
The Weekly Challenger, et al

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Hurricane-impacted Panhandle gets help from St. Pete community

By J.A. Jones

ST. PETERSBURG – Last month Hurricane Michael be- came the strongest storm ever to hit Florida Panhandle, upgraded to a category 4 as it approached the coast. Homes and businesses were blown away, power lines down and the infrastructure was damaged. Tony Marion is the owner of Esquire, a barber in the capitol of ACT Right, a grassroots organization that brings the community together, 233 needy families were brought the community to- gether, 233 needy families were helped...
Bringing respectability back to the NAACP

St. Petersburg Branch NAACP: Living up to its promise

BY MARIA L SCRUGGS
President, St. Petersburg Branch NAACP

For African Americans, this is a time where our stories, our triumphs, our often true histories are ignored. They voice is easily dismissed and the harm is real. Since 1909, the NAACP has been dedicated to fighting for the rights of all persons and protecting the civil and human rights of all. The NAACP is a vehicle for change, and it is the right thing to do.

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They often hear, too, that their voice is not only ignored, but flat out discounted. Many claim that this is a time of cynicism and apathy. But, the NAACP remains a voice for those who do not feel heard. It is the voice of those who do not feel understood. It is the voice of those who do not feel appreciated. It is the voice of those who do not feel valued. It is the voice of those who do not feel respected.

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The City of St. Petersburg (“City”) has available affordable housing programs which are assigned to three generations and some families have more than others. It seems like a simple problem comes in when one doesn’t want to face reality and a particular curse. This is a face if you are not accepting about stopping the perpetuation of these hardships to reconcile with all that God has for you and your family. Again, I apologize for being blunt and to the point, but I am being blunt, candid and to the point, but I am being blunt, candid and to the point in this one about men. I tell you this because I was able to add on remove one in my family tree. I declared that my kids could not have both parents in the home until each was a graduate from high school and that would be a present, in your face, proactive deal in each of their lives.

As a result, I concluded that curse and instilled in them of them from when you decide to have a fam-
yuity, it want you it be blinded and successful, you have to employ the standards, principles and ex-
amples you were raised by. If you want leadership and heartaches, do it a dif-
ficult way.

When you understand that is God that deter-
mines you family tree, you must understand that He also gave you the correct terrains and water to nur-
ture and feed that soil. Our age old nemesis Satan has masterfully or-
er than the Number One church. We are taken as human beings and not gods. We are ow-
ners of the issues within the church.
LARGO – Creative Pinellas, the county’s non-profit arts agency, formed in 2011 with a mission to “support Pinellas County’s artists, arts organizations, and the arts and cultural community for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.”

Last month, Creative Pinellas held its 2018 Arts Annual — which functioned as its first fundraiser — showcasing a slew of talent.

In 2017, the arts agency took over what had been the former Gulf Coast Museum of Art for 73 years before it closed in 2009. The county had ownership of the building until Creative Pinellas’ executive director Barbara St. Clair approached officials about utilizing the space, which consists of a gallery and several offices.

The 2018 Arts Annual featured live and three-dimensional art by Helen French and Andrea Scott, and music and compositions by Elizabeth Baker, Mark Finnman, David Manson and Tom Svak. Writers, actors and filmmakers showcased included Greg Byrd, Roxanne Fay, Gloria Muñoz, and Lisaanne Fay, and featured cultural figures.

The gallery was burst with a room of its own, featuring multi-faceted and creative works by Mark Aeling, Elizabeth Baker, David Manson and Andee Scott, and photography by Helen French.

The gallery and several offices provide an arts business incubator – inclusions office sharing and rentals with a leaf motif, were motivated by a trip taken after the death of her son.

Two of the strongest pieces were Jake Troyli’s large, boldly colored paintings featuring an amalgam of ethnic images, racialized imagery, and cultural palettes.

I’m using augmented reality, or extended reality, to tell the story of the human race, from the beginning ending up until now.”

Utilizing the burgeoning technology in new ways, Everett said Sundance is currently tracking her project. To learn more about it, visit gobatchit.com.

Creative Pinellas currently provides grants to art and art organizations, holds shows and performances in its gallery and offers an arts business incubator — including office sharing and a variety of programs and activities to listen, support and encourage artists and organizations at any stage of development.

Purchased in part by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater and the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, you can learn more about the agency at creativpinellas.com.

To reach J.A. Jones, email jjones@theweeklychallenger.com.
November is a time set aside for the nation to pro-
vide additional focus on children who have been
taken from their homes due to abuse, abandon-
ment and neglect and placed in the foster care
system. There is still a weighty need for urgent
placement until permanent placement or perma-
nence can be achieved.

One Church One Child of Florida is asking the
local communities to learn about the benefits of adop-
tion, fostering foster care, partnership with local
agencies and mentoring for more than 700 children
including the five siblings below.

Churches are asked to partner with One Church
One Child in sharing infor-
mation with congregations and extending Watch-Care
Ministry to children. Rev Beverly Hill Lane, state
president for One Church One Child, is challenging
fellow pastors to get involved and encouraging
fellow pastors to get in-
olved and encouraging
their church to partner with One Church One Child.

Recognizing national adoption month

Do pray sincerely for them and consider making
them a part of your family through adoption or a part
of your church through Project Watch-Care support and mentoring.

Sierra, 16
As in any case with the oldest child, Sierra has a natural le-
vel of maturity and responsibility and is setting a
fine example for others and taking charge! She’s de-
termined to make the most of her future, and she
works hard to achieve her goals. When she grows up
Sierra wants to be a nurse—a role she’s well-suited for.
She has a sweet, outgoing personality and she’s
never met a stranger.

Kaye, 14
Kaye is a sweet, playful young woman with a pas-
sionate loyalty towards her siblings. She admires
Sierra immensely, and she always has a watchful eye on
the younger kids. Kaye’s an ice cream fanatic, and she
loves her friends and family. If she could change any-
thing about herself, she’d choose to be braver, and
the thing she wants to do most is travel the entire
world!

Cala, 12
Cala thrives when she’s
circled by people en-
couraging her to do her
best and achieve things she may not think are pos-
sible. She’s a hard worker with a funny sense of
humor, and she adores her friends and family Cala
longs to be useful in the safety of a forever family, together with her siblings—
predatory prey in a house with
out dads, as she’s a little afraid of Owls!

Jimmy, 10
Jimmy’s a lucky little dude in a sea ofartists. He has a heart of gold and the sweetest little personality.
He works hard at every-
thing he sets his mind to, whether it’s school or sports, and he’s becoming a talented athlete. Jimmy is friendly and outgoing and loves being part of a team.

Lillymae, 9

Here’s the sweet little
caboose to this family
trio! Lillymae’s full of life
and laughter, and she’s a
wonderful little girl to be
around. She’s been affection-
ately nicknamed “the caboose,” as she’s a little
more quiet than her other siblings. Lillymae has a heart of gold and the
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Sierra has a sweet, outgoing personality and she’s
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Kaye, 14
Kaye is a sweet, playful young woman with a pas-
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Sierra, Kaye, Cala, Jimmy & Lillymae
L-R, Sierra, Kaye, Cala, Jimmy & Lillymae

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St. Pete celebrates Thanksgiving

COMMUNITY NEWS

NCNW, from front page

America Tampa Bay pulled another stop there. Feeding Life and History, the Association for the St. Petersburg Chapter of the AME Church St. Petersburg District and the St. Petersburg District of the National Ministerial Alliance, the AME Church St. Petersburg District and the HEAT program were blessed last year. A Place of Recovery dropped by with a cornucopia of goodies, as opposed to the 10 families that were blessed last year.

This year the ladies of NCNW, partnered with other local organizations such as the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, The Christian Generation Center of Hope, Somebody Cares Tampa Bay, Nona Town Covenant Alliance, the AME Church St. Petersburg District and the St. Petersburg Chapter of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. But the partnership didn’t stop there. Feeding America Tampa Bay pulled up with a truckload of chicken, steak, ham and broccoli, and it’s not to be outdone. A Peace of Recovery dropped by with a truck full of fresh produce also.

Christina Fields, an administrator from the Pasco County School District’s HEAT program, brought pallets of canned goods while Pastor Eddie Robinson from the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance broke out his grill and cooked up sausages, hamburgers and chicken-fajitas for those waiting in line. Clothing and housewares were also available, and thanks to an anonymous donor, many items were donated with the tags still on them. Leftover clothing items will be given to the Dress for Success job program.

It just felt good to be able to do this,” said Fields, who under her leadership, the St. Pete chapter has grown from six members in two years. “We are trying to get our name out there. We need to get out into the community.”

Pastor Robinson plans to take the leftovers food and drink to the Panhandle to help bring much-needed relief to Hurricane Michael victims. This year the ladies of NCNW partnered with other local organizations that were blessed last year. A Place of Recovery dropped by with a cornucopia of goodies, as opposed to the 10 families that were blessed last year.

HELP, from front page

REMINDER: The official winter season begins on Friday, December 21. The week of December 17 marks the winter solstice, which is the moment when the sun is lowest in the sky and the day is shortest of the year, falling on December 22. This year’s solstice occurs at 2:16 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. The last remnant of snow is expected to melt away by mid-December, according to the National Weather Service. The next major snowfall could occur in January, with the possibility of a significant storm hitting the region. For more information, visit www.weather.com.

CONNECT WITH US!

YouTube Facebook

80 years and going strong

CELEBRATE, from front page

Charles, Stephens said. During the celebration, Walker served as the master of ceremonies and told everyone his great-aunt treated him and his siblings as though they were her children.

“Every time we would see her car coming up the driveway, we got so excited,” he said. “She would always come with gifts for us, and we loved it.”

Walker said they had a chant when they would see her. “Auntie, Auntie! Ya, Ya, Ya!”

As Stephens made her way up to the front of the room to sit in her chair fit for a queen, the room started repeating Walker’s childhood chant. “Auntie, Auntie! Ya, Ya, Ya!”

Stephens, a graduate of Florida A&M University, said since she never had children of her own, her nieces and nephews were very dear to her. She is proud of how well they are doing and how much they give back to their families.

“I don’t have to worry about anything,” she said. “They make sure I have what I need, and I really appreciate them for that.”

Stephens said her family has already told her to get ready for what her 85th birthday party is going to bring. “They said I hadn’t seen anything yet,” Stephens exclaimed. “So I am waiting for 86 to see how they can top this. I am in tune with God and I just waiting to see what is going to happen.”

To reach J.A. Jones, email jjones@theweekly-challenger.com

To learn more about ACT Right’s plans, you can reach Tony Macon at (727) 542-2189.

To reach Karin Davis-Thompson, email kdst@theweekly-challenger.com.
Food truck rally aims to revitalize shopping center

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL

ST. PETERSBURG — Saturday, Nov. 3 was a great day to pig out. The sun was shining, temperatures were in the mid-70s, and food trucks aplenty were parked at the Skyway Plaza Shopping Center in hopes of revitalizing the empty space located at 52nd Avenue South.

Since Sweetbay closed its doors more than five years ago, there has been no anchor store at the plaza. In its place, the shopping center boasted of a major grocery chain, hardware store, a Greek restaurant and more. Without a large grocery store, other businesses left, and the plaza has sat mostly empty.

However, four of the areas’ neighborhood associations: Greater Pinellas Point Civic Association (GPPCA), Bayou Highlands, Bahama Shores and Lakewood Terrace are leading the charge to pump life back into the plaza. In its day, the shopping center on the south side of town would not support a large grocery store, but instead should look for smaller service-oriented businesses. And that is exactly what the residents are looking for.

“We are trying to encourage them to bring other businesses in like barbershops, food places, dry cleaners,” said Lally. “We are still trying to meet Briarwood, the food places, the dry cleaners, the business that we have here. We want to keep the money here and have the jobs here.”

The first food truck rally in June brought in crowds upwards of 1,200 hungry people. That large showing instilled Briarwood’s interest and this rally they said was the result of the action in person.

The city supported the event, with police on hand to ask eventgoers to observe the action in person.

The city supported the rally, the city funded the $1,000 guarantee required by the food truck association for 10 feet of trucks to park their trailers on the lot. This time around, no assignments were needed because truck owners were pleased with the last event.

District 5 Councilmember Steve Kornell also set his sights on Coquina Key Plaza, which hasn’t been the same since Publix pulled out in the early 1990s.

Councilmember Steve Cometh (left) presented the 2018 Neighborhood Partnership Award to the Greater Pinellas Point Civic Association, Bayou Highlands, Bahama Shoes and Lakewood Terrace Neighborhood Associations for organizing the truck rallies. L-R, Kenneth Conklin (Lakewood Terrace), Barbara Ellis, Danny White (Greater Pinellas Point Civic Association) Walter Barden (Bahama Shoes) and Norm Scott (Bayou Highlands).
COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. PETERSBURG –
Sunday, Nov. 11 saw a di-
verse group of support-
er gather at Akwaaba
Hall at the Uhuru House,
1245 18th Ave. S, to cele-
brate WBPU 96.3 FM Black Power 96 radio sta-
tion doubling its local lis-
tening area. What was
strictly on the south side
of town, can now be
heard beyond neighbor-
hoods north of Central
Avenue and out to Gulf-
port and the Tyrone area.

Earlier this year, the FCC
gave the go-ahead to
raise the tower from 45
feet to 70 feet, expanding
coverage and reaching
more of the local African
community. Black Power 96
was launched last Dec.
on the internet and in
Jan. as an FM station. It is
completely funded by
community support.

The afternoon was
dedicated to self-deter-
mination, education, his-
tory, local live music and
delicious food. Keynote
speaker Omali Yeshitala,
chairman of the African
People’s Socialist Party,
delivered his message on
“The War of Ideas” being
waged against African
people on a daily basis.
Yeshitala, a St. Pete
native, in 1966 tore down
a racist and demeaning
mural depicting black
musicians serenading
white partygoers, a scene
he felt was a degrading
caricature of black peo-
ple. He spent two and a
half years in prison for
that act.

Chairman Yeshitala
also spoke of the events
in 1996 when the commu-
ity reacted to the police
shooting of 18-year-old
TyRon Lewis and the
subsequent rioting that
ensued after the police of-
ficers were exonerated.

The celebration was
sponsored by Uhuru
Foods and Pies and was
also supported by mem-
ers of Uhuru Solidarity
movement, a mass organ-
ization of white people
working under the lead-
ership of the African Peo-
ples’s Socialist Party,
working in white commu-
nities to build white soli-
darity with black power.

As a new resident to
St. Pete, this was a story
I needed to hear.

The mission of Black
Power 96 is to defend the
human and civil rights of
the African community
through educational and
cultural programming, to
provide professional
radio training and to pro-
mote economic develop-
ment and resilience in
the African community.

“Black Power 96 is
needed to counter and
change the relentless
daily negative narra-
tive about African people.
Poor and working-class
African people are the
most slandered people.
Our programming ad-
dresses the serious dis-
parities in education,
health and economic de-
velopment,” said Di-
akiesse Lungisani,
WBPU 96.3 FM station
manager.

He added that the sta-
tion is designed to raise
the consciousness of African people through
programming related to
and provided by African
people, and seeks to unify
black people worldwide.
WBPU is seeking
businesses, event organ-
izers and service pro-
viders to support the
radio station. Volunteers
are also being sought to
help build capacity at the
station.

Black Power 96 en-
dorses to continue to
build awareness in the
community, host cultur-
ally relevant events and
invite more diverse
voices on the airwaves.

For more information
contact station manager
Lungisani at (727) 914-
3614 or info@black-
power96.org

$620

Join us for the annual exhibit of work by multimedia journalism scholars from Melrose Elementary, John Hopkins Middle and Lakewood High schools at Studio@620, 620 First Ave. S, St. Petersburg.

Opening night: Friday, Jan. 11 from 5-8 p.m.

Poetry Slam and Second Saturday Artwalk:

Saturday, Jan. 12 from 5-8 p.m.

Taste of Midtown and Beyond:

Wednesday, Jan. 16 from 5-8 p.m.

The Studio@620 has showcased scholars’ work in an annual exhibit at
the gallery since 2004.

Free Admission

The program immerses students K-12 in multimedia journalism training and results in this wonderful annual student exhibition. There will be an opportunity to get an actual taste of Midtown highlighting local restaurants that the multiplier community in addition to the visual and multi-media journalistic exhibition.
The kids enjoyed riding the train, streaking down the fun slide, horseback riding, acrobatic high-jump and, of course, the rock climbing wall.

“We’ve been doing this event six years now for the city of St. Petersburg,” said Jeff Copeland, one of the major sponsors and host of the festival.

Copeland works with several contributors to put on the yearly event that attracts people from all across the Bay area from Palm Harbor to Tampa.

Every year, Copeland said, title sponsor James Flynn (Your Southside Lawyer) starts getting ready earlier and earlier for the festival. “He really believes in helping people.”

Copeland also sang the praises of Leisure Services Administrator Mike Jeffries for helping the event go off without a hitch.

“This is all about giving back,” said Jeffries. “The holiday doesn’t start until we’re out here passing out turkeys and making an impact on everybody’s life to make it a little bit better.”

Both kids and adults chomped down on free hot dogs, hamburgers and even blue crabs while DJ Chill, DJ Spank and DJ Worm kept the crowd moving. And for the dads who couldn’t miss the football game, there were 10 televisions set up for their football viewing pleasures.

Flynn and Copeland will team up again this Christmas holiday with Police Chief Anthony Holloway and the St. Petersburg Police Department to give out $100 gift cards to needy families for Christmas.
**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

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

- **Sunday School**: 9:30 a.m.
- **Prayer 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 D. Saunders**, Pastor

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

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

*Call: 727-896-2922*

**Your Church AD Could Be Here!**
Contact: www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com

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**YOUR CHURCH AD COULD BE HERE!**

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**10 THE WEEKLY CHALLENGER, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2018**

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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.
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- **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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**Queen Street Church of God in Christ**
1732 9th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
727-896-4356

- **Sunday Morning Worship**: 11 a.m.
- **Tuesday Morning Prayer**: 9 to 10 a.m.
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class**: 7:30 p.m.

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

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

*Call: 727-896-2922*

**YOUR CHURCH AD COULD BE HERE!**
Contact: www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com

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**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*

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

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

- **Sunday Morning Worship**: 10:30 a.m.
- **Wednesday Bible Study**: 7:00 p.m.
- **Friday Prayer**: 7:00 p.m.
- **Intercessory Prayer**: 9:00 a.m.

*Nursery and Youth Services Available*

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**20th Street Church Of Christ**
823 20th Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Home: 896-9209

- **Sunday School**: 8:30 a.m.
- **Sunday Worship Service**: 10:00 a.m.
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class**: 7:00 p.m.

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**St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church**
2920 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg 33712
727-867-6774

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

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**The Unity Voices of Truth**

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**December 16, 2018 • 12:30 PM**

5th Prescott Street South • St. Petersburg, FL 33712
@ www.UnityTruth.org

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**“A Concert That Everyone can be apart of”**

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**Queen Street Church of God in Christ**
1732 9th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
727-896-4356

- **Sunday School**: 8:30 a.m.
- **Sunday Morning Worship**: 10:45 a.m.
- **Sunday Evening Worship**: 6:00 p.m.
- **Ladies Bible Class Monday**: 7:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday Morning Bible Class**: 6:00 p.m.

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**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 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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**20th Street Church Of Christ**
823 20th Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Home: 896-9209

- **Sunday School**: 8:30 a.m.
- **Sunday Morning Worship**: 10:00 a.m.
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class**: 7:00 p.m.

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**Queen Street Church of God in Christ**
1732 9th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
727-896-4356

- **Sunday School**: 8:30 a.m.
- **Sunday Morning Worship**: 10:45 a.m.
- **Sunday Evening Worship**: 6:00 p.m.
- **Ladies Bible Class Monday**: 7:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday Morning Bible Class**: 6:00 p.m.

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**Queen Street Church of God in Christ**
1732 9th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
727-896-4356

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- **Wednesday Morning Bible Class**: 6:00 p.m.

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- **Sunday Evening Worship**: 6:00 p.m.
- **Ladies Bible Class Monday**: 7:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday Morning Bible Class**: 6:00 p.m.
May we always be reminded to be grateful every day for this
blessing and in our neighbor’s. The Holy Spirit that is in us is able to
permeate through us, our words, our smile, our prayers, a
manifestation. They obeyed his voice and the
soul, in baptism, by immersion in water, do away with all your sins, and be added to Christ as the
saints of the living God. The
kingdom of God, which is the
Gospel of the kingdom of God,
with the consciousness of sin,
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One holiday season, her name was entered into a drawing at the church she attended, New Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist, and she was one of the people who received a holiday gift basket filled with a turkey and all the trimmings. That act of kindness stuck with her, and Wright vowed whenever she was financially able, she would give back to the community.

In 2008, she started giving away turkeys with a gift basket that included pantry staples. With about 50 people, she was able to hold the event at the church she attends, Glad Tabernacle of God. Each year the giveaway grew larger and larger until she could no longer afford to give away food baskets with the turkeys.

Wright eventually moved the event to Pinellas Technical College where this year more than 505 people took home turkeys, and more than 1,000 articles of clothing were given away by Glad Tabernacle.

“Buy, it’s been my vision that, if God has led me for the last 11 years to bless some people who received a holiday gift basket filled with the food and clothing ministry at Glad Tabernacle, then I don’t want it to be smaller than the Thanksgiving event. For God’s glory Dance of Music Derrick Isham, who we're in the overflow of the first 350. We were in the overflow of this year’s event. Unable to see well enough to type or read, she leaned on her daughter, Lugenia Jackson, to coordinate the giveaway. Each year Glad Tabernacle gives a sizable monetary donation, and the rest comes from people in the community such as St. Pete Technical College, Ken- neth Wright, Bill Jones, Jonathan Holms, Michael Smith, City Councilman Charlie Golden and others.

With her failing sight, Wright is on the fence about throwing her annual Christmas toy giveaway. She said the only way she’d be able to run it if her daughter will pitch in and help again. Since the toy drive is significantly smaller than the Thanksgiving giveaway, it usually only takes about two weeks to coordinate.