

2016-12-08

## The Weekly Challenger : 2016 : 12 : 08

The Weekly Challenger, et al

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/challenger>

---

### Recommended Citation

The Weekly Challenger, et al, "The Weekly Challenger : 2016 : 12 : 08" (2016). *Newspaper collection*. 452.  
<https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/challenger/452>

This is brought to you for free and open access by the The Weekly Challenger at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Newspaper collection by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@usf.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@usf.edu).







# COMMUNITY NEWS

**City of St Petersburg  
Notice to Offerors  
Procurement & Supply Management**

Sealed online proposals will be received by the Procurement Department in the City's iSupplier Portal for RFP No. 6315 Workforce Readiness and Development Program. A pre-proposal conference will be held at 5:30 p.m. ET, Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at Enoch Davis Recreation Center, 1111 18th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida. Prospective offerors may view the proposal online at [www.stpete.org/purchase](http://www.stpete.org/purchase), Current Solicitations. Proposals close at 3:00 p.m. ET, Tuesday, January 10, 2017, at that time no proposals will be accepted. The City reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals and reserves the right to waive technicalities. The decision as to what constitutes a technicality shall rest solely with Louis Moore, FNIGP, CPPO, Director of Procurement & Supply Management.

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR VIEWING  
PINELLAS COUNTY 2015-2016  
CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE & EVALUATION REPORT  
FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT,  
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP, EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT  
AND NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAMS**

December 9, 2016

To All Citizens, Housing and Related Service Providers, Public Agencies and Other Interested Parties:

Pinellas County's Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the 2015-2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Programs is available for viewing and public comment beginning December 9 through December 23, 2016. The CAPER is available at the Pinellas County Community Development and Planning Division, 440 Court Street-2nd Floor, Clearwater, FL 33756 or online at [www.pinellascounty.org/community](http://www.pinellascounty.org/community).

The CAPER is comprised of statistical and financial statements, narratives and maps regarding activities carried out during the 2015-16 program year to meet previously identified goals and objectives. Approximately \$9,198,620 in Federal CDBG, HOME, and ESG grant funds and program income was available to carry out activities, all of which was committed and approximately \$4,600,498 of which was expended. Additionally, approximately \$2,348,608 in Federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) grant funds and program income was available to carry out activities and approximately \$102,542 was expended. CDBG, ESG and NSP funded activities were located within the Urban County (unincorporated areas and 20 cooperating small cities). HOME funded activities were located within the Consortium (the Urban County and the City of Largo).

Comments on the CAPER may be made in writing to the Pinellas County Community Development and Planning Division at the above address through December 23, 2016, or by email to [cdplanning@pinellascounty.org](mailto:cdplanning@pinellascounty.org). The report, including a summary of public comments received, will be sent to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development no later than December 29, 2016. The summary of comments will also be available at the Pinellas County Community Development and Planning Division after December 29, 2016.

## New and familiar faces at the NAACP

ST. PETERSBURG — The Enoch Davis Center played host to the St. Petersburg Branch of the NAACP 2016 elections. Election results were no secret given that the slate of officers presented to the general membership at the group's October meeting ran unopposed.

The nominations included some officers from the previous administration as well as newcomers. Maria L. Scruggs will serve as the branch president, Nick Wright as the first vice president, Lydia Brown as secretary, Kent Channer as treasurer and Candy Wright as assistant treasurer.

The slate of officers also included those who will serve as members at large to the executive committee, including Delphine Brown, Di'east Easler-Bey, April Hornsleth, Poul Hornsleth, Cassandra Jackson, Mary Johnson, Dr. Frank Scruggs, Etta Tucker and Bernard Wright.

Unlike previous

NAACP elections, this election has proven to be one of the most calming and uncontentious one in the group's history. For months there were rumblings of coups and utterings of dissatisfaction along with threats of unseating me, but when asked if I was going to launch an active reelection campaign, I simply responded "absolutely not." I simply ran on the branch's accomplishments, which were impressive, given our challenge of rebounding from a year-long suspension.

A small sampling of those accomplishments:

- Drafting a 21 page position paper on the Pinellas County School Board's Step Up for Success Plan
- Serving as an advocate for several Pinellas county families whose children had experienced a series of challenges within the Pinellas County School District.
- Fighting success-



Maria L. Scruggs

fully for the rights of a disabled veteran to live where she chose to live.

• Was able to plan and execute several traditional NAACP programs such as the Emancipation Proclamation Service and several candidate forums during a very active and often volatile campaign season.

While we believe we have begun to create a focus on the social and economic injustices for people of color in St. Petersburg, we recognize the work has just begun. We are excited about a new year of commitment toward the mission of the NAACP!

## Upward trends in Pinellas County Schools

**SCHOOL, from front page**

understanding of the world. All of our Title 1 schools, which serve students from lower income families, offer STEM Academies. Students in STEM Academies are 3.26 times more likely to earn a proficient score on the state math assessment and 3.68 times more likely to earn a proficient score on the state science assessment.

One way the district determines when students are ready for more demanding classes in high school is through the use of the College Board's SAT suite of assessments. These include the PSAT, which is offered for free in Pinellas for students in grades 8-10.

Getting a good SAT score gives students more choices when it comes to college, and students who practice for the SAT generally do much better on the assessment. We are encouraging families to take advantage of a partnership between an online learning resource called Khan Academy and the College Board to help better prepare students. Students can log onto Khan Academy at

[www.SATpractice.org](http://www.SATpractice.org) for free, personalized practice.

Schools throughout the district help students link their PSAT results to Khan Academy accounts for practice that is tailored to their individual needs.

I am proud to share that the district recently received a report from the College Board, and we have seen an upward trend in many areas. In Pinellas, SAT average scores rose by 13 points in reading, 12 points in math and 11 points in writing. Pinellas saw increases while results in the state and the nation trended down. When we look at scores from last year to this year by race or ethnic group, scores among each subgroup increased.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are college-level courses offered at high schools throughout the district. AP classes are open to all students who want to challenge themselves and potentially earn college credit. The district has no entry criteria for AP courses and minimal prerequisites. The College Board report showed that, overall, students taking AP

exams increased 12.8 percent from 2014 to 2016. During that same timeframe, exams taken by minority students increased by 4.2 percent.


To strengthen our efforts to close the achievement gap between minority students and their peers, the district recently hired Dr. Lewis Brinson as the Minority Achievement Officer, a first-time position for Pinellas County Schools. Dr. Brinson is a 40-year educator, who recently served as Chief Diversity Officer of the Hillsborough County School District. He has previously worked as a teacher, assistant principal, principal and district administrator. We are thrilled to have an educator with such longstanding and valuable experience in this role.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about some of the many opportunities and upward trends in Pinellas County Schools. On behalf of the school district, I want to wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable holiday season and a happy, healthy new year.

*Michael A. Grego, Ed.D., Superintendent*

# KWANZAA

## 2016-2017



**UMOJA (UNITY)**  
Monday; Dec 26, 2016 @ 6:00 pm  
**GALLERIE 909**  
909 22<sup>nd</sup> Street S. ~ St. Petersburg, FL  
Contact: Carla Bristol @ 727-565-3930

**KUJICHAGULIA (Self Determination)**  
Tuesday; Dec. 27, 2016  
**Images by Anderson**  
Hosted by: Carla Baker  
8880 Third Ave. S. ~ St. Petersburg, FL  
Contact: Malissia Daneshpour @ 727-215-9145



**UJIMA (Collective Work and Responsibility)**  
Wednesday; Dec. 28, 2016 @ 6:00 pm  
**Moore's Chapel A.M.E. Church**  
3037 Fairfield Ave. S. ~ St. Petersburg, FL  
Contact: 727-954-5918

**UJAMAA (Cooperative Economics)**  
Thursday; Dec. 29, 2016 @ 6:00 pm  
**Uniquely Original Art Studio**  
915 24<sup>th</sup> Street S. ~ St. Petersburg, FL  
Contact: Catherine Weaver @ 727-239-3696

**NIA (Purpose)**  
Friday; Dec. 30, 2016 @ 6:00 pm  
**St. Petersburg Islamic Center**  
3762 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. ~ St. Petersburg, FL  
Contact: Bro. Kevin Johnson @ 727-342-2235

**KUUMBA (Creativity)**  
Saturday; Dec. 31, 2016  
Join us as we caravan to Tampa, FL

**IMANI (Faith)**  
Sunday; Jan. 1, 2016 @ 6:00 pm  
**Enoch Davis Center & Community**  
1111 18th Avenue S. ~ St. Petersburg, FL  
Bring a dish to share at the 'Karuma'  
Contact: L. Buchanan @ 727-893-7134



WWW.THEWEEKLYCHALLENGER.COM

## The Weekly Challenger

is distributed in the following cities:

**St. Petersburg • Clearwater • Largo  
Tarpon Springs • Dunedin • Safety Harbor**

P.O. Box 35130, St. Petersburg, FL 33705  
Phone: (727) 896-2922  
Fax: (727) 823-2568  
Email: [editor@theweeklychallenger.com](mailto:editor@theweeklychallenger.com)  
[www.theweeklychallenger.com](http://www.theweeklychallenger.com)

**Ethel L. Johnson**  
CEO/Publisher Emerita

**Lyn Johnson**  
Publisher/General Manager

**Irene Johnson-Pridden**  
Advertising Dept. 727-642-3499  
[advertising@theweeklychallenger.com](mailto: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:**  
Send all address changes to:  
The Weekly Challenger  
P.O. Box 35130  
St. Petersburg, FL 33705

**NO PAPER?**  
If you have not received your paper during delivery, call (727) 896-2922

**DEADLINES**

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

**COLUMNIST'S DISCLAIMER**  
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.

**SUBMISSIONS POLICY**  
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.



**Volume 49 • Number 16  
Published Thursday,  
December 8, 2016  
10 pages • 1 section**

© The Weekly Challenger

All rights reserved. No portions of this periodical may be reproduced without expressed consent.

WWW.THEWEEKLYCHALLENGER.COM

## The Weekly Challenger

Home Delivery to South St. Petersburg for \$50 yearly  
First Class Mail Subscription Cost: \$80 yearly

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NO.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW SUBSCRIPTION** \_\_\_\_\_ **(or)** **RENEWAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **AMOUNT PAID: \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **CASH** \_\_\_\_\_ **CHECK** \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RATE  
REDUCTION  
SPECIAL!**

**Make Checks Payable to: The Weekly Challenger**

**Mail this form & payment to: The Weekly Challenger, P.O. Box 35130, St. Petersburg, FL 33705**

**Email:** [editor@theweeklychallenger.com](mailto:editor@theweeklychallenger.com) • **Phone:** (727) 896-2922 • **Fax:** (727) 823-2568



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## NAACP and teachers union wrong to fight school choice

School choice empowers parents, like me, to choose which school educates our children, which enables them to maximize their full potential and gives them the tools to succeed in this ever-changing world.

Fortunately for my family, Florida created a scholarship program, run by the nonprofit Step Up For Students, to open up more quality options for economically disadvantaged families. Unfortunately, the Florida's teacher union and the state chapter of the NAACP have repeatedly gone to court to eliminate the program and evict 95,000 students now attending private schools throughout the state.

After having their case tossed out twice, the teacher's union and NAACP are now appealing to the Florida Supreme Court. This week, the state and the scholarship parents fighting the lawsuit filed their response. I am one of 15 parent intervenors.

I'm particularly disappointed in the NAACP. Where they once fought the system to empower parents, today they stand by the system to fight parents.

More than 70 percent of scholarship students are children of color, and more than half live in single-parent homes. The average student on scholarship lives in a household that is just 4.4 percent above poverty. The average student on scholarship also struggled in public school, but is now making good progress in the schools their parents chose. I can't understand why the

NAACP wants to take education opportunities away from them.

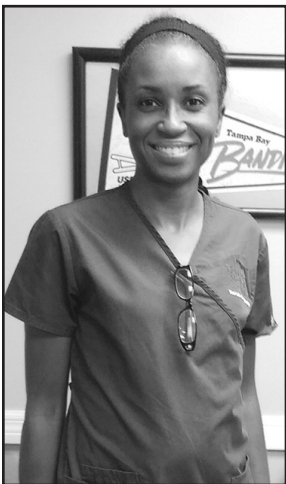
I know the NAACP wants public schools to excel. I do too. What I don't understand is how they think my children harm public schools by attending a private school that works better for them.

All of my children attended public school at some point in their education. I am not anti-public school. I simply believe parents should be able to choose where their child goes to school regardless of their financial situation. Some parents choose public schools. Some parents choose, and can afford, private schools, while others need financial aid. Others choose to homeschool. The common theme is we all have a choice.

All of my children currently attend or graduated from middle school at Academy Prep in Tampa. They were constantly pushed to new educational heights, exposed to music, art, the environment, various professional fields and the list goes on. Academy Prep also mentored them on how to be dignified young men and women.

Now two of my boys attend the University of South Florida. One is studying to be an engineer and the other wants to be a doctor. They no longer just dream of success. They are making it a reality. My other four children aren't far behind.

The groups attacking the scholarship tell people the money for the program comes from public funds. But this isn't true. Funding comes from private donations where donors get a tax credit for



their contribution.

They also tell people the scholarship drains money from public schools. But this isn't true either. Every study that's looked at the financial impact makes this clear. And both courts that looked at the lawsuit dismissed it because the teachers union and the NAACP couldn't back up their charge that the program was hurting public schools.

Even if the program was publicly funded, I believe it is the right of every parent and child to utilize any and all educational resources available to them. School choice is the right to choose what, when, where and how my child is educated. Where that education occurs – public or private – shouldn't matter. It is not an "us against them" struggle with the public school system. It is a choice.

Whatever choice each Florida family makes is the right choice. I choose the Step Up scholarship for my family. The teachers union and NAACP should respect my choice, and stop trying to take it away.

*Linzi Morris lives in Riverview.*

# Matters of the Heart

Ministry  
Hosted by Radio Host/ TV Personality  
Princess Denise Wright  
[www.mattersoftheheartministry.org](http://www.mattersoftheheartministry.org)

**Presents:**

## A Christmas Event

**Theme: "Jesus is the Reason for the Season"**

**When: Saturday, December 10, 2016**  
Time: 11:30AM-1:30PM

**Where: Glad Tidings Assembly of God**  
4200 17th Ave North,  
St. Petersburg, Fla 33713

Refreshments will be served  
'Toys for Tots'

**Tis the Season to be jolly when friends and family come together to share the joy, peace, love and good cheer during the Christmas Holiday Season. Please come to this Joyous Celebration of Anointed Praise, Worship and Entertainment because "Jesus is the Reason for the Season."**

Please contact Princess Denise to donate Toys and Gift Cards for children of Needy Families @ 727-488-8818

WWW.THEWEEKLYCHALLENGER.COM

### PICK OF THE WEEK!

# 34 7 22

## CASH 3

# 488 172 568

### DOG DAYS

2-6	3-7
1-8	5-4
8-5	7-3

## FLU SHOTS

### Get your flu shot at Publix.

Talk to your Publix pharmacist any time the pharmacy is open—they'll determine which vaccine option is best for you and administer it right there.\*

P U B L I X

P H A R M A C Y

Feeling well. Living better.®

We make it easy. Stop in to receive your flu shot today—no appointment necessary.

Visit [publix.com/flu](http://publix.com/flu) to find out more.

\*State, age, or health restrictions may apply. See pharmacy for details.

P U B L I X

P H A R M A C Y

Feeling well. Living better.®



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Family Fun Day

PARK, from front page

President of the Campbell Park Neighborhood Association Coy LaSister informed residents that with two construction projects slated for next year, the association will put anyone with construction experience in contact with the building companies.

Local talent entertained and amazed the crowd, such as Koko Bella and Jerrod Williams. Both products of Gibbs High School, they performed along with nearly a dozen local artists. However, head-

liner Jeremy Lomack stole the show with his energetic vocals and dance performance.

Daniels said mainly Campbell Park residents showed up to the family fun day, but next year he's hoping to see more of St. Pete represented.

"I see the fun day growing more each year, and I would like to incorporate other neighborhoods to make it a city-wide affair."

To reach Allen Buchanan, email [abuchanan@theweekly-challenger.com](mailto:abuchanan@theweekly-challenger.com)




## HOME LOANS HANDCRAFTED FOR YOUR LIFE.

Finding the right mortgage is key to getting in your new home faster. Our local bankers are here to help with expert service, fast approvals and great rates. Contact USAmeriBank to discuss how our handcrafted mortgage solutions can work for you.



[usameribank.com](http://usameribank.com) | 1-866-979-2265

NMLS ID 456668 | Member FDIC | EQUAL HOUSING LENDER



THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE  
**WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR OTHERS?**

➔ Register Today!

**THIRD ANNUAL CITY OF GULFPORT MLK DAY OF SERVICE**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. devoted his life to advancing equality, social justice, and economic opportunity for all. He challenged us to build a more perfect union and taught us that everyone has a role to play. Five decades later, we still have work to do to realize Dr. King's dream.


On **SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2017**, join Gulfport residents, friends, neighbors and Americans nationwide in making a real difference in the lives of others during the City of Gulfport Annual "MLK Day of Service."

- Now is the time to **identify a community service project** (new or one you already serve as volunteer) for volunteering on January 14<sup>th</sup>.
- You can **register individually or as a team**.
- Register** your service project at: <http://mygulfport.us/mlkdayofservice/>
- A limited number of service projects will be available for individuals needing a project.
- Registered projects will be recognized at the Day of Service Ceremony on January 14<sup>th</sup>.
- PLEASE SEE OUR MLK DAY OF SERVICE VIDEO MESSAGE (YouTube):**

Mayor Sam Henderson, Police Chief Robert Vincent, Gulfport Neighbors President Margarete Tober and City Council Member Yolanda Roman ➔ go to <http://tinyurl.com/GulfportMLK2017>

- Please like our MLK Day of Service **Facebook Page**: <https://www.facebook.com/MLK2017DayofService/>

Questions: Please contact Gail Biron (727-893-1118) or Yolanda Roman (727-512-2942).



## REEVES BUILDING, PLUMBING & ROOFING CONTRACTOR

Over 37 Years in Tampa Bay



**Specializing In:**

- Painting • Drywall • Flooring • Plumbing • Windows
- Roofing • Soffit & Fascia Cabinets • Kitchen & Bath
- Garage & Porch Rehabilitation • Custom Home Remodeling

Approved Rehabilitation Contractor for: City of Tampa, Hillsborough County, City of St. Petersburg, Pinellas County and Polk County

**Call MICHAEL REEVES - Phone/Fax 813-238-6197**  
**Email: [reevesbuilding@verizon.net](mailto:reevesbuilding@verizon.net) • [www.ReevesBuilding.com](http://www.ReevesBuilding.com)**

Licenses: CFC025588 CCC1326860 CBC1251478



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## ‘Single, Saved & Bitter:’ A 30-day journey to healing a bitter heart

**SINGLE, from front page**

serving others is a virtue in the community, but often wonders if it's a bit of a show. "We know how to dress it up, we know how to do church good, but on the inside we are in turmoil, we are in pain."

Her book, "Single, Saved, & Bitter," takes you on a 30-day journey to healing a bitter heart and learning how to love yourself again. It not only chronicles Phillip's journey through salvation, but also delves into the harrowing struggles of others in their attempt to find peace living through cancer and even rape. Stories of how ordinary Christians fell from the grace of God and found their way back again.

Phillip is confident her 30-day plan will help others

gain healing and think about the decisions they've made in the past. With reflection, she promises readers will be able to face the hard questions facing them and make proactive decisions to ditch the dangerous choices that are ruling their lives.

"Sometimes we go through life and we just cover it up," said Phillip. By not dealing with the hurt and pain that others inflict, as well as not knowing your own self-worth, a person can find they are walking through life in a bitter place.

"It springs forth out of your heart, and it will affect how you see things and the sourness will hurt your relationships."

Phillip has embraced her new role as a single par-

ent and finds solace in raising her child to love God and to appreciate others. But she does understand the pull of finding a partner to build a life with. She cautions about finding yourself in a relationship filled with distractions and encourages daters to not settle or stay with anyone who takes you away from your true purpose in life.

"You must strive to be a whole person first," she said. Confront past and current relationships with friends and family, reevaluate your goals and standards. "The biggest thing in your singleness is not trying to get a man so you can feel complete, but being complete before you receive your mate."

To purchase "Single,

Saved, & Bitter," just go to [www.singlesavedbitter.com](http://www.singlesavedbitter.com), or you can purchase it online through Amazon. You can also call (727) 228-1489 and get it shipped to you.

"This book allows you to be transparent," said Phillip who has included a journal to chronicle your thoughts, along with daily scriptures to help see God and yourself in a different light. And if journaling isn't your thing, don't worry. She also included guided questions to help you dig deep and really work through what is holding you back.

"Once you go through the storm and come out on the sunny side, you'll be able to recall it and share it with someone in need," she said.



Nicole Phillip

### Father & Son CONFERENCE

**Saturday, January 21st, 2017**

Campbell Park Recreation Center,  
601 14th St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33705  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Registration begins at 9am. Event starts at 10am.

**Free Registration. Gym Activities. Door Prizes.  
Continental Breakfast & BBQ Lunch.**

Dynamic speaker topics include:

**Self-Empowerment**

**Over Coming the Cycle**

**Understanding Us!**

**The Importance of Education**

For more information or for free vendor opportunities,  
contact Carlos Daniels at (727) 893 -7733 or (727) 551 - 3275

PARTNERS



The Father & Son Conference is for fathers, grandfathers, mentors, brothers, uncles, and young males.



*Step Up scholarships change lives.*

Denisha failed third grade twice before receiving a scholarship.

*Now*, she is pursuing a master's degree.

Scholarships for lower-income schoolchildren and those with certain special needs.

Learn More at **StepUpForStudents.org**  
877.735.7837

CHARITY NAVIGATOR  
FOUR STAR RATING

GUIDESTAR  
PLATINUM RATING

**Step Up**  
for students

[WWW.THEWEEKLYCHALLENGER.COM](http://WWW.THEWEEKLYCHALLENGER.COM)



We are here to help you experience a lifetime of good health.

Bayfront Health Medical Group has dedicated primary care providers located throughout the community. For your convenience, these physicians make same-day appointments available, and many accept walk-ins. All are currently accepting new patients.

To schedule an appointment, call **844-4BH-BHMG (844-424-2464)**.

**Marijo S. De La Cruz, D.O.**  
**Shari Anthony, M.D.**  
Family and Internal Medicine  
8730 4th St. North

**Irina Scutaru, M.D.**  
Internal Medicine  
461 7th Ave. South

**Karen Joseph, M.D.**  
**Daniel Eckstein, M.D.**  
Family Medicine  
603 7th St. South, Suite 400

**Katherine Wojnowich, M.D.**  
Sports Medicine  
603 7th St. South, Suite 440

 **Bayfront Health Medical Group**  
BayfrontDoctors.com

Members of the Medical Staff at Bayfront Health St. Petersburg



# COMMUNITY NEWS

Gibbs Class of 1968, Inc.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Saturday December 24, 2016

8:00 PM to 1:00 AM

THE ST. PETERSBURG COLISEUM BALLROOM  
535 - 4<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE NORTH

FEATURING OLD SCHOOL MIX AND TODAY'S TOP 40 CLASSIC SOUL HITS

Ticket Price in Advance \$25.00

Ticket Price At The Door \$30.00

Ticket Outlets

St. Petersburg Coliseum  
535 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
(727) 892-5202  
Monday - Friday

Looking Good Fashions  
1201 34<sup>th</sup> Street South  
(727) 327-1756  
Monday - Saturday

Sports Cuts Barber Shop  
3166 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
(727) 323-8388  
Monday-Saturday

Frogue's Beauty Salon  
2535 MLK Street South  
(727) 896-3555  
Wednesday-Saturday

Melvin Dandridge (727) 252-9789

SEMI-FORMAL ATTIRE – ABSOLUTELY NO JEANS

NO RESERVE SEATING

BYOB SET-UPS AVAILABLE

Bay News 9 and Artz 4 Life Academy Present

Jai Hinson's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Production

The Family Blessing 2016

SATURDAY • DECEMBER, 17 2016 • 2:30PM / 7:30PM

MAHAFFEY THEATER • 400 1<sup>st</sup> Street South • Saint Petersburg, FL 33701

TICKETS \$19, \$29, \$39 • Groups of 30+ receive \$3 off each ticket • Call Ms. Barbara 813.451.4410

Healthy START

Annual Meeting

You're invited to the Healthy Start Annual Meeting. Please join us to thank and honor our Community Action Network members, community partners, Healthy Start families and recap program highlights from this past year. We hope you will join us to celebrate our year with gratitude.

Monday, December 12, 2016  
6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.  
Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital Education & Conference Center,  
701 4th Street South,  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Please RSVP by December 9th.  
Call 727-767-6780 FMI or visit  
[www.Hopkinsallchildrens.org/annualmeeting](http://www.Hopkinsallchildrens.org/annualmeeting) to register.  
This event is free to attend.

Supported by:

JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE  
JOHNS HOPKINS ALL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

## Preparing for MLK Day of Service

BY GAIL BIRON  
Contributor

GULFPORT — An appropriate way to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is through service and volunteering in our communities. Dr. King devoted his life to advancing equality, social justice and economic opportunity for all. He challenged us to build a more perfect union and taught us that everyone has a role to play.

On Saturday, Jan. 14, Gulfport residents will step up to serve as volunteers at their Annual MLK Day of Service. Volunteers will work at a variety of service projects throughout this area, joining hundreds of thousands of

Americans across the United States. The City of Gulfport's Day of Service leverages the strength of our citizens, focusing on areas of need affecting members of our community.

In past years, the Gulfport MLK Day of Service has organized neighbors at food pantries, homeless shelter, Bill Young VAMC, Gulfport Senior Center, CASA, Clam Bayou, Pinellas Animal Services, neighborhood cleanups, including Gulfport Fire and Gulfport neighbors and much more!

On Jan. 14 we are inviting you to join many of your neighbors and friends by rolling up your sleeves in service. Together we will be ready

to get out and serve!

All information, details and how to register will be available at [mygulfport.us/mlkdayofservice](http://mygulfport.us/mlkdayofservice). We will also be updating the website with lots of information on projects, seeking volunteers, providing times and locations, Facebook page, photos from prior MLK Day of Service in Gulfport, etc.

For more information, please contact (727) 893-1118.

Your 2017 MLK Day of Service Team: Gail Biron (Technical Events Specialist-Events), Justin Shea (Cultural Facilities Events Supervisor) and Yolanda Roman (Gulfport City Council Member, Ward 3).

The food forest in Clymer Park was given some love in honor of the 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

Officer Mills made a new friend while helping to serve breakfast during Gulfport's 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

From the missionaries in Gulfport, "We participated in the first annual Gulfport Martin Luther King Day of Service. We were able to do roadside cleanup, and the elders worked at a local animal shelter. They were able to tell the whole group about the experience. It was a great day of getting to know people in the community and answering questions about the church, missionary work and bearing testimony."



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## The revitalization of Bartlett Park

**HOME, from front page**

organization that is quick to respond to the needs of the community and the clients in need of its services and advocacy.

They are dedicated to helping people improve their financial wellbeing, qualify for homeownership, maintain their home after purchase, learn how to avoid foreclosure and if the unfortunate event occurs, intervene as an advocate for any person facing a foreclosure action.

Scanlan said NHS also plans to work with the Bartlett Park Neighborhood Association to do more work on existing homes as well.

"We consider this as

phase one of our program. We're looking forward to playing a larger role in the revitalization of the South St. Petersburg CRA," she stated.

Mayor Rick Kriseman said he's more excited about the revitalization efforts in the Bartlett Park and Palmetto Park neighborhoods than what's happening in the downtown area.

"St. Petersburg is booming, but when it comes to affordable housing we recognize there is a significant need in this community," said the mayor, who mentioned that those two neighborhoods are in close proxim-

ity to the Tampa Bay and Bay Harbor waterways.

Council member Karl Nurse said the city is in the process of lowering about 75 percent of the cost to building permits for affordable housing. And since there are approximately 1,000 vacant lots in Midtown and Childs Park, this is a good step in lowering the cost to build on traditional lots.

"Frankly, as you can tell, largely what's being built is upscale housing. Part of our mission here today is to begin part of the step of building some affordable housing," he said.

Wells Fargo Area Pres-

ident Michael Harpole and Vice President Machele Maner were on hand to present an \$80,000 donation to NHS. Through their Leading the Way Home® program Priority Markets Initiative, six million dollars have already been given for neighborhood revitalization, that's 69 grants to nonprofits nationwide this year alone.

"We care deeply about the communities that we serve. These grants all focus on stabilizing and rebuilding our local communities," said Harpole, noting that since 2009 Wells Fargo has contributed more than 36 mil-

lion dollars to 125 communities across the United States.

Tom Tito, president of the Bartlett Park Neighborhood Association and resident for 43 years, witnessed firsthand a lot of changes throughout the neighborhood, such as white flight.

"People were pretty hostile. The white folks in the neighborhood went nuts. It didn't make a lot of sense. People who stayed had a different attitude and people who left well... you can't help the way they felt," said Tito, who is white himself.

By the time he moved into the area, most white residents had left. "Now

that's not really an issue," he said.

Tito credits the community police for keeping drugs off the streets and encourages other neighborhood associations to utilize their community officers.

"You need to work with the police. There are a lot of problems with the criminal justice system, it's not fair...but you can't let that hold you back. You need to do what you can to make your block safer," he said.

For more information on NHS, visit [nhsfl.org](http://nhsfl.org), call 727-821-6897 or stop by at 1600 MLK St. S, St. Petersburg.



Wells Fargo Vice President Machele Maner



Mayor Rick Kriseman



Bartlett Park Neighborhood Assn. Pres. Tom Tito

WWW.THEWEEKLYCHALLENGER.COM

**Gibbs Classes of '63, '65 & '66 Annual Scholarship Christmas Party**  
**Friday, December 23, 2016**  
 8:00 pm - Midnight  
 Tickets \$15  
 BYOF • Cash Bar  
*Free Soft Drinks & Bottled Water*

**Gulfport Casino Ballroom**  
 5500 Shore Blvd. S.,  
 Gulfport, FL 33707

For Tickets and Information Call:  
 Mary Allen: 727-327-7717  
 Jacquelyn Williams: 727-864-3323  
 Shirley Smith: 727-415-4628

**Your Family Vision Center**

Dr. Deborah C. Flanagan  
 Optometric Physician

*"A Personal Touch from Caring Professionals"*

**DC EYE ASSOCIATES**

**Students  
Professionals  
Adults  
Athletes**

- Comprehensive Eye Examinations
- Children's Vision Care
- Contact Lens Specialist
- Eye Disease Management
- Medical Consults for Laser Refractive and Cataract Surgery

**MEDICARE AND MOST VISION PLANS ACCEPTED**

Conveniently Located  
 4940 Central Avenue  
 727-321-6600 x1

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE**  
 Cancelled or Non-Renewed??  
**WE CAN HELP!!!**  
**727-393-4617**  
**Larry Eugene Walker • Insurance**  
 Great Automobile Rates • Over 20 Years of Experience

**B. Brinson Insurance Agency**  
 Auto, Life, Health and Home Owners  
[brinsoninsag@yahoo.com](mailto:brinsoninsag@yahoo.com)

**Bennie Brinson**  
 1830 49th St. So.  
 St. Petersburg, FL 33707  
 Tel: 727-328-9878  
 Cell: 727-215-3048  
 Fax: 727-328-9545

Law Office Of  
**RONALD L. NELSON, P.A.**  
 ATTORNEY AT LAW

- Auto Accidents and Injuries
- Divorce and Family Law
- Employment Discrimination
- Wills and Probate

**1247 First Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33705**  
**727-345-9292 • [www.RonNelsonLaw.com](http://www.RonNelsonLaw.com)**

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask the lawyer to send you free written information about their qualifications and experience.

**SYLVIA J. TAYLOR P.A.**  
 ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW  
*Specializing In Real Estate Closings,  
 Refi's and Probate*  
 1900 Main Street, Suite 750  
 Sarasota, FL 34238  
 (941) 309-5188  
 Fax (941) 309-5201  
[sylviajtaylorpa@cs.com](mailto:sylviajtaylorpa@cs.com)

**ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE CONTROLLING THE WAY YOU EAT?**  
 CALL FOR HELP  
**727-724-6292 (PAT)**  
**FOOD ADDICTS IN RECOVERY**  
 ANONYMOUS OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.foodaddicts.org](http://www.foodaddicts.org)

**Make \$\$\$ as a certified braiding stylist!!!**  
**16 hr Hair braid Certification**  
 Get your share of the Multi-billion dollar  
**Hair industry now!!**  
**1-855-427-4849**  
[www.hairitizsalon.com](http://www.hairitizsalon.com)

**BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!**  
[TheWeeklyChallenger.com](http://TheWeeklyChallenger.com)

**LOOK NO FURTHER FOR CHURCH SUPPLIES**  
 Communion Items • Choir Robes  
 Bulletins • Bibles • Sunday School books  
 Gospel CDs / DVDs and so much more  
**Reader's Choice Book & Gift Store**  
 4341 34th St. S., St. Petersburg  
 (Next to Skyway Mall)  
**(727) 867-3696**  
 Open: Mon. - Sat. 10 am - 6:30 pm

**Deannie K's Beauty Salon**  
*Beauty is more than skin deep.*  
 Call TODAY for an appointment  
**Phone: 727-894-1734**  
 2500 9th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33705



# CHURCH DIRECTORY



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

**Sunday Worship Services.....7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.**  
**Wednesday Mid-Day Bible Study .....Noon - 12:30 p.m.**  
**Wednesday Prayer Service.....6:00 p.m.**  
**Wednesday Bible Study .....6:30 p.m.**  
**Youth Chapel Services - 921 20th Street South**  
**Sunday Worship Service .....10:00 a.m.**  
**Wednesday Small Group 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: [church5@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:church5@tampabay.rr.com) Web site: [www.bmmbc.org](http://www.bmmbc.org)

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



Rev. Rickey L. Houston,  
Pastor

**“God’s House 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 School.....9:30 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting (Tuesday) .....6:00 p.m.  
Bible Study (Tuesday) .....7:00 p.m.  
Baptist Training Union (Sunday) ..4:00 p.m.

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



Rev. Dr. Doral R. Pulley  
Spiritual Leader



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


**WEEKLY SERVICES**

<b>Sundays</b> 9:00 am Old Testament Survey 9:45 am Meditation and Devotions 10:00 am Morning Worship	<b>Tuesdays</b> 6:30 pm New Testament Survey  <b>Thursdays</b> 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.





Rev. J.C. Pritchett, Pastor  
Mrs. Karen Pritchett

**Faith Church**  
**4301 13th Avenue South**  
**(Childs Park Rec. Center)**  
**Saint Petersburg**  
**11 A.M. Sunday**

**[www.faithchsp.com](http://www.faithchsp.com) • 727-240-8373**  
**@FaithCHSP on Twitter**  
**Faith Church Saint Petersburg on Facebook**



Bro. Antonio Seay,  
Senior Minister

**Church of Christ  
@Pinecrest Park**  
301 38th Street North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33713  
727-289-5025  
[www.pinecrestparkcoc.org](http://www.pinecrestparkcoc.org)

Sunday Morning Early Worship @ 8:15 AM  
Sunday School @ 9:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Second Worship @ 10:30 AM  
Sunday Evening Service @ 5:00 PM  
Monday Men & Ladies Bible Class @ 7:00 PM  
Tuesday New Converts Class @ 6:30 PM  
Wednesday Bible Class all ages @ 7:00 PM

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

**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.

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



**Pastor Claude Williams**

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*


**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)



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.

**Friendship Missionary Baptist Church**  
3300 31st St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 906-8300 [www.fmbctheship.org](http://www.fmbctheship.org)  
Email: [fmbc3300@verizon.net](mailto:fmbc3300@verizon.net)




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 Wednesday in the Word and Bread of Life 7 p.m. Prayer and Wednesday in the Word 7 p.m. Youth Enrichment

*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.*



Bro. Robert Smith

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

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

**BETHEL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**2901 - 54th Avenue South**  
**St. Petersburg, FL. 33712**  
**(727) 866-2567**



Rev. Manuel Sykes

**SERVICES**  
**Sunday School:**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday Worship Service:**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Bible Study: Wednesdays**  
**at 6:30 p.m.**

YOUR CHURCH AD COULD BE HERE  
Contact: 727-896-2922



# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### Schedule of Services

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



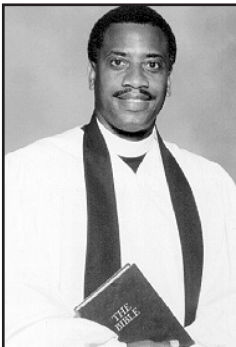
Rev. Brian K. Brown

## THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

### SUNDAY SERVICES/WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
9:00 a.m. Breakfast (First Sunday only)  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School (First Sunday Only)  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. / Devotion 10:15 a.m.  
Praise & Worship 10:20 a.m. / Worship Services 10:30 a.m.  
Saints of Prayer - Monday 12:00 noon  
Weekly Bible Study - Tuesday 6:30 p.m.  
Adult Choir Rehearsals - Thursday 6:30 p.m.  
*Van service is available by calling: (727) 327-0015*

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



Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.  
Pastor

## YOUR CHURCH AD COULD BE HERE

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



### Without Walls International Church

Senior Pastor, Randy White  
Sundays at 9:00am and 11:00am  
Thursdays and 7:00pm  
4414 N. Grady Ave Tampa, FL 33614  
[www.withoutwalls.org](http://www.withoutwalls.org) 813-879-HOPE

# 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 December Dec 16- Year End Meet-

ing-7:00 p.m.  
Dec 17 - Christmas with the Community Extravaganza-Time 10:00 a.m-12 noon  
Dec 25 - Special Christmas Morning Early Worship Service-9:30 a.m.  
Dec 26 - Church Office Closed  
Dec 31 - Watch Night Services at St. Mark-10 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 Sunday: 9:30 a.m.  
Baptist Training Union is each Sunday: 5:00 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 6:00 p.m. Children in the community are welcomed to join us.  
Mime/Praise Dance Rehearsal on Sundays: 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
Sunday School Teachers' Meeting is held every Tuesday: 7:00 p.m.  
Senior Hour of Power Bible Study is held every Wednesday: 9:30 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study every Wednesday evening: 7:00 p.m.  
Children Youth Ministry Bible Study 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month: 7:30 p.m.



## Pastor's Corner

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

### What is your Promised Land?

God brought the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage through the wilderness and into their Promised Land. The Promised Land was also known as the land flowing with milk and honey (Exodus 3:17). Milk and honey was not literal but it represented the infinite possibilities of the land. The fertility of the land would be like milk and the sweetness of the land would be like honey. Let us open our hearts and minds to divine unlimited ideas.  
God led the Hebrew people into their Promised Land. During the day, they followed the pillar of cloud and at night they followed the pillar of fire (Exodus 13:21-22). God's leadership was not dependent on the temporal conditions of day or night. The pillar

of cloud represents the spiritual understanding and bright clarity that we have during the daylight. The pillar of fire represents the Holy Spirit that leads us in the night season burning up any thought, word or behavior that stands between us and our Promised Land. If we follow the direction of the Holy Spirit beyond any external condition, we too will be led right into our Promised Land.  
Today, our Promised Land is not a physical place but it is a place in consciousness of health, prosperity and harmony in all relationships. God is a Promise Keeper. All the promises of God in Christ are yes and amen (2 Corinthians 1:20). What has God promised you?

## McCabe UMC

McCabe United Methodist church invites the community to celebrate its 111th anniversary on Sunday, Dec. 11th at the church, located at 2800 26th Ave. South, St. Petersburg.

The special guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Candace Lewis, Gulf Central District Superintendent of the United Methodist Church.

There will be two services – one at 11 a.m and one at 2 p.m. The afternoon service will feature liturgical dance and musical performances by area youth.

For more information, call 727-867-5287 or visit [mccabeumchurch.org](http://mccabeumchurch.org).



## Friendship MBC

INVITATION SUNDAY AT THE SHIP - Need a place to call home, we're not perfect, all of us have sinned and fallen short, you can come here just as you are, seeking a Word from the Lord, great Teaching and Preaching is what you desire, well, look no further...The Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, which is often referred to as "THE SHIP", will hold their regular Worship Sunday Services at 7:45 am, 10:45 am and Sunday Church School at 9:30 am  
December at the Ship  
Dec. 9 at 7 pm – The Annual Church Conference  
The Ministries Christmas Break is scheduled from December 12-30, 2016 - Sunday Worship will be as usual 7:45 am and 10:45 am. Please plan to invite your family and friends to worship.  
December 14, 2016 @ 7:00 pm – "WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE"  
The Tribe of Asher (November) and Tribe of Naphtali (December) ARE in charge of the Family

Love Fellowship Dinner, SEE YOUR CAPTAINS ASAP PLEASE. Pastor is asking the Adult Mass Choir, Male Chorus, Nurses Guild and the Third Sunday Ushers to serve. This is the Last Wednesday Night Live for 2016, all members, family and friends as well as the Community are asked to be a part of the Spiritual Worship Service, Communion will be Served.  
"EMMANUEL – GOD IS WITH US"  
CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, DEC. 25, 2016  
Church School will begin at 9:15 am and Worship Service will begin at 10:00 am  
The Annual Watch Night Service will be held on Saturday, December 31, 2016 at 9:45 p.m. Pastor is asking for The Layman Ministry and all men who can volunteer as parking attendants to please prepare to serve. In addition Pastor is asking for the Adult Mass Choir and Male Chorus to serve. The Nurses Ministry and all Adult Usher Min-

istries to serve. Dr. Joseph Gordon and our own Pastor Dr. John A. Evans, Sr., will be our proclaimers. Please bring your family and friends to close out the year 2016 with a great praise celebration. "To God Be the Glory."  
Something to know... GOD is still in CONTROL! "THE SHIP" won't sail without YOU! For additional information on any of the announcements, please contact us by the following methods: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 3300 31st Street South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33712 Church Office: (727) 906-8300 - E-Mail: [fmbc3300@verizon.net](mailto:fmbc3300@verizon.net)  
NOW "LIVE STREAMING": Visit Our Website: [www.fmbctheship.net](http://www.fmbctheship.net) Visit Our FACEBOOK PAGE Visit West Coast Baptist District Association Website: [www.experiencecoast.com](http://www.experiencecoast.com)  
NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH? Call our Transportation Ministry – (727) 906-8300 – MONDAY – FRI. FROM 9 AM - 3 PM.

**WUJM 99.1 FM**  
**MORNING INSPIRATIONS**  
ON THE AIR  
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 6AM  
DR. DORAL R. PULLEY  
LISTEN LIVE  
"WEeping MAY ENDURE FOR A NIGHT  
BUT JOY COMES IN THE MORNING  
(PSALM 30:5)!"  
511 PRESCOTT ST. SOUTH • ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33712  
[WWW.UNITYOFMIDTOWN.ORG](http://WWW.UNITYOFMIDTOWN.ORG)

*Mount Pilgrim Presents...*  
**THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST**  
BY  
THE YOUTH GROUP  
Sun, December 18 @ 5PM  
&  
Wed, December 21 @ 6:30 PM



# HEALTH & BEAUTY

## Prostate cancer impacts a high percentage of African-American males

BY DR. SEAN CAVANAUGH

There is a relatively quiet health crisis in America that has flown below the national radar for decades and it disproportionately affects African-American men more than any other group. Statistics from the Prostate Cancer Foundation clearly reveal a disparity.

- Prostate cancer strikes one-in-seven men.
- African-American men are 60-percent more likely to be afflicted.
- African-American men are 2.4-times more likely to die as a result of prostate cancer than men of other ethnicities.
- Prostate cancer in African-American men is more prevalent than any other ethnicity in the nation.

Although the reason for the great disparity has not been positively identified, it is widely believed that a combination of genetics, lifestyles, nutritional habits and the quality and frequency of medical care all play a role.

A key message for men of all ethnicities is: Prostate cancer screenings help save

lives. It is a simple test, routinely performed during an annual physical exam whereby a doctor assesses the prostate for enlargement or abnormalities and checks the blood in what is known as a Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test. PSA is a protein secreted only by the prostate and is easily measured in the blood of all men.

If the level of PSA falls outside a specific range considered normal, additional testing may be required to determine if the individual has prostate cancer. The PSA test is effective in detecting cancer prior to the onset of any symptoms, and that is where such tests can be true lifesavers.

**Remember:**

- The best time to check for, and treat, prostate cancer is when there are no symptoms.
- Prostate cancer is most beatable when detected early.
- If you have symptoms that may include, but are not limited to: painful urination, blood in the urine, or persistent pain or stiffness in the lower back, hips or upper thighs, it is absolutely essential to be evaluated by a doctor as soon as possible.

For many years, when prostate cancer was detected, a biopsy was the primary evaluation and monitoring tool. The problem is, there are inherent shortcomings in biopsies. Tissue samples from one area of the prostate might not reveal the level of cancer in another.

Fortunately, advances in three dimensional imaging, known as Multi-parametric MRI, gives doctors a new tool that allows them to monitor the entire prostate in three dimensions and helps guide decisions on treatment options.

Sometimes surgery may be required to remove the prostate and surrounding lymph nodes, other times radiation and brachytherapy (implanting of tiny radioactive “seeds” directly into the tissue) are effective.

In some men, certain hormone therapies have proven effective in shrinking prostate tumors, but such treatments have proven problematic for others. The death rate for African-Americans who have undergone hormone therapy in treatment of prostate cancer is much higher than men of other



ethnicities.

Multi-parametric MRI on the other hand has proven to be effective in all groups as it often provides latitude for doctors and patients to proceed with “active surveillance,” a non-invasive monitoring option. Multi-parametric imaging allows doctors to keep a close eye on the situation and can reduce or eliminate the need for surgery.

Advances are being made with ultrasound therapy, but it’s not in widespread use as doctors are evaluating and determining if it is viable for

patients.

The combination of treatment options available today portends a good long-term prognosis for men with early stage prostate cancer. While is it not accurate or even prudent to pronounce a patient “cured” or “cancer free” after treatment, follow up exams will show if there is no evidence of disease.

According to the American Cancer Society, with early detection and treatment of prostate cancer, the five-year relative survival rate is almost percent, the 10-year survival

rate is 98 percent and the 15-year rate is 95 percent.

For all men over 40 and African Americans in particular, have your doctor perform an annual screening as part of your routine physical. Detecting and treating prostate cancer in the early stages could save your life.

*Sean Cavanaugh, MD, is chief of radiation oncology and medical director of the Prostate Center at Cancer Treatment Centers of America at Southeastern Regional Medical Center in the metropolitan Atlanta community of Newnan, Ga.*

CONNECT WITH US!

facebook

YouTube

twitter

### MLK Day of Service

## A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF

Monday, Jan. 16, 2017

If you have a community-based project to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr., register your project before Jan. 16 so others can volunteer to serve with you!

Organize your club, friends, neighborhood, business co-workers, school, sorority or fraternity or place of worship and inspire others to make a difference.

Visit [www.spcollege.edu/MLK Service](http://www.spcollege.edu/MLK Service)  
• Award project guidelines  
• Link to apply online for awards

Shameka Jones, Pharm.D.  
Project Manager  
[jones.shameka@spcollege.edu](mailto:jones.shameka@spcollege.edu)

Check out our website for places you can volunteer.

[www.spcollege.edu/MLKService](http://www.spcollege.edu/MLKService) 727-341-4601 or 727-341-4602

St. Petersburg College is an Equal Access/Equal Opportunity Institution. 14-5111-10

it was confidential  
it was free  
I got tested because...  
**I had sex**  
it was convenient  
it was easy

Are you sexually active and unsure of your HIV status? ASAP provides confidential, free HIV testing that can give you peace of mind. And whether the result is positive or negative, ASAP is here for you with education for staying HIV-negative or services and treatment to keep you living healthy with HIV. For nearly 30 years, ASAP has been your experts in life-changing HIV care.

Appointments are not required and your results can be ready in as little as 15 minutes.

African Americans represent 12% of the U.S. population, yet account for 44% of new HIV infections

Nearly 1 in 8 living with HIV in the U.S. are unaware they are infected

About 1 in 4 new HIV infections is among youth ages 13-24

For more information visit **IGotTestedBecause.org**

ASAP