



Great Swamp Baptist Church December 11, 2016

Great Swamp Baptist Church

December 11, 2016
Sunday Morning Worship
11:00 AM

Prelude

Call to Worship

Hymn # 102 "Birthday of a King"

The Welcome

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invocation

Bjo Mills

Selections of Praise & Worship

Children's Church Choir

"Away In A Manger"

"Go Tell It On the Mountain"

Soloist: Gracyn Fitzhugh

"Silent Night"

We Pray for Special Needs

Pastoral & Offertory Prayer

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Offertory Special

GSBC Praise Team

"O Holy Night"

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invitation



Nursery Workers



Today:
Betty Robertson
Krey Lowther

Today:
Amanda Hodges

Next Week:
Mike Mingledorff
Krey Lowther

Next Week:
Latrelle Steedly
Kim Malprus & Kimberlyn



Toll Committee

For December
Helen Malprus and Anita Blanton

DEACON OF THE WEEK :

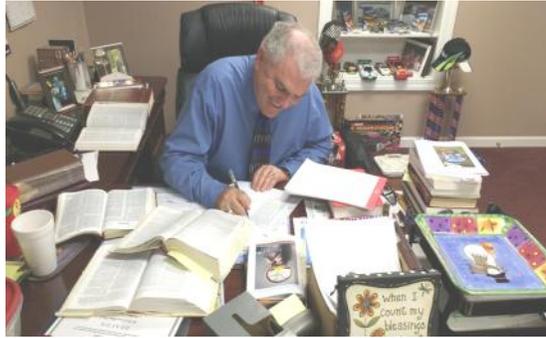


Today:
Bjo Mills
843-271-2840

Next Week:
Fred Stanley
843-226-5641



**IF YOUR DEACONS
CAN MINISTER TO YOU IN ANY WAY,
CALL THE CHURCH @ 726-3631**



From Pastor Ralph's Desk:

The Magnitude of Worship at Christmas

Luke 2:8-20

Intro: It is no news to anyone in our church that worship permeates the Word of God. Even Creation itself opened up with an enormous praise and worship service. We don't actually read that in the first chapter of Genesis. However, Job 38:4-7 reveals this truth to us when it reveals that the angelic beings referred to as the Morning Stars worshipped God as He laid the foundations of the earth, and by the way this is another reason why as Christians we must reject the theory of evolution. For at the precise moment God laid the foundations of the earth, the angels worshipped. If it were evolution at what point would be the moment they would worship that the foundations were laid? As well it would be nature that got the praise not God.

Next, not only does creation itself open up with worship but we also know that the largest Book in the Bible in reality is a hymn book. The Book of Psalm is a book of songs that the nation of Israel used to worship God with. So worship permeates the Word of God. Therefore it should come as no surprise that the first Christmas was from beginning to end an enormous event bathed in praise and worship. You will find Mary the mother of Jesus worshipping with a song of praise and gratitude after she gets together with her cousin Elizabeth who is as well miraculously pregnant with John the Baptist. We call her song Mary's song. Then we read that even John the Baptist in his mother's womb leaped when Mary entered the room where Elizabeth was at because he was in the presence of his Messiah and King. I call it worship in the womb. Then we have the shepherds and then followed by the Wise Men.

However, I purposely did not mention another group involved in the worship experience of that first Christmas. As a matter of fact this group in the groups that led me to call my message not just the worship at Christmas but rather the magnitude of worship at Christmas. Of course I am referring to the worship service performed by the angelic host of Heaven after the news of the Savior's birth was announced to the shepherds. This worship experience is a great example this Christmas of how we should be carrying out a magnitude of worship as well.

I. First, let us notice that the magnitude of worship at Christmas was and should be sudden, vs. 13. *“Suddenly a great company of the Heavenly host appeared with the angel praising God...”* Actually the first sudden appearance the shepherds received was from an angel of the Lord most likely, Gabriel, who made the announcement of the Savior’s birth to them. He then was suddenly joined by the great company of Heavenly host which let loose in a mighty act of praise and worship to our great and amazing God.

Some of my most precious moments have been when I was with my dear Jewish friend who found Jesus at the age of 59. His name was Russell Clayton. He loved Jesus with all his heart and he saw our Lord in everything. So you never knew when he might just burst out in praise. You just knew that it was coming and it would be sudden because all at once something would grab his heart and attention that would remind him of Jesus, and he would just let loose and let the praise go. That is how we, as God’s people, should all be this Christmas and every season. That when anything we see reminds us of our blessed Lord we need to let loose and let the worship fly. We need to just suddenly let it out regardless of who hears. For our sudden outburst of praise maybe the only experience of worship that some people will have.

It is important to notice, however, that this sudden act of worship was not based upon a surprise to them. Their sudden act of worship rather was based upon something planned, predicted and prophesied since even before creation of the world. Now, however, the angels finally get to see in reality what they’ve heard about since before the creation of the earth. No wonder they let loose and let this worship suddenly ring out. So it shouldn’t be hard for us to have sudden acts of outbursts of worship because we know that the Christ Child came into this world to save us. Again, sing out often and suddenly in acts of praise and worship.

II. Second, let us notice that the magnitude of worship at Christmas was and should be Sizeable, vs. 13.” *“A great company of the Heavenly host...”* this phrase is actually a phrase with a military reference. It refers to any entire army. In this situation, the army is specified as the army of Heaven. Often times, a nation doesn’t send an army big enough to accomplish tasks at hand. On the occasion of Christ’s birth, the Father sent an army big enough to accomplish the tasks to announce the birth of the Savior and to give the worship and praise the occasion deserves. This army wasn’t equipped with swords, sling shots, bow and arrows, a gun tanks or planes, rather, they were equipped with praise and worship; thanksgiving and gratitude; songs and music.

We know that through Scripture we are shown that Satan would do everything he possibly could to prevent Christmas day from ever arriving. However, it is absolutely impossible for anyone, including Satan himself, from preventing the work and will of God being accom-

plished. So, the birth of Christ coming into the world was going to happen no matter what Satan did. To prove that to be the case, God sent this army of the Heavenly host right into the enemies territory to let him know and see that indeed Christ had come to save sinners and that it all was because of God's great love for us.

Like the Heavenly host, all of God's people must band together as one united voice lifting up a magnitude of praise and worship. We must band together as that army that fights not with human weapons of war. Rather, we must fight with united voices of bold praise that will strike down our enemies and announce our wonderful Savior to the world. Let it be said that all of the members of Great Swamp are an army of praise.

III. Third, let us notice that the magnitude of worship at Christmas was and should be settled, vs 14. *by the word settled, I mean that the message of their worship and praise was a settled message. It was settled on one theme, and that theme was not the praise of mankind. Rather, it was and is and always will be praise to our God in the highest for sending Christ to save us and to the Son of God, who taking flesh ultimately, went to the cross bearing our punishment so that He could give peace to all that would trust Him, and finally to the Spirit of God that has, is and will continue to reveal Jesus Christ to us. We, too, have no other theme to worship. It must be settled in our hearts, minds, and souls that the only one that we will worship in a magnitude of worship will be the One who created us, saves us and keeps us and gives us that peace on earth. Let no other name but the name of Jesus be that settled name that adores, praises and worships.*

IV. Fourth and finally, let us notice that the magnitude of worship at Christmas was and should be spreading, vs 15-20. *The simple but powerful truth I want us to see here is that once the angels left the shepherds went to see for themselves everything that the Lord had told them through the message and worship of the angelic host. So, this magnitude of worship that the shepherds witnessed drove and encouraged them to seek out the truth and then once they discovered it as had been told to them, they then went and shared the message themselves and carried out their own magnitude of worship. The point is that when worship is sudden, sizeable and settled, it will spread. It becomes contagious. So, if you want to help others to seek the truth and become worshippers themselves, then encourage them to do so through your own act of worship.*

*Jesus Love You,
Ralph Lee, Jr*

GSBC Goal: \$2,000

To Date: \$500.40



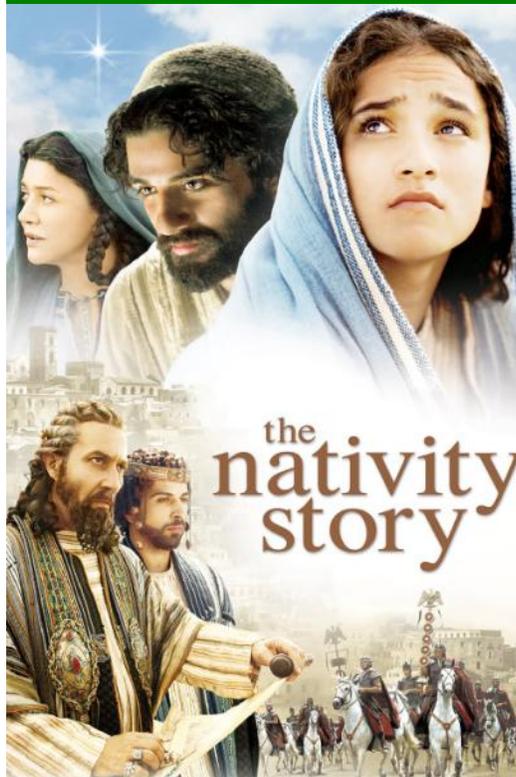
the gospel resounds

2016 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

Christmas Cantata Practice Times



Christmas Cantata Practice Today @ 4:30 pm
Dress Rehearsal, Wednesday Evening @ 8:00 pm



Movie Night

Tonight

December 11th @ 6pm

Fellowship, Fundraiser,

Movie to benefit our

Benevolence Fund

(Please bring your

favorite Finger Foods

to share)



*Heavy Hors d'oeuvres
Following Morning Services*

Regular Services Sunday Evening

***Regular Wednesday Evening Service
(December 21st)***

**Sunday, December 25th
Christmas Service
10:00 am**



Christmas Card Mailbox

The GA's are sponsoring the G.A. mailbox this year. Let us deliver your in house Christmas Cards for \$0.20 each. The mailbox is located outside of the church office. Proceeds will go to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

SFCA Christmas Chapel

Friday, December 16th

Jr. Chapel 8:30am

Sr. Chapel 9:30am



New Year's Service

Sunday, January 1st @ 10:00 am

No Evening Worship

December 13th

Corinna Malphrus

Greg Fryman

December 14th

Devin Mock

December 15th

Henry Bradley



Thank You

We would like to thank all those who participated in the Christmas Country Store at the Nursing Home last Saturday; those who volunteered to attend and those who supported us with the Christmas Bags and those who helped with the lap blankets. It was a very successful event and a blessing to all of the residents.

WMU



Menu

Penne Alfredo w/

Medallions of Chicken Breast

Creole Black Beans & Rice

Twice Baked Stuffed Baked Potatoes

Chef's Salad

Raisin & Rice Pudding/Cake/Sugar Cookies

Tea & Coffee

Orlick Cooking Team

GSBC Prayer Pages December 11, 2016

*Ralph Lee, Jr. - Pastor
Richard Waitt- Music Director
Deacons
Child Dev. Ministries*

Church Needs
*Sunday School
Small Groups
SFCA-Donna Carter*

*Ministries
Outreach Ministry
Nominating Committee*

Leadership
*President Barack Obama
United States of America*

Unspoken
*Jonathan Malphrus-Job Search
Ann Malphrus
Max Cole
Ray & Peggy Michael
Connie Saxon Family
Clarice Van Curen*

Bereavement
Family Of

Hospitals
*James Lang-Savannah
Ted Nettles-Sav. Memorial*

Expecting / Births
*Vanessa Smoak -
December 17th*

Nursing Centers
*Elaine Degler-RNC
Wofford Malphrus-Effingham
County Rehab. Center*

Surgery / Recovery

*Brandy Freeman (12/1)
Donnie Pinckney (11/14)
Gerald Morgan (11/10)*

Cancer / Treatments

*Barry Jones (12/8)
Dale Robiston (12/1)
Mack Pope, Sr. (12/1)
Mitzi Cramer (12/1)*

Called to Ministry

Chris Carter & Family

Other Health Needs

*Patricia Malphrus (12/1)
Mike Hodge (12/1)
David Lee (12/1)
Saylor Moser (12/1)
Rodney Malphrus, Sr (12/1)
Ronald Davis (12/8)
Gary Breland (12/1)
Donna Murphy (12/1)
Wallie Walts (12/1)*

*Franklin Taylor (12/8)
Reed Smith (12/8)
Jimmie Cleland (12/1)
Nancy Rivera (11/17)
Denise St. Lawrence (11/17)
Ethel Cleland (11/17)
Louise McClendon (11/28)
Robin Holmes (12/02)*

Pray For Our Military



Bobby Emerson- Fort Hood-Army

Jared Blanton-Home

Matthew Mills-Parris Island

If you have someone who needs listing, call either the church office a@726-3631 or E.L. Ambrose @ 726-5479.

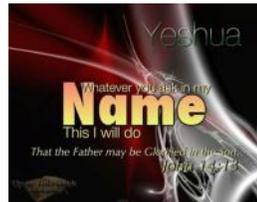
Thank You

Please Continue To Remember

*Ricky Cleland
Mike Hodge
Shirley Malphrus
Rose Boyles
Myia Angala Ellis
Susan L. Vaigneur
Lula Floyd
Mary Cope
Judy Smith
Jeffrey Stanley*

*Dot Nettles
Betty Nettles
Tom Hinely
Olivia Stanley
Lois Bootle
Lane Malphrus
Grace Boyles
Jeanie Raburn
Scott Boyles
Brian Freeman*

*Myrtle Rowell Smith
Billie Langford
Gary Way
Christy Gagel
Vera Miles
Mary Daley
Leonard Steedly
Barbara Mills
Joyce Sutler
Lanell Smith*



Here's something to think about. Prayer is the greatest need in our lives as Christians today. The greatest problem solver is a repentant heart and an asking child before our Heavenly Father. Less of me and more of God is a good stance in praying.

E.L. Ambrose

Today's Prayer Team

Group I

*Patricia Malphrus-Leader
Truett Vaigneur
Shirley Malphrus
Vera Miles*

Watchman Prayer Service
Saturdays @ 8:00am

Prayer Note

*For emergencies
a prayer chain
is available for needs.*

*You may access
by calling the
church @ 726-3631*

*Or
E.L. Ambrose @ 726-5479*

Announcements

*Deacons Meeting
Monday, December 12th*



*Business Conference
Wednesday, December 14th*



*Watchman Prayer Group
Saturday, December 17th @ 8:00 am*

*Table Decorating
Saturday, December 17th
All Day*

*NO S.O.F.F.E Group Meeting for December
Will Resume in January*

*NO Sunday Morning Breakfast
December 18th
December 25th
January 1st*

Great Swamp Baptist Church
 9009 Tarboro Road, Ridgeland, SC
 Office - 726-3631 Fax - 726-3294
 Email: greatswampbc@gmail.com
 Website: greatswampbaptistchurch.com

Church Staff

Pastor: **Rev. Ralph Lee, Jr.**.....jehu27@gmail.com
 Music Director: **Richard Waitt**.....waittfamily@embarqmail.com
 Sunday School Director: **Wallace Malphrus**.....Josie6@embarqmail.com
 Pianist: **Michelle Waitt**.....waittfamily@embarqmail.com
 Administrative Assistant: **Sybil Reynolds**.....greatswampbc@gmail.com
 School Administrator: **Donna Carter**.....dcarter@hargray.com
 Custodian: **Ann Malphrus**.....ramalphrus@hargray.com
 Landscaper: **Wallace Malphrus**.....Josie6@embarqmail.com

Calendar of Events

For
 December 11th through December 17th

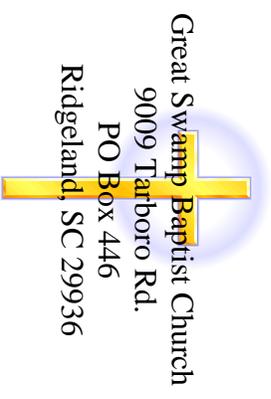
Sunday Morning Breakfast (September thru May Only)..... 8:30AM
 Sunday School..... 9:45AM
 Morning Worship..... 11:00AM
 Evening Worship..... 6:00PM
 Wednesday Night Supper (September thru May Only)..... 6:00PM
 Wednesday Night Service..... 7:00PM
 Saturday Watchman Prayer..... 8:00AM

Stewardship

Budget Offerings	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
Tithes & Offerings	\$4,076.00	\$ 4,828.76	-\$752.76
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
Flowers	\$120.00	*****	\$415.00
Lottie Moon Offering	\$355.40	*****	\$500.40
Youth Camp /WNS	\$453.00	*****	\$1,961.33
SMB	\$75.25	*****	\$402.35
Gymnasium	\$3.00	*****	\$1,871.51
George Pepper Scholarship	\$100.00	*****	\$1,088.03
MPB Fees	\$100.00	*****	\$579.05
OCC	\$50.00	*****	\$638.57

Recommendation

The Finance Committee recommends to the church the proposed budget for 2017. It will be discussed at the regular Business Meeting on December 14th and voted on at a Special Called Business Meeting on Wednesday, December 28th. Copies of the proposed budget are in the lobby.



Great Swamp Baptist Church
9009 Tarboro Rd.
PO Box 446
Ridgeland, SC 29936