

2015-11-05

The Weekly Challenger : 2015 : 11 : 05

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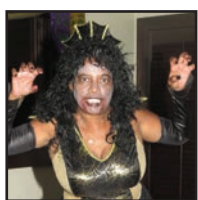
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The Weekly Challenger

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VOL. 48 NO. 11

NOVEMBER 5 - NOVEMBER 11, 2015

50¢



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Medical Admin. program at PTC



Traci Matthews

BY SKYLA LUCKEY
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The Medical Administrative Specialist program is one of five new courses offered at the St. Petersburg campus of Pinellas Technical College. For those of you who would like to gain the skills required to work in a medical office, this is the class for you!

This 12 month program includes 1,050 hours of training Mon.-Fri. from 7 - 12:15 p.m. Instructor Traci Matthews likes to start each class with an hour of instruction followed by the students working in modules through Blackboard, an online training program used by many universities. As the students study the modules, Matthews is there to guide them and answer questions.

Teresa Stevenson, who has a Certified Nursing Assistant license and a medical lab background, is one of the five students enrolled in the new program. Her experience in the field is

See **PTC**, page 10



Another successful Pinellas Opportunity Council program was completed, and participants celebrated last Fri., Oct. 30 at the Enoch Davis Center.

A hand up, not a hand out

BY CINDY CARTER
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The Pinellas Opportunity Council (POC) held a dinner Fri., Oct. 30 at the Enoch Davis Center to honor 17 local women who have stepped up their lives to step out of poverty.

As part of the 2020 Plan, a five-year effort to reduce poverty in the city's poorest neighborhoods by 30 percent, the POC has worked with families for the past four months to help make

that goal a reality. Funded in part by the City of St. Petersburg, it's called the Family Development Program and its aim is to improve the quality of living for low-income families throughout Pinellas County.

"We didn't want them to feel like we were giving them a handout, but a hand up," said Program Coordinator Joyce Robinson, who worked closely with the participants.

She made it her mission to create success in the wrap-around service pro-

gram and has tirelessly worked to ensure that the women coming to her for help received as much assistance as possible. Assistance that wouldn't just pay a utility bill, but instead help to transform their lives so that in the future they can provide for their families.

Keianna Hayes is one program participant that will never forget the generosity and care that she received at the hands of the ladies at POC. Timid at the microphone, Hayes spoke of the transformation her

life took after meeting Robinson and the POC staff. Her son, a member of the marching band at his high school, had fees that needed to be paid in order for him to continue. Hayes herself needed glasses.

"Sometimes as a single parent we can have the smallest need that weighs so big on us," she said.

Hayes got new glasses and her son's financial responsibilities taken care of, but it was mostly the help with her personal educa-

See **HELP**, pages 5

Mt. Zion throws OktoberFest

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Who says you have to dress up like a Ghoul or Goblin to have fun on Halloween! That surely was not the case, for the most part, at the Oktoberfest held on the baseball diamond outside of the Thomas "Jett" Jackson Recreation Center last Saturday night.

The annual event was hosted by Mt. Zion Pro-

gressive Missionary Baptist Church who partnered with the City of St. Petersburg to create a night of fun, frolic, games, edible treats and family memories.

Youth Minister Shaun Thomas and the Mt. Zion staff greeted the myriads of trick-or-treaters who showed up to the event.

"Last year we had over 1,500 people come out to the event, but this year it looks like we've exceeded

See **FEST**, page 7



The Greeks showed up and out for Oktoberfest.

Looking for a job in healthcare?



Bri Stewart

BY JULIA RUDGERS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — As the saying goes, "Shoot for the moon; even if you miss, you'll land among the stars." It seems that is just what Bri Stewart, co-owner and founder of Bri's Business Expo & HealthCare Center, intends to do in her work, as well as encourage and inspire the same level of dedication, achievement and hard work in others.

Bri's Business Expo & Healthcare Center is a new resource for people from all walks of life in the community to have direct and affordable access to healthcare courses, test preparation for certifications, resources for finding professional jobs after course completion and beyond.

Located at 8424 4th St. N, Suite M, the courses offered include the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) prep, First Aid training, Home Health, Medical Technician and the Patient Care Technician (PCT) courses, all taught by Stewart.

Her mother and eldest son is the inspiration for her business. Stewart became a single mother at the age of 19 and worked at a fast food restaurant. She longed for a better life for herself and her child.

Her mother encouraged her to finish high school and

See **HEART**, page 8

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Where is ours?

Dear Editor,
Where is our right to bear or stand?

Would you believe that in the late 1960s that the “high priest” of the modern conservative moment and the National Rifle Association (NRA) once backed and supported a strong federal anti-gun program called the Munford Act?

“There is no reason why on the streets today a citizen should be carrying loaded weapons, said then Governor Ronald Reagan.

Reagan made this speech in reaction to certain individuals who said it was there constitution rights to bear arms. This group believed in that right so strongly that they went to the capital building in Sacramento, Calif., with their rifles and constitutional pamphlets. Reagan was entertaining young visitors who actually left his meeting to see the gun and rifle totters.

Out of fear for public safety, the Munford Act was passed in response to this group of citizens who demonstrated their Second Amendment rights.

So who were these people who caused such a stir caring guns? The Black Panthers. Even though they were law-abiding citizens with the Constitution in their hands, the NRA and Ronald Reagan supported gun control to stop them.

Funny how ideas, concepts and laws change when those narratives are applied to certain people.

Fast-forward to today; an unarmed Trayvon Martin lost his life because his killer said he was “standing his ground.” Yet a black woman, who feared for her life, went to jail because she fired a warning and killed no one.

A few weeks ago, Corey Jones, a church drummer, lost his life because he thought he would be safer with a legally registered gun. After his car broke down he got into a confrontation with a man who didn’t identify himself as a cop.

What happened to Jones’ right to stand his ground? He may have not ever made known that the man approaching him was a cop. The laws and the people enforcing them too often fail to support black people.

I believe that most police are good decent people and doing God’s work, every day putting their life and safety on the line. However, more accountability by the law to law officers is overdue! It doesn’t matter if it is because officers are untrained or just racist; too many black people are paying the price. In 2015 this should just be unacceptable. If not now, when?

We must also as citizens accept responsibility for our behaviors toward law enforcement that created this madness. We have to have more self-control also. We need to respect and co-operated with police in



these bitter times.

When there are so many guns and so many people who don’t care about anything, we must put ourselves in the shoes of the officers who just want to get home to their families at the end of the day. It is not just the police who does God work; we all have that responsibility whether we accept it or not.

Gun control does not mean taking everyone’s guns away, it means supporting common sense laws that will make it safer for the police and us.

In 1991, Reagan also said: “With the right to bear arms comes a great responsibility to use caution and common sense on handgun purchases.”

So you right wing conservatives have no excuse, that’s what Ronnie said. Heaven help us if the Republicans don’t join the Democrats to make the gun laws and stand your ground laws something we can all live with. Too many people have already died.

Rivers-Cleveland

Housing discrimination rears its ugly head

Dear Editor,
At approximately 5’4, 120 pounds, Constance Bailey has lived the life many could only dream about. She is a graduate from the University of South Florida with a degree in education. She utilized her degree to begin her second career in elementary education.

Bailey is a retired Pinellas County School teacher who retired after 24 years of service: 13 years were spent at Seminole Elementary and 11 years at Sawgrass Lake Elementary.

It is the first half of her career that most would find intriguing. Even though Bailey is small in stature, she is a giant in might. She served five years in the United States Army from 1973-78! Sadly, she suffered some health challenges, but was rewarded 100 percent service connected disability.

After raising her two children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, at the age of 62 all Bailey wants to do is spend her time sitting on the patio of her waterfront home observing the dolphins play and simply enjoying a peace of mind. Sadly, in spite of her being conscientious about paying her rent on time and in some instances in advance, the Waterside Townhomes management team has notified her that they will not renew her lease.

By Dec. 1, Mrs. Bailey is expected to leave a home she has come to enjoy. Approximately two

weeks after being elected president of the St. Petersburg Branch NAACP, Area Director, Pat Spencer began forwarding discrimination complaints received by the Hillsborough NAACP branch to me as the president elect! One of those complaints was from Bailey. Scared and frantic, she pleaded with the NAACP to “help her.”

Bailey believes she is being discriminated against because she is an African-American female who is also elderly and disabled. She has had to endure harassment from dead fish being thrown on her patio, to receiving citations about her car being pulled too far back on the sidewalk, to notices about her music being too loud.

While there is a process in proving a case of housing and elderly/disabled discrimination, the NAACP’s 1st Vice President, Pastor Rob Harrison, and I can certainly attest to the demeaning manner in which the management team treated us while accompanying Bailey to receive a copy of the notice previously sent to her, advising her that her lease would not be renewed.

The very afternoon that Pastor Harrison conducted his follow-up interview with the management team, they placed another note on her door stating that her music was too loud. She also found a container of water on her patio.

I requested permission from Bailey to tell her



story because she serves as a poster child for why the NAACP exists and why it is even more relevant today. Social injustices exist regardless of one’s educational attainment or one’s professional background, even if the one whose rights could potentially have been violated has served the very country that the owners of the Waterside Townhomes call their homes.

From the time I met Ms. Bailey on the phone, she has served as a constant reminder of why I am proud to serve as the president of the NAACP and why I know that if this branch is to attempt to make an impact in the lives of people like Ms. Bailey, this community has no time to waste in petty squabbles and temper tantrums with adults who want to make this work about them!

It is my hopes that Ms. Bailey’s story will serve as a reminder to those that are able-bodied and minded. There is simply no more time for excuses!

Maria L. Scruggs

Sign up for affordable health insurance

ST. PETERSBURG – If you or someone you know needs health insurance, now’s your chance to sign up for quality and affordable coverage. Open enrollment in the federal health insurance marketplace is now available, and is easier than ever to complete.

“Open enrollment only happens once each year,” said Melanie Hall, executive director of The Family Healthcare Foundation. “Don’t miss your chance to

get covered. Every year, and this one is no exception, the process of signing up for coverage gets simpler. You can even apply on your cell phone! During last year’s open enrollment, it took most people about 10 minutes to submit an application.”

Hall also noted that financial help is available. More than nine out of ten Floridians who enrolled in health coverage through Healthcare.gov qualified for

financial help to make their monthly premiums more affordable. “Most people in Pinellas County can find plans available for less than \$75,” she says.

Free confidential assistance is available in your community for anyone who needs help enrolling or re-enrolling, has questions or wants more information. Trained and certified health Navigators are available by appointment at multiple locations throughout Pinellas

County and enrollment events are also held on some evenings and weekends. You also can call (813) 995-1066 to find free help near you, or visit www.coveringtampabay.org

“Join many of your Pinellas County neighbors and friends who now have access to quality and affordable health care coverage,” said Hall. Dec. 15 is the deadline for coverage that starts Jan. 1, 2016. Open enrollment ends Jan. 31, 2016.



“Don’t miss your chance to get covered,” she said. “If you choose not to buy health insurance this year, you may need to pay a tax penalty of

\$695 or more. That might be enough to buy coverage for the whole year!”

For more information, call (813) 995-1066.

WE ENCOURAGE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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CEO/Publisher Emerita

Lyn Johnson
Publisher/General Manager

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Advertising Dept. 727-642-3499
advertising@theweeklychallenger.com

Lorrie Bellinger
Art Director

PUBLISHED WEEKLY
on Thursdays

READERSHIP
100,000 monthly

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
\$50 for 1 year (local only)

SINGLE COPY 50 cents

ATTN. POSTMASTER:
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Volume 48 • Number 11
Published Thursday,
November 5, 2015
14 pages • 1 section

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Deliverance and Finance conference

BY DR. BASHA JORDAN

ST. PETERSBURG — Do you want to know how to break those bad habits that are killing you and your walk with God?

Are you interested in knowing biblical keys that will free you of debt and cause you to prosper?

Prophet Dr. Basha Jordan, from Hope Alive Outreach in Baltimore, Md. will be conducting a “Deliverance and Finance Conference” Sun., Nov. 15 at McCabe United Methodist Church, 2800 26th Ave. S, at 3:30 p.m.

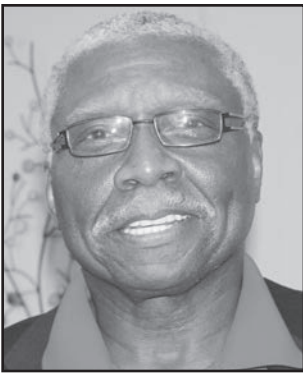
“I have been sent by God to empower churches and pastors for good

health and wealth. God’s people, especially pastors, are supposed to be healthy and prosperous. We are called to be a witness and example of the greatness of God,” said Jordan, the grandson of Elder Jordan of Jordan Park

Second Corinthians Chapter 8 verse 9 states that Jesus, though He was rich, He became poor so that you, through His poverty, might be rich.

Don’t miss this conference, as it is sure to change your life and get you on the road to prosperity. The Holy Ghost will be in charge.

McCabe United Methodist Church is pas-



tored by Rev. Michael Frazier.

For info and registration, call (443) 250-9635 or go to www.HopeAliveMinistry.org.

And remember, no matter what’s going on with you today, there is Hope for you.

Mother and daughter authors

BY FRANK DROUZAS
Staff Writer

LARGO — For authors Louise Newton-Kerr and Lorna Moore, it truly is all in the family.

The mother-daughter duo will be signing copies of their new historical fiction novel “Unspoken Secrets and Quiet Whispers” (Tate Publishing) at Book Bank, 13002 Seminole Blvd in Largo on Sat., Nov. 7 from 1-2 p.m.

The work, which daughter Moore said is inspired by a true story, spans hundreds of years from the 18th century all the way through to the 20th century.

“It tells of a family starting from Ireland and then they go to Louisiana, and from that point they’re wanting want to get back to their roots, which is in Georgia,” Moore explained. “Then the family has to deal with certain situations that will test their faith and moral judgment.”

As you make your way through the plot and the dilemmas of three generations, you’ll be inclined to question yourself and wonder, ‘What would I have done different?’ in certain situations the characters face, said Moore, who added there’s a central mystery in the story.

“It’s an enjoyable



Lorna Moore, left, and Louise Newton-Kerr

read,” Moore said. “It gets right to the point.”

Rich with historical background, the book can transport readers back to a time when people worked the land for food and sharecropping was a way of life for some, Moore said. The idea for “Unspoken Secrets and Quiet Whispers” came to the mother-daughter team when they were researching their own family background.

“It was genealogy research that really pushed us toward writing the book,” admitted Moore, a Clearwater resident.

Though this is their first collaborative novel, Newton-Kerr has been writing poetry since the age of 16 and Moore has penned inspirational short

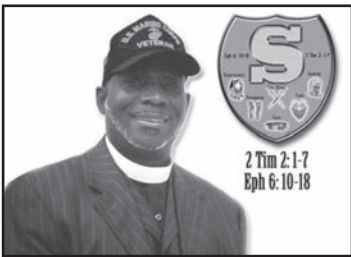
stories. Moore counts Maya Angelou and local author Barbara Sorey-Love as writers she admires.

How rewarding was it for the duo to complete their own book?

“For my mother, it gave her a relief!” said Moore, who simply loved the gratification of telling the story and having all their hard work culminate in a completed book. “It gives you a good feeling!”

An additional book singing is also scheduled Nov. 14 at The Haus Coffee Shop, located at 3690 East Bay Dr., Largo at 2 p.m.

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



Breaking the Cycle

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

Speaking in tongues

Praise the Lord Saints.

Last week was a very “interesting” one to say the least.

I was quite busy attending several meetings, preaching, teaching, etc.

From it one thing I can say, there needs to be more teaching on the subject of the gift of speaking in tongues, divers kinds of tongues, unity, understanding who has these gifts and why you may or may not have them, and the importance of knowing if you have them.

I know that was a mouthful but, its vitally important to know that in order for the Spirit of God to move on a situation, He must be present. And just because you felt you had it and believe you have it doesn’t mean you have it.

God never gave us His Spirit for feeling, emotion, or anything else connected with the human spirit. God’s Spirit is NOT our spirit. Notice when I speak of God’s Spirit I use a capital “S” and ours a lowercase “s”. We are nothing without His Spirit but lost souls trying to find Him and it’s like being dropped off in the deep wood s without a compass and map trying to navigate our own way out.

Read the following scriptures, Acts 2:4; 4 And they were all filled [that is, diffused throughout their being] with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other [a]tongues (different languages), as the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak out [clearly and appropriately]. 4:31; 31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were meeting together was shaken [a sign of God’s presence]; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness and courage.13:52; 52 And the disciples were continually filled [throughout their hearts and souls] with joy and with the Holy Spirit.14:1-3; 10:45-47; 45 All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they heard them talking in [unknown] tongues (languages) and exalting and magnifying and praising God. Then Peter said, 47 “Can anyone refuse water for these people to be baptized, since they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?”19:6; 6 And when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in [unknown] tongues (languages) and prophesying.

If after reading these you don’t believe that the evidence of speaking in tongues is the only evidence that one has the Holy Ghost then you must please show me in the “BIBLE” where it says otherwise.

You can talk the talk till the cows come home BUT if you know you have never heard an unknown tongue come out of your mouth, you can’t possibly believe you have it. Evidence also will be your actions but this is secondary cause the Bible says that those that received it also had all things common and began to work together to seek and save the lost. They did not close their doors and circle the wagons around their own. God commanded the disciples to go into all the world preaching and teaching His ways. If there were more teachings we would not have the issues and isms and schisms within the body

of Christ as we do today.

The Bible is so clear on this subject you would have to pay someone to help you not understand it. Also, I will never apologize for God blessing me with the spiritual gifts He has given to me. Some people will have a problem with you because they were not given spiritual gifts and you were. I say, too bad so sad. He is no respecter of person as it relates to this subject so all you have to do is do what I did along with many other saints I know and you too can have His Spirit. I know this because His Word says it. (Acts 2:38). Anytime you see the word “shall” in the Bible and God is speaking, it’s a promise from Him and it shall come to past.

One thing I know for certain, you can tarry and receive His Spirit but one thing is clear, you have to let go and let God rest, rule, and abide in your life and allow Him to take over ALL of your issues, both great and small. If not, then you will just continue in the same manner.

You can’t con God, trick Him, or anything else in order to receive His Spirit. And you must prove to others you have it if you are in leadership. In the Gospels from Matthew-Luke, near the end of each, except Luke (24), you will find Jesus telling the disciples to go to Jerusalem until they get “POWER”! That Power is His Holy Ghost Power! Without it, God can’t regulate you or buffer you so that you don’t get into yourself when leading His People. Basically, you can’t be trusted. Notice that when the disciples arrived in Jerusalem they went to the Upper Room and did tarry and RECEIVED the Holy Ghost and what happened immediately following them receiving the Holy Ghost, Acts 2: 1-11. God didn’t use them until they all RECEIVED His Spirit.

You can think you can handle it or you have been handling it but let me assure you, you can’t without His Spirit.

I beseech you all who know who you are to ask God for His Spirit that you maybe used of Him for His divine Purpose and grow your ministries to the levels they deserve and start teaching on this until everyone under your leadership desires to and will tarry to get it as well.

Y’all know how to reach me and I am available for workshops, seminars, whatever you want to call it on this subject matter and anything you feel can help to grow this community and neighborhoods all in the efforts to save our kids and build a better tomorrow.

If you take offense to it, prove me wrong according to the Scriptures, and not theology, opinion, feelings, grand ma’s teachings, etc.

Till next week,

God Bless.

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Harrison, PhD – pastorrobharrison@gmail.com, @drrobharrison

The Apostolic Open Door Church of God & True Holiness - 2800 41st Ave. N, St. Pete
First Vice President - NAACP St. Petersburg Branch

Chaplain - Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Pinellas

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

Daystar Life Center 9th Annual Drive Away Hunger

18 Hole Golf Scramble

8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

Saturday, November 14, 2015

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\$70 Per Person Donation

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For more information please contact Kitty Rawson @ 727-498-8794

Daystar Life Center Inc. founded in 1982, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing the basic necessities of life to our neighbors in need on an emergency basis. Hundreds of dedicated volunteers and in-kind donations allow Daystar to return 96% of all donations back to the community. See www.DaystarLife.com.

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PICK OF THE WEEK!

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COMMUNITY NEWS

The big, bad ghouls & goblins

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The Manhattan Casino was rockin’ around the clock this Halloween as the adult ghouls trotted out in their fiendish costumes to dance the night away to a nostalgic soundtrack.

Just as super heroes and favored animated animal characters was the theme for kiddies at Mt. Zion’s OktoberFest, the vamps, witches, warlocks and “Thriller” ghouls set the mood for a gory night of fun and frolic for “grown folks” at the Manhattan.

The Old School Halloween Party was hosted by Cherrye Baker and powered by the music of DJ BAKE. The come-one-come-all no-cover-charge invitation inspired people to come and pack the historic ballroom until midnight.

Although some of the guests looked like they had their fill of blood, guts and horror prior to coming to the Casino, that did not stop them from enjoying the variety of delicacies served by Sylvia’s Soul Food Restaurant on the ground floor.

Halloween 2015 was an evening of fun, food, family and friends on the south side of the “Burg!”

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

Pictures from both events will become available for a nominal fee on a new website specifically setup to

chronicle community events towards the end of the week. Information about this site will be shared with Baker, Brother John Muhammad and a core group of Facebook friends who can spread the word. The new website, powered by Shopify, will also be linked to the WilliJames Digital Multimedia Facebook page.



St. Petersburg College

SPC

GRADUATES AMONG TOP EARNERS

“

BECAUSE OF SPC I FEEL PREPARED TO BEGIN MY CAREER.

”

Eric Tisdale, SPC graduate

St. Petersburg College alumni were ranked first in Florida and fifth in the nation for possessing the most valuable job skills as reported by **LinkedIn**®*

* As reported by the Brookings Institution LinkedIn data for community colleges.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Local moms get help

From **HELP**, pages 10

tional goals of passing the Florida Board of Nursing exam that she credits to getting her back on the right path.

"I was rusty so they were able to help out with a refresher course," said Hayes. "Another burden was lifted off me."

Paulette Haywood started her journey of self-sufficiency some three years ago. On her own and with two boys to feed, she was sick of working part time for minimum wage. "I was like there just has to be another way," she said.

For her it was going to school. In the summer she realized she needed help. Maxed out on loans and financial aid depleted, Haywood didn't know where to turn. "I used my money to pay my bills so I could go," she said referring to college.

She was directed to POC and Robinson.

"When I came in I was at my lowest point," recalled Haywood. "I didn't have money for groceries; I was on my last tank of gas."

And she still needed to pay her school debt or face losing all those years of hard work. Walking through the doors of the POC was like a blessing from God. Her tuition was paid in full; she received gift cards for food and a gas card to get her to classes. "It was really right on time."

Haywood will graduate in December with a bachelor's degree in social work, passing the torch of assistance on to another family in need. Which is what the program is all about.

POC Executive Director Carolyn King, seconds away from tears after hearing all the testimonials, believes wholeheartedly that opportunity breeds change and a determination to succeed.

"It pulls at my heartstring to really see change and I can see the sincerity in each of you," said King. "Oftentimes people in poverty are looked at as being in the place that they are by choice."

Not these ladies. They embraced the opportunities made available to them and used it to their advantage. Seventeen families took part in the program and all were successful.

The program worked on three components of self-sufficiency: Job training, financial literacy, healthcare and nutrition.

Candase Callier was nine months pregnant when she heard about the assistance POC was offering. Initially she didn't have high hopes, but when the voice on the other end of the phone told her to come on down, when she too was at her lowest point ever, she took a chance and with tears streaming down her face she couldn't express enough how grateful she was.

"I was pregnant and no one wanted to hire me," she said. But POC didn't judge her and helped her not only get her daughter Nylah, a first grader at Jamerson Elementary, enrolled in a dance class, but also helped her along in her goal to earn her bachelor's in education. "I never really had no one say let me help you, so to have

someone give me something is a big deal."

One after another, young ladies took to the microphone. Nathalie Williams credits the ladies of POC in teaching her how to truly budget her finances by setting both short and long-term goals. To live for today, but to plan for tomorrow.

"I was just living for the moment," said Williams who has twins. "I am ready for success and my future."

Williams received training and uniforms and took her part-time position to full-time making more money to plan for that future.

"When you remove some of those barriers, you'd be surprised as to what can happen," Robinson said. "We are here to help make a difference."

Yashika McKinnion, a mother of five, was already on the road to self-sufficiency when she ran into a speed bump. She had taken a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) class, but was unable to pay for the state test to receive her license.

POC paid for the test and also helped her get the title of a car given to her by a church member transferred into her name along with car insurance and valid plates.



"It has really helped me and my future so that I can be better for my kids," said McKinnion.

Single parent of two, Sharmora Mills was sick of her job as a housekeeper. The POC was able to pay for CNA classes, bought her uniforms and even paid for classes to help her feel comfortable driving. She is also a Patient Care Technician and is looking forward to progressing in the healthcare industry.

"Thank you to the program for helping me get a better job for my two boys," Mills said.

Ylonda Powell wasn't unable to make the dinner but was so excited about the program, she asked *The Weekly Challenger* to cover the event.

This single mother was referred to the POC by the Pinellas County Urban League. Already a full-time student at Hillsborough

County Community College and employed for the Pinellas County School Board, Powell needed to get another job to make ends meet.

The POC paid for her classes to become a Patient Care Assistant. She also received a gift card from Publix, a gas card, four tires for her car and even her car insurance was paid.

"I know that God put the POC in my path for me to better myself and to be able to maintain my household," said

Powell in a heartfelt letter to the POC.

Following dinner participating families received health baskets packed with nutritious food and toiletries. Bags filled with water bottles and fruit were handed out to the kids along with literature on how to care for children and on proper nutrition.

For more information on services provided at the Pinellas Opportunity Council, log onto www.poc-inc.org.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Veterans Ride PSTA Free Nov. 11 Includes any PSTA bus or trolley with proper identification

ST. PETERSBURG – The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) will once again offer free bus rides to active military and veterans in recognition of Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Riders are asked to show active or retired military identification when boarding any PSTA bus or trolley to qualify for a free ride. Acceptable forms of identification include a military ID card, Veterans Affairs medical card, veteran's designation on a driver's license, certificate of release, or a certificate of discharge from active duty.

"We want our veterans to know that we appreciate their service and sacrifice," said PSTA Chief Executive Officer Brad Miller. "We also want to salute the many veterans who are employed here at PSTA."

According to a projection made by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, the Tampa Bay area has the largest veteran population



in the state.

Pinellas and Hillsborough counties are home to a combined 179,899 veterans as of September 2015, according to the report.

PSTA proudly offers bus service to all three of the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System facilities that operate in Pinellas County. These facilities include the C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center in Bay Pines and VA outpatient clinics located in St. Petersburg and Palm Harbor.

"Transportation is extremely important to healthcare access," said Jason Dangel, Public Affairs Officer for Bay Pines VA Healthcare System.

"So we are very grateful for the role that PSTA plays."

The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System sees around 4,000 appointments a day—a feat Dangel says may not have been possible without PSTA.

"We are kind of blessed here in Pinellas County because we do have great public transportation options," said Dangel.

For information on trip planning and individual routes please visit www.PSTA.net or call the InfoLine at (727) 540-1900.

‘Strait from Da Streets’ with AJ Ali

BY INDHIRA SUERO
Neighborhood News Bureau

ST. PETERSBURG — Originally from New Jersey, broadcaster AJ Ali has made his path in Midtown, St. Petersburg, with the radio show Strait from Da Street. With his participation in Black Power 96, he seeks to vindicate and offer support to people who once had trouble with the law.

Ali believes in the power of opportunity and thinks that this new radio station will help the African-American community of St. Pete, Florida.

What made you create Strait From Da Streets?

I was with Public Access TV for three and a half years, and we won the best show on 2005. Our show is about the personal development of the community. People have to take a personal interest in the personal development. So what I'm talking about is street, selling drugs, being involved in different types of illegal activities.

A drug dealer is a great salesman, depends on how you look at the word greed. The only problem is this is a wrong business. I got involved in a lot of negative things growing up, but at a point I made a decision to change my life, and I ran my family business for 20 years.



Manager of Tyron Lewis Community Gym, John Tomas (left), and broadcaster AJ Ali address to the audience during the fundraiser for 96.3 FM.

Stories like that would help a guy or a young lady who may be involved in the wrong business or criminal behavior.

How is Black Power 96 going to change Midtown?

It is needed in America. We need radio shows and stations that are really concerned with the people's future. The radio station is going to help because first of all it is going to portray the truth. 96 is going to give people the truth from us, from their people.

What do you recommend to the people that are going to have a show for the first time in Black Power 96?

It's a great opportunity. For the radio station I serve as sort of an ambassador, because I'm out every day talking to people about the radio station and how it's needed

and how this is an opportunity for them to have a career in radio.

You're never too old to be in radio, if you can still think and communicate you're still able. It's a great opportunity for community development.

What are the new things that you are going to bring to the radio station?

The young entrepreneur's mentors program is designed to help a person realize that they're going in the wrong direction. It's an opportunity to be around other people who have made the same mistakes and have overcome the mistake and are now being a part of the community rather than sell drugs or things that will hurt people in the community.

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

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**Mt. Pilgrim M.B.C. presents its
6th Annual Veteran's Day in the Park Celebration**
Saturday, November 7 from 10 am to 2 pm
Childs Park Recreation Center, 4301 13th Ave. S, St. Pete

Veteran's Day is celebrated nationwide as a day to honor our veterans, service men and women, past and present. We at Mt. Pilgrim MBC along with other community churches would like to recognize the veterans in our community by showing our appreciation for their service and giving back to the community with a family and friends fun day. The event includes guest speakers, games, prizes, health screening for vets and their family, information to help veterans, free haircuts, gospel choirs, ROTC drill team, praise dancers, healthy activities to participate in and plenty of food. So come join us in celebrating and honoring our veterans and their families on this Veteran's Day for serving our country and the sacrifice their families had to endure as our veterans served.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Happy faces, super heroes for Halloween

From **FEST**, page 1

that number," said Thomas.

The baseball diamond was packed with room to spare as youngsters of all ages paused for pictures, got their faces painted or waited in the long line that wrapped half way around the field. The festive event started several years ago on the grounds of Mt. Zion Progressive, but it expanded to encompass more of the community when it partnered with the city's recreation department.

"The purpose of having this event is for us to get out into the community," said Thomas.

In actuality, the festival has a two-fold purpose, according to Thomas.

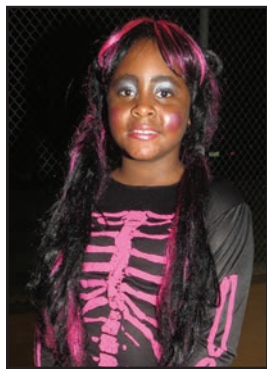
"The gospel is not just

spiritual, but it is also social," he explained. "So we come out here and we have fun activities and candy in a very safe, controlled environment. The kids are safe, and we're taking the love of Jesus to them."

The Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority of St. Petersburg were on hand for face painting and handing out goodies to the kids young and old.

The sounds of laughter could be heard a half block away as south St. Pete flashed a kaleidoscopic glow of harmony and community spirit.

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



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Bri Stewart: Friend, encourager, mentor, forerunner and trailblazer

From **HEART**, page 1

continue her education. Stewart enrolled into Pinellas Technical Education Center, now known as Pinellas Technical College, and earned her certification as a medical assistant.

With her thirst for knowledge unquenched, she went on to St. Petersburg College to enroll in the nursing program, where she graduated in 2005 and earned her license to become a Registered Nurse (RN).

Stewart was the first child to go to college in her family, a point of pride for both her and her mother.

Her first job as a RN was quite serendipitous. Her mother was having a procedure at Palms of Pasadena Hospital right after she earned her license as an RN, so she filled out an application.

Within the space of a few days, she was hired and immediately put into the Telemetry unit. There was a learning curve, but she soon got the hang of it and ended up being a charge nurse.

Stewart developed her healthcare business with a focus on assisting students who become mothers at a young age and are raising children with little to no assistance, as well as people who are high school dropouts with a desire to pursue a college education, but who possess limited finances to make their dreams a reality.

She seeks to provide all her students with hope and encouragement that no matter how difficult circum-

stances may seem, they will be able to overcome adversity and have a successful career after completing her courses.

“That’s what I’m here for; to make sure you get there and know what you’re doing so that you can go out and be a role model for your kids or yourself and be successful and make your parents happy,” Stewart said.

So why is the word “expo” added into the name of her business?

“I added expo because it’s more than just coming in and learning healthcare skills and going out and getting a job. I do try to have vocations that are hiring; I try to have places for you to go to get a job; I hand out postings and flyers in my class because I’ve been there.”

This ties directly into her philosophy of life and her teaching style as well. She actively encourages her students to keep pushing.

Known as a warm and welcoming person who gives her students hugs, Stewart takes a direct interest in getting to know her students to see how she can help. She even posts listings of affordable rentals on her Facebook page, explaining that some students lack housing and some only have internet access through their cell-phone.

The courses offered currently include two different CNA prep courses, one of which are four days and costs \$150 up front. This course prepares students for the state board tests.

The second CNA course runs for six weeks, and cost \$350 with a down payment of \$50. This course offers students more individualized attention from Stewart.

She offers courses in Home Health Aid for a cost of \$175, which are held two days a week for a term of six weeks. The PCT course is \$200 and five days long. In those five days, Stewart teaches students extra skills that are necessary for success.

If there is only one person enrolled for any class, Stewart still offers the class, not wanting to close avenues to students who are anxious and determined to learn. Stewart jokes that the only thing she does not offer are courses in childcare; however, she has a large network of resources and knowledge of her community and can point students in the right direction, as well as for any other courses they may wish to take in numerous fields.

Stewart occasionally runs specials on the Med Tech course for a lowered cost of \$25 and does a buy-one-get-one half-off for some of her other courses as well.

Stewart discussed the stigma that is currently associated with being a CNA. She stated that many people within the profession have a habit of discounting their usefulness and within the healthcare industry as a whole.

“Many people say, ‘I’m just a CNA,’ but it is such an important job. It’s a professional job, despite what

some might say,” she averred.

Stewart went on to explain that being a CNA requires spending numerous hours with patients and that nurses rely heavily on them to be their eyes and ears, often detecting changes within the patients before the nurses themselves.

Being a CNA requires a license through the State of Florida’s Board of Nursing, a clean background check and a certification in CPR and first aid. The CNA test consists of a computer portion, where multiple-choice questions are answered. A skills portion is also given in which the test taker performs an indirect greeting to a patient, proper hand washing procedure, how to properly assist the patient in getting in and out of a hospital bed and wheelchair, how to help feed the patient and what to do if the patient is choking.

Stewart makes her students perform in front of an evaluator as a test run in preparation for the exam.

PCT is remarkably similar to CNA, but the PCT prep course does not require you to take a state board exam. Both professions work in hospitals, but PCTs can also work in home health aid, which Stewart’s courses prepare her students for, teaching them the entry level skills they need to get along.

The CPR course is for the everyday normal layperson, although it is required as a prerequisite before entering many of these jobs, and the first aid course



teaches the basics of cleaning wounds correctly and so on.

The home health course teaches skills such as housework and cooking for patients with assisted living requirements, and the Med Tech course preps students for working with patients within assisted living, passing out medications to patients, making beds properly, and so on.

While all of this is going on, Stewart is fortunate enough to have her mother, as well as her significant other, who is currently her business partner and keeps her grounded with constructive criticism.

“I love my mother to death; she’s always there for me. My mother is my number one cheerleader; she always supports my ideas and she is behind me 100 percent,” she said adding that her mother hands out flyers in the community to help Stewart with her business.

Another person who advances Stewart’s business and enriches her student’s lives is Ramonica Anderson, a healthcare industry professional who hires many of Stewart’s Med Techs after graduation. She works di-

rectly with Stewart to assist students in finding and placing them in jobs down the road, thus solidifying yet another aspect of their futures in the professional healthcare industry.

In the future, Stewart wants to open up a larger facility with more instructors, and perhaps starting a companion business, for which she plans to develop a class that would offer job placement right away.

“I desire for them [my students] to be successful and to do more; it’s not about me, it’s about them,” she stated.

Her advice for future students? “Don’t give up, don’t ever give up, there are people that want to help you and see you succeed; and your future starts here with Bri’s Business Expo & Healthcare Center.”

This mother of three is a woman to watch. She and her new healthcare center are going places, and they are taking St. Pete with them.

You can get in touch with Stewart through Facebook or contact her directly at (727) 487-1077.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

The Flower Girls first photo shoot

ST. PETERSBURG — This group of 20 young women experienced their first professional photo shoot last Saturday as part of the new 26-week training series created by the Gathering of Women, the same civic and social organization that brings us the annual Men And Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony each spring.

The Flower Girls, ages 5 to 17, is one of a growing number of out-of-school programs exclusively for young women and girls in south St. Petersburg, and especially designed for young women from lower-income households who often don't benefit from gender-targeted programs.

This Oct. 24, the young ladies came dressed to impress as Gypsy Gallardo, CEO of the 2020 Plan, and Pinellas County School Board Member Rene Robinson Flowers guided them in creating their own profiles (soon to be published in the Power Broker magazine), and posing for full-body shots by digital media artist Robert Gallardo.

Flowers – for whom the Flower Girls group was named – will continue to support the series.

Deborah Figgs-Sanders, executive director of the Childs Park YMCA, which hosted the event said: "I'm grateful for these types of programs that start early with the young ladies. Teaching them self-respect, inspiring confidence and introducing to wonderful opportunities



encouraging them to blossom into the beautiful young ladies I know they can be."

"That's the whole point of the new Flower Girls program," said Samantha Richardson, president of the Gathering of Women. "Loving and training young women, focusing on positive social interactions and developing healthy attitudes."

The project also focuses on increasing community involvement, developing decision-making skills and growing in tolerance for our differences.

The Flower Girls are making their way around town as well. The group has visited The Museum of Science and Industry, the Strawberry Festival, the Planetarium of St. Petersburg, Power Through Play (tennis and swimming), Gardening with Ava and Star Gazing and Science at Vinoy Park.

The girls will continue their training series over the next several weeks tackling topics such as etiquette and healthy eating, financial literacy, and Introduction to Theatre.

Next winter and spring, the Flower Girls will partici-

pate in "Girls Write Now," a literary arts training, as well as gymnastics and dance, modeling, and the science of gardening.

The 10-year-old Gathering of Women organization is gearing up for a fun-filled holiday season.

The group will host a fundraiser called Adult Game Night for their children's Christmas party Nov. 21 from 8 p.m.-midnight at the St. Petersburg Country Club, which will take partygoers "back in the day" with games they played as children such as Monopoly, Twister and Hungry Hungry Hippos.

The Gathering will also host their annual Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 24 for the children enrolled in their programs as well as with partner organizations in the community.

To learn more about the Flower Girls or register for the flower girls or Butterflies, call (727) 433-1352 or contact flowergirls.butterflies@gmail.com. To connect with the Gathering of Women, email thegatheringfowomen@live.com or visit Thegatheringofwomen.com.

Uhuru Pies: Holiday tradition returns to St. Pete

ST. PETERSBURG – Throughout November and December, volunteers in St. Petersburg will bake and distribute hundreds of delicious, fresh-baked Uhuru Pies to benefit the independent black community-based economic development programs of Black Star Industries (BSI).

A progressive holiday tradition since 1981, Uhuru Pies are handcrafted with quality natural ingredients. Tampa Bay residents look forward to these world-famous apple crumb, pecan, chocolate pecan, sweet potato, pumpkin and top-crusted Africa shaped apple pies.

Named for the Swahili word for "freedom," Uhuru Foods & Pies is a part of the BSI, a global economic initiative to reclaim the prosperity and self-determination of African people worldwide.

Uhuru Pies contributes to BSI's array of African-owned economic projects such as Planet Uhuru apparel, Burning Spear Media, and One Africa One Nation Marketplaces.

BSI partners with the African People's Education and Defense Fund, a non-profit organization that is changing lives through critically needed programs such as the TyRon Lewis Community Fitness Gym and Wellness Program, free Halloween Haunted Festival in south St. Pete, the Uhuru Jiko Community Commer-



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of all our people everywhere for prosperity, decent housing, health and the ability to contribute to the development and well-being of our people and society. All people can support the vision of independent economic development for African people."

The nine-inch deep-dish pies are priced between \$10-\$20 and come in apple, apple crumb, pumpkin, sweet potato, pecan and chocolate pecan. All Uhuru pies now come in an individual five-inch size.

Pickup in St. Pete/Pinellas area locations is available between Nov. 14-25 and Dec. 18-24 (see uhurupies.org for locations, dates and times). Delivery is available for orders of 10 or more pies.

Uhuru Pies invites everyone to sell pies to friends, family and coworkers; you can organize a pie tasting at job sites, schools or place of worship, which can be scheduled for groups throughout November and December. We are a volunteer-powered organization.

To order, volunteer or host a pie tasting, go to www.uhurupies.org. Email stpete@uhurupies.org or call 888-519-4022 for more information.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Are you looking for a career and not a job?

From **PTC**, page 1

more hands-on with clients, and through this program she is happy to learn new skills to further her medical career.

“As for Mrs. Matthews, I’m glad she’s here,” said Stevenson. “She is very passionate about what she is teaching, and how she is teaching so that I can understand it because I have an 18 year old at home who laughs at me on the computer, so through this I get to go home and show her some stuff that she don’t even know. Because of what she’s teaching, we’re all going to be running somebody’s office when we get out of here.”

The many training modules include medical terminology, coding, Microsoft Office and the correct format of business emails. The skills that students learn in this program are skills they can also use for employment in office management/assistant jobs outside of the medical field.

“One of the things that we’re focusing on in this

program is the soft skills piece,” said Matthews. At a recent meeting at St. Petersburg College, it was mentioned that employers are in search of potential employees who have office training and personable skills. They are growing tired of hiring staff without personable skills.

Since the office staff of a medical facility are the first people a patient interacts with, Matthews wants to make sure that her students graduate knowing the importance of first impressions and customer service in this career.

“I believe in leveraging your strengths, so we want to strengthen the skills that they already have and also improve the ones that we need to work on,” she said.

Matthews likes to incorporate philosophical learning in her teaching because she believes in the power of thought, personal belief and discipline. She has assigned them to read “Think and Grow Rich” by Napoleon Hill, and they

have a discussion about the readings once a week.

A current goal for the program is to establish business relationships with medical employers in the community who are willing to provide internships for students enrolled in the program. Internship experience is something Matthews believes will contribute to her students’ employment qualifications.

“I want to get them connected with good, successful organizations so that they are working and have good benefits,” she said.

January is the next start for this 12-month program, and she would like to have more people take advantage of this training. January enrollees will be in the same class and training as the students currently enrolled, which will allow the more experienced students to mentor the new ones.

Student Cynthia Green, who has a career background as a hairstylist, enjoys learning computer skills in this program, and



L-R, Traci Matthews, Cynthia Green, Teresa Stevenson, Yvette Tensley and LaVaunja Poole.

looks forward to mentoring the new students in January.

“First of all, we have a great instructor, so that just makes it easier. We’re already mentoring and helping each other in this class so that’s going to make it

better for the next group that comes in,” she explained.

If you are interested in a new career as a medical administrative specialist or are thinking about a switch in careers and would like more information, log onto

pcsb.org/myptc or call (727) 893-2500. Financial aid is available.

For professional medical employers who want to provide internships for the students in this program, please contact Traci Matthews at 727-893-2500.

WWW.THEWEEKLYCHALLENGER.COM

SAVE-THE-DATE

DR. KEVIN “CONDUCTOR BERNARD” PARROTT AND THE CONDUCTOR’S CHOIR

LIVE RECORDING



“STRAIGHT CHURCH” - AS ONE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2015
MT. CALVARY SDA CHURCH
4902 N. 40TH STREET - TAMPA FLORIDA
5:13 PM

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Huge Yard Sale-Fundraiser for The Rock of Jesus Missionary Baptist Church-November 7th, 8a.m.-4p.m.

In memory of Carol Anderson Brown.

New and pre-worn **FREE** sweaters, coats and jackets for kids 10 and under. (While they last...must be accompanied by parents).

For sale \$2.00 and up sweaters for men and women.

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INFORMATION FAIRS

Nov. 12: Gibbs High School
6 to 8 p.m.

Nov. 14: Pinellas Park High School
9 a.m. to noon

Questions? Call 727-588-6210
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Accepting applications for The Brittany Bria Gordon Excellence In Achievement Award

Deadline: Postmarked on or before Friday December 18, 2015

Purpose: This award, given in honor of fallen soldier Brittany Bria Gordon, and funded by the Cedric Gordon Family & Rouson Family, is presented to a student graduating from high school who has demonstrated:

1. Exceptional community service
2. Commitment to academic success
3. Leadership skills

About Specialist Brittany Bria Gordon (2 October 1988 - 13 October 2012)

SPC Brittany Bria Gordon was born October 2, 1988, to Brenda Thompson and Cedric Gordon of St. Petersburg, Florida. She graduated from St. Petersburg High School in 2006, where she was captain of the girls' basketball team. She attended the University of Florida and St. Petersburg College before enlisting in the Army in 2010.

SPC Gordon enlisted as a 35F, Military Advanced Individual Training at Fort Huachuca, AZ in August 2010 before being assigned to the 572nd Military Intelligence Company, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

While serving in the 572nd Military Intelligence Company, she deployed in

support of Operation Enduring Freedom. On her first deployment, SPC Gordon was assigned as the lead military analyst in Kandahar, Afghanistan providing intelligence support for International Security Assistance Force and Afghan National Directorate of Security.

According to senior leaders, SPC Gordon flourished during the deployment, doing the work of a more senior soldier. According to fellow Soldiers, she went on missions outside the wire to better understand her area of operations.

On 13 October 2012, SPC Gordon volunteered to go out on a mission to set the example for fellow junior soldiers. At approximately 10:30, she was moving personnel and equipment off a helicopter, in preparation to conduct an Operational Detachment Alpha site survey with the Afghan National Defense Services. A suicide improvised explosive device detonated, killing SPC Gordon, another American and four Afghan intelligence employees including the Deputy Intelligence Director for Kandahar Province.

SPC Gordon will be remembered as a professional, intelligent leader and a shining example of the Army's Warrior Ethos.

SPC Gordon never accepted defeat and never quit as she and fellow soldiers spent countless hours preparing for the deployment and updating senior commanders on the security situation around their area of operations. She made it her mission to never leave a fallen comrade by constantly setting the example for her fellow soldiers and ensuring she was always there for anyone in need.

Her memory will live on through her smile, ambition, and energetic personality that touched the lives of so many.

SPC Gordon is the first female 35F Military Intelligence Analyst killed in action while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. She is one of the eight Military Intelligence female Soldiers to pay the ultimate price while serving in these campaigns.

Educational Incentive Application: The Brittany Bria Gordon Excellence in Achievement Award

Award funded by the Gordon & Rouson families and presented annually at the National Council of Negro Women St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section MLK Day Breakfast

To Apply, Please Submit the Following:

- A completed application form (below)



- A 350-500 word personal biography. This should include career goals, leadership ability, activities (school/community) and an accomplishment you are most proud of, as well as your long term goals for life, after graduating from college.
- A copy of the most recent report card showing your current GPA.

Qualifications

- Applicant must be a senior enrolled in a Pinellas County school, private or public. He or she must have a GPA of 2.5 or above to be eligible (if your high school does not use the 4.0 grading scale, please convert to it).
- Required for Disbursement of Funds: An acceptance letter from an accredited post-secondary institution and documentation of registration for

courses

- Award Amount: \$1000
Submission

Send your completed application form, personal biography and report card to:

National Council of Negro Women (St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section), P O Box 12452, St. Petersburg, FL 33733. ATTN: Education Incentives Committee - Gordon Scholarship.

18th Annual African American Health Forum

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

Free Breakfast

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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

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HEALTHY LIVING

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CHURCH DIRECTORY



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

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

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

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.

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PASTOR

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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.

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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

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 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 Class7:00 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

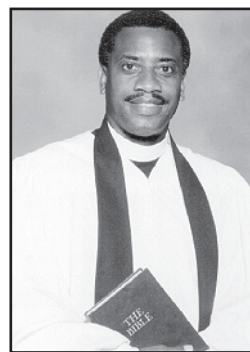
THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Witness of the Kingdom Ministries

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

Email: witnessofthekingdom2015@gmail.com



Pastor Mark Owen and First Lady Hazel Owen

Sunday morning worship
10:00 a.m.

Open Bible Study
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

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, its wish that there would be an overflowing of God's blessings upon their lives. St. Mark is grounded in a Christ-centered doctrine that has as its central core, the belief that we are a haven of hope, help, and healing for a lost world hungry and thirsty for the word of God. At St. Mark, we as a body of believers are Christians willing to work and partner in unity, praising God for the awesome gift of His son, Jesus Christ.

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

Nov 15 - Church Outing: Macedonia M. B. Church,

Rubonia, FL 3 p.m.

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

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

Nov 19 - WIA Thank you Fellowship: 7 p.m.

Nov 23 - Distribution of Thanksgiving Bags

Nov 26 - Thanksgiving Day-Church Office Closed

Nov 29 - Mission Emphasis during the Morning Worship Service: Christmas with the Community Operation Love; Visitation with the Sick and Shut-in after Morning Worship

Nov 30 - Church Outing: Rock of Jesus M. B. Church, 7 p.m.

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 Sun. 9:30 a.m.

Baptist Training Union is each Sun. 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 Tues. at 6 p.m. Children in the community are welcomed to join us.

Mime/Praise Dance Rehearsal on Sun. 2-4 p.m.

Sunday School Teachers' Meeting is held every Tues. 7 p.m.

Senior Hour of Power Bible Study is held every Wed. 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting and Bible Study every Wed. 7 p.m.

Children Youth Ministry Bible Study 1st & 3rd Wed. of each month 7:30 p.m.

Friendship MBC

LOOKING FOR A PLACE THAT SINNERS ARE WELCOMED? 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 DAY FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 1:00 PM (THE BEST ONE HOUR OF YOUR DAY) AND AT 7:00 PM - THE COMMUNITY IS WELCOMED TO JOIN US - YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS "WEDNESDAY IN THE WORD" WHERE WE ARE STUDYING FROM 1ST JOHN, CHAPTER 5. "MR. HARRISON NASH" - THE WC VERY OWN DISTRIBUTOR - WE KNOW THAT JESUS HAS HEALING HANDS!

A SPECIAL SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO "RUSH HOUR" THE CHICKEN AND WAFFLE RESTAURANT FOR THEIR SPONSORSHIP OF OUR TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT.

NOVEMBER AT A GLANCE:

18TH / 38TH PASTOR & 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

The St. Petersburg Connection: THE KICK-OFF SUNDAY Sunday, November 8, 2015 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.

Sunday, November 8, 2015 at 3:00 pm - Kick-Off Service - Pastor Carlos L. Senior and the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church Family.

Thursday, November 12, 2015 - The Arrival of the Ohio and South Carolina Connection-Reception by Friendship Choir Ministry.

Friday, November 13, 2015 - 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm - Celebration In White, Ticket Donation \$10.00, The Upper Room.

The Miami Connection: THE CULMINATION SERVICES

Sunday, November 15, 2015 - 7:45 am - Dr. Alphonso Jackson, Pastor of Second Baptist Church, Miami, Florida.

Sunday, November 15, 2015 - 10:45 am - Dr. Gaston Smith, Pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Miami, Florida -

Dinner Served in the Upper Room

Saturday, November 21, 2015 - 7:30 am - Leaving the Church - THE FLORIDA CLASSIC - 2:00 pm KICKOFF - Florida Citrus Bowl for your tickets please contact the Petersons at (727) 484-0857. LET'S GO "WILDCATS AND RATTLES"

Thought for the Week: When Christ ascended back to heaven he gave gifts to the church. One of those gifts was pastors. You are a gift from God to our church. (Ephesians 4:11)

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: fmhc3300@verizon.net

NOW "LIVE STREAMING": Visit Our Website: www.fmbcthe-ship.net & CLICK on the PASTOR'S IMAGE at the top of the Page. Also, USTREAM - Visit West Coast Baptist District Association Website: www.experience-thecoast.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 2

"Man that is born of a woman is of a few days and full of trouble (Job 14:1)." Stress is a normal part of life. Everyone has felt stress at some point in their lives.

There many things in life that can cause us to feel stressed or under pressure. Loss is a major source of stress. We feel stressed when we experience the loss of loved ones or even the loss of job. Some other causes of stress are change in residence or change in transportation. Research shows that two of the highest stressors are relocating

and getting married.

Stress is needed. It helps us to learn, grow and change. Like a guitar, we require stress on the strings of life to make music. However, too much stress causes the strings to pop and there is no music. We can have stressed without being stressed out, reaching a point where we are unable to function and complete normal daily tasks.

Jesus said, "In this world you will have tribulation but in me, you will have peace (John 16:33)." As a result of our faith in

God's unlimited supply, we can have trouble and not be troubled by our troubles. When we stand firm on the truth principles of the scriptures, we may feel stressed but we are not be stressed out. Jesus, the Christ, gives us hope and the power to overcome stressful situations (John 14:1).

When we affirm the words, "I AM blessed," we are empowered to release any stress, tension and anxiety. In the face of stress, affirm: I AM too blessed to be stressed out!

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church, "God's House to the City," under the leadership of Dr. Rickey L. Houston extend an invitation to the community to join us as we declare the living Word of God. Join us at 9:00 am for Sunday School and at 10:15 am worship service. Bible Study and Teen Summit/Children Rising are held on

Wednesday evening, at 7 pm.

We cultivate the fullest spiritual life possible both individually and corporately; and we communicate God's truth at every opportunity, building a stronger congregation and community to the Glory of God. Living out these principles results in a kaleidoscope of ministries for all ages and interests. We also encour-

age the community to make use of our Prayer Line. (727-321-9645)

"Knowing Jesus Christ in 2015" II Corinthians 2:2 Philippians 3:8

Telephone: 727-327-0554 Fax: 727-327-0240

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

*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



Public Works Discovery Night
November 10, 2015
5:30-7:30pm
Pinellas Technical College
901 34th St. S
St. Petersburg FL 337711
Call 727.893.2900
No Appointment needed!

FREE TO JOIN US!
Get a real job making real money
with NO STUDENT LOANS!
Public Works Discovery Night

COME TALK TO THE **REAL EXPERTS**
Talk with different companies and HR
departments about jobs you can apply
for!

Need your GED? Get it here, then train
for the job of your dreams!

Need financial help? Talk with our
experts!

Got a prior? We may have options for
you!

Want a real future with a real career?
Meet minimum requirements and you could
secure a spot in an upcoming class!
Classes Start soon!

Jobs paying great money are waiting on
you!

Why be broke and unemployed?
Come check out the Public Works Boot
Camp Discovery Night

 **Pinellas Technical College**
St. Petersburg Campus

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