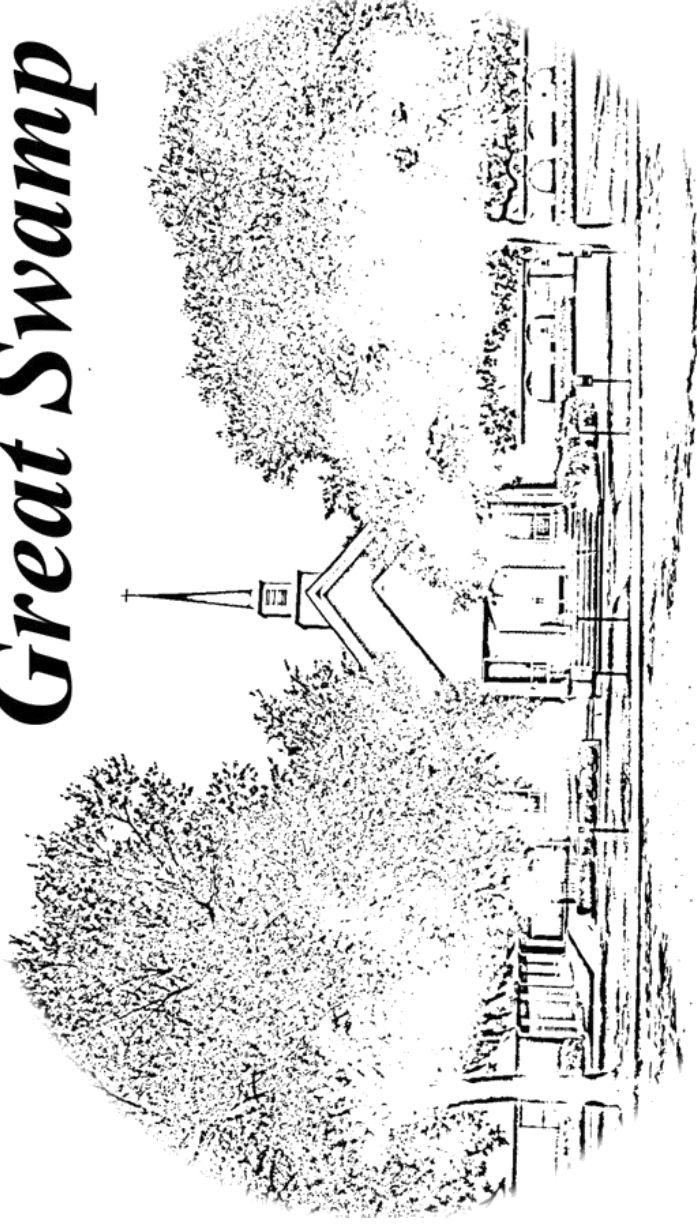


# *Great Swamp*



BAPTIST CHURCH

*July 22, 2018*

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

July 22, 2018

*Sunday Morning Worship*  
*11:00 AM*

**Prelude**

*Wayne Cooler*

**The Welcome**

Announcements

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

**Call to Worship**

*Hymn # 227 "Praise Him, Praise Him"*

*Hymn # 426 "Victory In Jesus"*

**Invocation**

*Robert O'Dell*

**Selections of Praise & Worship**

*"Sanctuary"*

*"Overcome"*

**We Pray for Special Needs**

Pastoral & Offertory Prayer

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

Offertory Special

*GSBC Praise Band*

**Message**

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

**Invitation**

**Benediction**



## Greeters

**Today:** Annette Malphrus / Krey Lowther  
**Next Week:** Olivia Stanley / Krey Lowther

## Nursery Workers

**Today:** Carol Davis / Taylor Daley

**Next Week:** Vandy Amason / Natalie



## Children's Church Helpers

**Today:** Kaylee Standard / Evelyn Bradley

**Next Week:** Kaylee Standard / Emma Mingledorff

## DEACON OF THE WEEK :



**Today:** Robert O'Dell

843-422-9521

**Next Week:** Duane Armstrong

843-726-6795



## Toll Committee

*For the month of July*

*Latrelle Steedly*

*Dorthie Armstrong*





*From Pastor Ralph's Desk:*

## **A Review of the Past to the Present to the Future**

*Revelation 2:1-7*

*Intro: By the time this letter was written, the church of Ephesus was somewhere between forty and fifty years old. As this church was approaching its' golden anniversary, a time to celebrate their past, present and coming future, our blessed Lord stepped into their midst and gave them a review of their past to their present in order to prepare them for their future.*

*It is appropriate that Jesus is the One who's giving this church and as far as that goes all churches a review. As a matter of fact, He is the only one qualified to give the churches a review for as we read in verse one of this chapter and verse twelve of the previous chapter, He is the One who holds the messengers of the churches in His right hand and who walks in the midst of the churches. He does this for all the messengers of the churches and walks in the midst of the churches all at the same time and for all time.*

*Also, from the previous chapter, we learn that in John's vision of Jesus Christ our Lord, John saw that Jesus' "eyes were like blazing fire". (1:14) this indicates that Jesus is able to penetrate into the very soul, spirit and mind of our being. Therefore, He's able to see in our lives what no one else can. Jesus still holds the church messengers in His right hand. He also still walks in the midst of the churches, and He still has His penetrating eyes. So, let us be aware that the Lord is to whom we need to seek for the only true review. Human reviews come from imperfect persons. However, Jesus alone know everything about us.*

*Now, the important reason why this review was necessary was because this church was located in the largest city in Asia. Ephesus has been estimated to have had anywhere between 250,000 to 500,000 people. This city was filled with pagan worship. Particularly they worshipped the goddess Diana. She was a so-called fertility goddess. It was in the midst of this environment that the message of Jesus Christ was absolutely essential. Therefore, it was essential the church of Ephesus to receive this review of their past to their present so they could impact the future of their church and their city. We, too, need to listen to this review and see where we stand in the light of it. Will what we've done in the past to the present lead us into a powerful future for Christ? Let's find out.*

**I. First, in this review out Lord reveals some commendations He finds in this church.**

*In other words, there are some things that the church at Ephesus had done in their past and were continuing to do in their present that they should continue to do in their future which Jesus commends them for. Let us examine what these things were.*

**A. First, he commends them for their hard work (vs. 2-3).**

*Works are discussed in the letter that the apostle Paul wrote to the church many years earlier. He boldly declared that no man is saved by works. But, then he turned around and explained that though they are not saved by their works, they are saved to do good works.*

*Now this is going to sound contradicting but we are saved by good works. It is just not our good works rather it was by the good works of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. It was His labor among us and especially at the cross that we are saved through repentance and faith in His work on our behalf. Therefore, because of His hard labor for us, we must continually seek to work hard to show our appreciation for His good works for us.*

*The author, William Barclay, said, “The Christian way is not for men who fear to break sweat. The Christian is to be a toiler for Christ and if physical toil is impossible, they can still toil in prayer.” Let us be reminded of the words of the apostle Paul, “therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the Word of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”*

**B. Second, he commends them for their perseverance (vs. 2-3).**

*The Lord says that this church at Ephesus has endured a lot. It would be easy to understand why they have endured a lot. For they live in this city so dedicated to the pagan religion associated with the goddess Diana that anytime they preached about Jesus Christ being the only means of salvation, the only way to eternal life, they would obviously be challenged to the point of persecution. As a matter of fact, we know this to be true because the apostle Paul himself when he was preaching in the city, there was a large riot in the city against the Christians for their faith.*

*However, in spite of this, the Believers in Ephesus remained faithful through their hardships and endured whatever was thrown at them. Now here is the important aspect of this to remember, they did so for as Jesus said, “My name.” the only thing that kept them going was that they did it to honor the name of Jesus. So, when we want to throw in the towel, let us keep persevering because we want to honor Jesus’ precious and holy name.*

**C. Third, he commends them for their Orthodoxy (vs. 2,6).**

*The Lord said that this church would not tolerate the bad behavior of wicked men. Nor did they tolerate false claims of apostleship and also hated the teachings of a false religious group called the Nicolaitans.*

*Now, when it came to their dealing with those who claimed to be apostles, Jesus said that they tested those men. So the question is, how did they test them? Well, the obvious answer is that they tested them in accordance to what the Word of God teaches. The reasons why that is obvious is because when Paul came to them, he preached Jesus to them from the Word of God. He also encouraged the elders of the church to remain faithful to preach the message that he had preached to them because there would be wolves among them in sheep's clothing, so to speak. The Word of God will always ultimately reveal them who are seeking to destroy the church. May God help us to always measure all teachings and teachers to the truth of the Word of God.*

**II. Second, in the review our Lord revealed a condemnation that He had with the church.**

*The one thing that our Lord condemned then as well as now, is that this church He said "...had forsaken their first love." so, the obvious question, what is our Lord referring to when He speaks about the first love that the church had forsaken? Well, the clue is found in the word first. Who did they love first and how was that love at the first?*

*The answer to these last two questions are easy to answer. In order to become a Christian and be a part of the church, they first loved Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is our entrance into God's family. He is the One we must first love to become His bride.*

*To answer the second question, all we need to understand is how love is when first applied to anyone. It is passionate, exciting, joyful and loyal. So, it was when we first encountered our Lord with first love, we loved Him passionately, excitingly, joyfully and loyally.*

*Tragically as in many marriages, our love grows cold. We no longer view each other in that passionate and exciting manner. We began to take one another for granted. So it is that the church at Ephesus, and often the churches of today, have gotten over that passionate and exciting love of our Lord that we once displayed when we first fell in love. Let me share the words of two great preachers and authors. First, hear the words of the late, great G. Campbell Morgan. "... , the Lord refers to one tragic defect—she had left her **first love** (v.4). G. Campbell Morgan relates this passage to Paul's words of warning to the Corinthian church: "For I espoused you to one husband, that I might present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve in his craftiness, your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity that is toward Christ'...The elements of first love then are simplicity and purity...The love of the Church to Christ is typified by the love of the wife for the*

husband. What then is the love of Christ to the Church? Unselfish love, love in which there was no single thought of self. First love is the abandonment of all for a love that has abandoned all.”

Now listen to the words of John MacArthur. “The example of the Ephesians' church warns that doctrinal orthodoxy and outward service cannot make up for a cold heart. Believers must carefully heed Solomon's counsel: “Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flows the springs of life” (Prov. 4:23). Those whose love for God has cooled would do well to heed the exhortation Hosea addressed to backsliding Israel: “Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to Him, ‘Take away all iniquity and receive us graciously, that we may present the fruit of our lips. Assyria will not save us, we will not ride on horses; nor will we say again, ‘Our god,’ to the work of our hands; for in You the orphan finds mercy.” (Hos. 14:1-3) And to those who return to Him God promises, “I will heal their apostasy, I will love them freely” (Hos. 14:4).

May the Lord help us to not get over our first love and if we have, may He forgive us and move us back in the right direction and the next point will guide in that way.

### **III. Third, in this review our Lord reveals some conditions to restore the church.**

These conditions are three-fold. If they take on these conditions, it will ensure that the church will remain a strong lighthouse for Jesus in the years to come.

#### **A. The first condition they needed to fulfill was to remember.**

Well, what was it that they needed to remember? The Lord said they needed to “remember the height from which you have fallen.” well the height He is referring to is when they first were passionately in love with Jesus. How sad how soon we can forget these things. May the Lord help us to remember.

#### **B. The second condition they needed to fulfill was to repent.**

In other words they and us need to urgently confess our sin of failing to love as we did at the first and move back into the direction of loving as we did at the first.

#### **C. The third condition they needed to fulfill was to redo.**

Our Lord said to them and He is telling us to do once again the things we did at the first which displayed our love for Him. John MacArthur said, “They needed to recapture the richness of Bible Study, devotion to prayer and passion for worship that had once characterized them.” I would also add to that lest a hunger to share Him with others.

Concl. May the Lord show us and help us to remember, repent and redo the love which we first had with Jesus and may it result in us being a faithful lamp stand for years to come until Jesus comes again.

Jesus Loves You

Ralph Lee, Jr.

# Announcements

*The Quilting Club is meeting in the  
Old Parsonage  
Thursday, July 26th @ 10:00am*



*Watchman Prayer Group  
Saturday, July 28th @ 8:00 am*



*July 23rd*

*Katie Mock  
Bobby Smith  
Rodney Malphrus, Sr*

*July 25th*

*Kevin Malphrus  
Tim Malphrus  
Lois Bootle*

*July 26th*

*Barbara McGill  
Amber Broschard  
Red Malphrus*



*July 23rd John & Julie Mingledorff*

*July 25th Duane & Dorthie Armstrong*





## SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Where Love Wins Big!*

### Small Group Meeting on Sunday Mornings - anyone welcome

Where: Mobile unit by playground

When: ....

Come at 9:30am and enjoy coffee, snacks and social time

9:45am prayer concerns

10:00am start study entitled "I am a Church Member"

Nursery will be provided.

### **Deacon Election List—2018**

*On Sunday, August 5, 2018, during Morning Worship Services, we will select a deacon to serve until 2021. If you wish to have your name removed from the following list or your name has been accidentally omitted, please contact the church office @ 843-726-3631.*

*Bill Carter*

*Paul Malphrus*

*Michael Daley*

*Jason Smoak*

*Wilbur Daley*

*Tony Standard*

*Keith Gamo*

*Fredrick Stanley*

*Kevin Malphrus*

*Gary Way*

### **Deacon Rotation**

*Wilbur Daley*

# GSBC Prayer Pages July 22, 2018

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

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

*Ministries*  
*Outreach Ministry*  
*Nominating Committee*  
*Bjo Mills-Missionary Trip*  
*Robin Holmes-Missionary Trip*

**Leadership**  
*President Donald Trump*  
*United States of America*

**Unspoken**  
*Tim Cramer Family*

**Bereavement**  
*Family of*  
*Ricky Tindal*

## Hospitals

*N/A*

## Special Requests

*N/A*

## Surgery / Recovery

*Judy Smith (7/12)*  
*David Raines (7/19)*  
*Joyce Sutler (7/12)*  
*Joyce Pope (7/19)*

## Cancer / Treatments

*Mitzi Cramer (6/28)*  
*Allen Perry (6/28)*  
*Jane Chapman (6/28)*  
*Becky Broxton (7/19)*  
*Jeanie Raven (7/19)*  
*Tom Hiers (7/12)*  
*Bertha Kinard (6/28)*  
*Jimmy Mixson (7/19)*

## Nursing Centers

*Elaine Degler-RNC*  
*Wofford Malphrus-Effingham*  
*County Rehab. Center*  
*Doris Blackmon-Morningside*  
*Thelma Ashing-RNC*  
*Maureen Malphrus-RNC*  
*Becky Jones-Anderson*  
*Kirk Malphrus-RNC*

## Other Health Needs

### Called to Ministry

*Chris Carter & Family*

*Wallace Roberts (6/28)*  
*Vera Floyd (6/28)*  
*Dot Tindal (7/19)*  
*Bonnie Pope (6/28)*  
*Bobby Mohn (7/19)*  
*Rodney Malphrus, Sr. (6/28)*  
*Cathryn Daley (7/12)*  
*Savanna Spikes (7/19)*

*Nicole Cole (6/28)*  
*Gary Sons (6/28)*  
*Mervin & Diane Coker (6/28)*  
*Marie Malphrus (7/12)*  
*Vera Miles (7/12)*  
*Jessica DuBose (7/19)*

### Expecting / Births

*Amanda Fletcher*

## Pray For Our Military



*Bobby Emerson— South Korea-Army*

*Jared Blanton-Fort Benning*

*Isaac Martin Malphrus Cape May, NJ / Coast Guard*

*Matthew Mills-Va-US Marines*

*Jericho Malphrus-Sp. Agent / Air Force / Oklahoma City. OK*

*Michael Sottile-Depolyed*

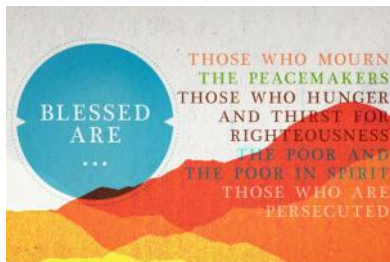
*Owen White-Fort Benning*

### Please Continue To Remember

*Ricky Cleland  
Mike Hodge  
Shirley Malphrus  
Rose Boyles  
Mary Cope  
Judy Smith  
Jeffrey Stanley  
Joyce Sutler  
Redden Tuten*

*Dot Nettles  
Tom Hinely  
Olivia Stanley  
Lois Bootle  
Grace Boyles  
Patricia Malphrus  
Scott Boyles  
Dot Dean  
Ellen Langford*

*Gary Way  
Christy Gagel  
Vera Miles  
Mary Daley  
Leonard Steedly  
Barbara Mills  
Rodney Malphrus, Sr.  
Lanell Smith  
Brian Freeman*



*Jesus sets forth some precepts for peace of mind. It comes from within according to the yielding to the spirit of God within us. Outside of doing His will the Christian will never know true contentment. Prayer yields its fruit here.*

*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  
752 Great Swamp Rd.  
Ridgeland, SC 29936*

## Senior Celebrator's Trip

*It's that time of year again for getting prepared for our Annual Trip. A sign-up sheet and brochure is in the foyer. We are putting together our room list. Your \$25.00 deposit is due NOW. See Timmy Sauls for more info.*

## Reminder

*There will be  
NO*

*Sunday Morning Breakfast or Wednesday Night Suppers  
during the summer months. Meals will resume  
the 1st week of September.*



**SAVE THE DATE!**

# Senior Celebration

August 16, 2018—10:00 am

Port Royal Baptist Church



## *Celebrating Friends*



*"What a friend we have in Jesus"*

Meet new friends, say hello to old ones. Enjoy fellowship, music, inspiration, door prizes and a delicious meal. Surely hope to see you there. Call Cindy Rhodes for more information or to register: 843-726-8294

**Savannah River Baptist Association**

Sign Up Sheet is in Foyer  
*Transportation will be provided for the Senior  
Adult Celebration in August.*

**Darlington Raceway Ministries**

PO Box 500, Darlington, South Carolina 29540

vgilbert@darlingtonraceway.com



**Bring-A-Kid Race Day at Darlington**

Saturday, Sept. 1, 2018

Rally - 11:00 AM - Gate 34

Cost \$20.00 per person

Sport Clips Haircuts VFW 200



Dear Fellow Christians,

Darlington Raceway has invited us to have our Bring-A-Kid event at the Saturday race again this year! We are so excited and hope that you will be too. Once again, our seats will be reserved. We recommend that you order early so you don't miss this great opportunity of only \$20 per ticket. Any tickets ordered after the deadline will be \$25 each.

**The deadline for reservations will be August 3, 2018**, so order early to allow for sufficient time to make seat assignments, print tickets and order lunches (each ticket comes with a coupon for a drink and hot dog at any Americrown Concession inside the track). **Please plan to arrive in time to attend the rally at 11:00 am, pick-up your tickets and be in the stands for qualifying scheduled at 12:00 noon.** We will once again enter the track through Gate 34 and gather at the top of the hill to the left.

As of this writing, guests for our rally are still being chosen. We look forward to seeing you at this year's Bring A Kid, ready and willing to share God's love with the lost.

**We hope that you can be in attendance as we continue our second quarter century of sharing Christ with NASCAR fans at the track "Too Tough To Tame".**

Serving Christ together,

James Sanderson  
Bring A Kid Coordinator

Acceptable items to bring: ear plugs, seat cushions, hats, soft-sided coolers no larger than 14"x14"x14" (no umbrellas, please). If you have any questions or need additional info, please call Vicki Gilbert, Darlington Raceway Ticket Manager, at (843) 395-8857 (Mon-Fri, 9 am to 5 pm).

**Sign Up Sheet is in the Foyer**



## 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*  
*Finance Director: Timmy Sauls*.....*greatswampbc@gmail.com*

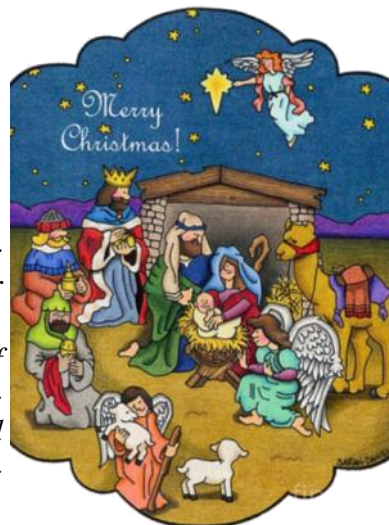
## Stewardship

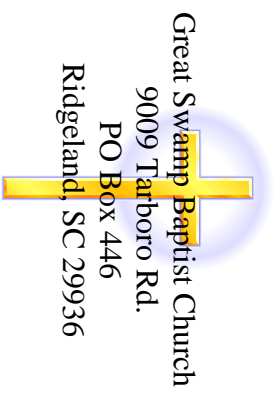
Budget Offerings	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
<i>Tithes &amp; General Budget</i>	\$3,890.25	\$4,973.36	-\$ 699.14
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$383.97		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Seniors Fund</i>	\$300.00	*****	\$2,216.46
<i>Mission Fund</i>	\$45.00	*****	\$779.91
<i>Kitchen Supplies</i>	\$15.00	*****	\$25.00
<i>George Pepper Scholarship</i>	\$4.00	*****	\$593.03
<i>Special Events (Mary James)</i>	\$441.00	*****	\$441.59
<i>MPB Fees</i>	\$135.00	*****	\$754.05

**Needed**

**Items**

*The GA's have been asked to collect old Christmas Cards for a project for Operation Christmas Child this year. They need approximately 100 cards. If you have any that you would like to donate, please see one of the GA's or Call Debra Daley for more info @ 843-305-0347.*





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

*Sunday Morning Breakfast* ..... 8:30AM  
*Sunday School* ..... 9:45AM  
*Morning Worship* ..... 11:00AM  
*Evening Worship* ..... 6:00PM  
*Wednesday Night Supper* ..... 6:00PM  
*Wednesday Night Service* ..... 7:00PM  
*Saturday Watchman Prayer* ..... 8:00AM

Email: [greatswampbc@gmail.com](mailto:greatswampbc@gmail.com)  
Website: [greatswampbaptistchurch.com](http://greatswampbaptistchurch.com)  
Church Office: (843) 726-3631