



## Dr. James W. Smith

August 19, 1937 - October 20, 2019

Dr. James W. Smith, 82, of Plant City, Florida, born in Opp, Alabama on August 19, 1937, entered into eternal rest on October 20, 2019. He graduated from Turkey Creek High School in 1955. He first worked at the Bartow Mines and Adamo Installation, and then felt called to the ministry. He attended seminary, while pastoring several churches in Alabama. He moved back to Plant City in 1969, where he obtained his Doctorate in Theology, and became pastor for Westside Baptist Plant City. During the following years, he pastored several churches in Florida. He retired from pastoring in 2006, but served as Chaplain at South Florida Baptist Hospital, Plant City, until fully retiring in 2016. He enjoyed golfing, and spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Judy Smith; children, LeAnne Peacock (Wallace) of Dover, Lacinda Prestwood (Jack) of Plant City, and Jeff Smith (Becki) of Plant City; grandchildren, Justin Peacock (Amy), Tara Adkins (Kyle), Kendelle Jimenez (Josh), Ty Prestwood, Jordan Prestwood (Erin), Jazman Hall (Justin), Joktan Smith, and Joshua Smith; great-grandchildren, Wyatt Adkins, Addy Joy Adkins, Lyla Jimenez, Avery Peacock, Jase Hall, plus one on the way; and siblings, Ralph Smith (Voncille) of Dover, and Diann McClernan (Jack) of Plant City. He was preceded in death by his brother, Lamar Smith; and parents, Walt and Jewell Smith. The family will receive friends Thursday, October 24 from 5-7:00 P.M. at First Baptist Church Dover, 3223 Gallagher Rd, Dover, where a funeral service will be held Friday, October 25 at 11:00 A.M. Committal to follow at Dover

Cemetery, Dover. Expressions of condolence at [HopewellFuneral.com](http://HopewellFuneral.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Dover Cemetery

3223 Gallagher Road  
Dover, FL 33527  
<http://firstbaptistdover.org>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **24**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Dover  
3223 Gallagher Rd  
Dover, FL 33527  
(813) 719-2273

## Funeral Service

OCT **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Dover  
3223 Gallagher Rd  
Dover, FL 33527  
(813) 719-2273

# Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. James W. Smith



Hopewell Funeral Home - October 23, 2019 at 05:39 PM



A great tribute to Brother James and his family. We appreciated all he did and loved his heart for God and loved him.....

Susie Lyn DeH-Lew - October 31, 2019 at 12:16 AM



“ Mary Beth Kirkland lit a candle in memory of Dr. James W. Smith



Mary Beth Kirkland - June 20, 2020 at 09:53 AM



“ Debbie Sullivan lit a candle in memory of Dr. James W. Smith



Debbie Sullivan - April 08, 2020 at 01:01 AM



Debbie Sullivan

*One of my best childhood memories is of Westside Baptist Church. I am so sorry to hear of Brother James passing.*

**Debbie Sullivan** - April 08, 2020 at 01:03 AM

CG

*“ He was an amazing man of God. He will be truly missed. Prayers for the family. Robert and Chris Gonzalez*



**chris gonzalez** - November 05, 2019 at 04:48 PM

JM

*“ Jason Mattair lit a candle in memory of Dr. James W. Smith*



**Jason Mattair** - October 26, 2019 at 11:30 PM

JM

*“ Jason Mattair sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. James W. Smith*



**Jason Mattair** - October 26, 2019 at 11:30 PM

JM

“ Jason Mattair sent a virtual gift in memory of  
Dr. James W. Smith



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Jason Mattair - October 26, 2019 at 11:30 PM

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Jason Mattair - October 26, 2019 at 11:29 PM

JM

“ Jason Mattair sent a virtual gift in memory of  
Dr. James W. Smith



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Jason Mattair - October 26, 2019 at 11:29 PM

RC

“ *Ms. Judy, LeAnn, Lou, and Jeff and family.  
I heard Bro. James preach when I was a 16 year old preacher boy  
and he impacted my life. He became a mentor, advisor, encourager  
and hero. It was a thrill to succeed Bro. James as pastor of the  
great Springhill Baptist Church. Later, as an Evangelist I had the  
privilege to work with him many times. Bro. James was a great friend  
to the Coram family. Great will be his reward in Heaven! Love Rick  
and Judy Coram*

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**Rick and Judy Coram** - October 25, 2019 at 10:25 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of  
Dr. James W. Smith.*



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October 25, 2019 at 07:51 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for  
the family of Dr. James W. Smith.*



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October 24, 2019 at 10:09 PM

NW

“ *Wonderful to have been under the ministry of Brother James at  
Eastside Baptist Church, Dover. Praying for each of his family. God  
Bless You. Nancy Wright*

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**nancy wright** - October 24, 2019 at 04:29 PM

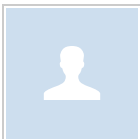


“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Hopewell Funeral Home** - October 24, 2019 at 08:54 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of *Dr. James W. Smith*.



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October 23, 2019 at 07:56 PM



“ *Robert L. Tatum* lit a candle in memory of *Dr. James W. Smith*

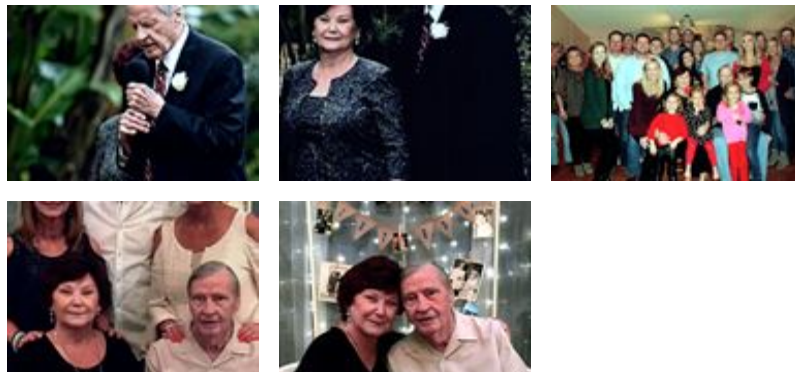


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**Robert L. Tatum** - October 23, 2019 at 07:00 PM



“ 46 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



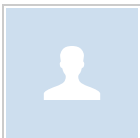
Hopewell Funeral Home - October 23, 2019 at 05:38 PM



“ *Tender Tribute* was purchased for the family of *Dr. James W. Smith.*



October 23, 2019 at 05:06 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Dr. James W. Smith.*



October 23, 2019 at 05:04 PM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. James W. Smith.*



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October 23, 2019 at 03:38 PM



“ *Mozelle Whitley lit a candle in memory of Dr. James W. Smith*



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**Mozelle Whitley** - October 23, 2019 at 12:30 PM



“ *My brother and sister and myself attended his church when we were very young, and I'd go home with them after church. Pastor James, and his wife hold a special place in my heart. Pastor James you'll be greatly missed.*

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**Mozelle Whitley** - October 23, 2019 at 12:29 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. James W. Smith.*



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October 23, 2019 at 12:27 PM

KI

“ KA Masonry, Inc. purchased the Sweet Remembrance Spray for the family of Dr. James W. Smith.



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**KA Masonry, Inc.** - October 23, 2019 at 11:54 AM

KC

“ Kimberly Calvo purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Dr. James W. Smith.



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**Kimberly Calvo** - October 23, 2019 at 10:21 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Dr. James W. Smith.



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October 23, 2019 at 09:56 AM



“ *JAMES SMITH was the first Pastor that I ever sat under that acted and lived like he REALLY believed that what he was preaching was true. He officiated our wedding 38 years ago - which would have made him about 44 at the time. Not long after he left our church God called me into the ministry and I remember thinking (because I thought Brother James was old) that when I get old I want to have the same fire for Jesus that he had! Now I'm WAY older than he was then and the passion I have for Jesus was fueled by his example. Thank you JAMES SMITH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

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**Jimmy Bryson** - October 23, 2019 at 09:40 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy to the whole family. I was blessed to serve with Bro. James on staff at Eastside Baptist in Dover and there's 2 things that I always recall that marked him as a Christian and leader, his desire to share the gospel and his giving spirit. May his legacy continue to be lived out thru those that he impacted on this earth!!*

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**Pastor Carlos Gonzalez** - October 23, 2019 at 09:08 AM

JP

“*Brother James will be missed by innumerable people. If you hadn't heard of Jesus or the plan of salvation before he crossed paths with you, you had before he left your presence. His stock answer to anyone questioning how he felt about suddenly finding his life was about to be taken was "Sudden death sudden glory!" I recalled vividly sitting in the back pew, where all good Christians sat, at Crossroads Baptist Church when he would call down rowdy teens and pre-teens, rowdy meaning they were not focused on the sermon. So as not to embarrass their parents he would always say "You boys in the back better straighten up, I won't embarrass your parents by calling you out by name so, Scottie, Tony you need to refocus." They would and he continued the sermon staying on point all the while. He always went to Youth Camp and somehow knew every move the teens were about to make ahead of time and just when they thought they were in the clear he would say "Boys, what y'all up to? I recall one occasion where he asked me to put an axe head on the handle and put it behind the pulpit for him. "You don't have to put it on real tight" he said. Well that axe head would barely go on the handle, not wanting it to fall off and possibly injuring him I fought and fought and pounded it for most of the Sunday school hour. Well, in his demonstration it was supposed to fall off. He tried and tried to get it to fall off but it was much too tight. He finally gave up and asked brother Eddie, one of our deacons, to get it off for him. He was quick witted and always had an ear an sound counsel for those in need of encouragement. Brother James you have found rest, you have received your reward. Brother this is by no means goodbye, rather see you in a little while. Our heartfelt condolences for all his family.*

*We love you,  
Jim and Martha Pierce*

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**James Pierce** - October 23, 2019 at 02:20 AM

SE

“ I grew up under Bro James and Mrs. Judy’s pastoral care. Billy and I met at Crossroads Baptist Church. My life and so many others were changed by the life he lead. He always found opportunities to share JESUS everywhere he went. He married Billy and I in June of 1992. He came all the way to GA to Ordain Billy. It has been our honor to know him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Mrs. Judy and family. We love you all!

Shannon Eldridge - October 22, 2019 at 10:34 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. James W. Smith.



October 22, 2019 at 10:21 PM

VB

“ What a wonderful Christian man James was. In high school years, Dana Gay and I would catch him when he came home from work and soak him down with the hose. We had lots of fun and laughs with him. Both James and Judy were a special part of my life and James will be missed by many. My sympathy goes out to Judy and their family. You are in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless!  
Veronica Wooten Bercaw



Veronica Bercaw - October 22, 2019 at 08:57 PM

JD

“ All of my family loved James and Judy and admired them over the years for living their lives as Christians so that you were able to see the difference between them and non-Christians. We believed that James was called to preach and lead others by his words deeds, and we watched as he answered the call for many years. He was a blessing to us and led my nephew to Christ. Thank you, Brother James, and Judy. Joanna Faulkner Drawdy

Joanna Drawdy - October 22, 2019 at 08:13 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. James W. Smith.



October 22, 2019 at 06:07 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dr. James W. Smith.



October 22, 2019 at 02:25 PM

JW

“ Brother James was a wonderful man of God I could sit and listen to him preach for hours. It has been years since i have seen him but I have thought of him and Ms. Judy often. Continued prayers for her and the family. Jeannine Norris Weaver

Jeannine Norris Weaver - October 22, 2019 at 01:30 PM

JR

“ So sorry to hear about Brother James. Remembering all the good times we had together.  
Love to you Judy and family.  
Jim and Linda Rehberg

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**James Rehberg** - October 22, 2019 at 11:14 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. James W. Smith.



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October 22, 2019 at 10:22 AM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. James W. Smith.



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October 22, 2019 at 10:07 AM

BH

“ Bro. James was as close to being a mentor to me as any man I’ve known. Mrs. Judy and family, this is Ben(jy) Hayes. I was one of the preacher boys from Springhill. Bro. James taught me the importance of personal and corporate evangelism, and even though my gifts are in discipleship and spiritual growth, not a day goes by that I don’t think about the white hot passion for souls that Bro. James shared with all of us. He was a spiritual giant to me and so many others. I wish I could attend the service, but I cannot. I will be with you in spirit. I am praying for you. Our loss; heaven’s gain.

Ben Hayes - October 22, 2019 at 09:47 AM

JP

“ Jimmy & Molly Parker purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. James W. Smith.



Jimmy & Molly Parker - October 22, 2019 at 09:29 AM

JL

“ We loved Bro. James & Mrs. Judy. They were a blessing to us and our family and I hope and pray that we were a blessing to them. Jan & Shirley Lester

Jan & Shirley Lester - October 22, 2019 at 08:38 AM

NR

I have known James since the late 50's. Judy and I went to school together and I was in their wedding. What a sweet couple they were. God Bless Judy and rest of family, you will be in our prayers. Nancy Ross.

Nancy Ross - October 22, 2019 at 11:27 AM



“ *Brother James was one of my all-time favorite pastors. He made everything so special! He loved his Savior and he loved his people. He had the Lord's blessing all over him. He wanted us to love his Savior too! I remember him being a practical joker who could take as well as dish out. I found myself just loving to be around him. My family used to sing in the choir during early service, go to Sunday School, and then sing in the choir during the second service -- just to hear his sermon all over again. I have many great memories of Brother James and will always love him. Wish we could talk to him now, after he has been in the presence of Jesus! My prayers of comfort and peace are with his sweet family!*

*Debra Lyons Ross*

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**Debra Ross** - October 22, 2019 at 08:02 AM



“ *It was because of a sermon preached by brother James that I became a believer in Jesus. I'm eternally grateful. I'll remember his big hugs and how he wanted each person that he met to feel so immensely valued by him and valuable to God.*

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**Niki** - October 22, 2019 at 07:57 AM



*Bro James and Judy were special in our life with good memories. God relieved Bro James of his suffering and he will be welcomed in Heaven by the many people he led to Jesus. His legacy will live on*

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**Henry and Frances Register** - October 22, 2019 at 09:20 AM

TH

“ Theresa lit a candle in memory of Dr. James W. Smith



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Theresa - October 22, 2019 at 12:10 AM

TC

“ Pastor Smith Married My Husband & I On November 9 1991 and he was a great person he had a kind heart and he could really deliver a sermon and taught my children a song about monkeys jumping on the bed and they have never forgot that . I am so glad he was my pastor he will be greatly missed by me and my family my heart goes out to the family . We will be praying the family.

Dee & Theresa Corbett  
And Family

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Theresa & Dee Corbett - October 22, 2019 at 12:06 AM

PH

“ Bro James, Matthew 25:23 “ The master said, “well done thy good and faithful servant.....faithful over a few things, I will make thee over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Porter Hare

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porter hare - October 21, 2019 at 10:35 PM

ML

“ Brother James was one of the Greatest Men I have ever known. He loved Golf, but spent more time hunting balls than hitting them. He married my wife, Brenda and I in 1971. He was always available if I needed to talk or discuss the Bible and it's history...He was a great Husband, Father, Grandfather and friend and will be sorely missed. Ms. Judy, if you ever need anything, please feel free to call...Mike Lytle

Mike Lytle - October 21, 2019 at 09:45 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. James W. Smith.



October 21, 2019 at 09:12 PM

JG

“ Judy, so sorry to hear of your loss. You & James have always held a special place in my heart. May God bring peace within your heart to you & your family.

Janice (McClelland) Garvin - October 21, 2019 at 08:50 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. James W. Smith.



October 21, 2019 at 08:49 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. James W. Smith.*



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October 21, 2019 at 08:35 PM



“ *I remember being in the service with my parents when James was ordained. James along with Judy were my hero's in ministry. James had a heart for seeing people saved and he always encouraged us in our ministry. He will surely be missed !*

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**Diane Rovinsky Garbreana** - October 21, 2019 at 08:16 PM



“ *Janice Carr lit a candle in memory of Dr. James W. Smith*



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**Janice Carr** - October 21, 2019 at 08:12 PM



*Perfect gentleman,I couldn't count the number of times he would visit Aunt Carolyn an pray for her an fami!y.*

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**Janice Carr** - October 21, 2019 at 08:13 PM



*Our family is all saddened to hear that Brother James had passed on into Glory but know he is celebrating with his Savior tonight. He was our Pastor when we had our First born son Johnathan Lewis and He was there waiting all day with my Daddy.....who was a Deacon when Brother James was at Cross Roads and sadly not too many years ago when my Father passed away from a brain tumor Brother James was there to comfort us and preach his Funeral. Have seen him throughout the years and always loved to talk with him and also Ms. Judy. We know above all he loved to preach the saving grace of the Lord and even though I was baptized at a very young age, when I had doubts in my ;ate 20's we prayed and he Baptized me with the assurance of God's word. Love you Brother James and praying for his sweet family. Rick, Susan-Lynn, Sarah, Johnathan and their families and Joshua along with my Mom, Betty DeHart.....*

**Susie Lyn DeH-Lew** - October 22, 2019 at 10:20 PM

GH

“ *Gail Sink Higgins lit a candle in memory of Dr. James W. Smith*



**Gail Sink Higgins** - October 21, 2019 at 07:48 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. James W. Smith.*



October 21, 2019 at 06:46 PM