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# The Weekly Challenger

BLACK MEN MUST SELL AS WELL AS BUY OR ELSE REMAIN A BEGGAR RACE.

VOL. 50 NO. 37

MAY 10 - MAY 16, 2018

50¢

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The St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section, National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW) held their second annual Black Pearls Young Women's Conference last Saturday, May 5 at the Childs Park YMCA.

## NCNW holds Young Women's Conference

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section, National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW) held their second annual Black Pearls Young Women's Conference last Saturday, May 5 at the Childs Park YMCA.

The Black Pearls are a membership of young ladies affiliated with NCNW. Members are allowed an opportunity to develop the finer qualities of womanhood, share and exchange personal ideas and goals, support academic achievement, encourage high ethical standards and

provide various community services.

On Saturday, however, the conference was opened to all young ladies between the ages of 10 and 18 to learn about health and beauty and experienced hands-on, interactive robotics training at a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) workshop.

And not to leave the adults left out, the NCNW ladies also attended a few informative and inspirations workshops in another room.

Sandra Gibson, youth director of the Black Pearls, said NCNW's main focuses for the

girls is to ensure that they have an understanding of the topics that are near and dear to the organization. They push health, economics, STEM, public policy, and especially, community service.

"To get them understanding what community is about and get them involved with different organizations to serve like the Ronald McDonald House...or the Literacy Festival," said Gibson, noting that the Pearls are active with both organizations.

After a breakfast full of the young ladies' favorites, Yolanda McGill-Fintak, fashion and beauty consultant, jumped right

See **GIRLS** page 12

## Celebrating two years at the helm of Faith Memorial



Tiffani and Robert Vinson, Jr.

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Faith Memorial Missionary Baptist Church found themselves in need of a pastor after the passing of Senior Pastor Bragg L. Turner on Aug. 11, 2014. A search committee was established, and the church began to pray for guidance, asking God for his Holy Spirit to guide them through every step of the way.

After about 15 months, two applicants rose to the top out of the many that applied. The two ministers were asked to give a sermon, and on Feb. 14, 2016, Minister Robert A. Vinson, Jr. was selected by a majority vote under the guidance of the president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Southern Region and the pastor of Destiny Baptist Church of Springhill.

April 17, 2016, Pastor Vinson's installation service was held at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, and this April 22, the congregation celebrated his second anniversary.

"Since Pastor Vinson's arrival, we have experienced different ways of serving and praising God," said Sister Joyce Wright. "Pastor didn't come to change our ministries or programs, but to enhance...We have been truly blessed with his leadership."

Featured speaker for the morning, Rev. Ricky L. Houston, senior pastor of Bethel Metropolitan Church, gave a rousing sermon anchored on John 15:1-5 and Psalms 1:1-3. He endeavored to show how God established his church so that his Kingdom and those in the Kingdom can be positioned for maximum growth.

Houston mapped out how growth and expansion is to take place, warning that there are places where a person can spend time that will cause their spiritual growth to falter, stunting their

See **PASTOR**, page 7

## Red Tent Market opens up in Midtown

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The Red Tent Women's Initiative held a soft opening for their Red Tent Market, a storefront featuring original and handmade merchandise made by Red Tent participants. Located at 1535 16th St. S, the market is a perfect place to satisfy your crafting needs, whether it's buying that special something or sitting at a craft table creating your own designs.

Reasonably priced handmade jewelry, tote bags, pillows, paintings, hair bands, greeting card and other unique whimsical works of art crafted by Red Tent members and crafting enthusiasts are being sold at the market. The artists receive 65 percent of the proceeds, and the Pinellas Ex-offender Re-entry Coalition (PERC) gets the other 35



L-R, Tennie Thurman, 23, is an intern with St. Petersburg College studying social and human services; Susan Katz, MSW and Audrey Myers all keeping busy at the crafting table.

percent.

Operating under the auspices of PERC, the Red Tent Women's Initiative's mission is to improve the lives of women,

both in the Pinellas County Jail and in the community.

"To do that, we provide safe

See **MARKET**, page 9

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# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Visionary Brief

by Keisha Bell, Esq.

### Who cares about her mental health

People have their ideas of what mental illness looks like.

Is it easier to identify in people we do not know, or in people we do not like?

Have you grown accustomed to ignoring the man walking down the street appearing to have an intense argument with what only he can see?

Do we care about her mental struggles when her brilliance makes others money, yet her brazenness creates walls?

Meet Eunice Kathleen Waymon, more commonly known as Nina Simone. Waymon changed her name to make a living. She did not want her mother to know that she was playing what some called “the devil’s music.” Simone was a Civil Rights Movement activist, singer, songwriter, arranger and pianist who lived between February 21, 1933, and April 21, 2003.

Simone was a student at the Juilliard School of Music. She desired to become a concert pianist and applied for a scholarship to study at the Curtis Institute of Music. Despite having a well-received audition, she was denied admission and was convinced that racial discrimination was the reason. Interestingly, a few days before her death, Curtis Institute of Music bestowed on her an honorary degree.

In the late 1980s, Simone was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Her temper and frequent outbursts were not a secret. Reportedly, she took medication for her condition.

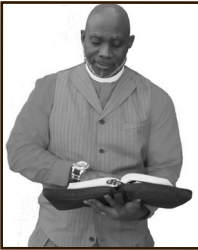


Simone had violent tendencies. These incidents were known by a small and select group. Once she died, however, this side of Simone was no longer hidden from the public. For example, in 1985, Simone fired a gun at a record company executive because she believed her royalties were being stolen. Likewise, in 1995, she shot and wounded her neighbor’s son with an air gun because she said that the boy’s laughter disturbed her concentration.

Simone overcame many obstacles in her life to rise to being inducted into the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame as well as into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. She was a musical genius who many times used her music to address racial inequality. She was also a musical genius who suffered from mental illness.

For some, it may be easier to pretend that all is well, but the fact of the matter is that all is not well. Many times, she is not well; frequently, he is not well. Look within first. Are you well?

*Keisha Bell is an attorney, author, and public servant. www.emergingfree.com*



## Breaking the Cycle

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

### Prayer done the right way – Part 1

Praise the Lord saints.

As I sit down to write this week’s article, I’m dealing a tremendously trying time.

I have a close family member and two church members that are fighting for their lives.

As I continue to pray intensely for each of them, it has become startling apparent to me that there needs to be a greater effort in teaching how prayer works.

Prayer is nothing more than you talking to God. There is no special or secret method involved, although some have been taught that.

Some even believe that it’s only for some folks and not others. While there is some truth to this, anyone can pray to God and He will answer.

John 9:31 speaks to who God will hear and hopefully answer;

31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

Understand this, once you have become a saint, someone that has given their life over to trusting, worshipping, and believing in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and that He died for your sins, you are a Christian or saint. You can NEVER again become a sinner.

Don’t get me wrong, Christians do commit sins, but that doesn’t make them a sinner, just a saint that has backslidened.

The devil is a liar and the truth ain’t in him.

Stop allowing yourself to be told otherwise and that you are not worthy to call on Him even after you have sinned. That’s what mercy and grace were created for.

Repent and ask for forgiveness, and all is forgotten in God’s eyes so you don’t have a right to keep holding on and condemning yourself once God has forgiven you.

I have observed how some pastors or leadership in the church pray for those that are sick and ill and I have come to the conclusion that there is a major issue with this and it is very alarming to say the least. I say this because some of their prayers seem scripted and rehearsed and not heart felt.

I think that one should be consecrated and been calling on the Lord prior to praying for the sick, ESPECIALLY if you are expecting God to perform a miracle.

It just doesn’t seem genuine and sincere if one just comes into the room and just say let’s pray and just go right into it.

The atmosphere I believe should be set right for the receiving and calling on the Lord and not treated like something scripted.

This could actually be a moment that an unbeliever might consider turning their lives over to Christ solely based on the prayer.

The potential of someone transitioning or dying can have such an effect on those that know that their eternal destination is uncertain and this should not be taken lightly.

One thing that I see is some that are “on the fence” so to speak. What I mean is that they read their bible every now and then and occasionally attend a service or two and now they know everything and even attempt to put certain saints or even leaders in check. This can

be very dangerous depending on the position that person holds in that family. The reason why its so dangerous is that we are dealing with someone’s eternal destination for their soul and because everyone is in such a fragile state, this is not the time for a novice to voice his or her opinions as it relates to anything.

Those that are close to the ill individual tend to put such an overload of physical and mental stress on themselves and actually most times make themselves ill.

This is why prayer again is so vitally important because in prayer this could easily put everyone at ease in the sense that if the prayer is done the way it should be, their thoughts and focus are solely on believing and trusting in God’s ability to heal and cure the sick.

I’ve also noticed that some will pray if it’s God’s Will, or Lord if it’s your will. On the surface it seems harmless, however this is not the case.

The only reason some pray this prayer is because they are not 100% sold on God’s ability to do that which they have prayed and whatever the outcome is they can say it was God’s will.

While this can be the case most times, God promised us some things and we have the right to demand or put God’s word to work for us.

There are numerous scriptures that validate this fact that God made some promises to us and that He would deliver, as long as we did our part.

*Till next week,  
God Bless.  
Elder Dr. Robert L. Harrison*

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Deuces Live Community Summit

BY VEATRICE FARRELL  
Deuces Live, Inc.

*“Our people have made the mistake of confusing the methods with the objectives. As long as we agree on objectives, we should never fall out with each other just because we believe in different methods, or tactics, or strategy.” – Malcolm X*

ST. PETERSBURG – Please join us for the inaugural Deuces Live, Inc. Community Summit: Staying Focused Amidst Conflict (reservations required).

As a valued community partner, we are requesting your participation. This pilot initiative is a gathering of some of our local organizations and businesses as a means to begin an ongoing discussion and collaborative effort to provide tools to grow businesses and organizations so they become stronger entities.

One continued goal for the Deuces Live’s board and staff is to effectively position itself as a conduit both on the corridor and within the Community Redevelopment Area by preparing existing and new community-owned businesses/organizations for success and sustainability through advocacy, business counsel and resource development.

The Deuces Live, Inc. Community Summit will bring a variety of resources together. Our ambition for this summit will focus on determining strategies on how we can work together when we agree, and more importantly, how we can work together when we don’t agree, while still



supporting each organization as it delivers on its mission and vision to impact the community.

This event is not structured to solve any problems, but rather ways to work through disagreements and continue progress in the community while not harming those that may not share your opinion.

Here is what you should expect as an attendee of the summit:

**Active participation:** You will be actively engaged as a full participant throughout the entire event.

**Professional Facilitators:** This meeting is being conducted by SPC Collaborative Labs. The event’s facilitator, Rebecca Watson, is an expert coach and facilitator with 17 years of experience in education reform and executive leadership.

She is the founder of Limitless Leader Inc. and Empower Consulting, LLC and has designed and led training and capacity-building initiatives for thousands of education leaders in both Chicago and New York City.

**Open new vistas:** Expand networks, meet partners and learn from people with a wide range of backgrounds and experiences.

**Solutions on how to work together:** Attendees will gain insights on innovative strategies on how to work through issues when there is no consensus. Define common goals in areas of support for one another.

The event will take place Wednesday, May 16. Registration starts at 9 a.m. with the program from 9:30-12:30 p.m. Lunch and networking until 1 p.m. at the SPC All-state Center, 3200 34th St. S, St. Petersburg. There is limited space within the venue, and your response is vital to the success of the event.

Please RSVP by May 12 at [deuceslivestpetemainstreet@gmail.com](mailto:deuceslivestpetemainstreet@gmail.com) and include your name, affiliation (if any) and phone number.

We are excited to have your participation in the first of many community summits. This event is made possible through a grant from the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg.

## NAACP announces second annual Morris Milton and Garnell Jenkins Scholarship Award opportunity

BY J.A. JONES  
Staff Writer

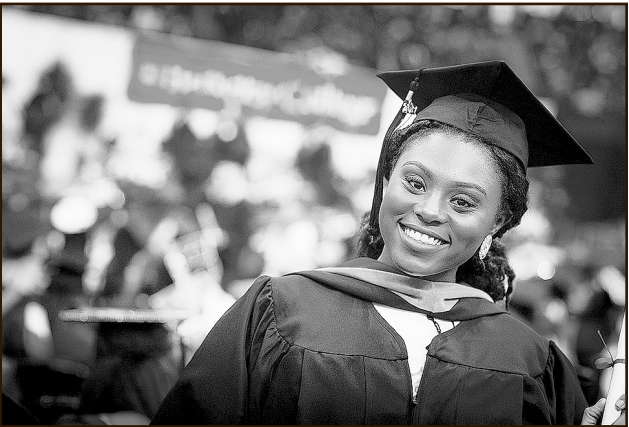
ST. PETERSBURG – The NAACP St. Petersburg Branch is currently accepting applications for the second annual Morris Milton and Garnell Jenkins Scholarship. Named in honor of the former NAACP presidents, the scholarship provides two \$1,500 awards to a male and female high school senior residing in south St. Pete.

“We are excited about the opportunity to make a dent in the furtherance of two of our community’s children’s college funds,” said NAACP President Maria L. Scruggs, noting that the cost of a college education is becoming more distant for many youths.

“Many find the financial resources they will get through loans and grant funding is not enough, considering one textbook can run as high as \$300.”

The awards are offered to students accepted into a community college, technical school or a university who have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Applicants must submit an essay on the “history of social justice in America” or on the “history of the NAACP in south St. Petersburg.”

Last year’s scholarship recipients were stu-



dents Aldric Griffin and Alexis Peterson.

“We longed to identify and support our young people, support them and bring out the potential that lies within them,” noted NAACP executive board member Cassandra Jackson. “We felt that there was a need among our young scholars [and] with that in mind, we stepped out on faith, decided to embrace the challenge and not just talk the talk, but walk the walk with our dollars.”

Jackson stressed that while the applicants must present an oral presentation of their essay before a committee of educators and community members, it was designed to be a stress-free situation.

“We try to create a safe environment, a comfortable environment, a relaxing environment, so that these students may speak from their hearts and give their best,” as-

sured Jackson.

She promises that they’re not there to intimidate the children or make them feel that they’re being pressured. The whole purpose of the exercise is to equip the youth with the skills needed to go out into the world and be successful.

She added that it’s essential to offer the students the opportunity to articulate their views.

“Because the NAACP is about people that have views...so we connect the dots by encouraging that in our young people as well.”

All applications must be received by midnight on May 24. Presentation of the essays will be held on May 31. Interested students should contact Cassandra Jackson at (727) 385-1606, or email [naacpstpetersburgbranch5130@yahoo.com](mailto:naacpstpetersburgbranch5130@yahoo.com).

To reach J.A. Jones, email [jjones@theweekly-challenger.com](mailto:jjones@theweekly-challenger.com).



## AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY FRONT AND CENTER

The 54th Colored Volunteer Massachusetts Regiment was one of the first official black units in the U.S. armed forces, authorized in 1863. This all-black infantry regiment exhibited extreme courage and courage during the Civil War. The 1989 film “Glory” starring Denzel Washington was based on “The 54th,” as it’s called.

President Lincoln, with the support of black abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman, encouraged the use of black troops. There were thousands of runaway slaves and freed blacks who wanted to fight for their freedom and joined the Union Troops wherever they appeared.

General Ulysses Grant, whose army occupied the southern states where there were the most black refugees, was an enthusiastic supporter of the use of black troops, and in an August 1863 letter to President Lincoln he stated:

“...by arming the Negro we have added a powerful ally. They will make good soldiers and taking them from the enemy weakens him in the same proportion they strengthen us. I am therefore most decidedly in favor of pushing this policy the enlistment a force sufficient to hold all the South falling into our hands and to aid in capturing more.”

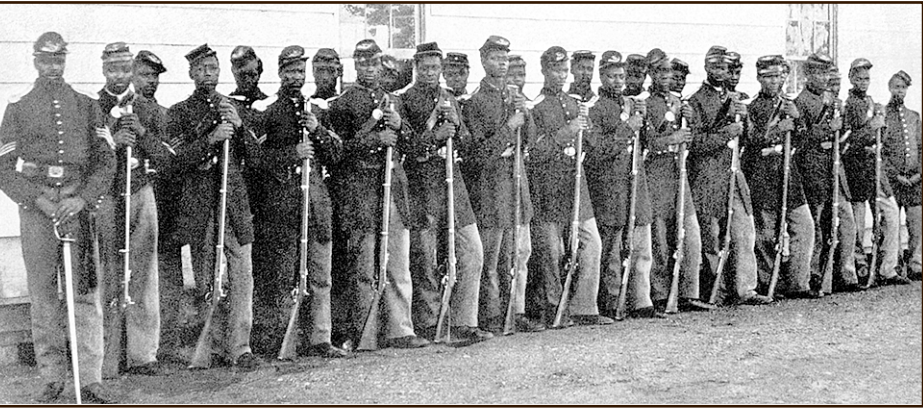
The governor of Massachusetts, John A. Andrew, commanded Colonel Robert Gould

Shaw to lead the infantry, which consisted of over 1,000 black volunteers, including two sons of Frederick Douglass: Major Lewis H. Douglas and Sargent Charles Raymond Douglas.

When the Confederates learned of the black soldiers, they passed a proclamation that colored volunteers and their leaders would be killed if caught. The 54th’s first major battle was at Fort Wagner near Charleston, S.C. The regiment gained widespread recognition on July 18, 1863, when it spearheaded the assault.

The 54th lost 272 of the 600 men who charged Fort Wagner. The infantry became well known for their courage. Many naysayers who swore

## The 54th Colored Volunteer Infantry of Massachusetts: Heroes of the Civil War



black people would not fight for their freedom. The 54th proved them wrong in battle after battle.

President Abraham Lincoln once noted that the 54th and the other blacks fighting for the Union Army and the abolition of slavery had proven necessary to secure the final victory. After 1863,

nearly 179,000 black people fought for the Union Army.

Decades later, Sergeant William Harvey Carney was awarded the Medal of Honor for grabbing the U.S. flag as the flag bearer fell at Fort Wagner. Carney was the first black person awarded the Medal of Honor. Let us

salute the 54th and never forget them.

Attorney Jacqueline Hubbard graduated from the Boston University Law School. She is currently the president of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## New Deal for St. Pete prepares plan for FY19 Budget Open House

BY J.A. JONES  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – This week the New Deal for St. Pete, a community-led agenda developed by the People’s Budget Review, met Monday night at Pinellas Technical College to prepare its recommendations for the city’s FY19 Budget Open House, which will be held Monday, May 14 at 6 p.m. at the Coliseum.

Bro. John Muhammad, president of the Childs Park Neighborhood Association and community organizer with Service Employees International Union Florida, stated that while the original date for the Budget Open House had been set for June, the group learned only days earlier that it had been moved up. This unexpected change in the schedule demanded that New Deal’s planning needed to be completed earlier than originally scheduled.

“It accelerates the timeline that we have to organize, but we’re going to buckled down, go into overdrive and accomplish those deliverables because we really want to be able to present our recommendations,” Muhammad asserted.

New Deal members agreed, aware that the Open House offers an opportunity to the share their agenda and assuring the city officials present will hear the ideas for community development that came from the continuing community surveys and conversations.

Muhammad shared the city’s open house format with the approximately 50 activists, community leaders, educators and business people in the room, explaining the various departments would be in attendance to field questions during the breakout portion.

“You can go in and talk specifically with the heads of each department – Pub-

lic Works, Parks and Rec. — you name it,” he explained.

The departmental breakouts would be followed by a presentation from the city where they will reveal their ideas for the budget. After that, the floor is opened to the public.

“We want to take the group that’s in here tonight and have each of you bring a friend and go in and talk about what we recommend. Because this started with us being people who reviewed the budget and wanted to be able to voice what matters to us and how we want to see our dollars spent.”

New Deal St. Pete developed four points of progress, and this year has focused on one issue from each category:

**Affordable housing:** To expand significantly affordable housing and land trusts.

**Educational opportunities:** To convene a conference between the

city, light industry and manufacturing, urban agriculture proponents, green job creators and unions and community groups at the Pinellas Technical College to coordinate workplace development, succession and apprenticeship programs to target economically distressed areas of the city for recruitment.

**Build community wealth:** To coordinate and assist in community and worker-owned cooperatives, beginning with a community-owned grocery co-op on the south side.

**Make St. Pete a living wage city:** Require that developers sign community benefit agreements within the City of St. Pete with community organizations and institutions where development occurs around wages and services to be provided to the community in question.

Living wage workgroup leader Bruce Nis-

sen spoke on what it would take to force developers to sign community benefit agreements.

“One of the things we do know is you really need mass support and mass mobilization and the ability to bring out large numbers of people or else a developer just doesn’t take you seriously.”

Community wealth group leader Judith Turner shared that one initiative was asking the city for an ordinance to include cooperative business development very much in keeping with the kind of traditional business development they’re offering already, an ordinance Councilwoman Darden Rice was considering sponsoring.

Turner also related that they were still in the planning stages of the grocery co-op. Responding to a question on whether the group would pursue the request for proposal for the Tangerine Plaza as a location, she explained

why it wasn’t a consideration at that point.

“There’s a very specific and well-defined process for starting a grocery co-op. First, you incorporate then build your board, then attain 300 members...and then you begin to look for your address,” Turner explained, noting that a co-op is really the people, not something a city can give.

She also shared their workgroup is teaching a class on youth-owned cooperatives at the Enoch Davis Center, Wednesday, June 27 from 2- 4 p.m. At this meeting, they will provide examples of how young people are already running cooperative businesses “just to show you it’s not rocket science, it’s a very easy model.”

The FY19 Budget Open House begins at 6 p.m. next Monday at the Coliseum, 535 Fourth Ave. N.

To reach J.A. Jones, email [jjones@theweekly-challenger.com](mailto:jjones@theweekly-challenger.com)



L-R, Bro. John Muhammad, Sen. Darryl Rouson and Councilwoman Gina Driscoll



### S U P P O R T O U R A D V E R T I S E R S

## AAG ‘75 roadmap to 2020

ST. PETERSBURG – Calling all African American Graduates of 1975 (AAG ‘75). Join us on Saturday, May 19 at 1 p.m. at the Enoch Davis Center as we develop our “AAG ‘75 Roadmap” for the next two years.

The planning meeting is designed for classmates to place future activities, projects and events on our 2018-20 calendar. This is a prime opportunity for classmates to recommend new ideas or projects, select committees to work on and volunteer for community service as-

signments.

The latest updates on class activities, meet your class officers and fellow-ship with classmates will be on the menu.

We look forward to seeing everyone there. RSVPs are not required, but are highly recommended so that we may properly prepare for your attendance. Please take a moment and kindly let us know if you plan to attend.

You can respond via Facebook, by contact Ralph at (727) 328-8605 or Sandra at (727) 321-1034. If you prefer to RSVP

through our website, log on to [www.theaag1975.com](http://www.theaag1975.com) where you can also update any contact information. And for those who have not mastered the internet, send your reservations and any updated contact info to P.O. Box 16856, St. Petersburg, FL 33733.

Again, plan to attend the AAG ‘75 Roadmap 2018-2020 meeting at the Enoch Davis Center, 1111 18th Ave. S, on Saturday, May 19 from 1- 4 p.m. Light hors d’oeuvres will be served.





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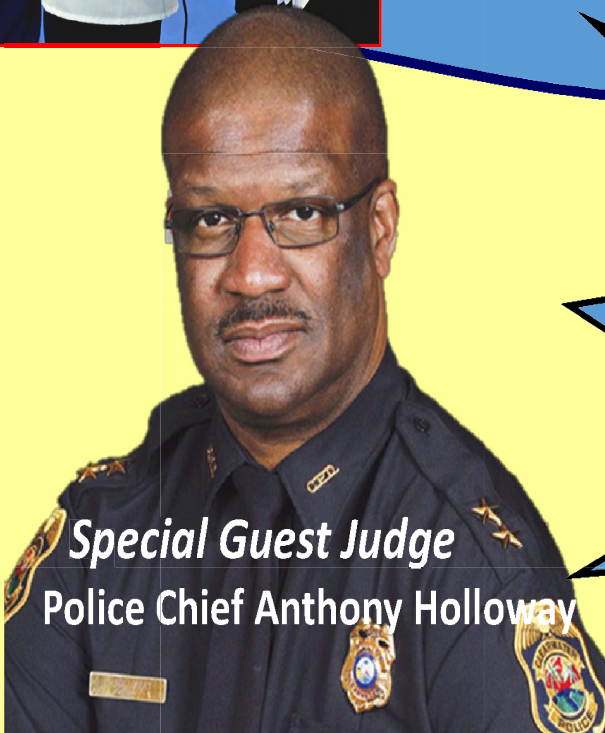
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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## This we all can agree!

BY DEXTER MCCREE  
Feature Writer

LARGO – The audience at Anona United Methodist Church were all in agreement of one thing: the violence in our community must end. Violence has no face, and it has no regard for race, religion or color. It is affecting the school system, the church community, the business community and the family unit. Today's violence is affecting us all.

Kim Townsel, M.Ed., who is specialty trained in Kingian Nonviolence, held a two-day workshop to address this hot topic. Friday, April 27, a panel discussion called "Defeating Violence in Our Communities" was held and Saturday, April 28, Townsel conducted an introductory Kingian Nonviolence orientation.

Kingian Nonviolence is a philosophy of nonviolent conflict reconciliation in

the tradition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the organizing strategies of the Civil Rights Movement. It is a holistic view of conflict.

This training has been successful in so many different settings because of its broad approach. Conflict is universal, and whether you are dealing with conflict on a global level (between the rich and the poor), community level (street violence), social level (coworkers), interpersonal level (family) or personal level (internal), this philosophy applies.

The Kingian Nonviolence Introductory Training workshop was a transformational experience that explored the depths of the philosophy of nonviolence, and how to begin to bring the practice of nonviolence into our lives.

"What is the role of the faith-based in the community," asked discussion fa-

cilitator Carl Lavender, who is the current managing officer of Workforce Innovation at Pinellas Technical College.

The panel consisted of Rev. Ken Irby, director of Not My Son; Dr. Darrell Wilson, dean at Stetson School of Law; Wali Shabazz, Southern Region director of National Trust for Development of African American Males; Clearwater Police Chief Daniel Slaughter, Dr. LaSonya Moore, professor at University of Central Florida and University of South Florida and Dr. Terry Collier, director of Anona Counseling Center.

Responses to the question varied with each panelist. Irby suggested having justice, unity, balance and opportunity. He recommended establishing values; assist in meeting needs and showing mercy with one another as crucial elements.

Slaughter saw the faith-

based community as a valuable resource to connect for youth collaboration and having the pastors for support and relationship building.

Wilson feels it is important to be "real people" and not hypocrites, while Collier suggested having open doors, minds and hearts.

Although most would agree that these are difficult days, Shabazz reminded the audience that this is the greatest time in human history for alive.

The panelist and audience discussed other concerns throughout the evening such as the breakdown of the schools. For instance, art and music programs are cut, classrooms are overcrowded, and textbooks and equipment are outdated or non-functional; yet, the idea of arming and training educators to use guns is on the table.

The audience was chal-

lenged by a panelist asking when will we stop playing the blame game. We need conversation, communication and collaboration, not one without the other. The issue of trust, or lack thereof, brought out head nods and sounds of agreement.

Irby suggested that today's society is more complicated and is in need of more services, particularly in the neighborhoods that have low income and impoverished families. He said building more trust with the residents is important.

"The system is not broken. It is doing what it is designed to do," said Moore. "We need to restructure the system. Culture beats strategy every time. We are all operating in broken systems in the school, police, church, organizations, everyone."

Townsel wrapped up the evening by stating that he advocates for a coalition of willingness that rep-

resents different parts of the community who will move from aspirational language to sustainable developmental goals.

"We must shift from blame and accusation to accountability and responsibility."

This is something that we all can agree to.

About Kim T. Townsel, M.Ed.

Kim T. Townsel, M.Ed. is the founder and principal consultant of Townsel Consulting Group, which have been working in the Pinellas County Schools for over 18 years, providing educational consulting that formulates, creates and develops prescriptive and highly contextualized opportunity to learn and expand curriculum for educators, human service providers and the faith-based collaborative community partnerships.

To reach Dexter McCree, email [dmcree@the-weeklychallenger.com](mailto:dmcree@the-weeklychallenger.com)



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Mayor Rick Kriseman and Muslim leaders from throughout Tampa Bay will host the 2nd Annual Iftar dinner welcoming residents of all faiths to celebrate the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Iftar is the evening meal when Muslims end their daily Ramadan fast at sunset.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Staying connected to Jesus

**PASTOR, from front page**

spiritual growth.

"They cannot plant themselves in areas that will be counter to their spiritual growth and happiness. You can place a seed in the ground in the wrong place, and it will never germinate," Houston said, noting what the Psalmist said.

He warned to stay away from those who ridicule, hypocrites and those who have no regard for God and his principles. "Be careful of your associations."

There is only one place you can stand that will cause you to grow spiritually and flourish, he said. Righteous persons are identified by personal association with the law of the Lord, and the way to develop spiritually requires adherence to God's Word and will in everyday life.

"A place of spiritual growth requires a mental positioning," he said, adding that this consists of continuous reflection upon the Word of God and applying our lives to God's eternal truths.

Heading over to the Gospel of John, Houston showed that there is only one source in which a person is able to form and fashion spiritual

fruit, and only one individual in whom spiritual growth is founded.

He showed where Jesus said we must abide in him; remain in him and he will remain in us.

"No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." (John 15:4, NIV)

Jesus tells them where they are to stand if they desired to grow and bear fruit, informing them that they must stay connected.

"Our connection to Jesus is vital in growing spiritually," Houston said. "The relationship between the branch and the vine will produce fruit."

It is not the branches that are producing the fruit, he preached. "Branches require a vine...You have to be connected to Jesus."

Going back to the Psalmist to close, Houston showed that there is only one source through which our spiritual growth and favorable circumstances flow.

"A godly man is like a tree positioned by the rivers of water. He is positioned in a place through which he receives life and strength,"

he said. "They are positioned by the source."

Houston emphasized that there can be no fruit without roots, saying that too many Christians are more concern about the leaves and the fruit of the tree than they are about the roots, but the roots are the most critical part of the plant.

"Unless Christians spend time in daily prayer and rooted in the Word of God and allow the spirit to feed them, they will wither and die," he exclaimed.

Wrapping up the morning, Houston reminded all to make sure they position themselves for maximized growth by residing in Jesus who came to redeem and to restore us.

The congregation and its ministries presented Vinson and his family with gifts and expressions of love, from a jar of pickles, his favorite, to artwork and tools. Each one had a special meaning behind them.

"God already predestined today. He saw me come into this world, he spoke to Faith, Faith voted, but God called," said Vinson. "Thank God."




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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Black women artists offer abstract visions at MFA’s ‘Magnetic Fields’

BY J.A. JONES  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – A majestic iron, wood and rope sculpture titled “Malcolm X #13.”

Hundreds of meticulously twisted coils of newspaper creating a field of environmental and social commentary.

A large bale of tossed-off clothing creating a sculpture and homage to memory and consumerism.

These works and others can be viewed at the Museum of Fine Arts’ (MFA) “Magnetic Fields: Expanding American Abstraction, 1960s to Today” exhibition. The show brings the first U.S. exhibition focused solely on African-American women painting, sculpting and creating mixed media work in the abstract vein to the Tampa Bay area.

The showing is a powerful collection of 45 works created by 21 intergenerational artists from across the country, which, according to the MFA, “have historically been overlooked by the mainstream.”

Born between the 1890s and 1980s, the artists exemplify the range of creativity explored in abstract artwork defined less by literal figures or scenes and more by vast visual possibilities, resulting from the artists freely expressing their inner-visions through unconventional uses of color, form, shapes, materials and textures.

“I literally jumped up and down when we decided to do this because this was such an exciting and important exhibition, and it was a chance to bring more holdings by African-American artists,” said Katherine Pill, MFA curator of contemporary art. “This is an exhibition that takes a more intersectional look, and it allows us to talk about racial disparities coupled with gender issues.”

The exhibition is named after Mildred Thompson’s 1991 triptych, or three-paneled painting, Magnetic Fields, a visual map of curving lines and arresting golds, reds, oranges and blues that combine with energetic intensity. Thompson, a native of Jacksonville, arrived in Tampa in 1974 to become the city’s artist in residence.

Other artists among the 21 featured include Nanette Carter (b. 1954, Ohio), Brenna Youngblood (b. 1979, California), Betty Blayton (b. 1937, Virginia), Howardena Pindell (b. 1943, Philadelphia), Mavis Pusey (b.1928, Kingston, Jamaica) and Shinique Smith (b. 1971, Maryland).

The exhibition was conceived by Erin Dziedzic, director of curatorial affairs at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City, Mo., where the exhibition began and Melissa Messina, curator of the Mildred Thompson archives.

“We began talking about who’s been missing from the canon of abstract art,” explained Kemper, who was on-hand at the opening. “We started looking at Mildred Thompson first, an artist who had a huge impact on us.

Kemper and Messina combined their efforts alongside an advisory group of scholars, educators and other curators from across the United States to inform, contribute to their catalog and contribute to public programming.

“It’s an exhibition about abstraction, and it’s a way for us to discover artists who we may not have recognized in the past, to revisit artists who’ve had some success and put them in context with other artists who are virtually unknown,” he said.

The array of artists included reveals work created in an astonishing spectrum

of mediums — from Mylar to found objects, oil-on-canvas to rubber tires, punched-paper to printmaking and more.

The works are arresting, multi-textured and imaginative. They invite viewers to ponder the internal narratives that spawned them.

“Magnetic Fields” will be on view at the MFA until Aug. 5 in the Hazel Hough Galleries. Initially organized by the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, it has also traveled to the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C., before arriving in St. Pete for its final show at the MFA.

The MFA is located at 255 Beach Drive N.E. Hours are Monday-Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10-5 p.m.; Thursday from 10-8 p.m. and Sunday from noon-5 p.m.

Take advantage of special \$5 pricing on Thursdays after 5 p.m. Regular adult admission is \$17, \$15 for 65 and older. Students enter for \$10 (valid college I.D.); children under seven and museum members get in free. Call for group rates and reservations, (727) 896-2667 or visit mfastpete.org.

To reach J.A. Jones, email [jjones@theweeklychallenger.com](mailto:jjones@theweeklychallenger.com).



Shinique Smith, Bale Variant No. 0012



Abigail Deville, Harlem Flag



Lilian Thomas Burwell, Menageri

## Shawn Brown is suiting up for a new job

BY JOYCE NANETTE JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Shawn Brown, nationally renowned jazz musician, is known to enthrall his audiences with his energetic vocals as his hands fly up and down the keyboard, adding their magic to a performance. A musical virtuoso, he can make his keyboard and his voice move through the emotions of love, sorrow and happiness while bringing the audience along for the joyous ride.

During his long career, he has been a producer and mentor to other musicians and now he’s embarking on the latest phase of his musical journey as entertainment director for the Historic Manhattan Casino. Brown will be responsible for securing and promoting the entertainment at the venue.

Granted a five-year lease by the City of St. Petersburg last Nov., the Callaloo Group has renovated the downstairs space to include Callaloo, a full-service restaurant, a to-go restaurant that features the Pipo’s Cuban Café menu, a full-service commissary and a bar and lounge.

The second-floor has live entertainment and is rented out for private events.

Brown said Callaloo Group Director of Development, Mario Farias, had been a fan of his for years when he reached out to him for this new venture.

“Something possessed me when I came in here,” Brown said about entering the second floor hallowed dance hall. He reminisced about the dynasty of black musicians and singers that performed there including Duke Ellington, James Brown and Ike and Tina Turner. “This place has a root and is rich with history. I feel a presence of their work.”

Brown is excited



about this latest chapter in his life and is eager to bring the Manhattan Casino to the forefront of St. Petersburg entertainment. He has revamped the area bringing in his lighting, surround sound system and has had the stage rebuilt with a tiered effect and sparkling lights in the same spot as the original stage from many years ago.

He said that many musicians are anxious to appear at the historic venue such as Eric Darius, singer extraordinaire Siobhan Monique and The Henry Ashwood Jazz Project, who have performed during Sunday brunch in the main dining room.

There will be live music on Saturday evenings and jam sessions on Sundays. He also wants to expand the entertainment options to include a comedy night, spoken word, dance troupes and gospel music.

Although the opening of the Historic Manhattan Casino was met with great fanfare and celebration, there were some voices of opposition. Some have concerns that the establishment should have been leased and ran by a black-owned firm. Callaloo Group Vice President Vincent Jack-

son recently spoke at Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church about what he hopes they will bring to the community.

“This space is not ours, it is the community’s,” Jackson said, adding that the Callaloo Group is there for economic stimulation and to create jobs in the community.

He mentioned the installation of the full-service commissary that will produce food products for other Pipo Cuban Café restaurants and will, therefore, create job creation.

“We have a blessing and a duty to serve this community,” said Jackson.

“This is a God-given inheritance,” Brown stated. “I would like people to know my interest is nothing political. I just want to be a good representative in the African-American community in St. Pete. I hope this becomes a place that unites and builds our esteem, grows confidence in ourselves and to be proud. I really hope the people of St. Pete will embrace something of our heritage.”

Log on to [historicmanhattancasino.com/events/](http://historicmanhattancasino.com/events/) for a complete entertainment schedule.

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# Freedom Fund & Juneteenth Celebration

## 2018

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Crafting with a purpose

**MARKET, from front page**

spaces for them to come together and create marketable art,” said Red Tent Assistant Director Susan Katz, MSW.

While the ladies are creating art, whether they’re embroidering, sewing or any other artistic expression, they are saturating with different kinds of communication skills, life skills and resources. The atmosphere of trust and encouragement that surrounds the women is precisely what they need while in transition.

In 2012, Red Tent founder Barbara Rhode, a licensed marriage and family therapist, was working for a work-release center and noticed that many of the women were depressed and slept away their sentences with no treatment for the trauma they’d experienced.

After reading the book

“The Red Tent” by Anita Diamant, which describes a time in ancient cultures where they had an actual red tent in the middle of communities where women could go and heal and help and support one another, she asked if she could start a group at the Pinellas County Jail.

She was told no one would sign up.

“There was a waiting list within two weeks,” said Katz, adding that they are now up to three classes a week, four hours a day.

“Many of them, especially in the Pinellas County Jail, they have a history of abuse, trauma, addiction, so they’re fighting a lot of demons, and in general, that’s why they’ve landed in the position they’re in,” said Katz.

Red Tent aims to stop the cycle of recidivism and make sure that when their women are released, they

are not isolated and alienated anymore and that they have a place to come that’s safe.

While in jail, however, the ticket into the class is a sewing needle. While sewing and creating, the non-violent offenders can listen to music and drink coffee while enjoying an atmosphere of trust and encouragement.

“While they’re there, we’re talking about communication skills, we’re talking about life skills, we’re talking about reintegration, we’re talking about the cycle of addiction — anything that we can think of that they need to be educated on or that will help them once they leave not to come back,” averred Katz.

The ladies are also given an opportunity to earn their GED. An instructor from Pinellas Technical College will

help them study and pass the test.

Once they are released, the support doesn’t stop. Currently, Red Tent has three community support groups — one in Clearwater (Pinellas Hope), Pinellas Park (PERC Continental Hotel) and St. Pete (Baldwin Women’s Residence) — that meets one day a week. They have also partnered with Subway Restaurant in placing their participants in positions.

Also, once the ladies have served their time, they are reunited with artwork and can now sell it at the market.

One such lady who took advantage of the Red Tent Women’s Initiative both in and out of jail is Audrey Myers, who once spent eight months in Pinellas County Jail and is now the market’s store manager and community liaison.

Showing off her hand-made purses and pillows, Myers explained that she couldn’t sew before attending Red Tent sessions in jail and is now being commissioned to create her famous totes and purses out of cut-off jeans.

“I knew how to hem something with a needle and thread, but no, not really. You just don’t know how creative you are until you start doing something,” Myers said. “Give it a try; you might like it.”

Yes, Myers is inviting the public down to the store to create your very own masterpieces. There’s a crafting table, sewing machines and all the do-



**Store manager and Community Liaison Audrey Myers**

nated materials you can think of. If you feel the need to make a beaded necklace or sew a patchwork blanket, the store is open — free of charge — to anyone wishing to use the facility.

Also, if you have extra yarn, beads and baubles, glitter, paint or other materials you’d like to donate, please bring them by the store.

For now, the market is opened Wednesdays and

Thursday from 10-4 p.m., Fridays from 10-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10-4 p.m. So, stop by, spend some money, create one-of-a-kind art all while helping and supporting other women.

To learn more about The Red Tent Women’s Initiative, visit [redtentproject.com](http://redtentproject.com) or find it on Facebook at [Facebook.com/TheRedTentWomensInitiative/](https://www.facebook.com/TheRedTentWomensInitiative/)



**Red Tent Assistant Director Susan Katz, MSW**



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to reach the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

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3144 Third Avenue South,  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
Phone: 727-323-7518

---

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

**Come Worship With the First Baptist Family**



REV. DR. WAYNE G. THOMPSON,  
PASTOR

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

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



Rev. Rickey L. Houston,  
Pastor

**“God’s House To The City”**



Rev. Wallace Elliott  
Sr. - Pastor

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

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

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

**Queen Street Church of God in Christ**  
Elder Willie Williamson, Pastor  
First Lady, Patricia Williamson  
1732 9th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
727-896-4356

**SERVICES**

Sunday Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.  
A. M. Service – 11 a.m.  
Tuesday Morning Prayer – 9 to 10 a.m.  
Wednesday YPW Bible Study – 7:30 p.m.



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



Rev. Dr. Manuel L. Sykes

**SERVICES**

Sunday School: 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.  
Mid-Week Worship: Wednesday 7:00 p.m.



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The Rev. Josie Rose, Priest-in-Charge

*Communion and Worship Service 9:00 a.m. every Sunday  
(Full breakfast served after service, \$6.00)  
Communion and Healing Service 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays*

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COULD BE HERE!**

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

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

**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)



Donn & Jean  
Freshler

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



Bro. Robert Smith

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

Sunday Bible Class (All Ages) .....8:30 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship .....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship .....6:00 p.m.  
Ladies Bible Class Monday .....7:00 p.m.  
Monday Evening Bible Class .....7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Morning Bible Class .....10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Evening Bible Class .....7:00 p.m.



Pastor Michael T. and  
Elect Lady Sheila Culbreth

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



**UNITY TEMPLE OF TRUTH CHURCH**  
EST. 1957  
Dr. Doral R. Pulley, Spiritual Leader

**#SELFIE SUNDAY**

**Every Second Sunday @ 10 AM**

Step One: Prepare your selfie during the Guest Blessing. Be Creative!  
Step Two: During fellowship, pose and take your pictures. Remember to open Camera, hold at arms length, pose and smile!  
Step Three: Post on UTTC: Selfie Sunday Facebook page with Dr. Pulley’s message title and the hashtag #selfiesunday

511 PRESCOTT ST. SOUTH • ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33712  
[WWW.UNITYTRUTH.ORG](http://WWW.UNITYTRUTH.ORG)



**INSPIRATIONS**  
BY DIERDRE DOWNING-JACKSON



**Mothers are Instruments of GOD**

“Mothers who love GOD and are instruments used by GOD, know JESUS, and operate in and obey only GOD’s Holy Word.

When GOD is at a mother’s helm, she is guided by HIS scriptures all day, everyday. She never ceases to pray for her precious family.

Mothers who are instruments of GOD, have an amazing unconditional love for all and a willingness to sacrifice.

Mothers who are instruments of GOD are promised salvation and their strength is always renewed in CHRIST JESUS.

Mothers who are instruments of GOD never lose sight of GOD’s promises and HIS faithfulness.

Mothers who are instruments of GOD know that humility and righteousness determine how they walk and how they stand.

When GOD is navigating and steering every step of a mother’s way, every move she makes and every word that she speaks demonstrates an everlasting faith girded with strong and steadfast belief.

Mothers who are instruments of GOD are blessed with peace within.

When GOD is at a mother’s helm and used as HIS mighty instrument, her eternal life is promised.

A mother who is an instrument used by GOD is the evidence of JESUS’ enduring Love.

AMEN

“Strength and honor are her clothing; and she will rejoice in times to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.” - Proverbs 31:25-26

“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto GOD as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto GOD. - Romans 6:13 KJV



# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

  
Rev. Brian K. Brown

**THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**SUNDAY SERVICES/WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
9:00 a.m. Breakfast (First Sunday only)  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School (First Sunday Only)  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. / Devotion 10:15 a.m.  
Praise & Worship 10:20 a.m. / Worship Services 10:30 a.m.  
Saints of Prayer - Monday 12:00 noon  
Weekly Bible Study - Tuesday 6:30 p.m.  
Adult Choir Rehearsals - Thursday 6:30 p.m.  
*Van service is available by calling: (727) 327-0015*  
**THE ROCK OF JESUS IS LOCATED AT:**  
**3940 – 18th AVE. S., St. Petersburg, Florida**  
**Telephone: 727-327-0015 • Fax: 727-327-0021**  
**Email: [rojmbc@knology.net](mailto:rojmbc@knology.net)**  
**Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

  
Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.  
Pastor

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

  
Dr. John A. Evans, Pastor

**WORSHIP EXPERIENCES**  
Sunday Worship .....7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday .....Noonday Wednesday in the Word and Bread of Life  
7:00 p.m. Prayer and Wednesday in the Word  
7:00 p.m. Youth Enrichment

*Our Mission: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is a family of believers in Christ, reaching out to the world, preaching the gospel to the unsaved and teaching the saved to serve by demonstrating the Love of Christ.*

**UNITY TEMPLE OF TRUTH CHURCH**  
EST. 1957  
"Let's G.R.O.W. Together!"  
511 Prescott Street South • St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 898-2457 • [unitytruth1957@gmail.com](mailto:unitytruth1957@gmail.com)  
[WWW.UNITYTRUTH.COM](http://WWW.UNITYTRUTH.COM)  
**WEEKLY SERVICES**  
**Sundays:** 8:45 am Christian Education  
9:45 am Meditations & Devotions  
10:00 am Morning Worship  
(Children's Church Available)  
**Tuesdays:** 6:30 pm Bible Study  
**Thursday:** 6:30 pm Prayer & Healing Service

  
Dr. Doral R. Pulley  
Spiritual Leader

# CHURCH NEWS

## St. Mark MBC

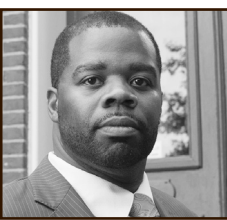
Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. John 14:1

St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, its pastor, Rev. Brian K. Brown, and congregation thank God for his continual mercy, grace and abundant blessings. We strive to give God our utmost praise for the awesome gift of His Son, Jesus Christ and extend to our community an invitation to share in our praise as we pursue our mission of Creating a Bible-Based Haven of Hope, Help, and Healing.

Sunday's message from Pastor Brown was 'Go' using Matthew 28:18-20 as the scripture reference. In verse 19 Jesus says Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Using this verse Pastor Brown's had four points. The first was 'Go Leaning'. We don't go in our own strength, but we go with the one who has all power. God has all that we need to go. The second was 'Go Looking'. God wants us to look for people to teach in all nations about Jesus. The third was 'Go Linking'. As believers we have something that others need so we need to draw close enough to do good for people. The final point was 'Go Leading'. Believers need to lead others to a saving knowledge of the Son and of the power of the Holy Ghost. Lead them to maturity, lead them to grow. Teach them everything Jesus has taught us. To get the full depth of each Sunday's message we invite you to join us each Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

Sunday, May 13th is Mother's Day and the women of St. Mark are looking forward to a Mother's Day brunch on May 12 sponsored by the Brotherhood Ministry.

Weekly Events:  
Sunday School - Sundays @9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service - Sundays @10:45 a.m.  
Young Adult Ministry (YAMS) - Sundays 9:30 a.m.  
Mime/Praise Dance Rehearsal - Sundays from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
N.I.K.E. Tutoring Program - Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.  
Senior Hour of Power Bible Study - Wednesdays @9:30 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study - Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

**Pastor's Corner**  
BY REV. DR. DORAL R. PULLEY,  
SPIRITUAL LEADER  
*Unity Temple of Truth Church*

**God Knows Our Thoughts**  
"...for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands all the imaginations of the thoughts..." I Chronicles 28:9  
We are not mind readers. Unless the Holy Spirit reveals it to us, we really don't know what people are thinking. Therefore, we can't make assumptions about people's intentions. It is important for us to ask, "What did you mean when you said that?" There is great value in inquiring, "What were you thinking when you did that?"  
After we ask the pointed questions, it is up to us to use the context clues of people's body language and voice inflection to determine whether or not they are telling us the truth. Based on our limited discernment, we have the choice to accept or reject the answers that we have received. However, we still don't really know for sure. We only know in part and our sight is limited based upon where we are in consciousness. "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known (I Corinthians 13:12)."  
God is the ultimate judge and God judges righteously. God does so because God is omniscience. God is all the knowledge, wisdom, understanding and discernment that there is. God is all sight and all perception. There is no sight or perception outside of God. God knows what everyone is thinking and God knows the motive behind everyone's actions (Jeremiah 11:20). David said "You understand my thoughts afar off (Psalm 139:2)." God knows what we are thinking, whether it's right or wrong, before we think it. God also knows why we think what we think and why we do what we do. "God is a discerner of the thoughts and the intents of the heart (Hebrews 4:12)." Since God knows our thoughts, let's pay attention to our thoughts and our intentions.

## Friendship MBC

Consider this your Official Boarding Pass. Where, Dr. John A. Evans, Sr., Pastor/Captain and First Lady Teresa L. Evans (have a heart for the people), the Official Family and Members welcome you aboard the SS Friendship Missionary Baptist Church (The Ship), we trust that your time with us, first as an honored visitor/guest and if the Lord says so, become a part of our Church Family. We set sail every Wednesday starting our with our Bread of Life Ministry at 11:00 am, followed by Wednesday in the Word (the Learning Arm of our church) at 12:00 noon and again at 7:00 pm. We drop our Anchor until Sundays, where we set sail again with our Early Morning Worship Service at 7:45 am, Church Sunday School (the Teaching Arm of our faith) begins at 9:30 pm and finally our Mid Morning Worship Service at 10:45 am. All are Welcomed to use this Boarding Pass to experience the "It's just nice to be nice" church. Don't sit out church, God has Blessed us to much, we owe Him at least a Thank You.

"The Ship" won't sail without You! For additional information on any of the announcements, please contact us by the following methods: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 3300 31st Street South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33712 - Church Office: (727) 906-8300 - E-Mail: [fmbc3300@verizon.net](mailto:fmbc3300@verizon.net) - NOW "Live Streaming": Visit us - Website: [www.fmbctheship.net](http://www.fmbctheship.net) - Facebook - Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and WCBDA Website: [www.experiencecoast.com](http://www.experiencecoast.com)

Transportation is available - Call the Church at (727) 906-8300 - Monday - Friday from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

Heading Towards Our 90th Year By Faith At The Ship


CHURCH SCHEDULED EVENTS: The 90th Church Anniversary Planning Committee Meeting, every Monday at 7:00 pm. ALL January (Reuben), February (Simeon) Tribe members or any interested church member and ALL Ushers Ministries members are encouraged to attend these meetings, thank you, Brother Bobby Robinson and Sister Clarethia Tyson, Chairpersons.

The Adult Mass Choir is cordially Inviting all past, interested members and young adults of the Ship to be a part of the Choir that is focused on Glorifying God through Song. Rehearsal is every Thursday, at 7:00 pm. Bro. Eland Wilson, Minister of Music.

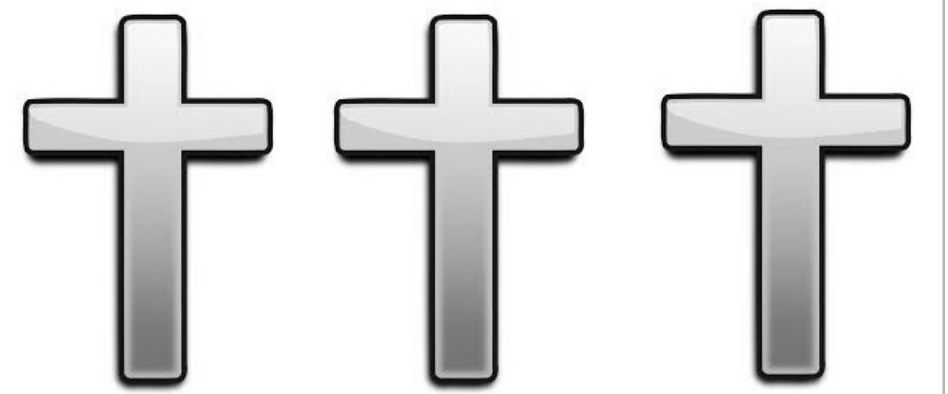
Show your love and support for our very own Sis. Diane Hughes, she's back on the Radio and this time she is LIVE on 99.1 FM, from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm.

Sunday, May 13, 2018, Mother's Day Breakfast to all the Mother's of the Ship, this Celebration to Mothers is Free. Sponsored by the Laymen Ministry of Friendship, Bro. Bobby Robinson, Ministry Leader.

National Baptist Convention, USA, Incorporated - Congress of Christian Education Annual Session, June 18-22, 2018 to be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

**UNITY TEMPLE OF TRUTH CHURCH**  
Dr. Doral R. Pulley, Spiritual Leader  
*Closing out our Adventure in Truth!*  
**Tuesday BIBLE STUDY**  
Mid-Day Class @ 1:00 PM  
Evening Class @ 6:30 PM  
**LESSONS IN TRUTH**  
HARRIET EMILIE CADY  
511 Prescott Street South • St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
[WWW.UNITYTRUTH.ORG](http://WWW.UNITYTRUTH.ORG)

**The Elizabeth Howard Scholarship Banquet**  
**Theme:**  
**"Faithfully Seeking Success" Proverbs 16:3**  
**Saturday May 26, 2018**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
*Your patronage of this annual event assists in providing scholarships to our graduates.*  
Tickets: Adults \$30.00  
Teens \$20.00 (13-17 yrs.)  
Children \$15.00 (9-12 yrs.)  
Table of 8: \$240.00  
Tickets are Available  
**Speaker - LaQuan Mitchell**





# COMMUNITY NEWS

## NCNW holds Young Women's Conference

**GIRLS, from front page**

in with skincare, haircare and how proper nutrition ties into both of them.

She suggested the ladies shun many of the items on the a la carte menu and try eating more salads and fruit. She stressed eating a well-balanced lunch can make a difference in how they will feel in the morning, midafternoon and before they head home.

McGill-Fintak is also a teacher at Azalea Middle School and revealed that every single day her students are eating Cheetos, particularly Cheetos Flamin' Hot®.

"You have to be mindful what's in your food," she said, adding that if you set Flamin' Hot Cheetos on fire, they will continue to burn much like a torch.

“Remember, your beauty starts inside out. What you are putting in your body is going to show. If you feel lethargic, if you feel like you can’t concentrate, headaches or stomach aches you can’t explain, you might want to consider the food you are

eating.”

McGill-Fintak also stressed the importance of drinking water.

"The best thing for your skin is water," she said, suggesting that they only drink water for 30 days straight and they will see a marked difference in their skin.

The workshop covered different skin types and skincare products, hair-care, exercise routines and oral and nail health..

## STEM Workshop

K-12 STEM advocates Emma Alba, director of Robotics Florida, and retired educator Rose Mack showed the aspiring STEM goddesses how to assemble and properly code a robot from scratch in half the time it usually takes their other workshops.

For 10 years now, Alba and Mack have organized and hosted RoboFest Robotic competitions throughout the state of Florida. Last year, however, they took it to another level and went international. Four hundred fifty children from 10 different

counties descended on St. Pete Beach for the competition.

But Saturday, Alba and Mack showed up to teach the young ladies that anyone can learn to code, and it's up to the parents to get the children interested.

"If I can't get to the parent, whether they're white or black, I cannot get to the child," sighed Alba. "It's got to be parent involvement. They just cannot drop their kid... I need the involvement of the parent for it to succeed."

She suggests starting the children off as young as kindergarten with STEM programs because, by the time they reach middle school, it's too late.

"They are no longer interested," she said, remarking that black parents put too much emphasis on sports instead of academics.

Mack retired a few years ago from a 35-year career in Pinellas County Schools. At one point, she was a STEM coordinator for a Saturday morning enrichment program called



Youth Engineering Society, which was a consortium between the University of South Florida and Pinellas County Schools.

For 22 years, there were a tremendous amount of minority students that matriculated through the program, and Mack contributes its success to having an informal curriculum. The children didn't have the challenge of earning a good grade looming over them and were able to relax and learn.

“When they went to high school, then they

would take the classes that would help them matriculate into engineering or medicine," she said.

Mack witnessed how informal educational opportunities translated into formal engagement in curriculum. The program came to an end 2008 after funding was cut.

A STEM darling her entire career, Mack stresses to younger folks that STEM is in everything they do, whether it's that new phone or video game they want. Where are you in that spectrum, creator or consumer, she asked?

“At what point can you no longer consume because you don't have the resources to create the income to acquire? At some point, you don't have the resources to acquire the technology that you want to consume. Where are you on that spectrum to prepare yourself for that?”

By the looks of things, the 13 girls attending the Black Pearls Conference are well on their way to becoming creators.

Next week, we'll take a peek at what the grown folks were doing in the other room.







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- Yvette, MaHer Chevrolet Customer



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- Michelle Mack, MaHer Chevrolet Customer

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