied special projects that call for time

and resources within specific months such as the prematurity campaign and walk by the March of Dimes, the Cancer Walk for Life, the Heart Association's Activities and the voter registration activities.

Working with the youth as tutors and mentors requires regularly scheduled time also, depending on the needs of south St. Petersburg's children.

Want to know more about the Zeta Amicae? Are you interested in becoming a member? Just call (727) 327-9269, and ask to speak to Jo Lampley, or call (727) 510-3214, and ask for Lisa Wilson, Zeta Amicae Advisor.

The most important requirements for membership include good character, the ability to be a role model for children, honesty, dependability, the desire to help others and time to prepare and complete community projects.

The Zeta Amicae Auxiliary is waiting for you. Why not give them a call today? The community needs your commitment and service.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP NOTICE

PSTA will hold a series of public workshops to share information and collect comments about changes to route in **downtown St. Petersburg** that serve **Williams Park**.

Date	Location	Time	Routes Serving Venue
Saturday, October 24	Campbell Park Recreation Center 601 14th Street South, St. Petersburg	12:30 PM - 2:00 PM	79, 7
Monday, October 26	James Weldon Johnson Library 1059 18th Avenue South, St. Petersburg	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	14
Wednesday, October 28	St. Petersburg Public Library Main Branch 3745 9th Avenue North, St. Petersburg	3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	7
Thursday, October 29	St. Petersburg College – downtown 244 2nd Avenue North, St. Petersburg	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Any bus serving Williams Park
Thursday, October 29	St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce 100 2nd Avenue North, St. Petersburg	5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Any bus serving Williams Park
Monday, November 2	Sunshine Center 330 5th St North, St Petersburg	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	4, 5, 20
Tuesday, November 3	Enoch Davis Center 1111 18th Ave South, St Petersburg	5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	14

Riders unable to attend are invited to read about the proposals on **PSTA.net** (click the "workshop" banner) and send comments to **engage@psta.net**.
Note: Use of the meeting rooms does not imply affiliation or sponsorship of the workshops.



Please call the InfoLine at (727) 540-1900 or visit us at www.PSTA.net for more information.

ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE

Pinellas County and the cities of Clearwater, Largo and St. Petersburg are working in collaboration with the Pinellas County Office of Human Rights to conduct an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

You are invited to attend one of two public forums scheduled in October and November in order to share comments regarding obstacles or barriers that you or other persons you know may have observed or experienced regarding fair housing choice.

Public Forums

Tuesday, October 27, 2015 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Enoch Davis Center 1111 – 18th Avenue South St. Petersburg, FL 33705	Thursday, November 19, 2015 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. County 440 Building 440 Court Street Clearwater, FL 33756
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For persons of Limited English Proficiency who would like to attend one of the forums, there will be County or City staff members fluent in Spanish in attendance at the public forums. Additionally, there will be an opportunity to provide written comments in English as well as other languages.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in one of the public forums, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Should you need assistance, please contact the Office of Human Rights, 400 S. Fort Harrison Avenue, 5th Floor, Clearwater, FL 33756; telephone: (727) 464-4880. Hearing impaired persons, please use (727) 464-4062 (V/TDD).

On-line Survey

An online survey, designed to solicit public comments and feedback, will also be available on the Pinellas County Office of Human Rights website in November 2015. The survey is designed to solicit comments from interested persons, agencies and entities regarding impediments to fair housing (i.e. advocacy groups and non-profit organizations; government agencies/housing authorities; property/condo association managers and professionals; neighborhood associations, Realtors, mortgage lenders, community redevelopment officers, community residents, etc.).

Background

The federal Fair Housing Act requires that housing and community development programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) affirmatively further fair housing. As a recipient of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, the governmental jurisdictions described above are required to conduct an assessment of the barriers to housing choice and develop a plan for overcoming the impediments identified.

The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice reviews impediments or barriers that affect the rights of fair housing choice. The Analysis of Impediments reviews State and local laws, regulations, and administrative policies, procedures and practices; assesses how these laws affect location, availability, and accessibility of housing; evaluates conditions, both public and private, affecting fair choice for all protected classes; and assesses the availability of affordable accessible housing.

Under federal anti-discrimination law, a protected class is a person which cannot be targeted for discrimination. The following characteristics are considered "protected classes" under federal law: race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, familial status, citizenship, disability, veteran status, and genetic information status.

Prior to December 31, 2015, the Pinellas County Office of Human Rights will prepare a final report titled "Assessment of Fair Housing," which will be made available for submission to HUD, circulation to the public and posting online on County and City websites.

Comments

Written comments regarding impediments to fair housing choice can also be directed in writing to Mark Esparza, Pinellas County Office of Human Rights, 400 S. Fort Harrison Avenue, 5th floor, Clearwater, FL 33756, phone number (727) 464-4880; e-mail: mesparza@pinellascounty.org. The deadline for submitting written comments is Monday, November 30th.



Mother seeking daughter

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DOG DAYS

5-7 2-8
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Career Opportunity Announcement
Search for Executive Director of the 2020 Plan
Released October 15, 2015

The 2020 Plan is a comprehensive five-year action plan to reduce poverty in South St. Petersburg that is endorsed by city and state officials, as well as a host of community leaders. The 2020 Plan Taskforce seeks to hire its first Executive Director to implement the short and long-term goals of the Plan and Taskforce (for more details, visit www.pcul.org and click on The 2020 Plan).

The ideal candidate will have a strong proven track record in organizing collaborative or collective impact initiatives; leading community based organizations and programs; directing staff; and managing revenues and expenses; and will possess strong skills in social media, public relations & presentation, and fundraising.

The Executive Director will also oversee the daily operations of the Taskforce's progressive agenda. This position is funded by a three-year Allegany Franciscan Ministries contract. All interested candidates should forward resumes with cover letters emphasizing experience with collaborative and collective initiatives to 2020Coordinator@gmail.com. No phone calls please.

Thank you.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Givers gain!

BY DEXTER MCCREE
Feature Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Before the morning sun has risen in its place, a group of business owners are already in motion meeting people whom they had not known to share ideas that had not been heard, to make life better for people they have not met.

The group is called Circle of Success, and they share the concept that it's more profitable to focus on giving than receiving. Givers indeed gain much more.

"I think we have all picked the right time to be in the Circle of Success," said Tom Berry, a financial

planner and president of the group. "There are a lot of things to be excited about in our chapter. The tone of our last leadership meeting was to heat things up in the chapter, laser focus on getting more referrals, intentional one to ones. It's an exciting time for us."

With over 180,000 members worldwide, BNI (Business Network International) is the largest business networking organization in the world. Last year alone, they generated 6.6 million referrals resulting in \$8.6 billion dollars' worth of business for its members. We offer members the opportunity to share ideas, contacts and most importantly, business

referrals.

The philosophy of BNI is built upon the idea of "giver's gain." By giving business to others, you will get business in return. This is predicated on the age-old idea of, "What goes around comes around."

The mission is to help members increase their business through a structured, positive, and professional word-of-mouth program that enables them to develop long-term, meaningful relationships with quality business professionals.

"It's powerful when people are dedicated in a network to help one another, and that's what happens in Circle of Success," stated Roy James, Jr., an insurance broker and one of the core starters of the group. "We welcome business associates with a heart to do good and committed to be successful."

Dr. Ivan Misner is the founder and chief visionary officer of BNI, which is the world's largest business networking organ. Founded in 1985, they now have over 7,000 chapters throughout every populated continent

of the world.

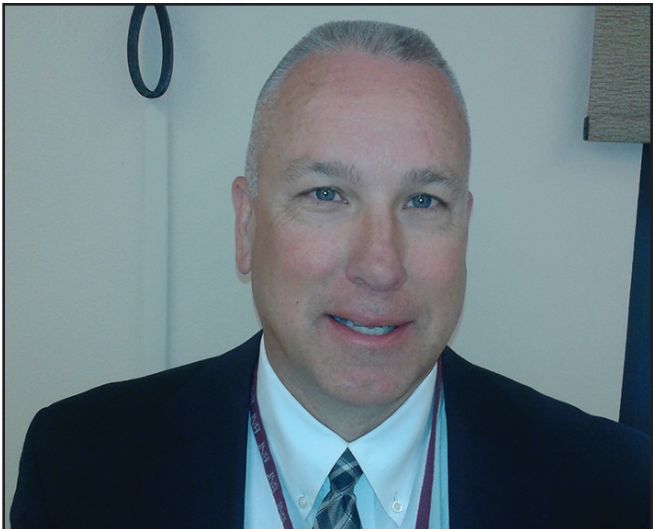
Misner's is a *New York Times* bestselling author who has written 20 books including his latest release "Who's In Your Room?"

He is a columnist for Entrepreneur.com and Fox Business News. He is the senior partner for the Referral Institute, a referral training company with trainers around the world.

Called the "Father of Modern Networking" by CNN and one of the "Top Networking Experts to Watch" by Forbes, Misner is considered one of the world's leading experts on business networking. He has been featured in the L.A. Times, Wall Street Journal and New York Times, as well as numerous TV and radio shows including CNN, CNBC, the BBC and The Today Show on NBC.

The Circle of Success network started with a core group of Berry, James and Attorney Cathy Blackburn. From the humble beginnings, the network has grown to 31 members in less than a year.

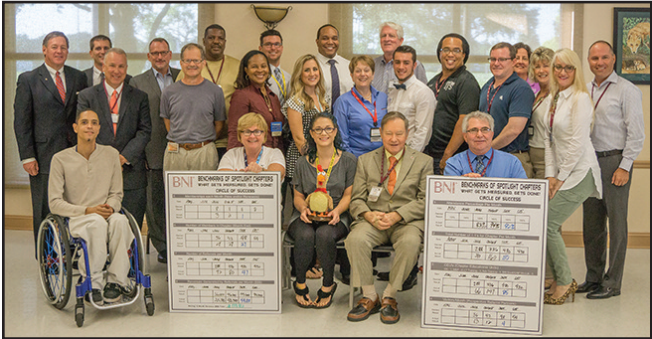
Every Tuesday morning this faithful "Circle of Success" is in motion shar-



Tom Barry



Roy James Jr.

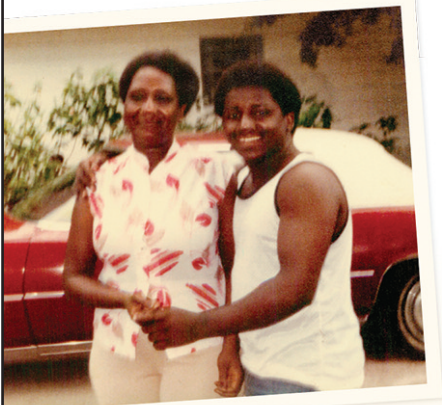


BNI Chapter- "Circle of Success"
LJ Rebhan - photographer

ing a concept that it's more profitable to focus on giving than receiving. It's the BNI way. Givers indeed gain much more.

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.

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.

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

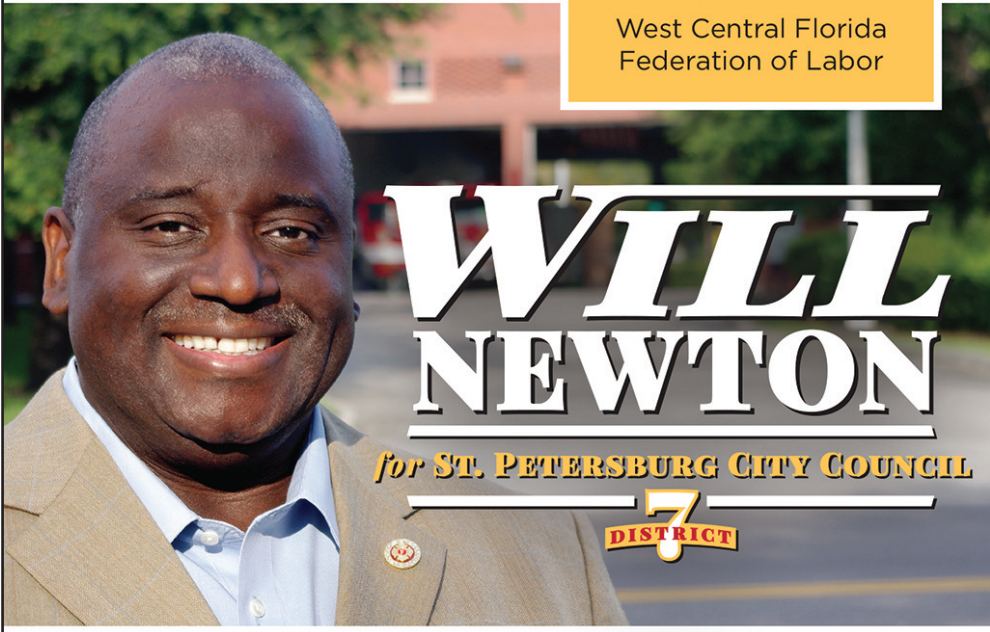
— WINTHROP "WILL" NEWTON

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.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Doing God’s will

From **BISHOP** pages 10

bers when certain occupations belonged only to black people. He said he trained three of his bosses only because they did not know the job, but they were white.

“I made much less money than they did, but it was a job,” Leonard said. “In the city of St. Petersburg, [African Americans] were garbage collectors and street workers. When you went to an office, there were no people of color, now things changed,” he stated.

Black Ministry

During his ministry, Leonard — also the Presiding Bishop of Christ Kingdom International Fellowship and the International Bishop of the Christ Gospel Churches of Jamaica, and Haiti— has helped people with health issues, those who are incarcerated and others with financial problems.

“I’m gonna try to do my duty here. Now, I don’t do much of the preaching I have an assistant pastor [Tony B. Young Jr.] who is very capable and is also a person very educational-minded,” said Leonard.

He recommends to young pastors not to look at the pulpit as a quick way of getting rich; rather he advises them to take on the mind of a servant.

“You may not make as much as some other mega pastor, you may not drive the best automobile, but if you could really gain the trust and heart of people, [you could] really find what real ministry is.

It’s not just preaching a sermon on Sunday morning,” Leonard said.

Needs

Leonard considers that south St. Pete’s young black males need help to attain livable jobs.

“There is a great gap,” he said explaining that some people jump to conclusions. “They say you’re lazy, you’re not doing well, there are a lot of things they use as a reason there is a gap,” Leonard continued.

“The problem is they’re going to their own mental interpretation and gathering information from their background,” he explained.

The past president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) also considers that education is vital and affirms that he not only tries to encourage it but tries to help.

“We help finance education here, for people in other countries, [and] college students. We will pay for a book or at least give them part of the book stipend. I feel we’re helping the entire society when we do that. I still go to seminars, travel, study, read books, and I try to learn continually,” Leonard said.

Legacy

This minister has helped the community for more than five decades, but how does he help himself?

According to Leonard, for personal issues, he finds love and support from his family. For community problems, he looks for help from people in the neighborhood.



Rev. Preston D.H. Leonard circa 1978.

“My wife [Virginia] and I were parents of seven children, six of them still alive. So far as help for encouragement, that’s all I need to do. My kids really spoil me; they take care of me with food, clothes and even try to boss me,” Leonard said cheerfully. “With the community, when something is bigger than me, I call others to help.”

When he dies, Leonard wishes that, more than sending flowers to his funeral, his friends would contribute to the missions of

his church.

“I have no regrets of 57 years here in St. Pete. I have been through a lot; I have had a lot of problems,” Leonard said. “I have nothing to complain about. I am just glad to be a part of the community. I can look back and say if I would die today, I have really been blessed by people.”

Indhira Suero is a reporter in the Neighborhood News Bureau at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.



Pastor Leonard has more than 50 years at Christ Gospel Church of St. Petersburg.



Pastor Leonard and his secretary Alphonso White Jr.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Hot buttons of city council candidate forum

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The NAACP St. Petersburg Branch hosted the last city council candidate debate at the Enoch Davis Center last Mon., Oct. 26 in front of a packed auditorium.

Present for the sometimes ferocious conversation and last-chance platform promotion effort were six year City Councilmember Steven Kornell and challenger Philip Garrett for the District 5 race and Lisa Wheeler-Brown and Winthrop “Will” Newton for the District 7 race.

With one week left before the election, each candidate was determined to solidify their position and what they would do if elected to city council. Moderating the forum was Adam C. Smith, nationally acclaimed *Tampa Bay Times* political editor.

“If you’re doing the job right I believe you’re listening to your community,” said Kornell. He added that “public safety is one of the top issues.” He punctuated this point by citing his involvement with the once crime-riddled and rundown Mariner’s Point Apartment complex to get it under new management.

“I spent three straight years working on that and dogging an out-of-town landlord and out-of-town management company into doing the right thing,” he said. For Kornell the right thing was to start an apartment community program with the St. Petersburg Police Department “to make sure there are some basic safety things being done.”

Kornell emphasized his hands on dedication to education as a school social worker that works with youth every day.

“I don’t work with kids who are doing well, I work with kids who are doing their very worst,” said Kornell. “I work with kids who have been abused, who live in cars and so I get what that means.”

In responding to this sit-

uation, Kornell turned to the Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) and created the 21st Century Learning Program, a program that was very influential on youth at John Hopkins Middle School at the turn of the last century.

“I’ve been working for and advocating for early childhood education for the past 10 years,” said Kornell. He feels that education and economic development are vital to the productive health and growth of south St. Petersburg.

Garrett threw in that he’s a God-fearing family man and the father of three. “My footprints run through this community everywhere and I’m here to advocate for you.”

He implored the audience members to look at the last six years and ask themselves: “What has the city council done for you... and if you feel that these things haven’t been done, it’s time for new leadership!”

With that statement, Garrett drew the definitive divide between his platform and that of his opponent. He would later slam a comment made by Newton about Wheeler-Brown that imposed political limitations when he stated that maybe she should run for the school board because her major concerns were relative to education, a comment that received negative feedback from the audience.

Indeed, Garrett stood out as the firebrand among the four candidates. He warned residents about the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) projects coming into town with little results. He told them to get a copy and read it thoroughly.

Garrett, like the other candidates, feels that early childhood education is paramount to turning around the schools labeled as failure factories in St. Petersburg.

“We need to focus on our 1 to five years olds because they’re struggling



Steven Kornell



Philip Garrett



Winthrop “Will” Newton



Lisa Wheeler-Brown

just like our middle schoolers are struggling,” said Garrett. His concerns about getting handle on struggling students during their first four years of school is a strategy consistently echoed in educational research journals worldwide.

Newton introduced himself as the District Vice President of the Florida Professional Firefighters organization whose duties take him to Tallahassee where he works “hard for working class families to ensure your benefits and salaries and making sure we get some pretty good laws passed.”

He boasted of working with JWB to bring programs into the Childs Park area, such as Change for Youth Development.

Last to introduce herself was Wheeler-Brown who is running against Newton for a City Council seat in District 7.

“My record of service began when I joined the Military,” said Wheeler-Brown. “The first thing they teach you is to lead from the front and you don’t follow any crowd. After being past president of St. Petersburg’s Council of Neighborhood Associations, one of my roles was to bring neighborhoods together to solve issues that affected us all.”

Wheeler-Brown would point out how she faced problems head-on when relating to the murder of son and the struggle to finally apprehend the suspect who is now serving three consecutive life sentences.

She calmly lashed out at



Concerned citizens waited their turn for the microphone.

her opponent and some of his supporters for saying she is profiting from her son’s murder. She summed up what she feels is foul play as dirty politics.

“The people of the community deserve someone better, they deserve someone who is going to advocate for the concerns of the community,” she said.

One hot issue of the night was the CRA and the strengths and challenges it has.

Wheeler-Brown — “What I’m excited about is this time there will be accountability. Accountability and transparency so that the residents will know exactly where the money is going...that they are getting what they need in the community. We didn’t have that before.”

Newton — “This one is funded because we’ve had

many (CRA projects) that didn’t have a dedicated funding source.”

He went on to say that he would like to see the land where Tropicana Field sits be brought back into the Southside TIF (Tax Increment Financing) so that the area will have a funding source that will move quicker towards project investment and funding.

The challenge he feels is stopping the cycle of poverty that exists in District 6 and 7.

Garrett said that a large portion of the CRA money should be used for infrastructure to attract businesses and he wants quarterly reports to track the money. He reminded everyone that CRAs have come to Midtown before and the area is still blighted.

“So we must make sure

that the money is followed...We have to make sure they are held accountable...and I will be there to hold them accountable like many have not been,” said Garrett.

Kornell started by resetting the tone for himself and audience by stating he has a “positive message and I’m going to stick to it.”

“What’s different about this one is that we’ve never had a TIF before, a funding source to go along with the CRA. The other thing that is phenomenal is that the city went to the County Commission and said that we can use this source legally for infrastructure but there’s a need to use it for people and it can be used that way by the state, but we need you to make it happen (on a local level).”

See **FORUM**, page 14

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Foreign Service is a fulfilling career

From **GAMBIA** page 1

daughter of Dr. Fred Alsup, a pioneer in the integration of Bayfront Medical Center. “I think it’s wonderful because it creates the opportunities for conversations that don’t happen often about the connection between African Americans and Africans.”

With 23 years of Foreign Service to her credit, Alsup has lived in Africa for a total of five years, and was previously in the Gambia from 2005-07. Situated on Africa’s west coast, Gambia is the smallest country on the continent’s mainland.

Eleven students from Gibbs High were on hand as guests of ASALH and Alsup encouraged them to consider a career in Foreign Service, but mainly to stay in school and study hard as a precursor to finding a career path.

“Before I joined the Foreign Service I had eight different jobs,” she stated, addressing the students. “I was all over the place. I was in Milwaukee doing research, I was in Dallas doing strategic planning for an aerospace company, I had an art gallery here. But you don’t have to figure out right away what it is you want to do. You can experiment with things and eventually you’ll find the thing that is right for you.”

Principal Reuben Hepburn from Gibbs High School admitted it was hard to bring only 11 students out of 1,400 to listen to Alsup, but the ones that were chosen “were genuinely interested in what it takes to be

an ambassador,” he said of the select students.

Though Alsup conceded that hard work is a necessary part of working in the Foreign Service, she maintained that interpersonal skills were key.

“That’s what really makes a difference when they decide if somebody is going to be an ambassador,” she said, adding that it doesn’t matter how well you know the politics of a particular region or how good you are technically in terms of economics—you must know how to deal with people and be a team player.

A career in foreign service does require flexibility, Alsup noted, since a foreign service officer may be called upon to change jobs every two or three years.

“Since I was doing that anyway,” she said, “it worked out—it’s the perfect career for me!”

Alsup’s first assignment was in the Dominican Republic where she did consulate work, such as issuing visas to people who want to come to the United States and helping American citizens who are in trouble or have some kind of problem overseas.

Then it was on to Mexico City, where she worked for the treasury department and was there through the Mexican Peso Crisis, which was sparked by the Mexican government’s abrupt devaluation of the peso against the U.S. dollar. Alsup then found herself in Washington working in the economic bureau before

doing duty as a desk officer for seven eastern Caribbean islands.

“The nice thing about being a desk officer is you get to go visit the countries,” Alsup said, “so I got to go to Barbados and St. Lucia and St. Vincent and so on, so it’s been just really a fascinating career.”

In addition to obtaining a master’s degree in business administration from Harvard Business School, Alsup also attended the National Defense University in Washington to get a master’s degree in National Resource Strategy. She recalled how since most of the people in the school were military, she found herself constantly defending the state department to them.

“They were always saying, ‘You’re asking us to do too much, you should be doing it,’” she recalled, “and I would remind them, ‘You have more people in military bands than we have Foreign Service officers!’”

Alsup has also done duty in central Africa, dealing with countries with their share of political problems, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Equatorial Guinea—” not exactly the garden spots in Africa,” she said, “but very interesting.”

Though not all African countries had the same political issues as in the West African country of Ghana, she was more concerned as a foreign officer about economic and commercial issues since that country’s government was largely



Gibbs Principal Reuben Hepburn is proud of the 11 students he chose to represent the school.



supportive of the U.S. government’s positions.

“That’s basically what we do,” she explained. “We’re overseas, we promote U.S. policies, try to get the support of other countries for our policies in international organizations like

the United Nations and so on.”

In her previous service in Gambia, Alsup was a deputy ambassador for two years, and noted that she loved the country and the people are wonderful, and is looking forward to going

back there.

“It is quite an honor—I’m thrilled, I’m excited, I’m scared to death,” she said. “But I think it’s going to be a wonderful experience!”

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



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Recovering from tragedy

From **JUMP**, page 1

popping. I had to feel my way to the front door,” Jackson said. Her husband managed to escape through the bedroom window with the assistance of next-door neighbor Ken Cichowski and other.

“I was out there with my garden hose after we got them out of the house,” he said stating that it took the fire department longer to arrive than they will admit. Cichowski’s house was also partially burned.

While Jackson and her husband were able to escape unscathed, the house and its contents were unsalvageable. Everything was lost in the fire, causing quite the predicament for Jackson, who is currently unemployed, and her husband who retired several years ago.

Although she was shaken

by the experience, she has a large family of five grown children, made up of four daughters and one son. She also has 17 grandchildren and her husband for support.

Currently she and her husband reside temporarily in Pasadena with one of her daughters, where she is recovering as best she can. When asked to comment on how she has been coping, Jackson had this to say: “It’s been fine staying with my daughter, but it’s not the same as having your own place.”

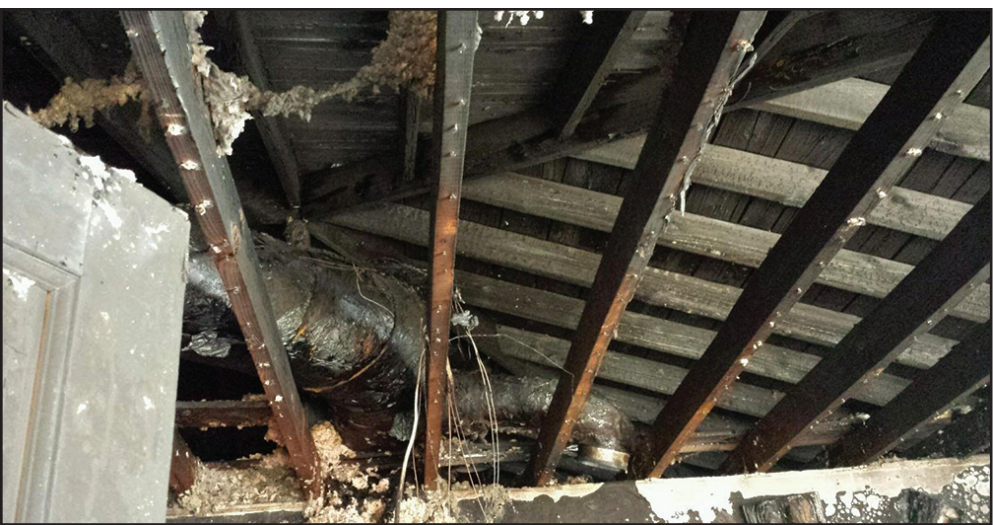
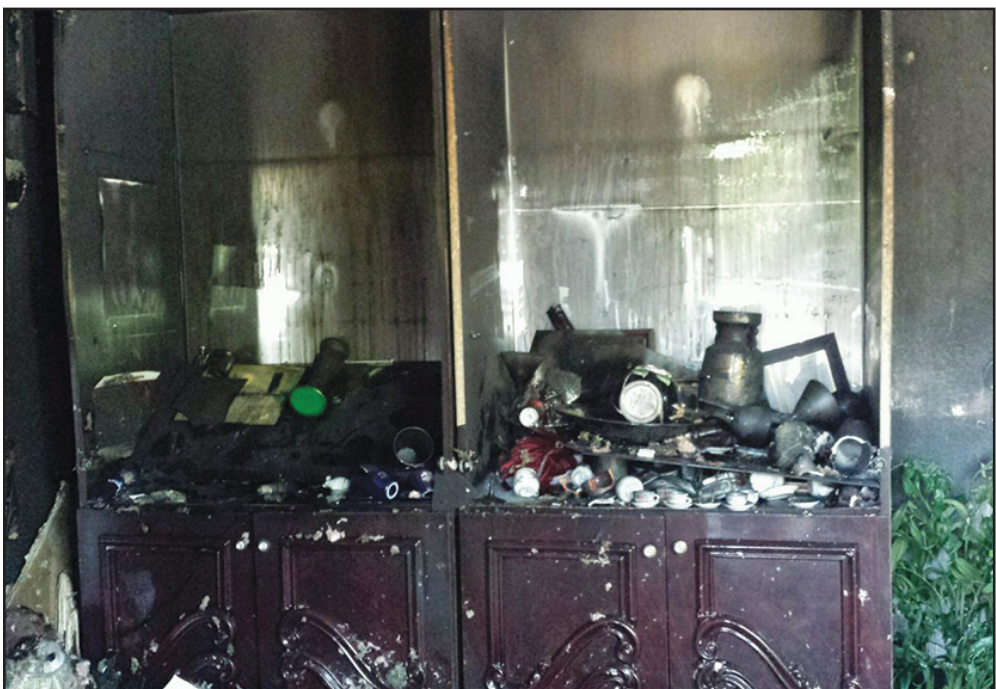
Fortunately, it would seem that her support system is far larger than she originally thought. Last Sat., Oct. 24 a benefit was held for Jackson by Sherrie Price, a local business owner and missionary at

All Nations Church.

It was held to help Jackson and her husband gather sufficient funds to purchase amenities, furniture, pay bills, and, of course, to find a new home.

They raise about \$1,000, but so much more is needed. Since the Jacksons did not have renter’s insurance, they will have to start from scratch. Clothes, toiletries, appliances, bedding is all needed.

Having escaped with only the nightclothes they were wearing, the Jackson family would greatly appreciate any assistance. If you would like to donate to this cause, please contact Jackson directly at (727) 564-0679 or contact Price at (727) 786-3416 for additional information on this matter.

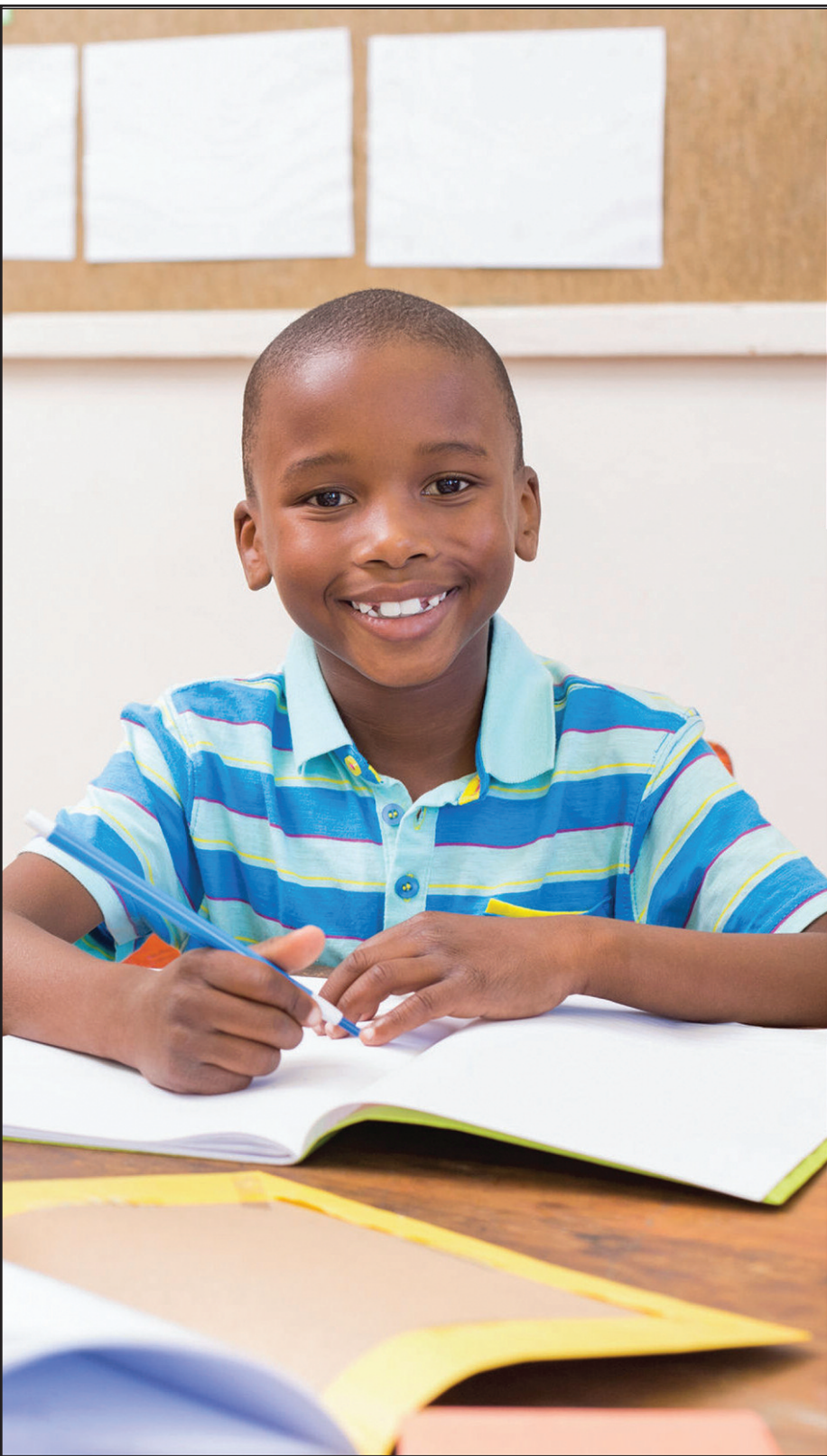


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COMMUNITY NEWS

It's harvest time

BY DEXTER MCCREE
Feature Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — A Season of Harvest drew the fellowship and breakfast of United Women in prayer. The gathering held at McCabe United Methodist church solicited prayers of adoration and praise along with confession, thanksgiving, supplication and petitions. Approximately 50-75 people joined together believing that this is their season of harvest.

McCabe United Methodist Women is an organized group committed to missions locally, nationally and globally. They support women, children and youth through prayers, volunteering and financial gifts. These women focus on social issues that affect women and children, such as homelessness,

domestic violence, human trafficking and immigration.

While there was a buffet of hot grits, eggs, sausage, biscuits and juice, clearly the fire came through the effluent prayers. Songs and praise set the atmosphere for the diverse audience to be thankful and hopeful for the harvest.

"I'm overjoyed by your turnout and participation," said Earlene Jackson, chairperson of the prayer breakfast. "Our prayers really do mean something. We make a difference, but we can't stop praying."

Here are the suggestions given for daily prayer habits. Using a small notebook, list the people who influence your family and pray for them.

Monday: Pray for your family unit, children to be teachable at home and

school. Pray for friends, neighbors, co-workers, boss and fellow employees.

Tuesday: Pray for school teachers, club presidents, coaches and others in regular contact with children.

Wednesday: Pray for those in leadership positions in local government, mayor, county officials, city council, state legislators and governor.

Thursday: Pray for national leaders: president, vice president, senators, representatives, Supreme Court.

Friday: Pray for missionaries, for their witness and ability to speak boldly, clearly and that the Lord will open doors for them.

Saturday: Pray for church leaders, ministers, teachers, choir directors and members.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

St. Pete Midtown Rotary Club 3rd Annual Awards Gala

BY LAPORSHA D. FRAZIE
Cocaine Corals Media

ST. PETERSBURG — St. Petersburg's Midtown Rotary Club held its 3rd Annual Awards Gala, "A Soul Music Celebration" Sat., Oct 24 at the Historic Manhattan Casino, 642 22nd St. S.

The event featured inspiring speakers, great entertainment along with the opportunity to make a difference. Rotarians, friends, family and honored guests gathered to recognize and award influential members of the St. Petersburg community and raise funds to support the club's many community service projects.

The night began with a warm welcome by Midtown Rotary Club President, Dr. J. Robert (Bob) Ross, followed by an invocation from club board member Gershon Faulkner and recognition of the event's special guests by the Midtown Club's immediate past president, Joseph Smith. The club's President-elect, Carole K. Alexander, gave an enlightening intro-

duction to the night's keynote speaker, Leah McRae, newly appointed Director of Education and Community Engagement for the city of St. Pete.

McRae's speech was nothing short of moving and was geared toward highlighting projects for the greater good of the city of St. Petersburg. She brought to attention the growth that is underway in the city and some of the specific changes, which need to be made as a result.

McRae spoke about Mayor Rick Kriseman's initiative to provide housing for homeless veterans in St. Petersburg, and to increase the number of sworn police officers in response to the growth of downtown and other areas.

Additionally, McRae remarked on the city's appreciation for organizations like the Midtown Rotary Club for their partnerships in service projects that benefit city residents and communities. She also said that more

opportunities for entrepreneurs would be made available through dollars coming into the city such as The Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corporation (TBBIC), which announced receipt of a \$75,000 federal grant.

Following dinner, the evening continued with an informative presentation by Faulkner on the meaning of being a Rotarian and how to become a part of the illustrious club.

There was much excitement in the room as Club President Bob Ross made the presentation of awards. Grand Villa of St. Petersburg was recipient of the Business Award; the Non-Profit/Community Award was awarded to the Bayboro House and the "Service Above Self" Rotarian of the Year Award went to Gershon Faulkner.

The evening came to a soulful conclusion thanks to electrifying performances by Gisele Jackson, and special featured guests Alex "The Entertainer" Harris and members of his Arts Conservatory for Teens. The evening ended on a very high note with dancing and music provided by DJ Steve (Manning).

Moving forward, the Midtown Rotary Club is continuing its support of community organizations such as Academy Prep, The Next STEPP Life Center and The Rotary House, a St. Petersburg shelter for homeless families trying to get back on their feet. The club part-

ners with six other Rotary Clubs in St. Petersburg to provide funding for the house and service projects such as annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for the resident families.

The St. Petersburg Midtown Rotary Club holds its lunch meeting every Wednesday at Grand Villa, 3600 34th St. S, St. Petersburg. Networking starts at noon and the meeting ends promptly at 1:15 p.m.



Ms. Leah McRae,
Director of Education
and Community
Engagement,
City of St. Petersburg



Club Rotarian of the
Year, Gershon Faulkner



L-R: Asst. Rotary District Gov., Allen Collins and his wife; Midtown Club president-elect Carole Alexander, and Midtown Club President, Bob Ross



Alex the Entertainer and
ACT member, Hannah



Allen Collins and
Leah McRae



Rotarians Joe Smith, Chuck and Pat Vosburgh

18th Annual African American Health Forum

"Come Out and Hear the Doctors Talk About Important Health Issues."

Free Breakfast

Free Lunch

Free Flu Shots

- *Free Colgate Dental Bus for Kid's Dental Screenings*
- *Free Hypertension, Diabetes, Obesity, Glaucoma, Skin Cancer and Breast Cancer Screenings*

St. Petersburg College

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Liberty in Healing. Connected in Service

Make your point.

FRATERNITY

When

Saturday,
November 7th

Place

Johnnie Ruth
Clarke
Community
Health
Center
1344 22nd St.
So.
St. Petersburg,
FL.

Time

- Mid-town Wellness
Walk/Run/Bike
7:00am to 8:30am
- Health Forum
9:00am to 3:00pm

fruit vegetables
sport bmi
HEALTHY
snack nutrition weight
LIVING lifestyle
organic produce
vitamins
exercise
sleep

CHURCH DIRECTORY



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

Sunday Worship Services7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Mid-Day Bible StudyNoon - 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.
Youth Chapel Services - 921 20th Street South
2nd & 4th Sunday Worship Services.....10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer6:00 p.m.
Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.

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

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

Come Worship With the First Baptist Family



REV. DR. WAYNE G. THOMPSON,
PASTOR

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

Sunday Worship Service10:15 a.m.
Sunday School9:00 a.m.
Teen Summit (Wednesday)7:00 p.m.
Bible Study (Wednesday)7:00 p.m.



Rev. Rickey L. Houston,
Pastor

“God’s House To The City”



Rev. Wallace Elliott
Sr. - Pastor

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

Sunday Worship Services 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting (Tuesday)6:00 p.m.
Bible Study (Tuesday)7:00 p.m.
Baptist Training Union (Sunday) 4:00 p.m.

“The Little Church Where Everybody Is Somebody”



Rev. Dr. Doral R. Pulley



“Let’s G.R.O.W. Together!”
511 Prescott Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712 • (727) 898-2457
www.UNITYofMidtown.org • unityofmidtown1957@gmail.com

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.

HOLY TEMPLE CATHEDRAL PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, INC.
3101 Freemont Terrace South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
727-452-3191 • www.holytemplepaoc.com
“A Church Where the Fire of the Holy Ghost is Burning and Holiness is Still Right!”



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


Order of Services:

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

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

YOUR
CHURCH
AD
COULD
BE HERE

Friendship
Missionary Baptist Church
3300 31st St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 906-8300 www.fmbctheship.org



Dr. John A. Evans, Pastor

WORSHIP EXPERIENCES

Sunday Worship.....7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
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




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 School9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Prayer6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.

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



Pastor Michael T. and
Elect Lady Sheila Culbreth

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



Bro. Robert Smith

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

Sunday Morning Worship7:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Bible Class9:20 a.m.
Sunday Morning Second Worship10:40 a.m.
Ladies Bible Class Monday.....7:00 p.m.
Monday Evening Bible Class.....7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Morning Bible Class.....10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class7:00 p.m.

**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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Schedule of Services

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



Rev. Brian K. Brown

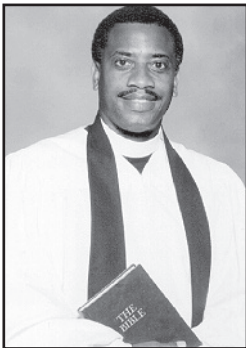
THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES/WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:10 a.m. Breakfast (First Sunday only)
9:30 a.m. Sunday School (First Sunday Only)
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. / Devotion 10:15 a.m.
Praise & Worship 10:20 a.m. / Worship Services 10:30 a.m.
Saints of Prayer - Monday 12:00 noon
Weekly Bible Study - Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
Adult Choir Rehearsals - Thursday 6:30 p.m.

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

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



Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.
Pastor

YOUR Church Ad Should Be HERE!

Contact:
727-896-2922



**Pastor Mark Owen and
First Lady Hazel Owen**
Sunday morning worship
10:00 a.m.
Open Bible Study
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Witness of the Kingdom Ministries

1640 9th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL
813-919-0485

Email: witnessofthekingdom2015@gmail.com

We are a non-domination Church that exists to see people encounter the incredible life that God offers through Jesus Christ. It starts with a relationship with Him, and spills over into all other areas of life: finances, marriage, career, parenting, relationships and even recreation.

Our ministry is all about people just like you! We are diverse, multi-cultural who follow Jesus! It's a place where hurts are healed, needs are met, and dreams become reality.

CHURCH NEWS

St. Mark MBC

The St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, its pastor, the Reverend Brian K. Brown, its official staff of Deacons and Trustees, and the entire congregation, extends to the community at large, an open and heartfelt invitation to join us in our 84th Church Anniversary. Come worship with us this week, Wed., Oct. 14 through Fri., Oct. 16, beginning at 7 p.m. and Sunday during morning worship beginning at 10:45. Our Anniversary theme is "Standing on His Promises" with the scriptural test coming from Deuteronomy 28: 1-14. For 84 years, St. Mark has been a church grounded in a Christ-centered doctrine that has had as its central core, the belief that we are a haven of Hope, Help, and Healing for a lost and dying world. Join us as we give thanks to our God who has kept us and never failed us.

Coming in October

Oct.30 - St. Mark Business Meeting at 6 p.m.

Coming In November
Nov 1 - Daylight Savings Time Ends (Set Clocks Back One Hour)

Nov 14 - Body Builders Ministry Kickball Game-4:30-6:30 p.m.

Nov 16 - Christmas with the community Informational Dinner-6:30 p.m.

Nov 17 - Budget Committee Meeting 5:30 p.m.

Nov 23 - Distribution of Thanksgiving Bags

Nov 26 - Thanksgiving Day-Church Office Closed

Nov 29 - During the Morning Worship Service-Mission Emphasis: Christmas with the Community-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 in the Word" noon to 1 pm (the best one hour of your day) and at 7 pm. The community is welcome to join us. You don't want to miss studying from 1st John, Chapt. 5.

Mr. Harrison Nash - The Weekly Challenger's very own distributor. We know that Jesus has healing hands!

October at a glance - Pastor Appreciation month and Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Sat., Oct. 31 - 4 - 6 pm - Join us for Trunk or Treat! A children's event, fun, food and fellowship!

November at a glance:

Nov. 4-6 - West Coast Baptist District Association - 117th Annual Session, to be held at Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, 5200 W. South St., Orlando, Fla. 32811 - the following will be held at Mt. Sinai: Wed., Nov. 4 at 7 pm - The Opening and Youth Explosion, Thurs., Nov. 5 at 7 pm - The Moderator's Hour - Fri., Nov. 6 - The Morning Sessions -

Women's Auxiliary - Women's Colors: Black & White with Red Accessories-and at 11 am - The 2nd Annual Address of the Laymen President. Need a ride to the annual session, sign-up sheets located in the Atrium. Support WCBDA - Women's Auxiliary Foreign Mission Project which is underway" Deadline is Nov. 1.

18/38 Pastor and First Family Appreciation Celebration. Deacon Arthur Reese, Honorary Chair - Sister Larnetta Peterson & Minister Keith Riggins, Joint Chairs. Theme: "Celebrating the Laborer that dwells among us" - Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 - Colors: Purple - Gold & Black

Mon., Nov. 2 at 7 pm - 18/38 Pastor & 1st Family Appreciation Meeting in Classroom 1. The St. Petersburg Connection: The Kick-off Sunday

Sun., Nov. 8 at 7:45 am - Senior Pastor Dr. Deborah R. Green, of Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church will be our Guest Speaker as we begin Kick-Off Sunday.

Sun., Nov. 8 at 3 pm - Kick-Off Service - Pastor Carlos L. Senior and the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church Family.

Thurs., Nov. 12 - The Arrival of the Ohio and South Carolina Connection-Reception by Friendship Choir Ministry.

Fri., Nov. 13 - 6:30 - 9:30 pm - Celebration In White, Ticket Donation \$10, The Upper Room.

The Miami Connection: The Culmination Services

Sun., Nov. 15 - 7:45 am - Dr. Alphonso Jackson, Pastor of Second Baptist Church, Miami, Florida.

Sun., Nov. 15 - 10:45 am - Dr. Gaston Smith, Pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Miami, Fla. - Dinner Served in the Upper Room

Sat., Nov. 20 - The Classic in Orlando - TBA

Thought for the Week: Do you depend solely on God?

Don't let "The Ship" sail without you! For additional information on any of the announcements, please contact us by the following methods: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 3300 31st St. S, St. Petersburg, Florida 33712 Church Office: (727) 906-8300 E-Mail: fmbc3300@verizon.net

NOW "LIVE STREAMING": Visit Our Website: www.fmbcship.net & CLICK on the PASTOR'S IMAGE at the top of the Page. Also, USTREAM - Visit West Coast Baptist District Association Website: www.experiencecoast.com

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH? Call our Transportation Ministry - (727) 906-8300 and leave your information.

Support West Coast Baptist District Association Women's Auxiliary Foreign Mission Project which is underway.



Pastor's Corner

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

I AM blessed - Part 1

The Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5-7, Jesus gives an explanation of what Kingdom life is all about. In Matthew 5:1-12, which are traditionally referred to as the Beatitudes, Jesus used the word, blessed, 9 times. He begins each statement saying, "Blessed are the..."

Blessed was a buzz word that spread quickly in the church culture. Blessed was the normal response that was given when church people were asked how they were doing. Instead of telling others how they actually felt, they said, "blessed." Some even took it a step further and gave the angelic greeting to Mary which is "blessed and

highly favored (Luke 1:28)." Blessed also became the common closing salutation at the end of a conversation even among non-church goers. Everybody was saying, "Have a blessed day." Do we really understand what we are saying when we say that we are blessed?

Blessed is not an adjective to describe a feeling; blessed is a state of being. We are all blessed because we are the children of God who are made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-28). When we realize our oneness with God and our good, we realize how blessed we really are (Romans 8:31-39).

Blessed is not an action that we are waiting for God to perform. We are not waiting on God to bless us. We are already blessed. Blessed is the state of our being. The fact that we have breath in our bodies is evidence that we are already blessed (Acts 17:28). Every day that we wake up, we are blessed (Lamentations 3:22-23).

I affirm every day that I AM blessed. Join me in this daily affirmation and watch your life change. I AM blessed. There is no separation between me and God (John 10:30). I AM blessed. There is no separation between me and my good (Psalms 84:11).



*Bishop
Corletta J. Vaughn*
Presiding Prelate Go Tell It Ministry Network of Churches
Senior Pastor Holy Ghost Cathedral, Detroit Michigan

October 28th, 29th & 30th
Prayer begins at 7:00 p.m.

*FIRE
Revival
Continues!*

Genesis Worship Center Church
1601 49th Street South
Gulfport, FL
727-898-5571

Pastor Michael T. Culbreth

*Revival
IS HERE*

*Ever-Expanding Consciousness
by Envisioning Our Future
Habakkuk 2:1-3*



Church Anniversary CELEBRATION

Sunday, October 25, 2015
Ella B. Cole Gospel Fest
5:00 P.M.

Friday, November 13, 2015
Jumping Jazzy Jubilee
6:30 P.M.
Dr. Carter G. Woodson
African-American Museum

Sunday, November 15, 2015
Morning Worship Experience
11:00 A.M.

Anniversary Service
Rev. Leddy Hammock
Unity of Clearwater
4:00 P.M.



www.unityofmidtown.org

*Unity
of
MIDTOWN*

"Let's G.R.O.W. Together!"

Rev. Dr. Doral R. Pulley, Spiritual Leader
511 Prescott Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
727-898-2457

Unity of Midtown

You Tube

COMMUNITY NEWS

Funding education and economic empowerment

From FORUM , page 7		NATIONAL ASSOCIATION THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE ST. PETERSBURG BRANCH NO. 5130				
Candidate’s Name as appears on ballot	Community Redevelopment/ Grade	Failing Factories/ Grade	Support independently owned early childhood education centers/ Grade	Proceeds from Tropicana Fields/ Grade	Support NAACP in housing discrimination complaints/ Grade	Strengths/ Grade
Monica Mary Abbot	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused
Charlie W. Gerdes	F	F	F	F	F	F
Lisa Wheeler-Brown	C	B	C	B	C	A
Winthrop “Will Newton”	A	C	C	A	C	A
Philip Garrett	C	C	A	B	C	A
Steven L. Kornell	B	C	A	B	A	A
<div> <div>Charlie Gerdes: Accepted invitation but didn’t attend.</div> <div>Monica Mary Abbot: Family emergency</div> </div>						

NAACP QUESTIONS

1. The City and county have established South St. Petersburg as a community redevelopment area. Tell us the strengths you see in the CRA plan and the challenges you see in the plan and why?

2. Five of the elementary schools identified in Pinellas County as “Failing Facto-

ries” by a Tampa Bay Times investigative story are located in District 6 & 7. What do you see as the city’s role in addressing the academic injustices that have occurred to black children?

3. Collectively preschools are one of the largest employers in south St. Petersburg. What would you do, if

anything, to support the capacity of independently, not corporately owned early childcare centers to remain in business and reach their goals of becoming “quality” early childcare centers? Quality being defined as preschools that are accredited, have bachelor level teachers, evidence based

curriculum, technology focused and maintain an environment and facilities that are conducive for learning.

4. Many black families were uprooted to build what is now Tropicana Field. In the event the Rays are able to pursue a home elsewhere in Pinellas or Hillsborough County, what would you ad-

vocate for the funds derived from the Rays be used for?

5. Within the last month the NAACP has received two complaints alleging housing discrimination. If you were elected or re-elected to city council and the NAACP housing committee met with you for assistance in assessing or

determining the existence and extent of housing discrimination in south St. Pete, what suggestions would you offer to aid in an in-depth investigation?

6. If you were elected or re-elected, what strengths do you bring to the table that would help to improve how the council functions?

Faith communities throughout the United States are recognizing organ and tissue donation and its lifesaving benefits.

National Donor Sabbath Weekend is November 13-15, 2015
(But faith communities can promote donation at anytime during the year.)

Please pray for all those who have been affected by organ and tissue donation.

To request FREE information to share with your congregation, contact Brandi Ahonsi at (813) 253-2640 or Brandi.Ahonsi@LifeLinkFound.org

www.LifeLinkFoundation.org

Vidalia, Kidney Recipient

