

A dramatic landscape photograph showing a sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, but a bright light source is breaking through, creating a path of light and illuminating the clouds from below. The water in the foreground is dark, reflecting the light from the sky. The overall mood is one of hope and resilience.

*God will
carry you
through
the storm.*

Isaiah 43.2

*Great Swamp
Baptist Church
September 16, 2018*

Great Swamp Baptist Church

September 16, 2018

Sunday Morning Worship
11:00 AM

Prelude

The Welcome

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Call to Worship

Invocation

Mack Pope, Jr.

Selections of Praise & Worship

We Pray for Special Needs

Pastoral & Offertory Prayer

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Offertory

Special Music

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invitation

Benediction



Greeters

Today: Betty Robertson / Krey Lowther
Next Week: Mike Mingledorff / Krey Lowther

Nursery Workers

Today: Diane Thames / Chesney

Next Week: Vanessa Smoak / Jennifer Meador



Children's Church Helpers

Today: Olivia Stanley / Evelyn Bradley

Next Week: Emma Mingledorff / Angel Cole

DEACON OF THE WEEK :



Today: Mack Pope, Jr.

843-726-2000

Next Week: Robert O'Dell

843-422-9521



Toll Committee

For the month of September

Alice Way

Pat Malphrus





From Pastor Ralph's Desk:

The Lukewarm Church

(Rev. 3:14-22)

Intro: Of the seven churches that we have been examining, this particular church, the Church at Laodicea, is the saddest one of them all. That assessment doesn't come from me but rather from our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There are two things that let me know this is the assessment of our blessed Lord. The first thing is that Jesus found absolutely nothing that He could commend this church for. Second He plainly states that this church nauseates Him. They nauseate Him because He says they are a lukewarm church. We will discover what that means as we get into the message.

It is imperative that we understand why this church nauseated our Lord. Our prayer must be that our church never becomes what the church at Laodicea was.

However, as in everyone of these churches, our Lord is addressing them to help them correct the problems they have. So it is as well for the church at Laodicea. Let us examine the lukewarm church of Laodicea.

First, let us notice the person addressing the lukewarm church of Laodicea. (vs. 14). *As in the other churches, Jesus opens up the letter with a particular description of Himself. To this church He describes Himself in three different ways. However, each of the three different ways are supportive of each other.*

First, Jesus speaks of His words to the church as, "The words of the Amen." This is one of my favorite words to say. However, because we say it so often, we often lose sight of its' strong commendation. The word in the Greek actually means (so be it). That means that the word spoken is the final word. It is the absolute conclusion on the matter.

Now some might easily conclude that because we are human, we can't exactly give out a so be it kind of a conclusion. We make mistakes. We might not actually see the whole picture or understand the whole situation before we make a for sure kind of so be it statement. Well, that could be a very fair argument with us. However, Jesus is not just a man. He is the God-man. He is the blessed and Holy Son of God. He took upon human flesh but before He did that He had already existed for eternity past as the Son of God. He is qualified to say that His Word is the so be it final word.

Second, He describes His words as the words, "The faithful and true witness." this means that the words of Jesus are to be intently listened to and heeded because of absolute and complete truth. They are the words of absolute

and complete truth because Jesus has witnessed it all from both glory in eternity and Heaven and from His walk among us past, present and future. Therefore, truth is all He can speak.

Finally, His words are the words, "The ruler of God's creation." Now this point is very simple and plain. It means that His words are the very words of the Creator of the universe Himself. Jesus is saying that His words are the very words of God. So, what makes His words the final words and the truthful words is because they are God's Words.

It is apparent that the church at Laodicea wasn't just listening to the voice and words of Jesus for their source of information, beliefs and authority. Rather, they were reading and listening to others to formulate their religion and faith as well. This was obviously one of their big downfalls. Let us learn from this that we must heed only the words of Jesus for our complete source for our faith. For His words are final, true and divine.

II. Second, let us notice the problem with the lukewarm church of Laodicea. (vs. 15-17).

Well, the problem with the lukewarm church was just that. It was a lukewarm church. The city of Laodicea church did not have its own source of water from within the city itself. Rather, by means of rock aqueducts they brought water into the city from hot springs that were six miles away. By the time the water got there it was neither cold or hot. It was extremely distasteful and smelly, and the people did not like its taste at all. Jesus was saying that like your distasteful water that is neither cold or hot is how you taste to me, and it just makes me want to spew you out of my mouth.

So what did Jesus mean by lukewarm? Well, He explains it in several different ways. The main problem, however, is their perception of themselves. They perceive that everything is more than alright with their spiritual lives. The way in which they come to this conclusion is because they have apparently been successful in their finances, and they there conclude that this financial success is a sign of God's blessing and approval of their lives. So, they've bought into the lie that wealthy status, looking good, and carrying out the rituals of a religion equates to, we are really somebody in God's sight.

However, God blows their perception right out of the water. Jesus knows all things about each of us. He pierces right through all the show and sees our very heart. What He saw of the church at Laodicea was just opposite of what they saw in themselves.

Jesus declares that this church is "wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked." what he is really telling us is that this is not a church full of Believers who have simply lost their way, but rather a church completely filled with the unredeemed.

Jesus states clearly in the Book of Matthew just who these people are. He said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" (Matt. 7:21-23). Paul also spoke of these people when He said,

“having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.”

III. Third, let us notice the prerequisites that are needed for the lukewarm church of Laodicea. (vs. 18). *So, what do I mean by this point? What is it that God requires of this church in order to be right with Him? Well, before we state what they are, let us rejoice that our blessed Lord takes the time to reveal what needs to be done in order for us to be in a right relationship with Him.*

There are three things that are required. First, He says that they need, “to buy from me gold refined in the fire.” now what does this mean? The reason why you place gold in the fire is so that you can burn out its impurities. Our lives are filled with sin and the only person capable of removing or burning it out of our lives is our blessed Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He came for the purpose of removing our sins and only He can.

The second thing required was, “white clothes to wear.” white has always in the Scripture represented righteousness. We need to be clothed with the righteousness of Jesus in order to stand right in God’s sight. Paul reminds us in second Corinthians this great truth, “God made Him who had no sin to be made sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus took our sins unto Himself on the cross and then when we believe in Him for salvation, He transfers His righteousness to us. Oh, praise the Lord.

The third thing He requires of them and all who need Him to place slave on their eyes, so they could see. Jesus is telling them and us that they were blinded to the truth about the glorious person of our blessed Lord Jesus Christ. They needed to wake up to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as taught in God’s Holy Word. Any teaching apart from the Word of God will lead you astray and blind you. Praise be to our Lord that He offers salve to place on the eyes of our souls to see the truth of His Gospel.

IV. Fourth, let us notice the plan needed to fix the lukewarm church. (vs. 19-20). *The plan is our invitation. It is our invitation to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Himself. That is what this church lacked, a personal relationship with Jesus Christ Himself, which is really what Christianity is all about. Nothing else really matters, and everything else is totally lacking.*

Here is the great news. The plan doesn’t begin with us but rather with Him—our blessed Lord. The invitation begins with a reminder of His love for us and because He loves us, He will rebuke and discipline us to drive us to repent and then respond to His knocking and pleading to enter our lives and our churches. All that is required of us is to be willing to repent and open the door of our hearts through faith to all Jesus and ask Jesus to come in. are yu willing to take that step? There is no other way.

Concl. This sad letter ends on a high note. A high note of hope, love, invitation and reconciliation. Jesus wrote this letter to entice their repentance and faith.

*Jesus Loves You
Ralph Lee, Jr.*



JOIN US FOR A

*bridal
shower*

honoring

Courtney Thames

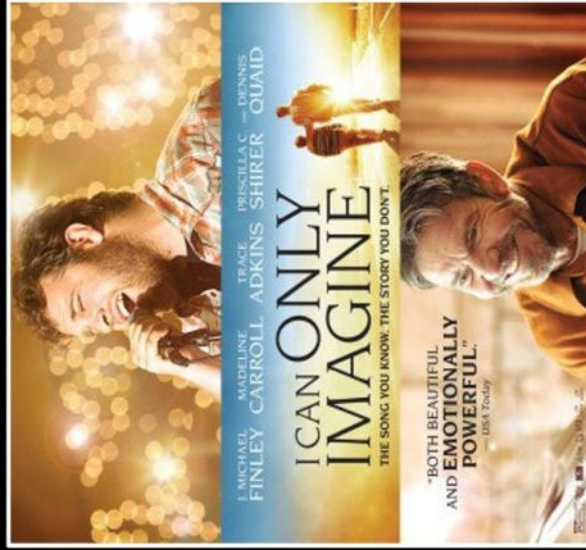
Great Swamp Baptist Church
9009 TARBORO ROAD
RIDGELAND, SC 29936

SEPT **22** 2018

11 AM

**COURTNEY IS REGISTERED AT BELK, TARGET &
SIMPLY CAROLINA KITCHEN & BATH**

MOVIE NIGHT
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th



Finger foods @ 5:30pm
Movie @ 6pm

GREAT SWAMP BAPTIST CHURCH
9009 Tarboro Rd. / (843)726-3631

IVAN PARKER

ALSO APPEARING

DATE *Friday, September 21st*
TIME *7:00 PM*
VENUE *Red Dam Baptist Church*
CONTACT *Ted Bostick*
843-304-6758
ivankparker.com

[Marriage Conference] 
Look Up Lodge
lookuplodge.com



Two houses sit beside each other in a neighborhood. They look very differently from one another. But when the foundations were laid, they looked almost identical. This is the basic idea behind our marriage conference. Sometimes your marriage is your marriage - the way you communicate, the way you show affection, the way you handle conflict all may be very different from your neighbor. However the foundation of every great marriage is very much the same. It must be built on at least a few foundational principles if it's going to survive, let alone rise above the storms of life. These principles are: *understanding real love, understanding the differing values of sex between men and women, and understanding the basic principles of lasting change.* These are some of the principles we will be focusing on during our marriage weekend.

Details:

Dates:	October 12 th - 14 th	Total Cost:	\$139.00 per couple
Days:	Friday - Sunday	Deposit:	\$69.50 [50% of total cost] NON-REFUNDABLE
Arrival Time:	Friday around 6pm [Dinner at 6:30pm]	Balance Due:	Upon Arrival
Departure Time:	Sunday around 1pm	Includes:	Food, Lodging & Conference
Reservations:	(864) 836-6392	Address:	100 Look Up Lodge Rd. Travelers Rest, SC 29690
Reservation Name:	Great Swamp	Taylor Daley:	(843) 505-7066 or tdaley2017@gmail.com
Forms Due:	Upon Arrival		

"Please see Taylor Daley for any questions
(843) 505-7066 or tdaley2017@gmail.com".

Gifts

A gift of \$200.00 was given to the Kitchen Fund in Memory of Wallace E. Roberts, Kirk Malphrus & Lane Malphrus by Mamie Malphrus Minton.

This Weeks Birthdays

September 16th *Doby Cleland*
 Sherry Landis
September 17th *Angel Madison*
 Olivia Broschard
September 21st *Katie Ford*
September 22nd *Alayna Schrader*

May your marriage be blessed with love,
joy and companionship for all the years of your lives.

A very happy
Wedding Anniversary
to both of you

September 16th *Krey & Faye Lowther*

Announcements



*The Quilting Club is meeting in the
Old Parsonage
Thursday, September 20th @ 10:00am*

*Watchman Prayer Group
Saturday, September 15th @ 8:00 am*



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



September Collection for OCC

School Supplies
Pencils
Pens Sharpeners
Scissors
Crayons
Colored Pencils

Harvest Fest

Saturday

October 27, 2018

4 to 7 pm

Sign up sheets in Foyer

GSBC Prayer Pages September 16, 2018

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

Church Needs
*Sunday School
SFCA-Donna Carter
Child Dev. Ministries*

*Ministries
Outreach Ministry*

Leadership
*President Donald Trump
United States of America*

Unspoken
Tim Cramer Family

Bereavement
*Family of
David Malphrus*

Hospitals
Pam Stanley-MUSC

Special Requests
*Trip Fogle-Guidance
Enriqueta Torres-Spiritual Guidance
Robert O'Dell-Job*

Surgery / Recovery
*Judy Smith (8/16)
Joyce Pope (8/23)
Michelle Tuten (8/17)
Dorthie Armstrong (8/23)
Carol Davis (8/30)
Patrick Malphrus (8/31)
Vanessa Smoak (10/30)*

Cancer / Treatments
*Mitzi Cramer (8/23)
Jane Chapman (8/23)
Becky Broxton (8/23)
Jeanie Raven (8/23)
Jimmy Mixson (8/23)
Andy Hughes (9/10)*

Nursing Centers
*Elaine Degler-RNC
Doris Blackmon-Morningside
Thelma Ashing-RNC
Maureen Malphrus-RNC
Becky Jones-Anderson
Dot Tindal-NHC*

Other Health Needs

Called to Ministry
Chris Carter & Family

*Rodney Malphrus, Sr. (8/30)
Brenda Bekick (8/16)
Talmadge Malphrus (8/16)
Mike Mingledorff (8/30)
Chelsea Cooler (9/6)
Eva Calhoun (9/13)
Thelma Reynolds (9/13)*

*Vera Miles (8/16)
Royce Malphrus (8/16)
Elena Brannen (8/24)
Barbara Solley (9/6)
Madison Cooler (9/6)
Chad (9/10)*

Expecting / Births
Amanda Fletcher



*Come join us for the
Proclaimers Choir Practice
every
Wednesday Evening
following
Bible Study.*

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
Vera Floyd

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
Dot Tindal



The greatest towers fell on Sep-tember 11th. Loss of life and property was tremendous. After the smoke and dust have cleared and the dead buried, our God is yet alive. What will take us as a country and each as individuals through these times will be the eternal God who answers prayer.

E.L. Ambrose

Today's Prayer Team

Group I

Patricia Malphrus-Leader
Truett Vaigneur
Shirley Malphrus
Vera 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
752 Great Swamp Rd.
Ridgeland, SC 29936



Home cooked Meatloaf
Homemade Mashed Potatoes

Gravy / Peas

Cornbread

Dessert

Tea & Coffee

Keith Gamo Cooking Team



\$5.00 each or \$15.00 for a family of 4 or more

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 & General Budget</i>	<i>\$3,836.00</i>	<i>\$4,973.36</i>	<i>-\$ 937.36</i>
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Seniors Fund</i>	<i>\$1,763.00</i>	*****	<i>\$10,109.46</i>
<i>Janie Chapman Offering</i>	<i>\$65.75</i>	*****	<i>\$65.75</i>
<i>SMB</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>	*****	<i>\$75.00</i>
<i>WNS</i>	<i>\$161.00</i>	*****	<i>\$161.00</i>
<i>Kitchen Supplies</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>	*****	<i>\$260.00</i>

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 Balances are due NOW.



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
Website: greatswampbaptistchurch.com
Church Office: (843) 726-3631