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VOLUME 34 NUMBER 27

March 7-13, 2002

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A Night of Celebration Amidst Tragedy

by Candace K. Clarke
Challenger Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG -- On Wednesday, February 27, under the direction of Cody "Spec" Clark, Gibbs presented *Four Little Black Girls*, a tribute to the tragic death of the children in a 1963 church bombing. Although the play was centered on this senseless act of violence, it also focused on triumph through the strength of African-American traditions. Once again, Gibbs High School showed off a remarkable range of talent through the arts.

While some may have been sitting at home waiting for the Grammy awards to start, the lucky ones were treated to a stellar performance by Gibbs High in celebration of Black History month, marked with energetic dancers, gifted musicians, and equipped with the moving spirit of song. The full-house audience was swept into the emotion and spirit of the program, which carried its watchers from sorrow to solace, and also moved them to joy and laughter.

The theatre was packed in anticipation of the program, whose primary focus was on the foundation of the Black church and its evolving role in the lives of African-Americans. In his program dedication, Clark noted, "The Black church, over and over again, throws out rich, dazzling images which both delights and surprises its surrounding communities. It pays tribute to the courage, dignity and the amazing endurance of the African-American people. Her sacred contributions, and her place in history is secured."

Four Little Black Girls was an impressive, multi-cultural production by a school known for its creative talents, with performance collaborations including the Gibbs Gladiator Gospel Choir, the Clark Ensemble Dancers, with the Gibbs orchestra and choir band all providing the necessary elements for a successful night.

The two-act production



Four Little Girls, starring (from L to R) Tiara Johnson, Nicole Phillip, Amber McIntyre, Megan Wood

began with high energy as members of the Clark Ensemble Dancers, dressed in African Kenfe clothing, swept through the theatre and onto the stage. The audience's enthusiasm was immediately captured by the beat and rhythms of the music, to the sound of the bongo drums, and the scene, as churchgoers dressed in their black Sunday best met the African dancers.

Principal Barbara Shorter presented, "the Libation," explaining the tradition of giving thanks in celebration of ancestry. Immediately following was the singing of the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and a soulful rendition of "America the Beautiful," sung by Gibbs' own Jasmine Tate. The performance was also marked by the appearance of Gibbs' JROTC in presentation of the American flag onstage.

The scenes in the first act of *Four Little Black Girls* were nothing short of inspiring. During Scene 1, "Sunday Morning," the gospel choir, with the orchestra accompanying on "Total Praise," brought the energetic spirit of a Sunday morning church service to the audience. Vocalists Evonna Lewis, Zema Florence, and Wanessa Spencer, were featured on the selections, respectively, "I Just Want to Thank You," "It Shall be Done," and "Living, He Loves Me." During the final song of the scene, audience members were clapping, with several on their feet, as the power of the choir captured an uplifting spirit.

The mood of the play changed to a somber,



Cody Clark, Director

thoughtful tone as Scene Two, "The Basement," opened. Events coordinator, Sharion Thurman, retold the tragic events of that Sunday morning on September 15, 1963, when 11 year old Denise McNair, and 14 -year-olds Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, and Carole Robertson lost their lives in the Birmingham, AL, bombing. Played by freshmen Tiara Johnson, Amber McIntyre, Nicole Phillip, and Megan Woodall dressed in historically designed Sunday outfits, the "little girls" stood motionless as Thurman spoke. The tragedy was presented as a thunderous sonic, explosion, while flashing strobe lights circled the stage. The girls collapsed to the floor. In a beautifully moving balletic piece, an "angel," dancer Ashley Penman, appeared, guiding the girls towards heaven. The First Act concluded with the funeral of the girls, set at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, and the reading of words by Dr. Martin Luther King, as spoken in the eulogy back in '63.

When asked about his thoughts on these scenes, Melvin Hannah, whose niece, Wanessa Spencer was a performer, remarked,

Four Girls

continued on pg. 15

Fighting For Our City Streets

by Candace K. Clarke
Challenger Staff Writer

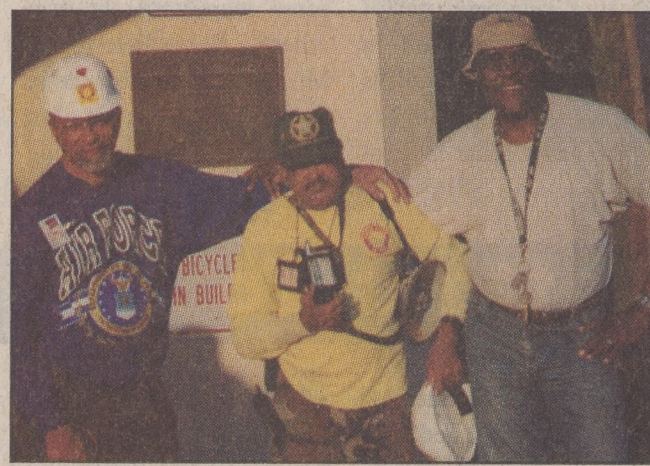
ST. PETERSBURG -- On Tuesday, February 26th, a crowd of nearly 40 ralliers gathered at 6 p.m. at the Enoch Davis Community Center, located at 1111 18th Ave S. Strong, determined, and united, they marched the streets of a crime-worn community, despite the threat of danger from possible retaliation. They were tired of drugs frequenting their city streets, and they were going to let everybody know.

Led by community activist Andy Garr, the motivated ralliers marched in their yellow shirts, white hard-hats, and armed with bull-horns, chanting, "Up with hope, down with dope!"

It was time to fight.

The group's diversity reflected a widespread concern, as several of these citizens came from other districts and cities, including Tampa, to take part in the rally. Racially diverse, this crowd was equal in gender, and included several children. Several of the city's councilmen arrived, ready to march, united by the threat of drugs.

A notable African-American official, District 6 councilmember Ernest Williams, was there. In a show of support, fellow councilmembers James Bennett, (District 5), Richard Kriseman (District 1), and John Bryan (District 2) also added strength to the group. Says Bennett, "Ernest made the call, and we



L to R: Charles Payne, Levi Harris, Leroy Lewis

came."

Other prominent African-American leaders also took part in last Tuesday's march, including local NAACP President, Darryl Rouson, who was pleased with the turnout, and New York Yankees intervention coordinator, Ron Dock. There are several success stories here," explained Dock, admitting, "I used to run drugs in these streets, and now I'm here to help clean them up."

The marchers met at the community center for a motivational talk by Andy Garr, a man who has been in this fight for several years. Armed with experience, he warned that some people might try to deter them from their cause, but stay strong.

After a few words of thanks from Mayor Rick Baker, and with the appearance of Chief of Police Chuck Harmon and his officers, the ralliers left Enoch Davis and headed down 12th Street. They chanted slogans such as "Save the babies, save the children," and "We're fired

up, we ain't taking no more!" At one point, the marchers stopped at a small beige house with boarded windows, on the corner of 12th and 15th. Forming a circle, the group began to chant, "Up with hope, down with dope," a mantra that would last for at least fifteen minutes. In response, neighborhood kids gathered, anxious for Garr's group to leave. In a scene consistent throughout the night, they taunted their own messages towards the ralliers, yelling for them to get out of their neighborhood, and yelling at the cops who escorted the marchers into the darkening streets.

They would not be discouraged.

The march, which went on until 9 p.m., has a value that cannot be understated. "We are interrupting a whole lot of business tonight!" proclaimed Williams and Garr.

Despite the disheartening taunting from the kids, the ralliers knew that they were appreciated by people

Fighting
continued on pg. 6

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DEBORAH COWANS

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ENTERTAINMENT

by Barry A. McIntosh

Philadelphia's Philadanco... 'Phabulous'



Joan Myers Brown, Founder/Executive/Artistic Director and Barry McIntosh

ST. PETERSBURG-- Hello St. Petersburg! There's a new dance company on the scene. On Friday, March 1, a sparse crowd at Bayfront's Mahaffey Theatre witnessed the spectacle of *Philadanco*, a dance company from Philadelphia. Founder and Executive/Artistic Director Joan Myers Brown, who also made the trip, had every reason to be proud of her dance troupe. The production showcased the tremendous versatility and innovative dancing of this seasoned dance company. Consequently, the word is out! Despite the paltry showing at the Mahaffey, the dance company played with tremendous integrity and intensity, treating the crowd to an inspiring and rousing performance.

Philadanco performed

4 ballets, two of which were choreographed by women, and debuted on this tour. They opened the show with *Labess II*. Labess is a Tunisian expression meaning that, in the face of all we must confront in life, "It's all right, I'm okay." It provided a strong statement to open their production. The ballet has afro-euro roots, and the dancers' movements in concert with the strong and haunting melodies reflected the choreographer's desire to meet all adversity head on, overcoming it. The stage lighting was a perfect complement as the dancers gracefully moved into the shadows, and confidently exposed themselves to the subtle lights. Their dark colored costumes were a

Philadanco
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THERE'S A REASON TO READ **THE WEEKLY CHALLENGER!**

OPINIONS

The Weekly Challenger

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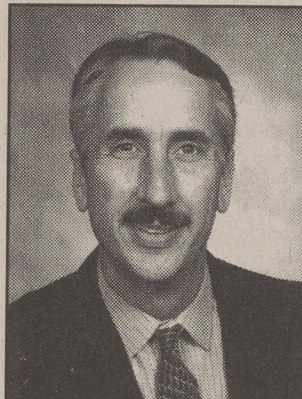
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Mentors Needed!



Mayor Rick Baker

Please consider mentoring. While there is no shortage of children who need mentors, there is a shortage of adults willing and able to help them. This shortage was the push behind the Governor's Mentoring Initiative, which grants state employees up to one hour of administrative leave per week to participate in programs that mentor children. The initiative also encourages businesses and civic organizations to sponsor similar programs.

Mentoring is a statewide effort, but it

requires local action to be a success. That's why the governor is working with the Florida League of Cities through the new Municipal Mentoring Initiative, which is designed to encourage cities to follow the state's lead by encouraging their employees to become mentors.

We already know the benefits of mentoring. Statistics show that young people who are mentored are less likely to use drugs, drink alcohol, skip school or get into fights. And we know mentoring can mark the difference between educational success and failure.

The City of St. Petersburg certainly recognizes the importance of education; it's one of the pillars of the Vision 2020 plan. And we have put our money where our mouth is by encouraging city employees to become mentors.

Few individuals make a major impact on others during their lifetime. Even less accomplish things that remain in memory after they pass. Mr. Cleveland Johnson is an exception to both. His philosophy was clear and simple. One could not argue about his focus and how it was the catalyst that influenced the vision of countless people who met him.

Mr. Johnson was an entrepreneur in the truest sense. He created a successful newspaper, *The Weekly Challenger*, out of virtually nothing, and in doing so he controlled his destiny, and helped others do the same. That is what

he preached incessantly; be in control of your own destiny. To achieve that sort of freedom, one must sell, and even more importantly, sell what belongs to them, not someone else's product or service. In other words, find yourself a business, work it, be successful at it, and thus dramatically reduce your dependence upon others for support. Working for someone else, and having them control your income, has relegated many African-Americans to a beggar race, in some cases more severely than others. Nevertheless, as Mr. Johnson experienced it, working for someone else, and buying and spending

more than selling has perpetuated some level of subjugation.

An often-repeated story from those who tried as they could to write stories for him was his response to essentially "go sell an ad, and keep your story." He promoted the participation in commercial enterprise, controlling your destiny. In addition, he backed up what initially seemed like a harsh request by taking so many under his wings and training them to "sell." This town is filled with people who took his advice, and are forever indebted to Mr. Johnson for the success they've achieved.

For those of us who were not privileged to meet Mr. Johnson and fully understand his philosophy, it does us well to understand the import of the words, "Black People Must Sell As Well As Buy, Else Remain A 'Beggar Race.'" This is critically important when we look at this equation from the buying side. For example, the National Urban League reported that during the decade of the 90s, "African-American buying power increased almost 73 percent." The challenge we face with that increase in disposable income is the problem with too much spending. Moreover, a 1997 U.S.

Census Bureau report showed that Blacks spent from .5 - 15% more money, on average, than all American consumers for necessities like Food, Telephone, Utilities, Clothing, and Major Appliances. Another study by the National Tour Association showed that the Black family median income was 54% - 65% of white families in the four age groups 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, and 65+. Conversely, the same study reported that a Black family earning \$30,000 a year spends as much as a white family earning \$50,000. No wonder that Mr. Johnson stressed "Selling" over "Buying."

The net result: a negative net worth for a significant majority of African-Americans when compared to white Americans with comparable incomes.

"Cleve," as many affectionately called him, is no longer here, but the stark reality of our plight remains. It thus does us all well to reflect heavily on what motivated him, his legacy: "Black People Must Sell As Well As Buy, Else Remain A 'Beggar Race'," lest we find ourselves failing to heed Mr. Johnson's warning issued out of love and respect for all of us!

Letters To The Editor

A recent "Business in Black" column stated "Rumors... have St. Petersburg/Gibbs campus being dressed up to make it a marketable asset for sale." That is most definitely not true.

St. Petersburg College (formerly St. Petersburg Junior College) is moving into an expanded role to serve the educational needs of the community. This in-

cludes the addition of selected four-year degree programs. These programs were not originally housed on the St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus due to a fear of competition, expressed by the city and the Legislature, with the nearby University of South Florida-St. Petersburg site. However, the St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus is a central part of the new col-

lege mission to provide greater access to higher education in Pinellas County.

Over the past decade more than 50 million dollars have been spent in construction and renovation projects to make the campus one of the finest in the state. The Music Center with its beautiful new pipe organ is a complement to the college's outstanding

music program and an asset to the whole community. The Technical and Science Buildings are being renovated this year and a major new library is currently in the planning phase.

Enrollment on the campus is up more than 5% this year. Nearly 10,000 students attended classes on the campus on Fifth Avenue last year and more

than 26% of these were minority students. This year, the campus recognized some 400 African-American students from St. Petersburg elementary, middle, and high schools for their academic achievement. Our strength clearly lies in the rich diversity of our students, faculty and staff—past, present and future.

St. Petersburg College

is committed to providing full educational opportunities on the St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus for all students. We will continue to be your community college.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Roberts
Provost, St. Petersburg/
Gibbs Campus

Dear Editor:

News, information and views in your recent articles, (Jordan Park HOPE VI Residents Still Wait, Hope For Economic Self-Sufficiency, Feb. 21-27, 2002), (Council Okays City 'Negotiations' To Develop Mercy Hospital Site, Jan. 10-16, 2002), and (Letters To The Editor, Iveta M. Berry, Feb. 21-27, 2002) prompted Source of Health Inc. to share with your readers the following letter to the St. Petersburg City Council calling on the Council to set a PUBLIC HEARING on the Mercy Hospital site development NOW:

February 20, 2002
City Council
P.O. Box 2842
St. Petersburg, FL

All City Council Members:
In recent weeks, South St. Petersburg has experi-

enced a flurry of drug-related violence, including the homicidal death of a 16-year-old African American male. Heightened feelings of alarm, frustration, and despair have abounded. Press conferences have been held, speeches made, drug marches contemplated, law enforcement issues re-examined, and community activism encouraged. And, of course, the term "economic development" has taken its usual place on the stage of rhetoric: a deeply serious vision for some of us, a handy term of convenience for others.

As you know, Source of Health Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt African American health organization based in St. Petersburg. We have, in recent months, through meetings, correspondence and presentations to Mayor Rick Baker, his administration and City Council, outlined

the grave racial disparities in health, education and economics in our city and attempted to engage their attention and support for a comprehensive, culturally-grounded, indigenous vision of self-help for our community through establishment of a health and lifestyle institute to be owned and managed by the African American community on the city-owned historic Mercy Hospital site. Not only is the site of great historical significance to the African American community: it also has immense economic potential for the community, provided that it has ownership.

The Mayor, his administration, and City Council have completely ignored and rejected the ideas, insight, talent, skills, and energy emanating from Source of Health and its supporters. They have recklessly disregarded the

input of 1,400 city residents who signed petitions as well as resolutions and letters of support sent by civic and professional organizations, businesses, churches, elected officials, physicians, nurses and two local hospitals. Source of Health has been led on a trail of deceit since July 17, 2001 through the present, culminating in a placating exercise in the form of a "city council workshop" on November 8, 2001 despite decisions having been made for the Mercy Hospital site during several years prior and without public hearing.

Source of Health attempted to stop the runaway train of big business, big money, and outside interests from again undermining our community's inner resources, self-esteem, and endeavors to heal itself from within. Seeming quick fixes, polit-

ical expediency, behind-the-scenes activity, and prospects for outside financial gain continue to repress any emergence of true self-directed plans for establishment of economic power in the Black community.

It is incumbent upon our elected representatives to listen acutely to, and be ready, willing and able to support and facilitate the efforts of determined and focused voices arising from the soul of the community, with the intent of taking the lead in solving its own problems.

Source of Health Inc. SHALL CONTINUE to work towards the fulfillment of its mission, which is to create and implement innovative, culturally-grounded approaches and solutions to the dire health crisis of African Americans, to establish a permanent health institute, owned

and managed by the African American community, and to envision this institute at the historic Mercy Hospital site in St. Petersburg.

Justice in all aspects of life for all of our communities will serve to elevate the character, integrity, and quality of life for the entire City of St. Petersburg.

Now, therefore, Source of Health Inc. herein makes the following request to the City Council of St. Petersburg: that a PUBLIC HEARING be held on the disposition of the Mercy Hospital site prior to the City Council taking any further action regarding disposition of the Mercy Hospital site.

Yours truly,
Carol Ann Cobb, M.D.,
President
Board of Directors, SOH Inc.
St. Petersburg, FL

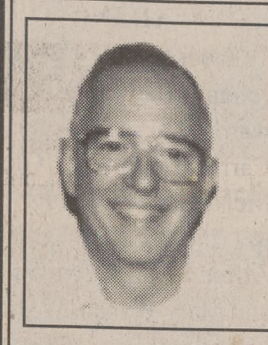
We Welcome Your Letters To The Editor.

Please Submit To:
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Black Farts

On February 26, 1985 at the Grammy Awards ceremony, African-American musicians won awards in several categories. Lionel Richie's 'Can't Slow Down' won best album of 1984. Tina Turner's 'What's Love Got to Do With It' took the best record slot and earned her the title Best Female Pop Vocalist. The Pointer Sisters won best Pop Group for 'Jump.'

TAMPA BAY AREA NEWS



OPINION

by Fenn Ellery

City's Initiative - Good Intentions But Too Slow

On Thursday, January 28, *The Weekly Challenger* printed the fifth column in the initial series on the Racial Income Gap. That evening the City of St. Petersburg gave a progress report on the Midtown Initiative which it is laboriously trying to gear up.

There were no villains - but there will be lots and lots of victims - Midtown residents! Roughly 80 people attended and I believe that every one was a good person with good intentions. From the meeting I can not say in good conscience that the Segregation District shortchanging will end, or the gap will be closed.

The five articles in the prior series here cited that \$2-5 million per week are leaking, still every week!! That runs above \$100 million per year, possibly above one-third billion each year. The City's plan does not begin to address a serious effort to close that gap in the near term!

Deputy Mayor Goliath Davis III is right on target with several of the items. This columnist commits to regularly try to spell out tangible results of meaningful size. Davis is recruiting "ambassadors for Midtown"... I volunteer! But the City needs a "loyal opposition," or perhaps constructive skeptics. Will Mr. Davis keep the communication channels open, welcoming input?

More than a year ago the City publicized and conducted Visioning 2020, alleging it would be a grass roots effort to develop goals. It fell far short of that, turning into a developer/architect exercise to legitimize some land use goals. My wife and I sat in on the majority of the Steering Committee meetings, and know firsthand.

In writing, we asked that structural barriers - specifically the racial income gap, and the attitudes of racism and divisiveness - be clearly addressed on a sliding scale to start today to cut them in half by 2020. The City of St. Petersburg didn't want to hear that last year (and we caught some flak). It ignores it today!

The City's 2/28 report has recommendations, broken down by 10 objectives each with "Appropriate Actions." But these come a year after Visioning 2020 and months after the initial focus group and public meetings. Far too many of the Appropriate Actions for Objectives are generalities.

Examples? "Establish measurable indicators to

track progress and activities in Midtown." "Establish systems for tracking pertinent statistical data." How many months are needed to write down pertinent statistics? "Continue to support the local education system..." "Encourage... grocery store, skating rink... similar entertainment venue, and banking and postal services..." We know that Mayors Baker and Davis have worked hard toward a full-service postal center!

The verbs? Encourage (used five times). Establish. Support. Work with. Coordinate. Collaborate. Continue. Target. Market. Diversify. Create. "Stimulate the local ministerial alliance..." However, they don't tell what specific actions (other than writing the report, visiting some other cities, etc.) have taken place in the past months or year.

According to my notes Deputy Mayor Davis committed to "operationally stated goals, so progress could be measured. This report did not have them. There have been nice ideas, from well-intentioned City officials and consultants, but not tangible results. There have obviously been some results in recent months, but..."

The report did talk about marketing the community, about its rich history, the people, the potential, etc. Misperceptions need to be addressed - but little evidence yet of specifics and intent. Criminals are 2-5% of the population - but the true value of the 95% plus of law-abiding residents is addressed only by dribbles and (in my opinion) as tokenism by the largest newspaper.

More than a year ago we talked about getting real grass roots involvement. Insurance agents go into homes to sell; encyclopedia salesmen the same. Young people visit homes to sell subscriptions to this newspaper. Census takers did follow-up home visits as needed.

Won't Supervisor of Elections people be working weekends and evenings to demo the new touch screen machines? If so, won't they be getting compensatory time off? Has the City selected a statistically valid sample of blocks in Midtown - to canvas, or to set up local group meetings in the block to get real grass roots participation?

More to come on this topic. Feedback and your comments are respectfully and eagerly sought: Fenn Ellery, 866-2540, patn-

fenn@aol.com.

(The views expressed by The Challenger columnists are not necessarily the views of The Weekly Challenger. Fenn Ellery, is a resident of St. Petersburg, and is a member of AAVREC, the African-American Voter Research and Education Committee, and CUSP, Citizens United in Shared Prosperity.)

Community Wellness Day

ST. PETERSBURG - The Sanderlin Center in partnership with the American Cancer Society, St. Petersburg Weed and Seed, St. Petersburg Free Clinic, Pinellas County Health Department (Office of Minority Health Program), Mammography Voucher Program and St. Petersburg Chapter of Black Nurses Association, Inc. are having a Community Wellness Day on Saturday, March 9th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the James B. Sanderlin Family Center, located at 2335 22nd Ave. South.

Learn more about prostate, colorectal and breast cancer from local physicians. Free screenings will be given for high blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol and diabetes, as well as clinical breast exams.

Other activities are also scheduled, including children's activities and an auto theft rally (with free anti-theft items given away).

Everyone is invited and encouraged to come join us!

Parenting Wisely - A Family Affair

ST. PETERSBURG - Family help is here! Parenting teenagers can be a challenge for the whole family. Help for the family is here!

Parenting Adolescents Wisely (PAW) uses a computer-based program that allows families to work together to make better choices. It teaches skills through viewing different problem situations and working through them at the family's own pace. The PAW staff will bring the computer to your home, community center, or wherever the family feels most comfortable.

Some family topics presented are: getting chores done, finishing homework, resisting peer pressure and respecting others. It becomes a family

Negro Baseball is Back!

ST. PETERSBURG - On Saturday, March 16th, at 1 p.m., see, hear and enjoy the last generation of original negro baseball players and also the next generation of new negro players.

There is free admission

to this event at Campbell Park, 16th St. and 7th Ave. S., across from Tropicana Field.

For sponsorship information or donations, contact Thomas English at (727) 504-1587.

Ramp from 28th Street South to Northbound I-275 to be Closed Night of March 10th

ST. PETERSBURG - The entrance ramp from 28th Street South to northbound I-275 will be closed between 7:30 p.m., Sunday, March 10th, and

6:30 a.m., Monday, March 11th.

Go north on 28th Street South, then east on 5th Avenue North to enter northbound I-275.

Uhuru Furniture and Collectibles Grand Opening Celebration

ST. PETERSBURG - Need furniture, kitchen wares, wall art or just want to browse through some intriguing items supporters have donated? Check out Uhuru Furniture & Collectibles, now open at 945 Central Avenue, another vibrant enterprise joining this growing stretch of commerce becoming known as "furniture row". They'll be holding their Grand Opening celebration on Saturday, March 9th, with food, music and speakers beginning at 2 p.m.

Selling good quality furniture and household items that have been donated by supporters throughout the Tampa Bay area, Uhuru Furniture & Collectibles is the newest project of the African People's Education and Defense Fund (APEDF). The store is open Tuesday

through Saturday from 10:10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The APEDF's mission is to defend the civil and human rights of the African community. They have sponsored several successful projects in St. Petersburg, including a fitness gym, wellness center, healthy grocery store and a boys and girls basketball team. They have been a vocal advocate of economic development for the south side and initiated the African Festival Market, which spawned eight new black-owned businesses. Encouraging pride and achievement for St. Petersburg's African residents, the APEDF recently organized a tribute to hometown world boxing champ Winky Wright.

According to APEDF board member Ironiff

HIRES

God draws us to Himself to not only give us grace and strength so we may enjoy a better quality of life, but also to protect us from the many threats of our lives.

Those who give their mind to Him will be given not only the ability to redeem themselves but also the key that opens heaven's door and tip the scales in their favor.

To redeem one's self is a profound intellectual investment, which evolves one into a valuable human being.

Let it always be remembered that the redeemed with not only have opportunity and equality but will experience unlimited destiny.

Ifoma, "We look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the growing business community of Central Avenue, a location that can bring together St. Petersburg's south and north sides in the furthering of a vision for unity through shared prosperity."

The success of Uhuru Furniture & Collectibles will rely on the support of individuals and businesses as donors, volunteers and shoppers. They are currently picking up donations of furniture, collectibles, pianos, antiques, small working appliances and household items. They also offer volunteer opportunities in a wide range of skill and commitment levels for donation calls, furniture pick ups, outreach and the program committee.

For more information, call 896-4577.

RAMBLING

"Yesterday has gone, forget it. Today is here, use it. Tomorrow may not come, So don't wait on it."

896-2152

by Charles Howard



Richard Sr., Hazel and Richard Benjamin, Jr.



Richard Sr. ("Pepper") and Hazel Benjamin

Being that time again, we share with you newsy past happenings

SURPRISE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Was what it was all about last Saturday night, March 2nd. The Benjamins were surprised with a 50th Wedding Anniversary given at their Newton Ave. S. home. Richard (Pepper) and wife Hazel were feted with a fabulous dinner and all of the trimmings. They were the "surprisees". Daughter Deloris Smith, their oldest offspring and daughter, was the "surpriser". She pulled out no stops. The greatest surprise was the presence of their son, Richard, Jr., who motored here via Greyhound bus from Savannah, GA. This was their "golden" one. After the upbringing of seven offspring, grands and great-grands, 50 years of joyful wedding bliss.

There to enjoy the top shelf repast spread prepared by Deloris for her parents were sisters, brothers, family members, friends and neighbors, grands and great-grands.

A beautiful strawberry glazed tier cake decorated in colors of gold and yellow was the order of the evening. It was made by Publix, Hazel's favorite store.

Richard, Jr., leaves for home Tuesday to rejoin his family. He and his devoted wife, Delois, are the proud father of three children ages 9, 10 and 18. Hang in there and have many more good years, you hear?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
March 7th - Lee Harvey; March 8th thru

14th - Daisy Henry, Jordan Bell, Barbara Stewart, Yancey Thomas, Clementine Mells, Tina Farris Battle, Aisha F. Richardson, Elyse Jackson, Deborah Postell, Freddie Simmons, Sr., Diane Potter, Charlene L. Hills, Alice Highsmith, Dejar Taylor, Marian Miller, Jerome Neavins, Justin Stewart and Ann Smith.

TAX FAX

TAXLESS SHELTER!

Normally, a capital gains tax must be paid on property that you sell at a profit. However, it is possible to avoid paying such a tax indefinitely if you sell your principal residence (this can be a house, condominium, cooperative apartment, houseboat or house trailer) and buy and occupy a more expensive new principal residence within one or two years before or after the sale date of the first home. (The length of time depends on when you sold your old home and whether your new home is a brand new building.) This process can be repeated indefinitely until you cease to own a home.

Eventually, when you sell your last residence and don't buy a new one, you'll have to pay a capital gains tax on all the gains you've accumulated along the way. By that time, however, you should either be in a high enough income tax bracket to afford it or a low enough one that the tax blow will be lessened.

For further information: Tax Information on Selling Your Home, Publication 524, Internal Revenue Service.

Presents...
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• "A Celebration of Our Health" - 1st Annual Unity Day Community Festival, Saturday, March 9th, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Campbell's Park, 601 14th St. So.

• Community Wellness Day, Saturday, March 9th, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., James Sanderlin Center, 2335 22nd Ave. South.

• Uhuru Furniture and Collectibles Grand Opening Celebration, Saturday, March 9th beginning at 2:00 p.m. Call 896-4577.

For more information about Community Billboard, call us at (727) 896-2922

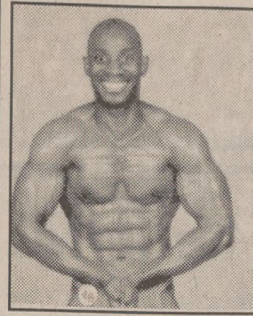
Black Facts

On February 11, 1861, the first Black legal protest in America was pressed by eleven Blacks who petitioned for freedom in New Netherlands (New York). The Council of New Netherlands freed the eleven petitioners because they had "served the Company seventeen or eighteen years" and had been "long since promised their freedom on the same footing as other free people in New Netherlands."

OPERATION PAR SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROJECT

PAR provides substance abuse and mental health services for families who receive cash assistance or are low income families. Services are offered at no cost to individuals and are confidential. Services are available to adults and children.

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Crack Cocaine Kills People and Shatters Lives



HEALTH & FITNESS

by Robert Harrison
aka Sgt. All-World

Food For Thought-Part II—

Atkins' theories remain unproven, and most experts are concerned that Atkins' high-protein, high-fat diet can cause a host of problems, particularly for the large segment of the population that is at risk for heart disease. What's more, the plan doesn't permit a high intake of fruits and vegetables, recommended by most nutrition experts because of the numerous documented health benefits from these foods. WebMD 2001

I'm back. There you have it. While you may lose weight on his diet as probably every other diet, the fact still remains that you can't continue to use this diet over a prolonged period of time. The side effects and mood-altering effects are not worth the effort if you ask me. His attempts to entice you with the deliciously rich foods on occasion is just a ploy.

Apparently, I haven't hit on any interesting topics because I've still to receive one email from you guys. I know that there has to be something out there that might spark some concern. I'm here for you. I gain nothing but a sense of goodwill and continue to be blessed so that I may be a blessing. I am attempting to help you out but it would be a lot easier if I knew what you wanted to see in future articles. Don't get me wrong, I have years of knowledge and experience in this field and can continue on in the manner in which I am but I at least would like to know that you are benefiting from it. That's my sole purpose for doing it.

I will be including questions I received while a registered expert on a website-based "ask the expert site."

I've pretty much touched bases on the mainstream so-called miracle diets out there - the Hollywood Diet, Atkin's, and Body Solutions. There are many more but these seem to be the big ones. I'll hit on Metabolife next week along with a sample basic weight management plan and eating schedule (valued at \$100) you can use. Till next week, as always, May GOD Bless and Keep You. Read my Foundation Scriptures, Hosea 4:6, I Corinthians 6:19-20, Malachi 3:10, and Romans 12:1-2.

SGT ALL WORLD

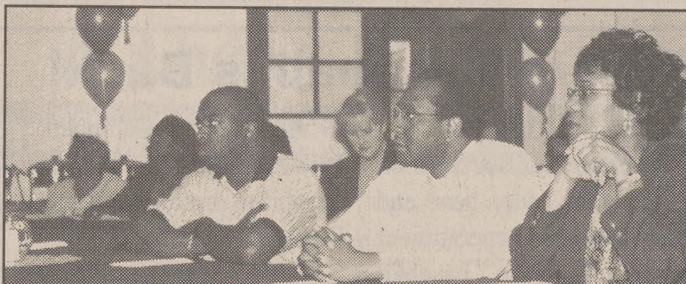
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Check out my coupon at www.theweeklychallenger.com. Click on NEWS on the left banner, then click on Discounts on the right banner and you'll find my coupon for Rob's Diamond Digital & Fountain of Youth. Look for the Computer with the Big Guns! (Biceps, for those of you who are physique lingo challenged.)

(The views expressed by *The Challenger* columnists are not necessarily the views of *The Weekly Challenger* Newspaper. Robert Harrison was a fitness trainer while in the Marine Corp for 8 years where he earned the moniker Sgt. All-World. Since 1990, he has competed as a lifetime drug-free body builder, and has placed (top 5) in over 20 contests, some at the national level.)

Current and Former Jordan Park Residents Honored



Velma Lockett, Hope VI Program, served as Mistress of Ceremony



Hope VI staff members at Jordan Park Program

ST. PETERSBURG — "Soaring to Success" was the theme of the recent awards luncheon for current and former residents of St. Petersburg's Housing Authority's Jordan Park. Nine individuals were recognized for their outstanding achievements. Stephanie Godfrey, Bertha Pearson, Angela Davis, Tawatha Hill, Karla Everett, Dawn Howell, Carol Holley, Earlene Johnson and Melody Moorner were this year's honorees.

Goliath Davis, Deputy Mayor Midtown Economic Development for the City of St. Petersburg, shared his experiences growing up in St. Petersburg. He grew up in the Methodist Town community and talked about how he, like the honorees, was able to achieve in spite of the odds. Deputy Mayor Davis is the former Chief of Police for the City of St. Petersburg.

According to Darrell Irions, Executive Director of the St. Petersburg Housing Authority, "the honorees represent the future of St. Petersburg. They have made important strides in the achievement of their goals." He added, "they can now serve as role models to others in their communities as they demonstrate what hard work and determination can lead to."

It is the mission of the Housing Authority of the City of St. Petersburg to provide a variety of safe, sanitary, accessible, decent and affordable housing to the citizens of the city of

Dayle Greene presents a certificate to Bertha Pearson for moving closer to self-sufficiency.

Dayle Greene of USF-Jordan Park congratulates Carol Holley, Hope VI client on moving closer to self-sufficiency.



Seated, L-R: Bertha Pearson, Ms. Pearson's guest, Carol Holley, Stephanie Godfrey, Ms. Holley's guest, and Melody Moorner; Standing, L-R: Earlene Johnson, Angela Davis, Goliath Davis (Deputy Mayor, City of St. Petersburg), Tawatha Hill and Darrell Irions, Exec. Dir., SPHA

St. Petersburg while enhancing and promoting resident self-sufficiency.

The program was coordinated by the HOPE VI Partners: University of South Florida-Florida Community Partnership Center and Armstrong Data Services.

Yesterday is a cancelled check; tomorrow is a promissory note; today is the only cash you have, so spend it wisely.
-- Kay Lyons

THIS & THAT

by Mabel Cooper

Hi Folks!

One of the most rewarding aspects of writing this column is receiving news notes for inclusion in This 'n That from you, you and especially you. So, call me at 727-823-6092 or drop me a note to 241 13th St. N., Apt. #604.

ABOUT YOUR NATAL DAY

Please accept our best wishes for your upcoming birthday. For each one of us, every birthday is a benchmark of time that symbolizes the many accomplishments in our life. But, more important, every birthday provides a vision for our hopes for the future. **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Helen Williams, Larry Hughes, Sharon Peterson, Pauline James and Burnice Hillary.

Also birthdaying this

week, among others, are: Stacey Teague who is 24 years young on March 9th.

Others are: Reba Roundtree, Tony Richardson (sure hope that's spelled correctly), Priscilla Murphy (that, too), Donta Gray, Emily Grant, Angie Baker and all others with birthdays this week. Happy Natal Day!

BEDDED DOWN

George L. Niblack, along with his lovely wife Burnett of Miami, left St. Petersburg, their former hometown, March 4th for home after being in the city two weeks with Burn's (we call her that) mother, Rosa Jones who lives in Dean Moore's Apts. She was very ill and hospitalized. As I pen this, Rosa is on the mending list, according to a family source, and is resting at the home of another daughter,

Yvonne, and hubby Janomi McGullough on 10th St. S. We are are praying for your recovery, Rosa.

OTHERS SICK AND AILING

Roosevelt Bennett, Johnny Badger, Ada Edward, Verna Johnson, Carrie Lattimore, Gloria McNeal, Ed Rivers, Maxine Richardson, Alfred Small, Dena Walker and Mary Wilson. We hope you all will get well soon.

NOW A BIT OF HUMOR - LYING

A minister wound up the services one morning by saying, "Next Sunday, I am going to preach on the subject of liars. In this connection, as a preparation for my discourse, I would like you to read the 17th chapter of Mark." On the following Sunday, the preacher began, "Now, then, all of you who have done as I requested and read the 17th chapter of Mark, please raise your hands." Nearly every hand in the congregation went up. Then said the preacher, "You are the people I want to talk to. There is no 17th chapter of Mark."

Until next write around, stay loose.



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Secily Wilson, WTVT 13
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** Food **

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Black Facts

On February 18, 1931, Toni Morrison was born
Chloe Anthony Wofford.

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READER'S CHOICE

by Tangelia Murph



The Maintenance Man

Best Seller - Michael Baisden, best-selling author of *Men Cry in the Dark* and *Never Satisfied: How and Why Men Cheat*.

Malcolm Tremell lives the life that most men can only fantasize about: exotic cars, designed clothes and a steady stream of sexually-available women. For the past twelve years, for a very generous fee, Malcolm has willingly played the role of temporary companion and lover. But the endless nights of meaningless sex and secret rendezvous with married women began to weigh on his conscience. Malcolm is suffering from job burnout. He soon discovers, however, that a lifestyle change won't come so easily, not with the allure of so many beautiful women and thousands of tax-free dollars.

our hearts been made numb to his devices? With seemingly blinded eyes and deaf ears, church members have been manipulated into an almost hypnotic existence. Like sleepwalkers or mere puppets on a string, so many have fallen prey to the indiscriminating control of those seated right next to them.

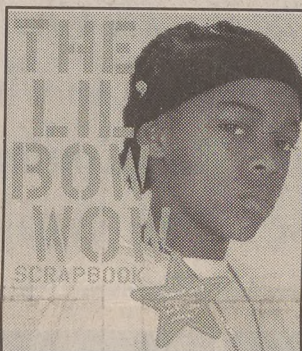
Interesting chapters include:

- Power is nothing without control.
- What's witchcraft?
- A demon in my bedroom.
- It's happening in the church.
- Abstinence is not deliverance.

This powerful and explosive book exposes the shocking truth about witchcraft and occultic practices right within the Christian church. This book is a viable weapon against the kingdom of Satan.

There is witchcraft in the pews!

The Lil' Bow Wow



Scrapbook

Children - This scrapbook is the only place you can get the real skinny on hip-hop's hottest new heartthrob. It's loaded with great, full color, never-seen-before photos and fun facts about the young rapper. Find out about his musical influences, his passion for basketball, his favorite things, how he feels about his fans and all that he's got planned for the future. He may be the youngest dog in the pound, but Lil' Bow Wow is making a lot of noise!

These books can be purchased at: Reader's Choice Books & Gift Expressions, 4301 34th St. S., Suite 102. (Maxi Mall - next door to the nail shop). 867-3696. Open seven days a week.

Witchcraft in the Pews

Christian - George Bloomer, with first-hand accounts, thorough research and profound wisdom sounds a most urgent alarm: Awake from your slumber! Arise and be sober! Refuse to be used.

Darkness looms over the church. Evil pervades the thoughts of many. Deception crawls its way to church altars. Satan and his cohorts have intensified their attack. Are our minds fooled by his ploys? Have



SPORTS

by Barry A. McIntosh

John McHale To Take Post with Major League Baseball

Last year Vince Naimoli called, John McHale answered. On May 22, 2001, the Devil Rays hired John McHale, Jr. as the club's first chief operating officer. McHale came to the Rays after serving as chief executive officer for the Detroit Tigers from 1995-2001. At a press conference scheduled today at Tropicana Field at 11:00 a.m., it will be confirmed that McHale received another phone call.

According to reports, this time Bud Selig, Commissioner of Major League Baseball called, and again John McHale answered. Reportedly, McHale will be moving into a high level executive position working directly with the commissioner, focusing on getting baseball's economic situation moving in the right direction.

It will be a loss for Tampa Bay, which has struggled in its short existence. However, the Rays

are on the rebound, due in large part to the things put in place by McHale while here. Some might think McHale is jumping ship, but clearly he can make a much larger impact on Major League Baseball working out of the commissioner's office, rather than here in St. Petersburg.

According to a team spokesperson, McHale has been instrumental in moving the Rays forward on several fronts. Probably the biggest achievement has been the lowering of payroll practically in half. Now the team focus is very clear, the development of young and exciting talent. This of course will more than likely mean a little more patience on having a championship caliber team, on the part of the Rays organization and the public. A recent hiring under McHale's direction of Jose Taveras will help the Rays become more customer focused. McHale

is also credited with the strategy of closing the upper deck on games when a lot of walk up traffic is not expected. According to the team spokesperson, this will create a more intimate setting for the fans and players.

Also according to the spokesperson, it is evident that the league is very pleased with the direction the team is now taking, and they obviously feel they can take advantage of McHale's talents. The league is not without eco-

nomie woes, and having McHale, who has proven himself time and time again, will be an asset to their future direction. At a recent meeting with the *Times* and the *Tribune*, league officials reportedly were pleased with what's happening here in St. Petersburg... so pleased that the man responsible for much of it will now be working with them.

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98 Dodge Avenger Was 13995 Now \$8999	97 Chrysler Sebring Coupe Was 12995 Now \$9599	99 Ford Taurus Was 13995 Now \$9999
97 Buick LeSabre Limited Was 14995 Now \$9999	97 Merc Gran Marquis Was 14995 Now \$10999	97 Dodge 2150 Xtra Cab P/U Was 14995 Now \$10999
99 Dodge Intrepid Was 15995 Now \$11499	00 Honda Civic LX Was 16995 Now \$12999	99 Ford Windstar Was 16995 Now \$13999
98 Chevy Xtra Cab P/U Was 18995 Now \$13999	98 Dodge V-8 Dakota Was 18995 Now \$13999	99 Chrysler LHS Was 18995 Now \$13999
00 Ford Xtra P/U Was 18995 Now \$14999	99 Dodge 1500 Xtra Cab P/U Was 19995 Now \$15999	97 GMC 4x4 Stepside P/U Was 22995 Now \$17999

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"Great Chefs" Fundraiser Returns to Tampa Bay

ST. PETERSBURG - The Fourth Annual Great Chefs of Tampa Bay will be held Saturday, March 16th, at the home of Pat and Toni Walsh located at 1455 Oceanview Drive, Tierra Verde.

This popular event features chefs and prominent members of the community as "celebrity chefs". Guests will sample the many culinary delights prepared by chefs while bidding on silent auction items and vying for a \$2,500 necklace donated by International Diamond Center.

Call 550-4011 for more information.

THE DIPPER CONNECTION



Bettye Burnett-Scott, R.N., M.S.
Project Coordinator

The DIPPER Front Porch 'Closing The Gap' program presented Mrs. Wanda Scott Green, RN, RPH who provided a valuable seminar on diabetes and diabetic medicines to community residents who aspired to learn more about diabetes medicines. Mrs. Scott stressed the importance of following your doctor's orders and self-management. Self management includes knowing the basic facts about your medicines in addition to proper diet and exercise, whether you are on insulin or oral medication.

Detail discussion covered the following: 1) How diabetes pills work and act upon different parts of the body to lower blood sugar. 2) Diabetes pills do not take the place of a meal and exercise plan. 3) Always establish a good relationship with your pharmacist who will readily recognize problems or inconsistencies that may impact your health. All attendees participated in the question and answer sessions.

The DIPPER Front Porch Closing the Gap is a part of the Governors Front Porch initiative which is dedicated to improving the quality of life and elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities within the greater south central St. Petersburg. The target area encompasses six neighborhood associations: Wildwood Heights, Perkins Neighborhood, Campbell Park, 13th Street, Melrose Mercy and Pine Acres.

Dorothy Gilliam, president of the 13th Street Neighborhood Association, received recognition for program support. Each Monday recognition awards will be given to one of the Neighborhood Associations with the highest number of attendees.

Free classes and screenings will be held every Monday night from 6-8 p.m. at the Enoch Davis Center, 1118 18th Ave. S., St. Petersburg.

** Free Door Prizes **

** Free Refreshments **

SERENDIPITY

by Hugh Clay Paulk

DEAR FRIENDS:

I am fascinated by the subject of serendipity, and have been collecting examples for years. So, not only am I sending you a few introductory samples (below), but will be adding more of my collection in future letters. I hope they will include some examples from you.

SERENDIPITY

"Our wisdom and deliberation for the most part follow the lead of chance." Michel de Montaigne.

The island of Ceylon, now called Sri Lanka, was known to the early Arabs as Serendip.

A Persian fairy tale entitled *The Three Princes of Serendip* featured heroes who regularly made discoveries by accident.

In 1754, inspired by that story, Horace Walpole, the English author and nobleman, coined the word "serendipity." It means making happy and unexpected discoveries.

And it was by serendipity that I found these examples of serendipity. But first, another quote:

"Serendipity is looking in a haystack for a needle and finding the farmer's daughter." Julius N. Conroe, Jr.

Q. What did Professor Samuel E. Morison, the eminent Harvard historian, call history's greatest example of serendipity?

A. The discovery of America by Columbus, while looking for Asia.

A close second might be Newton's falling apple, which led him to explore the subject of gravity.

Q. The year was 1827. The place, England. One day, after mixing chemicals in his laboratory, John Walker scraped his mixing stick on a stone floor to clean it.

What happened?

A. It burst into flames. Serendipity!

Nature gave us fire. John Walker gave us matches. Q. In 1945, while Percy Spencer was working around a magnetron in Raytheon's laboratories, a chocolate bar melted in his pocket, although he felt no heat.

He was puzzled. Are you?

A. Spencer's candy had been zapped by radio waves. In 1949, Raytheon patented its "Radarange," the first microwave.

Q. One day in 1878, during a leisurely lunch, a worker let a batch of liquefied soap spin too long in a mixing vat. He did not mention it to anyone and hoped no one would notice.

Big mistake? No.

The customers liked the product more than ever.

Why?

A. It floated. The extra mixing filled the soap with more air; hence Ivory's first slogan: "So pure it floats."

Later, and even more famous: "99/44% pure."

Serendipity!

Some Phoenician sailors were on a beach preparing a fire to cook a meal. They put their pot on lumps of natron (an alkali then used for embalming) from their cargo.

While their food cooked, what happened?

A. The sand, the heat, and the alkali from the natron, combined to create a strange hot liquid which flowed from the fire.

"And that," wrote the Roman historian, Pliny the Elder, "was the origin of glass."

Q. In 1905, eleven-year-old Frank Epperson left his beverage made of soda powder and water on his back porch overnight.

What happened?

A. His drink froze around the stick he had used to stir it.

Popsicle! Serendipity!

Well, at first he called it Epsicle.

Best wishes, Hugh

Hugh Clay Paulk
C/O The Weekly Challenger, 2500 M. L. King, Jr. St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33705

hughcpaulk@aol.com

P. S. Please do me a favor: Re-read the part in the first paragraph where I ask you to send me samples of serendipity. We will have another column!

Black Facts

On February 24, 1966, elected leader and first president of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah, was ousted in a military coup while he was away on a peace mission to Vietnam.

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Sports News From St. Petersburg College

SPC Hoops Coaches Honored; Diamond Teams Win

By Jim Moorhead

St. Petersburg College's two basketball coaches have recently received singular honors. Earnest Crumbley, whose men's team won the 2002 Suncoast Conference title and journeyed to Marianna this week to play in the state tournament, has been named Suncoast Conference Coach of the Year.

William "Hammer" Smith, coach of women's hoops, has been elected Southern Conference chairperson for the coming

year.

In other sports, SPC's baseball team (13-6, 1-0) played its Suncoast Conference opener Monday against Polk Community College. It took 11 innings, but the Titans won 8-7.

Their next home game -- at the Phillies' Carpenter Complex on Old Coachman Road, a quarter-mile north of SPC's Clearwater Campus -- is Friday at 7 p.m. when they host Polk again.

The softball team's bats finally came alive Monday

in a twinbill against Olney CC of Illinois. SPC won 9-1 and 4-3. The Titans (12-16, 1-3) have seen 12 of their 16 losses decided by a single run. Half of the 12 were 1-0 defeats.

Their next home encounter is Tuesday when West Virginia's Concord College comes to town. The doubleheader starts at 2 p.m. at St. Petersburg's Azalea Complex, 72nd Street and 13th Avenue N. All St. Petersburg College home games are free.

Fighting from pg. 1



Andy Garr, march organizer, provides last minute instructions to marchers

such as Dennie Wainwright, who has lived in her house off of 12th Street for more than 30 years. "It's sad," she said, shaking her head. "This used to be a quiet, peaceful neighborhood."

Dorothy Gilliam, 13th Street Association President, at 82 shows no signs of slowing down, adding, "I think this is one of the best things to happen in this neighborhood, so very much needed." Gilliam has witnessed the drug problem first hand in her community. "Every day," she remarked, "you drive down the street and [drug dealers] will just step right in front of your car to stop you. They have no respect."

While the fact that group organizer, Andy Garr, is white, may have made some in the black community uncomfortable, it is evident that the battle against drugs in our community transcends the face of race. As co-founder of "Turn Around America," Garr is dedicated to

named after originator Dr. Herman Wrice, who died in 2000. The group's literature announces that the "Wrice Process" has been "established in over 380 communities, 20 states, and several foreign countries," even supported by then Texas Governor George W. Bush in 1996.

As they marched under the mobilization of Garr, some ralliers questioned the whereabouts of the religious leaders of the community. Noticeably absent was the presence of the Uhurus, a group whose tensions run deep in the city of St. Petersburg. "Where are they?" questioned a visibly angered Dock, charging, "They were here to burn down these neighborhoods, but where are they now?"

Regardless of who was there and who was not, the real question becomes this: Just how effective was last Tuesday's march? The problem of the drug trade in black communities and throughout the city is one that has no simple solu-

tion. Overall, most agree that the streets are getting better. But there is still a lot of work to do.

Part of Garr's job will be to train people on the Wrice Process, so that they can go out and lead the fight as well, just as he has done. They will focus on community development in order to take back the neighborhoods, an effort, which must be consistent with pressure and support from St. Petersburg's politicians and police force.

Residents such as Ms. Wainwright voiced their concern, saying, "Those drug dealers will just come back later, after you guys have left."

Garr and the dedicated people in these communities are determined to keep this from happening. At the end of the night, arrangements were made for another rally and march to begin at the Enoch Davis Center for Wednesday, March 5th, at 6 p.m. Promoting a program that boasts a success rate of a 80% drop in crime in some cases, Garr and his followers are geared towards the possibilities of hope, in streets that have been burdened by violence.

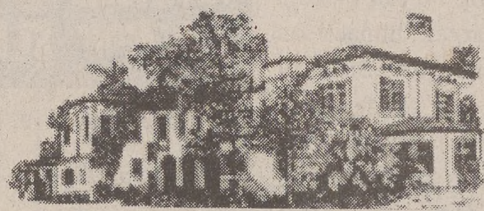
Commissioner Welch Airs On PAR Radio Program

Commissioner Ken Welch will appear on the Operation PAR Radio Program, to air Wednesday, March 13th, broadcast on radio station WRXB 1590 AM.

Commissioner Welch will discuss issues affecting Pinellas County Government, and answer questions from callers. The show will air from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES!!!

Join our team!! Boley Centers for Behavioral Health Care is a large agency regularly seeking counselors, support staff and others for positions. Call our Job Line at 822-8671 for an up-to-date listing of job openings. Applications taken at: 445 - 31st Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33713. EOE/DFW



Colonial Bank Pledges \$75,000 to Planned Brandon Boys & Girls Club Facility

BRANDON — Roy Hellwege, president and CEO for Colonial Bank's Tampa Bay Region, recently pledged \$75,000 to the Boys & Girls Club to aid in the construction of its planned 13,700-square-foot facility in Brandon. Colonial Bank made the pledge in memory of Josephine Campo, a longtime customer of Colonial Bank and supporter of the Boys & Girls Clubs.

"We are pleased to make this donation in memory of our friend and valued customer, Josie Campo," said Hellwege. "The Boys & Girls Clubs provide a variety of important services to our communities, and the new facility in Brandon will be a welcome addition."

The new Brandon Boys & Girls Club will provide a retreat for 500 area children, who will be offered computer training, tutoring, homework assistance, individual and team sports, career development and leadership-building activities. Club members participate in programs to learn positive life skills, such as how to resolve conflict without violence and how to deal with negative peer pressure. The Brandon facility will be built on Knights Avenue on land donated by the First United Methodist Church.

Groundbreaking is scheduled for January 2002, and the Brandon Boys & Girls Club is scheduled to open in August 2002.

"There are more than 1,000 youngsters in the central Brandon area who are home without adult supervision in the afternoons and evenings," said Joe Garcia, the Tampa attorney heading the capital campaign committee for the Brandon facility. "These kids need a safe place where they can learn valuable life skills and have a good time doing it."

Garcia, who went to the West Tampa Boys & Girls Club as a child in the mid-1940s, added, "We appreciate Colonial Bank's pledge and its commitment

to the Brandon community."

Colonial Bank's regional headquarters is located at 400 North Tampa Street in Tampa. The regional headquarters and its 20 full-service offices manage more than \$850 million in assets. A local regional board of directors supports the management team, which allows better responsiveness to the needs of their customers and community.

Second Annual Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay



Low-income homeowners in Tampa Bay are looking forward to corporate sponsors, building suppliers and volunteers to rehabilitate their homes on Saturday, April 27th. The number of low-income homeowners is increasing each year. More and more families are placed in the position of choosing between vital necessities such as food and medicine, or a roof that does not leak. Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay works to ensure that as many of those families as possible do not have to make difficult choices. Individual families are referred to us through neighborhood associations, community organizations and service groups, or by self-referral.

The Second Annual Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay will unite skilled trade volunteers, community leaders, corporate sponsors and homeowners to revitalize areas in Hillsborough and Pinellas

County. Efforts to rebuild Tampa Bay was kicked off on March 6th at 8am. A breakfast meeting was held at the University Club in Tampa to provide interested participants with information. The Rebuilding Project will be held on Saturday, April 27th. Rebuilding Together needs people with all different skill sets from people who can help scrape paint to those who are trained craftsmen. Business executives, students, politicians, and sports celebrities are a few of the different types of people who pitch in annually across America to help build better communities.

Four homes in the bay area will be rehabilitated on the same day. Volunteers, corporate sponsors and suppliers will scrape, paint, shingle, restore kitchen cabinets, build wheelchair ramps, install doors and carpet homes. With the help of the community, low-income homeowners, particularly the elderly and disabled and families with children, will get assistance to live in safety and independence.

Our goal is to make a sustainable impact in the community.

THE PROJECT IS LOOKING FOR A QUALIFIED HOME IN THE ST. PETERSBURG, OR CLEARWATER AREA. IF YOU ARE OR KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS A LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNER UNABLE TO REPAIR THEIR HOME PLEASE NOTIFY SHARON JOHNSON IMMEDIATELY AT 813-610-0300. PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO THE ELDERLY, DISABLED, AND FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN.

Corporate Sponsors include: Tampa Bay Area Chapter NARI (National Association of Remodelers), Am South, Pulte Homes, and David Weekley Homes. Breakfast Sponsors Included: ASAP Rental Equipment & Sales, The Barr Team at Real Works and New Homes America.

Rebuilding Together is in need of corporate sponsors, building materials and volunteers call Sharon Johnson: 813-610-0300

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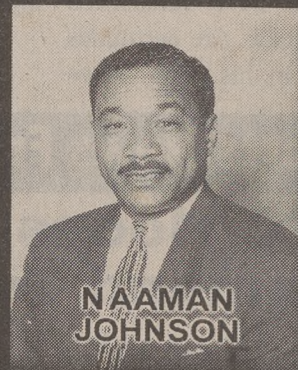


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WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

by Baheenah Hazika-Zuna

My curiosity got me again. This morning I woke up thinking about Alicia Keys, Luther Vandross, D.L. Hughley, Halle Berry, Brian McKnight and a few other celebrities. I name them because they are public figures but there are thousands of other black children in the same shoes as they, growing up and living without their biological fathers.

I have often wondered what these men are thinking when they see their offspring reaching plateaus and overcoming difficulties, despite the fact that they abandoned these people when they were not old enough to fend for themselves.

I don't know how the aforementioned celebrities feel because I have not talked to any of them personally. For the young people right here in St. Petersburg I hear and see everyday the results of the lack of care and love of the father that left them behind.

Abandoning families is not a new thing for black men. It was something that began during slavery. At that time it was done against their will and the ancestral knowledge that men take care of and protect their families. Certainly, this could be one more thing African American men can blame on the "white man" except for one thing, we are now over two hundred years past slavery and it is time for our black men to stand up and be responsible for their children.

It is a reality that marriages don't always work. When men and women get divorced they are leaving each other not their offspring. The children who are usually caught in the middle try to hang on to the love they have for both parents. Regardless of how or why marriages end, no father should walk out and not look back to make sure his children have food,

shelter, and clothing.

I have heard many men try to justify their wayward attitudes with words like "I'm not giving that b... nothing, all she wants is my money." You aren't giving her anything, you are supporting your kids. I have also heard men say "I'm not going to give her any money so she can spend it on some other man." You are not giving anything to another man, you are supporting your kids. When she asks about of your monetary responsibility to your children she is not harassing you, you are being reminded that you are supposed to support your children.

Why should any mother have to go to court once, let alone five, six, seven or more times trying to get money from the father of her children while he lavishes it on some other man's wife and children and his flesh and blood go without? I will never understand that reasoning. NEVER!

The ignorance of this situation that most men have not seemed to figure out is the struggle these mothers face doesn't last a lifetime. The kids eventually grow up and though not all, but most of these abandoned children go on and make something of their lives. So what are these men saying to themselves, friends and associates when their "Alicia Keys" or their "Luther Vandross" walks across the stage and picks up a Grammy award? What do they say when that abandoned child walks to the podium and receives that high school diploma and/or college degree? How much pride do they dare to muster up to for that successful politician, businessman or woman, the sport superstar, teacher of the year or that supervisor at the local fast food restaurant; knowing that they walked away and never looked back when these people needed them the most?

Not all mothers take this lying down; some fight for years to get what they feel their children deserve with little or no help from the government, sometimes they win, sometimes they lose. But regardless of the monetary outcome the children always lose. They lose respect and eventually love, for the father that they thought loved them because they were his children.

Twenty to twenty-five years or less have passed and the abandoned children are all grown and the mother has gone on with her life and here comes that absentee father looking for a relationship and more often a handout from these abandoned children who were cast aside all those years ago. Forgotten on birthdays and holidays not a phone call or a card.

With sincerity to all men who have done this or are in the midst of this kind of situation, some of those children will find something in their hearts to allow you back into their lives, but most of those children now adults will never speak to you again or even allow you to see your grandchildren.

You will be a non-entity to them the same way they were to you for so many years. "I'm sorry" is not going to wipe that bitter, painful slate clean. "I apologize" is not going to absorb the hot torment of tears shed so many times when no father was there to help ease some of the pains of growing up.

You cannot blame their mother for "turning them against you" because your actions spoke louder than words even with the little ones. For some of you, your children were big enough to know you when you abandoned them so trying to blame someone other than yourself will only drive the wedge deeper. Black men, grow up and take responsibility for what is yours. Take care of your children. Money is important but not more important than your constant, dependable love. Harambee!

(The views expressed by *The Challenger* columnists are not necessarily the views of *The Weekly Challenger*.)

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Clearwater Law Firm Establishes Scholarship at Stetson University College of Law

ST. PETERSBURG — The Clearwater law firm of Mason & Associates, P.A., recently established the Joseph C. Mason, Jr. Scholarship at Stetson University College of Law with a \$25,000 gift from the family-operated law firm. The scholarship awards \$1,000 a year to a student who demonstrates interest in becoming a patent attorney.

Connie Davies, a St. Petersburg native and first-year Stetson Law student,

received the first scholarship award. "I think it's wonderful that Mason & Associates takes such a direct and meaningful approach to encouraging law students," said Davies.

Sisters Jane Mason Goldman and Anne S. Mason, a 1984 graduate of Stetson, established the scholarship in honor of their father Joseph C. Mason, Jr. "My father always says that work and career are just part of the equation of living a satis-

fied life," said Jane Mason Goldman. "Anne and I realize every day how fortunate we are, having had the opportunity to grow up with such great parents."

In 1981, Mr. Mason founded Mason & Associates with his wife, Charlotte, who managed the business side of the practice. Mason, who earned degrees in chemical engineering and law, has practiced intellectual property law for nearly 40 years and previously served as a

visiting lecturer at Stetson.

Stetson University College of Law is Florida's first law school. It has educated lawyers for more than 100 years, and offers continuing legal education programs for regional, state, national and international audiences. It is consistently ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the top law schools in the United States for advocacy training.

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Black Facts

February 14, 1817, is the possible birthday of Frederick Douglass, abolitionist and orator. Born into slavery as Frederick Baile, Douglass purchased his freedom in 1845 and went on to become the greatest abolitionist of his time.

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- Hillary Williams



I have a hunger

for competition. I'm only eight but I'm ready to take on the world. I chose to play tennis because of one strong lady who broke barriers and overcame obstacles. Althea Gibson. A true pioneer and the perfect role model for me. She was the first African American to win at Wimbledon and later became the number-one ranked female tennis player in the world. I want to be champion of the world too and with her inspiration it won't be long. Her bravery and grace will always burn in my spirit and Althea Gibson will always be a part of my history, American History, Black History.

Althea Gibson (1927)

During the 1950s Althea Gibson became the number-one-ranked female tennis player in the world. She was the first African American to win the French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open Singles title in 1957 and 1958.



Celebrating History

RELIGIOUS NEWS

United Methodist Church Reaccreditation Committee Visits B-CC



The United Methodist Church Board of Higher Education and Ministries. L to R: Dr. Haywood Strickland, President, Wiley College, Committee Member, Dr. Trudie Reed, President, Philander Smith, Committee Chair, Dr. Joreatha McCall Capers, The Black College Fund, Committee Member, Dr. Oswald P. Bronson, Sr., President, B-CC

DAYTONA BEACH — The United Methodist Church Board of Higher Education and Ministries Committee visited Bethune-Cookman College for a Commission on Black Colleges Site Review on Monday, February 18th.

Every four years The United Methodist Church Board of Education and Ministries Committee review the value system and mission of member colleges. Campus life and the quality of the faculty were among the areas of evaluation for B-CC.

The review team included Dr. Trudie Reed, Philander Smith College President; Dr. Haywood Strickland, Wiley College President; Bishop Rhymes Moncure, Jr., United Meth-

odist Church in Lincoln, Nebraska and Dr. Joreatha McCall Capers, Assistant General Secretary, The Black College Fund.

Dr. Shirley B. Lee, Vice-President for Planning and Executive Assistant to Dr. Oswald P. Bronson, Sr., B-CC President, served as college liaison to the review committee.

"We are confident that the review committee will find us in good standing," said Lee. "In the meantime, we will continue to live out our mission to develop the whole student."

Bethune-Cookman College is a private, liberal arts, United Methodist Church-affiliated school with a diverse and internal student population of more

than 2,700 and a solid reputation for academic excellence. As evidence of its outstanding program, the College has been listed in the Templeton Honor Roll of Character Building Colleges and Universities, and it was ranked by *Black Enterprise* magazine as one of the top 50 schools in the nation for black students.

For more information, contact our website www.bethune.cookman.edu.

Progressive Missionary & Educational Baptist State Convention Convening

CLEARWATER — The Progressive Missionary & Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida, Inc., will convene in Clearwater, FL, March 18th - March 22nd. This will be the 88th annual meeting of the Baptist Convention. Reverend Fleming Tarver and the congregation of St. John Missionary Baptist Church will serve as host for the week. Thousands of delegates from churches across the state will meet daily in services that will include teaching, preaching and workshops. Churches assisting Reverend Tarver and St. John with meeting space will be: First

Assembly of God; Mt. Carmel Baptist; Mt. Zion United Methodist; Shiloh Baptist-Dunedin; Mt. Olive AME; St. Matthews Missionary Baptist; St. John Primitive Baptist and Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist.

Prior to the week of convention meetings, a four-day evangelism and soul-winning revival will take place. The crusade is to be held March 12th through March 15th beginning at 6 p.m. Reverend Dr. N.S. Sanders of Lakeland is the convention's president, and Reverend Dr. Frank O'Harroll of Lake Wales is the evangelism chairman.

New Philadelphia Community Church

Women's History Month will continue to be observed at New Philadelphia. For fourth Sunday in Lenten season, Brenda Nelson will lead church family in worship. Ebony Fields of Tampa will be messenger for mid-morning service. Church family and friends are requested to be present.

"Mission-Minded: Preparing for the Harvest," was the title of the proclamation exhortation of Deaconess Jo Ann Nesbitt for Communion Sunday. Deaconess Nesbitt boldly exhorted with extreme unction, the meaning of being mission-minded. With many scripture references from Old and New Testaments, she challenged church family to

prepare for the harvest of "souls" with a mission "mindset."

The mission focus of New Philadelphia Community Church is to foster the spiritual, intellectual, social, economic and Afro-Centric development of children, youth, adults, and elderly, through intergenerational continued learning, leadership, and service in the immediate community.

"HER-story," a present, past, and future assessment of "SHE-roles" will be an integral part of mid-morning worship during Women's History Month. Last Sunday, members shared personal experiences of lessons learned and lived now in the present from mothers and grandmothers in the past.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Sacred Heart's Catholic Church's New Life Ministry is a group for divorced, separated, widowed and remarried persons.

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20th, at the Community Hall on 80th Ave. and 46th St. N. in Pinellas Park at 7 p.m.

We have lots of new activities coming up. Join us for an evening of fellowship and a chance to meet some new friends.

Our annual Chinese auction will be held after a short business meeting.

Call Mike for more information about the group at 548-1458. There is a small donation collected at the door.

The Lord Is Great and His Mercies Endureth Forever!

Emmanuel Christian Fellowship Church

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever." -Hebrews 13:8

Pastor Evans, preached out of his soul as the Lord used him for His glory, we were truly blessed, for the Word is going forth at Emmanuel, and we invite each of you to share with us, at any given time.

Emmanuel will be moving to 3501 - 37th Street

South, on the third Sunday, March 17th. You are welcome and invited to join us at our new location.

Sunday, March 10th, is Sunday School Day at Emmanuel. Supt. Gloria Daniels, is inviting everyone from the community to share with us at 9:30 a.m. You will be blessed.

March 23rd, the Ushers of Emmanuel will sponsor

Ladies Night in White at 7:30 p.m. Nadeen Gant is inviting everyone to share in this joyous occasion.

Our prayers are with the sick and shut-ins, Doris Jones, Mother Lula Mae Anderson, just to name a few, also, Pastor and Sister Taylor.

Stewart-Isom School Choice Plan

Bardmoor Elementary School and the Stewart-Isom Church family will host an evening of information sharing about the upcoming Choice Plan which will determine where our children go to school in the fall of 2003.

For your convenience, the meeting will take place at Stewart-Isom Memorial CME Church at 1820 Walton St. S. on Monday evening, March 11th, at 6:30 p.m.

Kathy Walker, from pupil assignments, will be our facilitator for the evening. She will be prepared to provide you with informational handouts and answer any questions that you don't understand. She also will be able to simplify the steps and procedures required for parents as they make their decisions about the Choice Plan.

The evening is open to all who can attend and who want to have enough

knowledge to make the best choices for our children's education. We look forward to seeing you at this meeting.

Please mark your calendar for March 11th at 6:30 p.m. If there are any questions that we can help you with prior to this meeting, please call Beth Woodard at Bardmoor Elementary, 547-7824. Parents, it is very important that you or someone close to you be present at this meeting.

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Rev. Johnnie Lee Williams, Pastor

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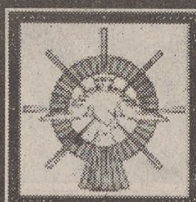
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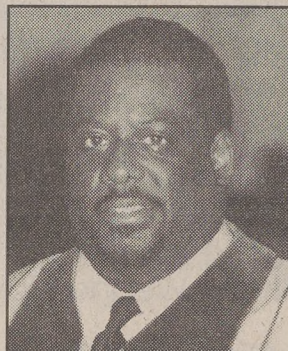
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Mid-Morning Worship 10:50 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 5:00 p.m.
Mid-Week Worship Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study/Prayer Service Thursday 7:30 p.m.

Come join us at the Church where everyone is Welcome!



Rev. Earnest Jones, Pastor

New Faith Free Methodist Church

2427 Irving Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL

Phone: 824-2814, Pastor • 323-1290, Church

THEME: Looking Upward, Searching Inward, Striving Onward

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM

MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 AM

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY WED. 6:30 PM

ADULT BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER SERVICE WED. 7:00 PM



Rev. Curtiss L. Long, Pastor

ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1301 - 37th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL

Schedule of Services

Church School 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 11 a.m.

Baptist Training Union 5 p.m.

Evening Worship 6:30 p.m.

Prayer Meeting

Thursday 7 p.m.



Rev. Brian K. Brown

"One week from church makes one weak."

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"We're Busy as Bees - But Sweet As Honey"

912 Third Avenue North

St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Phone: 727-822-2089

Church School 9:00 A.M.

New Member Class 9:00 A.M.

Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.

Prayer / Bible Study Tuesday 7:00 P.M.

Youth Bible Study Thursday 6:00 P.M.



Rev. Roosevelt Hardy, Pastor

You are hereby invited to fellowship with



For more information, contact Pastor Jerome & Pastor Kisha Jordan at 727-865-7763 or 888-353-9555, ext. 2445

"...let the one that is thirsty come." (Revelation 22:17)

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 A.M.

Sunday School 9:30 A.M.

Bible Study, Tues. 7-8 P.M.

Frank Pierce Community Center

2000 - 7th St. S., Rm. 1

Prayer Tower COGIC

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." - Psalms 46:1

Supt. Elder Clarence Welch and the Prayer Tower Church family welcomes you with open arms at all times to worship with us in the presence of the Lord! We truly appreciate your prayers, support and patronage of our church. May God forever smile upon you at all times!

On February 10th, Prayer Tower honored all students with special awards, honors or honor roll grades at our Honor Service. The students were congratulated and encouraged to continue their successful educational career. They were presented with certificates and gift certificates to McDonalds. We also were privileged to

have guest speaker Patricia Williams, who also relayed a powerful message to our youth letting them know that they can do all things through Christ which strengthens them! Great job, students!

The Pageant application deadline is March 24th. For more information, contact Ellender Jackson at 321-0670.

The Usher Board of Prayer Tower COGIC will host its annual Prayer Breakfast on March 9th. For more information, please contact Julia Scott at 321-0670.

Remember to pray for our sick and shut-in members. Pray and study the word of God constantly. When life knocks you to your knees, you are in the perfect position to pray. Have a blessed week.

New Faith Free Methodist Women's Day



Dr. Martha Scott Lue

The New Faith Free Methodist Church, 2427 Irving Ave. S., will hold Annual Women's Day on Sunday, March 10th, at 11 a.m.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Martha Scott Lue of Orlando. She is a proud

member of Carter Tabernacle C.M.E. Church where the Rev. Roderick Zak is pastor. She is past president of the Women's Missionary Society, and a former director of the Children's Church. She is a member of the Commission on Human and Social Concerns and is active in her denomination's Outreach Ministry.

Dr. Lue is a graduate of FAMU where she obtained a degree in speech and language pathology. She received her Master's Degree in this field from the University of Missouri at Columbia.

After teaching briefly in the public schools in

Pinellas County and Atlanta public schools, she received her Doctorate at the University of Florida in Special Education. Dr. Lue is a full professor at the University of Central Florida in the Educational Studies Dept. and the only female of African descent to hold this distinction.

Dr. Lue is a native of Monticello, FL. Her son, Marvin Lue, Jr., is pastor of Allen Temple C.M.E. Church in Tallahassee.

The public is invited to come hear this dynamic speaker and outstanding woman. Our co-chairpersons are Gigi Glenn and Mary Oliphant. Rev. Curtiss L. Long is pastor.

Dear Father, You Have Given So Much; Give One Thing More - A Grateful Heart. Amen

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

The Friendship Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor John A. Evans, Sr., extends to you a warm invitation to our worship services this Sunday and to all activities and events during the week.

Service begins at 7:45 a.m. with the Deacon Ministry leading the Devotion. The Fellowship Choir and Fellowship Ushers will serve during both services, and Pastor Evans will preach the divine word of God.

Church School begins at 9:30 a.m. with the Second Assistant Superintendent presiding.

A second service is held at 10:45 a.m. opening with the Praise Team.

The church is praying for Pastor Evans and family during the passing of his mother, Bertha Lee Evans, of Akron, OH, as well as the other families who are

bereaved at this time. We know that God is able to mend the broken-hearted and give comfort that lasts. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

On March 10th at 4 p.m. the Deaconess Ministry will have their annual fellowship program. The theme this year is "Nothing but the Blood". Our colors for the occasion are red, white and black. Pastor Chico Dials and the New Life Fellowship Church will be with us. We pray that you will be able to join us in this special afternoon of worship and praise.

Weekly events:

Thursday, March 14th, 7-8:45 p.m., Prayer/Praise Service and Bible Study, also Youth Enrichment Hour and Computer Lab; continuing our theme for Prayer Service in the

month of March: "Operation Build-Up Through the Family Album".

Monday, March 18th - 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts.

Wednesday, March 20th - 12 p.m. Noonday Bible Study; also each Wednesday from 12 noon-2 p.m., Bread of Life Ministry serving lunch to all needy in the community.

Rehearsals for the upcoming Easter Service is being held each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.; also at 7 p.m. adult computer lab starts with classes scheduled to last through Wednesday, April 24th, and will be approximately one hour each. There is a ten student maximum. A sign-up sheet has been provided on the Resource Table.

Other church news can be found in the church bulletin that's passed out during Sunday service.

Appreciations from Earth Mission Ministries



L to R: Elder James C. Butler, Pastor Constance D. Samuels, Bishop Delores Williams, Minister Ernest Ervin

The Earth Mission family and Pastor Constance D. Samuels would like to thank the St. Petersburg community for all of your support during our 11th Annual Church and Pastor's Anniversary. Our ministry was truly enriched and blessed through your

participation, prayers and financial gifts. Thanks to people like you, we have experienced the best anniversary in the history of this ministry.

Special thanks go out to the Ministerial Staff of Earth Mission Ministries, Evg. Charlotte Anderson,

Councilmember Rene Flowers, Mr. and Mrs. Watson Haynes - Pinellas Bridge, Diane Hughes - WRXB, Dr. Owen Henry, Min. Denis Robinson and Quartet Union, Deborah Miller, Miracle Sisters, Nursing Home Choir, Greater St. Paul Male Choirs, Pastor Raleigh Allen and Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church, Pastor Dan Davis and Prayer Warriors, New Faith United Methodist Church and Pastor Curtiss Long, Mt. Pilgrim M.B. Church and Pastor William Johnson, New Congregational Church of God and Pastor Mills, Divine Providence Church of God and Bishop Delores Williams, Faith Inter-

denominational Church and Bishop Franklin Bennett, Joshua Generation of Praise and Pastor Detria Walker, Evg. Ossie Okah, Travelers Rest M.B. Church and Pastor Don Browne, All Nations Church of God and Pastors James and Johnnie Lee Williams, Worship and Praise Center and Pastor Barbara Watts, Kush Lodge #105 and Garth Albury, Walker family and the Earth Mission Youth

Cultural Arts Dancers.

On behalf of Min. Ernest Ervin, Chairman, Anniversary Committee, Pastor Constance D. Samuels and the Earth Mission family, we would like to thank you once again for making this 11th Annual Anniversary the best ever. May God bless your ministries and all of your upcoming endeavors.

GOD BLESS!!

PEACEFUL ZION M.B. CHURCH

2051 - 9th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Rev. F.G. Jackson, Pastor
(813) 822-2455

Church School.....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
B.T.U.....5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Tuesday Evening Bible Class.....7:30 p.m.
Wednesday Youth Rehearsal.....5:30 p.m.
Thursday Prayer & Church School Study.....7:30 p.m.
1st & 2nd Saturdays SR.
Choir Rehearsal.....11:00 a.m.

Faith Memorial Missionary Baptist Church

1800 - 18th Avenue S., St. Petersburg, FL

Reg. Bragg L. Turner, Pastor

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Membership Training 5 p.m.
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Tuesday 7 p.m.



"The Church That's Moving Forward Together"

20th Street Church Of Christ

820 20th Street South
St. Pete, FL
Home: 896-8006



Bro. Robert Smith

Sunday Morning Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Ladies Bible Class Monday 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.
Monday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Christ Gospel Church

2512 22nd Ave. S.
St. Pete, FL 33712
327-0997
Rev. P.D.H. Leonard
Pastor



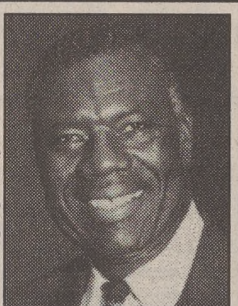
SUNDAY
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 7:30 p.m.
TUESDAY
Bible Study 7:30 p.m.
FRIDAY
Evangelical Service 7:30 p.m.
PRAYER TIMES
Tuesdays, Fridays & Sundays - half an hour before service.
Mondays & Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.
Friday nights at midnight.
RADIO BROADCAST
Sundays 7:45 a.m.
If you would like to come to church and do not have a way, call 327-0997.
The Church Where Everyone Is Welcome

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2830 - 22nd Avenue South • St. Petersburg, Florida 33712
(727) 327-8560

9:00 AM Prayer Time
9:30 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship
12:30 PM After Service Fellowship
Wednesday 6:30 PM Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

You are invited to share spiritual nurturing, preaching of the Gospel and a Christian community for everyone



Dr. Frederick D. Terry

Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church

2550 9th Avenue S. • St. Petersburg, FL

Early Morning Worship 7:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:50 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 4:30 p.m.
Communion 7:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.

"The Church Where Everybody Is Somebody"

Rev. Joseph Gordon

STEWART-ISOM MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

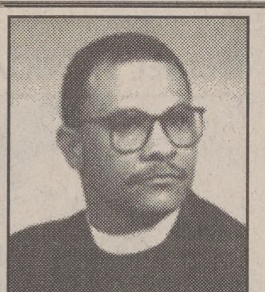
1820 Walton Street S., St. Pete, FL 33712
(813) 327-0593

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

"To God Be The Glory"



Rev. Calvin Hopkins



Rev. Clarence Williams, Pastor

GREATER MT. ZION AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

919 - 20th Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Early Morning Worship 7:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
All Male Bible Study Weds. 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
Bible Study Monday 6:00 p.m.
Vintage Bible Study Wednesday 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Live Broadcast WRXB (Every Sunday 8:30 a.m.)
Tape Ministry • Bus Ministry
Need a tape of a service or transportation - Dial 894-1393
("The church with a heart in the heart of the city")

Bethel A.M.E.

Pastor Hardy along with Brother Larry Walker, president of the Lay Organization extends an invitation for all to join us this Sunday at Bethel. The Lay organization will celebrate Lay Day during the 10:30 a.m. morning worship service. The speaker for this event will be Sister Peggy Johnson, Director of Lay Activity, the East Florida Conference. She is a member of St. Andrews A.M.E. Church, East Jacksonville.

The Tampa Conference Lay Organization will host a banquet, Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Palmetto Youth Center, in Palmetto, Florida, the Lay Workshop will be held at St. Andrews A.M.E. Church, Palmetto, Rev. Charles Caldwell is the host pastor.

Tune in each Sunday morning on WTMP radio for the outreach worship service of Bethel at 7:00 a.m.

Weekly Calendar: March

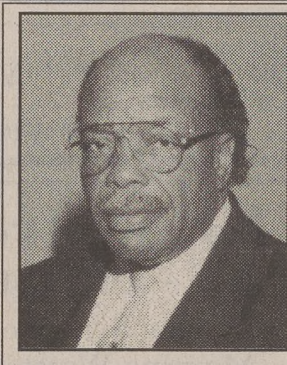
4-8, 2002
Monday - Boy scouts - 6:30 p.m.
Official board - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday - Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday - Mass Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday - Youth Easter rehearsal - 6:00 p.m.



St. John Missionary Baptist Church

1500 N. Pennsylvania Avenue
Clearwater, Florida 33516
Church Phone: 443-1945 Parsonage: 446-6056
Rev. Fleming Tarver, Pastor

Sunday Service 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 5:00 p.m.
Weekly Services
Bible Class Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study, Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
The church where everybody is somebody and Christ is all.



Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church

930 - 18th Street South St. Petersburg, Florida
Rev. John Copeland, Pastor

Morning Worshi..... 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Mid-Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting and Bible Class Wed. 7:00 p.m.

Communion is observed quarterly the first Sunday after every 5th Sunday.
For transportation to the church, call 527-8196 or 327-2391.
The Church Where Everyone Is Welcome

"Soaring Higher in Christ Jesus"



Pastor Keturah D. Pittman

Saint Mark

African Methodist Episcopal Church

• Sunday- Church School, 9:45am
• Sunday- Worship Service, 11:00am
• Tuesday- Operation "BIG EAR", 6:00pm- 7:00pm
Spiritual Counseling
• Wednesday- Prayer Meeting & Bible Study, 7:00pm- Until 6:30pm- 7:30pm
• Thursday- Tutoring for K thru 5th, 6:30pm- 7:00pm
• Friday- Great Book Review for Youth, 7:00pm
• Saturday- Young Men's Bible Study, "Teen Word" Each 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month 9:00am- 10:00am

2232 62nd Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712
(727) 867-2400

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church

3455 - 26th Avenue South • St. Petersburg, FL 33711
(727) 327-0554

"Church of The Open Door"

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

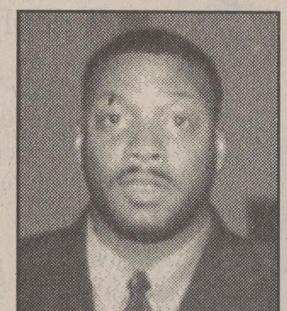
Morning Worship:

8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Wed. NBC/AWANA/Bible Study/ Praise & Prayer 7:00 p.m.

Thurs. Midday Bible Study 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Sat. Noon Day Prayer Hour 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.



Rev. Joaquin Marvin

Moore's Chapel AME Church

Our Sunday, March 3rd, services were truly "blessings" to all that attended. The word of God was delivered in a powerful, simple and intriguing manner by our pastor Rev. James T. Blount. "And the word was made plain and simple." Rev. Geraldine Gray gave an inspiring and challenging children's message to the young ones (1-10) during the 11 a.m. service. Her message was centered around the Olympics with the thought "Jesus is my coach, and I am certainly going to obey him" in order to succeed. "We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he/she is someone today."

When we began our conference (Oct. 2001-2002), we were issued a challenge by our pastor, Rev. James T. Blount. Each member was encouraged to invite and bring three new members into the church. This challenge was achieved by Katie Harrell (daughter of Verna Williams), one of our Junior Stewardesses. Katie had invited three of her friends to attend church with her. They visited on several occasions, liked what they witnessed and decided on Sunday to become members. We welcome them

with loving, Christian arms and pray that their service for the Lord will be rendered in "spirit and in truth."

We extend congratulations to Courtney Poole and her brother, Miles, Jr., upon their assignment as Junior Class Leaders.

Christian accolades are given to the members of the Youth Dept. for the terrific work displayed in their schools' and their church's activities. We are proud of them and wish them continued success in all their endeavors.

We extend invitations to our Sunday services. On March 10th, our 8 a.m. speaker will be Rev. Ira Whitson. Rev. Whitson, one of our Associate Ministers, has always shared inspiring words to all who hear and witness her deliverance. Our 11 a.m. speaker will be Rev. Blount. Your day will be incomplete if you miss either of these services.

A Health Fair will be held at Moore's Chapel AME on Saturday, March 16th. This event is being sponsored by D.I.P.E.R. and is very important to our African-American community. More detailed information will be given next week.

Coming events:

March 4th-7th - Share Registration, deadline 4-7 Church Office, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

March 14th-17th - WMS Women's Retreat, Adams Mark Hotel, Daytona Beach.

March 16th - Outreach Ministry for the Homeless. Feeding and clothing giveaway for the homeless, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Fellowship Hall (annex).

March 17th - Laymen Organization Program, 11 a.m.

March 23rd - Share Package distribution, 11:30-12:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall (annex).

March 27th - St. Petersburg District Revival Planning meeting, Moore's Chapel AME, 7 p.m.

Reminders:
Tutoring - Mondays and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Fellowship Hall (annex), grades 1-12, sponsored by the Daisy Pierce/Fannie Williams Missionary Society.

For transportation to Church School, Bible Study and church, please contact: Tony Macon, 328-0022, Willie Frank Bryant, 894-6067, or Mose Bell, 906-8225. For church scheduled events, please see ad in newspaper.

"Where the word is changing lives."

Pleasant Grove Celebrates 56th Church and Pastor's 44th Anniversary



Center: Mary Lamar, Chairperson Center Left: Deacon Robert Stewart, Co-Chair person Center Right: Cynthia Tomlin, Co-Chair person

The Church and Pastor's Banquet will be held on Saturday, March 9th, at 6 p.m. at the Enoch Davis Center. Rev. Danny Thomas, Sr., will be the master of ceremony, and the Rev. Timothy Lancaster will be the guest speaker. Let us support our church and pastor in grand style.

Pastor Joseph Gordon and the Pleasant Grove Church family invite you to worship with them on Sunday, March 10th. Choir #2 and Usher Board #2 will serve in the 7 a.m. Early Morning Worship Service. Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. with Superintendent Deacon Philip Carter presiding.

Mid-Morning Worship begins at 10:50 a.m. Choir #2 and the Angelic Choir will render song service, and Usher Board #2 will serve.

Also at 3:30 p.m., Rev. Thomas Leonard and the

Mt. Tabor Missionary Baptist Church of Tampa will be here to help us in celebrating our Church and Pastor's Anniversary.

Services will continue nightly at 7:30 p.m. with visiting churches in charge. Monday, March 11th, Rev. Louis Murphy and Mt. Zion Progressive M.B. Church; Tuesday, March 12th, Rev. Morgie Ford and New Jerusalem M.B. Church; Wednesday, March 13th, Rev. Ernest Jones and Galilee M.B. Church; Thursday, March 14th, Rev. Brian Brown and St. Mark M.B. Church; Friday, March 15th, Rev. John A. Evans and Friendship M.B. Church. Vice Moderator Dr. C.T. Kirkland and the Mt. Pleasant M.B. Church of Tampa will close out the service on Sunday, March 17th, at 3:30 p.m.

Please render your gifts to your captain or district leaders so that they may be

able to make their reports on the nights scheduled. Mary Lamar is chairperson, Cynthia Tomlin and Deacon Robert Stewart are co-chairpersons.

Pleasant Grove cruises to Alaska June 11th-19th. Please see or contact Key Curry at (727) 864-2937 after 7 p.m. for details.

Thought for the week: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with long-suffering and doctrine." - 2 Timothy 4:2.



Moore's Chapel AME Church

Rev. James T. Blount - Pastor

Sunday Worship - 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School (all ages) - 9:30 a.m.
Noon Day Prayer/Bible Study - Wednesday - 12:00 p.m.
Bible Study - Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.

3037 - Fairfield Avenue south
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712
(727) 321-3545

"Where The Word Is Changing Lives"

Prayer Tower Church Of God In Christ

1135 37th Street South, St. Pete, FL

Elder Clarence Welch, Pastor

Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Service 11:30 a.m.
Y.P.W.W. 5:30 p.m. Sunday
Church Service 6:30 p.m. Sunday
Night Services 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday Services 7:30 p.m.



Bible Holiness Church of God in Christ

419 - 5th Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Phone: 898-3838

The members would like to invite you and your family to worship with us. Our services are:
Tuesday Morning Prayer 9:00am
Weds.-Family Worship 7:00pm
Sunday School 10:00am
Sunday Morning Worship 11:15am
Sunday Evening Worship 7:00pm

Pastor: Elder B.O. Walker



Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church

3700 22nd Avenue S. • 321-0020
Elder Clarence L. Warren, Pastor

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

The church where everyone is welcome & the Spirit of Christ lives.



NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2120 - 19th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 896-5228

Sunday Services:
Church School 9am
Praise & Worship Services 10:30am
Tuesday Services:
Prayer Service 6:30pm
Bible Study 7pm

Join us as we lift up the name of Jesus

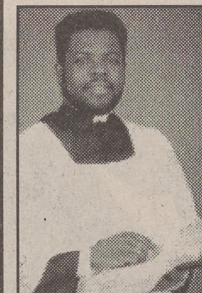


Dr. Alvin Moore, Pastor

Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ

2230 - 22nd Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712

(727) 894-6764 • (727) 550-0388
Elder William E. Anderson, Pastor



Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:30 a.m.
Community Bible Study Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Prayer & Bible Study Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
Intercessory Prayer Saturday 5:45 a.m.

"A church working together for the upbuilding of God's Kingdom"

With Allah's Name, The Merciful Benefactor, The Merciful Redeemer

Masjid Al-Muminin

Islamic Services

Jumuah Prayer - Friday 1:30 p.m.

Qur'anic Study - Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Taleem - 12:00 p.m.

Imam Wilmore Sadiki
3762 - 18th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33711
(727) 327 - 8483



BREAKTHROUGH CHRISTIAN CENTER

1940 - 49th Street South

St. Petersburg, FL

(727) 321-4986/888-447-PRAY (7729) • Fax (727) 321-3937

Website: www.breakthroughcc.com • E-mail: pastor@breakthroughcc.com

"PROPHETIC FIRE IS FALLING"

TAPE MINISTRY/DYNAMIC PRAISE & WORSHIP-

PRAYER 30 MINUTES

BEFORE EVERY SERVICE

Sunday Service 8:30 AM

"Power Breakthrough Service" 11:00 AM

"A Night of Prophecy" @ 7:30 PM Sunday

TUESDAY "WORD EXPLOSION" - 7:30 PM

FRIDAY "JUBILEE SERVICE" 7:30 PM

"YOUTH IN ACTION" - Saturday, 6 PM

NURSERY/TODDLER MINISTRY (5 & under)

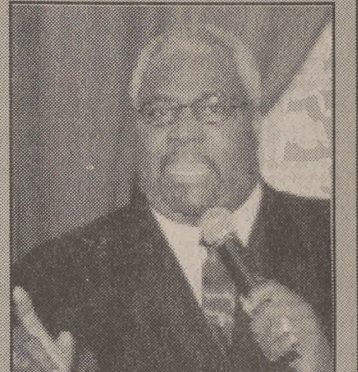
SUNDAY SERVICES ONLY

RADIO MINISTRY-WRXB-1590 AM

Monday through Friday 6:00-6:15 AM

Sundays 9:30-10:00 AM

WTAN-1340 AM Sundays 4:30-5 PM



PASTOR/PROPHET GLENN MILLER

COME AS YOU ARE - NO DRESS CODE
"A Place of Healing and Restoration"

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist

Pastor Joaquin Marvin and the Bethel Metropolitan Church family invite you to worship with us on Sunday during the 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. services and Church School at 9:30 a.m. The Praise Team, Angelic Choir, Youth

Choir and #2 Usher Board will serve.

Our Midweek Bible Study (NBC) and Prayer Service on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. are designed for the spiritual growth of the entire family. Transportation is available. Call

the church office at 327-0554 if you have a need.

Noon Day Bible Study is held each Thursday at 12 noon. Pastor Marvin is the facilitator.

The Deaconess Ministry of the church will celebrate their 99th Anniversary on Sunday, March 24th, at 4 p.m. The Ministry has invited other local churches to participate in this special service portraying women of the

Bible. Marquerite Hester, Ministry Leader and her fellow Deaconesses invite you to join them for an evening of prayer, worship, fellowship and praise.

It is our desire to be a friendly people who offer a kaleidoscope of ministries for all ages and interest. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to unite with us in giving a positive Christian witness in the spirit of worship.

March Calendar:

March 3rd - Pearl Haden Circle #3 Bake Sale.

March 10th - Ada Berry Circle #5 Salad Tea.

March 17th - Adrilla Cail WSL Tea.

March 24th - Deaconess Anniversary.

March 31st - Easter Program; Josephine Child Circle #7 Bake Sale.

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

4240 Central Avenue • St. Petersburg, FL 33711 • (813) 328-9412

GRACE
FELLOWSHIP
CENTRAL

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Except God build the house they labor in vain that build it.
-Ps. 127:1

GRACE CENTER



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Phone
(813) 328-9412
NURSERY AND
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH
AVAILABLE

Pastor Leonard Wilson • Phone: 536-1890

ELIM Seventh-Day Adventist Church

801 - 6th Avenue S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 894-5246 / 823-1619

SATURDAYS

Sabbath School: 9 am
Morning Worship: 11 am
Youth Hour: 1 Hour Before Sunset

WEDNESDAY

Prayer Meeting: 7:30 PM

ELIM Junior Academy & Day Care Center

Friendship Missionary Baptist

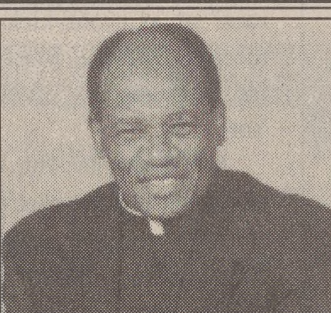
3300 - 31st Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 906-8300



Pastor John A. Evans

Sunday 7:45 AM and 11 AM Worship
Sunday School 9:30 AM

Wednesday Noonday Bible Study and Bread of Life
Prayer and Bible Study 7 PM also Youth Enrichment Hour



Father Callist Nyambo, Pastor

St. Joseph Church

2101 - 22nd Ave. S., St. Petersburg

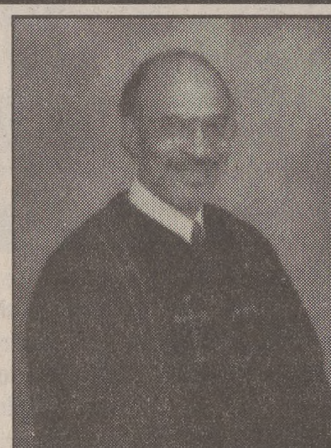
Sunday Masses Are At:
9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Gospel Choir 9 a.m.
Traditional Choir 11 a.m.

TRAVELERS REST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2183 - 22nd Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Church Phone: 822-4869
Residence: 824-6021

Mid-Morning Worship Service . . 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Prayer/Praise Service (Weds.) . . 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Donald F. Browne



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Phone: 894-4311

www.mzprogressive.org

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service: 8:00 a.m. • 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Prayer Meeting: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Bible Study: 8:00-9:00 p.m. (Adult and Youth)



Pastor Louis M. Murphy, Sr.

Travelers' Rest Missionary Baptist Church

Greetings, blessings and honor as you fellowship with us on Sunday, March 10th. Our doors are open and we welcome all to experience Jesus with our congregation.

Welcome to the 8 a.m. contemporary service with our Praise Team uplifting the name of the Lord in song. Ministry of the Word will be preached by Pastor Browne. The 9:30 a.m. Life Development Sunday School, followed by mid-morning worship at 11 a.m. Deacons and deaconesses will lead morning devotion and musical selections from the Mass Choir under the direction of Barbara Davis. Usher Ministry #2 will serve. Men's Ministry will greet the congregation. The sermon will be delivered by Pastor Browne.

Mass Choir members are reminded of our singing engagement at the City-Wide Revival on Friday, March 8th, at 7 p.m. Revival services are held at Mt. Zion Progressive Baptist Church.

Sunday School teachers and all interested persons are requested to attend teachers' meeting on Saturday, March 9th, at 10 a.m. Please contact the

Superintendent if you are unable to attend.

Weekly activities:

Thursday, March 7th - 11 a.m. Bible Study and nursing home visitation; 7 p.m. Mass Choir rehearsal.

Friday, March 8th - 7 p.m. Praise Team rehearsal; 7 p.m. Mass Choir to sing at City-Wide Revival.

Saturday, March 9th - 9 a.m. Praise Team rehearsal; 10 a.m. Sunday School teachers' meeting.

Monday, March 11th - 7 p.m. District #2 (Deacon Foster) and District #5 (Deacon Hicks) meeting.

Tuesday, March 12th - 7 p.m. Trustee Ministry meeting.

Wednesday, March 13th - 7 p.m. Youth Bible Study; 7 p.m. Prayer and Praise; 7:30-8:30 Adult Bible Study.

March has been designated as Women History Month. As we recognize the accomplishments of great American women, we also applaud the women in our congregation and community for their dedicated service and commitment.

If you desire to worship with us and need transportation, please contact the church at 822-4869 by noon on Saturday.

Pentecostal Temple COGIC

"When All God's People Get Together..." was the theme for the 1,000 People in White fellowship service sponsored by the Pentecostal Temple COGIC Hospitality Board. A busload of saints arrived from Daytona Beach ready to "have church".

Pastor Samuel Williams and the Deliverance Temple COGIC family, along with members of the Sinner's Friend M.B. Church of Daytona Beach, blessed us in a tremendous way! A spirited praise service involved the participation of the congregation and a testimony of God's deliverance from 32 years of drug abuse ignited the praises of God.

The Pentecostal Temple Mass Choir with the help of Leslie Anita Anderson sang glorious songs of praise and set the atmosphere for what was to follow. Guest musicians Julius Anderson and Stephen Holcombe, along

with Pentecostal Temple's own Edward Anderson, enhanced the service with heavenly music.

First Lady Deborah Williams ushered us into the presence of the Lord with the inspirational solo. The spiritual waters were "troubled", and Pastor Williams invited the saints to step in and receive the blessings of the Lord by faith. Through exhortation, prayer and one-on-one ministry, there was something for everyone—a message of salvation for the lost and a word of encouragement for those in the midst of a struggle.

Pastor William Anderson rejoiced in the presence of the Lord among us. Mary Walker, Hospitality Board president, gave thanks to the Daytona congregations and family and friends from all over the city of St. Petersburg who supported this service and made it a great success.

The public is invited to these upcoming events:

Super Sidewalk Sale - Saturday, March 9th, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. You're sure to find a great deal among our quality items for everyone in the family. A food court will also offer grilled chicken and soft drinks.

"Youth in Action" fellowship service - Sunday, March 10th, at 4 p.m. This service will feature our youth and invited youth participants and groups as they honor the Lord with their talents and abilities. Two dynamic speakers will present words of encouragement to the youth and the praise and worship through song and music will be "off the hook"! This service is sponsored by the Young People's Willing Workers. Evelyn Foster is the president and April Ash is the youth coordinator.

YUF" Book Fair and Bazaar

Join us for a fun-filled day Saturday, March 16th, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Educational and fun books on Sale at an affordable price. Attention Christian schools—there are a lot of used Abeka Textbooks available. There will be cotton candy, snow cones, face painting, games, moonwalk and more. Bring the kids! This fundraiser is to support the "YUF" Ministry in their trip to Washington, DC, for Spring Break 2002.

The Mt. Zion SAFE (Substance Abuse Freedom Education) Ministry presents two faith-based educational programs—Recovery Concepts and Christ-Centered Recovery. These

classes will empower all persons in church leadership, lay persons and those who have a concern to heal our community. You will acquire a working knowledge of the addiction and recovery process. This course will assist with the ability of family and friends to help those suffering from the hardships of drugs and alcohol abuse. Classes will be on Thursday nights at 7 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. All classes are held in the Genesis Building. For more information contact A.J. Murphy, (727) 866-1297.

Mt. Zion Before and After Care program for ages 5-13 is now accepting applications. We offer pick up and drop off to school

each morning and afternoon, early pick up on half days and all day care most school holidays. For rates and info, call Jan Smith, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., ext. 402.

Need a ride to church? The church van will be happy to give you a lift. Pick ups are on Sunday and/or Wednesday. Please try to notify us one day in advance. Contact Deacon William Harris or Deacon Harvey Took, (727) 894-4311, ext. 801.

Mt. Zion is located at 955 20th St. S., St. Petersburg. Rev. Louis M. Murphy, Sr., is pastor.

Ethel Small, Gospel Disciples Celebrate Second Anniversary

Come one, come all! Join Sister Ethel Small and The Gospel Disciples in a mighty gospel praise and worship celebration at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16 and Sunday, Feb. 17 at All Nations Church of God By Faith, 3000 Fourth Ave. S in St. Petersburg, across

from the fire station. Various gospel singing groups and choirs of the Tampa Bay area will be there to help lift up and glorify the name of "Jesus."

Saturday is youth Night and Sunday is the Anniversary climax. Do-

ors will open at 5 p.m. and the service will begin at 6 p.m.

Also hear Elder Betty Plaumb deliver the Anointed word of God at All Nations at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 14 and Feb. 15.

**"The Lord is
great and is to
be highly
praised; His
greatness is
beyond
understanding."
Psalms 145:3**

PRAYER HELPS

NATIONAL NEWS

Agreement Signed



The Atlanta Life General and Wilcher Insurance Group sign agreement with the M.W. Prince hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Life General Agency, Inc., President William Souder, Jr., CLU and the Wilcher Insurance Group of South Carolina recently announced an agreement with the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and Jurisdiction, Inc., of Durham, NC, to provide Members Benefits program offering life insurance products and financial services products. The Grand Lodge has an estimate of over 25,000 members. The agreement is the first of its kind for the agency since it became a member of the newly-restructured Atlanta Life Financial Group.

"We are pleased to offer a 'Wealth Building' pro-

gram," says Souder. "Atlanta Life has effectively provided insurance coverage and financial services for other large organizations, and we will continue to do so as part of our expanded portfolio of insurance products and services. The plan makes it possible for over 25,000 members to take advantage of wealth-building products, such as insurance products at competitive rates, financial management seminars, financial services products and much more."

"We have been in negotiation for some time with several companies for a program that will provide this additional benefit to our members," says Marvin D. Chambers, Most

Worshipful Grand Master. "Atlanta Life General Agency worked with us to craft what we believe is an excellent opportunity. We know our members will be pleased."

The Atlanta Life General Agency is a subsidiary of Atlanta Life Insurance Company, which provides insurance products and financial services through more than twenty-two General agencies throughout the United States.

The Wilcher Insurance Group of South Carolina operates in twenty-two states.

A former slave, Alonzo Franklin Herndon, founded Atlanta Life Insurance Company in 1905.

"Everyday Heroes" Kick-Off Reception



L to R: Vincent Berkeley, senior vice president, Corporate Relations, Burger King Corporation, shares a moment with the McCoy family. The youngsters were featured in the calendar alongside "Everyday Hero" and International Grand Chess Master Maurice Ashley.



L to R: Chris Clouser (far right), executive vice president and chief global marketing officer, Burger King Corporation shares in congratulating "Everyday Hero" Brigadier General Walter E. Gaskin of the United States Marine Corps. Accepting Gaskin's Award is Major Hitchcock (second from left) of the U.S. Marine Corps. Also pictured is award presenter Frank Libutti (far left), Deputy Police Commissioner of New York City, and Vincent Berkeley (second from right, senior vice president, Corporate Relations, Burger King Corporation.

NEW YORK, NY — Burger King Corporation celebrated "Everyday Heroes" at a recent kick-off reception at the Museum for African Art in New York City.

The "Everyday Heroes" campaign is a national celebration staged during Black History Month and heralds the achievements of ordinary people doing the extraordinary. Throughout the month of February, Burger King customers across the country learned more about these "Everyday Heroes" through a series of limited edition calendars spotlight-

ing an African-American unsung hero. These heroes were selected from the fields of education, non-profit, military and public service.

Among those featured were four firefighters that helped save lives during the World Trade Center tragedy. They are Abdullah Granger, Troy Owens, Chief Robert R. Turner and Lieutenant Paul Washington. Also spotlighted were Brigadier General Walter E. Gaskin, one of the highest-ranking African Americans in the United States Marine Corps; Maurice Ashley, the

first and only African American to attain the coveted title of International Grand Master of Chess; and Evelyn Moore, co-founder and president of the National Black Child Development Institute.

Says Chris Clouser, executive vice president and chief global marketing officer, Burger King Corporation, "These individuals have made tremendous contributions to their communities and our country, and Burger King Corporation is proud to be at the forefront in recognizing their accomplishments."



L to R: Vincent Berkeley (center), senior vice president for Corporate Relations, Burger King Corporation; Kimberly Richardson (far left), event host and correspondent, FOX-TV; Evelyn Moore (second from left), "Everyday Hero" and executive director of the National Black Child Development Institute; Abdullah Granger (third from left), "Everyday Hero" and firefighter, FDNY; Lieutenant Paul Washington (fourth from left), "Everyday Hero" and firefighter, FDNY; David Ushery (far right), Award presenter and correspondent, ABC-TV News; Troy Owens (second from right), "Everyday Hero" and firefighter, FDNY; Major Michael C. Hitchcock (third from right), accepting award on behalf of "Everyday Hero" Brigadier General Walter Gaskin, United States Marine Corps.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Enjoy Parrots and More at Sunken Gardens in March

ST. PETERSBURG — The annual Parrot Celebrations anchor the line-up at Sunken Gardens in March, which also features Spring into Family Fun and Feng Shui. Most programs are free with park admission.

Parrot Celebrations are March 10th, March 17th and March 24th, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Amphitheater. A diverse array of exotic birds offer enjoyment for all ages. Two entertaining presentations at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. will showcase the wonderful diversity of these exotic birds from the small Sun Conure to the giant Hyacinth Macaw.

Hands-On-Planet-Earth presents Wildlife Magic March 17th at 1 p.m., Amphitheater.

Doug Scull mixes wildlife and magic, providing humorous facts that delight all ages. This month the magic will include snakes, toads, giant roaches and other unusual wildlife.

Spring into Family Fun will be on March 10th, 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Special nature programs have been designed for families to enjoy spring in the gardens on the second Sunday of each month. Children will receive a coupon for a free hot dog and soda. Enjoy different topics and activities.

Bold Foliage in the Garden will be Saturday, March 9th, 11:30 a.m., Oak Pavilion. Use texture and bold foliage to create an exciting, tropical look in

your garden. Professional designers know the secrets. Now you can learn the secrets, too.

Feng Shui happens Saturday, March 16th, 11:30 a.m., Oak Pavilion. Feng Shui is an age-old practice that embraces the idea of living in harmony and balance with our environment. The practice of Feng Shui embodies a belief that there are subtle forces in our surroundings that can impact our lives. It provides a framework for understanding the secrets of how energy moves in our surroundings and how the landscape affects us at a subtle level. Kathy Mann of Feng Shui Creations will present ways we can create harmony in our landscapes.

44th Annual Grammy Award Celebration

NEW YORK — Damian Marley wins Grammy for Best Reggae Album at the 44th Annual Grammy Award celebration in Los Angeles recently. His Motown Records release, Halfway Tree, marks his debut for the label.

Marley, the youngest child of legendary reggae artist Bob Marley, released Halfway Tree on Sept. 11th. The album has received wide critical acclaim since its release. The album features production by big brother Stephen Marley. Marley was also featured on Red Star Sounds, a compilation CD,

to benefit VH-1's Save the Music charitable project.

Under the direction of Motown President and CEO Kedar Massenburg, the label has experienced an impressive creative and sales renaissance. Entering the awards with a historic, first-ever 15 nominations, Motown has been enjoying renewed success with releases from Grammy nominees Brian McKnight, India Arie, Erykah Badu and Grammy winner Damian Marley.

Motown's 2002 schedule promises to continue the past set in 2001. No Half Steppin', the debut al-

bum from Sharissa, the new voice of hip-hop soul, released February 26th, is headed toward hit status.

Upcoming releases include: The Way I Feel, March 12th, the eagerly anticipated debut album from newcomer Remy Shand, and the debut album, I'm Just Corey March 19th from Motown's teen prodigy Corey, which spawned the hit single "Hush Little Lady". Also in the pipeline is the debut of Lathun, the multi-talented neo soul singer, at the end of the first quarter.

Composer's Forum and Writer's Workshop at Your Library

ST. PETERSBURG — The St. Petersburg Main Library, 3745 Ninth Ave. N., will host afternoon of music by women composers and a free writer's workshop in March.

Local author and advice columnist for the *St. Pete Weekly*, Michelle Valentine, will present a free writer's workshop entitled How to Write a How-to Book at the Main Library auditorium on Saturday, March 9th, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Ms. Valentine is a well-known author of *How to Find Love Online*, television personality and International Matchmaker featured by NBC News,

Fox News and others. Be sure to check out Ms. Valentine's website at www.michellevalentine.com.

Concert pianist and lecturer Judith Alstadter will present an afternoon of music, Women Composers: Romantic to Ragtime, on Sunday, March 24th, at 3 p.m. in the Main Library auditorium. Part of Women's History Month, this program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information, call Kate Holmes at (727) 893-7193.

Check Out The Challenger
Online At
www.theweeklychallenger.com

Casting Search Begins for New HBO Documentary Series

LOS ANGELES — The casting process has begun for the new HBO documentary series Candidate 2012. The show will chronicle the cross-country odyssey of one young American who seeks to discover what it takes to become president of the U.S. in 2012.

The search has begun for the prospective candidate whose journey across

America will be the subject of Candidate 2012. In addition to possessing a driving curiosity, passion and a sense of humor, applicants should be at least 25 years old—and thus eligible to run for president for the first time in 2012 (presidential candidates must be at least 35).

Interested individuals can call for an application form at 800-935-2012.

Black Facts

On February 09, 1944, novelist Alice Walker was born in Eatonton, Georgia.

Interactive Theater Shows for Children

ST. PETERSBURG — Whimsical Notions' Interactive Theater will present two shows for children in conjunction with the Spring on the Flats/ Hooked on Art Festival.

The Pirate Jenny Show will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 16th, and the Mother Nature Show will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 17th. Both shows will be presented at the St. Petersburg Museum of History.

Whimsical Notions' In-

teractive Theater shows feature professional actress and speaker Donna Cutting and mix music, dance, story telling and make-believe whereby the audience is the star of the show. Children ages 5-12 and their families will have opportunities to participate as characters in the show!

For information regarding these and other events at the Spring on the Flats/ Hooked on Art Festival, call Kathy Iwanowski at 727-733-6516.

Bay Area Renaissance Festival Celebrates 23rd Anniversary

LARGO — March 9th marks the opening day of the 23rd Annual Bay Area Renaissance Festival in Largo. The event recreates a Renaissance village complete with an artisan marketplace, stages filled with live entertainment, games, rides, a Children's Realm and a wide array of foods.

Entertainment highlights include live armored jousting and a human combat chess match. In addition to stage acts, the village features costumed

characters ranging from royalty to peasants.

On March 9th and 10th Wine and Roses - wedding vow renewals, free wine tasting, grape stomp and wooing contest.

On March 16th and 17th Irish Heritage Festival - Battle of the Bartenders, hot potato contest, Irish music and dance.

On March 23rd and 24th Highland Celebration - Highland games, tug-of-war, pipe and drum band.

On March 30th and 31st

Spring Fling - Easter egg hunt, Maypole dancing, hula hoop contest and Easter service.

The Bay Area Renaissance Festival is returning to 400 Central Park Drive, Largo. The gates open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and parking is free. Advance discount tickets are available at Albertson's and Circle K.

For more information, call (727) 586-5423.

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perfect choice of presenting the triumph of inner strength.

The stage heated up with the beautiful transitioning of the ballet entitled *Exotica*. The dancers were decked out in 70s wardrobe and afros. *Exotica* started with high energy, moved into Gospel, and ended with dance music that brought this critic back to the type of music and atmosphere I remembered experiencing at nightclubs like *Le Jardin*, a jumping 70s disco in New York. *Philadanco's* superb execution of choreographer Ron Brown's creativity was more than a match for the music. Incidental visual imagery of silently cascading showers of perspiration seen through the rays of stage lights with each powerful head movement, were so beautiful they had to be planned.

The second half of the production featured two ballets from "Messages From The Heart" namely *My Science* and *Hard Singing Song*. This tour of *Philadanco* used as its inspiration female choreographers. *My Science* was the first ballet of the evening showcasing the talents of a female choreographer, Bebe Miller. Again, the broad range of talent of *Philadanco* was evident as the ballet moved from a haunting theme to hard rock. The ballet was set to the music of La Voix Bulgare and Led Zeppelin. Choreographer Bebe Miller used her dancers to

explore the collision of matter and the mechanics of relationships, as several pairings displayed the depth of emotion, rejection, passion, and energy.

Philadanco's last ballet, choreographed by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, was the most riveting of the night. *Philadanco's* interpretive dancing was stretched beyond all known limits, as they captivated the audience, dancing on a subtly lit stage to silence. *Hand Singing Song* was a strong cultural and societal statement on the struggle for freedom of African-Americans. When the dancers weren't dancing to silence, they moved and gestured to the sound of strong political narrations. *Hand Singing Song* was named after the use of hand gestures, specifically the "dap", symbolically expressing the political and cultural aspects of African-Americans. The dancers often displayed beautiful self expression only to flow back into synchronization showing that our diversity can meld into unity of thought, mind, and purpose enabling us to overthrow deeply entrenched hurdles. The dancers garb reflected the period of time during the Panthers, dressed in all black, proudly displaying berets, fists clenched high in the air. It took you back to the day... Again, *Philadanco* broke all tradition when the audience heard the rare sound of voices coming from the dancers in a ballet. The dancers whispered, talked in hushed tones, and shout-

ed symbolizing their triumph... infusing African-American culture on society at large. Zollar's statement was clear; the dancer's interpretation impeccably executed, and the audience enthralled.

The next time *Philadanco* comes to town, you won't want to miss this highly imaginative group. They will leave you wondering what will they attempt next.

Labess II - Choreographer: David Brown, Music: Zap Mama, Lighting Design/Execution: William H. Grant, III, Costume Design: David Brown, Costume Execution: Natasha Guruleva; *Exotica* - Choreographer: Ronald K. Brown, Music: Wunmi & Various Artists, Lighting Design/Execution: William H. Grant, III, Costume Design/Execution: Wunmi; "Messages From The Heart" - *My Science* - Choreographer: Bebe Miller, Music: La Voix Bulgare & Led Zeppelin, Costume Design/Execution: Natasha Guruleva, Lighting Design/Execution: William H. Grant, III; *Hand Singing Song* - Choreographer: Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Original Score: Michael Wimberly, Costume Design/Execution: Jackson Lowell, Lighting Design/Execution: William H. Grant, III.

Four Girls

continued from Front.

was a performer, remarked, "This is a play of great significance. It took me back," he said after a moment. Hannah, a young child at the time of the bombings, was shaken by the significance and horror of the acts. "I never would have thought that forty years later, I would be taken back under those moments. It's wonderful that Gibbs even thought of putting on this performance. It's a special night."

As Act One centered on tragedy, Act Two moved towards a celebration of African-American music, showcasing the styles of jazz, ragtime, and rhythm and blues. Vocalist Jasmine Tate delighted the audience with her vintage ragtime performance of "Nobody," while singer Justin Hires paid tribute to old-school R&B with spinning moves and a characteristic collapse to the floor as he sang, "You Brought Me." Student Ann Cornelius dazzled the audience with the jazz song, "They Lead my Lord Away," while Jonathan Sullivan

brought contemporary gospel to the stage with, "Love Lifted Me."

On explaining the theme transition between the acts, Clark stated, "I wanted to show that gospel music is developmental, that while the context of music such as jazz and the blues was out of the church, the lyrics still reflected its elements."

Expressive dancing also defined Act Two. Particularly captivating was a sensuous duet by female-favorite Michael Allen and Sharon Raneri, winning the crowd over as they danced to the contemporary R&B song "Love."

The show concluded with a final performance by the Clark Ensemble Dancers. Under the direction of Patricia Paige, they

performed a beautifully choreographed presentation to "Mary, Don't You Weep," a stirring piece about resurrection and the renewal of spirit.

The night ended with a final delight, especially to the women in the audience, as Gibbs alumnae and Tampa Bay Buccaneer Shaun King was announced as a surprise guest, capping an overall wonderful night of celebration and performance of the African-American tradition.

The night's performance was also a special victory for production director and teacher Cody "Spec" Clark for several reasons. Primarily, this was the first opportunity for all three areas of Gibbs High School to work together, including the stu-

dents of the Business Educational Technical Academy (BETA), the Pinellas County Center for the Arts (PCCA), and the traditional students. Proudly, Clark noted, "Four Little Girls" opened the door for more black students on the campus to become involved," acknowledging that his main intent was to educate and promote awareness of black history and culture to his students. He also underscored the role of the church in the black community.

Says Clark of the production, "I had several wonderful collaborators, including Keith Flournoy; music director, Ann Hadley; my assistant director, and Patricia Kelley, costume designer. I could-

n't have pulled this project off without them." His greatest appreciation, however, lies with Gibbs' principal, Barbara Shorter, as he reflected, "If not for Ms. Shorter, this would not be possible." Clark, who has taught at Gibbs for thirteen years, remarked, "I knew what it was like before her. Without her leadership as a black principal, this produc-



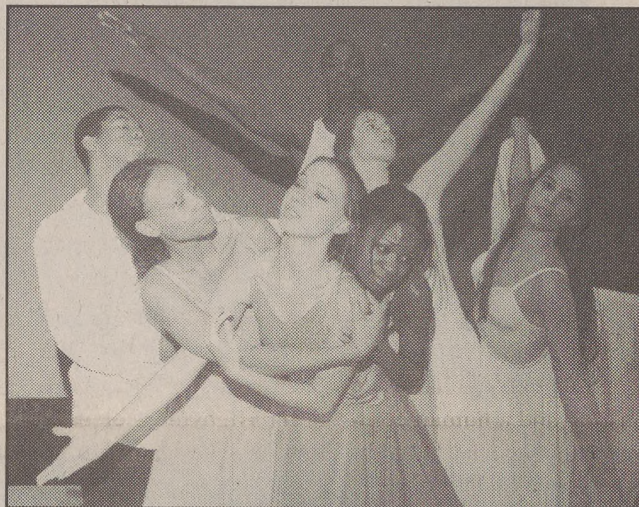
Ann Cornelius and Cheryl Cross, choir members



Guest artist & Collaborator, Ann Hadley and Keith Flournoy (not shown), Sharion Thurman, Ramon Ortiz (Rev. John Cross, 16th St. Baptist Church), Johnathan Sullivan



Jasmine (Vocalist), Barbara Shorter (Principal), Zema Florence (Vocalist)



Four Little Girls Cast Members

"Oh Mary Don't You Weep" Signature Piece by Cody Clark



clockwise: Nicole-Addie Mae Collins, Amber-Denise McNair, Tiara-Cynthia Wesley, Megan-Carole Robertson



L to R: Muhammad Nash, Ahmad Nash, Roshara Francis, Marquell Lowe

14th Annual PAVA Exhibition and Sale

LARGO - The Professional Association of Visual Artists (PAVA) will hold its 14th Annual Member Exhibition at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Two dimensional, as well as three dimensional works will be shown and offered for sale on Saturday, March 9th, and Sunday, March 10th. The show will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and noon to 4 p.m., respectively. The Exhibition is open to the public, and there is no charge.

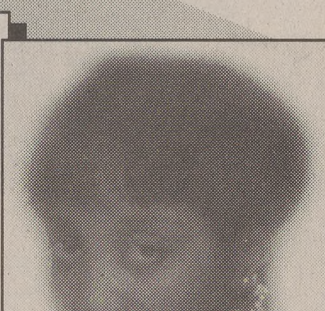
The reception for the artists will be held Friday, March 8th, at the Largo Cultural Center from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

PAVA is an association of professional artists, and memberships are invited. PAVA's goal is to share with its members the accumulated knowledge that is available from other members.

For further information, contact the Largo Cultural Center at 727-587-6751.

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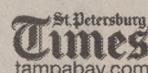
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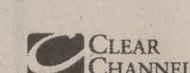
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STATE NEWS

Law Enforcement Sent the Message That Kids Must Be Buckled Up

ORLANDO — An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This is the standpoint of law enforcement, medical personnel and community traffic safety teams regarding the safety of children on Florida's roadways.

The February Buckle Up Florida safety belt enforcement wave coincided with Child Passenger Safety Week, and all efforts were focused on educating parents and getting children buckled up. The massive statewide endeavor included 73 child safety seat checkup events with 739 technicians who checked or installed a whopping 1,903 child safety seats in the nine-day period.

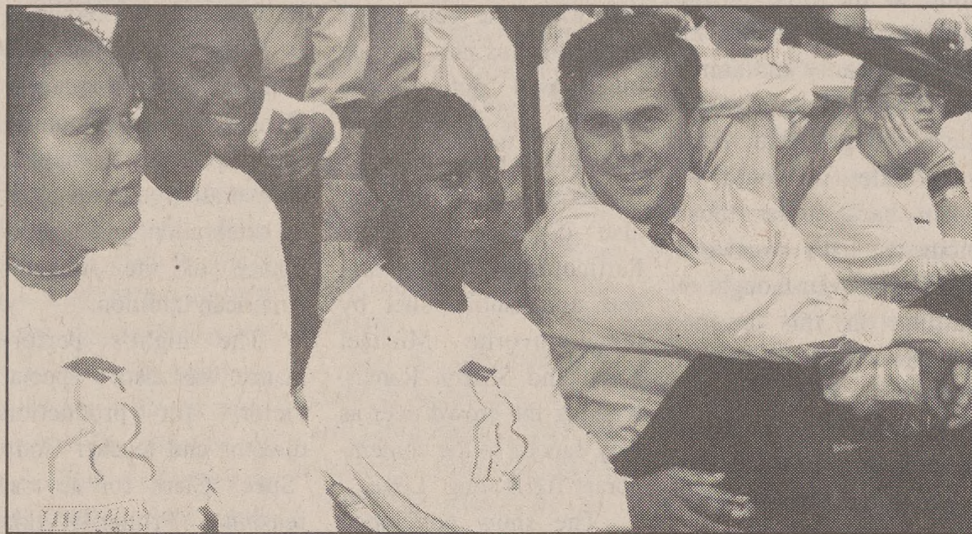
"Children learn by example, and we have a responsibility to protect them," said Jennifer Collins, spokesperson for Buckle Up Florida. "We wanted to first educate the parents about why they need to buckle up their kids, then make sure that they have the seats installed correctly. That is what we hoped to accomplish with these communi-

ty events. After all that, there is no excuse for us to see one child not buckled up."

In working toward the common goal of getting Floridians buckled up, law enforcement officers across Florida join together four times a year in a zero tolerance campaign against motorists who are not buckled. The results of the February 9-17 enforcement period show a total of 27,136 safety belt tickets and 1,071 child restraint tickets were issued statewide.

Buckle Up Florida partners with law enforcement and community traffic safety teams statewide to implement public education and safety programs and strictly enforce Florida's safety belt laws. For more information on special enforcement in your community, contact your local law enforcement agencies. For safety belt statistics and a full listing of results from the February enforcement wave, log on to www.buckleupflorida.com.

Governor Bush Receives "Mentor of the Year" Honor



TALLAHASSEE — Governor Jeb Bush was awarded the "Mentor of the Year" by Take Stock in Children, Florida's innovative college scholarship and mentoring program, at the annual Take Stock in Children Rally and celebration of National Mentoring Month that included more than 1,000 attendees.

In acceptance of the award, Governor Bush stated, "I am truly honored to receive this award. Next to being a father, being a mentor is the most impor-

tant thing I do. The positive influence you have in a young person's life reaches far beyond that one person. It will influence all their relationships, their school life, family life and most importantly their future."

Pat Moran, CEO of JM Family Enterprises and Chairperson of Take Stock, announced that the program has exceeded the \$35 million mark in fundraising for college and vocational school scholarships, which will provide post-secondary education for 6,000

students.

"It's really incredible to stride past \$35 million and provide for 6,000 students. We have come a long way and helped thousands of students in a very short period of time," Moran said.

Lt. Governor Frank Brogan was master of ceremonies for the event, which included Governor Jeb Bush, Secretary of Education Jim Horne, Education Commissioner Charlie Crist, Lottery Secretary David Griffin

and President of Outback Steakhouse Paul Avery.

The Florida Lottery—a statewide sponsor of Take Stock in Children for five years—is the sponsor of the Take Stock Rally in Tally. Outback Steakhouse—a founding sponsor of Take Stock in Children—provided lunch for the crowd of nearly 1,000 people.

Take Stock is a not-for-profit, public-private partnership. Currently, more than 5,600 students are identified between third and ninth grades in public school and qualify under the federal poverty guidelines. Each student selected to participate must agree to fulfill the program's requirements—maintain good grades, stay out of trouble, stay drug and alcohol free, attend school and meet weekly with their adult volunteer mentor.

Bilirakis' Health Subcommittee Examines the Uninsured

WASHINGTON, DC — Congressman Mike Bilirakis (R-FL), Chairman of the Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, recently held a hearing to examine ways to significantly reduce the number of uninsured.

Bilirakis said, "In order to reduce the number of uninsured, we must look at innovative and flexible solutions that will increase access to health care. The Census Bureau estimates that last year over 38 million people went the whole year without health insurance. Although this figure represents an improvement from the 43.4 million

Americans that lacked coverage in 1997, there is still real concern with the fact that rising health care costs and the recent economic downturn could increase the number of uninsured," stated Bilirakis.

The hearing addressed the problems of access to affordable health coverage, the pressures facing small businesses, current Federal programs, state programs, and proposals to help more Americans get insured.

"Our challenge is to enact legislation that will expand access to care for a significant number of Americans in a fiscally responsible manner," concluded Bilirakis.

Black Facts

On February 10, 1946, Georgia-born Jackie Robinson — major league baseball's first black player — married Rachel Isum.

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NORTH CENTRAL NEWS



WORDS BY ROSETTA

by Rosetta C. Forshee

In Concern for Others

The type of society we live in today is a far cry from the caring close-knit environment most of us grew up in. It saddens me to see that some of us have really gotten very caught up in turning a deaf ear to the concern and well-being of others. "Love Thy Neighbor" seems to have silently slipped from our existence.

Violence, crime and lawlessness pervade our society. Street crime in this nation has reached frightening levels. Alcohol abuse and drug dependency among some of the youth are reaching epidemic proportions. We desperately need more righteousness among us. We need to send out a strong and clear message that it is now time to really reach out and care about each other. We need to put not only passion but compassion back into the soul.

Let us turn back to the Biblical basics. Now is the time for Christ-loving men and women to become willing to spend some of their time in reaching out to lend a helping hand.

I realize that in the lifestyle of today a person may encounter many difficult distractions. Sinful by-paths may beckon us, false goals may attract us, competition may discourage us and opposition could cause us to falter. Some may be fearful of rejection, but let us try to overcome these obstacles of self-centeredness and shift our attention outside of ourselves and become more willing and able to help others. To do this, we must live our lives as an expression of God's love. The true welfare of man consists of fulfilling the will of God. If we live a Godly, righteous and sober life, then we will become inspired to be of service to those in need. Thus, we will have turned our life from one with a meaningless existence to one of purposeful living.

We must learn to talk to others as though we truly care, speak in such a way that we will help build up another's confidence in himself, instead of tearing down his reputation. We must learn to give of ourselves in showing that we really care, without thought

of something in return. We must cleanse ourselves of everything that would sap our strength in the fight for togetherness. We must free ourselves from the bondage of our negative imaginations. And we must once and for all break down all barriers that sometimes keep us apart and cause us to drift along without the dream of brotherly love.

Let us become more involved in helping, serving and healing. We need to gain a better understanding of each other and feel more deeply the needs and hurts of others. Let us develop more grace, patience and stamina in our service for our fellow brothers and sisters. When we see discord, let us try to bring about harmony; where there is despair, let us try to bring hope; and when we see sadness, let us try to bring joy.

Every person should love his fellow man and should act towards others as he desires others to act towards him. This is the positive aspect of love; the doing of something good for someone else whenever the opportunity presents itself.

We may not be able to help others with our influence and money, but if nothing more, we can help with our sympathy, good will and kind words. In these ways, we can help the other person to better bear their burdens and in doing so we can cultivate at the same time a more cheerful disposition for ourselves.

Let us explode within our race of people new possibilities for service. Rekindle within us a fire and compassion that we may not wait too long to learn how to love.

Let us become a people with the loving purposes of reaching out to the less fortunate, breaking down walls of separation and begin to build bridges of friendship. For in this often heartless and sometimes joyless fragmented world we live in today, love is very much needed.

A THOUGHT TO REMEMBER:

"Love is shown not only with words but by unselfish and kind deeds as well."



SOCIETY IN OCALA

by Florence Wms. Ray

AWARDS PRESENTED AT NAACP BANQUET

On Friday, March 1st, the Marion Branch of the NAACP held its annual Freedom Fund Banquet at the Boys and Girls Club in Ocala. The keynote speaker for the event was Dorsey C. Miller, a graduate of Howard High School, now a retired administrator from Broward County public schools. He is also president and CEO of D.C. Miller and Associates.

Miller, listed as one of Ebony Magazine's 100 Most Influential Black Americans, urged the black community to use economic power to support black entrepreneurs.

The following awards were presented: The Frank G. Pinkston Humanitarian Award was given to two brothers, Ernest and Lewis P. Woods, Sr., for outstanding community service. L.C. Stevenson, NAACP branch president, presented the awards. Scott Pump Service, owned by Ike Scott, III, received the minority business award; Quality Discount Meats, owned by James Johnson, received the service and uplift to the community award; justice and progress award was given to Charles Stout, publisher of the Star Banner; presidential award was given to Edward Tomlin, a member of the executive committee and is dedicated to the organization and its aims.

The event marked the 19th Annual Freedom Fund Awards Banquet for Marion County, and it was well attended.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy birthday greetings go out to Zelma Finley, March 1st; Mollie Smith, March 2nd; Jessie Edwards, March 5th; Jeremy Vickers and Judy Blocker, March 6th; Ella Gillings and Carrie Woodberry, March 8th; Lynette Blocker, March 12th; Alshia Blocker, March 14th.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Happy anniversary wishes go out to Gloria and David Lee Branton, March 13th.

"CHRISTIAN WOMEN EMPOWERED BY GOD"

New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, located at 728 N.W. Sixth Avenue, will host the conference "Christian Women Empowered by God". Services will be held Friday from 7-9 p.m. with pre-registration and fellowship followed by a prayer and praise service.

The conference will continue on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., including praise dancers, guest soloists and special topics. Pastor Cecil Wilson will be the speaker on Sunday at 8 a.m. Rev. Smoot will be the 11 a.m. speaker.

OMBUDSMAN COUNCIL NEEDS HELP

The Long Term Ombudsman Council, a professional advocacy organization committed to requirements to investigate abuse, neglect and exploitation in long-term care facilities, needs medically knowledgeable volunteers (or those who have dietary or social services backgrounds or an interest in the care of frail elders) to pursue resolution of complaints regarding facilities, families and/or patients.

If interested, please call Maureen at 620-3088 for more information.

FREDNESSIA LaSHAY WOODS TURNS SIX

Frednessia LaShay Woods, the daughter of Fred and Vanessa Woods, will turn six on Saturday, March 9th. Frednessia attends Oakcrest Elementary School as a "K" student. Her hobbies are singing, going to church and playing with her toys. She has three brothers, William, Antron and Fred, Jr.



OCALA NEWS

by Jim Thorpe

GREATER HOPEWELL

On Sunday, March 10th, Greater Hopewell will hold a Missionary Day celebration. At 8 a.m. there will be a YWA and matrons breakfast; at 9:30 a.m., Sunday School; at 11 a.m., Worship Service; at 3:30 p.m., Mission Program.

The Mass Choir will render the music. The Brotherhood and Crusaders will usher.

JUST FOR KIDS ACADEMY

Spring break is on its way! Just for Kids

Academy provides kids ages kindergarten-12 years with free field trips daily from 9am-4pm, creative and recreational activities and hot nutritious meals. Located at 1305 NE St., Ocala, just off Silver Springs Blvd., phone 629-2516, their hours are 5:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. They have provided quality child care since 1977.

HOWARD ACADEMY NEWS

Health Fair planned - A community health fair which will focus on hypertension-stroke, heart dis-

ease, cancer, diabetes and HIV will be held at Howard Academy on March 23rd, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. The sponsors of the fair are Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Howard Academy Safe Haven, Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority, Monroe Regional Health Center's Stroke Unit and Soul Harvest Community Enrichment Center. There will be free blood pressure, glucose, pulse and stroke screening.

Your problem is solved! Howard Academy offers tutoring to students in grades kindergarten through twelve Monday through Thursday and on Saturdays. For more information, call 629-7082.

GED - If you are an adult (18 or older) who has dropped out of school and you would like to get a GED, we offer the program right here at the Academy. If you have a child 16 or 17

years old who has dropped out and they would like the opportunity to get a GED, an appointment can be made to discuss the possibility.

Summer Program - June 3rd through June 28th, Monday through Thursday will be the first session of the summer program. July 8th through July 26th, Monday through Thursday will be the second session. The sessions will be both recreational and academic. We have requested that all students receive free breakfast and lunches during these two sessions. We will accept approximately 80 students per session. Not all students who apply will be accepted.

Black History material - If you are in need of material for Black History (books, films, pictures, etc.), contact Cassandra Kaham at 629-7082.

40th State Annual Women's Convention

OCALA - Ocala welcomes the 40th State Annual Women's Convention of the Western Florida Jurisdiction coming March 18th-22nd.

Sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday-Friday and 7:30 p.m. Monday-Friday at the Holiday Inn West, I-75 and Hwy. 40, Temple of Faith, 2830 NW 27th Ave.

Come expecting a revival of healing, singing, deliverance, training, preaching, worshipping, praying and fellowship in the Holy Ghost!

Invite a friend and join us.

For more information, contact 620-9299, 629-5238 or 351-0688.

Black Facts

On February 08, 1968, diminutive actor Gary Coleman was born in Zion, Illinois. Despite a childhood of medical troubles, Coleman went on to become a television star in numerous situation comedies.



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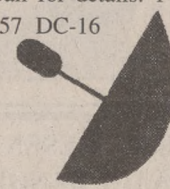
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Police work involving the protection of life and property through the enforcement of laws and ordinances. Work involves responsibility for the prevention, detection and investigation of criminal activity, while assigned to a specific task or geographic area on an assigned shift. Work is performed with considerable independence under general direction of an administrative supervisor, with responsibilities to include problem solving activities while working in conjunction with community organizations. Includes the use and care of firearms, communications equipment, gas masks and other necessary equipment. This work involves the element of personal danger and requires the exercise of considerable independent judgement including application of policy and procedure and tact. Also, includes the use of computers to access information and generate reports. The Police Officer may be assigned to a specialized unit requiring specialized knowledge, training and work in units, such as vice and narcotics, community policing, criminal investigations, etc. Must be a high school graduate or possess a GED certificate. We require sixty (60) college hours however, applicants with thirty (30) college credit hours are eligible to apply. Must be at least 19, and meet all other criteria of the current "Selection Standards for Police Officer Positions" as set forth by the City of St. Petersburg.

Selection Process: Personal History Questionnaire, polygraph, vocational assessment/psychological evaluation, physical agility, background investigation, medical exam and drug screen. Applications will be received in the Employment Office, One Fourth Street North, 4th Floor, Monday - Friday. Preference in appointment will be extended to eligible veterans and, in some instances, spouses of eligible veterans. To receive veteran's preference, documentation of status must be submitted at time of application.



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DENNIS, CHARLIE
H., 87, died February 25, 2002. Survivors include his wife, Mary R. Dennis; three sons, Charles D., St. Petersburg, Terry R. and Archie S. (Felicia) Dennis, Atlanta; one daughter, Margaret A. Threadcraft, Denver, CO; nine grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

CLEARWATER RITES



GOODWIN, JOHN
HENRY, 87, died February 22, 2002. Survivors include one daughter, Johnnie Mae Maddox; several grandchildren; several great grandchildren; a sister, Janie Turner; and several nieces, nephews and friends. Young's Funeral Home, Clearwater.

Forget not the Lord
and His many
blessings!



GREENSBERRY, LEWIS
S., 69, died February 16, 2002. Survivors include his wife, Ruth Elizabeth; three sons; four daughters; six brothers; four sisters; 11 grandchildren; and several other relatives and friends. Young's Funeral Home, Clearwater.

PRAYER HELPS



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HUDSON, MAMIE
DEMPS, 88, died February 16, 2002. Survivors include one son, James R. (Alice) Hudson; two daughters, Cora Mae Helms and Emma Hudson (J.S.) Hill; her "adopted family", the Walkers; five grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; a great great grandchild; and several cousins, other relatives and friends. Young's Funeral Home, Clearwater.



SIMMONS, RALPH
SR., 81, died February 14, 2002. Survivors include his wife, Delores Simmons, Quitman, GA; five sons; nine daughters; three brothers; three sisters; 40 grandchildren; 58 great grandchildren; three great great grandchildren; and a dear friend, Jeanette Williams. Young's Funeral Home, Clearwater.

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