



Great Swamp Baptist Church

December 25, 2016

Great Swamp Baptist Church

December 25, 2016
Sunday Morning Worship
11:00 AM

Merry Christmas

Prelude

Call To Worship

Hymn # 87 "Joy To The World"

The Welcome

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invocation

Robert O'Dell

Selections of Praise & Worship

Responsive Reading # 679

Hymn # 85 "The First Nowell"

We Pray for Special Needs

Pastoral & Offertory Prayer

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Offertory

Special Music

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invitation

Benediction



Today:
Cassandra Bradley
Krey Lowther

Next Week:
Latrelle Steedly
Krey Lowther

Nursery Workers



Today:
Debra Daley
Cathryn Daley

Next Week:
Vicky Roberts
Emma Grace



Toll Committee
For December
Helen Malphrus and Anita Blanton

DEACON OF THE WEEK :



Today:
Robert O'Dell
843-422-9521

Next Week:
Wilbur Daley
843-305-0110



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



From Pastor Ralph's Desk:
Sing Christmas

Most of the traditional carols that we sing are less than 200 years old. However, Christmas carols obviously go back much further than that. However, many of those that have been written have most assuredly been lost over the 2,000 plus years since the Birth of Christ.

The first recorded Christmas celebration that we know about took place on December 25th, 336 A.D. the interesting fact is that it actually took place in Bethlehem itself. What song may have been sung on that occasion we're not exactly sure. We do know that around that same time, the first Christmas carol that we actually know about was written. It was called, "Jesus Illuminates All". However, after further digging, I discovered that as early as 120 A.D., a Roman bishop decreed that a song titled, "Angels Hymn" be sung at a Christmas service in Rome. The hymn that is still often used at Christmas time which has been used on an ongoing basis uninterrupted comes from the 1300's. it is called, "The Friendly Beast." Of the Christmas Songs that we most often use, probably the oldest one comes from the 1600's. it is called, "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen." Then there is, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." It was written in 1736.

Now, what I want us to see is that while secular Christmas songs have been with us for a while, none can come anywhere being as old as the sacred Christmas songs. As well, the secular Christmas music doesn't even compare when it comes to the number of Christmas songs written. Sacred Christmas carols outnumber them by a long shot. So, the question I ask is why are sacred Christmas carols so much older and why are there so many more? Well the answer is quite simple because what began Christmas celebrations using Christmas music was not Santa Claus, reindeer or snowmen, rather, it all began with the Birth of Christ. That is where the actual first hymn was sung when the angelic host of Heaven shared the good news of the Savior's birth to the shepherds. Once the news was told to the shepherds, the Heavenly choir broke loose in worship of God for the first Christmas.

Today, I want to certainly encourage all of God's people to sing, worship and praise our blessed Savior who no longer abides in the manger but now abides on the throne in glory and in our hearts. Also, let us not wait another year before we rejoice over the incarnation of Christ into the world to save us. As a matter of fact, a day shouldn't go by that we don't take time to sing a song of worship to Jesus. Listen to the encouragement from Scripture that challenges us to be a people of praise, songs, music and worship unto our Lord.

The first of those Scriptures is the one I want us to focus on the most is, Philippians 4:4. first in this verse, Paul gives us a command, "Rejoice in the Lord." Second, Paul

tells us how often we should rejoice in the Lord, "Always." Third to make sure we got the pint, he repeats it again, "I will say it again, rejoice."

A similar verse to this is found in Habakkuk 3:18. it says, "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord. I will be joyful in God my Savior." Also, consider Colossians 3:16 where we are encouraged to, "sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."

So, Child of God, this Christmas start singing of the wonder of that first Christmas that a Savior, Christ the Lord, came to save us. But don't stop when our Christmas holidays are over. No, let it be said that we went right on singing, rejoicing always.

*Jesus Love You,
Ralph Lee, Jr*



December 26th

Ron Degler

December 28th

Sophia Sineath



December 30th

*Tori Malphrus
Darlene Malphrus*

December 31st

Terri King



Menu

Vegetable Soup

Rice / Cornbread

Dessert

Tea & Coffee

Youth Cooking For Camp



GSBC Prayer Pages December 25, 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
Chet Egerdahl & Family*

Bereavement
Family Of

Marjorie (Marge) Davis

Hospitals

Expecting / Births
Vanessa Smoak & Nadine

Nursing Centers

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

Surgery / Recovery

*Brandy Freeman (12/1)
Ron Davis (12/15)*

Cancer / Treatments

*Barry Jones (12/8)
Dale Robiston (12/1)
Mack Pope, Sr. (12/1)
Mitzi Cramer (12/1)
Erma Steedly (12/19)*

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)
Gary Breland (12/1)
Donna Murphy (12/1)
Wallie Walts (12/1)
Franklin Taylor (12/8)
Reed Smith (12/8)
Jimmie Cleland (12/1)
Eithel Cleland (11/17)
Louise McClendon (11/28)
Robin Holmes (12/02)
Caitlyn Owens (12/14)
Jacob Christenson (12/14)
Shirley Jean Wing (12/22)
Ted Nettles (12/23)
Heather Cartin (12/23)
James Lang (12/23)*



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 @ 726-3631 or E.L. Ambrose @ 726-5479.

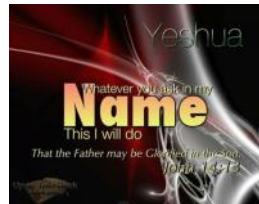
Thank You

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*



Christmas! The very word brings to my mind memories. Almost always I recall the early childhood memories. As I reflect on my parents—both long taken in death. Brothers and Sisters and other relationships along life's way. Some continue but most are no longer relevant. The only constant I have come to know is the Christ of Christmas. He is very personal in prayer. What about you?

E.L. Ambrose

Today's Prayer Team

Group III

*Timmy Sauls-Leader
Mary Daley*

**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



Watchman Prayer Group
Saturday, December 31st @ 8:00 am

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

NO Sunday Morning Breakfast
January 1st

New Year's Service
Sunday, January 1st @ 10:00 am only
No Evening Worship

A gift of \$60.00 was given to Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by the G.A.s.

A gift of \$186.25 was given to Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by SFCA.

A gift of \$50.00 was given to the General Budget in Memory of Wilton Altman by Carl Stone, Class of 57.

A gift of \$50.00 was given to Lottie Moon in Honor of Joyce Sutler by the Grandmother's Group.

A gift of \$25.00 was given to Lottie Moon in Honor of Helen Malphrus by the Grandmother's Group.

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 25th through December 31st

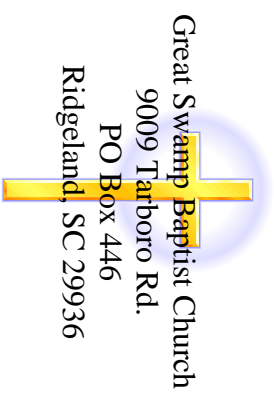
Sunday Morning Breakfast (September thru May Only)..... 8:30AM
 Sunday School..... 9:45AM
 Morning Worship..... 11:00AM
 Evening Worship..... 6:00PM
 Wednesday Night Supper (September thru May Only)..... 6:00PM
 Wednesday Night Service..... 7:00PM
 Saturday Watchman Prayer..... 8:00AM

Stewardship

Budget Offerings	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
<i>Tithes & Offerings</i>	\$5,067.75	\$ 4,828.76	+\$238.99
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
WNS	\$179.00	*****	\$417.81
<i>Lottie Moon Offering</i>	\$1,287.08	*****	\$1,844.57
<i>Dot Lee Scholarship</i>	\$25.00	*****	\$285.00
<i>Gymnasium</i>	\$5.00	*****	\$1,876.51

Recommendation

The Finance Committee recommends to the church the proposed budget for 2017. It will be 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