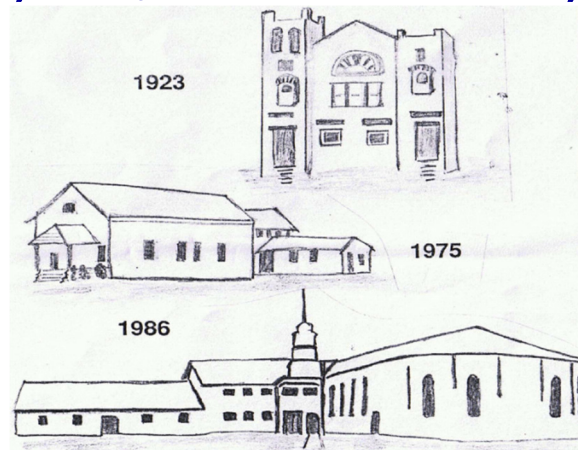


*Johns Chapel  
African Methodist Episcopal Church*  
605 Geneva Highway/Post Office Box 311015  
Enterprise, Alabama 36331 334-393-2661  
Reverend Willie White, Jr., Pastor

[johnschapelenterprise@gmail.com](mailto:johnschapelenterprise@gmail.com) [williewhite203@gmail.com](mailto:williewhite203@gmail.com) [www.johnschapelamec.org](http://www.johnschapelamec.org)

*May 16, 2021 – 10:45 a.m.*

*A Celebration of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary  
Of Johns Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church*



*Sketches by Charlie Ray "C. R." Sconiers, Jr. – Now resting in the Arms of the Lord*

*The Doxology*

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! Praise Him all creatures here below!  
Praise Him Above Ye Heavenly Host! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen! Amen! Amen!**

*The Call to Worship*

**LEADER:** I was glad when they said unto me, "let us go to the house of the Lord!" Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

**PEOPLE:** **For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

**LEADER:** For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

**PEOPLE:** **They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God.**

**LEADER:** O Lord, I love the habitation of your house, and the place where your glory dwells.

**PEOPLE:** **But the Lord is in His Holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.**

**LEADER:** Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.

**PEOPLE:** **O, sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, sing praises!**

*The Opening Hymn Led By*

*The Sanctuary United Voices of Praise Choir - Brother Brent Golden, Accompanist*

*#513 - Hold to God's Unchanging Hand "*

1. Time is filled with swift transition, Naught of earth unmoved can stand. Build your hopes on things eternal, Hold to God's unchanging hand.

**Refrain: Hold to His hand, God's unchanging hand; Hold to His hand, God's unchanging hand; Build your hopes on things eternal; Hold to God's unchanging hand.**

2. Trust in Him who will not leave you, Whatsoever years may bring; If by earthly friends forsaken, Still more closely to Him cling.
3. Covet not this world's vain riches, That so rapidly decay; Seek to gain the heavenly treasures; They will never pass away.
4. When your journey is completed, If to God you have been true, Fair and bright the home in glory Your enraptured soul will view.

*Prayer*

**Choral Response**

*Selection*

*Choir*

*Scripture*

*Announcements - Sister Marge Simmons*

*The Faith Over Fear Message by*

*Brother Edward M. Brown, Jr., Steward*

*Sermonic Selection*

*Choir*

*The Anniversary Message*

*The Reverend James Jackson*

*Retired Itinerant Elder, A.M.E Church*

*Invitation to Christian Discipleship*

*Pastor Willie White, Jr.*

*Doxology*

*Benediction*

*Dr. Willie Eugene Marshall, Presiding Elder, Ozark Troy District*

*Bishop Harry Lee Seawright, Presiding Prelate, 9<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District*

*Please Depart Quickly And Thank God for the Johns Chapel Legacy!*

# *Johns Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church*

605 Geneva Highway/Post Office Box 311015  
Enterprise, Alabama 36331 334-393-2661

## *The Pastor's Contact Info*

Pastor Willie White, Jr. 2501 Scott Road, Dothan Alabama 36303 | 334-701-5853

williewhite203@gmail.com

**Please check texts, e-mails and website for updates [johnschapelamec.org](http://johnschapelamec.org)**

**SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021**



*Dear Guests in Sanctuary, Parking Lot, Listening on radio, or  
Virtual (Facebook, YouTube, Zoom)*



*We extend a special welcome to our Guest Messenger, The Reverend James Jackson, and his wife, Sister Marjorie Jackson. We are happy to have you with us today! May God richly bless you!*

**OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP & SERVE THIS WEEK – Check e-mails and text messages.**

**--EACH SUNDAY** – Worship service in sanctuary and cars at 10:45 a.m. **in sanctuary, via Zoom, Facebook Live, and limited range radio service at 87.9 FM if worshipping in cars in parking lot or listening on surrounding streets.** Grab Sermon & Go; Church School Lesson 9:00 a.m. in sanctuary via JC Conference Call line -Dial-in # 605-313-5111 Access code 737936#. Please contact Brother Franklin Simmons at 334-494-2377 if you have connectivity or other tech issues.

**This week at a glance. Zoom Joining instructions forwarded via e-mail and text**

**--Monday, 6:00 p.m. – Monthly Meeting of the Johns Chapel Lay Organization**

**--Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. – Official Board Meeting. All officers and auxiliary leaders are reminded that they are expected to attend. If unable to attend, please contact the Pastor .**

**--Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom and JC conference call. Joining info via text and e-mail this week.**

**--Opportunities to give tithes & offerings: during morning worship as you enter or depart the sanctuary. Or mail to Johns Chapel AME Church, Post Office Box 311015, Enterprise, AL 36331-1015. Please do not mail cash. Thank you.**



**Or give via**

**Givify: Johns Chapel AME Church**

**Pay Pal: Johns Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church**

**Cash app: \$JohnsChapelAMEC.**



--Tax statements & 2021 Offering envelopes are available in the vestibule. May also be mailed. If you have moved in the last two years, please provide new address to Dr. Thompson ASAP.

--**Letter Writing Campaign** – Letters are pre-printed for everyone who will to write letters to members of Congress to ask them to help end hunger. This campaign is sponsored by the Women’s Missionary Society (WMS) of the AME Church. Local President Constance Jones is asking all members to support this mission activity. Pre-printed letters will be available from local WMS members soon. Thanks in advance..

**REMEMBER CONTINUE TO BE VIGILANT DURING THE PANDEMIC AND OBEY ALL HEALTH GUIDELINES.**

--Pastor White presents: **“SERMON DASH”**. You may receive a hard copy and/or a CD/DVD of sermons via text, phone call, e-mail or word of mouth, etc., and we will get the sermon to you.

--**Auxiliary Leaders** are reminded to hold **elections** as soon as possible and to ensure elections are announced during morning worship.

--**Special thanks to all who supported the historic Johns Chapel Family Park Groundbreaking Ceremony. All those who are interested in being a part of the “Dream Team” and work on the Johns Chapel 501c(3) grant writing initiative, please sign up in the foyer today.**

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

---**To all who supported the Family during the Celebration of Life for Sister Eloise “Puddin” Williams on this past Thursday. Please continue to remember the family in your prayers.**

--**To the Sons of Allen and other men of the church for the wonderful Mother’s Day gifts. From the Ladies of the Church.**

--**To everyone for your prayers, ad purchases and support. From DyShunta McDaniel and her Mom, Sister LauReen McDaniel as they prepare for the Dedication Ceremony on June 12 in Birmingham.**

--**Please provide student graduation and other school details to Sister Marge Simmons as soon as possible.**

Exciting Opportunity For Widest Dissemination:

Bishop Seawright is pleased to announce that the 9th Episcopal District has partnered with The Federal Home Loan Bank and House Then The Car ambassadors to kick off the Alabama Impact Campaign, offering a new and free three-week Home-Owners workshop starting on May 3, 2021 and May 10 and the final one on May 17, all at 6:00 p.m. These classes will focus on financial literacy, home purchase options and solutions in order to increase minority home ownership in the State of Alabama,

Please share this information widely among your family, friends, colleagues and everyone in your email contact list and register using the link in the e-mail. Included in Subject: Alabama Impact Campaign. Your help is needed to help us reach our goal. Please see your e-mail for Zoom joining info.



HAVE YOU  
TALKED  
TO GOD  
TODAY?

**PRAYER LIST Week of May 16-22, 2021**

--Sister Annie Pearl Allen (wife of Brother Roland)  
 --Brother Roland Allen, Enterprise Health and Rehab for Physical Therapy  
 --Sister Eleanor Bailey  
 --Sister Emma Bailey & Family – Bereavement in the passing of her Mother, Mrs. Thelma Bailey  
 --Ryan and Nathan Baxter & Family – Bereavement in the passing of their father, Brother Nathaniel “Skip” Baxter  
 --Sister Allie Bell Reddick and Sister Mary “Libo” Bell Jackson– Bereavement in the passing of their father  
 --Chasity Bell & Baby Logan – Bereavement in passing of their Grandfather & Great-Grandfather  
 -- Sister Jennifer Bigham  
 -- Sister Debra D. Brown -Address: 74 Davis Street, Charles Town, WV 25414  
 --Sister Krystal – Undergoing cancer treatments  
 --Sister Geraldine Booth  
 --Sister Brenda Crawford  
 --Caiden M. Gary, Grandson of Sis C. Jones  
 --Ms Fay, lives in another state –Pray for her to have a closer walk with God  
 --Sister Annie Pearl Frazier  
 --Sister Marie Gates, daughter of Sister Constance Jones

--Sister Ruby Grayer  
 --Sister Dorothy Holmes  
 --Sister Kim Jackson—Sister of Bro. Brent Golden  
 --Sister Vivian Johnson  
 --Sister Ann McGaughey  
 --Brother Samuel Lee Mills, Father of Sis. LauReen McDaniel and Bro. Sammy Mills  
 --Sister Gay Nell Miley  
 --Sister Jackie Scott  
 --Sister Betty Simmons  
 --Megan Simmons, Daughter-in-Love of Franklin & Marge Simmons  
 --Sister Rosetta White & Brother Willie White, Sr. — Parents of Pastor White – Brother White, Sr.  
 --Sister Johnnie Sanders  
 --Brother Larry Wilson—Husband of Sis. Shun Wilson  
 --Sanders, Mills, Blake, and McDaniel Families. Bereavement in the passing of their sister and aunt, Sister Eloise Williams:  
 --First Responders, Medical workers, Other frontline workers  
 --The United States of America & the World

**\*New entries in bold print. Remember to pray for and check on our shut-in members.**

**\*New entries in bold print. Remember to pray for and check on our shut-in members.**





## CHURCH CALENDAR

May 2021

### National Stroke Awareness Month

May 9	Mother's Day
May 16	Church Anniversary, The Reverend James Jackson, Guest Preacher, 10:45 a.m. Sister Dianne Durdin, Chairperson; Brother Robert Crawford, Co-Chairperson
May 17	Tax Returns Deadline
May 18	Official Board - 6:00 p.m.
May 23	Pentecost Sunday
May 27	Last Day of School - Enterprise City Schools
May 29	SE Conference Lay Organization Quarterly Meeting via Zoom, 10 a.m.
May 30	JC Church School Pep Rally
May 31	Memorial Day



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

May 16	Regina Wright	May 18	Nathan Baxter
May 17	Nathan Sebastian		
May 18	Sarita Brown Rhodes-Vivour		



**NO ANNIVERSARIES ON RECORD THIS WEEK**

*Johns Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church*  
*Founded in 1889*  
*Historical Highlights – 132nd Church Anniversary*  
*May 16, 2021 – As COVID-19 Pandemic Continues*

Enterprise was a forest and farm area with a total population of less than 400. Three of those farms were owned by Blacks: the Fleming, Grant, and Johns families.

The first church organized in the area was New Zion AME Church, which is located in present day Coppinville Community off Highway 84. Meetings were held on the Grant property from 1883-1889. In 1889, a Quarterly Conference held at New Zion granted permission to some members of New Zion to withdraw for the purpose of forming a new A.M.E. congregation nearer to their residence on what was then and is now Geneva Road (Highway). Members of the Johns Family were in the group authorized to organize a new church. The Johns family invited those members that left to meet on their property. Jason "Jake" Johns gave two acres for the new congregation, which began the creation of

**Johns Chapel  
African Methodist Episcopal Church**

All AME churches in those early years were in the Alabama Annual Conference. Johns Chapel was accepted by the conference in 1889 and made part of the circuit. The first pastor was Rev. W.L. Lewis; and Rev. S. Griffin, and the Rev. Hillard succeeded him. The South Alabama Annual Conference was organized at Johns Chapel in 1914 with Rev. W. M. Pyles as Pastor and Rt. Reverend J.H. Jones as Bishop.

The first building was destroyed by fire. The second building was destroyed by a storm. The third building lasted through four pastors. The members expressed their desire for a brick building. Construction of a brick building began in 1922 and the final cornerstone was laid in 1928. Many modern upgrades from several pastors were added to Johns Chapel between 1920-1982. Reverend Roy Peters came to Johns Chapel in 1978. In 1982, the church building was completely destroyed by fire. Reverend Peters had a vision of the church building being large enough to serve the people of Enterprise and the Wiregrass Area. One of the many things the members wanted for Johns Chapel was a basement. However, members were told that Johns Chapel sits right on top of a lake that passes under the highway.

The sanctuary's seating capacity was estimated to be 500, with a full fellowship hall and kitchen, office space, classrooms, a library, Sunday School rooms, conference room, a small chapel, and multi-purpose rooms on the two floors of the building. Due to Rev. Peter's failing health, he retired after having a stroke while working on the church. He never preached in the sanctuary he designed. However, his funeral was held in the church sanctuary in 1987 as a tribute to him. Of greater note than the improvements and renovations of the physical building and grounds, pastors have led the members to higher heights spiritually and numerically.

After Bishop James L. Davis was appointed to the 9<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District (State of Alabama) in 2008, he reorganized the conferences, and Johns Chapel is now assigned to the Southeast Alabama Conference, Ozark Troy District, The Reverend Cleophas A. Guice, Sr., Presiding Elder (assigned September 20, 2014). Presiding Elder Guice also served as pastor of Johns Chapel from 1992-1997 and led the church in a Jubilee Season with many advances in the congregation, both spiritual and temporal. Our current Presiding Elder is Reverend Johnny Rutledge, and our current Presiding Prelate is Bishop Harry L.



Seawright, who was appointed to the 9<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District in 2016 at the General Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The church family strongly feels that God has smiled on Johns Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church down through the years. Over 30 pastors have served at Johns Chapel, with Reverend J. F. McCloud serving the longest tenure of 12 years. The current pastor, The Reverend Willie White, Jr., was appointed November 3, 2018 and oversees some 30 ministries in the church. Pastor White is focused on bringing the members of the Body of Christ together and then leading them to greater heights. He is consistently positive and leads by the example of Christ. He has a constant smile an encouraging word, and wants to keep the Church vibrant, fun and effective. He has a particular love for youth and is a Spiritually charismatic leader who has a goal of leading Johns Chapel to be all that God intends her to be. He takes advantage of all available methods to win souls to Christ, e.g., traditional evangelism methods such as personal contact, class leader system, etc., as well as social media, texts, and e-mails. At this writing, 18 months since his appointment, the church has grown by leaps and bounds in Spirituality and Unity, as well as Numerically in new members and guests. Since his arrival, the church has purchased a 24-passenger bus, completed extensive ceiling repair in the sanctuary, initiated several new and productive ministries, established on-line giving opportunities, as well as many other accomplishments in the name of the Lord.

Through the years, Church Anniversary Celebrations have focused on the art of Storytelling, singing, bonding of generations, and sharing our history with our children, ensuring that it is passed down to future generations. At this writing, many of those celebration venues & events cannot be experienced due to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, a virus that has caused unprecedented worldwide disruption, illness, and over 300,000 deaths (source: GOOGLE). Due to restrictive mandates to slow the spread of the virus, the congregation has not gathered in the sanctuary for worship since Sunday, March 15, 2020. During those two months, Pastor White has incorporated alternative methods of worship and fellowship via conference calls, parking lot worship, etc., in order to keep the congregation focused on God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, The Holy Spirit our Comforter, and Mankind our Family. His sermons have focused on reminding the congregation to pray without ceasing and "remain faithful in a dark place," while looking forward to God's deliverance in His time. For the 131<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Service in cars in the Church parking lot, Pastor White's sermon title and text were:

**"THIS TOO SHALL PASS" - Deuteronomy 28:1**

And it shall come to pass if thou shall hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth.

As members celebrate their 132<sup>nd</sup> church anniversary, they reflect upon God's protection as the COVID-19 Pandemic continues as of May 16, 2021, with a death toll in the United States of 585,000 and 32,900,000 cases. God has blessed us with vaccines and a greater understanding of how to survive the virus. After much prayer and preparation, the congregation returned to the sanctuary on November 1, 2021, eight months after beginning worship in the church's parking lot. Pastor White continued to pray and petition God to heal the land, as he continued to deliver messages of hope with a theme of "Faith Over Fear" during the Pandemic. With the restrictions on face-to-face gatherings, the church learned to worship, hold meetings and fellowship using online media: the internet, FaceBook, and other virtual platforms, including Zoom and others. Even after returning to worship in the sanctuary, members and guests could also worship in the cars in the parking lot via online platforms as well as a local FM radio broadcast. Members are planning to establish a memorial scholarship in honor of Sister Carolyn Cummings, former Women's Missionary Society President and Young People's Division Director on the Episcopal and South/Southeast Conference levels.

During these unprecedented hardships, the church was blessed Spiritually, physically, and financially, and still kept their outreach ministries, care of those in need, building upkeep, training and seminars and even established a new ministry: Digital Disciples. On May 4, 2021, Bishop Harry Lee Seawright, Presiding Prelate of the 9<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District, and Dr. Willie Eugene Marshall, Presiding Elder of the Ozark-Troy District, joined Pastor White, members and civic officials in the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Johns Chapel Family Park. The park will be used by members of the community, especially youth in the neighborhoods near the church.

The members look forward to many more years of serving God as a Congregation at this blessed location that has been consecrated and dedicated to God.

**To God be the Glory!**

**PASTORS OF JOHNS CHAPEL AME CHURCH**

Three Pastors Who Served Prior to church entering the South Alabama Conference:

Reverend W. L. Lewis (First Pastor)

Reverend S. Griffin

Reverend Hillard

1914 - W. M. Pyles (Host - South Alabama Conference was organized at Johns Chapel)

1914-1916 J.S. King

1916-1917 T.J. Steward

1917-1921 H.T. Coleman

1921-1924 A. A. Davis

1924-1927 W. H. Hightower

1927-1930 W. D. Hargrove

1930-1931 M. C. Miles

1931-1932 R. W. Hilson

1932-1934 M. G. Dickerson

1934-1936 J. C. Jarrett

1936 W. B. Mosley

1938 R.L. Upshaw

1940-1946 M. C. Crosky

1946-1948	H. T. Coleman
1948-1949	N. J. Hunt
1949-1954	E. H. Patterson
1954	H. T. Coleman
1954-1956	S. D. Parker
1956-1966	E. V. Burkett
1966-1978	J. F. McCloud
1978-1986	R. E. Peters
1987-1988	R. G. Balthrope
1988-1990	G. W. Curry
1990-1992	Walter Sumlin
1992-1997	C. A Guice
1997-2003	T. W. Parker
2003-2005	Carl McDaniel
2005-2009	Tony C. Scott
2009-2014	Vernon McLeod
2014	Andrew T. Holtz, Jr. (Interim)
2014-2018	Trevor E. Woolridge
2018- Present	Willie White, Jr.

*Compiled from previous documents and updated as of May 16, 2021  
by Marge Simmons, Christian Education Director*