

# CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

## African-American Congregations

### October-December 2010

#### October 3

When you drive to work, do you always pay attention to the pedestrians and bicyclists around you? Each year, about 20% of the traffic fatalities in the 14-and-younger age group were pedestrians. Tomorrow is the first day of Drive Safely to Work Week and Friday is Walk to School Day. This is a great time to review safe walking and bicycling tips with your children and be a good example of a driver that is always aware of what is happening around you. [Your actions behind the wheel affect more than just your own well-being.](#) [Protect yourself.](#) [Protect your loved ones.](#) [Drive with care.](#)

#### October 10

Many times, when children walk to school they are with friends and could be easily distracted. When distracted, children are less likely to follow sound safety procedures. If you're a driver, avoid distractions – including staying off your cell phone – could save a child's life, or your own. In 2008, nearly 6,000 people died in crashes involving a distracted or inattentive driver. [Life is precious. Don't waste it!](#) [Recognize that your decisions, good or bad, affect the lives of those around you.](#)

#### October 17

This is National Teen Driver Safety Week. Parents, talk to your teenage drivers often to set driving rules and clearly outline the consequences of breaking them. The risk of a fatal crash for a teen driver doubles with just one teen passenger. Each new passenger increases the risk of a fatal crash. Remember, you influence your child's driving behavior anytime you drive your kids, even before they begin to drive. [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.](#)

#### October 24

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.](#) [Drive with care.](#)

## October 31

The scariest part of Halloween isn't the spooky costumes and scary pranks. It's the fact that too often party-goers who drink don't plan ahead and end up making the roads scarier than a horror show. No costume is clever enough to hide someone who has had too many drinks and should not be behind the wheel. [Life is precious. Don't waste it!](#) [Recognize that your decisions, good or bad, affect the lives of those around you.](#)

## November 7

More than 85 percent of all speeding-related traffic fatalities occur on non-Interstate roadways where the posted speed limits are 55 miles per hour or less. Any time a driver speeds, he or she is putting themselves, their passengers, and other drivers and pedestrians at risk. Drivers must stay alert and watch for and obey all posted speed limits, especially in town. [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.](#)

## November 14

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.](#)

## November 21

This Thanksgiving have a wonderful celebration for all that you are thankful for, but be safe while you do it. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for African-Americans between the ages of 1 and 14. Be safe – buckle up, drive the speed limit and never drive impaired! Buckling up could save your giblets! [Life is precious. Don't waste it! Recognize that your decisions, good or bad, affect the lives of those around you.](#)

## November 28

Don't let winter slip up on you! Be prepared to drive in winter conditions before they arrive. It is important to use slower acceleration and speeds on icy roads. Always allow extra time to reach your destination during inclement weather. It is not worth putting your own life or the lives of others in danger to save time. Also, stock your vehicle with important winter emergency items such as salt, drinking water, blanket, shovel, flashlight and a safety flare. [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.](#)

## December 5

During your holiday travels, always remember to properly secure young children. Did you know that all children under 13 should ride in the back seat? As children grow, how they should ride securely in your vehicle changes also. Save your child from injury or death by observing all laws for children and following proper child safety seat guidelines. [Your actions behind the wheel affect more than just your own well-being.](#) [Protect yourself.](#) [Protect your loved ones.](#) [Drive with care.](#)

## December 12

December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. Nearly one in three of all traffic deaths involve a driver or motorcycle operator who is driving above the legal limit. During this season of holiday parties, do not make the mistake of drinking and driving. Even if you do not feel that you have had too much to drink, one drink may be too much to drive. [Life is precious. Don't waste it!](#) [Recognize that your decisions, good or bad, affect the lives of those around you.](#)

## December 19

Drivers simply can't do two things at once! Do not be tempted to talk or text on your cell phone during this very busy time of the year. Drivers who use hand-held devices while driving are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves or others. You are more likely to take your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel, and your mind off the road if talking or texting while driving. Driving is not the time for multi-tasking! [Your actions behind the wheel affect more than just your own well-being.](#) [Protect yourself.](#) [Protect your loved ones.](#) [Drive with care.](#)

## December 26

Each year, thousands of teens are killed or injured in traffic crashes as a result of underage drinking. Parents should always stress to their teenage drivers that underage drinking is illegal and can have disastrous consequences. Besides putting themselves and others at risk, violators of underage drinking laws can face a trip to jail, the loss of their driver's license, and dozens of other unanticipated expenses, including attorney fees, court costs, and other fines. [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

Fall is in full swing, and so are our children. October is International Walk to School Month. Of the 4,378 pedestrian fatalities in 2008, the 14-and-younger age group accounted for 270 (6%) of those fatalities. This is an excellent time to remind yourself as a driver, and your children as pedestrians, about the importance of being aware when you are walking and driving.

Young children often cannot judge the speed, distance, and size of vehicles. Parents, please teach them that it's best to allow an oncoming vehicle to pass, and then wait for a new green light or **WALK** signal. The green light or **WALK** signal means that children should stop at the curb or edge of the road, look both ways for oncoming traffic, and then – if it's safe – they can cross the street. Children should always stop at the curb and look for cars in all directions before entering the road. When looking left-right-left, they should make sure to look for turning vehicles, too.

If children are in the middle of the street and the **DON'T WALK** signal flashes, they shouldn't stop or return to the curb or edge of the road. They should continue to walk at their maximum comfortable pace until they reach the other side. Teach them not to run; they might fall.

And remember – children crossing the street should be accompanied by an adult whenever possible.

Drivers, you can help by watching for children, especially in areas that children may be playing. In addition, obey the speed limit, watch carefully and avoid distractions. Keep your focus on driving and the situation around you at all times.

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