

The Weekly Challenger

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED TO YOUR COMMUNITY

VOL. 51 NO. 40

JULY 18 - JULY 24, 2019

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Councilmember Brandi Gabbard (center) along with Rep. Ben Diamond (left) and Senator Darryl Rouson (right) co-hosted a panel of community leaders to discuss affordable housing solutions for the future of St. Petersburg July 9 at the Sunshine Center.

No good news from Affordable Housing Round Table

BY J.A. JONES
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The topic of affordable housing was up for discussion July 9 at the 2019 Affordable Housing Round Table & Community Discussion held at the Sunshine Center.

Affordable housing has become a critical issue across the country, and recent data indicates the Tampa-St. Pete region is quickly becoming unaffordable for many citizens, with those earning minimum wage needing to work more than 80 hours a week to afford a two-bedroom apartment – or nearly \$22 an hour for a 40-hour workweek.

It is still unclear how the city plans to address these issues.

Currently, it's easy to find high-income dweller developments in the city such as the Burlington Townhomes (Burlington Avenue and 8th Street North) or the proposed \$117 million Ascent St. Petersburg project, described as a "marquee luxury apartment tower" (1st Avenue North and 2nd Street North) or the recently completed 930 Central flats with one-bedrooms renting for \$1,900.

But the city's commitment to affordable housing is still questionable, and some community members even ques-

tioned their decision to hold the July 9 meeting at 10 a.m. when most people are at work. Some noted that it seemed to signal a reluctance by the city to truly engage the community in a conversation on a problem it has no current solutions for.

But councilperson Brandi Gabbard, who convened the panel, has expressed ongoing concern regarding the city's affordable housing crisis.

In June, Gabbard and other city council members announced their support for a "lockbox" affordable housing fund that would function as a lockbox to restrict a portion of city funds to be used solely for

See **HOUSING**, page 9

PTC grads encouraged to 'set it off'



Dr. Cynthia Johnson

BY HOLLY KESTENIS
Staff Writer

LARGO – Pinellas Technical College (PTC) sent close to 200 graduates out into the world fully equipped with knowledge and ready to start their careers last Thursday. Family, friends and support systems filled First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks to watch students from both the Clearwater and St. Pete campuses switch their tassels from right to left.

St. Pete campus Director Boe Norwood took on the role of master of ceremony, introducing a host of speakers all with insightful messages to offer. Pinellas County School Board Chairperson Rene Flowers wasted no time hitting students with passionate words of inspiration.

"Education is more than a piece of paper," said Flowers, who believes a technical background has international and global implications. "It's a piece of the new currency that will open doors for you."

But Flowers wants graduates to stay local, hoping they will start businesses, inspire friendly competition and breathe life into the local economy. Whether in the medical field as a nurse practitioners or pharmacy technicians, or building infrastructure in public works or on the roadways, PTC certifications create opportunities for students to follow their dreams.

"Your earning potential has escalated, and it's only the first step," Dr. William Corbett said. As deputy superintendent with Pinellas County Schools, he knows firsthand the power of education and hopes staff, students and the community will spread the word.

Something Jatalia Smith, a Practical Nursing program graduate, has no problem doing. She praised PTC for the onslaught of support and encouragement offered throughout her time there and feels that even though juggling classes, a job and family obligations was difficult, the program was quick and the knowledge she received is immeasurable.

"We are the helping hands for the people of our community," she averred.

Smith credits PTC for allowing her the opportunity to form close

See **PTC**, page 8

Electrifying musical 'Pippin' on stage at freeFall Theatre

BY J.A. JONES
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Looking for a night of vibrant vocals, spunky choreography and gorgeous music? freeFall Theatre's production of "Pippin," playing now at 6099 Central Ave., will feed your need with a show that dazzles your senses.

"Pippin" brings powerhouse talent, high-octane performances and equally impressive musical direction and choreography to the theatre's intimate space. With snarky humor and ingenious direction that tunes this classic to our present times, this production reminds us why "Pippin" remains a classic example of American theatre.

A fictional tale with some historical references, the musical follows "everyman" Pippin as he journeys from an impetuous, naive student to serving in the army of his father, King Charlemagne. When that fails, we follow him as he looks for meaning through stylized sexual es-



Kellie Rhianna portraying the "Leading Player," a role brought to life by Ben Vereen on Broadway.

capades, stunts as an artist and finally working on the estate of a widow with a young son.

As Pippin is looking to find his "purpose" he exemplifies every human's quest to find their place in the world – while trying to outrun daily living's most mundane aspects. His story is narrated by the "Leading Player" – who, along with the produc-

tion's handful of minstrels, prods, teases and attempts to sway Pippin towards a catastrophic end.

Artistic Director Eric Davis' dynamic, in-your-face direction and choreography heightens Stephen Schwartz's brilliant lyrics and score. Musical director Michael Raabe manages con-

See **PIPPIN**, page 3

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AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY FRONT AND CENTER

BY JACQUELINE HUBBARD, ESQ.
ASALH President

W.E.B. Du Bois elegantly stated in "The Souls of Black Folk" (1908), the precise problem of the last century and also this century in America "is the problem of the color-line — the relation of the darker to the lighter races of men in Asia and Africa, in America and the islands of the sea."

Du Bois and other historians and sociologists agree that slavery was the real cause of the Civil War. When it ended, and the Confederacy lost the war, there was intense hatred toward the newly freed, formerly enslaved, particularly in the southern part of the United States.

There were four million former slaves who were suddenly no longer in bondage and had to figure out how to harness their freedom, receive education, earn livings, feed their families, seek medical care and learn independence in order to fend for themselves.

The era immediately following the Civil War was chaotic. The defeated South lay in ruins. Its dependence on free labor was gone. It was a bitter time that created a bitter harvest of hatred for the victorious North and the formerly enslaved.

By the end of the first year after the war, many southern states had enacted "Black Codes," which codified into law, brutal attempts to put the recently emancipated black people as close to en-

slavement as they could. Any excuse to arrest was used, such as vagrancy laws, where states criminalized black men who were out of work, or who were not working at a job whites recognized.

Separation of the races began in earnest.

Later the Freedmen's Bureau was abolished and Union troops, who had been sent to ensure the safety of the formerly enslaved, were removed from the South.

According to Du Bois' 1935 "Black Reconstruction in America," Reconstruction ended by 1880 and fiercely enforced racial segregation took its place, often by racial terror lynchings and incarceration. By the mid-1990s, mass incarceration of black people began in most of the states.

The United States Supreme Court, in a series of unfortunate decisions between 1857 and 1873 such as *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, *The Slaughterhouse Cases*, *United States v. Cruikshank*, and *Screws v. United States*, eviscerated the protections of the three Civil War Amendments.

The 13th Amendment abolished slavery and involuntary servitude except for convicted criminals. The 14th Amendment granted the newly freed equal protection and due process under law. The 15th Amendment granted all men the right to vote. By 1873, all three amendments were under siege by court decisions and enforcement of the Black Codes.

The United States

Supreme Court permitted this oppressive racial separation primarily by legitimizing the concept of "states' rights." Southern states effectively ended Reconstruction and institutionalized systemic racism. The rest of the states were complicit.

This system continued until the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s. The turning point was the Supreme Court decision of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, on May 17, 1954. In that case, the court held that racial segregation in public schools was "inherently unequal."

This decision met with tremendous opposition throughout the United States, and a massive counter-movement in the schools vowed to continue the separation of the races, not just in schools but everywhere else, especially in the South.

Segregationists argued for their "way of life." According to "Segregation in America," published by the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in 2018, there was vociferous opposition to the *Brown* decision by southern segregationist lawmakers in Congress. Many pledged to have "segregation forever."

There was mass resistance to desegregation in the South. The proponents of segregation read like a rogues gallery of hateful men, the names of many are easy to recall. EJI lists many of them in "Segregation in America," including:

- South Carolina Evangelist Bob Jones (1883-1968)

Segregation in America

- Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus (1910-1994)
- Public Safety Director of Birmingham, Ala., Eugene "Bull" Connor (1897-1973)
- Alabama Governor George Wallace (1919 - 1998)
- Senator James Eastland (1904-1986)
- Senator Harry Byrd (1887-1966)
- Senator Strom Thurmond (1902-2003)
- Senator Herman Talmadge (1913-2002)
- Senator Jesse Helms (1921-2008)

This battle against desegregation has never really ended.

A courageous resistance to segregation took place during the Civil Rights Movement. This resistance demanded freedom, equal rights and voting rights. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. never wavered in the struggle, and his eloquence and strength will be forever among us.

The volunteer and leaders of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee brought the struggle home — not just in the South, but also in the North. There were the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the National Urban League and always the NAACP. There was the March on Washington in 1963 and marches all over the South.

Also, a new Civil Rights and Voting Rights Act were passed with prompting by President Lyndon Johnson. Finally, Thurgood Marshall, among others, had argued the



A young black man drinks from a segregated water cooler in 1939 at a streetcar terminal in Oklahoma City.

Brown decision before the United States Supreme Court. He later became the first African American appointed to sit on the United States Supreme Court.

Yet, the struggle continues. Freedom as a concept for black Americans is fleeting when nearly every institution in America is opposed to it. Segregation persists because there is much sympathy for it.

The housing patterns in the United States follow old Black Code laws that segregated neighborhoods. American banks have a consistent history of "redlining" black neighborhoods, making it harder for those living there to secure financing for new homes. On the rental front, eviction laws make it easier to push tenants out of rental properties.

Black business enterprises have continued to struggle with inadequate financing, interference with voting rights is a constant refrain after every election and black neighborhoods and schools are still segregated.

There is, however, a continued willingness to continue the struggle among black Americans and like-minded individuals. There are viable community organizations — many only local, some part of larger organizations — who stand up for what is right.

There is a new understanding of our history and a readiness to bear witness to the suffering and racial terror black Americans have been subjected to throughout the history of these United States. Let us acknowledge the necessity of recognizing and confronting this legacy of racial terror in America.

The need for this recognition is to foster understanding, justice, forgiveness, love, reconciliation and racial healing.

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.

Cause to celebrate

BY GOLIATH J. DAVIS, III, PH.D.
Contributor

As most of you know, I have been involved with educational issues and the Pinellas School District for 40 years or more. I have worked with school superintendents dating back to Scott Rose and more recently, Mike Grego. Working with COQEB and the NAACP, I advocate for educational equity and challenge the district to take aggressive steps to eliminate the achievement gap.

I take this opportunity

to congratulate the district on a major achievement. With the exception of Lakewood Elementary, schools in the Transformation Zone all received passing grades. Director of the Transformation Zone, Nikita J. Reed, and the school leaders, teachers, students and parents are to be commended.

Additionally, the entire school communities (academic coaches, support staff, plant operators, cafeteria staff, etc.) should take a bow for their collective team efforts to ensure scholars, teachers and

school leaders received the support necessary to accomplish the desired educational objectives.

Once again, Ms. Reed has demonstrated the district made a wise decision to lure her from Memphis, Tenn., to lead our turnaround initiative. Her first major accomplishment was to move what was considered the worst school in the county (Melrose Elementary) from failure to success.

Working with school leaders in the turnaround zone, she has demonstrated as evidenced by

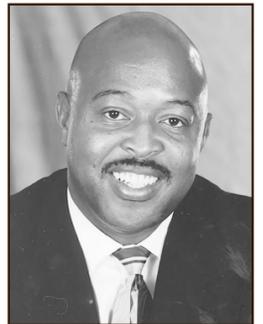
the state's recent announcement of school grades her acumen as a turnaround leader. Ms. Reed has equipped the district with the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to hone the skills and talents of school leaders in Pinellas, and ensure we continue to move forward in the fulfillment of the court-approved goals and objectives outlined in the Bridging The Gap plan developed collaboratively by the district and COQEB.

Parents and students attending schools in the transformation zone are

all too familiar with Reed, her caring persona, and no-nonsense attitude regarding scholars. Her mantra, "scholars first," is evidenced in all of her actions and work.

I have found her to be candid, genuine and highly committed. Without question, there is still a considerable amount of work to be done, and I am so thankful she is on the team.

Congratulations Dr. Grego, board members, school leaders, coaches, school-based staff, scholars, parents, the adminis-



trative team and our turnaround facilitator, Ms. Nikita Reed.

Your biggest critic,
Goliath J. Davis, III,
Ph.D.

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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@theweeklychallenger.com
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PUBLISHED WEEKLY
on Thursdays

READERSHIP
100,000 monthly

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

SINGLE COPY 50 cents

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Volume 51 • Number 40
Published Thursday,
July 18, 2019
12 pages • 1 section

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District 5 needs affordable housing, not luxury apartments

Dear Editor:
The campaigns to elect Anne Hirsch for District 5 and Akile for District 7 City Council calls for an end to the construction of luxury condos and apartments in St. Petersburg! We call for reparations to the black community for economic development and affordable housing.

City officials such as Mayor Kriseman, Ken Welch, Steve Kornell and a current city council candidate for District 5, Trena Cox, were present at the groundbreaking ceremony for a new luxury apartment building on 34th Street South. These city officials and Cox are out of touch with what the majority of the people in St. Petersburg need and want.

A black community-owned affordable housing complex on 34th Street would better serve the black community of the south side and the needs of the people in St. Petersburg.

When reparations are paid, the Skyway Marina Mall will become a business incubator for the folks who live in the affordable housing nearby.

The Skyway Marina Mall was a black community cultural outlet that has now been turned into a white hipster antique

shopping mall. Reparations to the black community would allow for the purchase of that mall and its return to a black community-owned shopping space!

Areas of the south side of St. Petersburg have historically been black because the original white city government officials would not allow black people into downtown or passed 15th Avenue South.

The 22nd Street South business district, affectionately known as the Deuces, became home to the historic Manhattan Casino and other black businesses. It was a place where the black community thrived.

That is until an interstate came through to transport white people to the beach and the southern part of the state more easily. That interstate cut through the neighborhood, closing and relocating most black-owned businesses.

Gentrification has been an ongoing process to push the black community out of St. Pete.

The Gas Plant district, another historic black community neighborhood with 100 businesses and 300 homes, was razed to build the Tropicana Field. The city used \$110 million of our

taxes to subsidize a sports dome for a for-profit failure of a baseball team. The city council has continued to allocate millions each year to subsidize it.

That kind of resources can be rerouted to reparations to the black community so that the black community can rebuild affordable housing and rebuild black businesses on the south side. That is the most progressive sustainable plan this city could implement.

Reparations means an ongoing commitment to redirect resources in the city budget for redevelopment in the hands of the black community.

The Skyway Shopping Center on MLK and 62nd Avenue South is almost empty. Reparations would allow black-owned businesses to open there, providing shopping opportunities near home for everyone in District 5.

If the current city council and Beth Connor, currently running in District 5 and who is in the same gentrification camp as Karl Nurse, have anything to do with it, the black community will be non-existent in St. Petersburg in a few years.

*Anne Hirsch
Candidate for District 5 City Council*



Musical 'Pippin' at freeFall Theatre brings electrifying performances, riveting ensemble to the 'Burg

PIPPIN, from front page

cert-hall quality accompaniment via a passionate and stirring team of musicians.

While the original Broadway version of "Pippin" starred the otherworldly Ben Vereen in the play's pivotal role, "Leading Player" (Vereen won a Tony for his performance), director/choreographer Eric Davis wisely maintained the role's funkiness but went for a femme version in casting the musical's ringleader.

Enter Kellie Rhianna – whose brilliant turn in the role is kind of like being doused with a cool shower after a day in Florida's sun: you don't want it – or her performance – to end.

The role is demanding, to say the least, requiring a performer who can dance, sing and beguile both Pippin and the audience, delivering a sly and sexy "devil's advocate"/foil to the protagonist. Rhianna is pitch-perfect, exuding mastery as she struts through scenes, providing powerhouse vocals with incredible chops.

The production's Pippin is also more than fit for his task. Daniel J. Maldonado is effervescent in the role; both a strong singer and a physically adept per-

former, he bolts, tumbles and climbs through the movable set pieces with aplomb.

The rest of the cast is exceptional, playing both supporting characters and fleshing out the chorus of minstrels. Hannah Benitez is endearing as his love interest, widow Catherine while Alison Burns is wickedly playful as Pippin's Lady Macbethian-stepmother. Emmanuel Carrero and Will Garrabrant garner well-deserved chuckles as Pippin's half-brother Lewis and Catherine's son Theo.

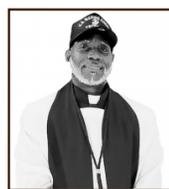
Especially enjoyable is Matthew McGee as both King Charlemagne and Pippin's grandmother Berthe. Not only does McGee pull off vocal acrobatics that delivers con-

vincingly different styles for the two characters, but in full drag, he is almost unrecognizable as he transitions from the role of Charlemagne into Charlemagne's mother.

It warrants saying that while productions of "Pippin" are normally presented with as many as 30 cast members, you don't miss any of them thanks to the maximum-voltage performance of this ensemble.

Don't miss this five-star production of a gem of American theater! "Pippin" plays Wednesday through Sunday until Aug. 11 at freeFall Theatre, 6099 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Call (727) 498-5205 or visit www.freefalltheatre.com.

To reach J.A. Jones, email jjones@theweeklychallenger.com



Breaking the Cycle

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

Love, God's True Love, part 2

Beware the Slight of Hands and 3 Card Monte Preachers, Least You be Tempted!

Praise the Lord saints of the Most High God.

Today everybody is told they have the assurance of going to heaven as long as they are good people, so who needs Jesus! The narrow road is abandoned for the broader path. Tolerance is just another excuse to cover their sin.

The new love preached on TV talk shows reassures every one of all religions on their deathbed that everything will be all right because God loves you just the way you are, you're accepted. This is NOT love according to scripture, but is actually "the lie" for those who refused the love of the truth. Millions are being anesthetized into false assurances from those who said I have been to the other side and it's wonderful everyone makes it.

Can we leave them on their current destructive course that will eventually bring the ultimate destruction on them in the afterlife? Love that sacrifices the truth is void of real love. It props itself up as the ultimate caring, but all it is, is tolerance in disguise, a fake substitute.

We actually exhibit love to correct someone who has gone off course. We are not showing love by being silent and allowing them to continue. It is love coupled with truth that motivates us to speak out because we care for them.

We are so careful not to OFFEND our neighbors, friends and family by THE TRUTH, so we can love them. But are we loving God by doing this? Are we really loving

them? Are we so unwilling to endure any rejection that we have become ashamed of Gods words! It's better to do what is right in Gods eyes and suffer the consequences from man, than to do what is right in man's eyes and suffer the consequences from God!

Even for those inside the Church, James 5:19-20 says "Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins." Essentially we are our brother's keeper. To keep silent James calls it a sin of omission. James 4:17 "to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."

Today the very definition of love has been changed it now means tolerance at the expense of truth. Love must find its source in truth or it is a fake love. John 1:14...We have seen his glory, the glory of the Only begotten, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." This is the one God the father sent because of his love.

Jn. 8:31-32..."If you abide in my word (live in the teachings), you are my disciples indeed; you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." Jesus did not just say to dwell in his love only, but his truth as well. Love alone will not save anyone from Hell but love with the truth will. Jesus is the truth and told only the truth and we should as well. Not beating it over people's heads but first present it in a kind but firm

way so it can be received.

If you love me you will keep my commandments, his word and precepts. The love Jesus asks has loyalty it means for us to stand against opposition no matter where it will lead. But how can we know his commands and teachings? By staying in his word and acting on it by faith.

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Most Christians interpret this as having unity or to be accepting, but this is not what Jesus is saying. He said to love as I loved you. How did Jesus love? Did he accept everyone for who they were and disregarded what they did?

When Peter received a revelation from the Father and he proclaimed who Jesus is, he was commended. But right after this he was prompted by the Devil to prevent Jesus from accomplishing his mission. Jesus rebuked him openly. I imagine it must have been humbling to have this occur right after everyone thought "right on Peter."

Jesus did not overlook his error because he did something right beforehand. Nor did he say his good outweighed the bad. What was at stake was the truth. Neither did Jesus keep silent and have Peter influence the others falsely.

Can love bring unity? If one wants to disregard the truth it certainly can! But it is not honored by God, only man.

*Till next week,
God Bless.*



REV. DR. ROBERT L. HARRISON, Ph.D.
Senior Pastor

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Local author highlights mother's courageous battle with cystic fibrosis

BY JOYCE NANETTE JOHNSON
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Nicole Marion's childhood was not one of fairytales, rainbows and butterflies. It was a world filled with the harsh realities of living with a mother, Tammy Williams, battling cystic fibrosis, which is an inherited disorder that causes severe damage to the lungs, digestive system and other organs in the body.

At the young age of 11, Marion became one of her mother's primary caregivers. The experience shaped her life, and years later would be a conduit to help other young people faced with life-threatening illnesses by penning her first book, "Me, My Mom, and Cystic Fibrosis."

"It was emotional to watch," she said, describing the deterioration of her mom's physical health.

Marion had to grow up fast as she was the one charged with preparing her mom's medications

and meals.

"It forced me to make decisions that kids usually don't have to make. I felt I had to be strong for her."

There are 30,000 people in the U. S. diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. The lungs are severely impacted as the disease causes cysts (fluid-filled sacs) and fibrosis (scar tissue) that severely constricts the ability to breathe.

The debilitating disease impacted the everyday life of Marion's entire family. She remembered that even going to a Fourth of July picnic in the park was taxing for her mother.

"Just holding a conversation was hard for her, even to laugh," she remembered. "We always had an oxygen tank nearby. We did a lot of in-house things due to her condition."

Marion's mom passed in 2002 at the age of 33. The life expectancy for people diagnosed with cystic fibrosis is 41 years. Marion celebrates her mother as a fighter and cherishes the moments and memories that she and her

siblings share.

"She would put smiles on our faces and make us laugh," Marion reminisced.

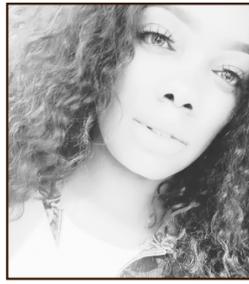
"Me, My Mom, and Cystic Fibrosis" is written in Marion's point of view as a child, and she hopes that her book will be a comfort to children and families dealing with the disease.

"I want to shine light that the disease does not limit them to being sick. There's still life, joys and smiles," she said.

Since the debut of her book on Mother's Day, Marion has been hard at work on her second book titled "Sweet Remedies." It will be a collection of homeopathic and natural remedies geared toward children with chronic diseases.

She mentions adding pomegranate to yogurt as an excellent antioxidant, or to apply papaya to protect the skin from sun damage. The budding writer is a certified EMT, and she and her husband, Joseph, have three children aged 4-15 years old.

"I will always cherish



Nicole Marion

the memories of my mother." Marion shared. "Her courageous battle with cystic fibrosis is the exact reason why I want to bring awareness to not only my community but the entire world.

The most important lesson of "Me, My Mom, and Cystic Fibrosis" that Marion wants the reader to walk away with "is to simply show love and support" to anyone suffering from a chronic illness.

You can pick up a digital copy of the short read on Amazon or Barnes and Noble. For more information, you can reach Nicole Marion at 727-301-6486.



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



Visionary Brief

by Keisha Bell, Esq.

When you think of sports, what images come to mind? Are you thinking boy or girl, black or white, football or basketball?

Meet Crystal Alyssia Dunn, a soccer player for the U. S. Women's National Team. Dunn was born on July 3, 1992, in New Hyde Park, N.Y. She also plays for the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) club North Carolina Courage. In 2015, Dunn made history at the age of 23 by becoming the youngest player to win both the NWSL Most Valuable Player and the Golden Boot awards.

Dunn was a highly decorated, four-year starter soccer player in high school. She was her team's captain in 2008 and 2009. Incredibly, she only lost two games while playing on her high school team.

She also helped lead

her team to New York state championships in 2006, 2007 and 2009. In the 2009 state championship game, Dunn scored four goals and accomplished a hat trick in the first 20 minutes.

While in high school, Dunn played as forward and midfielder. Before college, she earned numerous honors and awards including being named Parade All-American and New York Player of the Year. Dunn did not play on her high school team during the 2008 season due to national team obligations.

She attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 2010, she made history by becoming the first freshman to ever win the ACC Defensive Player of the Year award. In addition to other recognitions, she was named the Soccer America's Fresh-

Check to win the World Cup off her list

man of the Year.

Her accolades did not stop. As a sophomore, Dunn trained with the United States under-20 women's national soccer team. As a junior, she was a member of the team that won the 2012 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in Japan. That same year, Dunn helped lead the Tar Heels to win the NCAA Women's Soccer Championship.

In her junior year, Dunn received the 2012 Hermann Trophy winner and was named the ACC Athlete of the Year and ACC Defender of the Year. Furthermore, for the third year in a row, Dunn was an All-ACC selection. That year, she was awarded the 2012 Honda Award for Soccer. Not surprisingly, honors continued for Dunn through her senior season.

In the 2014 College Draft of the National Women's Soccer League, she was selected by the Washington Spirit with its first draft pick. On Aug. 1, 2015, during Dunn's second season, she scored a franchise first hat trick. After playing in Washington, Dunn played a year in England before returning to North America to play for the North Carolina Courage.

Having competed on behalf of the United States in various national youth teams from 2008 through 2012, it was on Jan. 22, 2013, that Dunn received her first call-up to the senior team's training camp. In a sport with little to no fanfare and where the salary is significantly less than her male counterparts, Dunn's dedication was paying off. She faced obstacles and disappoint-

ments nevertheless.

In Oct. 2014, Dunn was omitted from the national team roster. She was, however, named to the roster for Feb. 2015 friendlies against France and England in which she made a substitute appearance against England. In Feb. 2015, Dunn was also named to the 2015 Algarve Cup roster, but she did not play. She remained committed to proving that she is among the best soccer players in the world.

Dunn was named to the preliminary for the 2015 Women's World Cup. She, however, did not make the final squad of 23. Through perseverance, by Sept. 2015 Dunn was added to the roster for the national team's Women's World Cup victory tour.

Notably, this addition made her the first player who was not on the World



Cup roster to join the tour. Dunn made her first start of 2015 against Haiti. She recorded her first career national team assists, both on Carli Lloyd's goals, and scored her first national team goal in the final moments of the match.

Dunn was not a member of the 2015 World Cup squad but brought home the cup earlier this month when the American team trounced the Netherlands.

The ups and downs of her career prepared her well. Along with other female athletes, Dunn has been active in the discussion addressing issues such as pay equity and race.

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

Back-to-school event looking for partners

BY KARIN DAVIS-THOMPSON
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – It started with a simple idea with a straightforward mission. Last year, John McGuire and his friend Harvtra Williams wanted to do something to help kids in the neighborhood get ready for school.

"We were talking about how much we could have used the help when

we were kids," McGuire said. "So Harvtra came to me and asked if I wanted to help put something together."

With little time, the pair set out to fill several hundred backpacks with school supplies. Using mostly their own money, they went to work, getting 300 backpacks and all of the supplies to fill them. About 200 uniforms were also available for those

who needed them. They thought they could make a day of it, providing bouncy houses, food, games and haircuts on the day the bags would be distributed.

They thought 300 bags would be a great number and figured it would take about two hours to distribute them and the kids could play while families waited in line.

"We were all out in 15 minutes," McGuire said. "We just made a few Facebook posts and thought there would be a few people, but the place was jammed packed."

Realizing the need was greater than they ever imagined, this year the goal is 500 backpacks and as many uniforms as possible. Families do not have to bring any documentation to show need, but their child does need to be present to receive the supplies and uniforms.

This year's event is set for Saturday, Aug. 3 on the corner of 18th Avenue and 28th Street South from 2-6 p.m. The Back-to-School Bash will once again include food, uniforms, haircuts, games and play for the students.

"We plan to have a few contests and try to make it fun for the kids," said McGuire, owner of Pedi Plug Nail and Spa.

There will be plenty of parking for the event, and they hope that members of the community will



help them meet their 500 supply-filled backpack goal. Inside the bags, the team wants to include the basics – pens, pencils, notebook paper, folders, rulers, erasers, glue sticks, crayons for the younger kids and calculators for the older students.

"Whatever people can do would be appreciated," he said. "We just want to make it nice for the community."

The duo said they understand how tough times are and how important it is for everyone who can to lend a hand.

"The economy is really tough right now," McGuire stated. "You have a lot of single par-

ents, especially in urban areas, with a lot going on. And I know how tough it is; I am a single father myself. Nothing is getting cheaper, and everything is going up."

Anyone interested in donating can contact McGuire at 727-308-9899. The team has begun assembling the bags but needs more supplies to make sure they can give the students as much as possible.

"I tell people anything they can spare," he said. "It's all for good and will be a big help."

To reach Karin Davis-Thompson, email kdavis-thompson@theweeklychallenger.com

Back-to-School Bash

When: Saturday, August 3

Where: On the corner of 18th Avenue and 28th Street South

Time: 2-6 p.m.

Food, Uniforms, Haircuts, Games

Activist and advocate for veterans and the mental health dies

Memorial services for Kevin Scott Edwards will be held 11 a.m. Thursday July 25 at Glad Tidings Assembly of God Church, 4200 17th Ave. N, St. Petersburg.

Edwards was born in Jersey City, N.J., on May 20, 1959, to Odessa Edwards and the late Herman L. Edwards. He joined the U. S. Army after graduating from Snyder High School in Jersey City. He transitioned June 14, in the St. Petersburg at Bayfront Medical Center Hospice Care unit. His health had steadily deteriorated due to a string of complica-

tions resulting from a fall last September.

Edwards was an active member of NIMH (National Institute of Mental Health), Bazelon Center, Goodwill Industries, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and FACES & VOICES of RECOVERY. He was the founder and former chairperson of the James A. Haley Hospital Veterans Advocacy Council. He also served on the Florida State Advisory Council on Jail Diversion Trauma Related to OEF/OIF Veterans and on the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network Board of Direc-

tors.

Edward's volunteer work began with the Salvation Army's Borden Avenue Veterans Residence in Long Island City, N.Y., when he became homeless for the first time. He worked with Catholic Charities Food Pantries, Swords to Ploughshares in San Francisco, Operation Dignity in Oakland, Calif., Citiview Connections Clubhouse in New York City, Hillsborough County Recovery & Resiliency Taskforce, Department of Children and Families Services and a number of grass roots organizations doing home-

less outreach and jail diversion.

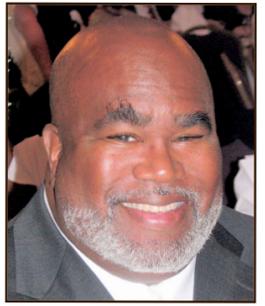
Edwards was a Certified Veteran Peer Support Specialist who never failed when called upon to help a veteran in distress regardless of time of day or circumstances. Because of his stature, he was described by some as a gentle giant with a special soul.

He was a well-known popular activist and advocate for veterans and the mental health community. Edwards was a mental health consumer who was diagnosed with a co-occurring disorder in 1994. For the remainder of his

life, he utilized rehabilitation programs and community outreach organizations to secure a recovery lifestyle that focused on pro advocacy.

Edwards is survived by siblings Kyle Edwards, Kim Hampton, Dwayne Howard. He is the father of Jonathan, Aja, Kevin and is mourned by his loving grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was closely attended to during his final months by Carrie Nero, BG USAR (RET), Elijah Washington, USMC (RET) and other friends.

Edwards' remains will



Kevin Scott Edwards

be interred in the Bay Pines National Cemetery in Seminole. Glad Tidings Assembly of God Senior Pastor Randy Helms will preside at the memorial service and deliver the eulogy.

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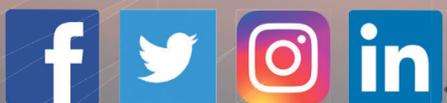
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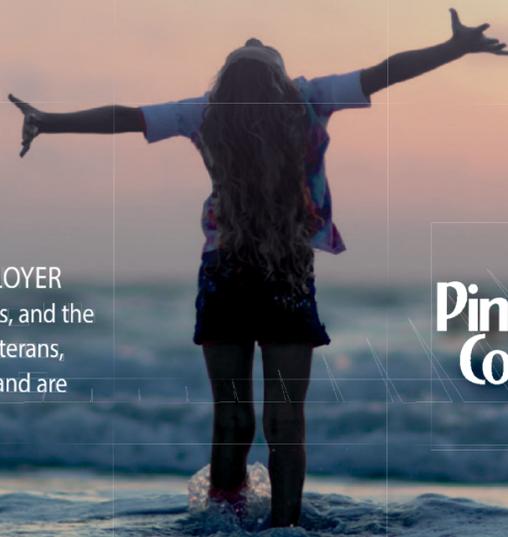
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Gibbs 25th annual alumni cookout highlights the need for help in Pinellas County schools

BY HOLLY KESTENIS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Gibbs High School is one of the oldest schools in Pinellas County with more than nine decades of students have passed through its halls. And with so many years of students, the Gibbs Alumni Association's yearly picnics are a time where old friends can connect, and new ones can be made.

Young and old piled in for the fried fish, barbecue chicken and all the picnic accouterments.

Gibbs principal Reuben Hepburn reached out to the partygoers to give back to the school that gave them so much. Although monetary donations are always welcome, Hepburn knows the value of mentoring a child and the impact of just spend-

ing time with them can have.

"Your presence, your love, your character and concern for these young people matter," said Hepburn. "There's a young person who's starving for the love and care that you could provide for them."

The school currently has a pantry providing food for families in need. Started by the football program, it is a way Gibbs hopes to extend that extra hand students need to come to school prepared to learn.

"We have students that we have to feed first, and I'm not just talking about breakfast," Hepburn said, reminding alums of the financial situation some of their students deal with daily. "They need so much."

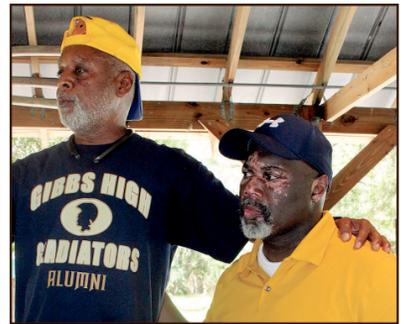
Representative Wen-gay Newton concurred.

He wants not only the alumni to pitch in at Gibbs, but also the black community to wake up to what's going on in the district with education.

"You don't know the underbelly of what's happening with these black schools," Newton explained. He spoke on the graduation rate and how even though a student is allowed to walk with their class, they aren't all being handed diplomas. Some are just certificates of attendance.

"That's because these kids are coming out of here with seventh and eighth-grade reading levels. Don't be fooled."

Newton is responsible for fighting for the needs of not only Pinellas County, but parts of Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota Counties as well. He focused on the newly



released Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) scores and the pipeline to prison link when it comes to providing future prison beds based on third-grade scores.

"Seventy-six percent of those kids cannot read, and most of them look like you and me," he said.

Newton doesn't think it's the money though. Resources are thrown at failing schools to provide extra tutoring, computers and salaries for highly qualified teachers, yet the same schools year after year find themselves failing.

He is in contact with

teachers throughout the county in target schools and routinely speaks with principals. His consensus? The problem isn't money; it's accountability. Newton routinely tells of the outside forces that predominately black schools are dealing with. From parents overdosing on the weekends to gun violence, there is more to providing an education than meets the eyes.

With the approved budget for next year's juvenile jail beds standing at 88.6 million dollars, more needs to be done to work with families outside of school. Newton and Hepburn both shared that many students in the system are homeless, yet still attending classes if for nothing else but nourishment. He made a call to mobilize the community soldiers to get involved.

Many Pinellas County Schools offer families support services. Gibbs has a program where students and families can do their laundry at the school on weekends, all supplies

provided for free.

Newton, part of the Black Caucus, provides scholarship money and is partnering with FAMU and Florida State in a 75/25 split for kids that are in school that needs help. They are providing paid internships in Tallahassee for interested students. But more is required to give kids an out that doesn't involve turning to crime.

"This system works off human capital. If we just keep blinking, they're going to keep locking them up," said Newton. "If we don't get serious and deliberate about our young people they're going to perish."

Picnic talk turned to plans of raising money for a new sign above the gym to mark the name change to the Freddie Dyles Gymnasium early next year. To help contribute to the signage, please send donations to Gibbs High School C/O Gibbs Alumni Association to 850 34th St. S, St. Petersburg, FL 33711.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Stuff happens!

BY MICHELLE LIGON
SPHA, Communications
Officer

ST. PETERSBURG – Stuff happens! We all know this, and yet, preparing for emergencies is something we all tend to put off, unless and until a crisis happens to us. By that time, it's all too often, too much, too little, or just too late to

manage the drama to our most desirable conclusion.

Accordingly, and with nearly 4,000 households under management throughout the city, the St. Petersburg Housing Authority is being proactive about helping residents with the task.

With a recent Health and Wellness Expo at the forefront of summer activities hosted at Jordan Park, all SPHA communities will be hosting emergency preparedness workshops during the next several months with special focus placed on a variety of all too common emergencies, including, but not limited to weather, health, fire and safety.

Residents of all ages will receive practical tips and tools for areas of common concern, such as first response,

emergency communications, shelters, situation updates and more, as provided by experienced SPHA staffers, community partners and related service providers.

As the storm season is now upon us, the 2019 Pinellas County Hurricane Preparedness Guide is available at all SPHA communities. The guide is filled with practical training on how to recognize early warning signs, as well as when, who and where to call for help. Residents are also learning what type of information to always have ready for first responders and what they can safely do while help is on the way.

Companion "Stay Woke" training efforts featuring "See Something...Say Something," an early warning sign detection for health concerns is also provided for

all resident age groups. To further our mission-driven self-sufficiency efforts, SPHA is tasking presenters to discuss career opportunities in related emergency service areas as well.

As such, SPHA is helping residents take the lead on living their best life while preparing for emergencies that can be better managed through advanced preparation. As a strategically planned re-

sult, good things are growing better.

So, let it rain! We got this!

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Evidence of what drive, determination and education can do for a career strutted onstage to the beat of "Living My Best Life." Dr. Cynthia Johnson, senior manager for Pinellas County Economic Development and Center for the Florida Small Business Development Center is a PTC alumnus.

She knows all about making the hard decision to sacrifice. Having missed out on family vacations, milestones in the lives of her children and spending time with friends, Johnson shows what a plan for the future can do for those willing to put in the effort.

"I know what you're feeling because I've been

there," Johnson said, urging all graduates to remember the extensive work they put into this one defining moment in their life. "Don't let somebody else dictate your future; you earned it. It's your journey, so it's up to you where it leads you."

Firmly committed to the idea that everyone is the master of their destiny, she spoke on the "mirror moments" when you have to look in the mirror and give yourself a pep talk. Those times when family, friends or a new job become difficult or don't quite come through, and you must find a way to encourage yourself.

"There will be times when someone questions whether you have the skill or the ability or the smarts or the tools to actually get the job done," she explained. "That's one of those opportunities when you really sit down and encourage yourself...believe

in taking pride in whatever it is you aim to do in life."

Johnson described what she feels are the four different types of people encountered daily. From "knockoff folks" (those who look good on the outside, walk and talk a good game, but upon further inspection have a few loose threads) to "put off folks" (those quick to criticize) to "show-offs" (those who must be seen and heard).

Johnson hopes graduates embrace the more socially accepted "set it off" attitude that changes the world for the better.

"You're going to set it off for this community," she said. "You are focused, innovative, determined. You are quality; you are awesome."

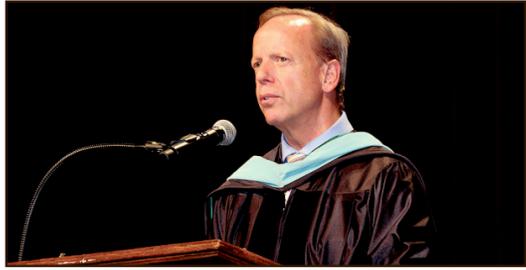
The evening marked the end of months of training for so many, but graduates left the ceremony joyful of what the future holds and knowing they are the key to their success.



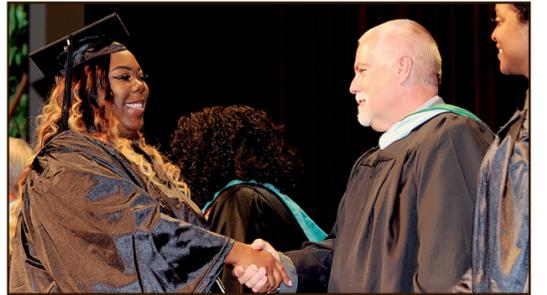
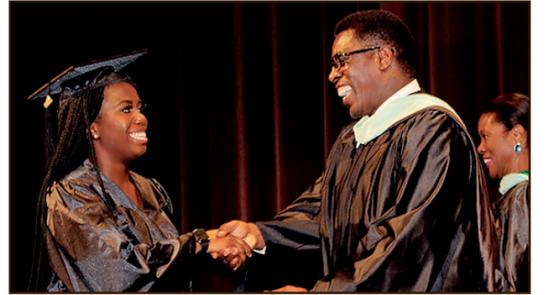
L-R, St. Pete campus Director Boe Norwood, Mark Hunt, Ex. Dir., Career, Teaching and Adult Education, Nikki Capehart, Dir., Urban Affairs for City of St. Pete, Jakub Prokop, Clearwater campus Director



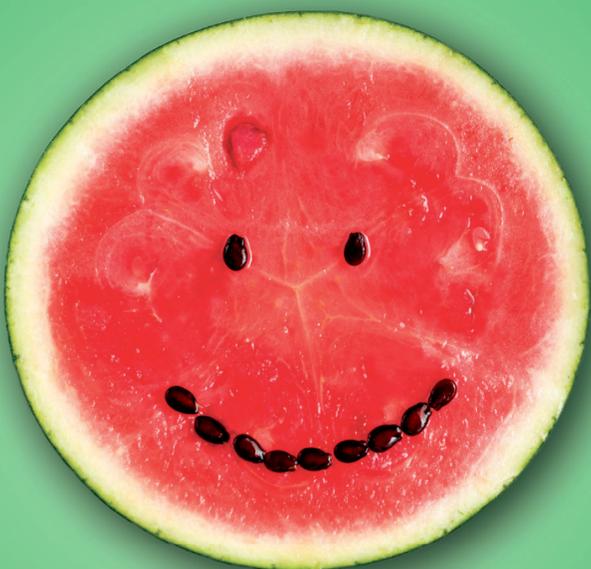
L-R, Kyesha Robinson, Rene Flowers, Dr. Cynthia Johnson and Nikki Capehart



Dr. Michael Grego, Superintendent of School



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By LaShante Keys, Empath Health Community Outreach Specialist



Benefits of music therapy

BY LASHANTE KEYS
Empath Health Community Partnership Specialist

Music can calm minds, bodies and emotions. It can create a sense of relaxation and comfort in care, daily life and wellness.

Music therapy helps many

Matthew "Matt" Frederick, MT-BC is a board-certified music therapist of 11 years at Suncoast Hospice. He works with four south Pinellas County care teams caring for patients and families in their homes, nursing homes or assisted living facilities.

Music therapy sounded like an exciting field to pursue for Frederick.

"I always felt connected with music and knew I wanted to work with people. My guidance counselor in high school suggested music therapy. Having never experienced music therapy or worked with a therapist myself, I took a chance and went off to college to see what it was all about," he shared.

This specialized clinical care treats people on many levels.

"Every aspect of a person is interconnected. The beauty of music therapy is that it is a whole-person

experience. Social, emotional, physical, spiritual, cognitive and sensory perceptions can be integrated during each session. Backed by many years of research, it's a wonderful modality to get right to the heart of a matter. It's really profound. It's really wonderful," he explained.

Music therapists provide care for babies, children and adults in many settings, and there are all kinds of different applications. Frederick said they have found that babies who receive music therapy in the neonatal intensive care unit can heal and leave sooner.

"Music therapists are being used more in the autistic community, and that has been very effective. Music therapy is used in the education system working with kids who have cognitive, physical or any kinds of limitations," Frederick explained.

Music therapy is used in physical therapy. If someone has a stroke, a music therapist can use rhythm that can help the legs and feet function better. It's also used with people with eating disorders, addiction or with at-risk youth.

"It can be helpful at

adult day centers for stimulation and support for older adults who are aging. There's a music therapist I know who works at the VA (Veterans Administration). It is really helpful doing any kinds of therapeutic work with veterans. Post-traumatic stress is being addressed and it has been a really effective modality for them."

Caring for Suncoast Hospice patients

Frederick's treatment for patients has included song choice, passive listening, active music-making and improvisation, singing, playing an instrument, moving as if dancing, reminiscence, socialization, lyric analysis and songwriting. He has seen significant engagement and impact.

"Often, the patients I work with display many positive benefits from the sessions, and they anticipate future sessions. We often use live music but also use recorded music. There has been smiling, laughing, connection with family members and even singing and speaking after not having done so for periods of time," he noted.

Comfort and quality of life also improve for pa-

tients, he added. Patients can display signs of improved coping and ability to adapt to new environments, feel, express and process deeper emotions, relax and display diminished physical symptoms, such as pain, shortness of breath and anxiety.

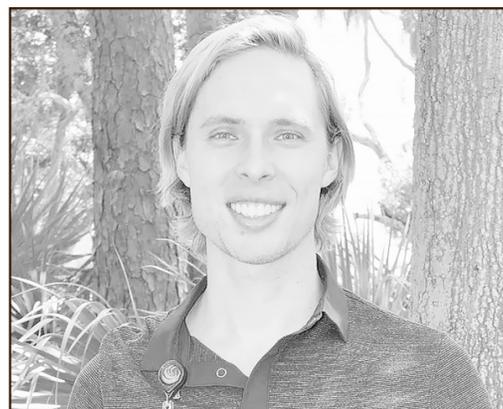
In one case, playing gospel music resonated and helped a patient who was trying to adjust to life in a nursing home. Faith was a big challenge for her because she missed that part of her life.

When he arrived, she told him she had high anxiety, so he brought recorded music for her to listen to. As he played the gospel music, Frederick witnessed her shoulders drop and breathing slow down.

The patient told him that she felt more at peace and relaxed, and by the end of the visit, she had fallen asleep.

Supporting families

Frederick said families might also need self-care and relief when caring for their loved ones. They may experience caregiver fatigue, loss of knowing how to relate with a loved one when a disease changes that person or feelings of not doing enough, guilt, helplessness and anticipa-



Matthew "Matt" Frederick, MT-BC

tory grief.

Music can also help soothe their well-being, and that is why Frederick tells people to use music that they connect with and enjoy. He encourages the daily, repeated use of recorded music in a safe and controlled environment, particularly the same song or album to strengthen the desired effect, such as relaxation.

He said the more you strengthen a response repeatedly, the more your brain and body will adapt to the new reality you are creating. Frederick also suggests pairing the music experience with another sense for an increased response, such as visualization, aromather-

apy or massage.

"Working as a music therapist with Suncoast Hospice is a unique blessing. Being with people at this stage in their life is an honor, one that I continually learn from every day. I am blessed to celebrate with others, allow them a safe place to process their life or questions, bring a sense of hope or peace and unite relational and family bonds. It has broadened my view of life that we are all interconnected in some way, shape or form," he expressed.

Learn more about Suncoast Hospice care, services and career opportunities at SuncoastHospice.org or call (727) 467-7423.

The 5 Ws of Diabetes Mellitus

Part 1 of 2 of the Diabetes Series

Who is at risk?

More than 30.3 million people in the United States have been diagnosed with Diabetes Mellitus (DM), which accounts for about 10 percent of the total population. Every 19 seconds, someone is newly diagnosed with DM. Out of the 30 million, 7.3 million people remain undiagnosed. In Pinellas County, which contains close to a million citizens, DM is the seventh leading cause of death.

DM disproportionately affects minorities, such as American Indians/Alaskan Natives (15.1 percent), African Americans (12.7 percent) and Hispanics (12.1 percent) at a higher rate when compared to their Caucasian (7.4 percent) and Asian (8 percent) counterparts.

What is Diabetes Mellitus?

Mellitus?

There are two main types of DM: Type 1 and Type 2. Type 1 DM occurs when the body does not produce insulin. After we eat, the body breaks down the food into glucose (sugar) which is used for energy.

Insulin is the vehicle (the bus) that is used to transport the sugar from the blood to the target cells for the use of energy. Without the "bus," glucose remains in the blood, causing an increased level of sugar. Type 2 DM is when the body either does not use the insulin that is produced or the body does not make enough insulin, leading to an increase in blood glucose.

When does it occur?

Type 1 diabetics are usually diagnosed under 30

years old and have a thin body type. These patients are required to inject insulin daily to treat their DM. Some risks for Type 1 DM include family history and genetics.

Type 2 diabetics are typically overweight and diagnosed after the age of 40 but can be diagnosed at any age. Some risk factors of Type 2 DM are over 40 years of age, having an immediate relative with Type 2 DM, physical inactivity and race.

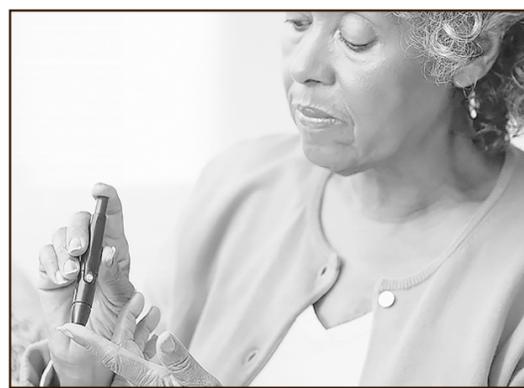
Some signs and symptoms of DM are excessive urination, thirst and hunger. If you or a loved one is experiencing any of these signs and symptoms, please contact your doctor for further testing.

There are four tests providers use to diagnose DM, but the one most com-

monly used is called the A1C test. According to the American Diabetes Association (ADA), the target A1C is less than or equal to seven percent. For those who are diagnosed with DM, their A1C should be monitored every three months by their primary care provider.

Why change your lifestyle?

To reduce the risk of getting DM or for those already diagnosed, management can be done through lifestyle modifications. These changes include weight loss, maintaining a balanced healthy diet and exercising for at least 150 minutes per week. Those individuals who are not successful with managing their DM with lifestyle modifications alone may require medications.



Medication treatments in the form of tablets, injections and inhalations are tailored to be patient-specific based on a variety of factors such as the presence of other disease states, medication tolerability and cost.

Where can I get help?

You can take charge of your health and manage your DM with help from Community Health of Pinellas County, which offers FREE Diabetes Education classes.

Class schedule

- Every second Wednesday of the month at Johnnie Ruth Clarke Community Health Center of Pinellas County from 10-12 p.m.
- Every third Wednesday of the month at Johnnie Ruth Clarke Community Health Center of Pinellas County from 5-7 p.m.
- Every second Tuesday of the month at Tarpon Springs Community Health Center of Pinellas County from 10-12 p.m.

City's first discussion to address affordable housing fell flat

HOUSING, from front page

affordable housing.

Indeed, the July 9 meeting revealed that the state legislature had again raided the Sadowski Affordable Housing Fund, a state fund designed to provide a dedicated revenue source for affordable housing, as it had for the last 12 years. In 2017, it was reported that of the \$1.87 billion in the Sadowski fund, nearly \$1.3 billion has been "diverted" to "other purposes."

Gabbard co-hosted the panel with Sen. Darryl Rouson and Rep. Ben Diamond.

Panelists included Joe Farrell, director of governmental affairs for the Pinellas Realtor Organization, Watson Haynes, president & CEO of the Pinellas County Urban League, Scott MacDonald, executive vice president and chief financial officer at Blue Sky Communities, an affordable

multifamily real estate development company and Brother John Muhammad, lead organizer for the New Deal for St. Pete.

Also on the panel were former city councilman Karl Nurse, who now oversees the housing workgroup for the Grow

Smarter initiative, Ken Rush, chief operating officer of Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas County and Ben Toro-Spears of the

Florida Housing Coalition.

While no unique or new ideas were shared, Gabbard noted there

would be more conversations to come.

To reach J.A. Jones, email jjones@theweeklychallenger.com



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.*

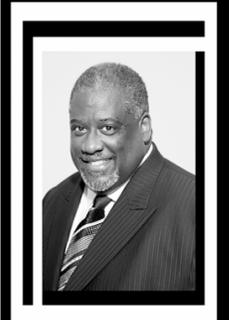


Rev. Louis M. Murphy Sr.
Senior Pastor

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.



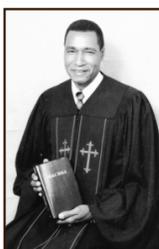
Rev. Rickey L. Houston,
Pastor

“God’s House To The City”

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

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

“The Little Church Where Everybody Is Somebody”



Rev. Wallace Elliott
Sr. - Pastor

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StAugustine@tampabay.rr.com

The Rev. Josie Rose,
Priest-in-Charge

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



BETHEL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
2901 - 54th Avenue South
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

FAITH MEMORIAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
1800 18TH AVENUE SOUTH
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33712
727-896-0351
FAITHMBC@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



REV. ROBERT A. VINSON, JR.

Today's Church TAMPA BAY

ST. PETE
940 5TH AVENUE SOUTH
Staybridge Suites/Bayside Ballroom

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

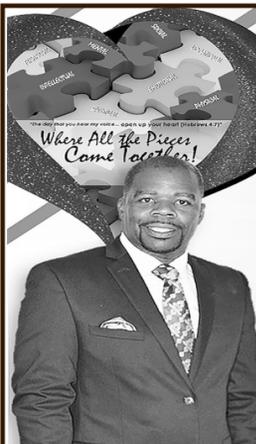
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
9 AM | Centering Service
10:30 AM | Creative Expressions
Worship Experience

SUNDAY AFTERNOON WORSHIP
2 PM | Creative Expressions
Worship Experience

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

TUESDAY NIGHT
7 PM | Bible Study Class

MOC SCHOOL OF MINISTRY
8 PM | Courses Offered



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

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.
Interspersed 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



Donn & Jean
Freshler

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

Bro. Robert Smith

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.



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
It is Good to Remember



Dear LORD, I want to remember to be an instrument used by YOU. I repent of my sins in JESUS name. Thank you for your precious grace and mercy in my life.

It is good to remember to “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight O LORD, YOU are my strength and my redeemer.”

It is good to remember to watch and pray, as the Holy Spirit leads, guides, directs and protects you.

It is good to remember to honor your father and mother in the LORD, so that your days may be long.

It is good to remember that we are clay and that GOD is our potter. It is good to trust HIM to mold and make us after HIS will.

It is good to remember that what comes out of our mouths and our hearts manifest on this earth.

It is good to remember that one should treat another as they also want to be treated. It is good to remember to be kind to everyone.

It is good to remember to forgive and to be forgiven. It is good to share your joy and your sorrows with the LORD.

It is good to remember to rest in GOD’s blessed assurance.

It is good to remember to be an instrument used by GOD to spread the good news of HIS SON JESUS CHRIST.

It is good to remember to pray without ceasing. It is good to be humble.

It is good to remember to be grateful for the good and the bad.

It is good to remember to make peace with those who have hurt you and those whom you have hurt.



It is good to remember to rejoice in the LORD everyday. It is good to be giving and to let go of the past. It is good to trust in GOD always, no matter what task you may face.

It is good to remember to repent and to let go of hurt. It is good to help others and not just yourself.

It is good to remember to be an instrument that your GOD can trust and to teach others the way of unconditional love.

It is good to be corrected and to speak the truth in love. It is good to remember not to harbor anger and wrath; that is for GOD up above.

It is good to be strengthened by GOD’s Holy Word. It is good to be like JESUS, the Heavenly Father’s greatest instrument.

It is good to remember the love JESUS shared, and to demonstrate HIS goodness in everything and everywhere.

It is good to remember the truth will set you free.

Dear LORD please make an instrument out of me. I will remember to worship YOU in spirit and in truth. I will praise YOUR Holy name forever.

It is a blessing and a privilege to make my life an instrument, as I serve only YOU. Let my life always reflect YOUR Will and YOUR Way.

Thank you for JESUS, Heavenly Father, and for blessing me with this journey for YOU. Please keep me humble and grateful as I remember it is good to stand, to pray and to walk by faith in JESUS name, it is Always GOOD to REMEMBER.” AMEN

“I will bless the LORD at all times, HIS praise shall continually be in my mouth.” Psalm 34:1
“Abide in me, and I in you...” St John 15:4

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

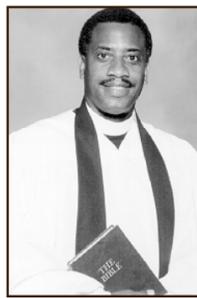
THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

Join Dr. Doral R. Pulley & Today's Church - St. Pete Location
Sunday, July 20, 2019

"Raising the Vibration...Lifting up Christ"

WORSHIP ON THE Roof Top

Two Opportunities for Worship
9 AM | Centering Service
10:30 AM | Creative Expressions

Camden Pier District
330 3rd Street South | St. Petersburg, FL 33705

CHURCH NEWS

St. Mark MBC

Greetings from St. Mark M. B. Church!

For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder; which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. Matthew 20:1-2

Sunday's message from Matthew 20:1-6, 'The Kingdom Under Review' was brought by Pastor Brown. The question asked of the scripture was 'What Expectations Follow Those Citizens of the Kingdom?' We learned four things: Everybody is welcome; Everybody should be working; Every has the same worth and Nobody should be whining.

In the text Jesus used a householder and labourers as an opportunity to demonstrate a working in the kingdom of God. The story in the text shows us that as people of his kingdom, God is the sovereign king who reigns and rules everything. We are to be governed by the rules and regulations set out by God and what he says to us in his word. We are dual citizens (citizens of America and citizens of the kingdom of God) and God wants us to be good ambassadors of his kingdom.

Verses 1, 3, 5 and 6, show us that Everybody Is Welcome. The householder did not stop in verse 1 hiring labourers but continued to add more workers throughout the day. God shows us that just because we may

have arrived before someone else doesn't mean that others arriving after us aren't welcome. We didn't all come to Jesus at the same time, but when we came, he made us welcome. So if God welcomed us, we should be welcoming to others. From the same verses, we see that Everybody Should Be Working. God keeps going out for more workers because he doesn't want anyone just standing around. He didn't give us another day just to stand around. God blessed us so that we can get busy doing the work of blessing someone else. The third answer came from verses, 12 and 13 where we learn that Everyone Has The Same Worth. The householder agreed to pay the first group of labourers hired a penny for the day. At the end of the day the householder started paying the workers who worked the shortest amount of time first. So when the group who worked the longest heard that those who worked the shortest received a penny, they had an expectation that they would receive more because they had worked longer. They complained that they were being treated unfairly. Do we have that same mindset in the church? Do we think that because of what we do, we should receive a bigger blessing? God looks at what we do and values the work the same. We are not more important than anyone else in God's eyes. So if you just got here, God loves you just as he loves those who ar-

rived, 10, 20, 30 . . . years ago. Lastly, from verses 11, 13-15, we understand that Nobody Should Be Whining. When we whine, we show our discontent with God. We can whine as a citizen of the nation, state, county or neighborhood but when it comes to the kingdom of God we cannot whine. We can't whine because God is good (God is fair). In spite of what may be going on in the world and in our lives, God is good. There's no room for whining because God is gracious. God has given us things that we don't deserve and opened door for us. God keeps making a way out of no way. There's no room for whining because God is generous. God has performed many makeovers in our lives. He's looked beyond our faults and has given us Jesus. He gives us a new start with each day and supplies all of our needs and every now and again, he gives us something that we want. All praises to our good, gracious and generous God. Please join us on Sunday @10:45 a.m. 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

The Wake-Up Call

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren (Romans 8:29)."

Some people wake up naturally without any assistance. Other people require the assistance of an alarm clock to wake up for work or school. Often hotel guests request a wake-up call so that they can be on time for a meeting or catch a flight. Cell phones are designed with the capacity for multiple alarms at separate times to wake people up for their appointments.

When you are asleep in consciousness you believe that life is about accomplishments and the attainment of possessions. Every experience that you have is designed to awaken you to your

divine nature. The purpose of every relationship that you are a part of awakens you to your true self.

According to Charles Fillmore, co-founder of the Unity Movement, salvation is the awakening of the consciousness to the truth that you are a child of God. Salvation is the realization of your eternal connection with God, your Source. You have always been connected to God. You are connected to God right now. You are never disconnected from God. At some point in your life, you forgot about this connection and required an alarm clock to wake you up out of the sleep of mere existence into the fullness of life (John 10:10).

Jesus is our Wayshower. Wayshower means the perfect pattern. He is the pattern offspring for all of God's chil-

dren. With a pattern for a dress or a shirt, a tailor can make many dresses and shirts. The purpose of the pattern is to make more than one item. Each dress has its own uniqueness of color and fabric, but it is based on a pattern. Each shirt has its own nuances of buttons and stitching, but its basic form comes from a pattern.

Jesus is the elder brother that shows his siblings the way to have an authentic relationship with God. Jesus was never meant to be the only Son of God but the firstborn of many brothers and sisters. Belief in Jesus as Wayshower empowers you to be son or daughter of God (John 1:12). Following Jesus' pattern entitles you to the inheritance of perfect health, overflowing wealth, and harmony in all relationships (Luke 12:32).

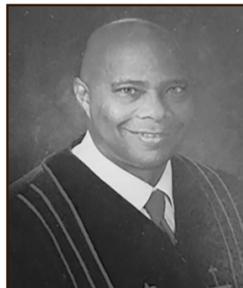
Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church will be celebrating our pastor's 15th anniversary on July 28 at the 10:15 a.m. worship service. The theme is exemplified in scripture, Jeremiah 3:15, "And I will give you Pastor's according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."

Please join us in celebrating 15 years of Preaching,

Teaching, and Serving by Dr. Rickey L. Houston. Pastor Craig E. White, Sr. of Bethany Baptist Church in Atlanta will be the guest minister.

There will be an anniversary banquet following church service at 2 p.m. at Banquet Masters, 13355 49th St. N in Clearwater. Contact the church for information at 727-327-0554.



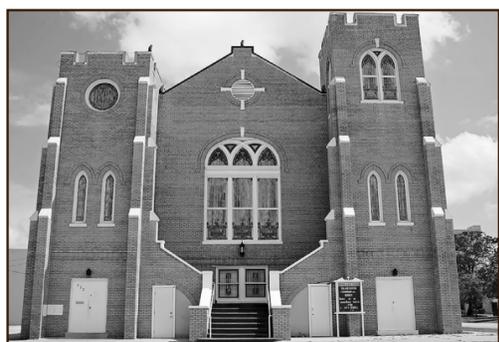
Bethel AME celebrating 125 years

ST. PETERSBURG—Bethel African AME Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary with a variety of activities for the members and the community to engage and enjoy.

Next month, a street festival will be on tap Aug. 10 from 11-2 p.m. with live entertainment, vendors, face painting and games for the youth. Then on Sept. 28, put on your best bib and tucker and join us for the Heritage Gala featuring award-winning filmmaker and native son, William Packer, Jr. as the keynote speaker.

The elegant affair will be held at the Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park with the VIP reception starting at 6 p.m. and the gala at 7 p.m. Ticket information is available by calling the church at 727-822-2089.

The 125th anniversary celebration will culminate with a worship service at the church on Dec. 8 at 10:30



a.m. with the Right Rev. Adam Jefferson Richardson, Presiding Bishop as the speaker.

Bethel has participated in the development of St. Petersburg and is recognized as a historical site. The Gothic revival building located at 912 Third Ave. N, is the oldest African-American church in the city. Bethel has been a part of the historic Methodist Town since 1894. Please join us in recog-

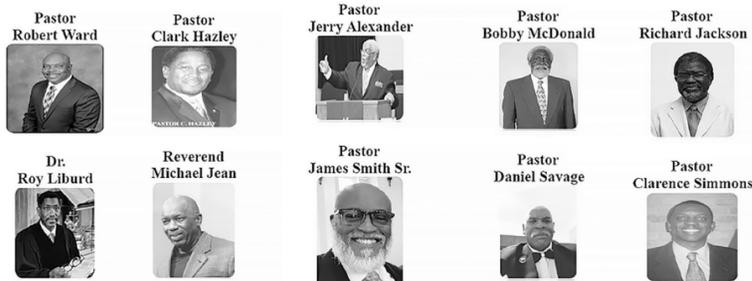
nizing the great accomplishments of this great church. For vendor and performing artist information, please contact the church at 727-822-2089.

We need support for our historic celebration and are accepting donations. Please make all checks payable to Bethel AME and mail to P.O. Box 16423, St. Petersburg, FL 33733. You will be recognized for your contribution.

The Servants' Conference • August 1-3

We invite you to come and be renewed, refreshed, and challenged by the exhortation to give ourselves as exemplary servants of Christ. The conference will be held at Southside Tabernacle Baptist Church, 3647 18th Ave. S.

Conference Speakers include Dr. E. L. Wiseman and:



THE CONFERENCE MISSION: To portray Jesus as the model servant, to propel pastors and church leader to be exemplary and to promote the need for servanthood as a way of life.

THE CONFERENCE INCLUDES: A workbook, eight gospel messages, three breakout sessions, special music, service of worship, free books, giveaways, two continental breakfasts, one brunch, two dinner meals, four refreshments and coffee breaks, sweet fellowship and Q&A Panel Discussion.

For registration information, please call (727)-327-9711.

Hosted by Dr. Lewis C. Lampley

Winnie Foster goes to jail on her birthday

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

CLEARWATER — Grassroots activist Winnie Foster celebrated her 92nd birthday at Pinellas County Jail protesting against the disproportionate number of young males of color that end up incarcerated before the age of 21. Once black males initially enter the system, the chances of them returning are statistically higher than their white counterparts.

With a picket sign in hand last Sunday, Foster

suggested that resourceful people in the community could play a significant role in helping to reduce juvenile delinquency. She then grabbed the hand of Carla Bristol, gallerist and community leader, and asked her to share her latest venture.

"I call them youth ambassadors, and we are starting a community youth farm, which will be right behind the Enoch Davis Center," said Bristol, who is the project's leader.

Funded by CRA dollars, more than 40 partner organizations and com-

munity leaders are collectively working to develop a cradle to career pathway for food systems careers and entrepreneurship in the public school system, starting with the establishment of a youth farm.

Such a project lends itself to developing skills that many of the young people would never have had the opportunity to learn and experience first-hand.

Bristol said the farm could have a positive ripple effect because it provides a unique opportunity for youth to "give back to their own community by developing a sustainable garden that could beautify and feed local residents as well."

According to statistics gathered from the "Black Disparities in Youth Incarceration" report, the incarceration of youth of color has increased by 22 percent since 2001.

A discussion about racial profiling sprang to life in the comments made by Lee Hall



Perkins, senior pastor of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Clearwater.

"As a black man in America, I can't begin to tell you how the weight of racism weighs on a person from day to day," said Perkins, adding that his wife calls him several times a day to make sure he's alive and well.

"All it takes is one traf-

fic stop, for example, and he may not come home," asserted his wife, Jana Hall-Perkins, senior pastor at McCabe United Methodist Church.

"That's why I appreciate you all here and speaking out about this kind of injustice! I'm so grateful for Mrs. Winnie, and I aspire to be like her when I grow up," she continued.

Foster's ultimate goal was to have had a meeting with the on-duty sheriff and have the protestors share their concerns, but the birthday girl and partygoers/protestors had to settle for a deputy who said he would relay the message to the sheriff.

To reach Allen Buchanan, email abuchanan@theweekly-challenger.com



ST. PETE PIER



Showcase Your Business at the New St. Pete Pier™!

If you're a business that has a unique product or service, you may want to be part of the new St. Pete Pier™ Marketplace!

WHAT IS THE MARKETPLACE?

It's an area near the entrance of the new St. Pete Pier™ District that will showcase kiosk and tent vendors and their products and services.

WHAT IS AVAILABLE?

- Market stall unit (7 available): Adjustable shelving; Canopy; Moveable panel to close/lock the unit
- Area for Tenant Signage (per agreement guidelines)
- Approximately 100 sf of usable space per unit
- Minimal storage available on market stall units
- Access to power (7 market stalls)
- Access to water (4 market stalls)
- Areas for tent set-up (limited number of tents available as part of License Agreement)
- Loading zones near Marketplace

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

The City is seeking a variety of businesses, offering a good mix of products and services that will bring residents and visitors back to the Pier frequently to check out what's new.

- Minimum 3-month commitment
- Max 12-month agreement
- Open for business a minimum of 3 days per week (Fri, Sat, Sun)
- 10' x 10' tent (to be approved by Pier management if not included in License Agreement)
- Insurance requirements per License Agreement

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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