

2019-10-03

The Weekly Challenger : 2019 : 10 : 03

The Weekly Challenger, et al

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

Recommended Citation

The Weekly Challenger, et al, "The Weekly Challenger : 2019 : 10 : 03" (2019). *Newspaper collection*. 1232.
<https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/challenger/1232>

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

The Weekly Challenger

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED TO YOUR COMMUNITY

VOL. 51 NO. 50

OCTOBER 3 - OCTOBER 9, 2019

50¢

IN THIS WEEK



PAGE 4
COMMUNITY NEWS
Posh beauty



PAGE 7
COMMUNITY NEWS
Empath Health
support for mothers



PAGE 9
COMMUNITY NEWS
She loves herself

INDEX

COMMUNITY
NEWS

PAGES 2 - 4,
7 - 10

CHURCH NEWS
PAGES 5 - 6



Historic Bethel AME Church rolled out the red carpet for celebrities and honored guests who attended their 125th anniversary Saturday, Sept. 28, at the Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park Hotel.

Historic Bethel AME celebrates 125 years of service

BY FRANK DROUZAS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — When Historic Bethel AME Church called, Hollywood responded! The oldest church in the City of St. Petersburg celebrated its 125th anniversary with the likes of Thomas “Nephew Tommy” Miles and native son and Hollywood producer Will Packer Saturday, Sept. 28.

Bethel AME has played an essential role in the spiritual, social, civic and educational his-

tory of St. Pete’s African-American community, especially that of the neighborhood known as “Methodist Town.”

In 1894, the original building was a wooden structure located on the same property. By 1905, that congregation outgrew the original building and the masonry church building known as the “stone church” was constructed in two phases.

In 1922, construction began on the present brick edifice architecturally based on the

Gothic Revival style. It is modeled after Mother Bethel, the denominational connection landmark church in Philadelphia.

The new church was literally built over the existing masonry, and according to historical records, only one Sunday service was suspended due to construction.

Modern updates were added in 1965, such as central air and heat along with an addition for a pastor’s study, finance room and

additional restrooms. An elevator was added in 1986, and later a major roof project was completed.

Much service and impact have been witnessed since Rev. J.S. Braswell and those faithful African-American settlers that moved to this fair city. At the 74th session of the West Coast Annual Conference before the 120th anniversary, Rev. Kenneth F. Irby was assigned to lead historic Bethel.

See **BETHEL**, page 9

Dr. Paul McRae: A man of excellence

BY DEXTER MCCREE
Feature Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – All one needs to know about Dr. Paul McRae is that he was a true professional, a family man and one who contributed to his community. He passed away Friday, Sept. 13.

Dr. McRae had everything a man could want: a beautiful and supportive partner in his wife, Donna. The two met about 55 years ago at Michigan State University. Their union lasted 51 years and produced three successful children.

Born in 1945 in New York City, he moved to St. Petersburg with his family as a toddler. Growing up in south St. Pete, Dr. McRae was affectionately known in the neighborhood and to his classmates as “Butch.”

He attended Gibbs High School, where he was active in the band as a first-chair saxophonist. In 1962, Dr. McRae graduated from Gibbs High

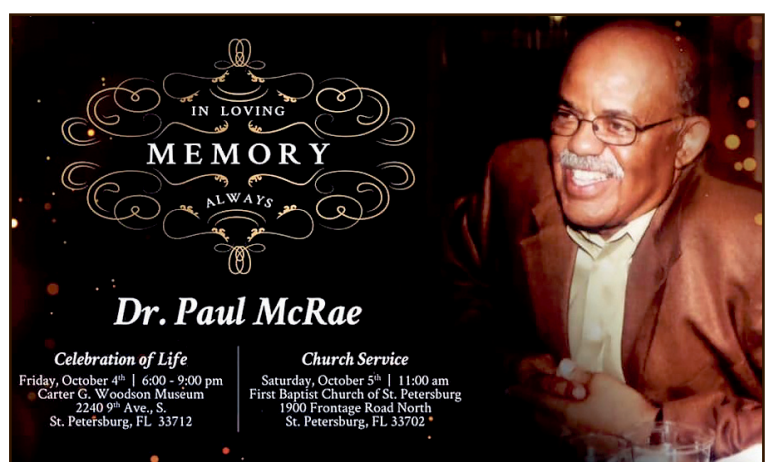
School at 16 years old.

“The neighborhood admired our brother who internalized within all of us to prepare ourselves to one day make a difference in our community in our own activism,” said Sevell C. Brown, III, National Christian League of Councils Coordinator.

After high school, McRae earned a bachelor’s degree at Michigan State University and continued to Meharry Medical College School of Medicine, where he received his medical degree.

Dr. McRae completed an internship and residency at Wayne State University School of Medicine, followed by an externship with Boston City Hospital. As a Major in the U.S. Medical Corp in 1975, he worked at General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital and completed a Fellowship at Ohio State University Medical Center.

Dr. McRae practiced medicine for nearly 47 years. He was



the first black chief of staff of Bayfront Medical Center and an honorary member of the National Black Nurses Association, St. Petersburg.

Primarily practiced St. Pete, his specialties included gastroenterology and internal medicine. He was affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including Bayfront Health St. Petersburg and St. Anthony’s Hospital.

Dr. McRae received the Bud Pryor Award seven times as the Instructor of the Year for the intern and resident program at Bayfront.

In addition to his profession, family was immensely important to Dr. McRae. His children marvel today about the family time and friendly debates that took place around the dinner table.

There was much trivia

See **McRAE**, page 4

We Value *Diversity* | We Value *Education* | We Value *History*
www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com • 727-896-2922

The Team to Call...

Until every baby is born Healthy!

FMI call 727-767-6780 or visit
www.HopkinsAllChildrens.org/HealthyStart

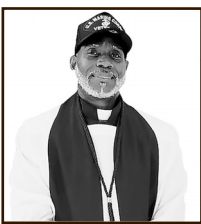
Healthy START
A program of
JOHN HOPKINS
ALL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

GALLERIE 909
@ The Pavilion

You're Invited to Experience
Our new location
559 49th Street South
Saint Petersburg, FL 33707
727-565-3930

Art - Textiles - Fashion - Jewelry
Home Furnishings - Design Help
& more (We Offer Gift Cards)

Regular Hours: Tues - Fri 10am - 6pm
Sat 10am 5pm | Sun 10am - 4pm
Closed on Mondays



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

—Praise the Lord saints.
WOW!

I take a few weeks off from this subject matter and Boom!, one of the most incredible public events in all of Christianity occurs.

If you haven't heard or seen the many YouTube videos and Podcasts then you have to keep you head out of the sand.

As if these aren't still fractured with New Birth, here we go with another example that has the very appearance of to quote Jerry McGuire, "So me the Money".

A visiting well known pastor spoke after Pastor Bryant had already spoke and Kanye had his "event", and offerings had already been taken up, he calls for another offering. If that wasn't bad enough, he declares that he was gonna start it out by donating the first \$1,000.

He tried to prompt the audience to clap their hands because there was a dead silence when he asked for 20 people to

give \$1,000, well 19 because as I stated, he declared he was gonna be the first to donate \$1,000.

To rub more salt in the wound and attempt to pull on the emotional heart strings of the innocent saints who hang on the very words that come from us spiritual leaders who are to represent Jesus Christ, Pastor Bryant proceeds to declare that he has a \$20 million debt that he apparently agreed to accept when he took the position as Pastor. WOW!

I remember when we restarted the St. Pete branch of the NAACP back in 2015, we found out that the State leaders told us that we were going to be responsible for a \$20,000 debt that was left from the previous leadership which got shut down because of it.

I will say this, I don't believe there was one member that was silent and said okay when do we start and how much does each have to pay. That's putting it mildly.

It seems that it would appear to be quite hard to

BATTLE SCARS, When the Church Wounds Its' Own - Part 4

focus on Jesus and saving souls when you know you have a \$20 million debt hanging over your head every service. I'm still at a lose as to why an individual who built his own church from the ground up inherited from your dad and from like 20 saints to over 15,000 then this opportunity comes and you turn your back on the very individuals that "made" you who you are today.

Some would say for growth others, selfish and ungrateful.

I also heard that Pastor Bryant stated a laundry list of things the ministry has done over the years but if you have over 30,000 members ...

Also, when you boast of doing church work in foreign lands I kinda got an issue with this.

Wanna know why, I'll let the scriptures tell you. Acts 2:43-47 Amplified Bible (AMP)

43 A sense of awe was felt by everyone, and many wonders and signs (attesting miracles) were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all those

who had believed [in Jesus as Savior] were together and had all things in common [considering their possessions to belong to the group as a whole]. 45 AND THEY BEGAN SELLING THEIR PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS AND WERE SHARING THE PROCEEDS WITH ALL [THE OTHER BELIEVERS], AS ANYONE HAD NEED.

Acts 4: 32-35 Amplified Bible (AMP)

32 Now the company of believers was of one heart and soul, and not one [of them] claimed that anything belonging to him was [exclusively] his own, but everything was common property and for the use of all. 33 And with great ability and power the apostles were continuously testifying to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace [God's remarkable loving kindness and favor and goodwill] rested richly upon them all. 34 THERE WAS NOT A NEEDY PERSON AMONG THEM, BECAUSE THOSE WHO

WERE OWNERS OF LAND OR HOUSES WERE SELLING THEM, AND BRINGING THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALES 35 AND PLACING THE MONEY DOWN AT THE APOSTLES' FEET. THEN IT WAS DISTRIBUTED TO EACH AS ANYONE HAD NEED.

So, when you boast about doing for others that are not of your fold and those that are of your fold, visiting your place of worship weekly, giving their support weekly, acknowledge you as their spiritual leader for years, and they run into a shortcoming financially and you do nothing, kinda rubs me the wrong way. Oh, I've heard that some have said the church ain't no welfare office and we can't help everyone. I'm just gonna let that one marinate for a bit.

My bad, did I forget to mention that the purpose the visiting pastor asked for the "SPECIAL" offering was that T.I. and his wife Tiny and friend had walked in to the service remember AFTER both

Pastor Bryant and the visiting pastor had already closed and offerings were already collected.

T.I. detailed it blow by blow and was furious because he felt they were targeted and equated to Dolla Bill ringing the red light at the Player's Club.

Oh, like yall don't know what I'm talking bout. Fine, Bernie Mac played a Strip club owner and whenever a big celebrity or high roller came into the club, he would hit this red button in his office that rang a bell and red light signaling to the women that there was big money in the house. Just like Friday, it's a black classic.

Man, I'm outta space. I planned to break down Eph 34 but I guess next week.

Till next week, Blessings Bishop Elect Dr. Rob Harrison

PS – Please support the Golf Tournament we are co-sponsoring with Chief Holloway and SPPD. It's a first! Please look at the flyer for details.

W W W . T H E W E E K L Y C H A L L E N G E R . C O M

BIG DREAMS. BOLD FUTURE.

DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Dept. Number/Name: 0-0662-000 / WUSF-FM
Job Code/Title: 4714 / Development Specialist
College/Division: UCM-Broadcasting
Hiring Salary/Salary Range: \$31,500.00-\$36,000.00
Salary Plan: Staff
Position Numbers: 00012351 & 00012352

ORGANIZATIONAL SUMMARY

WUSF Public Media is a comprehensive public media organization that operates an NPR news and jazz radio station and an all-classical music radio station, and provides digital content online, through newsletters, podcasts and social media and serves a weekly audience of greater than 350,000. It is a department of the University of South Florida, has 70 employees and a budget of \$12 million.

POSITION SUMMARY

Responsibilities include assisting the membership team with all designated duties, donor gift processing and acknowledgement, data entry, report generation and monthly database activities. In addition, responsibilities include customer service, On Air membership campaigns, and interacting with volunteers.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Performs specific operational duties following a calendar schedule. Duties include running thank you letters, membership renewals, monthly reminders, the morning update process, membership statistical reports, National Change of Address Reports and updates, monthly database backup; and projects such as tax receipts campaign and time lines for membership campaigns.

Cross-trained on all membership activities. Batches and enters all donor contributions, including vehicle donations and matching gifts; processes invoices; morning allegiance updates; and coordinates thank you items (premiums) for donors. Processes monthly credit card and EFT decline letters, Sustainer anniversary letters, and Sustainer upgrade gifts; transmittal verification and daily interaction with members by telephone and e-mail.

Other duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

This position requires a High School diploma or equivalent and four years of clerical experience, at least one of which must be directly related to development or community relations. College coursework may substitute for the required experience on a year for year basis.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

Bachelor's degree or the equivalent of four years' experience, preferably in the non-profit industry. Experience working with confidential information. Proficient in word processing and Allegiance database management (or equivalent software) -- web module, a plus. 3 years' experience in customer service as well as use of database software and office applications.

For full description and to apply, please go to Careers@USF (Job ID: 23013) at https://www.usf.edu/work-at-usf/careers/

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

USF is an equal opportunity, equal access academic institution that embraces diversity in the workplace.

FLORIDA Lottery

PICK OF THE WEEK!

28 52 40

CASH 3

563
975
802

DOG DAYS

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

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Seeking a Full-Time and a Part-Time Youth Worker.

Responsible for guiding and supporting the educational, emotional, and social development of youth 6 – 14 years of age.

High School Diploma or GED with 2 years' experience. Must be willing to earn the Florida Child Care Staff Credential within 6 months of employment.

Pay is \$15.87 per hour. Part-time 15 – 30 hours per week.

Applicant must pass a level II background screening.

Please send cover letter, resume, and transcript or diploma to social@sanderlinfamilycenter.org by Wednesday, October 9.

James B. Sanderlin
Neighborhood Family Center

Cultivating a community where children and families are valued, loved and destined to succeed

WE ENCOURAGE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Weekly Challenger

is distributed in the following cities:
St. Petersburg ■ Clearwater ■ Largo
Tarpon Springs ■ Dunedin ■ Safety Harbor

P.O. Box 35130, St. Petersburg, FL 33705
Phone: (727) 896-2922
Fax: (727) 823-2568
Email: editor@theweeklyphallenger.com
www.theweeklyphallenger.com

Ethel L. Johnson
CEO/Publisher Emerita

Lyn Johnson
Publisher/General Manager

Advertising
Advertising Dept. 727-896-2922
advertising@theweeklyphallenger.com

Lorrie Bellinger
Art Director

PUBLISHED WEEKLY on Thursdays

READERSHIP
100,000 monthly

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
\$50 for 1 year (local only)

SINGLE COPY 50 cents

ATTN. POSTMASTER:
Send all address changes to:
The Weekly Challenger
P.O. Box 35130
St. Petersburg, FL 33705

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

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

COLUMNIST'S DISCLAIMER
The views expressed by The Weekly Challenger columnists/ advice columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of The Weekly Challenger. By publishing such columns, The Challenger is not advocating the following of any advice or suggestion expressed.

SUBMISSIONS POLICY
Submissions to The Weekly Challenger may be edited for reasons of space, clarity or for considerations of liability. All submissions become the sole property of The Weekly Challenger. The Weekly Challenger reserves the right to run all or part of any submission at a later time. Some submissions may take precedence due to timeliness or newsworthiness.

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

VERIFIED

Volume 51 ■ Number 50
Published Thursday,
October 3, 2019
10 pages ■ 1 section

© The Weekly Challenger

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

The Weekly Challenger

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

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone No: _____
Email Address: _____

New Subscription ____ (or) Renewal ____ Date: ____ Amount Paid: \$ ____ Cash Check ____

Comments: _____

Make Checks Payable to: The Weekly Challenger
Mail this form & payment to: The Weekly Challenger, P.O. Box 35130, St. Petersburg, FL 33705
Email: editor@theweeklyphallenger.com • Phone: (727) 896-2922 • Fax (727) 823-2568

RATE REDUCTION SPECIAL!

IT'S JUST GOOD TO BE INFORMED



Know Your Prostate Health Facts

Fact:

One in six African American men will develop prostate cancer in his lifetime.

Fact:

Prostate cancer is highly treatable but survival rates are highest when patients are diagnosed early.

At Moffitt, we're dedicated to helping men understand their risks, warning signs and treatment options available.

To learn more, call 1-888-663-3488 or visit Moffitt.org



OPEN HOUSE

See why Pinellas Technical College is
THE FIRST CHOICE

> CLEARWATER CAMPUS

Tuesday, October 8th

5:30pm - 7:00pm

6100 154th Ave N, Clearwater, FL 33760

> ST. PETERSBURG CAMPUS

Thursday, October 10th

5:30pm - 7:00pm

901 34th St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33711



Opportunity starts here

Jump-Start Your Career!

- High School Dual Enrollment (11th - 12th grade)
- Career Training Programs
- Most programs completed in one year, or less
- Affordable Tuition, & Financial Aid for qualified students
- Small Class Sizes & Hands-On Experience
- Online, On-campus, Day & Evening Classes available
- Earn Industry Licenses, Certificates & College Credit where applicable
- GED, ESOL & Adult Education
- Career Counseling & Job Placement Services

> Tour Campus

> Meet Instructors

> Attend Enrollment/ Financial Aid Workshops

FOR MORE INFORMATION

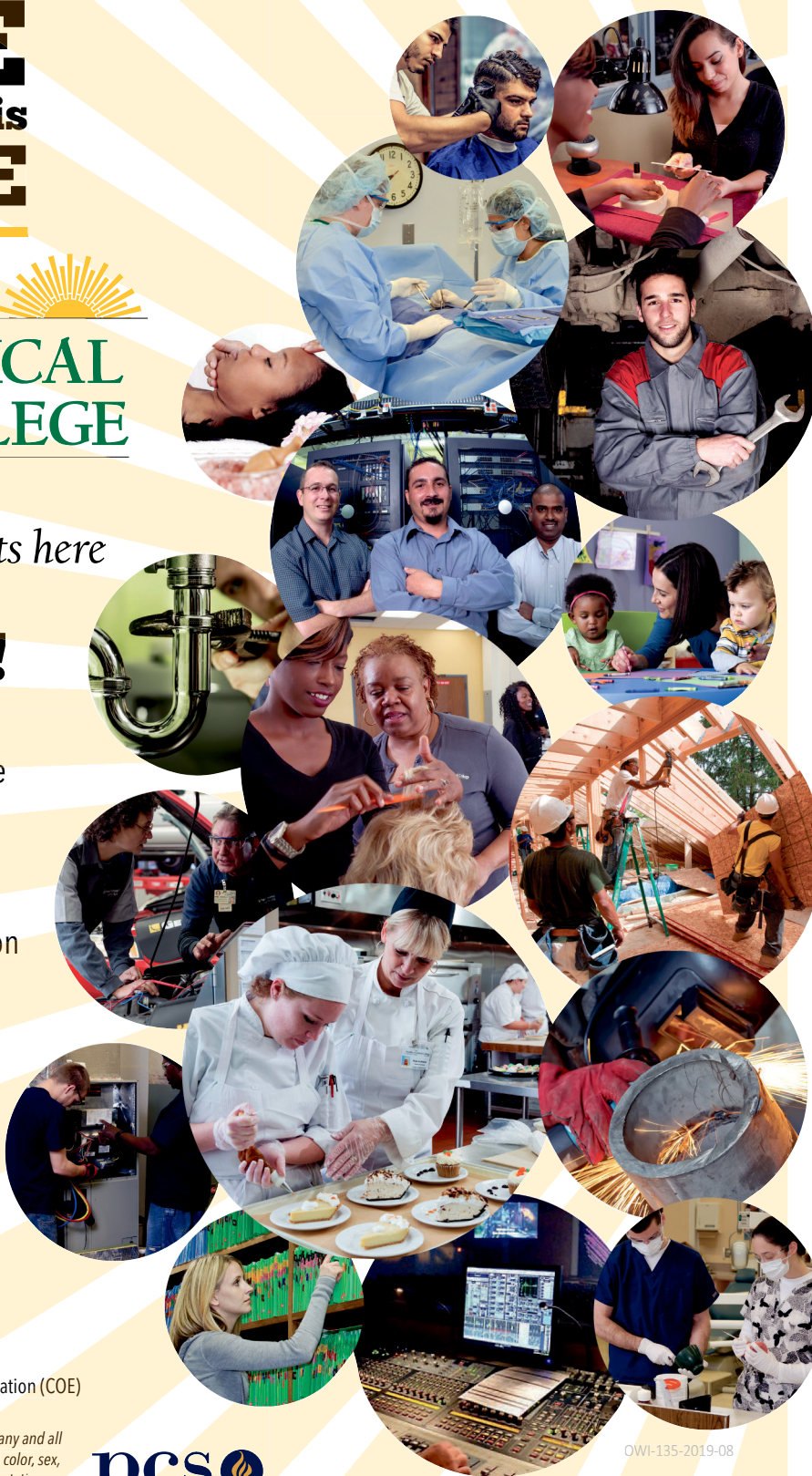
727.538.7167 Clearwater

727.893.2500 St. Petersburg

myptc.edu

Accredited by: Council on Occupational Education (COE)

Pinellas County Schools | www.pcsb.org
The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, prohibits any and all forms of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation or disability in any of its programs, services or activities.



OWI-135-2019-08

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE

Cancelled or Non-Renewed??

WE CAN HELP!!!
727-393-4617

Larry Eugene Walker • Insurance
Great Automobile Rates • Over 20 Years of Experience

Deannie K's Beauty Salon



*Beauty is more
than skin deep.*

Call TODAY for an appointment

Phone: 727-894-1734

2500 9th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33705

B. Brinson Insurance Agency

Auto, Life, Health and Home Owners
brinsoninsagy@yahoo.com



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

LOOK NO FURTHER FOR CHURCH SUPPLIES

Communion Items • Choir Robes
Bulletins • Bibles • Sunday School books
Gospel CDs / DVDs and so much more

Reader's Choice Book & Gift Store
4341 34th St. S., St. Petersburg
(Next to Skyway Mall)
(727) 867-3696
Open: Mon. - Sat. 10 am - 6:30 pm



\$20.00 Basic Shampoo/Set
Silk Press starting at \$50
Specializing in Healthy Hair

1834 49th St. S, Gulfport • 727-328-2623



CREAL FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATIONS, INC

1940 7th AVENUE SOUTH
ST PETERSBURG, FL 33712
727-896-2602

"STILL SERVING WITH DIGNITY AND
COMPASSION 60 YEARS LATER"

CREALHANDCREMATIONS@GMAIL.COM

Posh beauty in south St. Pete

BY KARIN DAVIS-THOMPSON
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG—Desiree Haynes-Pittmon said she has always had a passion for using beauty as a way of empowering women to feel their best. After receiving her license from the Academy of Beauty and Business, she decided to open a beauty bar.

Haynes-Pittmon named



Desiree Haynes-Pittmon

her business Boomerang Lash and Beauty Bar and opened up shop in Lakeview Shopping Center, 2279 34th St. S. This graduate of Northeast High School specializes in mink lash extensions, lace-wig installs, custom coloring lace wigs, facials, sew-ins, makeup, body contouring and crochet braids.

Along with her cosmetology license, Haynes-Pittmon is also a nurse and a licensed esthetician, giving her advanced knowledge about skincare and the best way for a client's skin to look fantastic.

"I have always loved making people feel beautiful," Haynes-Pittmon related. "I have been in the beauty industry since I was 18, working in my cousin's salon as an assistant."

The married mother of three said she comes from a long line of beauty industry professionals, with sisters, cousins and nieces in the business.

"My grandmother was a hairdresser, and my mom was a model for many

years," she said. "Growing up, I was pretty much surrounded by the beauty industry."

With the industry playing such a prominent role in her life, it was no surprise that she decided to open her own shop.

"I opened Boomerang Lash and Beauty Bar because I wanted us to have a place in our community where we can come and get pampered and beautified at an affordable price," Haynes-Pittmon stated. "The favorite part of what I do is making people feel beautiful."

She said the name for her new business and the logo was something God gave to her. For her, the name symbolizes the strength you can find in beauty.

"The boomerang is like the infinity sign," Haynes-Pittmon stated. "That sign is a symbol of perfection and empowerment."

Along with specializing in hair, lashes and skin, her beauty bar also provides classes to anyone inter-

ested in becoming a licensed, certified lash tech.

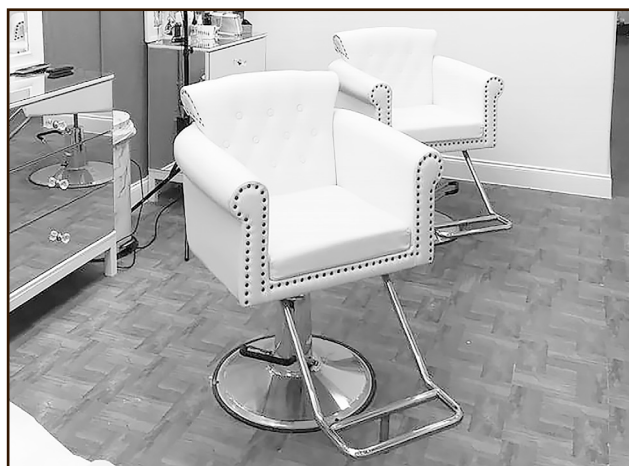
"The classes are a way for me to give back to my community," she said. "Our culture has endured so much; I just want us all to win."

Since starting the beauty bar less than a year ago, the new business owner said she is so excited by the response she's received. Several customers have given rave reviews on social media with photos of their new lashes and new hairstyles.

Her Facebook wall is full of compliments and satisfied customers, showing off their new lashes and hairstyles.

"I feel so blessed and highly favored," she revealed. "When people praise my work, it makes me feel proud and blessed. I want to thank God for blessing me."

For more information on the Boomerang Lash and Beauty Bar, visit the website at www.boomeranglashandbeautybar.com, or call 727-322-3882.



Funeral services for Dr. McRae this Saturday.

McRAE, from front page

learned and educational uplift that went on during those moments. His children attribute much of their knowledge to the conversations about politics, sports, education, religion and any other subjects that would affect their intellectual growth.

Dr. McRae was also known as the family handyman. He was hands-on with home and school projects. If it needed to be fixed, he was up to the task and stayed with it until it was complete.

"I remember my dad staying up late at night to help me with my science project," said daughter Leah McRae. "He was so committed to us learning and doing well."

The Paul and Donna team instilled in their children high achievement and serving others. They believed in positioning themselves so they could be of service to their community.

Modeled in their home were education and com-

munity, and the McRaes got to see their hard work come to fruition through their children:

Paul McRae, Jr. is a senior healthcare technology executive who currently serves as senior director of global healthcare programs and strategy for Service Now. He is married, has one child, and lives in the Atlanta Metro area.

Attorney Leah McRae has served as a court specialist for the Sixth Judicial District and Assistant State Attorney in Miami-Dade County. She currently serves the City of St. Petersburg as the director of education and community engagement.

Deana McRae is a graduate of both Howard University and George Washington University. She lives in Washington, D.C., working as a mental health advocate for the American Psychiatric Association.

He also had a daughter,

Pam Roberts, from a previous relationship. She is a school teacher in Los Angeles.

Dr. McRae was a giver, enjoyed sports, and was committed to supporting his community. He was a member of the Sun Coasters, a season ticketholder with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers since their beginning in 1976, and supported little youth league.

When the youth needed a physical to qualify to play football, Dr. McRae volunteered his services to the Lakewood Jr. Spartans so that every child had an opportunity to participate.

Dr. McRae had a special bond with Senator Darryl Rouson. Not only did they grow up blocks apart, but Rouson credits him with saving his life.

In Rouson's days of addiction, he went on a five-day drinking and smoking binge. Out of concern, Dr. Fred Guerrier went to Rouson's home and found him

unconscious.

Dr. Guerrier called Dr. McRae for help and transported him to the hospital where Dr. McRae discovered Rouson had Mallory-Weiss tear in his esophagus.

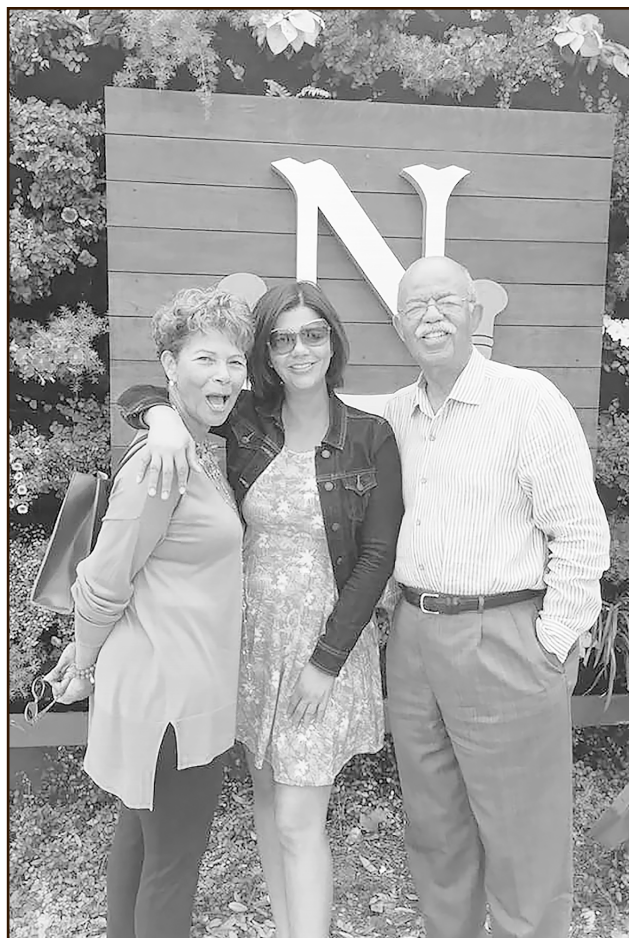
He was bleeding internally. The two quickly operated, ultimately saving Rouson's life. That day was April 10, 1985.

"Dr. McRae never judged me, down me or made me feel any kind of way or less than. I'm forever grateful for this great man and his humility," said Rouson.

A Celebration of Life is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 4 from 6-9 p.m. at the Carter G. Woodson African American Museum, 2240 9th Ave. S.

The funeral will be this Saturday, Oct. 5 at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church of St. Petersburg, 1900 Gandy Blvd. N, St. Petersburg.

To reach Dexter McCree, email dmcree@theweeklyphallenger.com



Donna, Leah and Dr. Paul McRae



LEGACY56
Presents the 2nd Annual
2019 SANKOFA SERIES

Featuring
The Sankofa Symposium
Beyond the Diagnosis: Reclaiming the Genius of A.L.L. Children
A community conversation with a panel of experts
The Journey Home
An Evening Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Cyd Campbell



Honoring the Legacy of
Cyd Campbell, MD, FAAP
Pediatrician | Behavioral Health Specialist

SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS:

FRIDAY | OCTOBER 18
James Center
6:00PM - 8:30PM
Symposium:
Reclaiming the Genius

Eckerd College
4200 - 5th Avenue
South, St. Pete. 33711



SATURDAY | OCTOBER 19
Miller Auditorium
7:15PM - 9:00PM
The Journey Home:
An Evening Honoring Dr. Cyd Campbell
Eckerd College
4200 - 5th Avenue South, St. Pete. 33711



Lawrence Hamilton,
Master of Ceremony,
HR Leader, Education and
Ethics Advocate

Register for Legacy-56 2019 Sankofa Series
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: 813-220-3148






ST. PETERSBURG POLICE

"bridging the gap
for a better
tomorrow"




BISHOP REV. DR. ROB HARRISON
SPPD POLICE CHIEF ANTHONY HOLLOWAY

TRUE HOLINESS WORSHIP MINISTRIES, INC.
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
ST. PETERSBURG POLICE DEPT.
1ST ANNUAL 2019
BUILDING UNITY IN OUR COMMUNITY
CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT




SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 2019

MANGROVE BAY GOLF COURSE, 875 62ND AVE NE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33702

727.893.7800 TEE TIME 10AM REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:30 AM

4 PERSON BEST BALL SCRAMBLE * EACH TEAM WILL HAVE AT LEAST 1 SPDP OFFICER

\$85.00 INCLUDES CART, GREEN FEES, GOODIE BAG, BALLS, BOTTLED WATER

PRIZES FOR PLACES 1ST - 3RD - ALL PAR 3'S CLOSEST TO THE PIN AND LONGEST DRIVE

GET A HOLE-IN-ONE WIN A CAR !!! *PRIZE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO AVAILABILITY

SUPER RAFFLE TICKET \$10.00 ENTITLES YOU TO ENTER RAFFLE AND 2 MULIGANS.

MILITARY AND FIRST RESPONDERS RECEIVE \$5.00 DISCOUNT. ID PLEASE



To REGISTER CONTACT BISHOP ROB HARRISON @ 727.265.6437
IN POLK COUNTY BISHOP JOSEPH LEWIS @ 863.255.9430



A Percentage of the Proceeds Will Go to Local Non-Profits to Include But not Limited to PSFEC, Parent Support For Education Council and AVA, Advantage Village Academy, Both Local St. Pete 501(c)3s that have helped to Advocate for Our Local Youth and Communities for Decades.

SPECIAL GUEST PLAYER
100 YEAR OLD, 2X GOLF HOFFER
MR. HERBERT DIXON

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.

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

Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



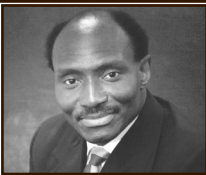
Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.
Pastor

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 Worship7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.

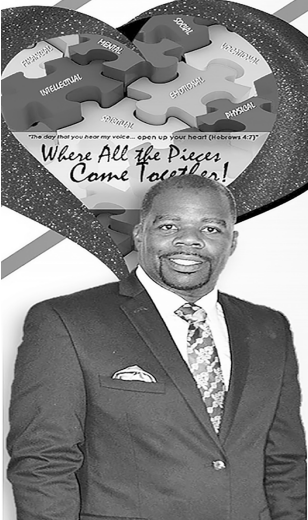
WednesdayNoonday Wednesday in the Word and Bread of Life

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.

Today's Church TAMPA BAY



ST. PETE

940 5TH AVENUE SOUTH

Staybridge Suites/Bayside Ballroom

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

9 AM|Centering Service

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

From the Pastor's Desk

Personality - . . . that they may be one just as We are one . . . John 17:22

Personality is the unique, limitless part of our life that makes us distinct from everyone else. It is too vast for us to comprehend. An island in the sea may be just the top of a large mountain, and our personality is like that island. We don't know the greatest depths of our being; therefore, we cannot measure ourselves. We start to think we can, but soon realize that there is really only one Being who fully understands us and that is our Creator.

Personality is the characteristic mark of the inner, spiritual man, just as individuality is the characteristic of the outer natural man. Our God can never be described in terms of His total Person – "I and my Father are one" John 10:30. Personality merges with another person. When love or the Spirit of God comes upon a persona, he is transformed. He will then no longer insist on maintaining his individuality. Our Lord never referred to a person's individuality or his isolated position, but spoke in terms of the total person – "that they may be one just as We are one. . ." Once your rights to yourself are surrendered to God, your true personal nature begins responding to God immediately. Jesus Christ brings freedom to your total persona, and even your individuality is transformed. The transformation is brought about by love – personal devotion to Jesus. Love is the overflowing result of one person in true fellowship with another. Please join us on Sunday mornings at 10:45 for the preached word.

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

I don't need your validation

Scripture – "Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee (Hebrews 5:5)."

Denial – Nothing in the outer world validates me.

Affirmation – My validation comes from within.

Only God can validate you. Your validation does not come from people, places, or things. You are made and approved by God; therefore, no one else's approval is required. Your validation comes from knowing that you are God's offspring and as such nothing that you think, say, or do can ever change that Truth (Romans 8:35-39).

Jesus, the Wayshower, received God's validation at the Jordan River before a multitude of people (Matthew 3:1-16). The sky opened, and a voice came from heaven that said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I AM well pleased." God was pleased with Jesus based on his being, not based on anything he had done. Jesus was validated before he performed his first miracle or preached his first message. God validated him publicly based on who he was, God's son.

When you feel out of sorts or unsure about yourself, remember that you are God's son or God's daughter. You are made in the image of God; therefore, you have unlimited divine potential. You are made in the likeness of God which is your divine actuality manifesting right here and right now. You have God's unconditional love and eternal stamp of approval.

Reflection Question – Have you ever looked to others for validation? Under what circumstances did you feel you needed validation? What did you feel was missing? What purpose did the validation serve for you?

Affirmation Activity – Look at yourself in the mirror and say, "I AM loved by God (pointing to your heart)." "You are loved by God (pointing at your heart's reflection)."



SAVE THE DATE

COME CELEBRATE AS WE HONOR AND APPRECIATE
REV. CLARENCE A. WILLIAMS FOR 20 YEARS OF PASTORAL MINISTRY



"SERVANT LEADER"

1 Peter 4:13 (NIV)

1999 - 2019

The Reverend Clarence A. Williams

and

Mrs. Andrea P. Williams

Join us at Greater Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church for worship,
1045 16th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Wednesday, October 9, 2019 @ 7 PM

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

The Reverend Dr. John A. Evans & Congregation

THE MAIN EVENT

Sunday, October 13, 2019 @ 7:30 and 11 AM

The Reverend Jimmy J. Thompson,
Presiding Elder, The Lively Lakeland District

Saturday, November 16, 2019

6 PM

20th Year Banquet Celebration

Banquet Masters

13355 Ulmerton Road,
Clearwater, FL

(Contact the Church for more details – 727-894-1393)

Sara L. Minnifield

2nd Annual

Drum Circle

Saturday
October 26, 2019 | 11:00 AM
till 12:30 PM

TICKETS
\$25
\$5 - Refreshments
\$10 - Today's Church
\$10 - Breast Cancer
research

Join us for Fun, food and Fellowship as and learn Basic Drumming Techniques to use as you explore and express your unique rhythmic flow!

Facilitated by Jana Broder of Drum Magic

Drums will be Provided!

Today's Church, Tampa Location
todayschurchtampabay@gmail.com | 813.450.2353
Dr. Doral R. Pulley, Spiritual Leader

5107 N. Central Avenue | Tampa, FL 33603



HELP WANTED

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church has an immediate position open for a parking lot attendant. Experience is desired, but not required. Applicants must be willing to submit to a complete and thorough background check.

Please contact our administrative office Monday-Friday, 9:00-3:00 for more details.



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.

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 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”

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



Rev. Dr. Manuel L. Sykes

SERVICES


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



The Rev. Josie Rose,
Priest-in-Charge

Welcome – Bienvenidos
ST. AUGUSTINE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Joyful Spirit, Joyful Jazz
2920 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg 33712
727-867-6774
StAugustine@tampabay.rr.com

Sunday Communion and Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Communion and Healing Service 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays



REV. ROBERT A. VINSON, JR.

FAITH MEMORIAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
1800 18TH AVENUE SOUTH
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33712
727-896-0351
FAITHMMBC@YAHOO.COM
GROWING RELATIONALLY IN DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH CHRIST
MATTHEW 28:18-20, JOHN 15:4-5

FAITH IN ACTION
FAITH MEMORIAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH est. 1909

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

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



Donn & Jean
Freshler

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

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



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 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.

YOUR CHURCH AD COULD BE HERE

Call: 727-896-2922



INSPIRATIONS

BY DIERDRE DOWNING-JACKSON

Missing

Thank you LORD for reminding me, to trust your way and to keep the faith.

Today I find my heart is heavy and feeling pretty full; I am deeply missing those who have left this earth and gone home to be with You.

My mother with her gentle spirit so sweet; I miss her and her loving smile whenever we would meet.

My father who said wealth is of the spirit and treasured his family and his girls; he lived the musician’s prayer and demonstrated through his music his love for GOD and not the things of this world.

As I thank GOD for His grace and His mercy, my prayer is that one day; that joining my loved ones in Heaven, will also be my journey someday.

Missing the presence of my dearest loved ones, reminds me to reflect on the joy of my memories;
Like hearing the voice of my sister singing beautiful gospel and jazz melodies.

There have been so many loved ones whom I so deeply miss; only God can bring my peace by knowing with JESUS there is truly bliss.”
AMEN

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;”

I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.”

M Memories

I Inspiration

S Salvation

S Serenity

I Immanuel

N Noble

G GOD

Clark Atlanta University and Eckerd College Upward Bound historic 1974 recruitment project

BY SEVELL BROWN
Contributor

ST. PETERSBURG – The program director, co-ordinator of counselors, administrators, professors, counselors and college tutors at Florida Presbyterian College, which became Eckerd College in 1979, took great pride in working to enhance and improve the academic skills, vocabulary and numerous assets of youth.

Throughout the youth's time in the program, they were prepared to matriculate successfully into collegiate ranks. The program became known as Eckerd College's Upward Bound.

In the spring of 1974, the coordinator of counselors of the Upward Bound program oversaw hundreds of students as they traveled to Atlanta to meet with the Director of Admissions Clifton Rawls and Marian Wilkes, director of Financial Aid at Clark Atlanta University (CAU).

The meeting was pre-arranged, and both administrators were ready to review and take executive action on what amounted to a three-hour recruitment session for Clark Atlanta University.

Upward Bound coordinator of counselors delivered 33 folders of

applications and transcripts of St. Pete students that earned the highest-ranking scores on their SATs and 3.2 - 4.2 grade point averages in their senior year. Most were Upward Bound students.

Rawls and Wilkes were so overwhelmed and immensely impressed with the academic excellence and credentials of these students, who were to graduate in a few months from their respective high schools, that all 33 student applications were approved for admission.

Wilkes then granted full academic scholarships to the students who qualified: Dr. Cyd Campbell, Thomas Pittman, Dr. Katurah Jenkins-Hall, actress Dr. Angela Bassett and others. Dr. Kenneth Leon, Rory Staten, Lorraine Blossom, David Davidson, Sharon Hazely, Vernita Mobley, Shelia McDonald, Alvin Porter and others were granted full financial aide packages.

The 33 students were processed into CAU that spring morning. This marked the first time in CAU's history that the highest number of students from one city in a single year or semester entered CAU from a city outside of Atlanta. Jenkins-Hall opted to attend the University of South



(L-R) Upward Bounders: Lorraine Blossom, Marshall Lester (honorary), Kenny Leon, Dr. Katurah Jenkins-Hall, Thomas Pittman, David Davidson

Florida and Bassett chose Yale University.

The students of CAU were profoundly perplexed as to why they kept bumping into so many different students from St. Petersburg and how they got into CAU.

Many of the parents of the 33 students, who were graduates of other HBCUs, wanted their children to attend their alma maters and follow in their footsteps. They were not

entirely happy with the recruiter responsible for their children going to CAU.

They gave the recruiter hell. Some of these parents and grandparents were principals, educators, businesswomen and men who were a force to be reckoned with in St. Petersburg and proud alumni of their respective universities.

The coordinator of

counselors took all these reprimands with a sense of joy and satisfaction knowing that these students would now be geographically positioned to study in what is still hailed as the black Harvard, Boston College, MIT and Tufts College of the South: Clark, Morehouse, Spelman, Morris Brown, Atlanta University & ITC.

As the coordinator of counselors, who spearheaded the CAU Upward

Bound Recruitment Project for Pinellas County, I couldn't be prouder!

During a meeting with President Vivian Henderson, Ph.D. of CAU, who was appointed by President Lyndon Baines Johnson to many presidential commissions, congratulated and applauded this Upward Bound recruitment project as a historical moment in CAU's history.



Experts In Life-Changing Care

By LaShante Keys, Empath Health Community Outreach Specialist



Doulas support mothers through journeys of birth, loss and grief

We always wish for healthy pregnancy, birthing and care experiences for all women. Sadly, we have seen many news stories that black women face higher risks and rates of pregnancy complications, dying in childbirth and deaths of infants.

One essential community support to address these issues are doulas, or "women's servants" in Greek. Doulas are specially trained to assist women during labor and births of babies. They provide physical, emotional and advocacy support to help expecting mothers experience the best possible comfort.

Support for women during birth and early motherhood

African-American women die of pregnancy-related causes at a rate about three times higher than those of white women, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in May.

A group helping to support expecting and new black mothers is 3 Gems Birth Services in St. Petersburg. They provide a breastfeeding clinic, dietary and cooking information, sex education, a photographer and a professional massage therapist. They aim to help mothers and babies live healthy.

Courtney Nicole West is a St. Petersburg native, mother of two, nurse, doula and 3 Gems owner. Helping support other

women of color in her community is a labor of love.

"It's near and dear to my heart. It's a big issue how the mortality rate is so different for women of color in our society. I started doing this work after I gave birth to my second child. I had severe postpartum depression. I realized that in St. Pete there was no real support for women to come together and talk about what this is like. I got a group of women together to talk about how they feel during pregnancy and the social issues that affect women of color. I started doing a mom's group," West shared.

Communication and understanding are key for better care experiences.

"Women are at the most vulnerable state in life giving birth. We (black women) feel pain the same as everyone else. We have the right to know about our care. Our words and opinions matter. Everyone deserves to be loved, cared for and educated, no matter where they live," she noted.

West serves as a full-spectrum doula assisting women in many circumstances.

"I work with marginalized people in maternal toxic zones. We help everybody. I assist with birth, postpartum, abortion or whatever process the women are in. I've assisted with 27 births and

had the honor of working with a well-known midwife," West explained.

She nurtures and empowers women, as well as talks with medical staff to help ensure the women's wishes are met.

"I've had the pleasure of doing a lot of births at Bayfront Baby Place in St. Pete. When I get the opportunity to work with doctors, I say we are here to assist them in their care. My experiences with labor and delivery staff, especially night staff, are amazing. They have great nurses. One mom listened to Salt-N-Pepa's "Push It" because they knew she needed it. Women have the right to stand, sway and be loved during this very important process in their lives. When a baby comes into this world with love and joy, it makes a world of difference," she expressed.

Her future goals are to train to become a midwife and eventually open a first black birthing center in St. Petersburg.

"I do it for my daughters. All of this is for them and their friends. It has been a very cool journey," she said.

Support for women facing pregnancy and infant loss

The Empath Health perinatal loss program offers specialized support for women experiencing a pregnancy loss, the death of a stillborn baby or the death of a baby shortly after birth.

Our doula volunteers



3 Gems Birth Services Team L-R: Cat Halek, Alexis Thompson, Ni'Chelle Lawson, Courtney West, Lisa Pineda and Kisha Wilkinson

provide emotional and advocacy support during labor and birth, as well as help mothers and families create footprint/handprint molds or photos of their babies as memorial keepsakes. Other volunteers make special outfits and caps for the babies to wear.

Our social workers, nurses, spiritual care co-ordinators and other team members may assist mothers and families with birth planning, final arrangements, grief counseling and planning for living babies to go into our Suncoast Hospice program.

This support was the first of its kind in this area. Services are provided at St. Petersburg General Hospital and newly-added at Morton Plant Hospital and Mease Countryside Hospital.

"The greatest thing we do is provide acknowl-

edgment of the pregnancy and the birth. When we started this program in 2004 nobody ever did that. And we create an opportunity for the family to mourn their loss in whatever ways they want and need. I am really proud of this program," explained Stacy Orloff, Empath Health's vice president of innovation and community health.

Pregnancy losses are honored in a special way.

"We have an early-loss, miscarry-at-home program for second trimester losses. I've placed miscarry kits in medical offices around the county. The babies' remains can be collected in containers, placed in small wooden boxes with pretty satchels made by volunteers, taken to a crematory at no charge and honored in a memorial service there," noted Vicki "Pepper" Haywood,

the senior staff nurse/care team manager for Empath Health's pediatric program.

The doula volunteers bring compassion and comfort.

"Our doula volunteers are birthing companions supporting mothers and families. They are passionate about it. The nurses at the hospitals are so grateful for their presence with patients experiencing these losses. The families are so incredibly thankful to have this support and the memory making," Haywood added.

Thanks to all who help support our community. Anyone who needs perinatal loss or grief counseling services can call us at (727) 523-3451. Anyone who wants to become a doula volunteer can call us at (727) 523-3440. A medical background is not required for volunteering.

COMMUNITY NEWS

8 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019

www.theweeklyphallenger.com

The Weekly Challenger

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Lisa Wheeler-Bowman for St. Petersburg City Council District 7.



**OUR
COMMUNITY
OUR
VOICE
OUR
LEADER**

Recommended by
**Tampa Bay
Times**

LisaforStPete.com
f LisaforStPete

LISA WHEELER-BOWMAN
FOR ST. PETE CITY COUNCIL

Rev. Willie Tubs Whiting 2019
Oktoberfest

A fun and safe environment for kids!
FREE candy, food, bounce houses,
games, face painting and more...



**Thursday,
October 31
6 to 9pm**

Thomas "Jet" Jackson Recreation Center
1000 28th Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712
727-894-4311 | www.mzprogressive.org f

**st. petersburg
parks & recreation**



26TH ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER
**NIGHT
OF
ABUNDANCE**

You're invited!



Saturday, October 19, 2019
6PM -9PM at The Historic Coliseum
535 4th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Inspiring Stories • Special Celebrity & VIP Guests
Musical Performances • Complimentary Dinner & Desserts



26 Year Community Advocate
Carole K. Alexander
NextSTEPP CEO



Keynote Speaker - Pastor
Arnold Culbreath



Special Guest Emcee
Mariah Harrison
FOX 13



Special Guest Emcee
Rick Baker
Former St. Pete Mayor

For nearly three decades, we have enthusiastically served over 13,000 men, women and children in Pinellas County. All Night of Abundance proceeds will create a pathway to health, housing stability and wholeness for families served by Next STEPP.

Visit <http://bit.ly/nightofabundance> to RSVP or sponsor this event!
Must RSVP by Fri. October 11, 2019 • Sponsorship and Partnership Opportunities Available

For any questions, contact (727) 896-9119 or info@nextstepp.org
www.nextstepp.org



**THANKSGIVING
TURKEY GIVEAWAY
&
HEALTH AWARENESS EVENT**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2019
PINELLAS TECHNICAL COLLEGE,
901 34TH ST. S. ST. PETERSBURG, FL 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

If you would like to donate a turkey, make a kind monetary donation or be a vendor at this event please contact Princess Denise Wright at 727-742-7203. Vendor tables are \$25. Turkey registration begins on November 1st thru November 5th, 2019. Please call 727-824-7909. Details on how to register are forthcoming.
NO TURKEY REGISTRATION CALLS WILL BE ACCEPTED BEFORE NOV 1ST.

CONNECT WITH US!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE POYNTER INSTITUTE'S

Bowtie Ball

A CELEBRATION OF JOURNALISM



KATIE COURIC
Anchor, "Today" show and the "CBS Evening News,"
Author and Media Entrepreneur



NORMAN PEARLSTINE
News Executive, Los Angeles Times,
Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, Time, Inc.

Saturday, November 2, 2019
The Vinoy Renaissance Resort
501 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg

Purchase Tickets Today at
Poynter.org/Bowtie

Cocktail Attire - Bowties Encouraged
All proceeds benefit the nonprofit Poynter Institute in advancing excellence in journalism and promoting fact-based expression.

MEDIA SPONSORS:





Poynter.



Visionary Brief by Keisha Bell, Esq.

She loves herself

Love is an interesting concept. It shows itself in many ways while being elusive to many. Some search for it. Others wait for it. How many, however, truly sit still to discover it for herself?

Meet Jenifer Jeanette Lewis, an actress, singer and activist who is affectionally known as the “Black Mother of Hollywood.” She acquired this title because a lot of her fame has come from her numerous roles of being a mother in films.

It is fitting that her book is titled, “The Mother of Black Hollywood: A Memoir.” Lewis was born on January 25, 1957, in Kinloch, Mo.

The year of 1957 is the

same year that then-US Senator Storm Thurmond set the record for the longest filibuster in which he railed against a civil rights bill. It is the same year that then-President Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered US troops to support the integration of nine black students at Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas. Often, years of birth are cited without fully considering the times or its impact on a person’s life.

Lewis’ mother was a nurse’s aide. Her father was a factory worker. She is the youngest of seven children, and Missouri has its own culture. It is not New York or California.

She knew the road to

success would not be an easy one, but when had it ever been? She made a career decision that changed her life. Lewis relocated to New York City. Soon after that, she was performing on Broadway. A star had arrived.

While Lewis was making others laugh through her performances, behind the scenes, she was dealing with personal struggles. Admittedly, she knew something was wrong with her, but society does not always create safe environments for sharing.

Aside from professional personas, Lewis lived during a time when there were very public political assassinations and civil rights movements.

She understood targeted messages regarding people who looked like her – whether it be due to her race or her gender or the combination thereof. Safe spaces, is there such a public place?

Lewis finally found the courage to announce to the world what she had been struggling with. She was diagnosed with bipolar disorder in 1990. Since her diagnosis, Lewis has received years of therapy, inclusive of medication, to help her with her mental illness. Along the way, she has stated the importance of finding love within herself.

Many look for love in external places and things. Lewis has an extensive



Jenifer Jeanette Lewis

Hollywood career, as well as a strong social media presence. She has seen a lot of things and has had a lot of experiences in a society where her actual “self” has received continuous messages of not having value and of being unlovable.

Born in 1957 and pursuing a showbiz career during a time that was new to the idea of equal rights and opportunity for those like her is an accomplish-

ment of its own.

Though not the first, Lewis found the courage to go in unfamiliar territory to gift the world her talent. She found the courage to deal with what felt wrong with her within herself and then to publicly share it. She found the courage to love herself. May we all be courageous to discover love.

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

Hollywood producer Will Packer returns home

BETHEL, from front page

In June of 2016, the trustees contracted with all Trades Historical Restoration Company for the West Wall Project to restore the entire exterior, which included the roof, stain-glass windows and masonry work.

The project was funded by the State of Florida Historical Society grant made possible by then-State Representative Darryl Rouson.

Before Packer – who is known for producing 10 number one box office films – took to the podium, he was introduced by the chair of the anniversary committee, who just happened to be his mother, J. Birice Packer. She proceeded to list all of his failed aspirations from elementary school up until recently.

“I thought I had done something with my life until my mama came up here,” said Packer. “You don’t want your mama to introduce you. Boy, there was a lot of stuff y’all didn’t need to hear!”

From humble beginnings

“I have always — always! — been told that I

can do anything I wanted to do,” Packer said, adding that he continuously has the full support of his parents to pursue his dreams.

He attended Florida A&M University where he graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. It was during these college years that the creative “bug” bit him.

While at FAMU, he made a film titled “Chocolate City” with limited means.

“I shot this movie, and I didn’t really have a budget; didn’t really know what I was doing,” he related. “But I was always audacious, right? I was always very confident in my ability.”

With the project completed, Packer wanted to have a world premiere for his film, which mostly featured his roommates, fraternity brothers and friends. Despite the obvious lack of star power in “Chocolate City,” Packer decided to mail invitations to “all the top people in Hollywood” for the film’s premiere.

“Sony, Universal, Para-

mount,” he said. “If you were a big dog, you got an invitation from me!”

The Emmy Award-nominated producer quipped that in the South if you sent out invitations to an event, you were owed at least the dignity of a reply. Needless to say, none of the Hollywood heavyweights deigned to Packer’s invite to attend his world-premiere about 3,000 miles away.

Even though no one replied, an optimistic Packer still reserved the entire front row of the theater for the movie studio folks, just in case.

His mother asked Packer if he had thought to invite Oprah Winfrey, and when he told her he hadn’t, she pressed him to invite her. More to appease his mother than anything else, Packer conceded and invited Winfrey as well.

The premier was a formal affair, Parker noted, so he insisted all the students rent tuxedos and ball gowns for the film viewing. As it turned out, it drew a crowd so huge that not everyone could get into the premier, and he was duly

chastised by some who were aware that the front row remained empty.

“Did you really invite Oprah Winfrey?” an incredulous student asked him. “With a plus one!”

Winfrey and all the invited Hollywood guests were all no-shows, and the front row stayed empty, Packer said.

“But guess what? Every other seat in that auditorium was packed,” he said. “Every other seat had somebody in it that wanted to see our little movie. That’s when I learned, I don’t make movies for just the people in the front row. I make my movies for everybody.”

With no Hollywood connections, Packer found it hard to get anyone interested in his film about life at an HBCU.

“Nobody in Hollywood wanted to make my movie,” Packer said. “You should have seen just how hard they told me, ‘No.’”

Not to be put off, Packer honed his pitch and tried again, even revisiting some of the same executives who had listened politely then showed him the door.

“I went back in the room with new energy, and I pitched it again!” he said. “And you know what they told me?” “Didn’t you come in here last week with that pitch! Didn’t we tell you ‘No’ the first time!” But with all those Nos, guess what? I got one Yes. That’s all it took.”

Packer took that one Yes and turned it into a movie called “Stomp the Yard,” which was the number one movie at the box office for two weeks in a row, he said.

With all that effort and energy expended, Packer conceded that he had been looking for validation, for someone to tell him he has “what it takes.”

“But really, the only validation that you need is already in you,” he said.

Packer, who served as executive producer of a remake of the popular TV series “Roots,” spoke of the multi-generational journey that so many Africans made to this continent, and pointed out that the current generations are descended from stout survivors of the horrific conditions of enslavement.

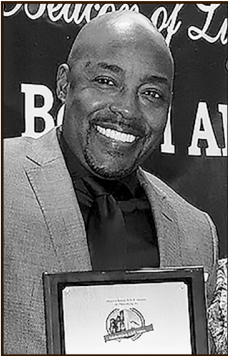
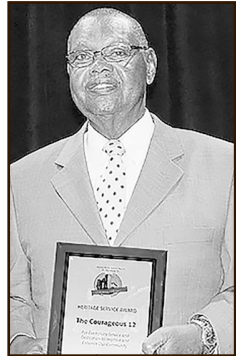
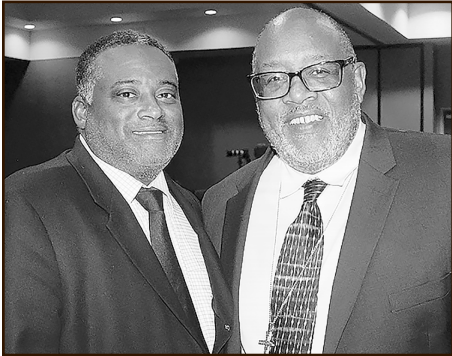
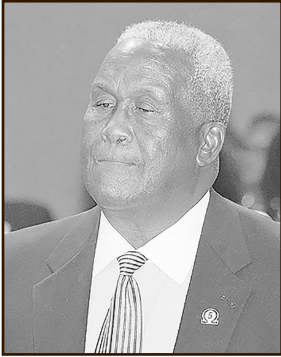
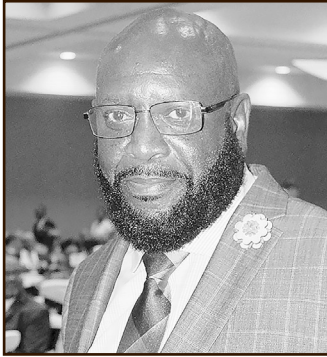
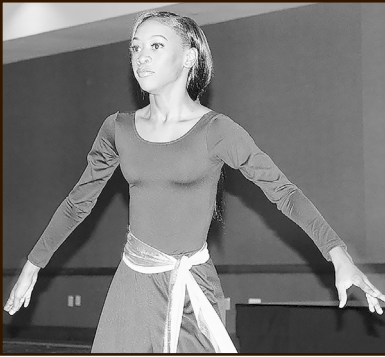
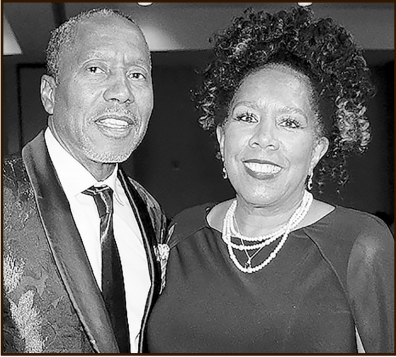
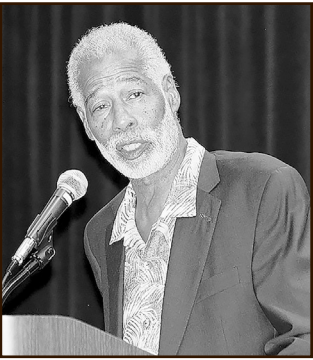
“It’s already in you,” he told his audience. “You have the power...I want us to realize our own power and not give it away.”

Historic Bethel AME honors the community

Larry Walker acknowledged six pastors who are still alive that tended to the Bethel AME flock in years past: Rev. Josephus Johnson, Rev. Roosevelt Hardy, Rev. Jimmy B. Keel, Rev. Donald Connelly, Rev. Ronald Williams and Rev. Bryant Fayson.

Mildred Reed-Reliford introduced five organizations and individuals representing them for outstanding service to St. Pete and its extended community. These organizations have displayed exemplary service and dedication to improve and enhance the city.

- Leon Jackson – The Courageous 12
- Thelma Bruce – National Council of Negro Women
- Maria L. Scruggs – NAACP
- Dr. Ladonna Butler – The Well for Life
- Lyn Johnson – The Weekly Challenger newspaper



Poynter.
Community
CONVERSATIONS

Sponsored by:
FRANK E. DUCKWALL
FOUNDATION
THE TAMPA BAY
TRUST COMPANY

Media Partners:
WUST
WFTS
The Weekly Challenger

HOW “THE VIEW”
BECAME THE
MUST-STOP SHOW
ON THE ROAD TO
2020

The New York Times called “The View” the most important political TV show in America. Join Poynter for a community conversation with the woman behind it all: executive producer Candi Carter.

Katie Sanders, managing editor of PolitiFact, will interview Carter about the power of a majority-female audience, how to moderate authentic debate between political parties, and why “The View” might change the 2020 election.



WHERE:
The Poynter Institute
801 Third St. S.
St. Petersburg

WHEN:
Sunday, October 13
5:30 p.m. VIP Reception
7:30 p.m. Conversation

TICKETS:
\$100 VIP Reception & Conversation
\$25 Conversation Only

GET TICKETS NOW. Poynter.org/TheView

JAZZ ON THE DEUCES

**2019
ST. PETE JAZZ
CELEBRATION
October 12**

The Manhattan Casino
642 22nd St. S., St Petersburg
5 pm - Midnight
Tickets: [stpeteartsalliance.org/
jazz-on-the-deuces](http://stpeteartsalliance.org/jazz-on-the-deuces)

Fred Johnson
6 pm - 7 pm



Shawn Brown
7 pm - 8 pm



Jeremy Carter
8 pm - 10 pm





PRO JAZZ JAM
10 pm - Midnight



James Suggs
John Lamb
Michael Ross
Paul Gavin



Ben Winkler
Butch Thomas
Larry Camp
& More!



Produced by:
Ashwood Jazz Project
Images by: Jayne Drooger

WWW.THEWEEKLYCHALLENGER.COM

CONNECT WITH US!



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

steamakers

OPEN HOUSE

Showcasing Innovation in Early Childhood at Shorecrest

Join us for a morning of hands-on STEAM learning activities for toddlers through 4th graders.

- Explore our classrooms
- Engage with our experiential curriculum
- Ignite your child’s love of learning!

Admissions information and campus tours available at the event. Student-led tours every half hour.

For more info and to register visit www.shorecrest.org/OpenHouse



steam
isn’t just for the big kids!

Science
Technology
Engineering
Art
Math

when Saturday, October 19 | 9:30-11:30am

where Shorecrest Preparatory School, 5101 1st St. NE, St. Petersburg, FL

Shorecrest
Be More