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The Weekly Challenger

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

VOL. 51 NO. 35 MAY 30 - JUNE 5, 2019 50¢

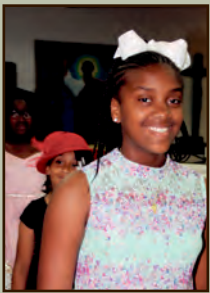
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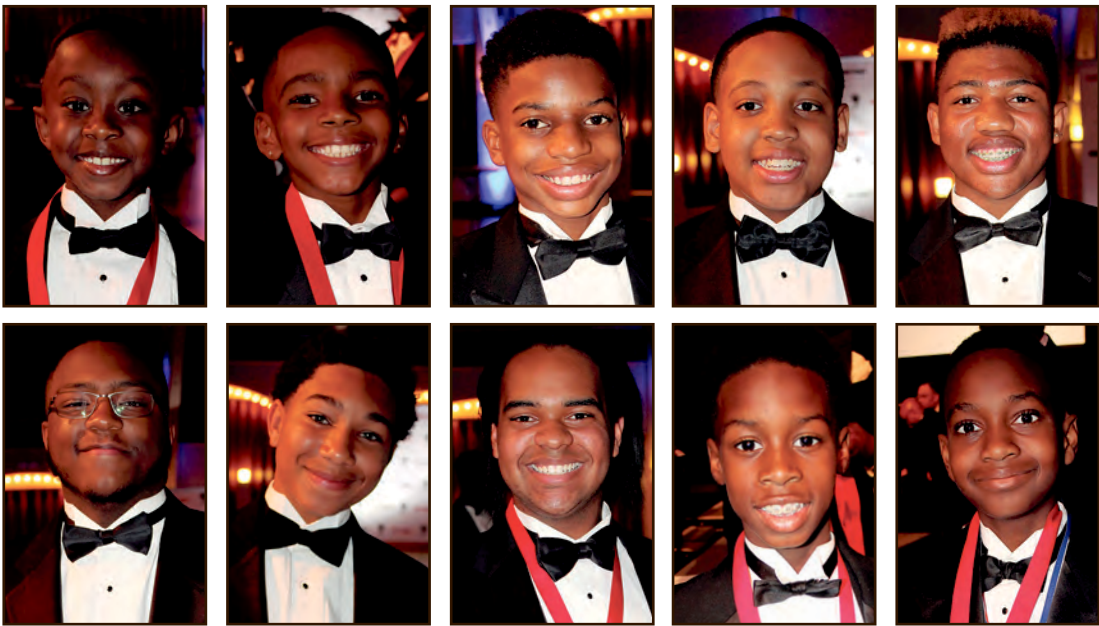


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Men in the Making held the class of 2019 rite of passage ceremony at the historic Coliseum Friday, May 17.

Men in the Making 2019 rite of passage celebration

BY CINDY CARTER
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Each year the Men in the Making’s rite of passage celebrations has gotten larger and larger until it ended up at the historic Coliseum on May 17. More than 50 young men dressed to the nines in tuxedos and wearing huge smiles celebrated another year of success.

Launched in 2015 by Rev. Kenny Irby, senior pastor of Bethel AME Church, Men in the Making (MIM) has advanced as a progressive initiative focusing on role models and life skills to increase minority male success from the cradle to college. The program services youths from 8 to 18 with a curriculum that emphasizes academic excellence, so-

cial responsibility, emotional stability and cultural acuity.

All adult male role models/mentors must successfully complete a Florida Department of Law Enforcement background checks in order to be trained and certified as youth advocates and role models. Their mission is to develop relationships that positively impact the young men while helping to build essential skills needed to become productive, contributing residents of Pinellas County.

The mentors are made up of men of faith in the community, including law enforcement officers, pastors, coaches, businessmen, concerned citizens and students who lead by example to fortify neighborhoods, repair the

breach, create social capital and financial resources while redirecting the current pipeline from dropout to prison.

In 2017, Women in the Making was launched and currently serves 25 young ladies and has 14 consistent role models.

Local veteran journalist Reginald Roundtree was slated to give the keynote address but had a family emergency. Instead, Rev. Irby and Greater Mt. Zion AME’s Rev. Clarence Williams filled in some of the gaps.

“Don’t waste your education, the opportunity your family has afforded you,” said Rev. Williams, who is also the chairman of Cross & Anvil

See **MEN**, page 8

‘Courageous 12’ Freddie Crawford funeral set for June 1



Freddie Crawford and 11 black police officers sued the City of St. Petersburg for workplace equality and won in 1968. He died last Friday and will be laid to rest June 1.

BY ROGER CLENDENING
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Freddie Lee Crawford, a former law enforcement professional who fought the City of St. Petersburg for equality in the workplace, died last Friday, May 17 at Palms of Pasadena Hospital with his family by his side. He was 81.

“The passing of our father is a tremendous loss to our family, our community and to the world,” said daughter Peggy Crawford in a statement released by the family. “Our father was a compassionate man who had the ability to calm any situation.

She went on to say that Crawford was always ready to lend a helping hand to those in need and that it is their “hopes and prayers that others will gain the courage to stand for what’s right without any compromises, and to support the younger generations to their full potential.”

In 1965, Crawford, along with black officers Adam Baker, Raymond DeLoach, Charles Holland, Leon Jackson, Robert Keys, Primus Killen, James King, Johnnie B. Lewis, Horace Nero, Jerry Styles and Nathaniel Wooten filed a landmark lawsuit against the city for discrimination on the force.

Jackson, 78, is the last surviving member of the Courageous 12, the name given to the 12 black police officers who sued to desegregate the St. Petersburg Police Department.

“It’s a deep hurt, his passing,” Jackson declared earlier this week during an interview at his home. “He was our leader, the one who came up with the idea to sue the city and fully integrate.”

Jackson, with a wistful smile, recalled that Crawford, as a leader, and King, recruited him in 1963 to become a police officer.

Jackson said he and others admired Crawford’s tenacity and fortitude in fighting workplace environment barriers in a department dominated administratively and militarily by white men.

See **CRAWFORD**, page 9

AKAdemy 2019 Scholarships & Awards Showcase

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The Youth Development Foundation (YDF) of Pinellas County, Inc. in partnership with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter and the men of Eta Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi held their annual AKA AKAdemy Showcase and Awards program at the historic Coliseum Friday, May 24.

This year’s theme of “This Is Us” displayed and embodied the importance of teamwork, unity and community. More than \$20,000 in scholarships was distributed by YDF and the Eta Rho Educational Services Foundation, Inc., including 10 book scholarships.

The AKAdemy students join in middle school and remain in the program and receive services until they graduate from high school. This year the AKAdemy graduated their largest senior class with 36 stu-



“All of whom are engaged, excited and have identified a college, technical or military career plan,” said AKAdemy Program Director Manitia Moultrie.

The AKAdemy is starting their walk down memory lane in preparation for their 25th class in 2020. With such a long history of programming, they have touched the lives of more than

2,000 students.

“We are proud of the number of community youth that we have interacted with, many of whom are well into their careers, donate to AKAdemy scholarships, have children that are enrolled in the AKAdemy, have started their own commu-

See **AKADEMY**, pages 6-7

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COMMUNITY NEWS



AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY FRONT AND CENTER

A brief history of slavery in New York

BY JACQUELINE HUBBARD
President, ASALH

Most Americans think there was little or no slavery in the North; in fact, the history of slavery in America began to flourish very early there and came into being shortly after the earliest Northern colonizers.

It is generally agreed that the first black people in the North American English colonies landed in Virginia in 1619 off of a Dutch “trading ship.” Historians generally agree the Dutch Republic was trading in slaves by this time. Although it is generally assumed some of the 1619 arrivals were slaves, no records exist to indicate that all were.

Shortly after that in 1626, New York was colonized as “New Amsterdam” by The Dutch West India Company, which was chartered by the Dutch Republic, (Holland), in 1621, and officially organized in 1623.

In 1626, the company purchased the island of Manhattan from a Native American tribe and began to trade goods with other traders, including Native Americans. In the book edited by Roi Ottley and William J. Weatherby entitled “The Negro in New York-An Informal Social History,” the first black people came to New Am-

sterdam shortly after the Dutch settlers arrived.

Initially, according to the editors, the Dutch colony consisted of some 30 families who were of “Dutch, Huguenot, Walloon, English, and Jewish origin.” Later, a group of 11 black men arrived in New Amsterdam off of a ship belonging to The Dutch West India Company in 1626.

The editors state these black men were almost immediately put to work as “...the Company’s Negroes, building roads, cutting timber, clearing land and erecting dwellings and forts.” They were not free.

Two new ships brought fewer than 100 black men to New Amsterdam in 1642 and 1652. Indentured servants, both white and black, were brought to the colony by the Dutch between 1629 and 1664 as settlers. They were called “patroons” and many were given land to permanently settle on by the Dutch government. The settlers built farms, however, not large plantations, but they used slave labor.

According to the editors of “The Negro in New York-An Informal Social History,” these patroons “...introduced Negroes to work their land.” They also introduced slavery, officially sanctioned by the Dutch government in 1634.

In 1644, 11 of the first blacks in New Amsterdam petitioned for and were granted their freedom by the settlers. Unfortunately, the institution of slavery continued to grow, as did the slave trade. New Amsterdam later became a British colony and was renamed New York after 1664.

After the British took over, the harshest realities of slavery ensued. Chattel slavery began in New York in 1674 under the British. Slavery grew so fast under British rule that, according to the editors, “...by the beginning of the eighteenth century there were more than two thousand Negroes in the province, a little over thirteen percent of the total population.”

However, in New York, not all blacks were slaves. There existed a small but viable population of free blacks in the area who had never been enslaved.

In the early 1700s, there were at least two slave revolts in New York, one in 1712 and one in 1741. Both revolts were suppressed. After the French and Indian War of 1754, it became apparent that slavery was not a profit-making enterprise in New York.

In 1767, the Society of Friends, known as the Quakers, organized an anti-slavery protest in Purchase, New York. This

protest was successful among slave-owning Quakers, and all of them freed their slaves. By 1776, the Declaration of Independence was drafted, and the notion of equality and freedom permeated New York.

The successful War of Independence from England began shortly thereafter. British losses prompted them to issue a broad proclamation on July 3, 1779, that granted freedom to any slaves who joined the British forces. Many black people escaped from the harshness of slavery and joined the British troops. Some have estimated the number to be 10,000.

After the war was lost by the British, the black volunteers were saved by being expatriated by Britain to Nova Scotia, Canada, one of its remaining colonies. Many escaped alone to Canada.

New York was more of a mercantile state than an agricultural one. It had little need for mass slavery before or after the war. In 1785, The Manumission Society was established to help in the abolition of slavery.

Its first president was John Jay, who became Governor of New York in 1795. He was a fierce abolitionist. By 1790, it has been estimated that nearly 33 percent of blacks in New York were free. After obtaining freedom, they formed many



In 1991, excavators for a new federal office building in Manhattan unearthed the remains of more than 400 Africans stacked in wooden boxes 16 to 28 feet below street level.

black institutions.

In 1799, a bill was passed and signed by Gov. Jay that provided for the gradual abolition of all slavery in New York, which officially ended on July 4, 1827. Earlier, in 1808, before slavery officially ended in New York, one of the first black organizations to foster black improvement was founded by Peter Williams.

It was chartered in 1810 and was called the New York African Society for Mutual Relief. Its stated mission was “to raise a fund to be appropriated toward the relief of the widows and orphans of the deceased members.”

The society was a successful endeavor and continued for many years. It became a model for many other black American im-

provement organizations.

In New York, the institution of slavery lasted for nearly 100 years and was abolished 37 years before the beginning of the Civil War. In the South, the slave dependent states violently resisted black freedom to the very bitter end and began a mass revolt against the Union in 1861 to defend the institution.

The Confederacy definitively lost the Civil War nearly four years later when they were defeated by Union troops, including almost 200,000 black volunteer soldiers in 1865.

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.

Gibbs Class of 1968 presents six scholarships to high school seniors

ST. PETERSBURG — Six students from four different high schools were presented with scholarships at the Gibbs Class of 1968, Inc. Annual Scholarship Program Tuesday, May 14 at the Enoch Davis Center.

The scholarships provide financial support for students who may not have an opportunity to receive assistance from other resources. The program is funded by the proceeds from the class’ annual Christmas Holiday Extravaganza held at the historic Coliseum.

To qualify for a scholarship, students had to meet the scholarship criteria and

complete an application. This year, Katherine Smith, Grace Miller and Kyshore’ Albert, each from Gibbs High received \$1000.

The \$500 recipients included Clayton Brody (Admiral Farragut Academy), Niyrah Lancaster (Dixie Hollins) and Dynasia Woods (St. Petersburg Catholic High School).

Recipients have already enrolled in their institutions of higher learning around the country such as Warner College, St. Leo College, Prairie View A&M University, Bethune Cookman University and locally at St Petersburg College.


Gregory Porter, a previ-

ous scholarship recipient from 10 years ago, spoke to the graduates from his personal experiences after receiving his scholarship. He encouraged the students to believe in themselves and not to be afraid of new experiences. He explained that with faith, all things are possible.


Porter also provided the entertainment for the evening with a stunning and powerful rendition of “I Trust In God” and his version of “Stardust,” written by Hoagy Carmichael.

The program is always well attended by family, friends and Class of 1968 members.





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DOG DAYS

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1-2	3-6
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believes that America can best lead the world from racial antagonism when it accords to every man, regardless of race, creed or color, his human and legal rights. Hating no man, fearing no man... the Black Press strives to help every man in the firm belief that all men are hurt as long as anyone is held back.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

New I.M.A.G.E. News aims to change south St. Pete’s image

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The Wrap Around Services (WAS) Collabora-tion’s May meeting featured a burgeoning multi-media outlet that aims to raise the profile of positive people and news about business, innova-tion and community in south St. Pete.

Held at Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital Education & Conference Center, community organ-izers Bro. John Muham-mad and Jabaar Edmonds briefed the collaborative on their New I.M.A.G.E. News project.

The two started work-ing together in 2012 with the Stop the Violence Coalition and soon formed Community De-velopment and Training Center (CDAT), which provides organizational training and outreach to individuals, families and groups while connecting them with programs, services and resources that help overcome bar-riers to their growth, devel-opment and overall well-being.

New Information Media Arts Graphics and Entertainment (New I.M.A.G.E.) is a project born from CDAT. The project aims to “redefine what’s cool” and teach children and adults that the true path to long-term success is through educa-tion and the proper appli-cation of knowledge.

Edmonds and Muhammad hope New I.M.A.G.E. News will in-fluence the way we have conversations about what’s happening in the south St. Pete community.

“We intend to accom-plish our goals by publish-ing articles, making films, music, art, graphics, post

community events and much, much more,” said Edmonds.

The idea is to help change the prevailing negative image by creat-ing, airing and promoting media products such as TV commercials showcasing the many people who are charting successes in the community, but whose achievements are not widely known or cele-brated.

On top of the news outlet, the project will conduct workshops and train-ings to help “understand the power of words and the power of narrative when we talk about prob-lems and talk about solu-tions,” said Muhammad.

He gave the example of the widespread belief that black people do not support black-own busi-nesses. Muhammad said we must redefine the word “support,” which could be shopping at a black-own entity once a month or every day.

“Then we have a clear understanding of what support looks like and how we talk about sup-porting each other be-cause contrary to popular belief, we spend a lot more time at black-owned businesses and opera-tions than what is thought.”

The old images of black apathy and failure will be replaced with posi-tive images of what people are doing in south St. Pete. One such way is with the Leaderz of the New School annual photo-shoot. The brainchild of Bruce Moore, the project introduces positive im-ages of black leaders, business owners and com-munity organizers and look to give them a higher profile in the media.

Their multi-sector ap-proach also includes posi-



Lakeside Chat featuring
Bro. John Muhammad and Gypsy Gallardo,
CEO of Urban Market Analytics



New I.M.A.G.E. News (left to right) Bruce Moore,
Jabaar Edmonds, Bro. John Muhammad and
Cranstan Cumberbatch



Leaderz of the New School annual photoshoot: My Black is Beautiful

tive filmmaking, and with two films under their belts, New I.M.A.G.E. News is already shaping the way people think about homelessness with the movie “Art in the City” and technological careers with “Agent X.”

“Agent X” shows that there are black people working full time behind computers,” said Muham-mad. “You’ll see people that are coding, flying drones, which are a huge industry, and we wanted

to be able to show these types of opportunities to our community.

“So when you start thinking about a job, you can think about digital en-trepreneurship, you can think about flying a drone as an option opposed to just being shovel ready and a laborer in the work-force.”

“Lakeside Chat,” an interview series that has produced two dozen inter-views with city and com-munity leaders and

everyday folks against the backdrop of a lakeside gazebo in Childs Park falls under the New I.M.A.G.E. News um-brella.

Other projects include the “Tampa Bay Breakfast Club,” a radio show and podcast hosted weekly, and “Smart is the New Gangsta,” a grassroots media event series using themes and messages that support a culture shift.

For information,

check out their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CDATCenter/>.

About Wrap Around Services Collaborative

The Wrap Around Services Collaborative was formed in 2010 and its mission is to connect community organizations, build partnerships, intro-duce collaboration oppor-tunities and avoid the duplication of programs and services.

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I AM: The Manhattan Casino, part 1 By Gwendolyn Reese

Earlier this month, Gibbs High School held their prom at the historic Manhattan Casino. I was made aware during a visit to Callaloo after inquiring about how busy the staff was. I was told they were preparing for Gibbs’ prom later that evening. I was elated. History had come full circle.

Until the onset of World War II, Gibbs had no cafeteria, gym or other places to gather and the Manhattan was home to graduations, proms, homecoming dances, Christmas parties and other school-related activities. Churches also utilized the facility when a big room was needed.

Neither the pastors nor educators considered the casino to be a place of ill-repute. Whether it was school activities, headline acts, teas, fashion shows, social club meetings or other events, the Manhat-tan Casino served as the venue for practically all so-cial functions in the black community.

Elder Jordan, one of St. Petersburg’s pioneers,

saw a need for a gathering place for the growing black community and built the Jordan Dance Hall in 1925. From that time until it closed in 1968, it was a place of fun, music, dance, fellowship, and freedom from the daily hardships and challenges of the Jim Crow era.

Jordan built his gather-ing hall on 22nd Street, “the Deuces,” where peo-ple of color could shop, so-cialize, and conduct business without the stigma of racism tainting every interaction or trans-action.

According to an article in the *Times* dated Decem-ber 24, 2003, “City records show the original struc-ture’s building permit was issued January 5, 1925. The building was to con-tain six apartments and a garage, a service station permit was added four months later.”

Through the years, en-trepreneurs developed storefronts in the building and along 22nd Street, in-cluding several Jewish businessmen when preju-dice made it difficult for

them to open businesses on booming Central Av-enue.

A white doctor, William B. Lingo, opened an office in the building in the late 1920s. He came here from Atlanta in 1918 and was described as a philanthropist and educa-tor who had both medical and law degrees and was a registered pharmacist. He was known for offering “paid” receipts at Christ-mas for people who could not pay their bills. A hand-lettered sign that could barely be discerned re-mained on the south side of the building in 2003.

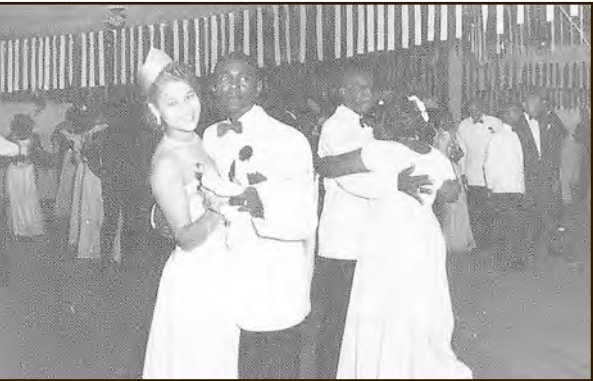
Big name acts came to The Manhattan almost monthly, such as Count Basie, Cab Calloway, B.B. King, Ray Charles, Nat King Cole, Fats Domino, Bobby Blue Bland, Ella Fitzgerald, Ike and Tina Turner, Dinah Washing-ton, Duke Ellington, Della Reese, Otis Redding, Ink Spots, Little Richard, Booker T and the MGs, Sarah Vaughn, Lionel Hampton and James Brown to name a few.

Al Downing started

the music program at Gibbs in 1939 with a dance band. The band per-formed all around the area and with the monies earned helped to buy the “Blue Goose,” which was the first school bus Gibbs had. When most of the members of the Manhat-tan’s house band left to serve in World War II, George Cooper, a Gibbs graduate, took over as bandleader and remained in that role until the doors of the Manhattan closed 25 years later.

“The Manhattan Casino was every bit as important to the Black community as the Coli-seum was to the white community,” said Steve Cooper in an article in the *St. Petersburg Times* in 1999. Cooper was a musi-cian who played in the Manhattan’s house band while attending Gibbs High in the 1950s.

The building was named a historic landmark by the City Council in 1994. The owner angered by the historic designation said they should buy the property. It took a while,



Rosalie Peck and Major Kelly dancing at a Club 16 event held at the Manhattan Casino. Club 16 was one of the city’s leading men’s clubs.



Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong takes a break from a Manhattan Casino gig in the company of two fans, Josephine Smith (left) and Ester Peck Thomas.

but eventually, the city did just that.

Sources:
Peck, Rosalie and Jon Wilson. *St. Petersburg’s Historic 22nd Street South. Charleston: The History Press 2006*
Rogers, David. “The Manhattan Casino: It was All We Had.” *Tampa Bay Times*. July 5, 1999. Pg. 1 and 6
Wilson, Jon. “Manhat-tan Casino addition gets approval from city.” *Tampa Bay Times*. December 24, 2003 Pg. 10

COMMUNITY NEWS

Operation PAR holds Focus on Father’s ummit June 8 at SPC Seminole

BY J.A. JONES
Staff Writer

SEMINOLE — On Saturday, June 8, Operation PAR, along with the JWB Fathers Initiative, will bring together family and health service providers and vendors from around the county as it holds its Focus on Father’s Summit 2019. Operation PAR has provided addiction and mental health services in Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, Manatee, Sarasota and Lee coun-

ties since 1970. Administrator of Prevention Services Daphne Lampley, who has been with the organization since 1991, has worn a variety of hats at Operation PAR. She started as a prevention specialist, became the director of a five-year research project funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse before becoming Administrator of the Prevention Department. Lampley oversees a va-

riety of programs as well as the LiveFree! Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Pinellas County, which addresses underage drinking, prescription and marijuana use and among Pinellas County youth, young adults, and adults. “There are a lot of services for our community and a lot of time people don’t realize it,” noted Lampley. “The need is there to provide support to parents and families as they’re raising


their children,” explaining how Operation PAR offers parents information and resources they can use as they talk to their children about substance abuse and why they should avoid it. Supporting over 3,000 students and their families countywide annually, Operation PAR offers free workshops, presentations, and activities for children from kindergarten to high school at health fairs, school programs, PTA events, classroom, after-school programs, and recreation centers. Operation PAR work is mostly about primary prevention — getting to parents and students before the children are using drugs. “The sooner people get information, the better it is as far as children making a decision not to use and sticking to that as they grow up,” stated Lampley. Operation PAR’s national campaign, “Talk, They Hear You” discusses the part parents and caregivers can play. “We encourage parents and adult mentors to talk with kids as early as age nine or younger old — particularly about alcohol, which continues to be the drug that a large number of young people abuse,” Lampley acknowledged. “We go to different centers and offer evidence-based materials that we use to facilitate our trainings,” added Wanda Stuart, one of Operation PAR’s program directors. Operation PAR will offer anywhere between one to 10 free sessions on topics including bullying, communication skills, peer pressure, self-control, and conflict resolution to help



The keynote speaker is RV Brown, author, former Tampa Bay Buccaneers Chaplain and founder and president of Outreach to America’s Youth, Inc.

thwart bad behavior during the school year; life-skill classes are also taught. In some sessions, students learn about the biochemical effects of drugs and alcohol in kid-friendly ways, and information on the developing brain and the impact of alcohol on their bodies. “We really try to keep up on the world and drugs,” said Stuart, mentioning the 300 percent increase in youth who are “juuling” — using a form of vaping that incorporates inhaling flavored chemicals through “cool” looking e-cigarettes. “We talk to students about the impact on their health and how it influences their job prospects,” she added. Workshops are held at a variety of locations including the YMCA/YWCA, Gulfport Recreation and St. Pete Parks and Recs. But, Stuart said, because the programs are underwritten by different corporations, any agency, camp, or school program can call to schedule free workshop presentations. “Summer months are usually the time that kids want to play; we try to make the activities interactive, so the children are not just sitting there listening being

bored,” said Stuart, who mentioned role-playing, skits, and bookstore visits. Operation PAR is holding its first Focus on Father’s Summit 2019 on June 8. “We’re excited because it’s the first time we’ve facilitated such a summit in the community. We’ve been part of the nurturing parents and nurturing father’s training. It will be a one-of-its-kind summit,” stated Stuart. The keynote speaker is RV Brown, author, former Tampa Bay Buccaneers Chaplain and founder and president of Outreach to America’s Youth, Inc. Free food, activities and giveaways will be offered. Click here to pre-register or text 727-744-1387. Vendors included will be St. Petersburg College, St. Pete SIGMAS, Sunshine Health, Suncoast Mental Health, Family Network on Disabilities, Healthy Families Pinellas Father Services, Gulfcoast Legal Services, Family Resources, USFSP Family Study Center, LSF Children & Head Start Services, FL Health Department — WIC, PSTA — Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority. To reach J.A. Jones, email jjones@theweeklychallenger.com



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- Healthy Families Pinellas – Father Services
- Gulfcoast Legal Services
- Family Resources
- USFSP Family Study Center
- LSF Children & Head Start Services
- FL Health Department – WIC
- PSTA – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority

STEP UP TO THE PLATE, DAD!



RV BROWN
Keynote Speaker
Former Tampa Bay Buccaneers Chaplain,
Author, Founder & President of Outreach to
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Developing relationships and empowerment life skills for girls

BY JOYCE NANETTE
JOHNSON
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Pretty Young Bosses, Inc. (PYB) is a non-profit organization that was created for the empowerment and uplifting of young girls in the community. It began as a loose-knit gathering of friends where they could address their mutual concerns and receive the much-needed support and advice from other women. It soon became evident that most of the conversation revolved around their young female relatives and associates that entered their lives. Most of the information shared showed that many of the young girls had experienced bullying, lack of permanent housing, peer pressure, drug use in the family or a family member incarcerated. Group member Latasha Grant was galvanized into action by the harrowing accounts of despair and a chance meeting with a teen prostitute at a care facility. Grant felt that she could create an organization where teens could have someone to listen to their concerns, elevate their spirits and encourage them on

their life’s journey. She founded PYB in 2016 and serves as its executive director. There are now 25 girls from 7-17 years old in the program. PYB offers two programs they feel are beneficial to the development of the preteens: Big Sister-Little Sister and their mentorship initiative. Their vision is to help adolescences achieve success an inspire them to reach back and do the same for upcoming participants. Through the Big Sister-Little Sister program, PYB’s goal is to instill bonds of trust and friendships that will endure through the years for both the volunteer and the girls. They meet three times a month, where they are offered emotional support and valuable life skills. The program also includes tutoring, interactive entrepreneurial workshops and has guest speakers on a wide range of relevant and exciting topics. There are also community development opportunities where the girls feed the homeless, participate in community clean-ups, and attend prayer rallies throughout the city. “We’re not only a men-


torship program but also a sisterhood, which puts us in our very own bracket,” explained Grant. “We are not only by our girls’ side until they graduate high school, but we’re also by their side for a lifetime.” Grant said PYB comforts and encourages one another in times of difficulties and triumphs, while striving to cultivate young entrepreneurs, hence the name Pretty Young Bosses. “Our mentors supply emotional support and are also available for any school-related issues. Mentees pick their mentors, and the placement is based on the urgency of the teen.” Grant graduated from Northeast High and earned an associate’s degree in paralegal studies from Everett University and an associate’s degree in the medical assistant program at St. Petersburg College. She is a single mother of three, who had her first child at 15 and can relate with many of the program’s participants. She also has a terminally ill 11-year-old son with chronic granulomatous disease. She continues, however, to push forward unselfishly with her time

because she feels PYB can help many youths who do not have someone to confide and trust in. Grant learned the ins and outs of running a non-profit from choosing a board and securing funding to keep it running. Her board includes Caprice Smith, vice president; outreach coordinator Ambee Stephens; advisor Natalie Watts; secretary Shaneeka Hearn and Latesha Jackson, financial manager and

treasurer. Concerned about the lack of support that the nonprofit receives from the community, she feels that if she has time to give back to the community with her life’s stressful circumstances that others should feel compelled to help also. In the near future, PYB is planning an upcoming empowerment gala, where they hope to partner with other community leaders and organizations. They are

also looking to begin college and business tours to demonstrate local success to the young ladies. “We want to inspire them to become entrepreneurs. Girls are pushed into college, which is good, but they don’t know they can be both employee and or business owners.” Click here for more information on PYB. To volunteer, please call Shaneeka Hearn at (813)516-5425.





Pretty Young Bosses

Fundraiser

Publix - 54th Ave S @ 31st S June 9th
(3 little sisters will be picked to attend if they haven't attended one yet) 10am-2pm

St. Pete Strong

Event June 28th
SPC/Gibbs College Campus 11am - 3pm
(6th-12th grade little sisters) 6605 5th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL

BOTH EVENTS ARE MANDATORY
P.Y.B would like to wish everyone a great summer

COMMUNITY NEWS

Food glorious food!

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – If there’s ever a time to make a pig of yourself, it’s at Bethel AME’s Dine With Men Who Cook Culinary Food Festival. For 24 years, budding chefs from around nation have vied for the title of “Top Chef” and bragging rights for a whole year.

“This is a citywide version of Sunday Best,” said Rev. Kenny Irby, senior pastor of the historic Bethel AME Church. “You know, Sunday supper when you used to go to Big Mamma’s house.”

Well, Big Mamma took May 19 off and headed over to Lake Vista Recreation Center where she and a bunch of other hungry folks took three and four trips around the u-shaped smorgasbord that included 46 senior chefs and 10 juniors.

This healthy competition between men wearing aprons started some two decades ago with co-chairs Lena Brown and Patricia Wright and became a part of Bethel’s history when it was incorporated as a pre-

lude to their 1996 Calendar Tea. After 10 years, the baton was passed to Al-tamese Cannon and Suzanne Felton. Under their successful co-chairmanship, the event expanded to a new venue and grew by leaps and bounds.

In 2010, Larry and Faith Walker took over the reins and added a competitive edge, a VIP component, a larger venue, celebrity judges and chefs and monetary prizes.

The basketball gym was transformed into a mega banquet hall with cuisine ranging from Italian to Caribbean fare and everything in between. The dessert table was also a hit with hundreds of tantalizing treats courtesy of Swinton’s Bakery laid out in splendiferous glory.

Although the event was from 2-4 p.m., those who arrived around three o’clock missed out on a lot of dishes. An hour into the festival, some chefs were seen twiddling their thumbs because their pans were empty.

First-time competitor Jonathan James and his pint-sized sous chef Emory

prepared macaroni and cheese with a drizzle of bacon. Emory’s job was to make sure the bacon was spread evenly over the cheesy goodness.

Rev. Kevin Wardlaw prepared chicken parmesan, or parmigiana if you want to get fancy. For the last two years, he made beef stew but decided on a little Italian for his third go round. It worked too; he was one of the five chefs to receive an honorable mention.

Edward Zeigler also decided on Italian cuisine with his Chicken Marsala. After cooking all week at Punky’s Bar & Grill on Central Avenue, this first-time competitor couldn’t help but show off his kitchen skills to the more than 300 people present.

Continuing the culinary cruise around the world, Julian Fullmer whipped up some oxtails, Jamaican style. His wife Christine is from the tropical island and has been teaching him how to cook their flavorful fare.

It wouldn’t be a competition without barbecue ribs. Walter Ivy smoked his ribs on the grill for three

hours and prepared his own sauce, baked beans and dirty rice. He’s a butcher by day and runs a small eatery called Tips’ BBQ every first and third Saturday out of his house, 2570 15th Ave. S.

On the more gourmet side, LaDarian Cole made chuck roast with a steak béarnaise sauce and cream and red mash potatoes, and last year’s winner, Golden Monix, prepared chili with jalapeno cornbread, pulled pork sliders with pickled slaw, cheesecake with apple caramel drizzle and lemon bundt cake.

“These bake beans so good they’ll make you slap your mamma, but don’t slap your mamma though,” said Rep. Wengay Newton about his Newt’s Bangin’ Baked Beans. With sausage, bell peppers and bacon, somebody will get slapped!

Lennie Bowman and his best friend Joseph Davis whipped up some beef sausages with onion, Mexican corn and beef sliders in gravy. Bowman admitted that he does the cooking at home because his wife, Councilwoman Lisa Wheeler-Bowman, is too

busy helping run the city.

Sam Hemingway, Jr abandoned his 94-year-old father, his usual cooking partner, and joined forces with former pastor of Bethel AME Bryant Fayson. The two cooked macaroni and cheese with crabmeat and a little Spanish paella to boot.

But don’t feel bad for Sam Hemingway Sr., who has been in the game since the inception of the competition, he made the cheesiest, gooiest, creamiest macaroni and cheese ever. His pans were empty less than an hour into the event.

This year’s celebrity judges, St. Petersburg Police Chief Anthony Holloway, Bay News 9 anchor Erica Riggins and recent Gibbs High graduate Daniel Sanders, ate so much they were ready to take a nap. Before they passed out, they managed to pick three winners:

3rd Place – Milton Lilly
2nd Place – Nate William
1st Place – Shawn Bowman

Lilly won second place in the 2017 and 2018 com-

petitions with his curry chicken and shrimp. This year’s third-place win garnered him \$50 for the same recipe, while Williams took home \$150 for his black rice dish.

Bowman, however, was able to stave off the competition with his Mongolian beef and lo mein noodles. He won first place back in 2017 but had to sit out last year due to a back injury.

Bowman started cooking as early as five years old in his grandmother’s kitchen. Maybe that’s where he learned to marinate the beef for up to eight hours to tenderize it. He served the meal in cute little Chinese takeout boxes, and the judges went wild.

Born in Rochester, N.Y., the unmarried Sarasota resident is a nurse and owns a home health agency. So ladies, if you’re looking for a man with a good job who cooks so well he wins competitions, you can reach Bowman at the Light of the World International Church on Chapel Drive in Sarasota.

Congratulations to all who participated. You’re all winners!



L-R, Milton Lilly (3rd Place), Shawn Bowman (1st Place), Nate William (2nd Place)



Rev. Kenny Irby, senior pastor of the historic Bethel AME Church, stuffing his face at the 24th annual Dine With Men Who Cook Culinary Food Festival.



COMMUNITY NEWS

AKAdemy 2019 Scholarships & Awards Showcase

AKADEMY, from front page

nity youth development and mentoring programs or have returned to support the AKA AKAdemy as volunteer facilitators, speakers and mentors,” said Moultrie.

Last Friday night’s program recognized the class of 2019 and their individual post-graduation goals, as well as the AKAdemic scholars who made honor roll or achieved AKAdemic Perfection (Dean’s List all year).

To close out the evening, the students (Exquisite Gems and Pathfinders) dazzled the crowd with a final showcase of talent, fashion and step performances.

2019 Academic Merit Scholarship
Lauryn Latimer (\$1,400)
Miles Richardson (\$1,200)
Jasmine Hyatt (\$1,100)
Chase Moore (\$1,000)
Daniel Sanders (\$950)
Jalen White (\$850)
Zaire Tafari (\$800)
Sa’Coya McKenzie (\$700)
Presidents’ Council
Natalie Fort (\$750)
Donor Academic Merit Scholarships
Kaila Priestner (\$500)
Roweshawnah Newton (\$500)
AnTre’z Smith (\$500)
Taylor Cooper (\$500)
Pathfinder of the Year
Jalen White (\$500)
YDF AKAdemy Merit Scholarship
Dyiamond Shields (\$500)
Jalen White (\$500)
Randolph Lewis Bridge Builder Scholarship
Alana Terrell (\$500)
Najee Bradley (\$500)
Infinite Potential Scholarship
Clayton Brody (\$400)
Diamond Scrivens (\$350)

YDF/AKA AKAdemy receives over \$109,000 annually from the Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board. The program is administered by the ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter in collaboration with the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Eta Rho Chapter.

For more information regarding the AKA AKAdemy please visit the website at www.zuochapter.org.



Keywuan Abrams

Keywuan Abrams

The son of Rick Oliver and Erica Abrams, Keywuan Abrams has been a member of the AKAdemy since the sixth grade. He is a member of the National Honor Society and plans to pursue a college degree at Morgan State University in graphic design.



Nyah Sherell Acoff

Nyah Sherell Acoff

The daughter of Jarrod Acoff and Marcina Dowell-Williams, Nyah Sherell Acoff graduated from Northeast High School where she was a member of the Culinary Arts Pro-

gram. She plans to attend Tallahassee Community College and then on to Florida A&M University.



Sydni Bostick

Sydni Bostick

A student-athlete and graduate of Admiral Fargut Academy, Sydni Bostick received the MVP award for the girls’ soccer team. She will attend Nova Southeastern University on a full soccer scholarship and plans to pursue nursing or athletic training. Sydni hopes to play for the U.S. Women’s national soccer team and make a positive impact in the world.



Najee Bradley

Najee Bradley

The son of Lizzie Brooks and Toney Bradley, Najee Bradley graduated from Gibbs High School and plans to attend Albany State University. He participated in the City of St. Petersburg’s Cohort of Champions and the Arts Conservatory for Teens programs. His love for video games inspired him to major in computer engineering before pursuing a career in the U.S. Army.

Najee reminds us that “if you never take a risk, you will never succeed in life.”



Sean Carter, II

Sean Carter, II

The son of Sean Carter Sr., Sean Carter, II is a graduate of Lakewood High School and plans to attend St. Petersburg College to pursue a career in the music industry.



Taylor Nichole Cooper

Taylor Nichole Cooper

The daughter of Aaron and Marquese Cooper, Taylor Nichole Cooper is a graduate of The Boca Ciega High School where she was active in the Student Government Association and was an AP Capstone Scholar. She plans to attend Hampton University to pursue a degree in psychology. Her career goal is to become a

school psychologist for children living on military bases overseas.



Sergia Dennis

Sergia Dennis

The son of Sermitrious and Michelle Dennis, Sergia Dennis is a graduate of Lakewood High School and plans to attend St. Petersburg College to pursue a career in film.



Jalen Dixon

Jalen Dixon

The son of Bernard and Teneka Dixon, Jalen Dixon is a graduate of Lakewood High School and will follow his family’s legacy by attending Florida A&M University. He plans to major in sports medicine and pursue a long-term career in the military. Jalen has been in the AKAdemy for eight years.



Leah Dudley

Leah Dudley

The daughter of Earl Dudley and Tamara Felton-Howard, Leah Dudley is a graduate of The Boca Ciega High School and has been a repeat honor roll student throughout her educational career. She plans to attend Florida A&M University and major in business marketing and public relations. Her career goal is to become a public relations specialist, model and designer.

Leah’s advice to others: “You are no better than anyone else, and no one is better than you.”

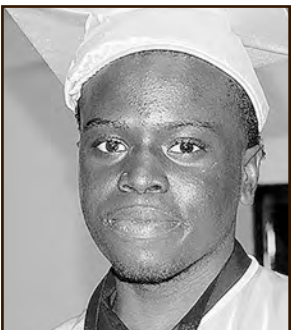


Ja’Nabre Alexandra Flowers

Ja’Nabre Alexandra Flowers

The daughter of Major and Denese Flowers, Ja’Nabre Alexandra Flowers is a graduate of Gibbs High School, and her activities and honors include the Pinellas County Center for the Arts Vocal Program and captain of the Gibbs High School Step Team. She plans to attend Pinellas Technical College to pursue a career in cosme-

tology. Her career goal is to obtain a business management degree and own a hair salon.



Samuel Goolsby

Samuel Goolsby

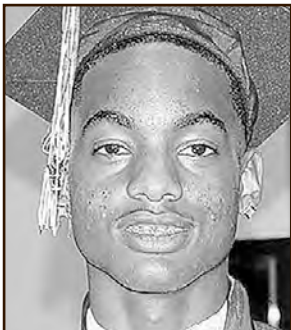
The son of Kenneth and Paulette Goolsby, Samuel Goolsby has participated in several organizations including JROTC and 5000 Role Models. Sam is a graduate of Lakewood High School and plans to attend St. Petersburg College before joining the military.



Jasmine Hyatt

Jasmine Hyatt

The daughter of Desmond Hyatt and Landa Springer, Jasmine Hyatt is a graduate of Calvary Christian High School where she received several honors and participated in the marching band/color guard. She will attend Valdosta State University and major in pre-veterinary science where she plans to work in a veterinary clinic and provide support to sick, hurt or abandoned animals.



Bryson Treyvon Lambert

Bryson Treyvon Lambert

The son of Tonya Wilson, Bryson Treyvon Lambert is a graduate of Osceola Fundamental High School and has contributed to various community service projects including the St. Petersburg Free Clinic. He is off to the military where he will begin his career in the United States Air Force.



Lauryn Janae Latimer

Lauryn Janae Latimer

The daughter of Craig and Laquinda Cubby-Latimer, Lauryn Janae Latimer graduated from the Center for Advanced Technologies and Athletic Lifestyle Management Academy at Lakewood High School. Among a long list of extra-curricular activities, she was the senior class president and cap-

tain of the cheerleading team. She is very involved in Feeding Tampa Bay and has received recognition for her service.

Lauryn plans to attend Florida State University to obtain a degree in communications sciences and disorders. Her career goal is to become a speech-language pathologist and work with children in a hospital setting.



Jenae McClendon

Jenae McClendon

The daughter of JC and Stephanie McClendon, Jenae McClendon is a graduate of Northside Christian High School where she was on the National Honor Society, track and field team, varsity cheerleading team and the Pep Club. She plans to attend Florida A&M University and pursue a doctorate in psychology. She looks forward to having her own practice and empowering others in need.



Rayauna McDonald

Rayauna McDonald

The daughter of Ernest McDonald and Sharina McDonald, Rayauna McDonald is a graduate of The Boca Ciega High School where she received several academic awards. She plans to attend Florida A&M University, where she will major in biomedical engineering and become a plastic surgeon.

Rayauna advises students to “hold your own pen and write your own story.”



Sa’Coya McKenzie

Sa’Coya McKenzie

The daughter of Collis McKenzie and Karen Tucker, Sa’Coya McKenzie is a graduate of Gibbs High School and plans to attend Florida A&M University and study psychology. She has been involved in several community youth organizations and looks forward to making new connections with people in her field of study.

Briya Miller

The daughter of Jennifer Harris and Corey Miller, Briya Miller is a graduate of The Boca Ciega High School and plans to attend Florida A&M University to pursue a career in nursing. She encourages others to “not let anything or anyone define you.”



Briya Miller



Chase Ayanna Drew Moore

Chase Ayanna Drew Moore

The daughter of Vincent and Patrice Moore, Chase Ayanna Drew Moore is a graduate from The Boca Ciega High School and is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society and the Multicultural Club. She plans to major in pre-law at Florida A&M University and pursue a career as a defense attorney.



Da’ Izahne Moore

Da’ Izahne Moore

The daughter of David and Takiyah Moore, Da’ Izahne Moore is a graduate of Lakewood High School and is planning to attend Bethune-Cookman University and major in mass communications/journalism.



Marcus Odajuste

Marcus Odajuste

The son of Anna Alexis, Marcus Odajuste is a graduate of Northeast High School and has been a part of the AKAdemy since sixth grade. He has received several certificates through his affiliation with the Future Business Leaders of America.

Marcus will attend St. Petersburg College for two years and transfer to Florida State and major in finance while minoring in business. He plans to become a financial advisor and international marketing consultant.



Colin Porter

Colin Porter

The son of Dexter and Rukeya Sutherland, Colin Porter is a graduate of Gibbs High School as a

COMMUNITY NEWS

Churches combating HIV in south St. Pete

Dear Editor:

There is a serial killer among our community, and its name is “stigma.” The latest HIV statistics paint a grim picture for African-American communities in much of the country, with Pinellas County identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as extremely high-risk.

Our good friends at Metro Inclusive Health brought the threat of this epidemic to the attention of myself and other south side community leaders, including Deputy Mayor Dr. Kanika Tomalin at a recent small HIV summit. National, state and local statistics were presented that were nothing short of alarming, and we all need to be made aware.

The south side of St. Petersburg and the black community is the hardest hit in Pinellas County, and the numbers are staggering. The CDC estimates that one in two black men who have sex with other men but may not identify themselves as homosexual are likely to contract HIV compared to one in 11 white males.

Even more alarming is the Florida Department of Health statistics stating that 63 percent of Pinellas County HIV diagnosed females over 50 years of age were African American. Fifty-six percent of people living with an HIV diagnosis in Pinellas were older adults (50 plus). On the south side, 77 percent of older adults who received an HIV diag-

nosis were ages 50-59.

Blacks represented the highest proportion of persons who received an HIV diagnosis in Florida at 42 percent, with Hispanics at 31 percent and whites at 25 percent.

My brothers and my sisters, these numbers are astonishing and shocking. These people being diagnosed with HIV are mainly older black women and men, not white homosexual males. These could be members of our churches sitting in our pews hiding from the stigma attached to HIV.

Those numbers are from reported and known cases; imagine the numbers amongst those who do not get tested. This is our community that is experiencing

numbers at epidemic proportions of new HIV cases.

We need to combat these numbers and get people tested; we must eliminate the stigma of HIV testing in the black community. Jesus came as the great Physician to heal all manner of sickness and diseases. We must bring education, prevention and treatment to our people. And the churches are now stepping up to get this done.

Having heard the open discussion and thoughts out loud among those within various segments of our community, I believe that we, as partners in Christ, hold the key to turning the tide of this epidemic while setting an example, if not a blueprint, for other high-risk communities across the

country.

It’s time for south St. Pete’s faith-based leaders to develop and implement an actionable plan in conjunction with community-based organizations that are already fighting the good fight against HIV.

This past Tuesday, there was a very successful organizational meeting and think tank held at Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church. Pastors, ministry leaders, community leaders and community-based organizations were invited to strategize on how to combat this epidemic in south St. Petersburg through the churches.

It is our duty. Going forward, this group will be spearheading this effort with strategies and actions.



We invite every pastor and church to get involved. Together we can win this and get these numbers under control if not altogether eliminate the threat in our community.

*Dr. G. Gregg Murray
Pastor, Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church*



Visionary Brief by Keisha Bell, Esq.

When you have a problem, do you have someone who you trust enough to tell and who you can count on to help you sort it out? Are you this person for others?

Meet Judy A. Smith, an attorney, crisis manager, television producer and author. Many know of her persona via the hit political thriller television series “Scandal,” which was inspired by Smith’s work in public relations and crisis management in Washington, D.C.

Born on October 27, 1958, Smith graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in public relations from Boston University

and with a Juris Doctorate from the American University Washington College of Law. While in law school, Smith was the first African-American woman to serve as executive editor of “American University Law Review.” On July 10, 2016, she became an honorary member of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

After graduating from law school, Smith became the deputy director of Public Information and associate counsel in the Office of the Independent Counsel. Two years later, she was appointed special counsel to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia.

In that role, Smith

served as the principal adviser to the U.S. Attorney on media relations and chief spokeswoman. Two years after that, Smith served as special assistant and deputy press secretary to then-President George H. W. Bush.

While working for the White House staff, Smith earned a reputation for being straightforward, honest and hard working. Reportedly, she helped to guide the Bush administration through some controversies.

She put her skill set to good use, and upon leaving the White House staff, Smith started her own business and became the

She handles it

founder, president and CEO of the highly-respected, crisis management firm Smith & Company. Although headquartered in Washington, D.C., Smith’s clientele is not limited to the political arena. Instead, it includes nonprofit, individual, and corporate clients throughout the United States and around the world.

Interestingly, Smith’s professional background after leaving the Bush White House staff also includes working for NBC as vice president of communications. It was in 2009, however, that Smith was introduced to Shonda Rhimes and Betsy Beers.

A meeting initially scheduled for several minutes ended up lasting several hours, and “Scandal” was developed.

Rhimes is the show’s creator; Beers was a co-executive producer Smith served as one of its co-executive producers and technical advisor. Side note, “Scandal” was aired on ABC.

Smith continues to be active in community service and has received numerous communications and leadership awards. She is also a published author and blogger.

How many little girls dream that one day there will be a television series



inspired by their hard work? Maybe more should.

Smith realized the demand in being able to problem solve. She created her own space and invested in herself to help people by providing a way to answer that demand. Respected throughout the world, Smith’s clients rest assured knowing that — she handles it.

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

AKADEMY, from page 6

certified emergency medical technician and firefighter. He plans to attend the Learey Fire Academy in Tampa. He is proud of his accomplishments and advises students to “stay true to yourself under all circumstances.”



Kei’Nosha Ramsey

Kei’Nosha Ramsey
The daughter of Melinda Brown, Kei’Nosha Ramsey has been a member of the AKAdemy since 2015. She is a graduate of The Boca Ciega High School and plans to attend Alabama A&M University and major in nursing.



Ukari Register

Ukari Register
The son of DeAunte Register and Japera Miller, Ukari Register plans to attend St. Petersburg College for two years and transfer to Florida A&M University where he will pursue a career in journalism. He has participated in several commu-

nity organizations and acknowledges the importance of being a trusted leader among his peers.



Miles Richardson

Miles Richardson
The son of John and Athena Richardson, Miles Richardson is a graduate of The Boca Ciega High School and is a member of several honor societies. He has learned the importance of discipline and respect during his experience as a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. He received numerous academic achievement and scholarship awards and plans to major in history at Hampton University and pursue a career in law.



Raymond Richardson, II

Raymond Richardson, II
The son of Raymond Sr. and Demetrice Richardson, Raymond Richardson, II is a graduate of Lakewood High School. He has been involved in several community organizations

and believes in helping others that are less fortunate. He plans to attend Edward Waters College and pursue and major in education.



Daniel Sanders

Daniel Sanders
The son of Daniel and Deborah Sanders, Daniel Sanders has been in the AKAdemy since the sixth grade. He is a graduate of Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School. He has received several academic awards and scholarships and has been an active participant in Men in the Making program.

Daniel portrayed several of St. Petersburg’s African-American trailblazers celebrated during *The Weekly Challenger’s* 50th-anniversary celebration “I AM” tribute. He plans to attend Florida Southern College to pursue a career as a voice artist or broadcast journalist.



Dyi-mond Shields

Dyi-mond Shields
A graduate of North-

side Christian School with a 4.43 GPA, Dyimond Shields has received numerous academic awards while participating in track and field and competitive cheerleading, to name a few. She plans to attend Kings College and major in pre-medicine.



TyAzjah Shivers

TyAzjah Shivers
The daughter of Tyron and Nikita Shivers, TyAzjah Shivers is a graduate of The Boca Ciega High School where she was a varsity cheerleader, AVID tutor and All-Star Cheerleader. She plans to attend Santa Fe College in Gainesville to pursue a degree in nursing. Her career goal is to become a neonatal nurse.



An-Trez Smith

An-Trez Smith
The son of LaToya Reedy, An-Trez Smith is a graduate of The Boca Ciega High School where he was a student-athlete

and crowned Mr. Boca Ciega High School. He has participated in several community programs and knows it is important to give back to his community. He will to attend Saint Leo University and pursue a degree in multi-media studies. He plans to be a professional television or radio personality.



Zaire Tafari

Zaire Tafari
The daughter of Raymond Laconte and Shirley Demps, Zaire Tafari is a graduate of Gibbs High School and plans to attend Savannah College of Art and Design. She has her own business and hopes to become an art therapist or art teacher.



Alana Terrell

Alana Terrell
The daughter of Grady and Debbie Terrell, Alana Terrell is a graduate of The Boca Ciega High School where she was a member of the Science National Honor

Society, Rho Kappa Honor Society, the Multicultural Club and the National Honor Society. She acknowledges that she has overcome the challenge of losing her godmother Terri Murph while in 10th grade.

Alana graduated with 15 college credits and will receive several scholarships, including the Terri P. Murph \$4,200 scholarship. She plans on attending St. Petersburg College and then transfer to Tennessee State University and major in nursing. She plans to become a pediatric nurse and work in a children’s hospital.



Jalen Alexander White

Jalen Alexander White
The son of David and Ann White, Jalen White is a graduate of Lakewood High School and plans to attend the University of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi under a full basketball scholarship and major in education with a minor in political science. He has a long list of academic and civic accomplishments, including president of the Lakewood High School Student Government, induction into the National Honor Society and a captain of the AKAdemy Great Debate team for two years.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Angelic glow surrounds Mother’s Day luncheon & Fashion Show

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – There’s nothing like a kaleidoscopic fashion show showcasing mothers from the south St. Pete community. The Women’s Ministry of Greater Mt. Zion AME Church pulled out all the stops May 11, just one

day prior to celebrating one of the most important persons in our lives—our mothers. A tapestry of rainbow hues strutted down a makeshift runway as mistress of ceremony Phyllis Dorsey and style commentator Dierdre Downing-Jackson presided over the fashion show. The program included women and chil-

dren of all ages who appeared in a total of five scenes: Mothers of all ages, women who are survivors, children are our future, wisdom walkers and the finale. Jawan George, a teenager who survived open heart surgery, read the poem “When God’s at the Helm,” and a banquet of food was served and enjoyed by all.



Men In the Making celebrates another year of success

MEN, from front page

Human Services. “Don’t waste a chance to learn from someone who is skilled in whatever they do. Don’t waste opportunities.” Rev. Williams called Julie Weintraub, president of Gold & Diamond Source, on stage to thank her for the generous \$10,000 donation she gave to the program. Weintraub said she has watched the program grow in such a short time and feels the impact it has on the community cannot be understated. Pinellas County Commissioner Kenneth Welch was on hand to give a few words of encouragement. He warned the youth that

they would receive mix messages from their peers, social media or rap music that can derail their success. He stressed that they listen to the words their mentors work so hard to instill. “You can do anything you want to do in your life,” he said. “As you all move on, wherever you go, be true to yourself, set an example for yourself and don’t follow, but lead.” President of St. Petersburg College Dr. Tonjua Williams spoke along the same lines when she told the young men to listen to their parents and not their friends. “Follow your heart and make the right the de-

cisions because following your friends can lead you in the wrong direction,” she stated. “There are two types of people in the world; you are either a follower or a leader. Be a good leader. If you’re a follower, find a good leader to follow.” City Councilwoman Lisa Wheeler-Bowman fought back tears when thanking all of the MIM role models who volunteer their time to help inspire change in the youth. Her son was killed by gun violence, leaving behind a small child to face life without his father. “Thank you for being a mentor, a friend and father not only to my grand-

son but to all the kids,” she said. Dr. Lewis Brinson, minority achievement officer for Pinellas County Schools, rounded out the words of encouragement by telling the youth to value their education and “most of all, avoid the foolishness.” Program certificates and awards were distributed to each member of the 2019 class, with a few standouts: **Most Improved Attitude Adjustment** Raymond Lewis **Academic Performance** Dieme Ufitimana (\$500 Scholarship from Inclusivity)

Academic Excellence (\$50 from SPPD) Jeremiah Furse Josh Hughes Mikal Morris Dieme Ufitimana Arabian Robinson Martin Reid Christian Davis Kyson Brown Christian Reid Mason Butler Spencer Belnavis Elliot Jester Brice Lewis Daniel Sanders Gustave Zirakwiye Raymond Lewis Makai Smith Kaden Williams **Most Improved Behavior** Azerion Grace Jordan Bellamy

Community Service Award Daniel Sanders Christian Davis Jaquez McCray **Hoodie Awards** Jeremiah Eustache Gustave Zirakwiye Christian Davis Ashton Williams Morris McCray Julius Dawson **Youth of the Year** Morris McCray (\$500) *The Men in the Making initiative is supported by Cross & Anvil Human Services, St. Petersburg Police Department, Duke Energy, Pinellas County Sheriff’s Department, St. Petersburg College and The Urban Yoga Foundation.*



COMMUNITY NEWS

Child care and industrial positions job fairs June 4 & 6

ST. PETERSBURG – Goodwill’s Job Connection Center is hosting a job fair June 4 for child care careers and June 6 for industrial positions. The job fairs will be at the Job Connection Center inside the Goodwill store at 2550 34th St N., St. Petersburg.

On June 4, from 11-1 p.m., ChildCare Careers staffing service will be recruiting for a variety of full-time and part-time positions. Available positions include program director, site supervisor, lead teacher, teacher, assistant teacher and oth-

ers. ChildCare Careers is the largest full-service staffing firm focused on the child care field, providing permanent and temporary staff to dozens of child care centers, preschools and after-school programs.

On Thursday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to noon, The Reserves Network staffing service will recruit for a variety of industrial positions including CNC machinist, electronic assemblers, machine operators, material handlers, mechanical assemblers and press operators. The Reserves Network is a

staffing agency that provides opportunities within the office, industrial, professional and technical markets.

Applicants should sign in at the Job Connection Center. Interviews will be conducted on site. For more information, call 727-321-7337.

The Job Connection Center is operated by Goodwill Industries-Suncoast, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to help people achieve their full potential through the dignity and power of work.



Freddie Crawford will be laid to rest June 1

CRAWFORD, from front page

“Freddie kept pulling down the ‘whites only’ signs at the water fountain in the cop shop,” Jackson recalled. “Each time the white guys would put the sign back up, Freddie would snatch it down, reminding us that we would be treated equally, or else.”

Jackson said Crawford was a “one of a kind true leader” who led by example.

Given that affirmation, consider the perspective on Crawford offered by Goliath J. Davis III, St. Petersburg’s first black police chief.

“Those of us from Methodist Town are fond of saying it is easy to discern individuals who really know us from acquaintances. The key is what they call you. Acquaintances typically know you by your given name. The Methodist Town Family may or may not know your given name but universally know your nickname,” he explained, revealing Crawford’s moniker. “I have known Ne Ne all of my life.”

For Davis, Crawford “is family, mentor, friend and my community police officer.”

He reflected on how Crawford and the 11 other officers who sued the city are inextricably tied.

“They represent the epitome of community policing. Their commitment to fairness and equality changed the lives of the people they policed as well as the lives of African-American police officers involved in the enterprise nationwide,” he said.

Davis said as a police officer, Crawford was stern when necessary, but his general demeanor was one of humility, patience, fairness and compassion.

“He was a visionary and a dreamer. He dreamed of economic prosperity and equality for his people and our communities and formed several businesses (including Plow Boy Restaurant and Zenith Security) to provide job opportunities and enforcement experiences for African-American men and women,” Davis asserted.

In the early 1960s, Crawford and his fellow black police officers serving on the St. Petersburg police force were only permitted to police black neighborhoods. The segregation of authority went so far as to

mark patrol cars with a “C” for “colored” to designate that a black officer was inside.

Of the 15 black policemen in the department, Crawford and 11 other uniformed officers had been holding meetings amongst themselves in their homes and had planned to take their complaints to the chief. The other three officers had refused, stating they wanted no part of it.

The officers approached then-Chief Harold Smith with the complaint that they were only allowed to patrol the black neighborhoods and felt that they should be allowed to police the whole city. The group of 12 officers also complained that promotion was nonexistent for them. Where white officers were promoted regularly, but black officers could not even take the sergeant’s exam.

Smith told the officers that the reason they were always assigned to the same area was that the department believed they could handle the black neighborhood better than the white officers. But white officers were allowed to patrol 22nd Street South. These white officers didn’t walk the beat but patrolled the area from their cruisers.

They met with Smith two separate times, and each time the chief told them that he’d get back with them. After getting no results, the group asked for a third meeting. Smith refused to meet with them anymore.

The 12 continued to have meetings amongst themselves, and Crawford came up with the idea to sue the police department. Baker suggested James B. Sanderlin as a good civil rights attorney.

So Crawford and Baker met with Sanderlin at a drug store and told him they had all voted to file a lawsuit against the police department for discrimination and wanted to know if he’d be their lawyer.

On May 11, 1965, the lawsuit was officially filed at the federal court in Tampa. A group of black officers taking on the department did not sit well with some of the other white policemen.

“They were upset, they were angry,” Jackson said in a 2016 interview with *The Weekly Challenger*. “We lost friendships with some of

those guys. Some of them stopped speaking to us.”

Some were more direct in their disgust, telling the black officers that they should be kicked off the force, or worse, that they should never have been police officers. They felt the black officers were against them. Some white officers even went so far as to say that if the 12 found themselves in trouble and calling for back up, they would simply not respond and leave them to their fate.

“We weren’t against them personally,” Jackson explained. “We were against the system.”

Yet some of the white officers, Jackson noted, were supportive even though very few did so openly for fear of retaliation or being ostracized themselves.

Crawford agreed in that same 2016 interview, saying, “There were some good guys.”

Nearly a year after the officers put the suit in motion, they went to court on two different days, March 31 and April 1, 1966. Here they received support from fellow policeman Bob Stokes, a white officer who spoke on their behalf and testified — in front of the chief of police who was present in the courtroom — that the black officers were not being treated fairly.

Attorney Frank Peterman Sr., who took on the in-trepid lawsuit along with Sanderlin, couldn’t recall ever taking on a similar case up to that point.

“I think it was precedent-setting for the nation, to some extent,” said Peterman Sr. back in 2016.

Despite opposition that they knew would come their way — he admitted he even received threats from the Ku Klux Klan — Peterman Sr. believed they could win because they had faith in the judicial system. “We were dedicated to justice.”

In the end, they lost the case.

But Sanderlin wasn’t done. He urged them to appeal. The officers had bankrolled the lawsuit themselves and told him they simply didn’t have any more money. Here the attorney suggested they contact the NAACP for assistance in their plight. The organization indeed stepped up and took on the costs, and on August 1,

1968, the appeal was successful.

The court awarded them a victory. In a year’s time, Crawford was patrolling a primarily white area in northeast St. Pete.

After retiring from the force, Crawford continued his efforts to address and eradicate segregation. He went to work for the Community Relations Service division at the U.S. Department of Justice where he used his experience with conflict resolution to resolve racial tensions in various communities across the country.

Crawford led in other ways, producing positive results and leaving a strong, uplifting legacy. Native son Charles Fulwood reflected his impact.

“I was in Gabon (a country along the Atlantic coast of Central Africa) right after my daughter was sick. I saw a brother that just looked like Freddie. It reminded me that African people are familiar. It made me feel a bit home bound. Freddie was a quintessential man,” said Fulwood, a widely published writer.

Crawford and other black police officers organized a Boy Scouts troop in the black community. The national Boy Scouts organization dodged the issue of desegregation by leaving it to local councils to decide on whether or not to admit black children.

Some councils admitted black youth but prohibited them from wearing the scout uniform. Fulwood remembers Boy Scout officials in Richmond, Va., once threatened to stage a public burning of Scout uniforms if black boys were permitted to wear them.

“Freddie and a small group of black police went through a long obstacle course to get our charter as Troop 206, or was it 202,” said Fulwood, who couldn’t quite recall.

He remembered the troop’s first camping trip in the late 60s to an unincorporated area of Pinellas Park near Clearwater. The officers were doing all of this on their own time, stealing time away from being on duty.

“Once we were all camped down, Freddie and the other police officers left to go back to duty about 10 miles away. We were in an all-white area at the time, tolerated intruders on the



strength of police officers — even if they were ‘colored.’ At least it was the harmless activity of camping to ‘rehabilitate some colored boys.”

On that fateful day, one of the boys set the woods on fire trying to light a cigarette. Fire trucks and police cars came from all over the county. Crawford, King, and other black cops came racing from St. Pete.

“We never went camping again. I’m surprised, in hindsight, that they were not fired,” Fulwood said.

From that point on, there were no more camping trips for the young men, but Crawford did steer Fulwood toward the Police Athletic League (PAL) where he learned how to box as an amateur welterweight.

As Crawford used to warn him: “Fulwood, you always fighting, fighting the big boys—you’re a runt, better learn how to pug fundamentals, son,” recalled Fulwood.

Crawford told him that PAL would teach him discipline, technique and character. He also warned him to stop jumping on the “big boys” just for fun.

Crawford’s leadership and guidance helped Fulwood live a disciplined, character-fueled successful

life that includes the operation of an influential strategic communications firm in Washington, D.C.

Homegoing services for Freddie Lee Crawford are set for 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 1 at First Baptist Church, 1900 Gandy Blvd., St. Petersburg.

A wake is scheduled for Friday, May 31 at New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, 1717 18th Ave. S. The family will gather from 4-6 p.m. The public may visit from 6-8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be sent to the Jordan Park Projects Nostalgic Association, Inc. at P. O. Box 12263, St. Petersburg, FL 33733.

Crawford, a native of St. Petersburg, is survived by four daughters, Joan (Roger Louis) Crawford, Peggy Crawford, Traci Crawford and Kimberly Crawford; five sons, Frederick (Veronica) Crawford, Quinton (Marva) Harris, Terryl Crawford, Norman Crawford and Kofi Adisa; two sisters, Verdell Wyman and Shirley Tigg; one brother, Arthur Lee Crawford; an aunt, Vann Lou and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.



L-R, Freddie Crawford, former Mayor Don Jones and Leon Jackson at a Courageous 12 tribute held at the Carter G. Woodson African American Museum in 2015.



Freddie Crawford and the late Adam Baker at a Courageous 12 tribute held at Faith Memorial Baptist Church in 2012.



Mayor Rick Kriseman presented Crawford and Jackson with awards for their service to the St. Petersburg Police Department in 2015.

CHURCH DIRECTORY



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

Sunday Worship Services.....7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Mid-Day Bible StudyNoon - 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study6:30 p.m.

Youth Chapel Services - 921 20th Street South
Sunday Worship Service10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Small Group Bible Study6:30 p.m.

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



Rev. Louis M. Murphy Sr.
Senior Pastor

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

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Praise Time 10:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

Tuesday Night Live -
Prayer Service & Bible Study 7 p.m.

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PASTOR

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Telephone (727) 327-0554 • Fax (727) 327-0240
E-mail: bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com Web site: www.bmmbc.org

Sunday Worship Service10:15 a.m.
Sunday School9:00 a.m.
Teen Summit (Wednesday).....7:00 p.m.
Bible Study (Wednesday)7:00 p.m.



Rev. Rickey L. Houston,
Pastor

“God’s House To The City”



Rev. Wallace Elliott
Sr. - Pastor

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

Sunday Worship Services 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday 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.

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St. Petersburg, FL. 33712
(727) 866-2567

SERVICES

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.
Mid-Week Worship: Wednesday 7:00 p.m.



Rev. Dr. Manuel L. Sykes



REV. ROBERT A. VINSON, JR.

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SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM
TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00PM

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Victory Christian Center Church
3012 18th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Fla. 33712
(727) 321-0911
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)

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.
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Sunday Morning Worship9:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship6:00 p.m.
Ladies Bible Class Monday7:00 p.m.
Monday Evening Bible Class7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Morning Bible Class10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class7:00 p.m.

Ruwach International Ministries
Pastor/Prophet Huberta Rejouis
3940 18th Ave. South, St. Petersburg, Fl 33711
(above the daycare)
Email: huberta.rejouis@yahoo.com • Phone: 727-768-2784



Sunday Night Worship Service7:30pm
Thursday Night Prayer and
Bible Study (Yara Time).....7:30pm

Ruwach International Ministries is an
Apostolic global ministry.
We operated in the five-fold ministry.
All are Welcome! Shalom!



INSPIRATIONS
BY DIERDRE DOWNING-JACKSON
An Angel in Heaven

Tribute to my Mother “Bunny Downing”

Praise GOD for the memory of a mother who loved GOD

On the 29th of September, 2011, my precious Mother was called home to be with the LORD.

“Mommy left a wonderful legacy of love, joy and compassion.

Her heart reflected the joy of JESUS, who was her true life passion.


She blessed each and every one that crossed her awesome path;

And so many remember her humility, and that she had no wrath.

She trusted GOD in everything and always walked by faith.

Her spirit and her kindness were examples of her grace.

It has been eight years now, since she left this earthly place.
Her wisdom and her unconditional love, can never be replaced.



I thank the LORD in heaven for blessing me each day;
With lessons from my mother, to treasure others everyday.

It is so great to remember that we've come this far by faith;
And that my precious mother, always trusted and obeyed.

She heeded the call of her Heavenly Father; her work on earth was done. Mommy left a light to follow, to make a way to an eternal home.

She has left a great reflection, of GOD's hand upon her life; in the generations she has left behind, to carry her torch of love and light.

LORD, Thank you for blessing me with this angel of a mother: Who showed her strength and courage in every kind of weather.

I know she is dancing with Daddy and in the presence of JESUS now. She has eternal peace. Holy Spirit please guide us now.

I love and miss you so very much Mommy. Thank you for walking by faith with love, gentle strength.”
Proverbs 15:1-2
“A soft answer turns away wrath. But a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly...”

CHURCH DIRECTORY

ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Schedule of Services

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



Rev. Brian K. Brown

THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES/WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

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.

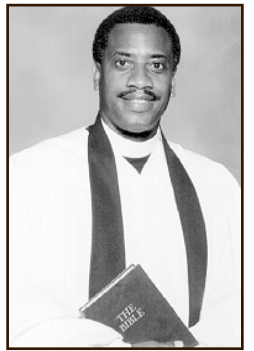
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Telephone: 727-327-0015 • Fax: 727-327-0021

Email: 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
Email: 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.
WednesdayNoonday 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.

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10:30 AM | Creative Expressions
Worship Experience

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORD
6:30 PM | Mastermind Prayer
7 PM | Bible Study Class

TAMPA
5107 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE
Church Office: (813) 450-2353

SUNDAY AFTERNOON WORSHIP
2 PM | Creative Expressions
Worship Experience

TUESDAY NIGHT
7 PM | Bible Study Class
MOC SCHOOL OF MINISTRY
8 PM | Courses Offered

Dr. Doral R. Pulley, Spiritual Leader | WWW.TODAYSCHURCHTAMPABAY.ORG

CHURCH NEWS

St. Mark MBC

Greetings from St. Mark M. B. Church!

As we close out the month of May we congratulate our High School and College Graduates. The 2019 Graduates from St. Mark are: Sis Caitlynn Brown, Sis Jordaan Brown, Boca Ciega High; Brother Micah O'Real Friend - Osceola Fundamental High; Bro Xavier Caleb Martin - Gibbs High; Sis Zarkaria D. White - Boca Ciega High; Sis Toni Willie - St. Petersburg High; Sis Jasmine Hyatt - Calvary Christian High; and - Bro Ladarius Hollowell - Lynn University. Congratulations to each of you and your families in achieving this milestone! We pray that as this phase ends you will begin a new chapter toward fulfilling all that God has in store for you!!

On this past 4th Sunday (Children & Youth Sunday), the young people blessed us with spirit-filled, uplifting song service as they allowed God to use them in setting the worship atmosphere and Pastor Brown's message

spoke not only to the youth but to everyone in attendance. The subject was 'Determined', the key scripture from Philippians 3:14 and the question asked of the scripture was 'Who's Determined and What Should You and I Be Determined to Do?'. The answers were: I am determined to eliminate some things from my life; I am determined to evolve into my best self, and I am determined to remain excited about my future.

As we enter into the month of June, we will begin with celebration and praising God for Pastor Brian K. Brown 24th Pastoral Anniversary at St. Mark on June 9th at 10:45 a.m. Bringing the word for the anniversary will be Bishop D. Franklin Browne of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. This year's theme: 'Rooted in the Word ... Grown into the Future' with the scripture text Isaiah 55:10-11. Please join us in praising God for the Man of God, Pastor Brian K. Brown.

This year's Pizza Ministry

is winding down for 2019. Join in on the fun on Monday from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Usher Board No. 1 is giving leadership to the celebration of Father's with a luncheon on June 15 from 12 noon through 2:00 p.m. All men of St. Mark are invited to an afternoon of being served and waited on.

The Music Department of St. Mark is seeking drummer to be part of the music staff. Interested persons are asked to contact Music Director, Keith Flournoy through the church office at 727.321.6631.

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.

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
TODAY'S CHURCH Tampa Bay

You are the Gift!

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning (James 1:17)."

How many times have you been preparing to go to a graduation, wedding, birthday party, anniversary celebration, retirement event, house-warming or other special occasions and wondered what gift to bring? Sometimes the only gift that you need to bring is yourself. You are a gift from God and often your presence is more enough.

You are an expression of God and a gift to the earth. God has given you time, talents, and treasures so that you prosper and serve as a blessing to others. The

unique combination of these gifts makes you a Designer's Original and empowers you to connect with others who can benefit from your authenticity.

The Wise Men knew that Jesus was a Wayshower; therefore, they brought gifts which were characteristic of who he was: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. You have gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold represents your treasure, finances, and ability to give and receive increase, abundance, overflow and more than enough. Frankincense is a fragrant gum resin that represents talents. You are multi-talented; however, you possess at least one talent, skill, or ability which God designed and destined for you to uniquely

make your mark in this world. Myrrh is a slightly pungent perfume which symbolizes time. Although there 24 hours in a day, 7 days in a week and 365 days in a year, you never know how much time that you have on this earth, so it is essential you use it wisely for God's greater good and yours.

As a Wayshower, you are an inexhaustible gift that never stops giving. The more that you discover the wonder of who you are, the more you are inspired to freely give of yourself. The more that you intentionally give of yourself from your heart, the more you are replenished and find that you have even more to give. Spirit always gives you creative ways to express your divinity.



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SENIOR WOMEN'S MINISTRY
Sister Dorothy P. Davis, President

14th Annual Session of
One Thousand Women In White

South Florida Progressive
Missionary Baptist Association
Reverend Brian K. Brown, Moderator

Hosted By
St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church
1301 37th Street, South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33711
Reverend Brian K. Brown, Pastor
Sunday, August 18, 2019 | 2:00 PM

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019 | 5 PM WWW.TODAYSCHURCHTAMPABAY.ORG

GRAND OPENING

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Dr. Doral R. Pulley
SPIRITUAL LEADER

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COMMUNITY NEWS

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St. Petersburg Toilet Rebate Program

St. Petersburg water
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To check your eligibility:
Call **727-893-7676** or email us:
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Available for a limited time; restrictions
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Customers must call to check eligibility and receive
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This program is cooperatively funded by the City of St. Petersburg
and the Southwest Florida Water Management District.



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