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# The Weekly Challenger

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VOLUME 41 NUMBER 17

DECEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 31, 2008

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA



## Happy Holidays



From  
*The Weekly Challenger*

### Love For Culture Illuminated In Display For Holy Days

BY JEANIE BLUE  
SPECIAL TO THE CHALLENGER

ST. PETERSBURG - Decorating her home for sacred and holy days is a passion for Mary Calloway who has tree ornaments, figurines, paintings and many other "what nots" that capture the essence of African and American heritage, which is especially important to Calloway.

"It feels good to put things in my home that remind me of family and friends," Calloway stated regarding her extensive collection. "I do this because this is my culture. The ones that look like me seem to speak to me."

For the past 25 years or so Calloway has been collecting decorations including gift wraps and greeting cards, starting in Washington, D.C., while her son (Chris) was living there. This desire to acquire such an extensive African American oriented collection was sparked after Calloway, while attending college at Xavier University in New Orleans, La., became involved in a program called Imani. This African-American centered program offered to black Catholics, helped to shape Calloway's impression of who she is as well as who she belongs to. Her collection is inclusive in that she has an integrated Nativity scene and

reflections of Catholic holy images that appear to look of European decent.

"I integrate my Nativity scene, but I prefer looking at images that reflect me around my home," Calloway said. "I normally decorate every room in my three-bedroom home, including the staircase. But due to my asthma condition, I had to cut back to just doing the living, dining, kitchen and den area. I also decorate the front yard."

Calloway added that she usually starts to decorate for the Christmas and Kwanzaa seasons right after the Thanksgiving holiday. This process usually takes about one day with the help of family. Calloway is a widow and now solicits help from her granddaughter Somalia (eight soon to be nine according to Somalia). Calloway doesn't publicize her display, but prefers to share it with family, friends and fellow church congregates.

"This is something I love to do," Calloway said. "When I was working and received my paycheck, I would always purchase something for myself or my home. I plan to leave this collection to my son (Chris) for him to do what he wants with it. However, I hope he will pass these items on to people

#### HOLIDAY

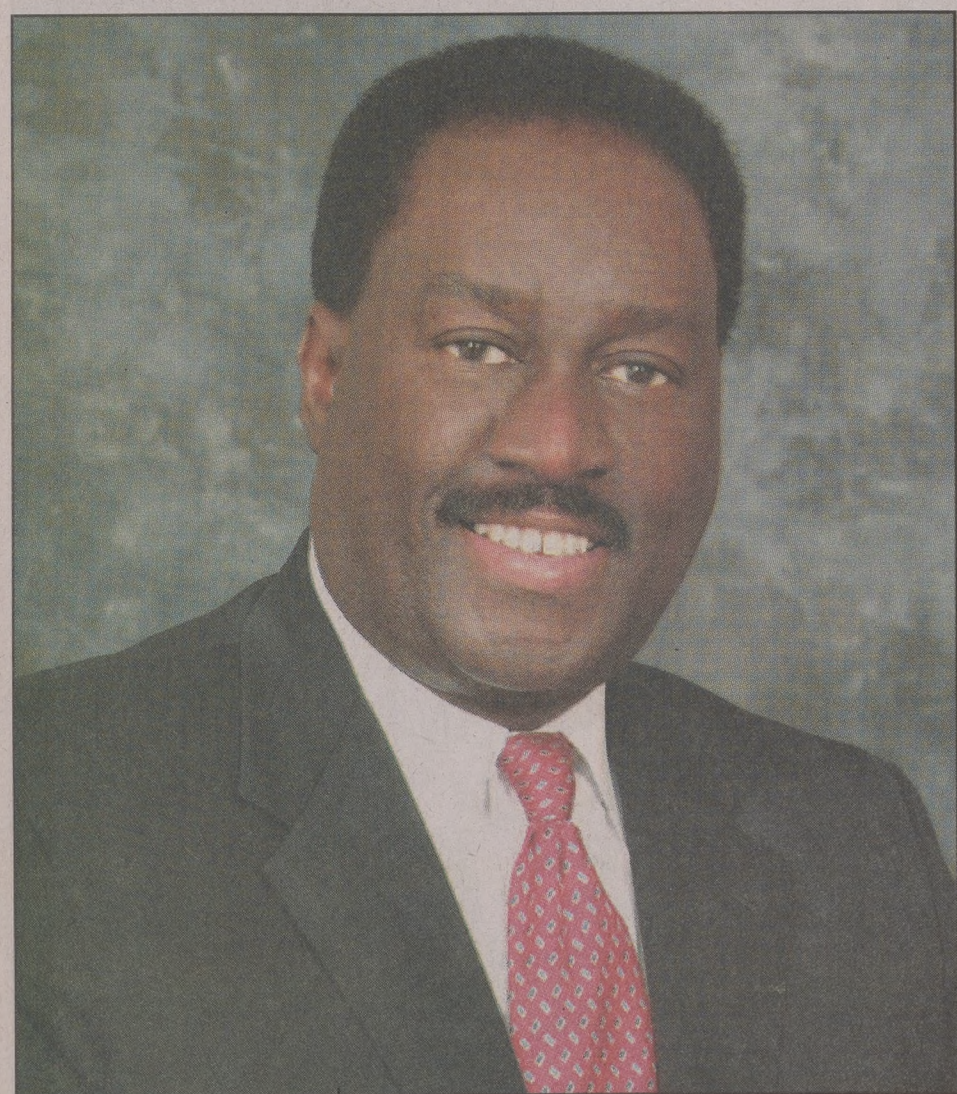
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Photograph courtesy of Kelley Collier

Mary Calloway and granddaughter, Somalia

### NAACP Recruits An 'A-Team' Of New Leadership: Annual Emancipation Proclamation Day Ceremony To Be Held On Jan. 1



NAACP President-elect Ray Tampa

SPECIAL TO THE CHALLENGER

ST. PETERSBURG - On Monday, Dec. 15, St. Petersburg NAACP President-elect Ray Tampa convened the first meeting of a new leadership team assembled to carry forward with a new agenda for the organization's 75th year in operation.

In addition, Gypsy Gallardo, Solomon Stephens and Deveron Gibbons have served as strategic advisors to the new president. Pastor Clarence Williams has expressed his commitment to the team and is invited to continue in his capacity as chairperson for the Religious Affairs Committee. Several leading local attorneys, including Tonya Burton and Bill Foster are working to retrench the NAACP's Legal Redress team. Others are pending. The new slate of officers and committee chairs so far recruited reads like an all-star line-up:

First VP, Trenia Cox; second VP, the Rev. Charles McKenzie; third VP, Terry Cox; secretary, Patty Van Alstine; treasurer, Delphinia Davis; assistant treasurer, Delquanda Turner; education committee chair, Sami

Scott; Economic Development Committee chair, Oretha Pope; Political Action Committee chair, Maria Scruggs-Weston; Health Committee chair, Ann Sherman-White; Housing Committee chair, Askia Muhammad; Membership chair, Harry Harvey; ACTSo Committee chair, Wanda Stuart; Media/Publicity chair, Tony Collins; Labor and Industry chair, Larry Newsome; and Juvenile Justice chair, Randy Lewis.

Others in attendance at the meeting who are expected to play key support roles include Gwendolyn Reese, Scott Wagman, Gerald Syrkett, Cassandra Jackson, Mary Darling and Doretha Jackson. Tampa is expected to release the names of the few remaining committee chairs just after the New Year.

Newly-elected leaders will be installed during The Annual Emancipation Proclamation Program planned for Jan. 1, at St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, 1301 37th St. S., St. Petersburg at 11:00 a.m. State Representative Darryl Rouson will be the keynote speaker. The public is invited to attend.



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# HOLIDAY GREETINGS



Photograph courtesy of Kelley Collier

This holiday season we wish to thank you for your business. Our thoughts turn to those who have made our progress possible. In this spirit we say ... Thank You and best wishes for the New Year.

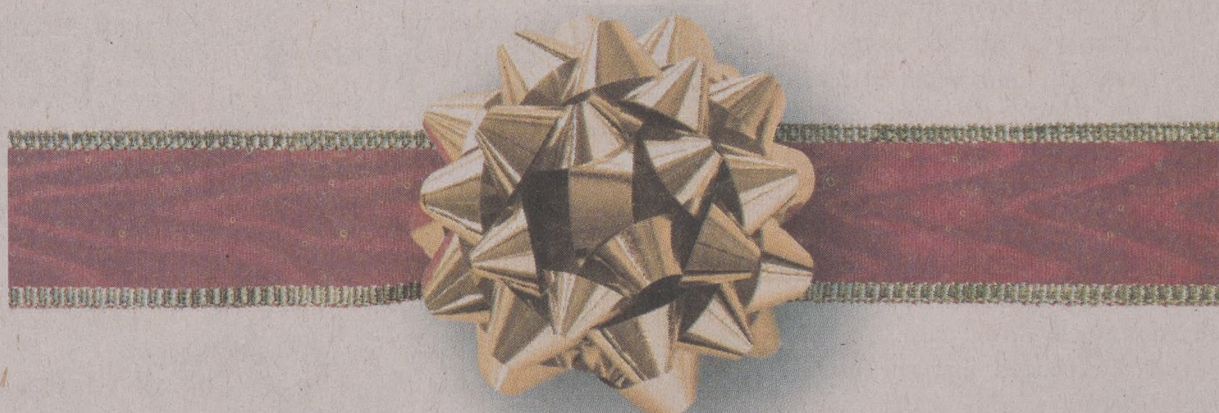
Dianne Speights, General/Advertising Manager  
The Weekly Challenger



Merry Christmas Grandma! Love, Abrea and Arrington Dodson



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to my mom, Jana and to my Grandmother — Naomi Richardson: Love, Isaac McNeil



Merry Christmas to Reverend and Mrs. Brian K. Brown from the St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church Special Chorus

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Photograph courtesy of D & L Photography

Happy Holidays to Aunt Kris from Alexis and Colton Justus



# The Weekly Challenger Newspaper

## We Value Diversity. We Value Education. We Value History.

- A knowledge of history brings a feeling of fellowship that runs through the ages — be it a territory, a village, a district, or a nation.
- To live without history is likened to living without a form of memory.
- To be without history is to live without roots or a past, with the present having no real foundation, and very little meaning for the future.
- To know the events of our past (can help us) to know what future events can be.
- *The Weekly Challenger* is committed to featuring articles of all ethnic cultures for the reading enjoyment of both the young and old generations.

## OPINION

### Finding The Upside Of The Downside



BY FARRAH GRAY  
NPA COLUMNIST

With the nation in an economic crisis, it is harder to find jobs, and let alone, keep them because of frequent layoffs.

In the event that your company is shutting down, or when co-workers are being downsized or if you are on the verge of being asked to leave, fear, or anxiousness may be running high and rumors may be common at this stage.

A 'pink slip' evokes nightmarish visions of being jobless and brings an overwhelming feeling of worthlessness.

Adding fuel to the fire is not a wise thing to do. Calm your fears and think positive, instead of being the 'doomsday prophet' making dire predictions. Downsizing is painful, so being prepared for the worst helps you to cope better.

Or if you are out of work or have been on the lookout for a job for a considerable time, it's tough being upbeat. Experts all agree that staying motivated is an important aspect of the process. Recognize the fact that the job search can be a long-term project rather than a one-

day affair. Finding a job in these times is a full-time job by itself.

When you are apprehensive or fearful about something, it is best to consult a person who understands your situation - someone whom you have confidence in. You should feel free to share all your fears even if they seem embarrassing or sensitive.

Common sense tends to evade us when we are fearful, so getting to see the situation from a new angle will help you zero in on the problem, find a solution, and toss the rest.

Fear is a disease. It cripples effective decision-making and most of the time accounts for the illogical actions that ensue. Whatever is the cause, fear is still that unpleasant negative feeling which you would rather do without.

When fear interferes with your everyday work, there's nothing much you can do, except wait till you get over it. If you let fear rule your life, it can seriously hamper your job, your job prospects and put your performance in jeopardy. Learning to manage your fears can help you weather negative situa-

tions and hard times.

Have a routine. Try to maintain the same routine you had when you were working. Now, instead of going to the office you can scan papers, browse through job search Web sites or network. Get in touch with your former job contacts. Don't let yourself be idle. Maintaining a routine is one way of staying optimistic.

It's a lot to ask of yourself, but put on a happy face. Do whatever you have to do to have a smile in place. No doubt it's a challenge to keep your emotions in the right perspective but it is crucial to maintain your composure.

As no interviewer likes to see a gloomy face, don't sport one! Keep your sense of humor intact. Get together with friends once every couple of weeks or once a month to catch up with the 'news' and console each other. You can meet without cost by asking everyone to come to a local bookstore or hotel lobby seating area.

Remember, this is just a transition period. So don't put your life on hold. Do something that will make you feel good. Don't deny yourself.

Finally, set realistic goals and objectives and stick to them. You may not be able to get that "just-right" job but perhaps you can do something that you have always wanted to do and never had the time for!

With this in mind why not invest your time and what spare change you may have into something that you've always wanted to do?

In today's society the chances of getting jobs are slim because of the amount of skill set one has. But as an entrepreneur, you don't need skills to be your own boss. You just need to level out your strengths and weaknesses to make your business successful. Analyze the situation carefully; jot down the positives and possibilities.

Experts believe that success in self-employment requires tremendous effort. Effort equals success and if you put enough effort into what you do, you can accomplish anything that you put your mind to!

What motivates us is achievement and it need not necessarily be a job-related one. Accomplish something that you and your family can be proud of!

### A Christmas Prayer To End Poverty In Our Time



BY MARIAN WRIGHT  
EDELMAN  
NPA COLUMNIST

As 2.1 billion Christians in our world prepare to celebrate the birth of the most famous poor baby in history, I hope they and all people will commit to helping all the poor babies in our rich nation and world find a place in our hearts and at our tables of plenty.

At a time when the gap between rich and poor in our nation and the world is at its widest ever, an economic downturn driven by the greed of a few has jeopardized the lives and economic security of all of us. I hope we will all raise a mighty voice to reset our nation's moral and economic compass.

God help us to end poverty in our time:

The poverty of having a child with too little to eat and no place to

sleep, no air, sunlight and space to breathe, bask and grow; The poverty of watching your child suffer and get sicker and sicker and not knowing what to do or how to get help because you don't have a car or health insurance; The poverty of working your fingers to the bone every day taking care of someone else's children and neglecting your own, and still not being able to pay your bills; The poverty of having a job that does not let you afford a stable place to live and being terrified you'll become homeless and lose your children to foster care; The poverty of losing your job because you cannot find reliable child care or transportation to work; The poverty of working all your life caring for others and having to start all over again caring for the grandchildren you love; The poverty of earning a college degree, having children, opening a

child care center, and taking home \$300 a week or month if you're lucky; The poverty of loneliness and isolation and alienation—having no one to call or visit, tell you where to get help, assist you in getting it, or care if you're living or dead; The poverty of having too much and sharing too little and having the burden of nothing to carry.

The poverty of convenient blindness and deafness and indifference to others, of emptiness and enslavement to things, drugs, power, violence and fleeting fame; The poverty of low aim and paltry purpose, weak will and tiny vision, big meetings and small action, loud talk and sullen grudging service. The poverty of believing in nothing, standing for nothing, sharing nothing,

sacrificing nothing, struggling for nothing; The poverty of pride and ingratitude for God's gifts of

life and children and family and freedom and country and not wanting for others what you want for yourself; The poverty of greed for more and more and more, ignoring, blaming and exploiting the needy, and taking from the weak to please the strong; The poverty of addiction to drugs, to drink, to work, to self, to the status quo and to injustice; The poverty of fear that keeps you from doing the thing you think is right; The poverty of despair and cynicism.

God help us end poverty in our time in all its faces and places, young and old, rural, urban, suburban and small town too, and in every color of humans You have made everywhere.

God help us to end poverty in our time in all its guises—inside and out—physical and spiritual, so that all our and Your children may live the lives that you intend.

### The Weekly Challenger

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Dear Johnson's 90th Birthday Dinner Party



Family and friends gather around Dear Johnson to celebrate her birthday

ST. PETERSBURG - On Dec. 1, 2008, Dear Johnson, the widow of Cleveland Johnson Sr., celebrated her 90th birthday at the home of Dr. Deborah Flanagan, who is affectionately known as her seventh child. The dinner party was given by Johnson's adoring children: Ronald, Sylvia and her husband, James, Karey, Eileen and Irene. Johnson's oldest daughter, Sandra Crawford passed away in 2003, but Crawford's daughter, Deneen of Tallahassee, was there giving lots of love to her grandmother. Also in attendance were grandchildren, Kyonna, Karey Jr. and Kezra Johnson, and Jonathan Boozy; Godson, Dr. Dallas Jackson; and extended son, Norvel Fuller. A host of adopted children, extended family and loving friends were also present.

The party started with an opening prayer by Sister Miriam Joseph, who taught at Immaculate Conception School in the 1960s, and who is presently stationed at St. Anthony's Hospital. A welcome

and tribute to Johnson's life was given by her daughter, Sylvia Taylor, an attorney in Sarasota and the Tampa Bay area. Johnson was serenaded by singer Henry Lawrence, three time Superbowl champion with the Oakland Raiders, singing "You're My Greatest Inspiration." The grace before the meal was given by her daughter, Irene Pridgen, owner of Dear Products Inc. and Pro Athletes Marketing Group, and the delicious meal was catered by Saffron's. The entire party was recorded via video by Leonard Royster, Live Internet Recording Company.

Dear Johnson is one of the outstanding pillars of the community and a surrogate mother to many. She retired in 1988 from the Diocese of St. Petersburg after 35 years at Immaculate Conception School, and there is scarcely a student that attended there that doesn't love her. Johnson was born in Hawthorne, Fla., but has resided in St. Petersburg since she was one year old. She is purportedly the oldest living graduate of

Gibbs High School. She was honored as such last year at the Gibbs High Dedication Ceremony along with Ella Holmes, who has subsequently passed away. Johnson is extremely proud of her daughter, Eileen Boozy, who is a long-term history teacher at Gibbs and prior girl's head basketball coach. Johnson is a role model and one of the city's "heroes." Standing beside her late husband, the first African-American real estate broker in St. Petersburg, she has fought for civil rights and human rights all of her adult life. At her birthday party, she participated in a celebration toast led by her son, Karey Sr. to our president-elect with the new drink in his honor called the "Obama Blue Hawaiian." However, Johnson likens Martin Luther Jr. to Moses and Barack Obama to Joshua in the Old Testament. She stated that she certainly never thought that she would live to see this joyous day in American history, which makes her 90th birthday all the more sweeter!

## A New Tradition For Williams Park Begins Dec. 26

ST. PETERSBURG - The nonprofit Friends of Williams Park formed by the Downtown Neighborhood Association and other park stakeholders has announced the first of a new series of musical events, Last Friday Concerts at Williams Park. The inaugural concert, featuring The Tempests, will take place on Friday, Dec. 26, beginning at 6 p.m.

The concert is free but there will be a VIP Lounge with complimentary entrees, beer and wine, and hand rolled cigars available for a \$50 donation. Tickets can be purchased at the Web site [www.lastfridayconcerts.com](http://www.lastfridayconcerts.com). Proceeds from money raised by the concert will be split between The Wunsch Family Foundation, supporting children with cancer or blood disorders; The Abilities Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves the employment, housing, and health needs of

persons with disabilities; and Pinellas Hope, a pilot project offering temporary housing for homeless adults in Pinellas County.

The stage at Williams Park and the park itself will be venues for the city's First Night New Year's Eve celebration on Wednesday, Dec. 31. A goal of FWP is to have the park's trees LED-lighted just as the ones in North and South Straub Parks on the waterfront have been, and to have the lights turned on that night. The lighting of the trees has been made possible through a partnership between Progress Energy, whose headquarters border Williams Park, and the City of St. Petersburg. An official lighting ceremony will take place in January.

FWP has also added its voice to promoting and supporting ongoing weekly programs, such as Art in the Park on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesday

Market each week from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. DNA has held two Volunteer Days to assist the City Parks Department through the Adopt-a-Park Program. Volunteers from around the city have raked, collected trash, painted, weeded, pruned, and planted on Saturdays in September and December beginning at 10 a.m. The date for the first DNA Volunteer Day in 2009 will be announced later this month.

The Friends of Williams Park welcomes all individuals with an interest in helping restore Williams Parks as a center of community activity and family events to join the ongoing effort. FWP's next meeting is on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009, at 3 p.m. at St. Petersburg College Downtown, 244 Second Avenue North, second floor Community Room. Visitors are welcome to attend. To reserve a space, call 727-898-8851.

## The Hospice Of The Florida Suncoast To Train Individuals For Caregivers For Adults

CLEARWATER - The Florida Department of Elder Affairs has renewed the grant offered to The Hospice of the Florida Suncoast to continue the senior companion training program. Past response to the senior companion program was high, and there will be a new class open to the public Jan. 19 - 23, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at The Hospice's community service center, 5771 Roosevelt Blvd., Clearwater. Applicants should be interested in being trained to provide companion and homemaker services to frail, elderly residents of Pinellas County who are geographically or socially isolated.

The program's goal is to

improve quality of life and enable individuals to remain in their homes in lieu of moving to a care facility. Participants who successfully complete the training will be eligible for paid positions with local service providers.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact The Hospice's career center, at (727) 523-4100.

The Hospice of the Florida Suncoast is a not-for-profit agency committed to serving individuals and families as they face chronic illnesses, near the end of life, deal with end-of-life issues or are in grief. Community based, through its family of programs

The Hospice of the Florida Suncoast offers comprehensive hospice and palliative care, caregiver education, individual and group counseling, spiritual support and many other services to the people of Pinellas County, Fla. regardless of race, age, faith, diagnosis or financial circumstances. Founded in 1977 by volunteers, more than 2,600 patients and their families are served each day by The Hospice's staff of professionals along with 3,000 dedicated volunteers. To learn more about The Hospice of the Florida Suncoast, call (727) 586-4432 or log on to [www.thehospice.org](http://www.thehospice.org).

## Museum Of History Salutes Departing Board Member Ann Taylor

ST. PETERSBURG - In March of 2009, the St. Petersburg Museum of History will bid farewell to Ann Taylor, past president of the board of directors, and the only African-American female represented on the board in the museum's history. Ann is leaving the museum to serve on the board of the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum in St. Petersburg.

Ann is hoping that her association with the Woodson museum will continue the contributions she has made in her six years on the board (including serving as past president) at SPMOH, where she was involved in documenting St. Petersburg's African-American history and heritage within the museum's permanent exhibits. She had input on creating museum text panels to tell the stories of such pioneering African-Americans as Elder Jordan, after whom Jordan Park and Jordan Elementary are named. Ann was also tireless in securing articles, books and photographs of prominent African-Americans for display

in the Main Gallery. "I like being a part of telling history from the eyes of people who lived it," she explains.

Back in 2003, it was Rutland Bussey, another past president of the museum's board, who initially recommended Ann Taylor for the board of directors. They had known each other for many years and had worked together in the 1970s at his grandfather Hubert C. Rutland's bank. Rutland Bussey was well acquainted with Ann's "can-do" attitude and financial expertise. During her tenure, Ann helped to coordinate the Gibbs High School Reunion, the Diamond Teeth Mary Exhibit, the Links Exhibit, and co-chaired the Gov. Crist and St. Petersburg College exhibit and photo unveilings. Ann also introduced philanthropists Len Johnsen and Tom Barrett to the museum. The Ingleside Mansion museum fund-raiser came as a result of this relationship. Since coming to the museum, Ann has served on the exhibit, fundraising and personnel committees.

Born and raised in St.

Petersburg, Ann is herself a part of St. Petersburg history. Her father, the late Rev. Goldie Thompson Sr., was a pioneer broadcast radio announcer and gospel preacher. He was also a well-known promoter of local African-American gospel celebrities. Married to John Taylor, Ann is known for her generous entertaining, gourmet cooking and wide network of friendships. As if Ann's eight grandchildren and four children don't keep her busy enough, she combines her museum work with several other projects. She is currently working with the Dr. MLK Corridor Committee, which promotes relationships between business owners and residents, and serves on the advisory board of the Bayfront Hospital Medical Ethics Committee. Ann also is on the board of the city's beautification commission.

As Ann Taylor says farewell to the St. Petersburg Museum of History, her wish is for the museum to carry forward her dedication to the goal of inclusion.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS



Pinellas County Urban League's  
Career Connection Center

## Career Corner

BY KATRISA B. WINSTON

### Gaps In Employment - Be Prepared To Explain

Job seekers are you prepared to explain gaps in your employment history? First and foremost, never lie about your work history on your resume, while interviewing, or completing an employment application. It is easy to verify your employment history.

Reasons for gaps in employment range from business failure, corporate lay off, family illness, advancement of education or incarceration. Make no mistake employers recognize the breaks in your employment history. Therefore, you should be prepared to address any employment gaps with confidence. Simply put, if you were out of work for a year or more address this on your employment application. Below you will find a few suggested responses to address gaps in employment.

- Personal Matters: Address matters such as the death of a significant family member, time to grieve, primary caregiver for family member, or you experienced an illness such as depression or cancer; be prepared to explain succinctly. For example, if you were a caregiver for a loved one state, 'I was a caregiver' or write this on the job application, also include the start date and date such care ended. Write, 'I will provide more details during interview.' If the question arises during the interview be prepared to give a brief explanation and then reassure the employer that the matter has been resolved and you're excited about reentering the workforce. Then emphasize the skills you will bring to the company.

- Incarceration: If you were incarcerated it is obvious that you paid your debt to society. If there is a question about prior criminal history on the application, answer the question honestly, if true, write, 'incarcerated,' then write, 'I would like an opportunity to explain during the interview.' In turn, be prepared to discuss the

situation (briefly) during the interview. It is suggested that you take complete responsibility for past errors in judgment. Explain lessons you've learned from the experience and make it clear that you have turned your life around. If you participated, received training or rehabilitation speak to this with confidence. Express your earnestness to work hard. By all means keep it simple.

- Laid off or Fired: If the company closed you were laid off. Conversely, if you were fired briefly tell the potential employer what happened and the steps you have taken to remedy the behavior. Also, express what you learned from the experience. Practice reciting your answer verbally this way you will not be caught stuttering and avoid appearing dishonest.

In conclusion, address all gaps in your employment history on your resume or employment application. If you have experience a life changing event that prevented you from working prepare your explanation in advance. Remember, honesty is the best policy.

#### Hot Jobs

Census Bureau Employment Opportunities (apply at Pinellas County Urban League's Career Connection Center) - Weekly - Wednesday at 10 a.m., must arrive no later than 9:30 a.m. beginning Jan. 7, 2008 - Bring two (2) forms of ID, state drivers license, social security card and/or state-issued ID.

The Pinellas County Urban League's Career Connection Center offers free GED Preparation courses, free job placement assistance, resume building and other job related services. We have two locations: Contact Employment Placement Specialists Frank Acevedo at (727) 327-2081 ext. 113, 333 31st St. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33713; or Aja Bateman at (727) 442-9516; 1402 N. MLK Jr. Ave., Clearwater, FL 33755. Most jobs listed require background check and drug screening.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS Courtesy of Publix®

**Friday, Dec. 26** - Grand Central Evening Stroll, Grand Central District. From First Avenue North to First Avenue South and 19th Street to 31st Street Fourth Friday monthly. Shop, night spots, businesses and galleries stay open late with specials entertainment and more. A Florida Main Street Community. [www.grandcentraldistrict.org](http://www.grandcentraldistrict.org) or 727-328-7086.

**Friday, Dec. 26** - Last Friday Concert Series - The Tempests, Williams Park. 6 p.m. Concerts will feature nationally touring artists and several local and regional music professionals. Enjoy delicious Tapas and spirits in the VIP area. [www.lastfridayconcerts.com](http://www.lastfridayconcerts.com)

**Saturday, Dec. 27** - "Westward Ho from the Waterfront." Central Avenue and Second Street, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. St. Petersburg Preservation Inc. walking tour of historic waterfront and Fourth Avenue North then by trolley/bus to Historic Kenwood Neighborhood. [www.stpetepreservation.org](http://www.stpetepreservation.org) or 727-824-7802.

**Wednesday, Dec. 31** - Swingin' the New Year, Coliseum, 535 Fourth Ave. N. 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.), swing dance lesson from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Swing Time and Swing Gang present Swingin' the New Year, a New Year's Eve celebration for all ages! The evening features music, dancing and celebration. There will be a midnight countdown and balloon drop with party favors and chocolates, prize giveaways and a cash bar, champagne bottles and toasts available, no coolers please! Vintage costumes are encouraged (but optional) and all ages are welcome. For more information or group sales visit [tampabayswing.com](http://tampabayswing.com), [www.stpete.org/coliseum](http://www.stpete.org/coliseum) or 727-892-5202.

**Wednesday, Dec. 31** - Transitions - First Night St. Petersburg 2009. Celebration venues and activities throughout the downtown. 5 p.m. to midnight. [www.firstnightstpete.com](http://www.firstnightstpete.com) or 727-823-8906. Please support First Night 2009 and First Nights to come by purchasing buttons. Admission buttons provide the funds to keep First Night alive for the next celebration. Admission buttons are \$10 adults, \$5 for children 6-12. Advance purchase: Publix at Northeast Shopping Center, The Pier, The Chamber of Commerce (100 2nd Ave. N.), The Arts Center (719 Central Ave.), Florida Craftsmen (501 Central Ave.), Interior Motives Gallery (1110 Central Ave.) cash only. On the evening of First Night: Major venues and the First Night Information Tent (Beach Dr. NE & Second Ave.) A First Night First! For the first time - a Five-Hour Firework Frenzy. Fireworks on the Hour: 8 p.m.: See the First Sparks Ignite the Night! 9 p.m.: The Family Show - The Early Birds Get the Fire Bug! 10 p.m.: Countdown - Minus Two Hours! 11 p.m.: Countdown - Minus One Hour! Midnight: Fireworks 2009! Visit [www.firstnightstpete.com/schedule.html](http://www.firstnightstpete.com/schedule.html) for information. The Looper downtown trolley will be operating extended service hours on: Wednesday, Dec. 31, 5 p.m. to midnight. Service is every 10 minutes. The last 20 minute trip leaves The Pier at 11:40 p.m.

**Thursday, Jan. 1** - Kwanzaa - Imani Celebration, Enoch Davis Center. 5 p.m. Presented by the African American Arts Council. Come celebrate the seventh principle of Kwanzaa with the St. Petersburg communities. Bring a cover dish and be ready to participate in a joyful event. 727-820-0240.

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### HOLIDAY

continued from front page

who love and appreciates the culture as I have for so many years," she added.

Calloway will leave the display up until the day after New Years, then she will break it down just in time to go out shopping for discounted black

oriented cards, wrapping paper, and ornaments. She remarks about when she first began collecting it was difficult finding such items, and she recalls speaking with a few store managers about the lack of black baby dolls and ornaments in their stores. She also uses her creativity by matting African cloth onto cookie cutters to

make tree ornaments and Kwanzaa gifts. She expresses joy in the fact that she now can find prepared items much easier now and contributes this to the heightened awareness of the cultural pride of African-Americans. This makes it easier for Calloway to decorate her home for Easter, Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, Fall

Harvest, Christmas and Kwanzaa.

Calloway is retired from her 38-year positions of teacher and assistant director with Immaculate Conception Early Childhood Center, St. Petersburg. She continues to work part-time for the center, but officially retired in June 2007.

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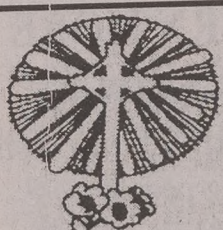
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# COMMUNITY NEWS



BY DR. CHARLIE COLQUITT • CLINICAL PHARMACIST



## Why Are Medications So Expensive?

Discovering and developing safe and effective new drugs is a long, difficult, and expensive process. It takes 10 to 15 years on average for an experimental drug to travel from the laboratory to pharmacy shelves in the United States. Only five of 5,000 experimental drugs make it to the market for human use. The industry claims that it takes the upwards of 800,000 million to bring a new drug to market. This causes a great deal of controversy about how much is cost patients, but no matter what the figure, it is an expensive process.

### The Developmental Process:

The first step in the development of drugs is the discovery of a new compound that affects medical conditions such as hypertension and diabetes. The company then patents the discovery, which expires 20 years from the date of filing. The first phase of development involves research into experimental drugs to determine its effects—how it is absorbed, distributed, and eliminated in the body—as well as its safety. When a drug manufacturer discovers a new drug, they submit a (NDA) New Drug Application to the FDA. In those 20 years the drug is developed it is typically tested in animals before being tested in humans. Typically the drugs are tested through clinical trials in three phases:

- Phase 1: The drug is tested in a few healthy volunteers to be determined if it is acutely toxic.

- Phase 2: Various doses of the drug are tried to determine how much to give to patients.

- Phase 3: The drug is typically tested without bias to demonstrate that it works. Sponsors usually confer with FDA prior to starting these trials to determine what data is needed, since these trials often involve hundreds of patients and are very expensive.

Drug companies are like any other company in that they manufacture products that are to be sold for a profit in order for the company to survive and sustain growth. The drug business is riskier because only 0.1 percent of drug discoveries actually make it to the sales market and most of the money spent is before the FDA approves the drug. These expenses must be covered by the revenue from drugs that are successfully approved. This means that for a drug company to survive, it needs to discover a blockbuster (billion-dollar drug) every few years. In conclusion, the price paid by a patient for a medication must cover the cost of developing new drugs that become approved and those which fail. Patients are also paying for marketing, post-marketing studies and a profit. There is no denying that drugs are expensive, however the price of medications should be weighed against their benefits. With the benefits of reducing pain and suffering, preventing and treating diseases, or extending life, the cost may not seem so unreasonable.

## A Holiday Dessert That Will Have Your Guests Asking For "S'More!"

*"S'More Christmas Cream Cake" among the Ten Best Recipes in the Nation and the perfect dessert addition to any holiday spread!*

MINNEAPOLIS - Gloria Piantek from West Lafayette, Ind. is celebrating the holiday season with a recipe honored as one of the best in the nation! Nordic Ware - maker of the iconic Bundt pan - named Piantek one of 10 national finalists in the "Bundts Across America" contest. Piantek's recipe titled "S'More Christmas Cream Cake" was judged superior in the areas originality, taste, texture, visual appearance, use of ingredients and an essay describing how the entry represents in its own special way, one of America's popular holidays, Christmas. This season Piantek is proud to share her dessert recipe with families all over the country.

"Christmas means surprises, and this cake has lots of them," says Piantek. "It's easy to make, simple to decorate, and hidden, baked inside is a dark chocolate filling. The pan shape helps create a snow hill for the kids to decorate. What could be better for Christmas than S'More cake!"

As a finalist, Piantek was treated to a fun-filled expense paid trip to San Francisco in October, which included participating for the grand prize at the baking competition held at the famous San Francisco Baking Institute. SFBI has trained hundreds of professional and aspiring bakers from all over the world and is recognized within the baking industry as a place where artisan baking is respected, appreciated and celebrated. The 10 finalists will also receive a \$500 Nordic Ware gift certificate. The grand prize winner of the "2008 Bundts Across America" contest was announced on Nov. 15, "National Bundt Day" and received \$10,000 in cash!

The "Bundts Across America" contest, originated in

2006 to celebrate the company's 60th anniversary. The contest continued through to 2008 kicking off in April when Nordic Ware challenged bakers across the nation to put their best Bundt forward and submit original recipes for creative-looking and great-tasting Bundts that represent one of 10 popular American holidays. The Bundt cake recipes submitted for the contest came in a variety of shapes and sizes. Many participants chose to use the classic Bundt pan that many consumers are familiar with, the depth and variety of the Bundt line, which includes nearly 40 shapes, was well represented with recipes using shapes including various floral designs, cupcake sizes, castle and heart to name a few. Even mini-Bundts made their pint-sized presence known in several of the recipes.

Piantek's recipe, based on the Christmas holiday, is baked in Nordic Ware's Rose Bundt Pan. It is titled "S'More Christmas Cream Cake"

### Preparation Instructions:

#### Cake Ingredients

4 ounces dark sweet chocolate, melted  
2-2/3 cups all purpose flour  
1-1/2 cups sugar  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 cup sour cream  
1/2 cup melted butter  
3 Tablespoons milk  
3 extra large eggs

#### Crème Filling:

3 ounces reduced fat cream cheese  
6 ounces dark sweet chocolate, melted  
1/2 cup marshmallow crème  
1/2 cup course chopped pecans  
1/2 cup coarse chopped graham crackers

#### Fluffy Cream Frosting:

1 cup confectioners' sugar  
1 Tablespoon soft butter

1/4 teaspoon vanilla  
3 cups marshmallow crème or marshmallow fluff  
2 to 3 cups shredded coconut  
Garnish: Red and Green Gummy Bears if desired

### Baking Instructions:

Spray Nordic Ware Rose Bundt baking pan with Bakers' Joy baking spray generously; place upside down on paper towel.

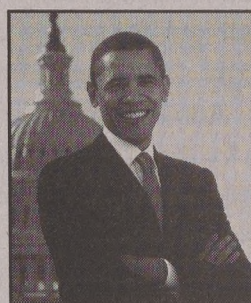
In a large mixing bowl, combine melted chocolate with all remaining cake ingredients; mix on medium speed until well mixed about three to four minutes. Place about 2/3 of batter into prepared Bundt pan. Set remainder aside.

In a medium size bowl, combine cream cheese and melted chocolate; stir in marshmallow crème, pecans, and graham crackers. Spoon filling over center of batter in pan without touching the sides. Spoon the remaining reserved cake batter over the filling in pan. Bake in preheated 350 degree oven for 60 to 70 minutes or until done. Cool upright in pan for 20 minutes; turn carefully onto serving plate. Cool completely.

Prepare frosting. In a large bowl, place confectioners' sugar, soft butter, vanilla, and 2 cups marshmallow crème; stir until smooth; stir in remaining marshmallow crème until smooth.

### Serving Recommendations:

Spread some frosting into the indentations of the Rose Bundt pan. Sprinkle frosted sections with coconut. Spread the remaining frosting over your white serving platter; sprinkle with shredded coconut. Place cake in center of platter. Decorate cake with red and green gummy bears as desired. Serve in slices with a dollop of the coconut frosting from the serving plate under the cake. Serves: 10 to 12.



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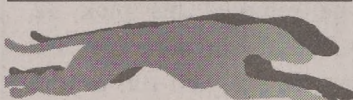
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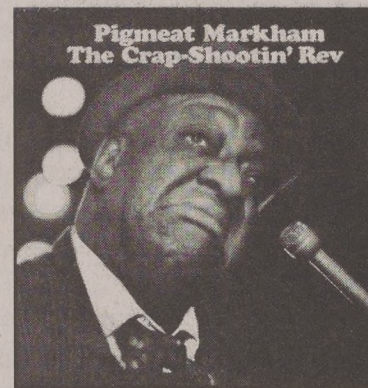
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### Pigmeat Markham

Dewey "Pigmeat" Markham was an African-American entertainer who was best known as a comedian, but was also a singer, dancer and actor. His nickname came from a stage routine, in which he declared himself to be "Sweet Poppa Pigmeat," although he was sometimes credited in films as David "Pigmeat" Markham.

Born in Durham, N.C. Markham's family was the most prominent on their street, which came to be called (and later officially named) Markham Street. Markham began his career in traveling music and burlesque shows. For a time he was a member of Bessie Smith's Traveling Revue in the 1920s. Later, he claimed he originated the "Truckin'" dance, which became nationally popular at the start of the 1930s. In the 1940s he started making film appearances. In 1964 he recorded "Open the Door, Richard."

Markham was a familiar



act at New York's famed Apollo Theater where he wore blackface makeup and huge painted white lips, although

some complained this vaudeville tradition was degrading. He probably played at the Apollo more frequently than any other performer. Starting in the 1950s Pigmeat Markham began appearing on television, making multiple appearances on the "Ed Sullivan Show." His boisterous, indecorous "heyah (here) come da judge" schtick, which made a mockery of formal courtroom etiquette, became his signature routine. Markham would sit at an elevated judge's bench (often in a black graduation cap-and-gown, to look more impressive), and deal with a series of comic miscreants. He would often deliver his 'judgments,' as well as express frustration with the accused, by leaning over the bench and smacking the accused with an inflated bladder-balloon. It was parodied in "The Simpsons' Treehouse of Horror IV." He had hit comedy recordings in the 1960s on Chess Records, and saw his routine's entry line become a catch phrase on the "Laugh-In" television show, as did his phrase "Look that up in your Funk and Wagnalls."

Ironically, Markham's most famous routine was 'discovered' by the general public only after Sammy Davis Jr. had performed it as a guest on "Laugh-In." Due to the years of racial discrimination in the entertainment world,

Markham had almost exclusively performed on the "chitlin' circuit" of vaudeville,



Pigmeat Marham

theatres, and nightclubs and appeared in several race films; thus, he was not widely known by white audiences.

The success of Davis' appearance led to Markham's opportunity to perform his signature judge character during his one season on "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In." Archie Campbell later adopted Markham's routine, performing as "Justus O'Peace," on the country version of "Laugh-In, Hee Haw," which borrowed heavily from the minstrel show tradition.

Thanks to his "Heyeah come da judge" routine, which originally was accompanied by music with a funky beat, Pigmeat Markham is regarded as a forerunner of rappers. His song "Here Come the Judge" peaked at number 19 on the Billboard and other charts in 1968. He published an autobiography, "Here Come the Judge!" in the wake of his "Laugh-In" success.

Markham died Dec. 13, 1981 in the Bronx, New York City, N.Y.

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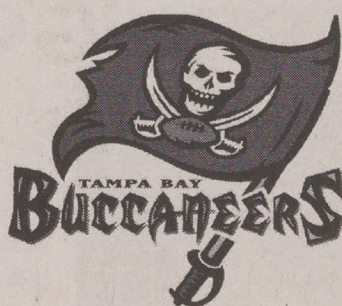
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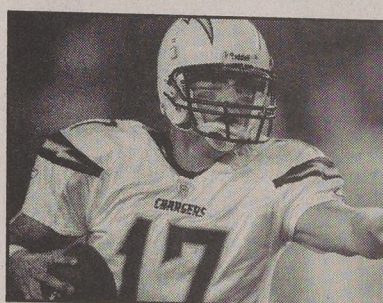


# CHALLENGER SPORTS

## BUCS CORNER



### Rivers Throws 4 TDs, Chargers Beat Bucs



Philip Rivers

BY FRED GOODALL

TAMPA (AP) - Philip Rivers and the San Diego Chargers did everything they could to save their season.

The NFL's highest-rated passer threw for 287 yards and four touchdowns Sunday, helping the Chargers beat Tampa Bay 41-24 to keep their slim playoff hopes alive and deal a crushing blow to the Buccaneers' chances.

Even with their third straight win in what amounted to elimination games for a team that began the season with expectations of reaching the Super Bowl, San Diego (7-8) still needed help to make the final week of the regular season meaningful.

AFC West leader Denver hosted Buffalo later in the day. A Broncos loss would set up a showdown for the division title and a playoff berth next week in San Diego.

The Chargers have won 13 consecutive December games, including seven on the road, since a loss at Kansas City on Dec. 24,

2005.

"I think we are playing like a playoff team. ... Hopefully it's not too late," said running back LaDainian Tomlinson, who rushed for 90 yards to join Barry Sanders and Curtis Martin as the only players in NFL history to run for 1,000 in each of their first eight seasons.

Tampa Bay (9-6), which lost its first home game and has dropped three straight, could have clinched at least an NFC wild-card spot with a win and some help. Instead, the Bucs' day ended with Jeff Garcia's face bloodied and teammates hoping other contenders falter, too.

"We've let ourselves down," said Garcia, sporting a cut on the bridge of his nose.

"When you're 9-3 at one point and you're a couple of wins away from the playoffs, and now we're fighting just to get in ... it's tough looking at it," Bucs running back Warrick Dunn added.

Rivers threw TD passes of 15 and 5 yards to Antonio Gates, the latter giving the Chargers the lead for good on the first play of the fourth quarter. Darren Sproles turned a screen pass into a 32-yard touchdown before Antoine Cason returned one of San Diego's two fourth-quarter interceptions 59 yards for a score that made it 41-24 with three minutes left.

Garcia was sacked from behind and came up bloody four plays before his pass intended for Ike Hilliard was tipped by Quentin Jammer into the hands of Cason, who raced up the left sideline untouched.

Brandon Manumaleuna caught an 11-yard TD pass from Rivers and Nate Kaeding kicked a team-record 57-yard field goal on the final play of the first half, helping the Chargers build a 20-10 lead.

Garcia, who started after sitting out last week with a strained right calf, kept the Bucs in the game by running for a third-quarter touchdown and lofting a 71-yard TD pass to Antonio Bryant for a 24-20 lead.

But it was all San Diego after that, and Rivers had a lot to do with it.

"That's the San Diego Chargers that we anticipated on being at the beginning of the year," Gates said. "Tampa Bay, with all due respect, there was nothing they could do about it once we had the rhythm like we had today."

The Chargers moved the ball almost at will much of the day, scoring on three straight possessions to build an early 17-7 lead. Tampa Bay cut into it by driving into San Diego territory and settling for Matt Bryant's 49-yard field with 17 seconds left in the half.

But Turner wasn't content with a seven-point advantage. After Sproles returned the ensuing kickoff to the Chargers 36, Rivers threw 25 yards to Vincent Jackson to set up the long field goal that Kaeding nailed with room to spare.

Jackson finished with seven receptions for 111 yards and went over 1,000 yards in a season for the first time in his career for San Diego.

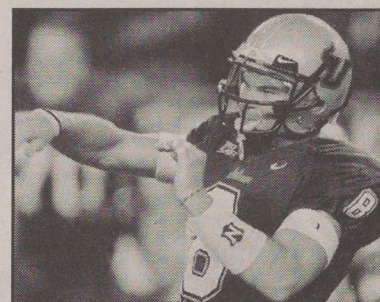
Tampa Bay's defense was picked apart for the second time in three weeks. After giving up 474 yards rushing in road losses to Carolina and Atlanta, the unit rarely pressured Rivers, who was only sacked once while completing 21 of 31 passes with no interceptions.

"We just never really solved them," Bucs coach Jon Gruden said. "Obviously, it hurts."

Gates' TD receptions gave him eight this season and 51 for his career. He reached 50 in his 92nd game, fastest in league history for a tight end. Jerry Smith was the previous fastest, doing it in 100 games.

Garcia scored on a 7-yard run, finishing a 78-yard drive that take up the first half of the third quarter and trimmed San Diego's lead to 20-17. He did a nice job of rolling to his right to avoid pressure and finding Bryant all alone on the TD that put the Bucs up 24-20.

### Grothe Paces USF's 41-14 Rout Of Memphis



Matt Grothe

BY FRED GOODALL

ST. PETERSBURG (AP) - For anyone who thought it might be difficult for Matt Grothe and South Florida to get excited about playing what amounted to an extra home game, the Bulls and their dual-threat quarterback answered with a dominating performance in the first St. Petersburg Bowl.

Grothe moved ahead of West Virginia's Pat White as the Big East's career total offense leader, throwing for 236 yards and three touchdowns to on the way to a 41-14 victory over Memphis on Saturday.

Grothe and White, a senior who will finish his season in the Meineke Bowl on Dec. 27, are the only players in league history to amass more than 10,000 yards total offense. White has 10,142 in 49 games, and Grothe, who also rushed for 82 yards on 15 carries Saturday, finished the night with 10,214 in 39 games.

USF (8-5) scored on four of its first five possessions to build a 24-14, halftime lead, forcing Memphis (6-7) to play catch-up and essentially taking 1,000-yard rusher Curtis Steele out of the Tigers' game plan.

Memphis' Arkelon Hall threw for one TD and ran for another. But Steele was held to 48 yards rushing on 12 attempts by a stout run defense determined to redeem itself this post-season after giving up 253 yards to Oregon's Jonathan Stewart during a lopsided loss in last year's Sun Bowl.

Grothe threw TD passes of 26 yards to Taurus Johnson, 13 to Ben Busbee and 24 to Dontavia Bogan before being replaced by Grant Gregory with USF leading 34-14 late in the third quarter.

Hall was 15-of-30 for 154 yards and no interceptions for Memphis, with much of that coming on a swing pass that Steele turned into a 50-yard gain early in the second half. He ran 3 yards for a first-quarter touchdown, then threw 2 yards to Duke Calhoun for the Tigers' other TD just before halftime.

It was the first meeting between the former Conference USA rivals since USF left that league for the Big East in 2005. The teams split four games between 2001 and 2004, and Memphis relished the challenge of facing an opponent from a BCS conference for the first time in five bowl appearances under coach Tommy West.

The Tigers, who won six of nine games to become bowl eligible after an 0-3 start, viewed Saturday as an opportunity to gauge how much they've progressed toward a goal of having a BCS-caliber program.

On this day, they were nowhere close to a South Florida team that began the season with high expectations after being ranked as high as No. 2 in 2007. The Bulls won their first five before stumbling badly in the Big East and winding up in a bowl game just 32 miles from USF's main campus in Tampa.

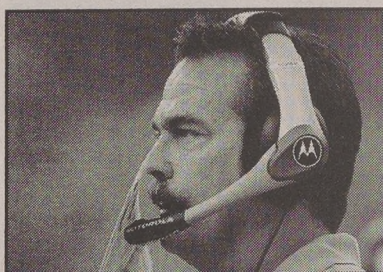
Downtown St. Petersburg is close enough that coach Jim Leavitt and his players bused from the team hotel back to campus for practice all week, truly making it seem like an extra home game rather than a bowl trip.

The announced crowd at Tropicana Field, the domed home of baseball's Tampa Bay Rays, was 25,202.

### UP NEXT FOR THE BUCS:

The Bucs (9-6) will host the Oakland Raiders (4-11) Sunday, Dec. 28 at 1:00 p.m.

### Titans Clinch AFC's No. 1 Seed, Home-Field Edge



Jeff Fisher

BY TERESA M. WALKER

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - The Tennessee Titans wanted to head into the playoffs with a little momentum. Thanks to a dominating performance over the Pittsburgh Steelers, they'll have much more than that.

Kerry Collins threw for a touchdown, Chris Johnson and LenDale White ran for a score apiece, and the Titans routed the Steelers 31-14 in a showdown of the AFC's best teams. Tennessee clinched the No. 1 seed and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

Coach Jeff Fisher called this the Titans best game this season.

"This was not a statement game by no means," Fisher said. "It was a momentum game. We needed to build momentum for the playoffs and the bye week by playing well and winning the game. The bonus is the second game here at home."

Titans linebacker Keith Bulluck, who celebrated by stomping on a Terrible Towel at

the end, was much more succinct.

"It sets the tone for the playoffs in the AFC," he said.

The Titans improved the NFL's best record to 13-2 with their 15th win in 17 games. But they were coming off a loss to Houston in which they failed to score a touchdown for the first time this year and were up against the NFL's stingiest defense.

They snapped back very well, ending the Steelers' five-game winning streak and becoming the first team to top 300 yards against Pittsburgh (11-4) this season.

Tennessee finished with 323 yards.

Pittsburgh coach Mike Tomlin denied his Steelers were flat after a tough stretch in their third road game in four weeks.

"If you don't take care of the football versus good people, it comes back to bite you," Tomlin said.

Tennessee did it without Pro Bowl defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth and end Kyle Vanden Bosch because of injuries. Their replacements helped them rest easy as the Titans sacked Ben Roethlisberger five times and forced him into four turnovers that they turned into 21 points.

Rookie Jason Jones, who

started for Haynesworth, had 3 1/2 sacks and forced Roethlisberger into three fumbles. Michael Griffin, a Pro Bowl alternate, came up with two interceptions for Tennessee.

"The effort we got out of that group was nothing less than spectacular," Fisher said.

With Roethlisberger trying to come up with more of his late-game magic, Griffin ended the Steelers' latest comeback try picking him off again. Griffin ran back across the field and up the left sideline for an 83-yard TD return with 16 seconds left. Roethlisberger's first turnover hurt the most, coming at the 1 in the first quarter as he was about to score.

The Steelers, who had to win out to earn the No. 1 seed for the first time since 2004, had plenty of waving Terrible Towels in the sold-out crowd as fans stood throughout the game.

"It was a little surprising to see that many in our stadium," Collins said.

But Tennessee had its fans chanting "Titans, Titans" early in the fourth quarter and celebrating at the end.

In a game of streaks, the Titans scored the first 10 points, with Collins finding Justin Gage on a 34-yarder after Roethlisberger's second fumble of the game.

Roethlisberger answered by driving the Steelers to two touchdowns. He tossed the 100th TD of his career to Santonio Holmes in the second quarter. He was a perfect 3-of-3 for 62 yards in the third quarter, when he capped a four-play drive with a 21-yarder to Hines Ward and a 14-10 lead, Pittsburgh's first of the game.

But the Titans, who now have won eight of nine games against the Steelers in Tennessee, scored the final 21 points.

The Titans drove 79 yards in 11 plays after Roethlisberger put Pittsburgh up 14-10, and the key play came on fourth-and-inches at the Steelers 21. Tennessee, which failed to complete a fourth-and-3 pass in losing at Houston, had Collins pitch out to Johnson, and the rookie ran untouched 21 yards for a TD.

Then Griffin picked off Roethlisberger by stepping in front of receiver Nate Washington on the next drive, and he returned his pick 32 yards. White scored his 15th TD rushing on a 1-yard run on the first play of the fourth quarter.

"That is not the way we are used to playing defense," Steelers linebacker James Harrison said. "They did a good job. They came out and imposed their will."

### This Week's NCAA Football Bowl Schedule

Bowl and Teams	Date and Time
<b>Sheraton Hawaii</b> Hawaii vs. Notre Dame	Dec. 24, 8 p.m.
<b>Motor City</b> Florida Atlantic vs. Central Michigan	Dec. 26, 7:30 p.m.
<b>Meineke Car Care</b> West Virginia vs. North Carolina	Dec. 27, 1 p.m.
<b>Champs Sports</b> Wisconsin vs. Florida State	Dec. 27, 4:30 p.m.
<b>Emerald</b> Miami (Fla.) vs. California	Dec. 27, 8 p.m.
<b>Independence</b> Northern Illinois vs. Louisiana Tech	Dec. 28, 8:15 p.m.
<b>Papajohns.com</b> NC State vs. Rutgers	Dec. 29, 3 p.m.
<b>Valero Alamo</b> Missouri vs. Northwestern	Dec. 29, 8 p.m.
<b>Roady's Humanitarian</b> Maryland vs. Nevada	Dec. 30, 4:30 p.m.
<b>Texas</b> Western Michigan vs. Rice	Dec. 30, 8 p.m.
<b>Pacific Life Holiday</b> Oklahoma State vs. Oregon	Dec. 30, 8 p.m.
<b>Bell Helicopter Armed Forces</b> Houston vs. Air Force	Dec. 31, Noon
<b>Brut Sun</b> Oregon State vs. Pittsburgh	Dec. 31, 2 p.m.
<b>Gaylord Hotels Music City</b> Boston College vs. Vanderbilt	Dec. 31, 3:30 p.m.
<b>Insight</b> Kansas vs. Minnesota	Dec. 31, 5:30 p.m.
<b>Chick-fil-A</b> LSU vs. Georgia Tech	Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m.



# STATE NEWS

## Florida Democrats Re-Elect Thurman As Party Chair

BY BRENDAN FARRINGTON

ORLANDO (AP) - Buoyed by Barack Obama's victory in Florida last month, state Democratic Party Chairman Karen Thurman on Saturday took aim at one of her next targets: Gov. Charlie Crist.

Thurman addressed party activists after being re-elected to a four-year term. She highlighted the party's strengths during last month's election and told them there would be no break in voter registration and volunteer recruitment before the 2010 election.

She also said there will be no break in the "Empty Chair Charlie" attacks on Crist, whom the party criticizes for taking too many days off.

"We know that we hit a nerve with that," said Thurman, a former congresswoman who took over party leadership in May 2005. "We should keep those elected Republicans accountable for what they do and we will be watching every day."

The Republican Party of Florida didn't directly address Thurman's remarks.

"We will not respond to the Florida Democrats' divisive political rhetoric. Floridians are tired of the same old sniping, especially during the holiday season,"

said state GOP spokeswoman Erin VanSickle.

Crist's term ends in 2010 and it's expected he will seek another term. Also on the ballot are all three Cabinet positions and the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Republican Mel Martinez.

Democrats plan to build on the organization and volunteer list that helped Obama take Florida by 236,450 votes, Thurman said. She said the party is already contacting groups of Obama supporters around the state to begin talking about the next election.

"We will keep new volunteers excited about Florida races," she said. "We will build on our success, we will learn from our losses and together we will make gains on the local, state and federal levels."

She noted the party registered far more voters than Republicans and did a better job than the GOP at turning out early voters.

Thurman also listed several congressional seats the party plans to target, including the one Tom Rooney won from Democratic Rep. Tim Mahoney. Mahoney lost amid reports he paid off a mistress to avoid a sexual harassment lawsuit.

## Judge Glenda Hatchett Encourages FAMU Grads To Write Their Own Story

TALLAHASSEE - More than 700 Florida A&M University scholars transitioned from student to alumni at the fall 2008 commencement including FAMU's recent alum Roosevelt Wilson.

Wilson, publisher of the Capital Outlook, was awarded an honorary doctorate degree for his contributions to the field of journalism. Wilson is a former member of the FAMU public relations staff and former member of the faculty at the FAMU School of Journalism and Graphic Communication. He also served as FAMU's sports information director and director of university publications.

Among the fall 2008 graduates was Tammie Johnson, the first person to be awarded a Doctor of Public Health at FAMU and the first person in the state of Florida to be awarded the degree.

FAMU is the first university in Florida to offer this degree. The University of South Florida recently received authorization to begin a DrPH program as well.

Family and friends of the graduates from around the nation packed the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center for the eventful occasion where the Honorable Glenda Hatchett served as the keynote speaker.

"I'm very happy to be at this auspicious occasion and I am well qualified to be standing here today," said Hatchett. "You see, I am the mother of a Rattler so I know what this means to

each of you."

Hatchett, a judge, author and motivational speaker, explained to students the importance of being the authors of their story. She shared with the audience her Seven Golden Rules:

- Be clear about who you are and where you belong.
- Don't forget to say thank you; honor the past and protect the future.
- Put high value in yourself; never sell yourself short.
- You owe a debt to someone; you have to reach back and help someone.
- Don't sell yourself short.
- You are worth it.
- You have to write your own story.

Hatchett opted to share a piece of her story with the crowd.

"I'm almost ashamed to admit this in an academic arena, but when I was younger I hated school," she said.

Hatchett explained that while she was very young in school, there was a shortage of books and when she finally received books they were of terrible quality. She immediately refused the moldy, torn and worn-out pieces of literature asking for new books, but to no avail. During those times, black children only received hand-me-down books. Often times the books were in poor shape.

Hatchett turned to her father, a hero figure in her childhood.

"I said 'Dad, look at this book - it's old and dirty and



Judge Hatchett with FAMU President James H. Ammons

used. I need a new book Dad, what am I going to do?" said Hatchett. "I thought my dad could do anything. I knew he would be able to get me new books. But all he said was, 'Glenda, I can't get you new books, but it is up to you to write your own story.'"

Hatchett explained how frustrated she was, and how she could not understand why her father wasn't able to get her new books. She said as she matured she finally understood his message.

"We are in a new era and a new time," she said. "Students, you stand at the threshold of a new day and age; it is up to you to write your own story."

Following Hatchett's commencement address, the Civic

Center roared with applause and cheers as FAMU President James H. Ammons presented Hatchett with the President's Award for her keynote address.

Students were then presented with their degrees and students in the FAMU ROTC program were administered the Military Oath of Office.

Ammons then congratulated the graduates and offered some words of advice.

"Never forget that the Class of 2008 has the ability to shape history," he said. "Wherever you go, and to whatever heights you may rise, the mark of FAMU will always be indelibly imprinted upon you. Go forth and make your mark on the world."

# Money Talks!

# Have you heard?

## EARN IT

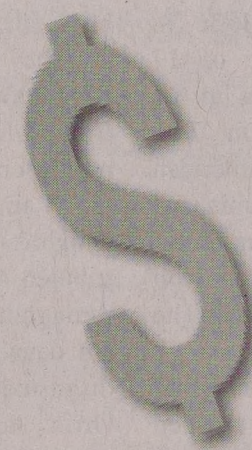
You may be eligible for the EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) based on your earnings and filing status. You may also be eligible for the Child Tax Credit, Elderly Credit or Disability Credit.

## KEEP IT

Take advantage of **FREE** quality electronic filing by IRS certified tax preparers. Don't pay expensive tax preparation or refund loan fees.

## GROW IT

Open a bank account, build savings or pay bills and improve your credit. Ask about ways to put your money to work for you.



## FREE Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Sites in Pinellas County

Childs Park YMCA  
691 43rd Street S.  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33711  
727-209-9622

Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services  
608 N. Garden Ave.  
Clearwater, FL 33755

Daystar Life Center  
226 - 6th Street S.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
727-823-5993

Enoch Davis Center  
1111 - 18th Ave. S.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33705  
727-893-7803

GRAYDI  
13420 Adams Circle  
Largo, FL 33774

High Point Neighborhood Family Center  
5812 - 150th Ave. N.  
Clearwater, FL 33760

727-533-0730

James B. Sanderlin Family Center  
2335 - 22nd Ave. S.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Lealman and Asian Center  
4255 - 56th Ave. N.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33714  
727-520-9820

Pinellas Village  
8384 Bayou Boardwalk  
Largo, FL 33777  
727-399-2500

Union Academy  
401 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr.  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689  
727-934-5881



# NATIONAL NEWS

## Civil Rights Leader James Bevel Dies

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Rev. James L. Bevel, a prominent figure in the civil rights movement whose legacy was clouded by an incest conviction has died, a relative said. He was 72.

Bevel died Friday in Virginia after a fight with pancreatic cancer, said a daughter, Chevara Orrin, who lives in Winston-Salem, N.C. He was recently released on bond while appealing a 15-year prison sentence.

Bevel was a top lieutenant to Martin Luther King Jr. and architect of the 1963 Children's Crusade in Birmingham, Ala. But in April, a jury convicted Bevel of incest for having sex more than a decade ago with a then-teenage daughter.

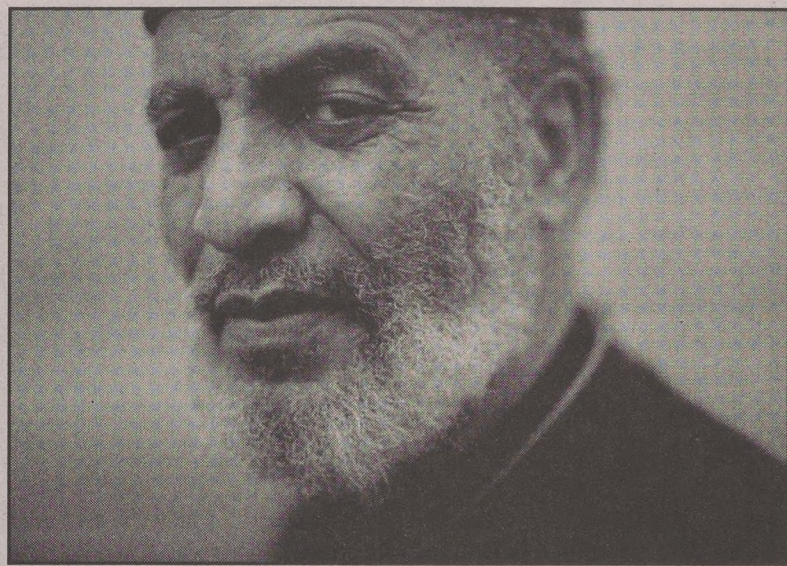
Bevel served several months of his 15-year sentence before he was released in November on bond while appealing. Prosecutors opposed Bevel's release.

A Baptist minister, Bevel was a leader in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, two of the stalwart organizations that led efforts in the 1960s to desegregate the South. Decades later, he also helped organize the Million Man March.

"Jim Bevel was Martin Luther King's most influential aide," civil rights historian David J. Garrow said.

Bevel fought to desegregate downtown Birmingham stores, prompting police to respond with fire hoses and attack dogs against peaceful protesters. He also rallied young people in the city to get involved in civil rights demonstrations - something King and other advisers objected to.

On May 2, 1963, children marched from the 16th Street Baptist Church, and 600 were arrested on that first day of demonstrations. After the news media highlighted police commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor's violent treatment of the children, public opinion began to shift in favor of the civil rights movement.



Rev. James L. Bevel

Two years later, Bevel was a key figure in the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama's capital. The demonstration was spurred largely by the killing of a young protester by an Alabama state trooper. The chain of events and police violence that was captured on national television ultimately culminated in the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Bevel also was active in the anti-war movement and greatly influenced King, who Bevel encouraged to confront the Vietnam War more directly.

After King's assassination in 1968, Bevel helped lead many of King's unfinished efforts, such as a demonstration to support striking sanitation workers in Memphis.

In the decades after King's death, Bevel aligned himself with fringe movements. In 1992, he was vice presidential running mate to political extremist Lyndon LaRouche, who at the time was in a federal prison for a tax conviction.

Bevel was born to sharecroppers on Oct. 19, 1936, in Itta Bena, Miss., one of 17 children. He had stints in the Navy and graduated in 1961 from Nashville's American Baptist Theological Seminary.

Bevel married four times. He fathered 16 children with nine women, Orrin told The Associated Press.

His legacy in the civil rights movement was clouded when he was convicted in April by a Loudoun County, Va., judge for having sex more than a decade ago with one of his daughters, Aaralyn Mills, who

was a teenager at the time. Prosecutors said the assault occurred in Loudoun County, when Bevel was working closely with the Virginia-based organization led by LaRouche.

The Associated Press does not usually identify alleged victims of sex crimes, but Mills and Orrin have agreed to be identified publicly.

The four-day trial divided members of Bevel's large family, with relatives testifying for both the prosecutor and defense. He was sentenced in October.

At that time, prosecutors revealed at least four other daughters had made similar allegations against him. The victims hoped for an apology and some reconciliation, but Bevel mocked the notion of an apology.

Orrin, who said she did not testify at Bevel's trial, said she was molested by her father when she was 12. On Saturday, she told The Associated Press she's still processing her "very complicated" feelings about his death.

She said Bevel's recent conviction does not detract from his work in the civil rights movement.

"I am very proud to be the daughter of a man who contributed so much to the world through his civil rights work. I am equally as devastated and disgusted by his pedophilia," Orrin said. "Both of those feelings reside in the same soul, in the same space of my heart."

he said. "The logistics seemed like a hassle. If I could have taken that out of it from the start, I would've gone in a heartbeat."

After the war, Smith served on the Gary City Council, worked as an elementary school principal and was active member of Tuskegee Airmen Inc., a nonprofit group.

Smith was the longtime chairman of Gary's Republican Party, but acknowledged he voted in November for Obama, a Democrat.

Another Tuskegee Airman, Walter Palmer, 89, of Indianapolis, said he would not go to the inauguration because he is battling stomach cancer.

## Obama's Choice Of Evangelical Pastor Draws Ire

WASHINGTON (AP) - Gay rights advocates are criticizing President-elect Barack Obama's choice of a popular evangelical minister to deliver the invocation at his inauguration as a show of disrespect for a constituency that strongly supported his campaign.

Pastor Rick Warren, a best-selling author and leader of a Southern California megachurch, is one of a new breed of evangelicals who stress the need for action on social issues such as reducing poverty and protecting the environment, alongside traditional theological themes. But, the Human Rights Campaign, the largest U.S. gay rights organization, said Warren's opposition to same-sex marriage is a sign of intolerance.

"We feel a deep level of disrespect when one of the architects and promoters of an anti-gay agenda is given the prominence and the pulpit of your historic nomination," the group said in a letter asking Obama to reconsider.

Obama was asked at a news conference in Chicago, about his choice of Warren to give the invocation. The president-elect indicated the choice was an effort at unity, not dissension among Democrats.

America needs to "come together," even when there is



President-elect Barack Obama with Pastor Rick Warren

disagreement on social issues, Obama said. He said it is "no secret" that he is a "fierce advocate for equality" for gays and lesbians, and that support will continue.

He said, however, that a "wide range of viewpoints" will be presented during the inaugural festivities.

Obama has also invited the Rev. Joseph Lowery, 87, to speak. Lowery is considered the dean of the U.S. civil rights movement.

Obama "gets a lot with these choices," said David Domke, author of "The God Strategy: How Religion Became a Political Weapon in America."

"Here's a guy who wants to run a progressive administration getting a substantial lift in his wings from the nation's most popular evangelical," Domke

said. "But he balances that with Joseph Lowery, who speaks to the more liberal, social justice and African-American heritage."

By picking Warren, Obama is sending another signal, about his willingness to upset liberals by tilting to the center. During the campaign, Warren interviewed Obama and Republican John McCain in a widely watched television program that focused on religious concerns.

Gay rights advocates say they are troubled by Warren's support for a California ballot initiative, which passed, that banned gay marriage. "By inviting Rick Warren to your inauguration, you have tarnished the view that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans have a place at your table," the Human Rights Campaign letter said.

## Black Colleges Resist Pressure To Merge

ATLANTA (AP) - Black colleges are resisting pressure to merge with nearby white institutions in Georgia, citing their historical significance in educating black students during - and after - segregation.

Faced with a \$2 billion budget shortfall, a Republican state senator has proposed merging two historically black schools with predominantly white colleges to save money. In the process, he said, he hopes to erase a vestige of Jim Crow-era segregation.

"I think we should close this ugly chapter in Georgia's history," Seth Harp, chairman of the state Senate's Higher Education Committee, said Tuesday. Jim Crow refers to state and local laws that mandated the separation of blacks and whites.

But Harp's proposal has stirred a torrent of opposition.

Critics of the plan say students who might otherwise not attend college are being educated at the black schools. Black students perform better in the black-college setting, experts say, and the dropout rate among African-Americans is lower than at majority white institutions.

The schools also represent a critical piece of the civil rights struggle.

"We can't afford to run away from our history," said Leonard Haynes, executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges.

The schools were largely founded before 1964, mostly in the segregated South to teach African-American students. But they are open to people of all

races, and experts say the number of white students at the campuses has been on the rise.

Harp's proposal would merge the historically black 3,400-student Savannah State University with Armstrong Atlantic State University, a majority white school. Also, Albany State University, which has about 4,100 enrolled, would combine with nearby Darton College, which also has a predominantly white student body. The new campuses would keep the names of the older and more-established black colleges.

Harp's plan was preliminary with few details about how the mergers would work.

Any combining of public universities would need Georgia Board of Regents' approval.

A Regents spokesman said the board has no plans to consider the idea and suggested it runs contrary to the goal of increasing the number of Georgians with college degrees.

"If anything, we need to be broadening access to higher education," Regents spokesman John Millsaps said.

But Harp said deep budget cuts may leave the universities with little choice when trying to save some \$250 million.

Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue on Tuesday declined to comment specifically on his fellow Republican's plan but said the grim economic picture gripping the nation and state means public universities must look to spend efficiently.

"A lot of tradition has gone on in our traditionally black universities and colleges," Perdue

said. "I think we need to respect that, and I think there are ways we can wring out efficiency in there that may not entail colleges losing their identities. So we'll continue to look."

But Harp, who is white, found an ally in Cynthia Tucker, the Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial page editor for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Tucker, who is black, wrote in a recent column that taxpayer-funded colleges "should be diverse, educating men and women of all colors and creeds."

"There is no longer good reason for public colleges that are all-white or all-black," Tucker wrote.

There are 105 public and private historically black colleges in the U.S., most in the South where segregation laws were strictest - and prevented some African-Americans from obtaining an education.

While some private black colleges have folded over the years, no state has dismantled a public one, Haynes said.

Michael Lomax, president and chief executive officer of the United Negro College Fund, questioned why Georgia's black colleges must bear the burden of the state's budget shortfall.

"It seems like a politically charged and politically motivated move rather than a fiscally responsible one," Lomax, former commission chairman of Georgia's most populous county, said. "I am deeply concerned. ... This is a proposal by a politician to address a budget shortfall without engaging academic professionals and planners."

## Tuskegee Airman Gets Help To Attend Inauguration

GARY, Ind. (AP) - Friends and strangers are helping a Tuskegee Airman from northwestern Indiana attend President-elect Barack Obama's inaugural.

Quentin Smith, 90, of Gary at first felt he couldn't attend the ceremony on Jan. 20. But after a story about him appeared in the Post-Tribune of Merrillville on Tuesday, he received offers of hotel rooms and airline flights.

"I was indifferent about going, really, but after all this the last few days, I feel obliged to go," Smith said. "I had no idea that many people cared about my going."

California Sen. Dianne Feinstein invited surviving

members of the nation's first squadron of black military pilots to see the swearing-in of the nation's first black president.

Smith said he was working on several options for the trip, hoping to minimize the amount of traveling he has to do. A hotel executive offered a suite and friends booked an airline ticket.

"Now it looks like I will probably go," he said. "Having a front-row seat to history, you don't often get that."

Smith said he is still in good health, but was daunted by the travel arrangements.

"I can't run a 100-yard dash anymore, but I can do pretty much everything else,"

WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



# CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING CHURCH NEWS IS MONDAY, 4:00 P.M.**

## St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church

The St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of its dynamic, spirited, man of God, the Reverend Brian Kenneth Brown, its official staff of Deacons and Trustees, and the entire congregation of St. Mark, extends to the community at large, its wishes that there would be an overflowing of God's blessings upon their lives. St. Mark is grounded in a Christ-centered doctrine that has as its central theme, a belief that we are a haven of hope, help, and healing for a world hungering for and thirsting after the enlightened Word of God. At St. Mark, we are Christians willing to work and partner in unity, praising God for His awesome gift, His son Jesus Christ.

### Calendar Events for December

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve and Watch Night Services

### St. Mark Offers ...

Sunday School is held for children and adults of all ages. Sunday School starts each Sunday morning at 9:30. All are invited to come out and join us.

Baptist Training Union is each Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Members and the general public are invited to come out and study the Bible with us and learn "What Baptists Believe."

Children and Youth Ministry Meetings are held every

Monday at 6:00 p.m. Children in the community are welcomed to join us.

Sunday School Teachers' Meeting is held every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

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

Prayer Meeting and Bible Study every Thursday evening at 7:00.

St. Mark After-School Tutoring Ministry: Neighbors Involved in Kids Education (N.I.K.E.). Open to all school-age children every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

### DESTINATION GRADUATION

Tuesdays - 6:15 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Reading help with a reading specialist only.

Wednesdays - 6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. all ages: Reading Specialist; Story time and crafts related to the stories for small children designed to enhance recognizing main characters and more. In addition, there is tutorial assistance for Math (Algebra and Geometry) and Senior Focus for all high school seniors (FCAT, ACT/SAT). **CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS**

St. Mark Technology Lab will be open and available for use on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30.

## Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

**"One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One Church"**

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

Merry Christmas To All

Dr. John A. Evans, Sr. the anointed shepherd of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, the official staff and the entire Friendship Family

located at 3300 31st St. S., St. Petersburg

graciously extend to all a cordial welcome to join us for worship services.

### NEW SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS:

Early Worship Service: 7:45 a.m.

Mid-morning 10:45 a.m.

Church School 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday Noonday Bible Study

Intercessory Prayer 6:30 p.m.

Evening Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night Live 7:00 p.m. Worship Service (first Wednesday of the month)

Please visit our Web site @[www.fmbcethship.org](http://www.fmbcethship.org) for other church activities.

## Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church

"Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the new born King!"

Get ready; prepare your hearts as we await the celebration of our dear Savior's birth. The message is still loud and clear "Christmas is Coming." As we continue in this Advent season let us be mindful that Jesus is the reason for the season, Jesus was born to die for the sins of the world, sacrificing His life so that we might have life. Remember the most precious gift we can share one with another is Jesus the Christ, this Christmas season and all year long. God wants our hearts, mind and soul; in fact He wants us to live for Him. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, we invite you, your family and friends to our "Christmas Eve Candle Light Service," Wednesday evening at 6:30. Make plans to join us as we let our light shine for Christ.

Mt. Zion A.M.E. church located at 1045 16th St. S., St. Petersburg, under the leadership of Rev. Clarence Williams, its official staff and the entire church family extend to the community at large an invitation to join us in worship this Sunday,

and to all church-related activities and events during the week. Our doors are always open and we would love to have you join us.

Early morning Worship Services begin at 7:30, there we let go and let God be God. The Youth Choir will render song service throughout the day. Church school will commence at 9:30 a.m.; we invite families to come study the Word of God as we seek to grow spiritually together. Our contemporary worship service is at 11:00 a.m. The spirit is always high. Pastor Williams will deliver two power-packed messages. Come be blessed!

**Weekly ministries suspended until January 2009. Spend time with your loved ones.**

### Upcoming Events:

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Candle Light Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 31 - Watch Night Worship at 10:00 p.m.

**Thought for the week: "Let us keep Christ in Christmas"**

Be blessed and have a Jesus filled week.

## New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

**"ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT, ONE HOPE"**

The New Hope Church family would like to take time to wish each of you a blessed holiday season! Remember that Jesus is the reason for the season!

Our Esteemed Pastor, Reverend Carlos L.

Senior and the New Hope Church family

invite you to worship with us on Sunday morning. Our services for the day include:

**Early Morning Service.....7:45 a.m.**

**Sunday School.....9:15 a.m.**

**(Classes for all ages)**

**Mid-Morning Service.....10:30 a.m.**

### MIDWEEK P.U.S.H.

**(PRAYER, UNDERSTANDING, & SPIRITUAL HEALING)**

Prayer Service and Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009. Prayer begins at 6:30 and Bible Study begins 7:30. There are classes available for all ages. Start the New

Year with the commitment to study the Word of God.

**Prayer Band** is held on Thursday mornings at 11:00. We invite you to join us as pray for the needs of the people throughout the world.

**"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Dec. 31 - Watch Night Service Theme:**

**"Preparing for the New" 10:00 p.m.**

**Jan. 16-17 - Youth Jumpoff Concert and Sleepover.**

For information concerning any events held at New Hope, please contact the church office at 727-896-5228.

### THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

**"This Christmas, be alert for the work and presence of Jesus."**

## Unity Temple of Truth Church

**THE LOVE OF THE HOLIDAYS**

Christmas is a season of love. At this special time of year, hearts overflow with expressions of goodness and kindheartedness. During this scared season of Advent, I know that love begins with me. My thoughts, words, and actions reflect the fullness of my heart. From a heart filled with divine love, I connect with those around me. My gift to myself and others this Christmas season is the gift of unconditional love, a gift from the heart that embodies the true meaning of the season.

Jesus epitomized compassion for others. His love transcended economic status, religious preference, and political jurisdiction. Jesus expressed divine love toward all people and encouraged them to follow his example. How can you express such kindness and attentiveness to the people in

your life? Perhaps the best place to begin is in prayer. As you commune with God and open yourself to ways in which you can be a blessing to others, you are divinely directed to right action.

On Christmas Day! Take the opportunity to give thanks to God for the good in your life. What a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with family or friends or enjoy quiet moments in prayerful contemplation. With God, your joy is complete; for with God, you can experience the joy of knowing that you are divinely cared for in every way. Rejoice in this realization, in this truth of your being, and give thanks that it is so.

Peace,

Reverend Prentiss John Davis

511 Prescott Street

St. Petersburg, Florida 33712

## Churches United For Healthy Congregations Presents Health Ministry Workshop

**What:** Building a Health Ministry Workshop. The workshop will provide the tools for creating a successful health ministry. Workshop will include presentation by Ayakao Watkins on "Why a Health Ministry?" What's Working/What's not: An interactive session facilitated by Carrie Hepburn; Your Health Ministry Highway: Tools to Make it Simple facilitated by Dianna King and Stephanie Brown ending with the participants developing a plan of action facilitated by Deborah Shaffer. Workshop is free and is funded by Allegany Franciscan Ministry.

**When and where:** January 3, 2009 at the James B. Sanderlin Family Service Center, 2335 22nd Ave. So., St. Petersburg, Florida.

**Who should attend:** Representatives from churches seeking assistance with building a health ministry? No more than two representatives per church. Persons interested in attending should contact the Sanderlin Center to register by Dec. 28, 2008. The phone number there is 727-321-9444. They can also fax in their request to attend at 727-327-7572.

### THEME:

**"A MOVEMENT TOWARDS GOD'S PROMISES"**

### Elder Clarence Welch Appreciation Service



The Young Adults of Prayer Tower Church of God in Christ would like to start the New Year off by showing our appreciation and thanks for our beloved pastor, Elder Clarence Welch, for his many years of service, not only to this church family, Bartow District, but the community at large.

We would like to open the doors of this event to the many people whose lives Elder Welch has touched in some way.

Therefore, everyone is invited to join us in celebrating and honoring Pastor Welch on January 10th. Tickets are available for purchase:

- ◆ \$20—adult tickets (ages 11 and up)
- ◆ \$5—child tickets (age 5 through 10)
- ◆ Free—children 4 and under (please confirm attendance)

Everyone is encouraged to purchase your tickets ASAP because seating is limited. Deadline to purchase tickets will be January 3, 2008.

Please contact Darlina Herring at (727) 418-5908 or email [darlinahering@verizon.net](mailto:darlinahering@verizon.net) if you have further questions regarding event.

Everyone is WELCOME! Please come so that we can show our love and appreciation to Pastor Clarence Welch.

*Young Adults of Prayer Tower*

### Date and Time of Event:

January 10, 2009  
3:00—5:00 p.m.

### Location:

Hospice Banquet Hall

### Address:

3050 1st Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712

# GOOD NEWS!

## Your Church News Can Be Placed Here!

Contact The Weekly Challenger to learn how your church's special events and weekly schedules can be placed in this space.

**Don't miss this opportunity!!**



# CHURCH DIRECTORY



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



Rev. Louis M. Murphy Sr.  
Senior Pastor

Worship Services .....7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School .....9:00 a.m.  
Prayer Service (Wed).....6:00 p.m.  
Bible Study (Wed).....6:30 p.m.

**Mission Statement:**  
*Impact the world by equipping believers  
to reach the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

## BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

912 3RD AVENUE NORTH- ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33705

(727) 822-2089

BETHEL1894@KNOLOGY.NET

BREAKFAST MINISTRY.....SUNDAY 8:00 A.M.  
CHURCH SCHOOL .....9:00 A.M.  
MORNING WORSHIP.....10:30 A.M.  
BIBLE STUDY.....TUESDAY 7:00 P.M.  
YOUTH CHURCH ..... MON & WED 5:30 P.M.

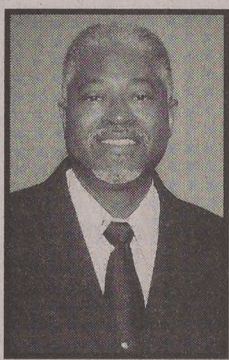


REVEREND DAVID L.  
AND DOROTHY  
CONNELLY

"THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU IN THE AME CHURCH"

## ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

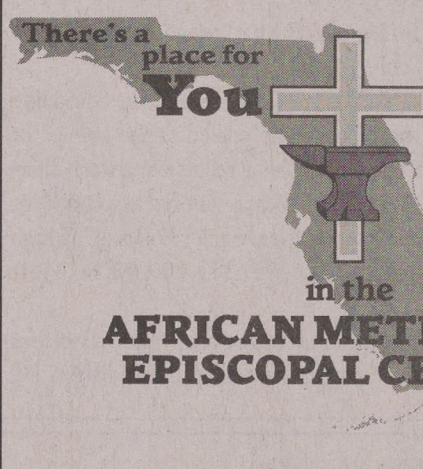
3200 Fifth Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 327-1373



Rev. Norris L.  
Martin Sr. - Pastor

Early Morning Worship .....7:30 a.m.  
Sunday School .....9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship .....11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer Meeting .....7:00 p.m.  
Friday Prayer Meeting .....11:00 a.m.

*"Raising A Standard For God's People In God's Church"*



## St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church

"Where Everybody is Somebody"

2401 - 5th Street South  
Saint Petersburg, FL 33705

Phone: (727) 823-6666

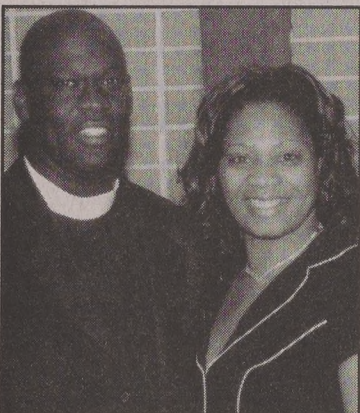
Rev. Keturah D. Pittman, Pastor

### Weekly Schedule

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Early Morning Worship Service...11:00 a.m.  
Monday Prayer & Praise.....6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study .....6:30 p.m.  
Friday Youth Activities.....6:30 p.m.

## GENESIS WORSHIP CENTER CHURCH

1818 29th Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, Florida  
727.898.5571  
Sunday Worship  
11:30 a.m.



Pastor Michael T. and  
Elect Lady Sheila Culbreth

## BETHEL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

OUR PURPOSE IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF GOD'S KINGDOM AND  
PROMOTION OF THE SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC  
WELFARE OF OUR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY



REVEREND DR. MANUEL SYKES

SERVICES  
SUNDAY: 8:00AM AND 10:00AM  
WEDNESDAY: 7:00PM

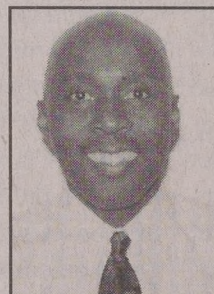
2901 54TH AVE. SOUTH • ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33712  
(727) 866-2567

## Victory Christian Center Church

3012 18th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Fla. 33712

(727) 321-0911

www.victorychristiancenterchurch.com



Claude S. Williams, Pastor

### Schedule of Services

Sunday Worship\*  
10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study\* -7:00 p.m.  
Friday Prayer -7:00 p.m.  
Intercessory Prayer - 9:00 a.m.  
(except Wednesdays)

Victory Christian Center is a Word of Faith Church. For more information about the other services and ministries at Victory Christian Center, please call (727) 321-0911

\*Nursery and Youth Services Available



## Queen Street Church Of God In Christ

1732 9th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 896-4356

**Elder A.P. Conage, Pastor**

8:00 A.M. - Sunday Service  
9:30 A.M. - Sunday School  
11:00 A.M. - Morning Service  
9:00 A.M. - Tuesday Prayer  
7:00 P.M. - Wednesday Bible Study

YPWW First and Third Sunday of each month after Morning Service



Pastor Maceo and  
Tamika McGriff

WALKING IN THE PROMISED VISION

## Abundant Harvest Worship Center

4682 40th Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33714

(727) 686-9356

www.abundant-harvest.org

**Sunday  
Morning Worship  
10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday  
Bible Study  
7:00 p.m.**

Log on:  
www.travelwiththechurch.com  
(to book your travel engagements)

*"Walking In The Promised Vision"*

## NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

www.spreadinghopeonline.org

### Sunday Services:

Church School ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Praise & Worship Service ... 10:30 a.m.

### Wednesday Services:

Midweek P.U.S.H.  
(Prayer Meeting/Bible Study) . . 7:00 p.m.



Rev. Carlos Senior,  
Pastor

*"One Body, One Spirit, One Hope"*

## Saint John Primitive Baptist Church

**Elder Benjamin Adams, Jr., Senior Pastor**

Church address: 1002 Palmetto Street, Clearwater, FL 33755  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1235, Clearwater, FL 33755  
Church Phone: (727) 443-1861 • Fax: (727) 443-0431  
Email: sjpbcc@tampabay.rr.com  
Radio dial: 1340 AM 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Radio internet: tantalk 1340.com

### Scheduled Services:

Early Morning.....8:00 a.m.  
Church School .....9:45 a.m.  
Mid-Morning .....11:00 a.m.  
Mid-week Family Night Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.



Elder Benjamin  
Adams, Jr.,  
Senior Pastor

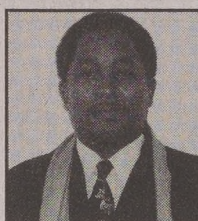
**Theme: "Movers of the Christ Purpose"**

*Edifying the Church; Evangelizing the Community (Acts 1:4-8)*

## MOUNT PILGRIM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

4000 5th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711 Phone: (727) 321-7375

"Returning God's People to the Word of God"



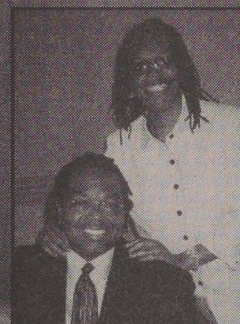
Pastor Clark  
Hazley, Sr.

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday General Worship .....11:00 a.m.  
Communion .....First Sunday  
Sunday New Member Orientation .....9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Meeting .....7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study .....7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Youth Bible Study .....7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Tutoring .....6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

### Mission Statement

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

Unity Church. A group of open-minded followers  
who welcome anyone seeking growth and truth,  
not dogmas. A church whose philosophy is one  
of life, love, and happiness.



Rev. Prentiss John Davis, Minister  
& Veronica Davis

MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 a.m.

## Unity Temple of Truth Church

511 Prescott Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Tel: 727-898-2457 Fax: 727-895-6898  
unitytempleoftruth@msn.com

## Trinity Presbyterian Church

2830 22nd Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712

727-327-8590

Email: trinitytp@tampabay.rr.com

pastorwoods07@yahoo.com

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. • Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.  
Bible Study - Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.  
Holy Communion Every First Sunday



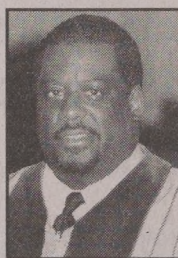
Alfonso Woods,  
Pastor

## First Baptist Institutional Church

3144 Third Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL  
Phone: 323-7518

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Come Worship With  
the First Baptist Family



REV. WAYNE G.  
THOMPSON, PASTOR

**YOUR CHURCH  
DIRECTORY AD  
COULD BE HERE!  
Call TODAY!!**



# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### Schedule of Services

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



Rev. Brian K. Brown

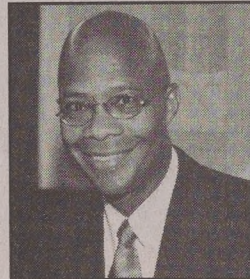
## BETHEL METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

3455 - 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Telephone (727) 327-0554 • Fax (727) 327-0240

E-mail: bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com Web site: www.bmmbc.org

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



Rev. Rickey L. Houston, Pastor

*"God's House In The City"*

## Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church



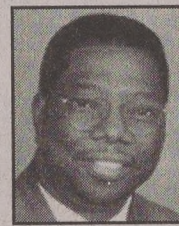
Bishop  
Raymond T.  
Baker, Pastor

900 - 16th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33705  
Office (727) 895-4900 • Fax (727) 895-4990

Sunday Morning Service 8:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Mid-Morning 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Meeting, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
Communion is observed every first Sunday  
*The Church Where Everyone is Welcome*

## 20th Street Church Of Christ

820 20th Street South  
St. Petersburg, 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.

## PRAYER TOWER CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Elder Clarence Welch, Pastor  
Elder Carson Skinner, Assistant Pastor  
1137 37th Street South  
Saint Petersburg, FL 33711  
(727) 321-0670

### SERVICES

Sunday Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.  
A. M. Service - 11:30 a.m.  
YPWW (1st & 3rd Sunday) - 5:30 p.m.  
P.M. Service (1st & 3rd Sunday) - 6:30 p.m.  
P. M. Service (2nd & 4th Sunday) - 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday Morning Prayer - 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Service - 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday Bible Study (for all ages) - 7:30 p.m.



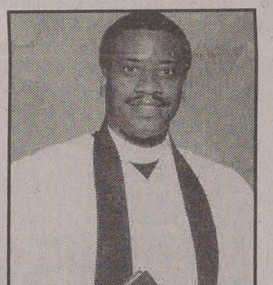
## THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Church School: ..... 9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
Devotion: ..... 10:00 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.  
Praise and Worship: ..... 10:20 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship Service: ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Bible Study each Tuesday: ..... 6:30 p.m.

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

THE ROCK OF JESUS IS LOCATED AT:  
3940 - 18th AVENUE SOUTH  
St. Petersburg, Florida

Telephone: 727-327-0015 • Fax: 727-327-0021  
Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



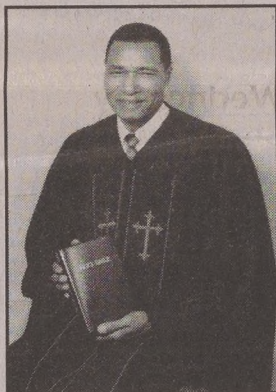
Rev. Frank W.  
Peterman, Jr.  
Pastor

## First Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church

1121 22nd Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 327-8708

Sunday Worship Services ... 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting (Tuesday) ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Bible Study (Tuesday) ..... 7:00 p.m.  
Baptist Training Union (Sunday) ..... 4:00 p.m.

*"The Little Church Where Everybody Is Somebody"*



Rev. Wallace Elliott Sr. - Pastor

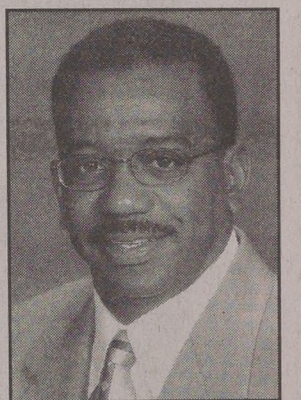
## McCabe United Methodist Church

2800 26th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Phone: 727-867-5287 • Fax: 727-906-9808

*A Discipleship Making Community*

Sunday Worship Services ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Children Church ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 8:50 a.m.  
Bible Study (Wednesday) ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Senior Fellowship (2nd Wednesday) ... 12:30 p.m.



Rev. I. James Mitchell,  
Senior Pastor

Advertise in the  
Church Directory!

CALL

727-896-2922

## Friendship

Missionary Baptist Church

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

www.fmbctheship.org

Sunday ..... 7:45 A.M. and 11 A.M. Worship  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 A.M.  
Wednesday ..... Noonday Bible Study and  
Bread of Life; 7 P.M. Prayer and Bible Study  
Thursday ..... 7 P.M. Youth Enrichment



Dr. John A. Evans,  
Pastor

*"Serving and Saving  
"Helping and  
Healing"  
"Inspiring and  
Instructing"  
"Praying and  
Praising"*

## GREATER MT. ZION AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1045 16th Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33705  
email: info@greatermtzioname.org  
Website: www.greatermtzioname.org



Rev. Clarence Williams,  
Pastor

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"*

Early Morning Worship ..... 7:30 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Vintage Bible Study ..... 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon  
Wednesday Bible Study ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Service ..... 7:00 p.m.

*Call Today!*

*Your Church Ad  
could be HERE!*

*Don't wait!*



Elder Tony L. Bradley, Pastor

New Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church

3001 18th Avenue South • Saint Petersburg, Florida 33712  
Phone: (727) 327-9904 • Fax: (727) 322-0409

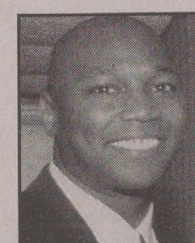
Church School - 9:30 A.M. • Morning Worship - 11:00 A.M.

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting & Bible Study - 7:00 P.M.

Worship Service Every Thursday Night after the First Sunday, at 7:00 P.M.

## 10th Street Church Of God

207 - 10th Street North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33705  
(727) 898-9407



Rev. Ronald L. Bell  
Pastor

Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Evening Prayer ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Bible Study ..... 7:30 p.m.

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



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LAK-58901 (INC. LG) 122608

Publix.

Happy New Year

1<sup>79</sup><sub>lb</sub>

Boston Butt Roast

Publix Pork, All-Natural, Full-Flavor

SAVE UP TO .60 LB

(Pork Steak ... lb 1.99)

Publix will stay open until 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve (Wednesday, December 31). On New Year's Day (Thursday, January 1), we'll be open until 7 p.m. We wish everyone a wonderful 2009, full of good health and great happiness.

Medium Shrimp Ring

6<sup>99</sup>

Medium Cooked Shrimp and Cocktail Sauce, 18-oz pkg.

SURPRISINGLY LOW PRICE

(Small, 10-oz pkg. ... 4.99 or Large, 36-oz pkg. ... 16.99)

New York Strip Steaks

6<sup>99</sup><sub>lb</sub>

Boneless, Publix Premium Certified Beef, USDA Choice

SAVE UP TO 3.50 LB

Publix DELI

Deli Old Fashioned Beans

1<sup>99</sup>

For Fast Service, Grab & Go!

16-oz cont.

SAVE UP TO .30

The Ultimate Tailgate Party

Key Lime Pie

6<sup>49</sup>

Choose Original Key Lime, Mango Key Lime, or Tangerine Flavor in Graham Cracker Crust, From the Publix Bakery, 34-oz size

SAVE UP TO 1.50

Collard Greens

Or Kale, Turnip, or Mustard, Fresh Cut and Ready to Cook, 16-oz bag

Quantity rights reserved.

SURPRISINGLY LOW PRICE

BUY 1 GET 1 Free

Publix Blackeye Peas

16-oz bag

SURPRISINGLY LOW PRICE

.99

Lay's Potato Chips

BUY 1 GET 1 Free

Assorted Varieties, 10.5 to 13.25-oz bag (Excluding Baked!, Light, and Natural.)

Quantity rights reserved.

SAVE UP TO 3.99

Korbel Extra Dry Champagne

9<sup>99</sup>

Or Brut or Rose, 750-ml bot.

SAVE UP TO 2.00

18-Pack Bud Light Beer

12<sup>99</sup>

Or Budweiser or Budweiser Select, 12-oz can or bot.

SAVE UP TO 2.00

(6-Pack Blue Moon Belgian White Ale or Blue Moon Seasonal Ale, 12-oz bot. ... 6.99)

Selected Coca-Cola Products

BUY 2 GET 1 Free

2-L bot.

SURPRISINGLY LOW PRICE