

Hello church family! I recently have begun to read a new little book by Thom Rainer called "The Scrappy Church." Dr. Rainer is CEO of Lifeway Christian Resources and has studied and written about the success and decline of churches in North America. One thing that really perked my interest and relates to James Memorial Baptist Church is found in Philippians 4:19 "my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Jesus Christ (KJV)." I realize I am taking one verse and extrapolating toward our situation but somehow it seems to fit. God has given JMBC all the resources it needs to be a successful church (scrappy-determined, tenacious). He gave us loving Christian people capable of serving and loving others, a beautiful building to worship in, a community that is searching for and needs our Savior, Jesus, the knowledge on how to serve that community, and the financial capability to serve others and reach them for Christ. As disciples of Christ we can accomplish this! In verse 6 He says "... in everything pray and be thankful; let your requests be made known unto God." Prayer changes things. I am compelled more than ever before to spend more quality time in earnest prayer for the lost, our community, and our church for this new year. Verse 9 states "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." Prayer changes things (I restate that). God knows our hearts & minds through prayer. Being a "scrappy" church is a choice - please stand firm in your faith and service to Him. God will give you ultimate joy and peace through your faithfulness to Him.

Deborah Davis, Leadership Team



**Deacons 2019**

Paul Allen Pat Sherrill  
Robin Roberts Steve Snyder

January 6, 8:30 a.m.

**2019 Church Leadership Team**

Destiny Allen, Deborah Davis, Rickey Frasier,  
Donna Henry, Matt Johnson, Pat Sherrill  
Be in prayer for this team as they prepare  
for the new church year.

**In Honor**

A donation was made to the General Fund of JMBC in honor of Mrs. Polly Smith by the Polly Smith Sunday School Class.

**Thank You**

**Dear James Memorial Church Family,**

I so appreciate the staff love offering and the Christmas cards that you gave me this year. I consider it a privilege to have served with you the last three years. Looking forward to what God has in store for this church in the year ahead. In His Service, Rachel Chaney

**To the members of James Memorial Baptist Church:**

Thank you all so much for the very sweet and generous Christmas gift. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are most appreciated. It has meant so much to me that many of you stop by the piano each week and let me know you enjoyed a special piece or to give me a hug and let me know I am truly a part of your family at James Memorial. Thank you all for the beautiful Christmas cards and sentiments of endearment you shared with me. You are very much loved and appreciated even though I am still trying to learn names. Thank you for allowing me to share in your music program each week. I know God has great things in store for James Memorial and I pray HE will richly bless you and your families in this New Year.

Blessings, Marie Barnes

As we look to the prospect of a new year, what will you do? We all tend to make resolutions we never keep. I understand we all must have a goal. Scripture even tells us that without a vision the people perish. Proverbs 29:18. As a church, our vision must be to reach the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ. To do this, we must believe in the power of the gospel to transform lives. Scripture is filled with examples of how the Good News completely changed peoples' lives. Friends, if we do not have faith in the transformational power of the gospel, we will not share it nor will we see it in action. My question to each of us is this: Do You Believe? If you do, let us all act like it! Love in Christ, Matt

**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

**Given thru 12/23/18: \$ 2,291.55**



**Ladies' Small Group**

We meet in the fellowship hall on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. Come Join Us.

**Just A Note** 🎵🎵

As we end one year and begin another one, we often look back and wonder how we can make this next year a better one. A new year brings new opportunities and a special atmosphere that motivates action. The Bible does not speak for or against the concept of New Year's resolutions. However, if a Christian determines to make a New Year's resolution, what kind of resolution should he or she make?

Common resolutions are commitments to manage money more wisely, clean our closets, and get rid of clutter. By far, the most common resolution of all is to lose weight by exercising more and eating more healthy. These are good goals to set. However, 1 Timothy 4:8 says to keep exercise in perspective: "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." The vast majority of New Year's resolutions, even among Christians, are in relation to physical things. As Christians, we should look to the spiritual things...Forgive those who have wronged us, Ephesians 4:32, Pray to the Lord for wisdom James 1:5, Abide in your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun."

Sings His praises for He inhabits the praise of His people!!

In Christ, Myra Reagan

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES	
Sunday Activities/Services	Wednesday Activities/Services
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School 11:00 a.m. - Morning Service	6:30 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study, Youth Worship, Children in Action 7:30 p.m. - Choir Practice



What will we do with the  
 New Year that we have  
 been given?  
 Let's seek God's guidance  
 in all that we do during  
 this New Year.

Non Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Gadsden, Al  
 Permit #24

In God We Trust  
 Psalms 56:4

*This is the day the Lord has  
 made; we will rejoice and  
 be glad in it. Psalm 118:2*

**No Brotherhood Breakfast during the month of January.**  
 Breakfast will resume in February.

**Security/Greeters**

- January 6** Robin Roberts - 256-393-9415
- January 13** Steve Snyder - 256-546-7557
- January 20** Paul Allen - 256-458-3683
- January 27** Pat Sherrill - 256-543-7742

**Sunday Counting**

Dennis Collins, Rickey Frasier

**Ushers**

- January 6** - Alexander Allen, Gene Johnson  
Robin Roberts, Pat Sherrill
- January 13** - Bryant Allen, Rickey Frasier,  
Robby Robertson
- January 20** - Alexander Allen, Gene Johnson  
Robin Roberts, Pat Sherrill
- January 27** - Bryant Allen, Rickey Frasier  
Robby Robertson

**VITAL STATISTICS**

**Sunday, December 2, 2018**

Sunday School Attendance 50  
 Worship Attendance 59

**Sunday, December 9, 2018**

Sunday School Attendance 49  
 Worship Attendance 61

**Sunday, December 16, 2018**

Sunday School Attendance 48  
 Worship Attendance count not taken

**Sunday, December 23, 2018**

Sunday School Attendance 39  
 Worship Attendance 58

**JMBC Staff**

- Matt (Julie) Johnson..... Minister of Youth
- Myra Reagan ..... Choir/Music Director
- Marjorie Hall ..... Organist
- Marie Barnes ..... Pianist
- Rachel Chaney ..... Secretary
- Murray McBurnett..... Custodian

**Financial Statements** If you would like a copy of the monthly  
 financial statement, you may come by the office to pick one up or  
 have one mailed to you. For security reasons, we no longer post the  
 financial information in the Messenger or Sunday Bulletin.

*James Memorial  
 Baptist Church*  


---

*The Messenger*

**2125 Ewing Avenue  
 Gadsden, Al 35901**

**Office: 256-547-6928 Fax: 256-546-3898**

**Website: [www.jamesmemorialbc.org](http://www.jamesmemorialbc.org)**

**January, 2019**



Commit to the Lord whatever you do,  
 and he will establish your plans.

Proverbs 16:3

**Exalting the Savior, Equipping the Saints,  
 Evangelizing the Sinner”**