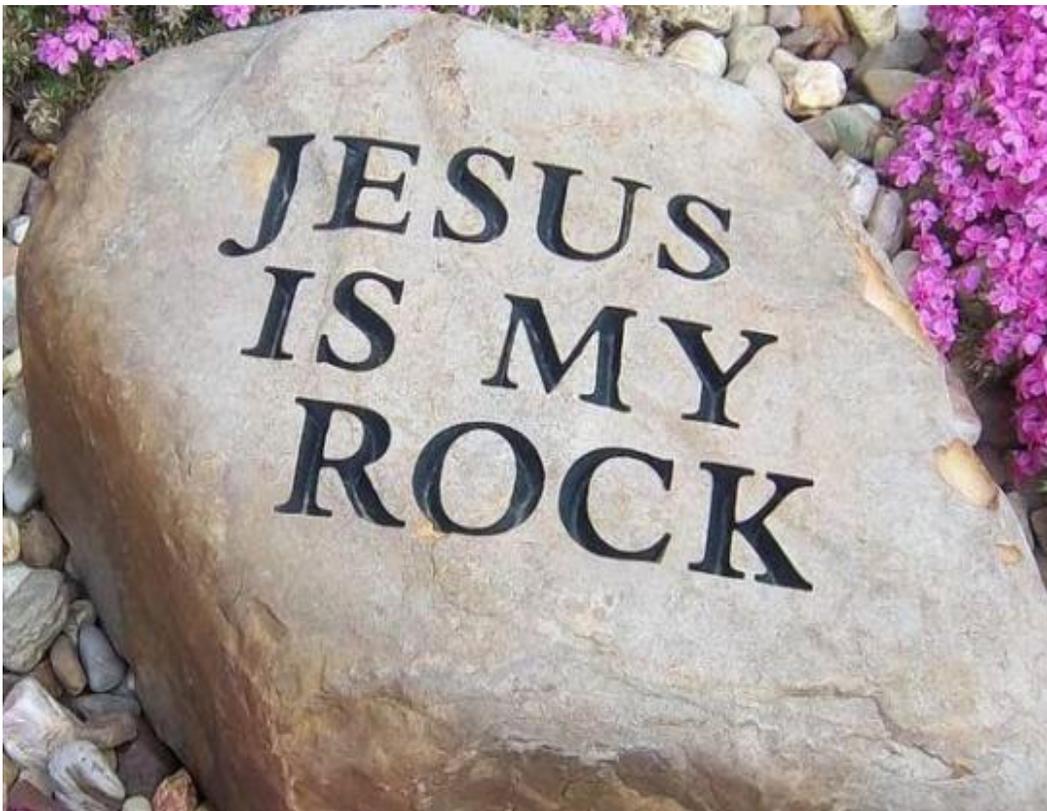


Great Swamp  
Baptist Church



January 3, 2016

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

January 3, 2016  
Sunday Morning Worship  
11:00 AM

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship**

**The Welcome**

Announcements

**Invocation**

*Fred Stanley*

**Selections of Praise and Worship**

*“Blessed Be Your Name”*

*“You Are My King”*

**We Pray for Special Needs**

Pastoral & Offertory Prayer

*Rev. Ralph Lee, Jr.*

**Demonstration of Stewardship**

Offertory Special

*GSBC Praise Band*

**Message**

*Rev. Ralph Lee, Jr.*

**Benediction**



**Today:**  
*Dorthie Armstrong*  
*Krey Lowther*  
**Next Week:**  
*Latrelle Steedly*  
*Krey Lowther*

**Nursery Workers**



**Today:**  
*Anita Blanton*  
*Allysa Schrader*  
**Next Week:**



**Toll Committee**  
*For*  
**January**  
 Alice Way & Connie Benton

**DEACON OF THE WEEK :**



**Today:**  
*Fred Stanley*  
 843-226-5641



**Next Week:**  
*Robert O'Dell*  
 843-422-9521



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

# Announcements



*Grandmother's Group  
Tuesday, January 5th @ 11:30am  
Bring Finger Foods*



*Quilting Club  
Thursday, January 7th @ 10:00am*



*Watchman Prayer Group  
Saturday, January 9th @ 8:00 am*

*From*

*Pastor Ralph's Desk:*

## **The Shepherd's New Outlook**

*(Luke 2:1-19)*



*Intro: No one except for the Lord knows the exact day on which Jesus was born into this world. Many scholars do not believe it to actually have been December 25th, because of some of the details they find in the Christmas events in the Gospels. However, the important thing is that we do celebrate it. For it was a true, actual and real event that took place. I am, however, glad that we do celebrate on December 25th because that is just a week away from the New Year. Therefore, that gives us a whole different outlook as we face the new year,*

*It allows us to go into the New Year just having celebrated the wonderful message of the true meaning of Christmas. So, no matter how bad the New Year may look, Christmas lets us face it with the hope which is so deeply imbedded in the Christmas message.*

*The shepherds involved in the Christmas events of the first Christmas, display so adequately what I am talking about. For their lives were somewhat hopeless on a daily basis. However, that very first Christmas night changed everything for them. Their outlook became something it had not been. It was one of excitement and joy because of their new experience of that night and this gave them an outlook of hope as they faced their future. Let us investigate the new outlook the shepherds found that gave them hope for their future.*

**I. First, let us consider the period in which the shepherds lived.** *There are three things about the times the shepherds were living in that will make their new outlook seem impossible that have happened.*

**A. First, it was a time of dictatorship, vs 1-3.** *Israel was under the rule of Rome. However, Rome was under the rule of Caesar Augustus. Essentially, the nation was ruled by a man whose only purpose in life was to glorify himself. He demanded that people see him as the son of divinity or if you would, the Son of God. People were to call him Lord. Also, is true of the emperor that followed him. The reason so many Christians later on were persecuted was because they refused to call Caesar, Lord. They were only willing to call Jesus Christ Lord.*

*So each day these shepherds had to wake up, not in a free country, but one controlled by a dictator that didn't really care about the shepherds. Sadly, politicians have changed much for the most part, it is all about themselves. That's our world too.*

**B. Second, it was a time of darkness vs 8.** Now according to verse eight, it was dark when the angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds. It was dark in more ways than just being night time. Luke has already told us that, "because of God's tender mercy, the light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace." (Luke 1:78-79). John in his gospel, said it this way about the coming of Jesus into the world. "In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." (John 1:4-5). Finally, Matthew said when Jesus launched out His ministry, "The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the shadow of death, a light has dawned." (Matthew 4:16).

Clearly, all the gospels reveal that Jesus came into a dark world. The shepherd's world was dark because of sin, death, Satan and the lack of understanding. God had not spoken to them in over 400 years.

**C. Finally, it was a time of disparagement.** Now, what I mean by that is that the shepherd's world was one of belittlement. They were constantly being put down, ignored, insulted and ridiculed for the position they held. Each day was a grind to face for the shepherds because their time was one of dictatorship, darkness and disparagement. Is it any wonder that we could imagine that their outlook was anything but bright and hopeful about their future? Yet, their outlook did change and become bright and more hopeful. Let us notice that change.

**II. Second, let us consider the performance of the shepherds.** Their performance reveals how they changed. It reveals the fact that they have a whole new outlook that they never had before. I won't belabor this point. All we simply need to do is notice that they were not who they use to be. They were doing things no one had ever seen them do before.

**A. First, their performance was filled with excitement.** The excitement was seen in their joy to what appears to be a quick movement to find the Christ Child. Then after seeing Jesus, they quickly left to tell others. They were filled with excitement.

**B. Second, their performance was that of an extrovert.** I mean they talked to everyone they could find, family, friends and strangers. They got outside of their fields and faced the people who even looked down on them and shared their new experience. This would have been unusual for them, for the most part, they stayed to themselves.

**C. Finally, their performance was extremely exalting.** Now what I mean by this is that they appeared to be what people would call religious fanatics. For when they left and returned they were exalting the Lord in great praise. They were worshipping with what appears to be all of their strength.

*So the question to ask is what led to their performance we just mentioned so that they could face their dark world with such a new, exciting outlook? What helps them to see their future with such hope?*

**III. Third and finally, let us consider persuasion that changed the shepherds.** *In other words, what moved the shepherds to perform the way they did in such a way that they never had before? Well, there were three things that gave them their new outlook to face the future with hope.*

**A. First, there was the appearance of the night.** *By this I mean the shepherds experienced the appearance of the angelic host of heaven. First, it was the angel of the Lord. Then it was a great company of the heavenly host. The shepherds got a glorious touch of heaven that night. God has also through His word allowed us on many occasions to experience a touch of heaven through the prophets and apostles experiences that we read in His word.*

**B. Second, there was the announcement of the night.** *Of course, this was the announcement made by the angel of the Lord. Now the announcement was good news. How was it good news?*

- (1) Because it was of great joy*
- (2) Because it was for all the people*
- (3) Because it was in the present (today)*
- (4) Because it was in a place (Bethlehem)*
- (5) Because it was a Savior*
- (6) Because the Savior is Christ the Lord*
- (7) Because the Savior came in humble circumstances.*

*Wow, what an announcement!*

**C. Third and finally, there was the actuality of the night.** *This point is simple but extremely important. It was the cherry on top, so to speak, and what I am referring to is the fact that what had been announced to them by the angel of the Lord was more than just an announcement but also a reality. For after they received the announcement they went off and found everything exactly as it had been announced to them. I am talking about the time, the place, the Child, and the lowly circumstances of His birth. Their hope may have quickly vanished with the announcement, but to find out that it was real, actual, true and factual, just put it over the top. No wonder their outlook changed. No wonder they could view their future now with hope, joy and excitement.*

*Conclusion: Once again, we face a world of dictatorship, darkness, disparagement, difficulties and danger. Let us go into this new year, in spite of our worldly conditions, with an outlook of hope, joy, and excitement for we have just celebrated this Christmas, the good news of great joy that a Savior and not just any but the Savior who is Christ the Lord has come to save us from this dark world and it was not just our announcement but an announcement that actually took place. Oh, what hope we face our new year with for the truth of the Christmas Story.*

*Jesus Loves You, Happy New Year, Ralph Lee, Jr.*

## Notices

*Pictorial Calendars are available in the Lobby. Please only take 1 per family. Additional copies may be requested thru the church office.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*End of year statements are in the Lobby. Please check your statement. If there are any errors or your statement is missing, contact the church office immediately.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*If you have any old booklets that are outdated, The church office can recycle the spines and covers if you would like to get rid of them so they won't get confused with the updated ones.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*A sign up sheet is available for those who would like Tithing envelopes for the entire year.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Baptism Services are set for this coming Wednesday. Services will be held in the Old Sanctuary following Wednesday Night Supper.*

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*Anyone wishing to join the Watchman Prayer Group on Saturday Mornings or join the Prayer Chain, please see E.L. Ambrose.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Coming January, 2016



*Sunday, January 17th @ 6:00 pm*



*Wednesday, January 20th @ 7:00 pm*

Please Pray for our  
Southern Baptist Convention  
Chaplains of the Week



**CHAPLAINCY**  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

**Chaplain (Captain) Joseph Jongho Park**  
U.S. Army  
208 Fawn Valley St. | Lansing, KS 66043  
joseph.j.park2.mil@mail.mil  
Based: Fort Leavenworth, Kansas  
Wife: Mary

Pray for spiritual strength to provide ministry for those who need help.



NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD



**CHAPLAINCY**  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

**Lieutenant Jason Porter**  
Chaplain, U.S. Navy  
385 New Center Church Rd. | Shelbyville, TN 37160  
brojtporter@gmail.com  
Based: Bahrain  
Wife: Chastity

Pray Proverbs 2:6-9, that God's wisdom will guide me and that His strength will sustain me in all I do for our Marines and Sailors.



NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

## *This Week:*

*January 6th*

*Florrie Bell*

*Duane Armstrong*

*Morgan Scherger*

*January 7th*

*Barbara Malphrus*



## *Gifts*

*A Gift of \$25.00 was given to the Lottie Moon Offering in Honor of Helen Malphrus by the Gleaner's Sunday School Class.*



Grits

Bologna & Sausage

Dessert

Tea & Coffee

**Robert's Family**

**Cooking Team**

# GSBC Prayer Pages January 3, 2016

## Church Needs

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

*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*

## Bereavement

*Family*  
*Of*

## Hospitals

*Nicole Cole-Gulf Port, Miss.*

## Nursing Centers

*Elaine Degler-RNC*  
*Frankie Malphrus-NHC*

## Surgery / Recovery

*Nicole Cole (11/19)*  
*Betty Nettles (12/02)*  
*Bonnie Pope (1/15/16)*

## Cancer / Treatments

*Barry Jones (12/10)*  
*Greg Mack (11/16)*  
*Henry Etheridge (12/10)*

## Other Health Needs

*Saylor Moser (11/25)*  
*Sarah V. Sanders (12/22)*  
*Mike Hodge (12/22)*  
*Barbara Richardson (12/03)*  
*Ann Blocker (12/10)*  
*Jerry Vaigneur (12/10)*  
*Tom & Connie Benton (12/17)*  
*Margaret Vaigneur (12/21)*  
*Frank Young (12/22)*  
*Thomas & Connie Way (12/22)*

*Holly White (12/17)*  
*Max Cole (12/17)*  
*Faye Cleland (11/25)*  
*Donald Cooler (11/25)*  
*Barbara Mills (12/10)*  
*Gage Duncan (12/15)*  
*Robert Sauls (12/17)*  
*Frank Young (12/18)*  
*Suzanne Stivers (12/18)*  
*Jeffrey Stanley (12/22)*

## Expecting / Births

*N/A*

## Called to Ministry

*Chris Carter & Family*  
*Robin Gray-Central Asia*

## Pray For Our Military



*Bobby Emerson- Fort Hood-Army*

*Jared Blanton-Home*

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

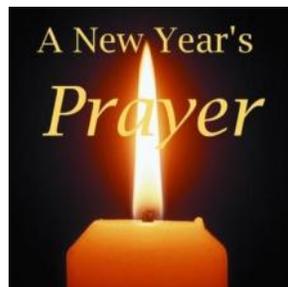
*Thank You*

### Please Continue To Remember

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

*Dot Nettles  
Jimmie Mills  
Betty Nettles  
Tom Hinely  
Olivia Stanley  
Joyce Sutler  
Kevin Roach  
Wofford Malphrus  
Lois Bootle*

*Myrtle Rowell Smith  
Billie Langford  
Lisa Koon  
Mitzi Cramer  
Gary Way  
Christy Gagel  
Vera Miles  
Mary Daley  
Leonard Steedly*



*We are several days into the New Year. Have you taken stock of your life as suggested last week? What changes will you involved yourself in this New Year? Have you become an expert ion serving God but remained a novice at being HIS friend? Are you working harder but no fruit? Have you placed service ahead of intimacy with HIM? Make the changes today!*

*E.L. Ambrose*

### Today's Prayer Team

#### Group IV

**E.L. Ambrose- Leader  
Mack Pope, Jr.  
Kevin Malphrus**

**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*



## Baby Bottle Ministry

*Our Annual Baby Bottle Ministry will begin on Sunday January 17th. Baby bottles will be available for you to pick up after Morning Worship Service that Sunday. Bottles will need to be returned on Sunday, February 21st.*

*There will be a sign up sheet when you pick up your bottles.*

*More info coming soon.*

*Pastor Ralph*

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  
 Treasurer: **Faye Lowther** .....kreyleesmom98@gmail.com  
 School Administrator: **Donna Carter** .....dcarter@hargray.com  
 Custodian: **Ann Malphrus** .....ramalphrus@hargray.com  
 Landscaper: **Wallace Malphrus** .....Josie6@embarqmail.com

### Calendar of Events

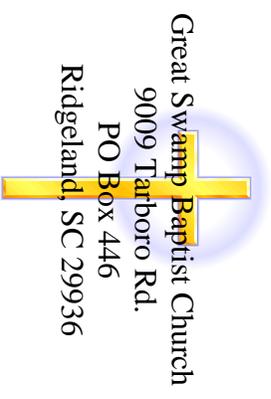
For  
 January 4th through January 10th

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	\$2,719.00	\$ 4,828.76	-\$2,109.76
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
Lottie Moon Offering	\$43.25	*****	\$1,709.85
Gleaners SS Class	\$58.00	*****	\$144.35





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