

CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

African American Congregations

April - June 2009

April 5

Tomorrow begins the National Work Zone Awareness Week, organized to focus on work zone safety issues for workers and motorists. In 2007, 835 fatalities resulted from motor vehicle crashes in work zones. Be patient on the highways, driving with caution for your own safety as well as those working to improve the roads. **Respect the road. When you choose to drive safely, you are choosing the best path for your family, friends, and community who share the road with you.**

April 12

Easter Sunday is a fun day for families. Keep it joyous by taking extra care near vehicles. Many children are killed or seriously injured in backover incidents, usually in driveways or parking spaces. You can prevent these tragedies by paying attention and supervising children carefully when in and around vehicles and taking extra time to check your mirrors and blind spots when backing up. **Small choices can often result in big consequences. Make safe, responsible decisions each time you are in the driver's seat for the safekeeping of yourself and your loved ones.**

April 19

During 2006, 1,377 15- to 20-year-old drivers and motorcycle operators with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher were involved in fatal traffic crashes, despite the fact that it is illegal for anyone under 21 to possess or drink alcohol. With graduation coming soon, help keep the future bright for the teenagers in your life by preparing them to make good decisions, like never riding with someone who has been drinking and always wearing their seat belt. **True friends and loved ones are those that put others before themselves. Show your loved ones that you care by practicing safe driving, helping to prevent injury and death caused from traffic crashes. The life you save may even be your own.**

April 26

In 2007, child safety seats saved the lives of about 382 children under the age of 5! Protect your children by using the correct child seats and seat belts. If *all* children under the age of 5 were buckled in child safety seats in 2007, the lives of an additional 71 children could have been saved. **Small choices can often result in big consequences. Make safe, responsible decisions each time you are in the driver's seat for the safekeeping of yourself and your loved ones.**

May 3

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. In 2007, 5,154 motorcyclists died and approximately 103,000 were injured in crashes. Help prevent these tragedies in your community. If you ride a motorcycle, always wear a helmet and remember to watch for those who are not watching for you. And if you are a motorist, take extra time to look out for motorcycles. [Respect the road. When you choose to drive safely, you are choosing the best path for your family, friends, and community who share the road with you.](#)

May 10

This Mother's Day ask your teens for the greatest gift of all – their safety and wellbeing. Sadly, traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers. Today, make a point to ask them to drive safely and buckle up every time they are in a vehicle, and they'll be giving you the wonderful gift of peace of mind. [True friends and loved ones are those that put others before themselves. Show your loved ones that you care by practicing safe driving, helping to prevent injury and death caused from traffic crashes. The life you save may even be your own.](#)

May 17

In 2007, seat belts saved approximately 15,147 lives! Yet traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers in America. Teach the new drivers in your life about safe driving, especially the importance of wearing a seat belt every time they are in a vehicle, whether as a driver or passenger. Not only will they improve their safety, but they'll also keep from getting a fine! Click It or Ticket! [Respect the road. When you choose to drive safely, you are choosing the best path for your family, friends, and community who share the road with you.](#)

May 24

As you celebrate Memorial Day tomorrow, take a moment to think about the safety of your family. Teach them important principles that are also important on the roadways, such as patience, respect, and self-control. Plus, remind them to buckle up for every trip. When used correctly, seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent! [Small choices can often result in big consequences. Make safe, responsible decisions each time you are in the driver's seat for the safekeeping of yourself and your loved ones.](#)

May 31

School will be out soon, and walking will increase as people enjoy the summer weather. Sadly, there were 4,654 pedestrian fatalities and 70,000 injuries in 2007. That's almost one injury every 8 minutes! Be on the lookout for pedestrians and share the road. [True friends and loved ones are those that put others before themselves. Show your loved ones that you care by practicing safe driving, helping to prevent injury and death caused from traffic crashes. The life you save may even be your own.](#)

June 7

Today is the start of National Tire Safety Week. It is important to drive safely, but it is also necessary to check the overall safety of your vehicle, like tire condition, safety recalls, and safety ratings. Keeping your vehicle properly maintained can help prevent accidents from malfunctions or blowouts. **Small choices can often result in big consequences. Make safe, responsible decisions each time you are in the driver's seat for the safekeeping of yourself and your loved ones.**

June 14

The road deserves your full attention. When driving, stay alert and pull over to use cell phones or any other devices. Distractions decrease reaction time and can lead to crashes, and cell phones are the most common distraction for drivers. **Respect the road. When you choose to drive safely, you are choosing the best path for your family, friends, and community who share the road with you.**

June 21

Today is Father's Day. Give your dad a good night's sleep tonight by promising to always buckle up. Teens are involved in three times as many fatal crashes as all other drivers, and seat belts are the best protection in the event of a crash. Wearing a seat belt is a great gift for both yourself and your loved ones. **True friends and loved ones are those that put others before themselves. Show your loved ones that you care by practicing safe driving, helping to prevent injury and death caused from traffic crashes. The life you save may even be your own.**

June 28

About 97 percent of Americans consider drinking and driving as a threat to their family's safety. This 4th of July holiday, help be a part of the solution by celebrating responsibly and helping others get home safely. If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact your local law enforcement, and if you know someone is about to drive while impaired, take their keys and help them find another way to get to where they are going. **Small choices can often result in big consequences. Make safe, responsible decisions each time you are in the driver's seat for the safekeeping of yourself and your loved ones.**

PASTOR'S NOTES

Winter Sermon Traffic Safety Message

Have you ever heard the old proverb “better a thousand times careful than once dead”? This saying is easily applied to traffic safety, where every small choice can result in a big consequence. No matter how many times you wear your seat belt, the one time that you don't could be the difference between life and death.

This kind of wisdom generally comes with age or experience. But sadly, a large number of our Nation's teens will not make it past their youth to learn this valuable lesson. In 2007, **4,540 passenger vehicle occupants ages 16-20 were killed** in motor vehicle crashes. Over half were not buckled up. African American teens are especially at risk, nearly twice more likely than other teenagers to die in a motor vehicle crash.

We need to do more to reach the youth in our congregation. The best thing you can do for the teenagers in your life is to teach them how to be safe. But teaching comes from more than just words; it must also come from actions. Whether you are family or a friend, make your behavior the best example by following these rules of the road:

- ⇒ **Always** wear your seat belt, whether driving across town or only a few blocks.
- ⇒ **Drive** the speed limit. Being late is better than arriving in an ambulance.
- ⇒ **Never** ride with someone who is impaired by alcohol or other drugs.
- ⇒ **Give** the road your full attention, avoiding distractions like cell phones.

The good news is **seat belts save lives**. Of the passenger vehicle occupants involved in fatal crashes in 2007, 72% of those wearing seat belts **survived**. The National Safety Council estimates 1,300 African Americans could be saved from dying in traffic crashes each year if all buckled up.

Be a thousand times careful. Whether you are a driver or passenger, adult or teen, the best way to protect yourself in a vehicle is to buckle up—day and night.

Show your loved ones that you care by practicing safe driving, helping to prevent injury and death caused from traffic crashes. The life you save may even be your own.