The Power of the Collective forum

BY FRANK DROUZAS

ST. PETERSBURG — The Power of the Collective forum, held at 501 S. Quintana Road, drew an estimated 1,000 people last Thursday evening, is the first in a three-part series by the One Community Project team to bring national and local subject matter experts face-to-face with community development teams in St. Pete.

The focus of the March 28 installment was to pave the way for large-scale supplier diversity and inclusion efforts to help minority-owned firms do business with corporate and government procurement officers.

Earlier in the day, the Power of the Collective kicked off with a two-hour session at the St. Petersburg Chamber where 30 corporate, government and nonprofit executives had a question and answer session with the two visiting luminaries, Winston Johnson and Farad Ali.

Before introducing the business giants, Rev. Clarence Williams, senior pastor of Greater Mt. Zion A.M.E Church postulated that though America may be the land of the free, what makes it special is that it's the land of opportunity. He would like to see a level playing field for all to empower and move the community forward economically.

“...a lot of people can do the job,” Williams said, “but how many of us really are going to get the opportunity?...”

All vice president of National Minority Supplier Development Council, said the NMSDC works to build diversity businesses. Minority businesses hire more minorities than any other group, so when minority-owned businesses seem to find it’s the land of opportunity, He would like to see a level playing field for all to empower and move the community forward economically.

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Long-time business continues after the passing of one of its founders

BY LAUREN MERI

ST. PETERSBURG — Some family members and friends found a way to make their impact on the community for Zack Arscott and his sister, Yvonne Thompson. Their restaurant, Taste of the Islands, continues to be a part of the family business.

Arscott opened the eatery in 1992 and has been serving this authentic Jamaican cuisine to St. Pete ever since. Two years after the restaurant made its debut, Arscott’s sister made the move from London to be a part of the family business. "She was so dedicated and she loved interacting with the customers," said Arscott.

She had a positive impact on her brother’s restaurant that he said he never where the business would be without her.

Thompson was a cancer survivor of 25 years before a rare form of sarcoma developed in her pelvis, which eventually spread to other major organs in her body. She went back to St. Anthony’s Hospital in her original origination where she then referred her to the Moffitt Cancer Center.

The cancer was left untreated for months while Thompson and her family wanted to keep her on the treatment center; however, Thompson’s daughter and sister, Yvonne Thompson, would also have a question and answer session with the two visiting luminaries, Winston Johnson and Farad Ali.

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WE ENCOURAGE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Youth Farm Project in South St. Petersburg is a youth empowerment initiative that is in its formation stage. Following successful models across the country, the vision is to help high school age youth to take on progressive leadership roles on urban farm while being trained in entrepreneurship and business, leadership, job readiness, food systems and urban agriculture, and the culinary arts. The Collaboration Manager will work with 40 organizations to bring this vision to fruition. Successful candidates will have five years of combined education and experience, including two years of experience working with high-level leaders. To apply, please visit https://www.pinellaseducation.org/about/#career-opportunities.

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April 4, 2019

THE WEEKLY CHALLENGER, THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019

COMMUNITY NEWS

James Sanderlin – Neighborhood Family Services Center
Part-Time Youth Worker – Job Posting

Job Opening: 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 with 15 – 20 hours per week. Applicant must pass a Level II background screening.

Zetas hold secondary annual Finer Womanhood Tea

BY DR. CYNTHIA P. BOWMAN

ST. PETERSBURG – The Finer Womanhood Tea of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. incorporated presented its second annual Finer Woman Tea Saturday, March 23 at Lake Vista Community Center: a theme of southern charm and hospitality. The room was transformed into a grand tea parlor with tables adorned in royal blue and white, topped with delicate tea sets and fine China. Our members were evenly regalized in hats, fascinators and gowns as we welcomed family, friends and honored guests.

For much fun that was had, the intent of the formation was support for our efforts to provide scholarships opportunities for young ladies graduating high school. Helping many to continue their post-secondary education.

The founding tenets of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. is its commitment to service, scholarship, sisterly love and true to the noble concept of sisterhood. Our Finer Womanhood Tea is an opportunity to circle the essence of recognizing trailblazing women in our community along with honoring a sister from our sorority who exhibits all the traits that identify her as a Zeta in addition to going above and beyond in the call of duty.

Daylpgu Lampliy provided us with a sense of sisterhood. Zetas Gamma Zeta Chapter member and member of Zeta Wilson favored us with a warm welcome and special occasion. Gibbs High School alumnus and member of Alachua Destiny Porteus provided a moving recitation of Langston Hughes poem “Mailman” in honor of Zeta. Other Zetas Phi Beta youth contributed with a stirring interpretative dance.

District 7 Councilwoman and keynote speaker Lisa Wheeler-Bowman challenged us as women and as a brother consortium to take a stand and right wrongs as women and as a brother consortium. They cannot, alone. It will require all of us to face the ills that we see in this society and effect change.

In this arena, she has been able to contribute to community development by decreasing the digital divide and poverty gap through knowledge access. The Zeta of the Year award was bestowed upon Tashra Hagan, who not only serves with the Zeta’s but is engaged in the community with activities such as volunteering with St. Jude’s. Hagan is also of women of action, community service and mentorship.

Our congratulations and best wishes are extended to our award recipient and our thanks to all who supported our efforts.

Photography was provided by Blue Cyan Images, events by Wanda Stewart and tablecloths by Dorothy Meeks.

THE BLACK PRESS

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I recently visited the country of Angola, located just southwest of the small African nation of Botswana. This country has a very unique history, with some interesting facts. Angola is also a major exporter of oil and has a large number of diamonds. The country’s political history is quite complex, with multiple political uprisings and civil wars throughout the years. In addition, Angola is known for being one of the largest consumers of oil in the world. Overall, Angola is a fascinating country with a lot to explore and learn about.
Florida Democrats hire young people of color to win 2020

BY ANTHONY NOLFI

MELROSE — Phase 1 renovations at Melrose Elementary School have been completed and is now being used by students and staff. Phase 1 included a new classroom building with 24 classrooms, a new media center, and a massive outdoor learning area, including a new playground.

The new playground is designed to include various amenities such as a climbing structure, a slide, and swings. The playground is intended to provide a safe and fun environment for students to play and learn.

The Phase 1 renovations are part of a larger plan to modernize and improve the school facilities to meet the needs of the growing student population. The school administration and faculty buildings will be demolished. New visitors and staff parking, and a new drop-off area for students, will be added.

In June 2020, the Florida Division of Elections projected a $25.6 million increase in projected expenditures. The entire $25.6 million projected is in accordance with what was budgeted. Participants choose their projects and work at their own pace to solve the issues they take a personal interest in and use the technical skills they’ve cultivated to get as a class to learn and grow.

We feel that given these facts, there is a reasonable probability that the outcome of the election will be different if a new election is held with the delay and distraction.

The school’s administration, cafeteria, media center and art rooms are at full capacity. Phase II is expected to be completed by March 2020.

The goal is to train college students and young workers for the summer, to work on a variety of campaigns, and to create a pathway to victory for students and young voters.

The Florida Democratic Party is working with Andrew Gillum and partner organizations to increase voter registration by a million and to train college students to deliver victory in battleground states.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

BY RAYDEN JOY DRIEHOL, Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, "I do not believe the courtroom becomes a \"bullfight,\" said Police Chief Anthony Holloway at the second annual Great Debate for middle and high school students. These young ladies and men displayed their oratorical and research skills on current and controversial topics on the Palladium Theater's main stage on March 20. Despite their personal viewpoints on the subject matters, they were able to argue their side with expert knowledge and sometimes even wit.

Made possible by the AKA McKenny is partnership with the Youth Development Foundation of Pinellas County, the Great Debate is the brainchild of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.'s Zeta Delta Omega Chapter, and Dr. Beverly Davis. She said the event incorporated debating as one of its signature programs because it helps students develop skills that will enable them to be more engaged in the political process and in their future careers.

The event raised more than $14,500 to be distributed in the form of scholarships among participating students, with Chief Holloway stepping in at the last minute and bringing the total to $6,000. He also pledged to contribute to next year's debate.

Coach James Jackson's Scholars: Ra'nyah Brinson, Collin Brown, Mykenzi Richardson, Tyazyah Shivers and AKA member Sandra Pilon echoed Williams' sentiments by challenging the students to become more engaged.

"I think you were almost as good as or better than most lawyers I see on daily basis."

With charisma and confidence, these future leaders marveled at their ability to use a public restroom according to the gender of their birth or the gender they identify with.

This year's judges included Michelle Ligon, Brandon Williams, Boe Chambers, Judah Gore, Valerie Cooper, Zanza Brown, Liration Davis, Kathy Cowart, Tyazyah Shivers and Jim Jarvis.

The programming focuses on education and scholarships, health, the arts, the family unit and fostering economic and community development.

BY JABAAR EDMONDS, Staff Writer

St. Pete stormed the state capitol.

The high school winning team coached by Ste'Phan Lane Second place high school team coached by Sandra Patterson

The high school winning team coached by Coach Jackson, III Second place middle school team coached by Brandi Williams-Miller

Middle school winning team coached by Coach Jackson, III

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BY JABAAR EDMONDS, Staff Writer

St. Pete stormed the state capitol.
Youth Development funds now available

BY FAYE TIPPY

ST. PETERSBURG — Youth development programs are always needed, and the Johnson Museum of Science and History is trying to fill that need.

The museum is making strides to help established and emerging groups reach their goals in this endeavor. The city is currently accepting applications for this year’s cycle of Youth Development.

Starting in the summer of 2019, the Youth Development Grant program is the fourth component of the Mayor’s Tank Challenge. Other programs beneath the Mayor’s Tank Challenge include the Mayor’s Innovation Grant, the Mayor’s Empowerment Grant and the Cohort of Champions Transportation Challenge.

A special Youth Development Challenge was held this year, which led to this: “I remain the Cohort of Champions. The Johnson Museum of Science and History is excited to announce the launch of the Cohort of Champions Transportation Challenge. This program is for groups that are looking to bring transportation to youth. Photo taken last year on steps of City Hall.

The Johnson Museum of Science and History is excited to announce the launch of the Cohort of Champions Transportation Challenge. This program is for groups that are looking to bring transportation to youth. Photo taken last year on steps of City Hall.

For more information, contact Faye Tippy at 727-588-6443 or via email at fayet@pcsb.org.

The targeted population for the project or program must be youth who are 12 – 16 years of age. The program or project must be able to provide transportation for a minimum of three days, or at least 20 hours.

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The ensemble is comprised of six actors, all of whom deliver performances that draw the audience through the play's challenging lead changes and questions of faith and identity. From the tables of joy "Crumbs from the Table of Joy" is at freeFall Theatre, 6099 Central Ave., until Sunday, April 14. Call (727) 498-5205 or visit freefalltheatre.com. To reach J.A. Jones, email jjones@theweekly-challenger.com

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By J.A. JONES

Set in 1950, Nottage’s period piece scares, not only due to her subtly masterful writing but equally because Jacqueline Thompson’s visually inspired and action-driven directing, as well as pitch perfect performances by the stellar cast. The play’s title taken from a line in Langston Hughes’ poem “Lack,” Sometimes a cloud falls.

From the tables of joy Sometimes a bone is sung
To some people Love is given Only heaven.

To others

Sometimes a cloud falls
Playing off Hughes’ verse and beautiful, its cynical, view of life for blacks in America, Nottage’s play on heaven is sometimes ill-illustrated by its old-fashioned historical figure, Father Divine, the real-life founder, or depending who you ask, charlatan – of Brooklyn’s International Peace Mission Movement in the 1920s (still active on Facebook today, oddly enough). The play’s heroine, 17-year-old Erminia Crump, is marvelously portrayed by the shining Alicia Thomas. Narrating the piece, she guides the audience through the evening via daydreams and flashbacks. Thomas’ more than succeeds in the play’s challenging lead role – she moves through the theater space with confidence as the often be-moaned and ever-crossed Ernestine, who is dearest of explanations for the strange experiences falling herself and her family.

Younger sister Erminia, less sharp but ultimately more street savvy, is played broodingly by Rie Davis and father Godfrey, a decent but frightened man, who turns to the mysterious and murky Father Divine, is delivered tenderly and heartbreakingly by Michael Kenney. The ensemble is rounded out by Trenell Mooring, who does well as the relentless, intelli- gent and able “in search of” Aunt Lily – an activist and Communist sympathizer who shows up insistently to help care for the girl, but who is more clearly in need of her own evening.

Finally, Emilee Dupre is likable and passionate as Gertrude Crump, the white German interloper who marries into the family. Although the actress seemed to struggle pulling old Gertrude’s German accent (it sounded French at times), her portrayal overall was effective.

“Crumbs from the Table of Joy” is at freeFall Theatre, 6099 Central Ave., until Sunday, April 14. Call (727) 498-5205 or visit freefalltheatre.com.

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ST. PETERSBURG – New York’s freeFall Theatre presents a premiere in St. Pete, as "Crumbs from the Table of Joy" examines a motherless family’s transition from Pensacola to Brooklyn. By J.A. Jones

Staff Writer

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This offer is available on Wells Fargo Savings Accounts and Fixed Rate Certificates of Deposit only. Rates current as of May 1, 2019 and subject to change without notice. The Annual Percentage Yield is based on an assumption that you do not make any withdrawals from your account. The Annual Percentage Yield for a Savings Account is the rate paid on your account balance, which will change based on the interest rate in effect at the time the interest is credited. The Annual Percentage Yield for a Fixed Rate CD is the rate paid on your account balance, which will not change for the term of the CD, unless the CD is surrendered prior to the maturity date. Rates are subject to change at any time without notice. See your Local Banker for more information, at wellsfargo.com or call (800) 775-8411.

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Young mother with HIV lives a healthy life

By LaShante Keys, Empath Health Community Outreach Specialist

ST. PETERSBURG — Kierra Mitchell’s children are her world. As a loving wife and mom of six, she enjoys spending a lot of time with her family, keeping a tidy household and opening her home for more family visitors. Her goal is to stay active and healthy.

“I am your average person. I love being a mom. I love to work out. I try to walk at least three times a week. I am going to join a YMCA, and I am going to look into a kickboxing class. I care about my health.”

Taking care of her health also means managing her arthritis, epilepsy and HIV. She tested positive for HIV in 2006. “I received it from my husband who is now deceased. The health department case manager connected her with Pinellas Family Care Clinic, which then connected her to EPIC (Empath Partners in Care), a member of Empath Health. She and her husband continued to remain healthy.”

“I married my husband in 2010 and dated him for two years before that. I have not injected him. I am so proud to be his wife and that he was going on with me. We do my lab, and my CD4 count is going up. I don’t have my life on that HIV. I don’t think it’s a disease. I do what I am supposed to do to stay healthy.”

The groups and staff at EPIC uplift her mental health and physical health. Mitchell started with the women’s group because she needed fellowship with other women and they shared stories and information.

Now she attends a group that is open for both women and men who are HIV positive. She said they are like a second family to her.

“We learn from each other. It’s like therapy to me. We get motivated and comfort each other. I look forward to it,” Mitchell shared.

EPIC’s Lunch and Learn classes bring another layer of education and support. She expressed, “Trave learned so much about what it means to be this HIV. People come to teach and let us know the newest things [treatment] out. It’s awesome. It has been an amazing journey for how I’ve come.”

Now she’s training to become a volunteer in appreciation of all the information she has received so much about what it means to be this HIV. She hopes telling her story will help others impacted by HIV.

“I am taking a step to hopefully help people and to free myself a little more from within. HIV doesn’t have a name or face. The stigma is so bad. There are so many people who are scared to find out. It’s better to know than not know. I say get tested and strap up. With HIV, you can take medicines and live a healthy and normal life. I am here living and thriv- ing in this community, she the mother of six. HIV continues to take a heavy and disproportion toll on our African-American community, particularly black women, youth and gay and bisexual men.

Recent statistics from the Henry J. Kaiser Fam-

ily Foundation state that although African American represent only 12 percent of the U.S. popula-

tion, they account for a much larger share of HIV diagnoses (41 percent), people estimated to be living with HIV disease (42 percent) and deaths among people with HIV (61 percent) than any other racial/eth-nic group in the U.S.

The foundation fur- ther reported that among women, black women account for the largest share of new HIV diagnoses, 40 percent, or 3,670 in 2012. It’s important for everyone to get tested for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. Stop in for free HIV testing at EPIC’s mobile unit or offices in St. Pe-

tersburg, Clearwater or Tampa. For appointments are required, and results usually take about 15 minutes.

All are invited to join Dining Out for Life Tampa Bay on Thursday, April 11. Participating restaurants will donate part of their proceeds to support EPIC. Learn more at DineTB.org.

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The Weekly Challenger

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THE WEEKLY CHALLENGER, THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019

COMMUNITY NEWS

Taste of the Islands continues to thrive

Yvonne Thompson passed away Jan. 6

“I really like both loca-
tions. The 34th St. loca-
tion has a lot more to offer
with the market next door.
However, the downtown
location has a lot of the
food precooked, so it’s
closer if you’re on the go.
Regardless of the location,
you’re getting authentic
Jamaican food,” said re-
turning customer Brianna
Rodriguez.

Taste of the Islands
restaurant will continue
to offer genuine service to
their St. Pete community
for years to come.

“Everything was good
about her, everything.
And I’m glad the reflec-
tion of how I knew her is
how everyone else felt
about her too,” Arscott
concluded.

Lauren Mers is a stu-
dent reporter in the Neigh-
borhood News Bureau of
the University of South
Florida St. Petersburg.
Visit nnbnews.com for
more info.

Zack Arscott and Valerie Ellard

Yvonne Thompson passed away Jan. 6.

“Like it hasn’t even
happened to us yet. We
haven’t seen the impact of
losing her. It’s still just in
our head,” said Arscott.

“It’s going all right;
we just missed her as a
family at home because
she was the backbone of
the family too. She was
my sister, my mother, my
business partner, every-
things.”

Thompson’s family
and friends remember
her as someone who
worked hard, put others
first and laughed often.

“She was a very plea-
sant person and a very
pleasing person as well.
She was very kind to
anyone that walked in,”
said regular customer and
family friend Donald Jack-
sion.

Arscott and his em-
ployees are focused on
getting back to reality and
continuing with his busi-
tess. With two additional
businesses to run, Arscott
and his team have much
to focus on.

Their second location
of Taste of the Islands
opened in downtown St.
Petersburg in Feb. 2017,
and they also run the Ja-
maican grocery store next
door to their original loca-
tion on 34th Street South.
The grocery store of-
fers many unique Ja-
maican products one
would not usually come
across. They pick up their
products weekly from
Miami.

The following job(s) are
currently available:

Director, Housing & Residence Life

Law Enforcement Officer

For information regarding the
position listed above, please visit:
http://www.usfsp.edu/jobs

or visit the USFSP Human Resources
Office at

140 Seventh Ave. S., Bay 206,
St. Petersburg, FL

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Welcoming...Diverse...Inclusive

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TASTE, from front page

Zack Arscott and Valerie Ellard

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Over 40 Years in Tampa Bay

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Over 40 Years in Tampa Bay
COMMUNITY NEWS

New St. Petersburg Police headquarters boasts state-of-the-art technology

BY J.A. JONES

ST. PETERSBURG – The St. Petersburg Police Department revealed its long-awaited new facility, located at 1304 First Ave. N. on March 22.

The building’s testa-
ment to modern vision is
heralded by the enor-
mous metal, flower-like
sculpture “Gladiolus” by
Mark Aeling, standing as
a kind of sentinel on the
corner of the building’s
plaza entrance (his sculp-
ture “Shielded” floats
above one’s head as one
tours into the grand
garage systems and a
third of the building space.

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ture “Shielded” floats
above one’s head as one
tours into the grand
garage systems and a
third of the building space.

With cutting-edge
technology to rival any po-
lice department in the cou-
try today, it was also
built to withstand a Cate-
gory 5 hurricane of up to
195 mph winds and will
serve as the emergency
center for the city, as well as the data
storage site for Pinellas County
Emergency Oper-
ation.

The structure was de-
signed by Harvard Jolly
Architecture, a long-
standing designer of pub-
lic safety, school,
healthcare, and library
properties, in partnership
with engineering firm
AECOM and Ajax Build-
ing Corporation. The facil-
ity’s estimated cost is
$78.5 million and was
mostly paid for by Penny
for Pinellas funds.

St. Petersburg’s
Mayor Rick Kriseman and
City Council members
were on-hand along with
Police Chief Anthony Hol-
loway, Asst. Chief Mike
Kovacsev, Harvard Jolly’s
president Ward Fris-
zolowski and the project’s
lead architect Emmet Van
Aken to celebrate the
property’s formal ribbon-
cutting and unveiling.

“It’s a very exciting
day for us; it feels like get-
ning the keys to a new
home,” shared Chief Hol-
loway. “We’re very, very
proud of this building.”

He said his favorite
part of the structure is the
landscaped reflection area
created as a memorial to
St. Pete police officers
whose lives were lost in
the line of duty.

Mayor Kriseman
shared his belief that “We
have the best police de-
partment in the state of
Florida if not the country
– but certainly the place
that they were working in
wasn’t. It’s hard to do
your job when you’re
working in substandard
facilities, and you don’t
have all the tools at your
disposal to do your job
– and now they will.”

Highlighting the event
was a display by three
members of the US Spe-
cial Operations Command
Parachute Team, the
Para-Commandos—who
sky-dived from helicopt-
ers holding flags to be
raised on the building by
the St. Petersburg Police
Honor Guard.

To reach J.A. Jones,
e-mail jjones@theweekly-
challenger.com
“What is greatness,” she asked. “That means the power that you hold within yourself. That means the amazing things that lie within you.”

Women are already born with greatness, Smith postulated, as they are the only gender that can create life. Smith admitted that she didn’t know much about the power she possessed until she gave birth to her son, who is now six. And for those women who have no children, they are given life in more ways than one.

“We have the capability to give birth to something, she said, “not just humans. We go through life, we give birth to immortality, we give birth to ideas, we give birth to thoughts, we give birth to inventions!”

Another measure of greatness is that we all have something inside of us that makes us special and unique, Smith explained, be it dancing, cooking, speaking, drawing, or what have you. Young people just have to take in whatever talent they may have and bring it out.

“We’re all good at something, I have to challenge you to figure out what it is,” Smith said. “If it’s something you’re passionate about, if it’s something you know that you’re really, really good at, you have to pursue it. That’s the only way you’re going to fulfill your great- ness.”

Smith had a non-traditional upbringing as she grew up without a father in her home. Her mother was only 17 when she had Smith. It was very difficult for her mother, as she had to work two or three jobs and simply wasn’t always around to foster young Smith’s confidence. The result was that Smith had low self-confidence for a long time.

“I didn’t like myself, I didn’t even think I was pretty when I was young,” she admitted.

In a life-changing move, Smith decided to move to Los Angeles in 2010. Looking at the mountains and sitting on the edge of the Pacific Ocean, she finally found herself and realized her potential.

It is something that we have to work at. Smith encouraged everyone to write positive affirmations daily to boost self-esteem and confidence.

“For every morning for 40 days, she said, everyone should put three statements, such as ‘I am amazing,’ ‘I am awesome,’ and ‘I am beautiful.’”

Tapping into greatness now requires setting goals, but the most important thing is to follow through, Smith advised.

“If you cannot keep your promise to yourself, the world has nothing else to offer,” she said. “Everything that you do starts with yourself.”

Smith advised those in hand in hand to seek mentors in their field to help them open doors and realize opportunities. And always continue to better yourself and dream bigger.

“Who are those people in your life that you’ve thought about who are going to help you get there? You’ve got to be able to have an impact on the whole family.”

You can always push yourself harder, Smith asserted, and you can always challenge yourself to do more.

“You have to invest in yourself!” she said emphatically.

Sisters Kin-nect is just that.

This year, the MBSK Sisters Kin-nect will introduce opportunities to further and include women. Gaskin-Capehart said it’s important to be able to have an impact on the whole family.

“You can’t just focus on young girls. You’ve got to be able to focus on their families and their support network with their mentors and role models,” said Gaskin-Capehart. “This is a holistic approach to us being able to have a transformative impact in the community.”

Workshops included the board meeting, confidence-building, and peer-to-peer networking.

The board is made up of people who help the board with their expertise. Barlow handpicked because of their expertise. Barlow is the executive director of the St. Petersburg Innovation District, facilitated a workshop called Personal Board of Directors, encouraging women to assemble an advisory board to help them through life.

A board of directors for a company is essentially a group of people that help set their strategic direction. Those sitting on the board are handpicked because of their expertise. Barlow suggests every woman needs this type of support.

“Who are those people in your life that are doing that for you? Who are those people that you look up to? And how do you go about asking them?” she asked.

She suggested stacking the board with peers, those older and younger, someone who sees the world differently, someone who might be in the same life experience and someone who is not afraid to question your moves.

“I guarantee that any woman that you see there who is kicking ass has something like this,” she stated.

The Sisters Kin-nect conference ended with networking time, giveaways, and of course, a dance party.

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BETHEL METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH
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E-mail: bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com  •  Web site: www.bmmbc.org

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

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(Full breakfast served after service, $6.00)
Communion and Healing Service 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays

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**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

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

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Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study (Fare Time) .......7:30 p.m.
Thursday Night Prayer and Bible Study (Fare Time) .......7:30 p.m.

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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: 7:00 p.m.

**BETHEL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**

904 19th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712 (above the daycare)

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

Welcome - Bienvenidos
ST. AUGUSTINE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Joyful Spirit, Joyful Jazz
2920 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg 33712
727-867-6774
Staugus@tampabay.com
The Rev. Josie Race, Priest-in-Charge
Communion and Worship Service 9:00 a.m. every Sunday
(Full breakfast served after service, $6.00)
Communion and Healing Service 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays

**BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**

3845 - 20th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Telephone (727) 327-6054  •  Fax (727) 327-6240
E-mail: bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com  •  Web site: www.bmmbc.org

Sunday Worship Service ..........................10:15 a.m.
Sunday School .............................................9:00 a.m.
The wilderness God was though they were still in months had passed yet from day one until three to a better place. They heaven. The prize is day God gives more in-fines and develops. Every us to a place where he re- it with us as God moves our old nature, we gained every day God gives more in-sight into his plan, so we need to keep pursuing after him. Ultimately God wants us to take us to the great place called his price. But the price is more than we can bear the heavenly place.

The prize is a being in a perfect relation and union with God that we cannot have now. The prize is Jesus Christ. From the beginning, Peter has been the children of Israel have been journeying for three of the promises was that if they would follow God, he would lead them to a better place. But Peter had done the same thing before. He had been exposed to wilderness. But even though he had known the wilderness God was calling them to “go over” and the Lord asked Pastor Brown of the text was “What can God Do for What Can We Ex- pect?” He referenced verse 3 of the text for the first point, “Look Up and Live.” In this verse God addressed both Jacob and Israel, two halves of the Jacob’s story. God all rescued him (the trick
tory) to help him understand that he was out of bounds because he thought he needed to do things with his mind and he also talked to Israel (Jacob’s new sons) so that Israel would know that his job to trust God. We too need to learn the facts, we are to be in- stilled and that’s all there is to know. The Holy Spirit, that will help you and the other half, our book, will not be saved. Being saved does mean we can forget about our old nature. Salvation is not a subtraction but an In addition. We didn’t lose our old nature, we gained a new nature that can be heard when we listen to the new na- ture. The second point, verse 4, Look up and Lean. From verses 5 and 6, under this point three subpoints were given that God says he required us to learn, and one reason was that we can learn to a greater extent that we are too afraid to learn, we need to learn where to learn least, so secondly we need to learn, we need to learn and when we are able to Lean. The third point of the message was to Stand Up and Low. Under this subpoint he empha- sized to live our lives knowing our finite value. Could it be that all that we have known our worth and knowing what that value is to us is going to help us dis- cover what our worth and value is, therefore, we can’t give up. A subpoint from verse 6, tells us that we should live our lives walk- ing with vision and pa- tience. We are to be a representative for the people about God to the people so that the people can be brought to God and the kingdom en- thusiasm. Our lives come in season and before we give up in any season we need to wait on God and see what the next season is going to be. Please remember, the message of the Lord’s message is open to you every Sunday morning for you to receive the entire word from the Lord! The story of Peter’s mother-in-law’s healing零售 M.B. Church of Largo joined St. Mark and Shiloh M.B. Church in 2002. Actually, it was Peter’s house and his mother-in-law was living with him, his wife and his family. I imagined that the house was a big Prayer Meeting and Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Wednesday 7:00 p.m. and 10:45 a.m.

It seems there was no contact for Thomas, who was our Bread of Life Ministry. The word from the Lord! The message was “When We look to God. The prize is day God gives more in-fines and develops. Every us to a place where he re- it with us as God moves our old nature, we gained every day God gives more in-sight into his plan, so we need to keep pursuing after him. Ultimately God wants us to take us to the great place called his price. But the price is more than we can bear the heavenly place.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

50 years of Faith Memorial

BY LYNN GORDON
Director

FAITH MEMORIAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, St. Petersburg, under the leadership of Pastor Robert A. Vinson, Jr., celebrated its 50th church anniversary Sunday, March 17. The theme for the occasion was “50 years of Faithful Service: Recognizing our Past, Disciplining the Present, and Preparing for the Future.”

The congregation and visitors gathered for two services. Rev. Brian K. Brown of St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church delivered the message for the 10 a.m. service, and Rev. John Evans and the congregation of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church gave the Word for the 5 p.m. service.

Mayor Rick Kriseman spent a portion of the morning worship service with the congregation and issued a proclamation declaring March 17, 2019, to be Faith Memorial Missionary Baptist Church Day in the City of St. Petersburg.

Both services were spirit-filled as Brown and Evans delivered rousing sermons, and songs of praise brought the worshippers to their feet as they gave thanks for 50 years of faithful service.

The Faith congregation acknowledged its founders and pioneers and highlighted its beginnings in 1969 when “a group of Baptist believers” led by Maude Harris decided to permanently establish a seat of worship in what is formerly known as the Park Theater on 18th Avenue South.

The establishment of the permanent location, 1800 18th Ave. S., followed in 1963 when a temporary worship site at the Masonic Hall on Union Street South. At the time Faith was formally established in Feb. 1969, the church was under the leadership of Rev. Fate Blasingane who served until his death in 1972. Following his death, the church elected Rev. Dr. Bragg L. Turner who served from Sept. 1972 until his death in Aug. 2014.

Pastor Vinson leads one church under the 2019 theme “Growing Relationally in Discipleship Through Christ.” Happy anniversary from The Weekly Challenger!