

# CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

## African American Congregations

### January - March 2009

#### January 4

As the holidays come to an end and your children head back to school, put into practice simple steps to protect them on the road – buckle safety belts, use proper child safety seats, and keep them supervised in and around all vehicles. And remember, kids learn by example, so buckle up for every trip! **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.**

#### January 11

Winter weather can create very stressful driving conditions. Make it easier on yourself by slowing down and increasing your following distance. Also, make slow, wide turns and avoid sudden accelerations. You'll not only decrease the risk of an accident, but you'll also give yourself more time to react. **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.**

#### January 18

Tomorrow we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and on Tuesday we welcome the inauguration of a new president. These events are great opportunities to set an example of leadership for your family, friends, and community by being a safe, responsible driver and encouraging seat belt use at all times. **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.**

#### January 25

One in four crashes involves driver distraction. Drive defensively and focus on the task at hand. Using cell phones, eating, applying make-up, and other forms of multi-tasking take your full attention away from what's most important – the road! **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.**

## February 1

Super bowl Sunday is a great time for fun and fellowship with friends, but it can be a very dangerous time on the roads when impaired drivers get behind the wheel. The National Black Alcoholism & Addictions Council estimates some 2,000 African Americans are killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes each year! Look out for others by being a designated driver. **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.**

## February 8

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for America's teenagers, and African American teenagers are nearly twice more likely than other teenagers to die in a motor vehicle crash. This Valentine's Day, express your love by teaching them important driving safety tips, like wearing seat belts, driving the speed limit, and getting rid of distractions. **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.**

## February 15

As we honor our past leaders over President's Day weekend, be cautious of the increased holiday traffic, buckle up, and do your best to make sure your own vehicle is reliable. To help ensure a safe ride, keep up with routine maintenance of your vehicle and check your tire pressure at least once a month. **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.**

## February 22

Walking is great exercise, but is also a regular mode of travel for many people. It is important for drivers to be aware of pedestrians in traffic. In 2007, there were 70,000 pedestrians injured and 4,654 killed in U.S. traffic crashes. Help keep pedestrians safe by being attentive, especially in crosswalks and crowded areas. **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.**

## March 1

Safe travel is a big concern for parents, with motor vehicle crashes the leading cause of death among children ages 2 to 14. It is crucial to learn how to choose and properly install a car seat for an infant, toddler, or 4-8 year old child. Over the past 30 years, approximately 8,325 children's lives have been saved by the use of child restraints! **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.**

## March 8

Today is the beginning of daylight savings time, and the official start of spring is just around the corner. With the warmer weather, be mindful of the increase in motorcycles during your daily commute; and if you are a rider, don't forget your helmet! A helmet, in addition to over-the-ankle footwear, long pants, a long-sleeved jacket, and full-fingered motorcycle gloves, can be the difference between life and death in a traffic crash.

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.

## March 15

No matter what you encounter on the road, seat belts increase your chances of getting home safely. In 2007, the use of seat belts in motor vehicles saved an estimated 15,147 lives! On St. Patrick's Day or any other day, don't rely on luck for you and your family's safety – buckle up, day or night. 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.

## March 22

Spring has officially begun! Bicycles are a fun way to enjoy the outdoors, as long as you ride smart and always wear a helmet. Bicycle helmets are 85 to 88 percent effective in protecting riders from head and brain injuries, yet many still choose to ride unprotected. 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.

## March 29

Prom is an exciting time for teens, but it can also be a scary time for parents who worry about the dangers of underage drinking and alcohol/drug impaired driving. Discuss these important issues with your teenagers and teach them how to make smart decisions, committing to never riding with someone who is alcohol or drug impaired. Impaired driving is not only against the law; it also costs many teens their life. 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.

# PASTOR'S NOTES

## Winter Sermon Traffic Safety Message

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for American teenagers, and teens are involved in three times as many fatal crashes as all other drivers. In addition, African American teenagers are nearly twice more likely than other teenagers to die in a motor vehicle crash.

Let's make an effort to protect the teens in our congregation and community by instilling values of patience and good decision-making that they can apply every time they are in a vehicle, whether as a driver or passenger.

How can you help? Being a good example is always a great place to start, as well as teaching the youth the importance of traffic safety. Start when children are young, and teach them the value of practicing defensive driving.

Share these tips with the youth in your community:

- Seat belts should always be worn, even when riding in vehicles equipped with air bags, and no matter how short or long the trip.
- NEVER drive with someone who has been drinking, no matter if it is a friend or relative; call someone who can get you home safely.
- Avoid distractions, and don't text or talk on your cell phone when you are driving; inattentiveness leads to crashes!
- Be patient; drive the speed limit and don't tailgate. A ticket or a crash will not help you get to your destination any faster.
- Turn down the radio and be alert to your surroundings.

And finally, remind teens that driving is a privilege that requires respect and discipline to keep themselves and others on the road safe!

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