

# CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

## African American Congregations

### July - September 2010

#### July 4

Today is a day to celebrate our country's freedom, yet in 2008, nearly 12,000 Americans lost their lives when they were killed in traffic crashes involving at least one driver or motorcycle operator who was impaired by alcohol at or above the legal limit. Help protect our freedom to drive without the threat of being hit by an impaired driver. Never drink and drive, and if you know that someone has been drinking, offer them a safe ride home. **Life is precious. Don't waste it! Recognize that your decisions, good or bad, affect the lives of those around you.**

#### July 11

Summer vacations are a great time for families and friends, but a vehicle full of passengers can often be very distracting for the driver. When taking road trips, keep the environment inside the car free of commotion so the driver can focus on the road. And if you're the driver, avoiding distractions includes staying off your cell phone. In 2008, nearly 6,000 people died in crashes involving a distracted or inattentive driver. **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.**

#### July 18

When you ride in traffic on a motorcycle or a bicycle, you're sharing the road with an average of 3,000 pounds of steel on either side. Use your head – protect yourself by wearing a properly fitted helmet every time you ride. Observation surveys show that nearly 1 out of 4 motorcycle riders don't wear a helmet, even though it's the single most effective way to prevent head injury. **Life is precious. Don't waste it! Recognize that your decisions, good or bad, affect the lives of those around you.**

#### July 25

When you get in a vehicle, do you **always** remember to put your seat belt on? Don't let the one time you don't bother be the time it counts. In a given year, 62 percent of African-American passenger vehicle occupants killed were not buckled up at the time of the crash. How many of those who lost their lives forgot just that one time? Whether you're a driver or passenger, driving around the block or across the country – 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.**

## August 1

When you see a yellow light, do you slow down or speed up? In 2007, almost 900 people were killed in crashes that involved running a red light. This week is National Stop on Red Week, a great time for you to be a positive example of a patient driver for your family and friends. [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.

## August 8

Driver's education begins at home. Teach your teens important lessons to keep them safe, such as always wear a seat belt and never ride with someone who has been drinking. Also, talk with them about the deadly dangers of drinking and driving. Around 1 in 4 of all 15 to 20 year-old African-American drivers killed in crashes had been drinking. [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.

## August 15

Walking is great exercise! Unfortunately, walking can sometimes be dangerous for pedestrians, especially at busy intersections. In 2008, 69,000 pedestrians were injured and more than 4,000 were killed in traffic crashes. Be cautious; cross the street at a designated crosswalk, and always stop and look left, right, and left again before crossing. [Life is precious. Don't waste it!](#) Recognize that your decisions, good or bad, affect the lives of those around you.

## August 22

The *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* campaign is underway, helping keep our roads safe from impaired drivers. In 2008, there was one alcohol-impaired driving fatality every 45 minutes! Help be part of the solution – be a designated driver and make sure your family never rides with an impaired driver. [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.

## August 29

Are you ready for back to school? This time of year is a great time to remind kids, teens, and parents to buckle their seat belts. For new drivers, it is especially critical to get them in the habit of buckling up for every trip, as teenagers are involved in three times as many fatal crashes as all other drivers. [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.

## September 5

Tomorrow is Labor Day. Although this is often a time of family fun, it can also be a dangerous holiday for travel. Don't add to the risks on the road – play it safe! Buckle up, drive the speed limit, and never drive impaired. [Life is precious. Don't waste it!](#) Recognize that your decisions, good or bad, affect the lives of those around you.

## September 12

With school in full swing, be extra cautious around school kids. When near a school zone or bus stop area, slow down and be alert. Children who are late for the bus may run into the street without looking for traffic. Make sure you're looking for them even if they don't see you! [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.

## September 19

This is Child Passenger Safety Week, a time to focus on the importance of properly restraining your children every time they are in a vehicle. Far too many children are killed as occupants of passenger vehicles. And over half of African-American children are unrestrained at the time of the crash. Don't endanger your child's life. Learn the proper way to use a car seat, with help available at this year's National Seat Check Saturday on September 25th. [Life is precious. Don't waste it!](#) Recognize that your decisions, good or bad, affect the lives of those around you.

## September 26

Autumn has begun. When the seasons change, it's a good time to check your vehicle and perform routine maintenance. Make sure your brakes, airbags, and seat belts are working properly, and check your tire tread and air pressure. These simple checks can help keep you and your loved ones safe. [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.

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### Traffic Safety Message

Summer is full of family fun. Vacations, holidays, and family reunions are often the focus this time of year, and the highways are full of travelers on the way to their exciting destinations. But many times, these celebrations also include alcohol, which can lead to risky behaviors – such as the decision to drive impaired.

Far too many lives are lost each year because of impaired driving. Up to 1 out of 3 of all African-American traffic fatalities are the result of alcohol-impaired driving crashes. Nighttime is even more dangerous. In single-vehicle crashes occurring at nighttime (6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.), **over half** of African-American drivers killed are alcohol impaired.

You may not be able to control the actions of others, but you **can** control your own. It's simple – never drink and drive. There is enough danger on the roadways without adding any level of impairment. You can also make a difference in the lives of others who may not otherwise choose the right path. If you find someone has been drinking and is about to drive, offer them a ride home. Call them a cab. Take their keys. Do what you can to keep them off the road – for both their safety and the safety of other motorists. In addition, make sure each member of your family knows to never ride with someone who has been drinking. Discuss what to do if they are placed in that situation and have a plan for them to get home safely.

Keep summer fun – and safe – for you and your family. By making the right choices, you can help create a season full of lasting joyful memories, rather than a time of regret.

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