

CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

African American Congregations

October - December 2009

October 4

In 2008, over 37,000 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes. The 2009 “Drive Safely Work Week” begins tomorrow, reminding all drivers to “*Drive Focused. Drive Smart. Get Home Safely.*” As you commute to and from work, remember that your loved ones are counting on you to make it back safely at the end of the day. Exercise safe driving practices like buckling up, driving the speed limit, and avoiding distractions. 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.

October 11

Sadly, a teen dies in a traffic crash an average of once every hour on weekends and nearly once every two hours during the week – and over half of those killed were not wearing a seat belt during the crash. Educate the teens in your life about the importance of seat belts. The simple act of buckling up can mean the difference between life and death. Don't leave safety to chance. 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.

October 18

Today is the start of National Teen Driver Safety Week. One of the biggest risks for new drivers is carrying passengers. Two out of three teens that die as passengers are in vehicles driven by other teens! Help the teens in our congregation realize how important their actions are when driving or riding with friends. Remind them to buckle up, reduce distractions, and respect the driver. And don't forget, *Click It or Ticket!* 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.

October 25

This Halloween, our community will be filled with costumed characters, but be on the lookout for those masked as safe drivers! Drinking and driving is a threat to your loved ones, whether pedestrians, passengers, or drivers. In a given year, 1,388 African Americans are killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes. *Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving.* 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.

November 1

Daylight savings time ends today, so take extra precaution as more of your driving may be in the dark. Nighttime driving can present many challenges, including decreased visibility and impaired judgment resulting from drowsiness. Play it safe – don't speed, always wear your seat belt, and don't drive when you're tired. [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.](#)

November 8

This week we celebrate Veteran's Day to honor all who have served in the U.S. military. As you remember our veterans, respect the freedoms they represent by being a responsible citizen. Too often holidays and remembrances begin with alcohol and end with someone driving home drunk. [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.](#)

November 15

Holiday travel will increase as Thanksgiving nears, and with more vehicles on the road drivers should be extra cautious. In 2007, 548 people were killed in traffic crashes over the 4-day holiday. Be thankful for your family's safety, and do your part to keep them safe. Don't drive aggressively and avoid distractions that take your eyes from the road. [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.](#)

November 22

Seat belts are a necessity for everyone in your vehicle. In 2008, the use of seat belts in passenger vehicles saved an estimated 13,250 lives, and child safety seats saved the lives of 244 children (4 and under). However, 62 percent of African Americans killed in motor vehicle crashes were unrestrained. Imagine how many of those killed might be alive today if they had worn a seat belt. *Buckle Up America. Every Trip. Every Time.* [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.](#)

November 29

The holiday has passed, and kids are back to their usual routine. This means school buses will be back on the roads carrying our congregation's precious cargo. Slow down for school zones, stop for school buses that are loading or unloading, and teach your children to be on the lookout for vehicles that may not be looking out for them. [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.](#)

December 6

December is the National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month (3D Month). In a given year, more than one-third of African Americans killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes are legally drunk. Never ride with a friend or family member who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs. **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.**

December 13

Christmas vacation is a wonderful time for children, family, and friends. Whether your time away from school or work leaves you busy with the hustle and bustle of the holidays or at leisure with unoccupied time, talk with your family about celebrating responsibly. Help your children understand the consequences of drinking and driving, a crime with almost 12,000 victims last year alone. **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.**

December 20

Tomorrow is the first day of winter. Taking good care of your vehicle can be especially important in the wintertime, when ice and cold temperatures present chilling hazards. Check out your vehicle for maintenance issues or safety defects so you and your family don't get left in the cold. **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.**

December 27

Not everyone will resolve to live responsibly this New Year. For many, the "spirit" of the season includes too many *spirits*, followed by driving home. Protect your family by making smart decisions – never drink and drive and make sure everyone in the car buckles up. It's your best defense against a drunk driver. ***Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.*** **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.**

PASTOR'S NOTES

Winter Sermon Traffic Safety Message

When people talk about traffic crashes, they often refer to them as “accidents.” But when alcohol is involved, these crashes are no accident.

Drunk driving is a serious crime in our community and across the nation. The Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates that there were about 1.5 million DWI (driving while impaired) arrests in 2007.

Those drunk driving offenders left many victims. Last year, almost 12,000 people were killed in crashes involving a driver or motorcycle rider at or above the legal limit. The fatalities were not just traffic statistics – they were daughters, sons, mothers, fathers, and friends of those left behind. Drunk driving tragedies have a great impact on our community. In 2006, for example, 1,388 African Americans died in alcohol-impaired crashes nationwide.

In addition to the victims and their families left with shattered lives, drunk drivers are killing themselves. Annually, 31 percent of the African American drivers killed in motor vehicle crashes were alcohol-impaired!

What is your life worth to you? What is the life of another worth? Drinking and driving is never worth the consequences. Be a good example and help protect our community from the devastation caused by drinking and driving.

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.