



Pastor Tommy Larson
 Minister of Ed. & Admin Raleigh Baggett
 Minister of Family Life Vacant
 Minister of Music Tim Mulkey
 Preschool Director Mary Terwilliger

Financial Secretary & Office Manager Mary Pennington
 Church Secretary & Receptionist Brenda Ashe
 Pianist Faye Baggett
 Keyboardist Pat Tripp
 Custodian Don Canterbury

Thank you



Dear Church Family,
 I would like to thank everyone for all the calls, cards and visits during and following my neck surgery. They meant a lot to my family and me.

Mike Pierce

Dear Church Family,
 Thank you so much for all the prayers, phone calls and cards during my brother's (Darden Baines) illness and homegoing. A special thanks to all who attended his service and reception. We surely will miss him.

In Christian Love,
 Virginia B. Salmon & Family

Dear Church Family,
 Reta and I find there is no sufficient amount of words that could equal the generosity you showed us during our time of bereavement. Your prayers, cards, food and calls all comforted us at the passing of my Mother, Estelle Byrum.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness,
 Carroll Byrum

JACKSON MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH
 4316 Bruce Road, Chesapeake, VA 23321

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FAMILY, FRIENDS & FAITH

Jackson Memorial Baptist Church

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August 2018

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Sunday Services

9:00 a.m. Life Groups
 (Bible Study)
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 11:00 a.m. Kids Worship

Tough Texts

I enjoy wrestling with "tough texts." In fact, I hope to periodically deal with some of the Bible's hard to understand sayings in this forum. In my experience, many folks allow the tough biblical texts to dissuade them, frustrate them, or become an excuse for their actions. I think a better way is for us to prayerfully work through them.

The Bible backs up my assertion too. Consider Acts 17:11: "Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." They queried the Scriptures to see if Paul's preaching lined up with God's written revelation. This required effort and time, but they did that hard work. Speaking through the prophet Hosea God said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge," (Hosea 4:6). In other words, they failed to pay attention to and consider the Word of God, specifically the Law. In another passage, Paul exhorted Timothy to study the Scriptures in order to be effective in ministry, and the Psalmist celebrated the person who would "meditate" upon God's Word (Psalm 1). Again, all of these passages point to the fact that knowing and more fully understanding God requires effort on our part. Hence, we need to be willing to work through the tough texts.

So, how about this one? Exodus 9:12, "But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said to Moses." Immediate questions should arise in your mind after reading that verse. The most obvious questions probably go something like this: why would God hold someone responsible for something He did, or did God make it impossible for Pharaoh to respond and then find him guilty? Good question. Tough text.

In order to understand this you have to read the whole story and let the Bible interpret and explain itself in some sense. If you look closely, you will see that Pharaoh hardened his own heart ten times during the first five plagues! (Exodus 7 and 8). Pharaoh's own magicians even confessed, in Exodus 8:19, the plagues were the work of God. In addition, it is clear that many Egyptians accompanied the Israelites during their trek out of Egypt (Exodus 12:38). God's hand was at work, which was obvious to so many, but Pharaoh would not submit to God or relent. This becomes the basis for the hardening of his heart by God; Pharaoh already had a hardened heart those many times and showed his true character. We are never told that God violated Pharaoh's own will.

Again, let's let the preponderance of Scripture help us understand the character of God and this text. When God sent a prophet there was always an "unless you repent" aspect to the message. Simply consider Jonah and the repentance of Nineveh as one example; the hated Assyrians did not get what was coming to them because they repented, much to the chagrin of Jonah! This shows me that God will not refuse one who repents, and this would have included Pharaoh too.

Are there other examples of God working with despot leaders of other nations and allowing His people to be freed by a pagan monarch's cooperation? Yes! Simply consider King Cyrus of Persia (See Ezra 1). God's glory was not diminished by Cyrus' submission to God, which shows that God would and could work with a pagan world leader to accomplish His will.

Simply put, the text stating God hardened his heart cannot be used to exonerate or excuse Pharaoh. In fact, the Bible teaches that God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11). Furthermore, the Bible is clear that all men are sinners and without excuse (Romans 1:3; 3:21), and condemnation comes through unbelief (John 3:18). The bottom line for us: don't blame God or use this "tough text" as an excuse for our sin. Our sin and its consequence are not His fault.

Pastor Tommy

UPCOMING EVENTS



ALL MINISTRY LEADERS – Start planning now for your JMBC ministry events. Your calendar of events for September – December 2018, and January – August 2019 (as best you know at this point) are due to Raleigh Baggett by **September 12**. Be sure to complete and turn in "Reservation Sheets" as appropriate to get your event on the church calendar and to reserve rooms, etc. at JMBC and/or to reserve the bus/van. Also, please consider that the A/C in the Fellowship Hall, Overflow Room and Kitchen currently does not work. Until it is fixed, if possible, you might hold your events in another part of the building.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

If you would love a part-time job teaching children, Jackson Christian Preschool has an opening for a Teacher Assistant. Contact Linda Canterbury or Raleigh Baggett at 484-5568 for more information.



Recordings of Pastor Tommy's sermons are now on CD and available for checkout from our Library.

Building Security

As soon as the new door locks are replaced, we will begin arming the building. Ministry leaders needing access to the building should contact Mary Pennington in the office as soon as possible to get an access code for entering the building via the left side security door using the access panel. Temporary codes will be given for non-recurring events. If you need training on the access panel, contact Will Hebert at 227-1151.

Looking Ahead

JMBC Friends & Family Sunday September 16, 2018

Life Groups and Worship Service
 Followed by Dinner on the Grounds
 (covered dish)



Fall Fest/Trunk or Treat Saturday, October 27, 2018 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm



FAMILY, FRIENDS & FAITH



WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: Fellowship Hall, 6:30 pm, led by Pastor Tommy - "Summer Psalms"

JULY OPEN and LOCK-UP TEAM: Bill Vick and Bill Yarbrough
The Open and Lock-up Crew needs a few volunteers to open and secure our building on Wednesday evenings and Sundays. Two people on a team serve for an entire month, approximately twice a year. Contact Steve Rosso at (757) 403-4680 for details.



NEW MEMBERS: Clayton and Callie Brown
Bill and Nancy Stokes
Laura Floyd
Mike and Linda Tyler
Ralph and Sandra Geabhart
Lue English

JOY GROUP – Just Older Youth Senior Ministry – We are having a Luau Luncheon on **Thursday, August 16** at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

Thursday, August 23 - Outdoor picnic and concert at **Fort Monroe** (weather permitting). We will leave JMBC at **5:30 pm**. Bring your own picnic supper and lawn chair. Please sign up on the Senior Bulletin Board so transportation can be planned.

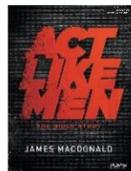
OPERATION INASMUCH – See flyers located in the church office, fellowship hall or music hall. By mid-August, we will be collecting animal shelter needs and items for Mercy Drops Dream Center.

There will be an Applebee's Pancake Breakfast on **August 25** at the **Harbor View** location. The cost is \$10 per ticket (\$6 goes to OIAM). See Frances Edwards, Sue Wynn or Linda Baines for tickets.

If you have construction skills and want to participate on the OIAM teams, or if you are a homeowner and need construction/yard/individual assistance, complete a form and turn it in by August 31.

Start saving your quarters for the Laundromat Project on October 6.

NEW LIFE GROUP STUDY – Beginning **September 9** in **Room 108** at **9:00 am**. During this 6-week study by James MacDonald, you will be challenged to take hold of your God given role through video teaching, group discussion and personal Bible study. Contact Pete Peterson at 757-630-9392 for more information.



Discipleship Classes - Beginning September 12 ~ 6:00 pm

"The Quest" by Beth Moore

Teacher – Daina Larson (Room 108) – 6 weeks

"This study helps foster a sojourner and adventurer mentality, reminding women that they are wired to ask questions and yearn for a deeper relationship with God."

"Nehemiah"

Teacher – Dr. Joseph Caplan (Room 102/104) – approximately 6 weeks

In spite of vicious opposition and abuse, Nehemiah challenged ALL to help and successfully rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. The wall rebuilding process is a picture of the way God restores people. This study can enable the Holy Spirit's highest ministry to be realized in you.

"The Total Money Makeover" by Dave Ramsey

Teachers – Raleigh Baggett and Carroll Byrum - (Room A14) – 10 weeks

"Do you want to turn those fat and flabby expenses into a well-toned budget? Do you want to transform your sad and skinny little bank account into a bulked-up cash machine? Then get with the program, people. There's one sure way to whip your finances into shape and that's with *The Total Money Makeover* from America's favorite finance coach, Dave Ramsey."

Prospective Members Class

Led by Pastor Tommy Larson

August 5, 12 & 19, 2018

In Room A08, 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Meet our pastor and his wife, and hear their faith statements. Learn about our church's core beliefs, ministries and vision for the future.

*Open to everyone. Childcare provided.
We look forward to getting to know you better!*

WEEKS IN REVIEW

	July 1	July 8	July 15	July 22	July 29
LIFE GROUPS (Sunday Bible Study)					
Enrollment.....	362	358	360	358	358
Attendance.....	153	150	160	167	145
Visitor.....	13	16	9	10	6
New Enrollment.....	358	360	358	358	354
Total Attendance.....	166	166	160	177	151
WORSHIP					
Morning Service.....	250	203	219	229	216

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

BUDGET					
Required Per Week.....	13,080.70	13,080.70	13,080.70	13,080.70	13,080.70
Received.....	10,831.34	7,697.00	10,612.22	4,868.12	6,466.00
Mid-Week Received.....		550.00	1,301.39	2,285.00	765.00
Online Received.....		1,905.00	866.00	2,080.00	1,621.00
Required to Date.....	319,053.14	332,133.84	345,214.54	358,295.24	371,375.94
Received to Date.....	317,333.47	327,485.47	340,265.08	349,498.20	358,350.20
BUILDING FUND					
Phase 2 (New Sanctuary).....	90.00		100.00		
MISSIONS					
East Asia.....		50.00			
JMBC Missions.....	355.00	200.00	200.00	220.00	300.00
PBA.....	170.00		25.00		
OTHER					
Backpack.....			50.00		
Benevolence.....					260.33
Deacon Fund.....	45.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	
JCP Scholarship.....			10.00		

JULY BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS: \$51,848.07

REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MONDAYS	9:30 am	Nifty Knitters (Room A-13)
TUESDAYS	10:00 am	Staff Meeting (Conference Room B)
WEDNESDAYS	6:30 pm	Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) Mission Friends (Preschool Hall) Children in Action (Room 222) Youth Bible Study (Youth Wing) Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
	7:30 pm	
SUNDAYS	9:00 am	Life Groups (Bible Study)
	10:30 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Kids Worship

MEETINGS / SPECIAL EVENTS

2 THURS	6:00 am	Feeding of the Homeless (OASIS)
	10:30 am	WMU Carol Knight Group Meeting (Overflow Rm)
	6:30 pm	Worship at The Crossings
3 FRI	7:00 am	Moldova Team departs
12 SUN	12:00 pm	Second Sunday Lunch (Parent Adventure Life Group – Fellowship Hall)
13 MON	6:30 pm	Personnel Committee Meeting (Conf Room A)
14 TUES	1:00 pm	Insurance Committee Meeting (Conf Room A)
	7:00 pm	Deacons Meeting (Room 102)
16 THURS	11:00 am	Joyful Sounds Summer Rehearsal (Choir Room)
	12:00 pm	JOY Group Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
17 FRI	6:00 pm	Friday Family Fun (Alberson Home)
18 SAT	7:00 pm	The Escape – Youth (Fellowship Hall)
19 SUN	2:30 pm	Senior Ministry at Emily Green Shores
20 MON	7:00 pm	WMU Barbara Deal Group Mtg (Overflow Rm)
21 TUES	6:30 pm	Church Council Meeting (Choir Room)
23 THURS	11:00 am	Joyful Sounds Summer Rehearsal (Choir Room)
	5:30 pm	JOY Group Outdoor Concert (Ft. Monroe)