

CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

African-American Congregations

October – December 2011

October 2

Tomorrow is the start of “Drive Safely to Work Week,” reminding drivers to share the road safely. No matter what you drive, whether a car, truck, motorcycle, or bicycle, look out for those around you and be aware of how your actions affect others. Patience and respect are great companions for any trip. *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.*

October 9

Drivers simply can't do two things at once! Drivers who use hand-held devices while driving are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves or others. You are more likely to take your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel, and your mind off the road if talking or texting while driving. Driving is not the time for multi-tasking! *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.*

October 16

This is National Teen Driver Safety Week. Parents, talk to your teenage drivers often to set driving rules and clearly outline the consequences of breaking them. The risk of a fatal crash for a teen driver doubles with just one teen passenger. Each new passenger increases the risk of a fatal crash. Remember, you influence your child's driving behavior anytime you drive your kids, even before they begin to drive. *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.*

October 23

When you get in a vehicle, do you **always** remember to put your seat belt on? Don't let the one time you don't bother be the time it counts. In a given year, 62 percent of African-American passenger vehicle occupants killed were not buckled up at the time of the crash. How many of those who lost their lives forgot just that one time? Whether you're a driver or passenger, driving around the block or across the country — buckle up. *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.*

October 30

As Halloween nears, the streets and neighborhoods will be filled with children and teenagers, wearing costumes and on a mission for candy! Since they will be distracted, make sure you are not. Slow down in residential areas. These days Halloween is also a time for adult parties. Help keep your friends and loved ones from drinking and driving, reminding them that *buzzed driving is drunk driving. 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.*

November 6

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. *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.*

November 13

This time of year is a wonderful time for families. But more important than trips, toys, or oversized meals is your family's safety. You can help protect your children by using seat belts along with the proper child/booster seat. *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.*

November 20

This Thanksgiving have a wonderful celebration for all that you are thankful for, but be safe while you do it. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for African-Americans between the ages of 1 and 14. Be safe — buckle up, drive the speed limit and never drive impaired! Buckling up could save your giblets! *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.*

November 27

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. *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.*

December 4

Don't let winter slip up on you! Be prepared to drive in winter conditions before they arrive. It is important to use slower acceleration and speeds on icy roads. Always allow extra time to reach your destination during inclement weather. It is not worth putting your own life or the lives of others in danger to save time. Also, stock your vehicle with important winter emergency items such as salt, drinking water, blanket, shovel, flashlight and a safety flare. *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.*

December 11

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. *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.*

December 18

During your holiday travels, always remember to properly secure young children. Did you know that all children under 13 should ride in the back seat? As children grow, how they should ride securely in your vehicle changes also. Save your child from injury or death by observing all laws for children and following proper child safety seat guidelines. *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.*

December 25

Holiday memories stay with you from childhood throughout your adult life, whatever your family traditions may be. From the lights of the tree, songs of the season, and spirit of giving, the best memories are those of the ones you love. Sadly, this can also be a dangerous time of year on the streets and highways. This year, encourage friends and loved ones to be safe, refuse to ride with someone who has been drinking, and volunteer to be a designated driver. *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

October 16 to 22 is National Teen Driver Safety Week

Want to know the greatest threat to today's youth? Look no further than your driveway. Car crashes are the number one cause of death among all teens, including African-Americans. And across the nation, nearly 4,000 teenagers ages 16 to 20 from all cultures die in traffic related crashes each year.

If not taken seriously, cars and trucks can easily become dangerous weapons. Tons of metal — combined with inexperience and distractions — can be deadly. During this time of year, many new drivers are on the road, getting out with their friends to Friday night football games and school dances. Let's make sure they get home safely!

October 16 to 22 is National Teen Driver Safety Week, a time to promote safe teen driver and passenger behaviors. This is a great opportunity to teach the teens in your congregation. Remind them to help friends when driving by keeping distractions to a minimum, assisting with directions when asked, and wearing seat belts.

It is important for teens to help each other obey the rules of the road, rather than acting as a distraction. Studies have confirmed a connection between teen drivers transporting peer passengers and an increased risk of fatal crashes. Adding just one passenger doubles the fatal crash risk for a teen driver. Although the risk of a crash increases with each additional passenger, research shows that few teens recognize the impact passengers have on driver safety.

Encourage teens to use positive peer pressure to persuade each other to buckle up. Buckling up is without a doubt the best way to protect all drivers and passengers from severe injury or death in the event of a motor vehicle crash, yet teens have the lowest seat belt use of any age group. When it comes to traffic crashes, the majority of teens killed were not buckled at the time of the crash. This is also a problem for the African-American community as a whole. In fact, approximately 62 percent of African-American passenger vehicle occupants killed in an average year were unrestrained at the time of the crash (based upon known belt use).

This fall, make sure your congregation's teens understand the importance of seat belts. Talk to them about making a commitment to buckle up *today*. It's a simple way to help secure their future.

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.