

*Great Swamp Baptist Church
December 8, 2019*



Great Swamp Baptist Church

December 8, 2019

Sunday Morning Worship

11:00 AM

Prelude

The Welcome

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Call to Worship

Hymn # 85

"The First Nowell"

Invocation

Mack Pope

Selections of Praise and Worship

"Adore"

We Pray for Special Needs

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Pastoral & Offertory Prayer

Offertory

Offertory Special

The Proclaimers

"His Name Will Be Called"

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invitation

Benediction



Greeters

Today: Tom Benton / Krey Lowther

Next Week: Sherry Toland / Krey Lowther

Nursery Workers

Today: Pat Bryan / Vanessa Smoak

Next Week: Debra Daley / Amanda Hodges



Children's Church Helpers

Today: Kaylee Standard / Emma Mingledorff

Next Week: Olivia Stanley / Angel Cole

DEACON OF THE WEEK :



Today: Mack Pope

843-540-6636

Next Week: Keith Gamo

843-986-8745



Toll Committee

For the month of December

Gail Malphrus

Anita Blanton



From Pastor Ralph's Desk:

The Wise Men Were Overjoyed

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Intro: In the Story of the Wise Men, we discover that once the Wise Men see the reappearance of the star that they followed from the east. They are filled with joy. As a matter of fact, they are so full of joy that they are declared to be overjoyed. This is the kind of joy that can't be topped by any other event that takes place in your life. It is better than your favorite team winning the ball-game; or your favorite driver winning the race. It is the kind of joy that not only reaches the top but remains there because it is our eternal joy.

So, the question we want to seek to answer is why were the wise men overjoyed? Why was their joy exceeding, exuberant, and over the top?

I. First, the wise Men were overjoyed because of the fulfillment of the Prophecy.

Though we are not given a direct answer, we wonder as to how the Wise Men knew about the coming of Christ our King into the world. We know that they followed a special star that was leading them to the King of the Jews, but what alerted them to the star itself?

Well again there is no direct answer. However, I believe that it was the prophecies of the Word of God that influenced them to begin looking for the star to lead them. We know that on several occasions in the past previous to the time of Christ's entrance

Into the world the Jewish people had been taken into captivity. They would establish places of worship where they would teach the Word of God to their people. Therefore, the Word of God began to spread in these countries where they were settled. Because the Wise Men were very well educated men, they would have heard about the prophecies of the Word of God which the Jews had been teaching in their home of origin. One of the prophecies they would have heard about was the eventual coming of a Jewish Messiah and King. Now with their own eyes they have the privilege of seeing those actual prophecies coming to fruition.

Oh, Child of God, let us rejoice with exceeding, exuberant, over the top joy because we have seen that the prophecies of God's Word of the coming King, the King of Glory have been fulfilled and accomplished. This joy should be an overjoy because we can trust that the rest of the prophecies of the Word of God especially concerning Christ's second coming will be fulfilled. Oh, Praise God that prophecies of His first coming have been fulfilled and verified and therefore we can be overjoyed that we can count on all the prophecies of the Word of God to come to fruition.

II. Second, the Wise Men were overjoyed because of commitment of nature.

Of course, you may immediately be wondering exactly what I am referring to. Well, the answer is simple, but profound and also understandable. This point I am making needs to be paid close attention to by the people of God and as far as that goes, by all people.

So, the answer to what I am referring to is that the Wise Men were led to Jesus by a particular star. As Christians, we usually refer to it as the Christmas Star. Scholars and scientists have tried to find some kind of natural explanation for the star. However, it is not necessary to try and find some kind of natural explanation to either to verify the accuracy of the event or to deny it. For one thing, the Word of God boldly proclaims that God is the God of creation. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen. 1:1). The Psalmist King David said, "The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the works of His hands." (Ps. 19:1). The Apostle John said, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made." (John 1:1-3).

Now listen to the Apostle Paul. "He is the image of the invisible God; the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him." (Col. 1:15-16). We could go on and on with hundreds of more verses in the Word of God that places all of creation in the hand of the Creator. And a Paul said He created it for Him. Therefore, we should not be surprised that God placed a unique star in the sky to lead the Wise Men to Jesus.

Nature is not a God itself. Rather nature itself belongs to Christ, and therefore nature bows down to its' Creator. So, this Christmas, let us look at nature and not see it as something that is not connected to the Biblical narrative. Rather, let us see it for what it is, a tool in the hand of God to magnify God and then let us rejoice with it. For we too are His handwork.

III. Third, the Wise Men were overjoyed because their journey was not in vain.

The journey of these Wise Men was long, arduous, difficult and as well as a journey of faith. The prophecies they had heard and the star that had seen and followed gave them hope. However, would that hope become a reality.

Well, of course, their hope did indeed become a reality when the star led them directly to the house where the child Jesus was staying. Now that long and difficult journey paid off. All the heat of the desert; the blowing sand all over their bodies; the cool, long evenings; the mountain pass they had to climb and possibly the doubts they were having were no longer a burden but were rather seen as a blessing because the journey brought them to Jesus Christ the King of the Jews; the King of kings.

Is your journey difficult, dangerous, arduous, painful and a bit scary? Well hang on Child of God because the journey will not be in vain. For your hope will be turned into reality when you are led in the eternal presence of Jesus. Amen and Amen. Let us be overjoyed because our journey is not and will not be in vain.

IV. Fourth, the Wise Men were overjoyed because they got to worship the King.

They not only had the privilege of seeing and meeting the King of the Jews, but they also had the privilege of worshipping the King. It was a pleasure and a joy to them to both bow down to Jesus Christ the King and to present Him with special gifts out of their treasury. We all know that their gifts were gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These were extremely valuable gifts that they gladly shared with Jesus.

So let us understand as Christians, that we should be overjoyed with the privilege and honor to bow down before our King and worship His Holy presence giving Him valuable gifts to show our love, honor, reverence, praise and worship.

Paul tells us that God loves a cheerful giver. Are you a cheerful giver? Does your joy lead to worship?

Jesus is worthy of all our praises.

Concl. When we come to church to worship our King, I wonder if we are overjoyed at the prospect of that time of worship. Sadly, I don't think that we very often look at worship in the manner the Wise Men did. For us, much of the time instead of being a pleasure and joy to worship Jesus Christ our King, we grudgingly carry out the task only to fulfill our obligations. May the Lord forgive us and may the Holy Spirit inspire us to be overjoyed for the journey that has led us to Jesus and is still leading us to Jesus.

*Jesus Loves You
Ralph Lee, Jr.*

Join Us in Our Mission to

REMEMBER ★ HONOR ★ TEACH



★ **December 14, 2019** ★

NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Jasper County Ceremony

Noon at Great Swamp Baptist Church

9009 Tarboro Road, Ridgeland, SC 29936

◆ **Cemetery Wreath Laying** ◆

Great Swamp Baptist Church Cemetery; 9:00 am, December 14

Grahamville Cemetery; 9:00 am, December 14

Ridgeland Cemetery; 10:00 am, December 14

Grimes Cemetery; 3:30 pm, December 14

Gillisonville Cemetery; Noon, December 15 (after church)

Old Sardis Cemetery; time TBA

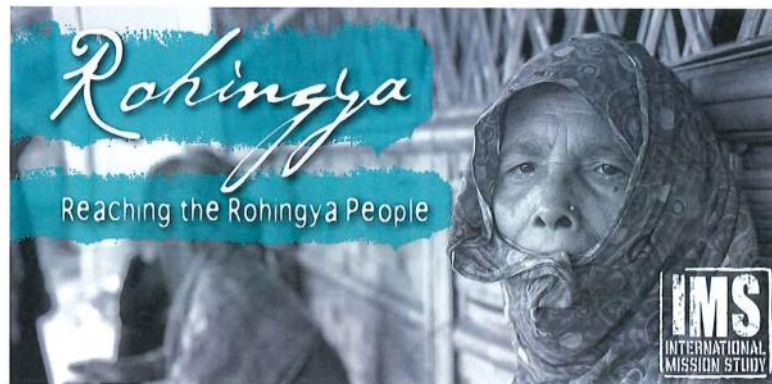
Floyd Cemetery; time TBA

Everyone Plays a Part

wreathsjasper@gmail.com

Savannah River Baptist Association
International Mission Study

Okatee Baptist Church
Monday, December 9, 2019
7:00 p.m.
Refreshments (including ethnic foods)



Each day, more than 28,000 people are forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution. Christ followers want to get involved – to help and support refugees – but what can we do?

The world tells refugees that they are not wanted, but we serve a God Who desires a relationship with displaced people. He beckons every person to an eternal home and offers a gospel that knows no boundaries.

International Mission Study: Rohingya centers around the challenges and the opportunities the Rohingya refugee crisis presents for missionaries and followers of Christ. Our God "defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow and loves the foreigner residing among you" (Deut. 10:18–19 NIV). He commands His followers to do the same.

Announcements



*Deacon's Meeting
Monday, December, 9th*



*Business Conference
The Business Conference this week has
been rescheduled until next Wednesday.*

*All committees and teams for the 2019-2020 Church
year need to elect officers and turn in to church office
ARE DUE NOW so that Leadership manuals can be
printed.
Thank You*



*“For even the
Son of Man
did not come to be
served, but to serve,
and to give his life
as a ransom for many.”*

Mark 10:45

Wednesday Nights @ 7:00 pm

*Do you know a young girl
in the 1st through the 6th grades?
We want to invite them to our
Servant's Heart Clubhouse
to learn about the
blessing of serving others.*

Any Questions call
Diane Thames @ 843-321-0806
or
Carol Davis @ 226-0258

Women's Bible Study

*Every Thursday @ 6:00 pm
In the MPB
Come out and Join us.
Contact Carol Davis for more info*



Announcements

*Tuesday, December 10th
Prayer Breakfast
9:00 am*



Church Council Meeting

Sunday, December 8th

Following Morning Worship Service

Lunch will be provided

Anyone who is going to be having any function at the church for 2020, needs to notify the church office with the dates and times so the church council can approve.

Church Council Members

Pastor Ralph Lee

Vicky Roberts

Mack Pope

Wallace Malphrus

Kim Malphrus

Wilber Daley

Richard Waitt

Michelle Waitt

Donna Carter

Timmy Sauls



Nursery Announcement

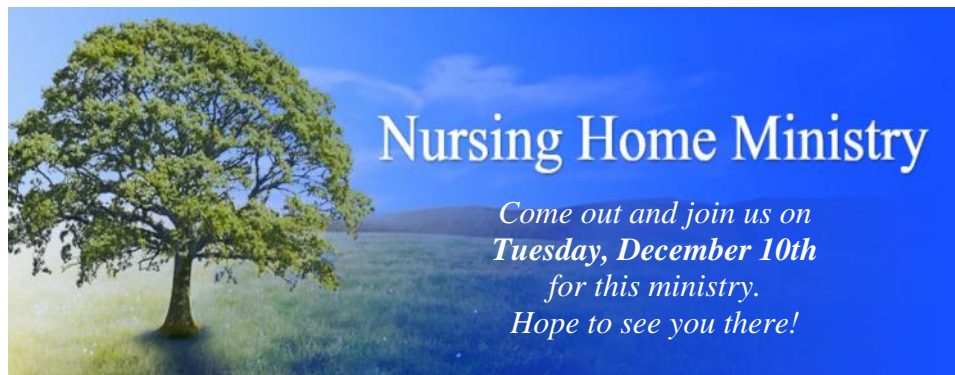
Our nursery is in need of some volunteers for Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. If you would like to be added to our rotation schedule, please contact

Vanessa Smoak

Thank You



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
Our Church Goal:
\$2,000.00



SFCA
*Is now accepting applications for the position of
K5 Assistant and After school worker.
Hours are from 10:00am to 6:00pm.
See Mrs. Donna Carter for details.
Needed immediately.*



Spaghetti
Bread
Desserts
Tea & Coffee
Robert's Cooking Team
\$5.00 each or \$15.00 for a family of
4 or more



GSBC Prayer Pages December 8, 2019

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

Leadership

*President Donald Trump
United States of America*

Hospitals

Surgery / Recovery

*Pam Stanley (9/16)
Mack Pope (9/19)
Eva Migliore (9/18)
Pat Bryan (9/27)
Deidre White (11/12)
Judy Roberts (11/22)*

Nursing Centers

*Elaine Degler-RNC
Doris Blackmon-Morningside
Becky Jones-Anderson
Royce Malphrus-RNC
Dot Tindal-NHC*

Special Requests

*Shirley Malphrus
Rose Boyles
Mary Cope
Judy Smith
Jeffrey Stanley
Redden Tuten
Vera Floyd
Bobby Mohn*

Church Needs

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

Unspoken

*Olivia & Juan Garcia
Jessica Cleland*

Spiritual Guidance

Cancer / Treatments

*Mitzi Cramer (1/28)
Lynn Daugherty (8/30)
Sidney (8/15)
Douglas Denegel (9/16)
Donald Fludd (9/30)
Gen Malphrus (11/19)*

Called to Ministry

Chris Carter & Family

*Ministries
Outreach Ministry
In reach Ministry*

Bereavement

Family of

Other Health Needs

*Dan Peeples (6/26)
Charles Maney (7/2)
Lee Martin (7/3)
Ann Blocker (7/25)
Ruby Keiffer (9/19)
Eddie Kinard (9/19)
Danny Breland (9/19)
Pinkie Rushing (10/10)
Wallace Malphrus (11/1)
Cookie Daley (11/19)
Margaret Davis (11/19)
Helen Malphrus (11/19)*

Expecting / Births

*Gary Way
Rodney Malphrus, Sr.
Lanell Smith
Dot Tindal
Pam Stanley
Philipp Hanna*

Please Continue To Remember

*Dot Nettles
Tom Hinely
Lois Bootle
Grace Boyles
Patricia Malphrus
Scott Boyles*



Pray For Our Military

Jared Blanton-Fort Stewart

Isaac Martin Malphrus

Cape May, NJ / Coast Guard

Matthew Mills-CA-US Marines

Jericho Malphrus-Sp. Agent / Air Force /

Oklahoma City. OK

Michael Sottile - Deployed

Tristan Blanton-San Diego/ SWCC



Intercessory Prayer Today's Prayer Team

Timmy Sauls

Carol Davis

For Prayer Needs

*You may access by calling the church at
843-726-3631*



December 9th *Frankie Malphrus*

December 12th *Nadine Smoak*

December 13th *Corinna Malphrus*
Greg Fryman

December 14th *Devin Mock*



Christmas Card Mailbox

is now open in the Foyer

The Servant's Heart Club and the Youth Sunday School Class has opened the Christmas Card Mailbox in the Foyer.

They will deliver your in-house Christmas Cards for 25-cent each.

The proceeds are going toward the Youth Annex renovations.

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Ralph Lee, Jr.....*jehu27@gmail.com*
Music Director: Richard Waitt.....*waittfamily83@gmail.com*
Sunday School Director: Wallace Malphrus.....*Josie6@embarqmail.com*
Pianist: Michelle Waitt..... *waittfamily83@gmail.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>	\$ 4,600.00	\$4,982.79	-\$ 382.79
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Senior Trips</i>	\$ 530.00	*****	\$ 1,198.00
<i>Lottie Moon Offering</i>	\$ 295.00	*****	\$ 295.00
<i>Benevolence</i>	\$ 10.00	*****	\$ 411.00
<i>SMB</i>	\$ 99.00	*****	\$ 387.00
<i>VBS</i>	\$ 10.00	*****	\$ 612.20
<i>Youth Annex</i>	\$ 130.00	*****	\$ 3,037.07
<i>Wreaths Across America</i>	\$ 45.00	*****	\$ 115.00
<i>Kitchen Supplies</i>	\$ 50.00	*****	\$ 52.00

Celebrating  **175 years of God's Faithfulness**

and the journey will continue until God returns...

Great Swamp Baptist Church
9009 Taboro 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

Email: greatswampbc@gmail.com
Website: greatswampbaptistchurch.com
Church Office: (843) 726-3631