

CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS
AFRICAN AMERICAN CONGREGATIONS
OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2007 QUARTER

October 7

More parents are beginning to buckle up their young children in car booster seats, the government reported recently. About two in five children between the ages of 4 and 7 were buckled up in booster seats in 2006, according to a national study. The government recommends car seats for children up to 40 pounds and booster seats for children over 40 pounds until they are 8 years old or 4-foot-9. All children should ride in the back seat until age 13. Pass the word to friends and family members who have young children. ***It's a matter of community safety. Our community. Our safety. Let us live out our message of love with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death.***

October 14

Traffic safety advocates are urging everyone to buckle up both day and night in every vehicle. Crash records indicate that safety belt use is significantly lower at night than in daylight hours. It makes no sense to go unbuckled at night when the environment is more risky. Visibility is less and there are more drunk drivers on the road than in daylight hours. Buckle up both day and night. ***It's a matter of community safety. Our community. Our safety. Let us live out our message of love with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death.***

October 21

The National Association for Pupil Transportation reminds everyone "Stop on Red, Kids Ahead." They are promoting National School Bus Safety Week October 22-26, 2007. The majority of school-bus related pupil injuries occur outside the bus. We all need to do our part by obeying state laws with respect to school buses and keeping a sharp eye out for kids who may dart into traffic when they get off the bus. ***It's a matter of community safety. Our community. Our safety. Let us live out our message of love with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death.***

October 28

Next Wednesday many people in our community will be celebrating Halloween. It's a big night for the kids. Help them stay safe. Take extra care in backing out of your driveway. Drive more slowly than usual around the neighborhood streets. Traffic safety advocates have a good reminder for young adults whose Halloween plans include alcohol. "Don't Let Halloween Turn into a Nightmare. Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk." Look out for your friends on Halloween and every day. ***It's a matter of community safety. Our community. Our safety. Let us live out our message of love with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death.***

November 4

Driving and riding in vehicles without wearing safety belts continues to be a killer for teenagers. Traffic crash statistics for this region of the country show that in 2005, 62 percent of 16-to 20-year-olds who died in crashes were not buckled up. It's time for some strict "parental enforcement." Make your young drivers understand that they will suffer consequences at home if they fail to buckle up. **It's a matter of community safety. Our community. Our safety. Let us live out our message of love with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death.**

November 11

Today we honor people who are serving their country through the military now and those hundreds of thousands who have done so through the decades here at home and in many foreign places. They have stepped forward when needed. Likewise, we all can step forward to make our community safer by choosing good driving practices. We can choose not to drinking and drive and choose always to buckle up. Passing those good choices along to our children will go a long way toward making the community safer. ***It's a matter of community safety. Our community. Our safety. Let us live out our message of love with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death.***

November 18

Many families will be taking to the road for the Thanksgiving holiday this week. Whether you are going to Grandmother's house just around the corner or across the state, buckle up yourself and your kids. If your journey takes you onto rural roads, please remember that in this part of the country, a higher percentage of crash *fatalities* do occur on such rural roads. Drive with extra care. ***It's a matter of community safety. Our community. Our safety. Let us live out our message of love with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death.***

November 25

With Thanksgiving Day behind us, we can savor the memory of good fellowship and better than usual leftovers. Before the drive home, remind yourself or your traveling guests to buckle up everyone in the vehicle. The roads will be crowded. People will be pushing to get home. Many will be driving over the speed limit. Some may be driving drowsy, and more than a few will be driving drunk. Everybody's best defense against dangerous roadway conditions is buckling up themselves and their children. ***It's a matter of community safety. Our community. Our safety. Let us live out our message of love with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death.***

December 2

With the beginning of the holiday season, we start feeling rushed. How can we ever get it all done? The lists are long. The gifts. The parties. The feast for the family. Extra trips to the mall and school and church. Forget about those TO DO LISTS for a little while. Be still. Remember the gift of all gifts which we celebrate this season. Think of ways to give to others your time and effort. Volunteering to be the sober driver at a party where alcohol is served seems like a very small gift. But it is not. Do it this season. ***It's a matter of community safety. Our community. Our safety. Let us live out our message of love with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death.***

December 9

Although drinking by persons under the age of 21 is illegal, research shows that people aged 12 to 20 years drink almost 20 percent of all alcohol consumed in the United States. That is scary for parents shepherding their young people through the many dangers of growing up. Access and temptation are everywhere. The holiday season is a good time to remind your young people that under-age drinking will not be tolerated in your family. Make clear what you will do if you catch your young person disobeying state law and family law. Be vigilant. Be prepared to enforce the family law. ***It's a matter of community safety. Our community. Our safety. Let us live out our message of love with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death.***

December 16

If you have a freshman college student coming home for the holidays, be prepared. That son or daughter is not the person who left home just a little while ago. Don't be offended by the eagerness to get back to the new friends, the new life of freedom. Rejoice in your young one's stepping out to claim new freedom, but do remind him or her that the freedom zone comes with responsibilities for personal behavior. Keeping up the grades. Avoiding the temptation to drink alcohol because it seems like everybody else is doing it. Drinking alcohol, including binge drinking, is rampant on college campuses. Remind your student that staying out of trouble is the best way to stay in the freedom zone. ***It's a matter of community safety. Our community. Our safety. Let us live out our message of love with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death.***

December 23

In a world so filled with turmoil, we give thanks that little children still have sparkling eyes at Christmas time, counting the days until they can open the gifts marked for them. We love hearing them singing Christmas songs off key loud and clear in their special presentations at school and church. Tomorrow in the quiet of Christmas Eve, let us give thanks for the blessings we have received and find ways to protect and care for family and friends by helping them stay safe on the road. ***It's a matter of community safety. Our community. Our safety. Let us live out our message of love with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death.***

December 30

New Year's Eve is one of the deadliest days on the calendar. Every year drunk driving steals the promise of a new year for so many people. Children lose fathers and mothers. Parents face the unthinkable, the loss of a child. Families are shattered forever. Refuse to ride with a driver who has been drinking. Do not allow a child to ride with a driver who has been drinking. Use safety belts and appropriate child safety devices: the best protection from drunk drivers along the way. ***It's a matter of community safety. Our community. Our safety. Let us live out our message of love with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death.***

Winter Sermon Traffic Safety Message

Parents and community leaders take seriously their responsibility to safeguard their children and young people. We hear a lot about threats to their safety—crime on the streets and threats against our country. Our traffic safety friends have developed a Crime and Crash Clock that will help us put into perspective that roadway crashes is a greater overall threat than crime. Here is the research:

1 murder every 32 seconds and 1 crash fatality every 12 seconds
1 aggravated assault every 37 seconds and 1 crash injury every 12 seconds
1 violent crime every 23 seconds and 1 property damage crash every 5 seconds
1 property crime every 3 seconds and 1 law enforcement reported crash every 5 seconds

We need to support our officials in their efforts to fight crime. Likewise, we need to support our police agencies in their work to save lives on streets and highways by enforcing the laws on the books. Most of all, we need to take a hands-on approach to creating a safer traveling environment for our children and young people. We have the power to do it individually and collectively. Here are some strategies that work.

1. Buckle up yourself in every vehicle every time.
2. Use the appropriate child safety equipment to secure your infants and children.
3. Insist that your teenagers buckle up, even when they are with friends who are not using safety belts. Establish a punishment for not buckling up, and follow through if it happens.
4. Don't drink and drive and don't ride with a driver who has been drinking.
5. Don't let your children ride with a driver who has been drinking, even if it is a family member.
6. Break the habit of speeding, including stepping on the gas when you see the yellow light at an intersection.
7. Do not engage with a driver who is exhibiting signs of road-rage. Ignore the rage and get out of the way.
8. The Golden Rule is as good on the streets as anywhere else, "Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you."

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