



New Members Class

Saint James Missionary Baptist Church




Prayer

Greetings and Introductions

1. Tell us your name.
2. Where are you from?
3. Family
4. Hobbies
5. Place of work/school
6. One thing everyone would be surprised to know about you.



Church History

- 1865 - Today (154 years!)
 - One Hundred Years of Fayetteville (1828-1928) and the account of Pearly Blye.
 - Campbell records that there was a man named Matthew Leeper who owned more than 300 slaves. One of his slaves, **Squire Jehegen**, after being freed became a Baptist preacher and later organized a church (Saint James Missionary Baptist)
 - Our namesake - two churches
 - 14 Pastors
 - 40 to 1100+ members
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What We Believe

- The Scriptures
- God
- Jesus Christ
- Holy Spirit
- Man
- Salvation
- Eternal Security



The Scriptures

We believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God. The Bible brings the revealed Word of God as the ground and foundation from which all claims of truth shall be substantiated.

The scriptures are the supreme and final authority.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; Peter 1:20-21)



God

We believe that there is only one and true living God existing in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit! Each a distinct Person, but having the same nature, perfection and attributes.

(Genesis 1: 1-3, 26; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; John 1:1, 14; John 10:30, John 14:26, John 15:26)



Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God; the only begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, shed his blood on Calvary in our place, was buried, rose again and ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father according to the scriptures.


(Luke 1:26-33; 22:20; 24:46)



Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, God coexists with the Father and Son. The Holy Spirit is the Chief Agent in the regeneration of the soul, Chief Convictor of sin, and the Chief Comforter of the believer. The Holy Spirit baptizes the believer into the body of Christ and is the giver of ALL spiritual gifts.

(Matthew 3:11; John 16:1-13; Acts 5:3-4; Ephesians 1:13-14; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11)



Man

We believe that man is the direct creation of God - body, soul, spirit. Therefore, man is not in any way a result of evolution, but is made in God's image. The sin and fall of Adam resulted in the fall of creation and mankind both spiritually and physically.

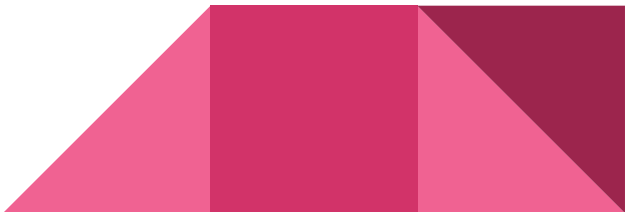
(Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:10; Romans 5:12; Romans 8:18-23)



Salvation

We believe that all who, in faith, receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior born again by the Holy Spirit and thus becomes the children of the living God. Salvation involves redemption, regeneration, sanctification and glorification.

(John 17:16-22; Romans 10:9-10; 1Corinthians 6:19; 2 Corinthians 5:17;
Colossians 1:13-14, 21-22)




Eternal Security

We believe that salvation is not only a gift from God but is sustained by Him as well. Salvation is wholly of the Lord, apart from the works of man. The Holy Spirit permanently indwells the true believer and seals him in salvation for eternity. Therefore, the believer shall be kept by the power of God through faith.

(John 3:16; John 10:27-29; John 14:16-17, 26; Ephesians 1:13;

Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:5; Jude 1:24-25)



Beliefs

OUR MISSION

We will develop and enable people to grow into complete followers of Christ through the teaching of God's word, authentic worship experience and wholesome fellowship.

OUR VISION - STRATEGY

At Saint James, we will build divine people of purpose; developing them into champions of change for the kingdom of God to win souls for Jesus Christ.

BUILD, DEVELOP, WIN FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD!



Beliefs (con't)

OUR VALUES

Boldness for Christ - unapologetically representing Christ to the world. (Phil 1:20)

Passion for People - Intentionally cultivating life-giving relationships. (John 13:35)

Catalyst for Change - Relentlessly transforming our community. (Jer. 29:7)

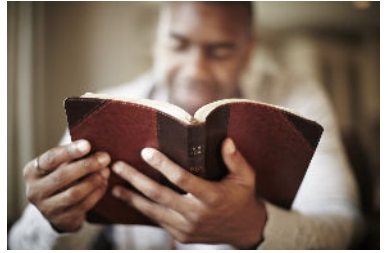
Hunger for More - Radically pursuing what God has next for me. (Matt 5:6)

BUILD, DEVELOP, WIN FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD!



Step 1. Build

Salvation



1. We believe in order to be a change agent for the Kingdom of God you must be born again. You must be built for God's service from the ground up and inside out. (Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalms 127:1; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:8)
2. Attend a New Converts Class
3. Be Baptized

Step 2. Develop (Ephesians 2:10)

Membership/Fellowship



1. Once you are born again we would love for you to join our fellowship, every believer should have a local fellowship where they can develop and exercise the gifts and callings God has given every believer.
2. Attend one New Member's class to learn your rights and responsibilities as a member.
3. Attend on a regular basis one of the many Spiritual Formation classes to continually grow in your faith and practice.
4. As your faith grows and your gifts are developed we encourage you to engage in one of our many ministries.

Step 3: Win

Outreach/Community Developer



We believe that every believer can WIN in life, but more than just winning in life,
God has called us to WIN PEOPLE! ♥ People are most precious to God.

Through our various outreaches and evangelistic efforts you will be given the
opportunity to impact all of humanity
with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in *words* and *deeds*.

Membership

Church Membership

Expectations of Members

Benefits of Members



Church Membership



It is true that by becoming a Christian we are added to the universal body of Christ, but it is also important that all Christians connect to a local congregation of believers so that they may be encouraged to grow in their faith through communal worship, teaching, fellowship, and service.

Read Hebrews 10:23-25

“23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

According to verse 24 what are we to consider doing?

According to verse 25 how do we go about doing this?

Church Membership (cont)



As members of Christ at St. James, we strive to encourage each other when regularly get together toward love and good deeds. Without being committed to a local body of believers, like St. James, it is impossible for the Christian to experience the encouragement and growth that the Lord intends for all of His children.

By placing membership with the church of St. James, you are committing to be an active part of the congregation to encourage the local believers in their faith as we are committed to encourage your faith as well.



Expectations of Members



The Lord calls all members of the body of Christ to live in a manner that is worthy of calling that they have received (Ephesians 4:1). The Lord expects us to live in ways that will glorify God in all godliness and righteousness.



Expectations of Members (con't)



We expect all members of St. James to:

1. Protect the unity of the body (1Cor 1:10)
2. Live a holy life pleasing to the Lord (Phil 1:27)
3. Faithfully attend Bible classes and worship services (Heb 10:25)
4. Seek out meaningful fellowship in the body (Rom 14:19)
5. Faithfully devote themselves to personal Bible reading and prayer (1 Thess 5:17; 2 Tim 3:16-17)
6. Develop a lifestyle of service to the body and community (1 Pet 4:10)
7. Submit to the leadership of elders (Heb 13:17)
8. Share the good news of Jesus with those in their life (Matt 28:19-20)



Benefits of Members

In the Scripture, we find that there are many benefits to active membership in the body of Christ:

1. [Identifies a person as a genuine believer](#) (Eph 2:19; Rom 12:5)
2. It provides a [spiritual family to support](#) and encourage them in their walk with Christ (Gal 6:1-2; Heb 10:24-25)
3. It provides the environment to discover and use their [spiritual gifts](#) in ministry (1 Cor 12:4-27)
4. It places them under the [spiritual protection](#) of godly leaders (Heb 13:17; Acts 20:28-29)
5. It gives them the [accountability](#) they need to grow (Eph 5:21)

Also, as a member of St. James you are invited to attend church business meetings where you can vote on important matters such as the church budget, major building projects, etc.



Benefits of Members (con't)

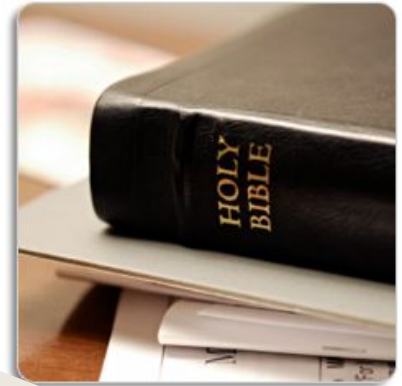
As a member of our local spiritual family, we are committed to the spiritual well-being of you and your family. Specifically, we are committed to:

- ...praying for you and your family
- ...providing you with spiritual help and guidance
- ...the spiritual growth of your entire family
- ...being good stewards of your giving
- ...supporting you through your struggles and heartache
- ...shepherding this church with love, grace, and compassion
- ...leading with humility and openness
- ...provide you and your family with biblical teaching
- ...showing you love, grace, patience, and forgiveness



Ministries

- [Christian Education](#) (Gateway to Hope College Ministry and Spiritual Formation, New Converts)
- [Music](#) (Choirs - Youth, Adult, Men, Praise Team, Band, Drama, Liturgical Dance)
- [Evangelism and Outreach](#) (Evangelism, Food Pantry, Community Outreach)
- [C.A.R.E.](#) - Caring Assimilation & Responsive Engagement (Greeters, Ushers, Medical, New Member/Convert Education)



Ministries (con't)

- [Community Fellowship & Hospitality](#)
(Decor & Design/First Impressions, Hospitality, Special Events)
- [Youth Department](#) (God's Tikes 0-Pre-K, King's Kid's K-4th Grade, Peculiar People 5th-8th, A.B.L.A.I.Z.E. 9th-12th)
- [Family Development](#) (Marriage/Couples, Men, Women, Legends, Singles, Young Adults)
- [Media](#) (Live Stream Production, Social Media, Audio, Media Shout Computer, Photography)

Get out there



Gifts Assessment



A Commitment To Grow

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

- 2 Timothy 3:16

ACTION STEPS FOR GETTING STARTED

- Find a place to spend time in God's Word that you you to be undisturbed
- Select a good study Bible
- Create a system of accountability
- Define your time
- [Use the SOAP Bible Study Method](#)



Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

2020 Year of TRANSFORMATION



ROMANS 12:1-2

My Next Steps

- PRAYER
- Gifts Assessment
- Get Connected to Your Assigned Deacon
- Seek to Connect with a Ministry
- Participation in Christian Education
(Sunday School, Bible Study, Spiritual Formation)

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Dear Lord, help me to draw closer to You. Help me to trust in You to not walk by sight but by faith, knowing that You are supreme, and I am Your child. Lord, help me to walk in Jesus' light and show Your love to all the people You put in my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.