

# CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

## African-American Congregations

July – September 2011

### July 3

Have a safe and happy 4th of July! Enjoy this joyful time with your family and friends, but be aware of the risks associated with the celebrations — alcohol impaired drivers. Even when *you* make the right choices, others on the road with you don't always do the same. Be extra alert, practice defensive driving, and make sure everyone in your car is wearing their seat belt! *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.*

### July 10

A child's body heats up 3 to 5 times faster than an adult's. In just minutes, a child left in a car can become dangerously overheated and die from hyperthermia (heatstroke). *Never* leave a child unattended in a vehicle, even with the window open. Last year, more than 49 children died while alone in a vehicle. Help prevent tragedies like these from occurring in our community. Dial 911 immediately if you see an unattended child in a car. *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.*

### July 17

Road trips and family vacations are summer traditions. With kids enjoying warmer weather and a break from school, it's a great time to hit the road and have some fun. As you plan your family's summer getaway, keep their safety in mind, too. In an average year, well over 3,000 African-Americans are killed in motor vehicle crashes. Make seat belts and driving the speed limit a requirement in your vehicle, and take your time to get to your destination safe and sound. *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.*

### July 24

Although cell phones are convenient, it's important to hang up your phone when you drive. Of those hurt in crashes related to distracted driving (in 2009), 24,000 people reported cell phones as a distraction! *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.*

## July 31

In 2009, 1,483 lives were saved by motorcycle helmets, yet almost one-fourth of motorcyclists still don't wear one. Even if you're an experienced rider, it doesn't mean that you're invincible — you can't control the actions of the cars sharing the road with you. Use your head by protecting it with a helmet, whether you're a rider or passenger, to help keep you safe and less vulnerable on a motorcycle. *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.*

## August 7

When you come to a red light, you know what it means — STOP! But when you come to a yellow light, do you slow down (like you should), or do you hurry to beat the light? This is National Stop on Red Week, reminding you to slow down and make sure to stop for red lights. Being in a rush isn't worth risking your safety or the safety of those on the other side of the street. *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.*

## August 14

It's almost time to head back to school! Help make our community safer for pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages by taking extra time to watch for them and giving them plenty of space to walk or ride. Well over 4,000 people were killed in traffic crashes while walking or riding a bicycle in 2009. This year, let's work to make the streets safe for all, whether you walk, bike, or ride. *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.*

## August 21

In an average year, over 30 percent of African-American drivers killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes are alcohol impaired — sadly, a very high number. But thankfully, there's a very simple solution, don't drink and drive! Now through Labor Day weekend, cops are cracking down on alcohol-impaired drivers, working to help make the roads safer for our community. *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.*

## August 28

This month, many new drivers will be getting behind the wheel and driving to school. Set the standard for good driving: wear your seat belt, be patient, and don't give in to distractions. As you teach them, you can refresh your skills and become a better, safer driver too. *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.*

## September 4

With Labor Day tomorrow, hopefully you will have the day off to enjoy time with your family. But many will be taking advantage of the day of rest by overindulging in alcohol. If you see a loved one who has been drinking getting ready to drive home, get involved. Take their keys and give them a ride. Although you can't stop every impaired driver, every time you help the roads get a little safer. *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.*

## September 11

Today is Grandparent's Day. One important lesson you can learn from your grandparents is patience, which is especially important when driving. More than 10,500 people lost their lives in speeding-related crashes in 2009. Take your time when traveling. It's far better to be a few minutes late than to never arrive at all. *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.*

## September 18

This week is Child Passenger Safety Week. Take this opportunity to have your car seat checked by a professional. In an average year, 52 percent of African-American children (ages 14 and under) killed in passenger vehicles are unrestrained at the time of the crash. Your children's safety is *your* responsibility. Show them your love by keeping them as safe as possible when you travel. *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.*

## September 25

Every day, children in our community scramble to and from school buses. Be alert when you see a bus or are near a school bus stop. Children may run into the street without looking for traffic. And if the lights are flashing, then the kids are about to get on or off the bus. Stop your vehicle and wait until the red lights are no longer flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving. *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

As a parent, your child's health is your biggest responsibility. In every situation, it is very important that you ask yourself, *"Is this safe for my child?"*

For many, this is a natural instinct. But sometimes, even the most protective parents are unaware of situations that can be dangerous for their child, and how quickly these things can hurt — or even kill — their beloved.

One of these dangers, especially in the summertime, is leaving your child unattended in a vehicle. In just 10 minutes the temperature inside a vehicle can become 19 degrees hotter. So, for example, if it's already 85 degrees outside, your car's temperature can rise to 104 degrees in minutes! The temperature, already extremely dangerous for a child, continues to climb to a deadly heat, and as a result the child can die from hyperthermia (heatstroke). That's why it's so important to *never* leave a child unattended in a vehicle, even with the window open.

This seems like common sense, yet every year, many children and babies tragically die when left alone in a vehicle. Last year, more than 49 children died this way! These are senseless tragedies. Fortunately, they are also preventable, and you can help put a stop to heartbreaking losses by following these steps:

- If you are a parent, **do not ever leave your child alone in a vehicle**, not for any reason. No excuse or inconvenience is worth endangering your child's life.
- Teach your children not to play in any vehicle so they don't accidentally end up in a parked vehicle alone.
- Lock all vehicle doors and trunk after everyone has exited your vehicle, especially at home.
- Keep keys out of children's reach.
- Check vehicles and trunks first if a child goes missing.
- Dial 911 immediately if you see an unattended child in a vehicle.

Remember, being a parent is a great gift, and an equally great responsibility. Think about every decision you make and how it affects your little ones. They trust you to keep them safe; repay that trust by being extra careful, especially around vehicles.

*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.*