

# CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

## African American Congregations

### April - June 2010

#### April 4

Today is Easter Sunday. If you're traveling to celebrate the holiday with your family, whether near or far, make sure to properly restrain your children in your vehicle with the correct child safety seats and seat belts. In 2006, 306 African-American children ages 14 and younger were killed in traffic crashes. [Driving is a privilege that requires responsible behavior.](#) Your actions behind the wheel affect more than just your own well-being. Protect yourself. Protect your loved ones. Drive with care.

#### April 11

April is Alcohol Awareness Month, a perfect time to caution your friends and loved ones about the dangers of alcohol-impaired driving. In 2008, there was an average of one alcohol-related fatality every 45 minutes. Plus, almost one-third of African-American traffic fatalities are caused by alcohol-impaired driving crashes in a given year. The choices made by others can affect **your** safety, so help spread the word that drinking and driving don't mix! [To make our streets and highways safe, lead by your own example.](#) You can make a difference by being a careful, patient driver at all times.

#### April 18

Graduation is often a rite of passage, when many teens leave home to become adults. Make sure as they transition to making their own choices that they know the value of the small, daily decisions that can save their lives – like wearing seat belts. Seat belts saved an estimated 13,250 lives in 2008. Emphasize to your teens how important it is to always buckle up. [Life is precious. Don't waste it!](#) Recognize that your decisions, good or bad, affect the lives of those around you.

#### April 25

National Bicycle Safety Month begins on Saturday. As a driver, remember that it's your responsibility to share the road with bicyclists. Allow at least three feet clearance when passing a bicycle, look for bicycles before opening a car door or pulling out from a parking space, and yield to cyclists at intersections. [Driving is a privilege that requires responsible behavior.](#) Your actions behind the wheel affect more than just your own well-being. Protect yourself. Protect your loved ones. Drive with care.

## May 2

Did you know that 5,290 motorcyclists were killed and an additional 96,000 motorcyclists were injured in traffic crashes in 2008? May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. Make an extra effort to look for motorcycles on the streets and highways – for your safety **and** theirs. [To make our streets and highways safe, lead by your own example.](#) You can make a difference by being a careful, patient driver at all times.

## May 9

Each day in 2008, an average of 4 children ages 14 and younger were killed and 529 were injured in motor vehicle crashes. This Mother's Day, help the moms in your congregation protect their families by being a safe driver; obey the speed limit, look out for others, and avoid distractions. Even if you're not a parent, you can still play an important part in the safety of the children in your community! [Life is precious. Don't waste it!](#) [Recognize that your decisions, good or bad, affect the lives of those around you.](#)

## May 16

In 2008, 5,864 drivers ages 15 to 20 years old were involved in fatal crashes. African-American teens are especially at risk, nearly twice as likely as other teenagers to die in a motor vehicle crash. The majority of these fatally injured teens were not buckled up at the time of the crash. Stress the importance of seat belts to the teens in your life. With every click they are traveling in the right direction for a safer future. [To make our streets and highways safe, lead by your own example.](#) You can make a difference by being a careful, patient driver at all times.

## May 23

In a given year, 62 percent of African-American passenger vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes were unrestrained at the time of the crash. During *Click It or Ticket*, a ticket may seem like an inconvenience, but the cost of a fine is nothing compared to the cost of a life. Show respect for your life – buckle up. [Driving is a privilege that requires responsible behavior.](#) [Your actions behind the wheel affect more than just your own well-being.](#) [Protect yourself. Protect your loved ones. Drive with care.](#)

## May 30

Memorial Day is tomorrow. During times of remembrance, it's also good to think about the future. Our fast-paced world is constantly moving, but many things, like driving, require your full attention. In 2008 nearly 6,000 people died in crashes involving a distracted or inattentive driver, and more than half a million were injured. Slow down and cherish life! [Life is precious. Don't waste it!](#) [Recognize that your decisions, good or bad, affect the lives of those around you.](#)

## June 6

Today is the last day of the *Click It or Ticket* mobilization, but hopefully the beginning of a lifelong good habit – buckling up. Over 4,500 African-Americans are killed in motor vehicle crashes in a given year. Don't be one of the many that learn the importance of seat belts from tragedy. [To make our streets and highways safe, lead by your own example.](#) You can make a difference by being a careful, patient driver at all times.

## June 13

Today is the last day of National Tire Safety Week. You can't tell correct tire pressure just by looking, so use a gauge to check your tire pressure at least once a month to help avoid tire failures and make sure your family is traveling as safely as possible. [Driving is a privilege that requires responsible behavior.](#) Your actions behind the wheel affect more than just your own well-being. Protect yourself. Protect your loved ones. Drive with care.

## June 20

As you celebrate Father's Day today, strive to be a patient dad, especially when driving. Aggressive driving is a serious problem, and your actions can set the example. Nothing is worth endangering yourself, your family, or others on the roadway. [To make our streets and highways safe, lead by your own example.](#) You can make a difference by being a careful, patient driver at all times.

## June 27

Summer is officially here and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday is just around the corner. Over 1.43 million drivers were arrested in 2007 for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. Celebrate freedom by enjoying it responsibly, and go the extra mile by being a designated driver. [Life is precious. Don't waste it! Recognize that your decisions, good or bad, affect the lives of those around you.](#)

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### Winter Sermon Traffic Safety Message

Rather than just a safety feature in your vehicle, think of a seat belt as an embrace – an extension of your caring arms that can help to protect you and your loved ones, whether they're traveling with you or out on their own. Yet 62 percent of African-American passenger vehicle occupants killed in a given year are unrestrained at the time of the crash, leaving many families to wonder *what if...*

A seat belt is there to do something you can't always do – hold your family tight in the event of an unforeseen crash. In fact, seat belts in passenger vehicles saved an estimated 13,250 lives in 2008. That's 13,250 families who still have a parent, grandparent, sibling, or friend thanks to seat belts.

But unfortunately, in that same year 37,261 people lost their lives in motor vehicle crashes, and more than half of those killed were unrestrained. The number of lives lost is equivalent to a small city!

We've all suffered the loss of someone we love, but that grief should not be increased by the thought that it might have been prevented. The simple act of buckling up takes only seconds, but can make a difference that lasts a lifetime. Teach your family the importance of wearing a seat belt **every time** they are in a vehicle. It's more than the law; it's because you care.

Driving is a privilege that requires responsible behavior. Your actions behind the wheel affect more than just your own well-being. Protect yourself. Protect your loved ones. Drive with care.