

CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

African-American Congregations

April – June 2011

April 3

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Today's world is full of multi-tasking, and for many, that doesn't end when they get behind the wheel. Drivers simply do not realize the risk they take when they focus on activities other than driving. Put it down and pay attention to road. Whatever you're doing, it's not worth the risk! *You have the ability to make the streets and highways a safer place for your loved ones. Consider the consequences of every choice you make as both a driver and a passenger, and your actions may save them from harm.*

April 10

Youth are more likely to die or be injured in a crash during their teen years than any other time in their life. Prom and graduation are particularly dangerous times. Teach them to be smart and buckle up. Wearing a seat belt is the best protection for both drivers and passengers in the event of a crash. In fact, seat belts saved 12,713 lives in 2009. A seat belt is a simple way to help secure their future. *As a driver, you have a great responsibility to protect yourself, your family, and all others sharing the roadway. Be accountable, be safe, and be in control for the sake of those you love.*

April 17

In 2009, 448,000 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes that were reported to have involved distracted driving. Texting is one of the riskiest distractions because it takes your hands, eyes, and mind to send a text — which doesn't leave much for driving. Give the road your full attention. Even if you're a safe driver, there's a good chance that someone nearby is not! *We must each do our part to make every journey safe for our children, friends, and family. Strive to always be a patient driver, considerate passenger, or careful pedestrian.*

April 24

As you celebrate this glorious Easter Sunday with your family today, take a moment to reflect on how precious life is. Make a pledge to do your best to keep your family safe from harm. By simply buckling up, thousands of lives are saved each year in traffic crashes. In spite of this well over half of all African-American passenger vehicle occupants killed every year are unrestrained at the time of the crash. *You have the ability to make the streets and highways a safer place for your loved ones. Consider the consequences of every choice you make as both a driver and a passenger, and your actions may save them from harm.*

May 1

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. It's very important for motorists and motorcyclists to share the road and lookout for each other, especially since motorcyclists are 39 times more likely than passenger vehicle occupants to die in a motor vehicle traffic crash. Whether you're behind the wheel or on two wheels, keep your eyes open! *We must each do our part to make every journey safe for our children, friends, and family. Strive to always be a patient driver, considerate passenger, or careful pedestrian.*

May 8

A mother will go to great lengths to protect her child, and child car seats are a great way to help ensure safety. Among children under 5 years old, an estimated 9,310 lives were saved by child safety seats from 1975 through 2009. This Mother's Day, thank your mother for keeping you safe, and show her that you learned from her by continuing to buckle up. *You have the ability to make the streets and highways a safer place for your loved ones. Consider the consequences of every choice you make as both a driver and a passenger, and your actions may save them from harm.*

May 15

May is Bicycling Safety Month. Join in the effort to make bicycling safe for riders of all ages by taking extra time to look for bicyclists and giving them plenty of space. And if you ride, remember that helmets aren't just for kids. To prevent head injury, all bicyclists should wear properly fitted bicycle helmets every time they ride. *As a driver, you have a great responsibility to protect yourself, your family, and all others sharing the roadway. Be accountable, be safe, and be in control for the sake of those you love.*

May 22

Click It or Ticket begins tomorrow. Law enforcement will be out in full force looking for unbuckled drivers and passengers — don't be one of them. Seat belts are your best protection during a crash, helping to keep you from being ejected from the vehicle. In fatal crashes, 77 percent of drivers and passengers who were totally ejected from vehicles were killed. *You have the ability to make the streets and highways a safer place for your loved ones. Consider the consequences of every choice you make as both a driver and a passenger, and your actions may save them from harm.*

May 29

From 1999-2008, 43,622 African-Americans were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes. With Memorial Day tomorrow, reflect on how you can be a better, safer driver to help prevent future tragedies. One easy way is to obey the traffic laws; they're created for your protection! *As a driver, you have a great responsibility to protect yourself, your family, and all others sharing the roadway. Be accountable, be safe, and be in control for the sake of those you love.*

June 5

As you're planning summer vacations and day trips, plan on being safe and secure. Seat belt use by van passengers is a proven way to reduce deaths and minimize injuries, for both children and adults. An unrestrained 15-passenger van occupant involved in a single-vehicle crash is about three times as likely to be killed as a restrained occupant. *We must each do our part to make every journey safe for our children, friends, and family. Strive to always be a patient driver, considerate passenger, or careful pedestrian.*

June 12

Enjoying the summertime with a walk doesn't sound dangerous, yet an average of one pedestrian is killed in traffic every 128 minutes — plus one is injured every 9 minutes. Be aware of your surroundings, as both a driver and a pedestrian. See others and help them to see you, too. *You have the ability to make the streets and highways a safer place for your loved ones. Consider the consequences of every choice you make as both a driver and a passenger, and your actions may save them from harm.*

June 19

Today is Father's Day, a celebration of a very important person in a child's life. If you're a father, you understand the value of being there for your kids. Nonetheless, males seem to take greater risks with motor vehicles, accounting for 70 percent of all traffic fatalities. Be around to see your kids grow up — drive the speed limit and buckle up! *As a driver, you have a great responsibility to protect yourself, your family, and all others sharing the roadway. Be accountable, be safe, and be in control for the sake of those you love.*

June 26

Are you ready to celebrate the 4th of July? This fun holiday for family and friends is also a great time to discuss a very real danger — impaired driving. Almost one-third of African-American traffic fatalities are caused by alcohol-impaired driving in a given year, and in nighttime single-vehicle crashes, 53 percent of African-American drivers killed were alcohol impaired. Talk to your family and friends. Let them know that you love them and want them to be safe, even if it means calling you for a late-night ride home. *We must each do our part to make every journey safe for our children, friends, and family. Strive to always be a patient driver, considerate passenger, or careful pedestrian.*

PASTOR'S NOTES

Traffic Safety Message for Sermon

In 2009, there were more than 5.5 million police-reported motor vehicle traffic crashes. That's an average of more than 15,000 crashes occurring each day of the year. So wouldn't it be wise to give driving your undivided attention?

Unfortunately, many drivers do not. Just look around at the next stop light — you'll most likely find other drivers talking on the phone, looking at navigation devices, playing with mp3 players, or even typing text messages.

Thousands of people die each year simply because of distractions like these, yet many still don't see the danger — and they're learning the hard way.

Texting is one of the riskiest forms of distraction because it combines manual, visual and cognitive distraction, which means you use your hands, look away from the road, and think about something else — all at once! In fact, the National Safety Council says that drivers are up to 23 times more likely to crash when texting!

But you can help. April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. In 2009, 5,474 people were killed and approximately 448,000 were injured in crashes involving distracted driving. Don't be part of this problem, be part of the solution. Encourage your family and friends to avoid unnecessary distractions, for both their safety and your own.

Think about it. Is any call or message really worth risking your life or someone else's? Put your phone down while driving because it's just not worth the risk.

As a driver, you have a great responsibility to protect yourself, your family, and all others sharing the roadway. Be accountable, be safe, and be in control for the sake of those you love.