

*The  
Great Swamp  
Family Gathering*

*December 13, 2020*



# Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

## The Great Swamp Family Christmas Gathering

**Prelude**

**The Welcome**  
Announcements

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr*

**Call To Worship**

**Invocation**

*Freddie Malphrus*

**Selections of Praise and Worship**

**We Pray for Special Needs**  
Pastoral Prayer  
Offertory Special

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

**Message**

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

**Invitation**

**Benediction**

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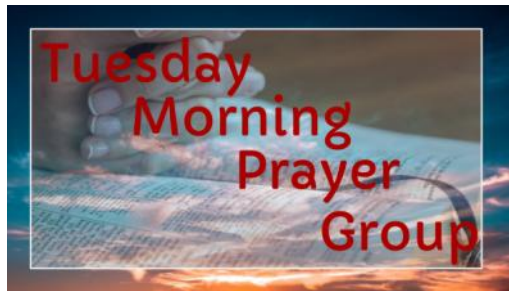
## Nursery Workers

Today: Vanessa Smoak  
*Helpers Needed; See Vanessa*



## Children's Church

Today: Olivia Stanley



Tuesday Mornings @ 9:00am



## DEACON OF THE WEEK :

*Today:*

**Freddie Malphrus: 843-816-3206**

*Next Week:*

**Wilbur Daley: 843-305-0110**





## Here's Your Sign

(Is. 7:1-16)

*Intro: Most of us are keenly aware of Jeff Foxworthy's famous statement, "here's your sign." He spoke this statement in reference to what he called stupid people. He meant here's the sign that someone was stupid. Well, in our set of verses we are presently examining, God speaks out those words long before Jeff Foxworthy does. Speaking to the King and people of the nation of Judah, He basically says to them, here's your sign. However, God was not saying those words in reference to stupid people but rather to fearful and faithless people. He was giving them a sign that stood for hope, redemption, deliverance and victory over their enemies. This sign was a present sign at the time that it was spoken but even more importantly it was a sign that had a future fulfillment which would be a sign of hope, redemption, deliverance and victory over our enemies.*

*Today, as we are entering into our Christmas season, we need to see this sign that God gave them and is reminding us of now. He needs to say loud and clear, and I should say, He has spoken loud and clear, Here's your sign, oh, fearful and faithless people. You have allowed a virus and an election to rob you of your faith and your confidence. So, God says, here's your sign and as we examine this sign allow it to restore our faith and cast off our fear. So here's your sign.*

### **I. First, let us notice that God shows why a sign was required. (vs. 1-13).**

*As we read these verses, we see a number of reasons why God needed to say, here's your sign, and we will attempt here to mention as many as possible. I believe that we will discover that those reasons still clearly exist today. So let us take a look at them.*

**A. The first reason why a sign was required was because of possible threats. (vs. 1-13).** *King Ahaz and the nation of Judah were at a stand still because they had heard that the King of Aram and the King of Israel were planning on attacking the nation of Judah and take control of it. They also threatened to dispose or get rid of King Ahaz and put another king in his place.*

*Now, it is important to realize that the attack didn't even take place. However, just the threat of it created an enormous amount of fear without the first arrow shot, without even the first sign of the enemy anywhere close by.*

Today, we too need a sign because our enemies know too well that all they've got to do to stop our living, our service and our worship for Jesus Christ our Lord, and our Blessed Heavenly Father through the person and power of the Holy Spirit, is to create a threat of some kind of an attack against us. In our case, the enemy is using the Covid-19 virus as a threat that is going to kill us all if we get it which is a fallacy. However, we are continuously bombarded with this ongoing threat from the media, political leaders and even the medical field. We also have many other threats that we are daily receiving that tends to rob us of our hope and faith requiring that we need a sign which will remind us that threats are merely just that, a threat and in the face of Almighty God like a shadow can do us no harm. Even if the threat becomes a reality, God knows about it and will somehow use the reality to accomplish His will. So, *her is your sign. God will give His people hope and deliverance.*

**B. Second, it was required because of the fear level of the people had become detrimental. (vs. 1-4).** *These verses show us that the fear level of the king and the people was literally affecting the very core of their being, and it was obvious because you could literally see and observe their fear from the very moments of their bodies. He says that their bodies literally were trembling. As the old saying goes they were shaking in their boots.*

*We, too, have reached a level of fear this year that has many of us if not most of us, shaking in our boots, so to speak. It is the kind of fear that it is indeed detrimental. I am convinced that our fear and anxiety is possibly doing more harm to us than the virus itself is doing, because alcoholism, drug abuse, depression, and suicide is at an all time high right now.*

*This high level of fear in the past and in our present required a sign be given, and God was more than ready to give one in order to sway the fear they had and we have. God, Himself, has nothing to fear. It is not a part of His vocabulary, not at least when it comes to He Himself. So, it is wonderful to know that the sign given to sway our fear came from the One who has nothing to fear. For even their king feared but the sign given reveals a king who rose above all fear and gives us the ability to do the same when we respond appropriately to the sign.*

**C. Third, a sign was required because of the king and his peoples lack of faith. (vs. 7-13).** *King Ahaz clearly demonstrates that his faith is totally lacking. In the first place, he wasn't seeking God concerning the matter that was creating his and the nation's fear. As a matter of fact, it was God who told Isaiah to go and find the king and tell him not to fear their enemies that were threatening them.*

*Second, we know that the king's faith was lacking because he, like the rest of the nation, actually believed that they were basically doomed and that there was no hope for them. He, too, was trembling with fear.*

*Third, we know that he lacked faith because he was unwilling to ask for a sign when God told him to do so. He wasn't really trusting in the Lord. God basically chastised him when He told him that if he didn't stand firm in his faith, then he wouldn't be able to stand at all. (vs. 9).*

*Today, we are living in a time as well in which people's faith is clearly lacking. Their lack of faith has locked them down, turned their joy into fear, and prevented them from serving God in a bold manner.*

*Oh, blessed be the name of our Lord who gave and has given into a*

*sign that reveals why our faith should not be lacking, why our faith should rise above our fear. Tragically, we are seeing before our very eyes that even pastors and churches all across our land have locked down out of fear demonstrating their lack of faith. I pray that we will once again take a look at this amazing sign given to us by God and that it will restore our faith in the power of our Almighty God.*

**D. Fourth, a sign was required to uphold the honor of God and His Word.** *It was God and His Word that the nation had basically forgotten. Their fear was high and their faith lacking because they had forgotten about all the times God's Word showed the many times God had already delivered the nation time and again from their enemies. It also showed the many great promises God had made to the nation.*

*Therefore, God needed to give a sign that indeed honored His Sovereignty and exalted His Holy Word. The sign that God gave us came to fruition proving that God was indeed God Almighty and that His Holy Word was absolutely true and trustworthy.*

*May we too today allow this accomplished sign given to us by Almighty God drive us to give honor, glory and praise to and create an absolute trust in His Word as our true source of authority.*

## **II. Second, let us notice what the sign reveals.(vs. 14-16).**

*This sign that God gave to King Ahaz has been a challenge for scholars to interpret because we know that the Gospel of Matthew tells us that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the sign which God gave hundreds of years before. The difficulty seems to be that God says that the child to be born would take place within a short amount of time. So which is it?*

*Well, the answer that a lot of scholars give is that it is a two-fold fulfillment. There was somewhat of a fulfillment within a short time and more importantly there was the ultimate and most important fulfillment of it in the Birth of Christ.*

*So the scholars believe that there was some special child born of a young woman during the time of King Ahaz that he would have know about.*

*However, the fulfillment of it could only truly be fulfilled by the incarnation of Christ into the world, because Mary and Mary alone was a true virgin in the total sense of the word while she carried the Baby Jesus within her womb. In Luke's Gospel we know that Mary asked the angel how she could become pregnant since she had not known a man. Of course God assured her that the Holy Spirit would make it happen and unbeknownst to her how God made it happen.*

*Now, here is the point and this is what God was revealing first to King Ahaz and the nation of Judah. He was saying to them that the birth of this special child will take place and while the child is still very young the alliance of these two nations that plan on attacking them will collapse and their kingdoms will end. So the birth of the child will signal for King Ahaz the time frame in which his enemies will be utterly defeated. So for him and his nation the birth of this child was a sign and signal that their victory was about to be won, their threat removed, their deliverance and redemption accomplished and their hope restored.*

*Well, blessed be the name of the Lord that the birth of Jesus Christ is the real, actual, and ultimate fulfillment of the sign that God gave to King Ahaz. For had it only meant some child born only during King Ahaz's reign in Judah then it would have no significance for us. However, because Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of it we can rejoice because the sign is a sign for us all past, present and future until Jesus returns.*

*Now, the reason this sign is a sign of hope, deliverance, redemption and victory for us all is because the sign reveals that this child to be born was unique because He was born of a virgin and that means that this child was not born with a sin nature which would have required that He too would need a Savior.*



*Finally the reign reveals that the child would reject the wrong and do the right thing. No person outside of Jesus Christ has ever fully rejected wrong and fully only did the right things.*

*So what these things the sign reveals about the child all combine together to assure us that this sign indeed is a sign of hope, deliverance, redemption and victory over our enemies and our threats because this child had and has everything that was required to set us apart from our enemies and give us ultimate freedom and victory.*

*Jesus Christ came into the world as a sinless person and as God with us He came rejecting all wrong and doing only right. He alone was qualified to defeat our enemies and redeem from our sins. Isaiah reminded King Ahaz that God said that the two kings who bound together to attack him were just mere men. Oh, but the Child to be born, the sign from God was not just a mere man but God with us. Therefore, He alone can set us free, forgive our sins and deliver us from our enemies whom He is greater than them all.*

*Concl. Let us understand that our fears should diminish and our faith should grow because the sign has already been given as a permanent sign of His eternal deliverance for all who trust in Him.*

*As we laugh hearing Jeff Foxworthy saying about stupid people, here's your sign, let us rejoice as we hear Almighty God say to us, Here's your sign, the birth of Christ, a sign of eternal hope.*

*Jesus Loves You  
Ralph Lee, Jr.*



## **Gleaners & Grandmother's Groups Christmas Party**

*Tuesday, December 15th @ 11:00 am  
Multi-Purpose Building  
Bring finger foods and favorite sides  
Beverages Provided.*



## Calendar of Events

**TODAY**

**Sunday, December 13th: 10:30 am**

**"THE GREAT SWAMP FAMILY CHRISTMAS GATHERING"**

*Annual Christmas Program*

*Annual Christmas Dinner*

*Children's Program*

**Tuesday, December 15th: 11:00 am**

*Gleaners/Grandmothers Group Christmas Party*

**Wednesday, December 16th: 6:00 pm**

*ABIDE Christmas Program*

**Sunday, December 20th: 10:30 am**

*Candlelight Service*

*The Lord's Supper*

*Wreaths Across America Program*

*Movie Night Concessions: 6:30 pm*

*Movie: "A Man Called Norman" : 7:00 pm*

**Wednesday, December 23rd & 30th:**

*NO Supper*

**Thursday & Friday, December 24th & 25th:**

*Offices Closed for holidays*



**Wednesday Night Services @ 7pm**

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**PASTOR'S PRAYER SERVICE**—*Building 3, Old Social Hall*

**Leader-Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.**

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**ABIDE CONTEMPORARY SERVICE**—*Multi-Purpose Building*

**Leader-Wilbur Daley**

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**YOUTH GROUP**—*Youth Annex*

**Leader-Michelle Waitt**

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**R.A.'S (Royal Ambassadors)**—*Room 417*

**Leader-Pat Mason**

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**G.A.'S (GIRLS IN ACTION)**—*Room 415*

**Leader-Sherry Toland**

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**Sunday School Classes @ 9:15am**

**CAMO CLASS**—*Room 406*

**Leader- Bobby Smith**

**GLEANERS CLASS**—*Room 401*

**Leader-Audrey Roberts**

**VISIONARIES CLASS**—*Building 3, Old Social Hall*

**Leader-Wilbur Daley**

**SOJOURNERS CLASS**—*Room 417*

**Leader-Mack Pope**

**SENIOR ADULT MEN CLASS**—*Room 413*

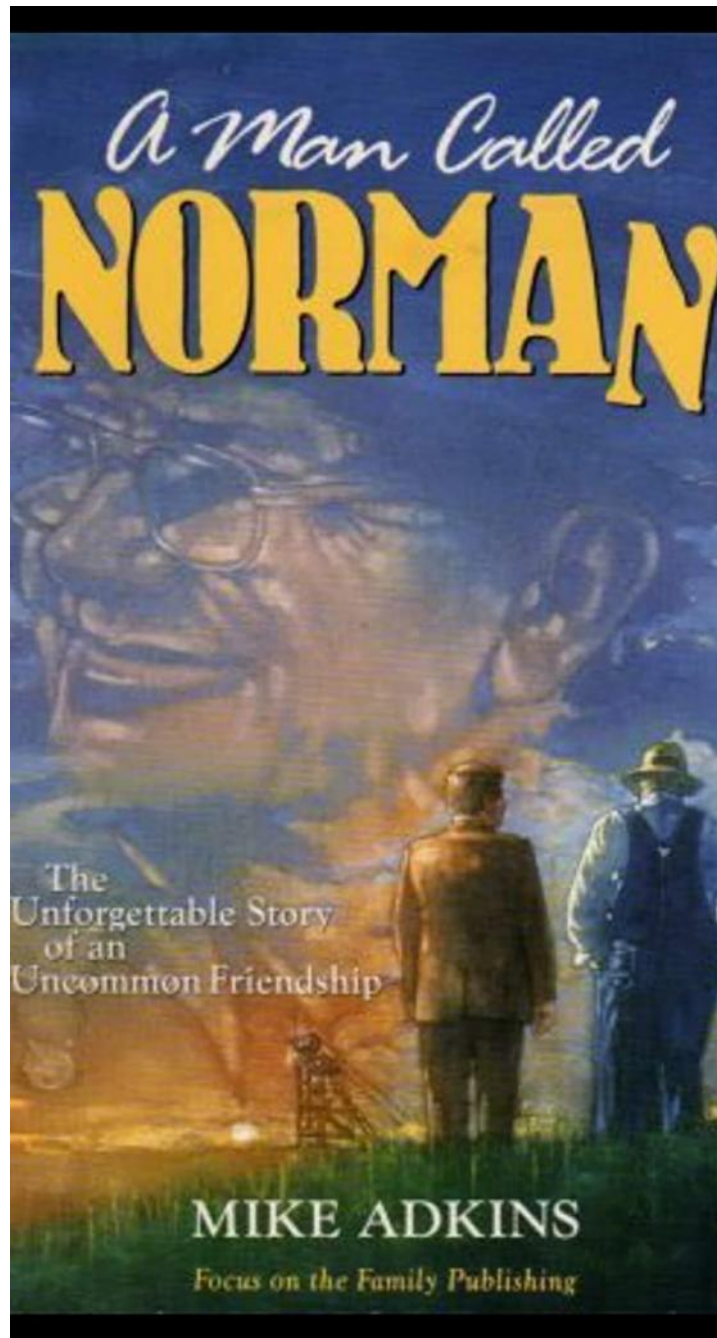
**Leader-Truett Vaigneur**

**YOUTH**—*Youth Annex*

**Leader-Faye Lowther**

**Save the Date**

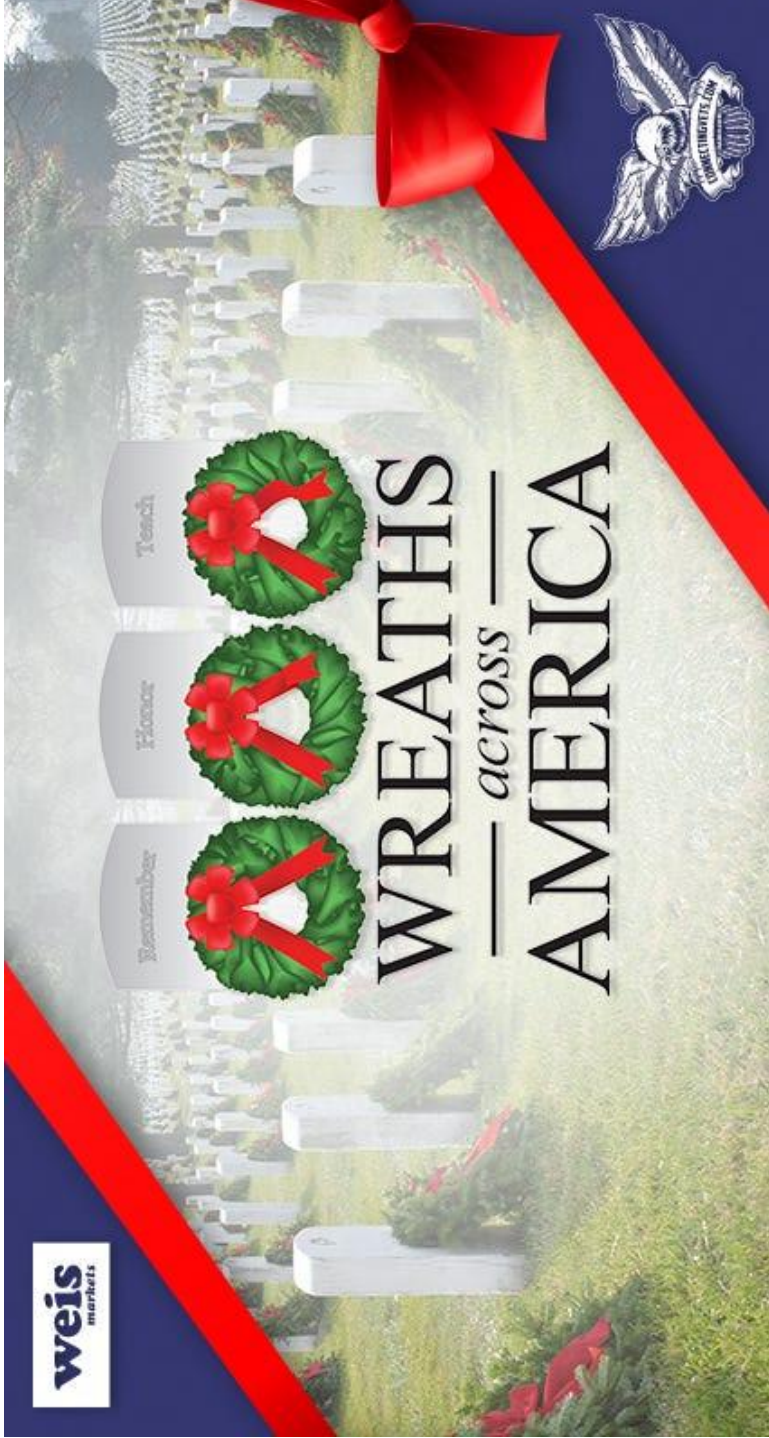
*December 20th*



*Opens @ 6:30pm      Movie starts @ 7:00pm*


*Popcorn   Tea   Lemonade*

*If you would like to provide other snacks, please feel free to do so.*



*Sunday, December 20th following Morning Worship Services*

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 Weekly Offering	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$ 5,890.00	\$ 4,982.47	+ \$ 1,022.53
<b>Online Offerings</b>	\$ 115.00		
<b>Designated Funds</b>	<b>This Week</b>	*****	<b>Acct. Balances</b>
Office Supply	\$ 1,810.00	*****	\$ 2,620.85
Youth Camp	\$ 68.00	*****	\$ 490.39
Gleaners SS Class	\$83.00	*****	\$ 296.33
Lottie Moon Offering	\$ 260.00	*****	\$ 362.00
Sunday Morning Breakfast	\$ 119.00	*****	\$ 259.79
Wednesday Night Supper	\$ 170.00	*****	\$ 270.02
Operation Christmas Child	\$50.00	*****	\$ 132.22

## Memorial

*A gift of \$50.00 has been given to the General Fund  
In Memory of Wallace Roberts By Nancy Davidson.*

*A gift of \$50.00 has been given to the Operation Christmas Child  
In Memory of Margaret Vaigneur By Patricia Malphrus.*

*A gift of \$100.00 has been given to the General Fund  
In Memory of Margaret Vaigneur By Steve & Linda Owing.*

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*It's That time of Year Again*  
***It's That time of Year Again***

*It is time to update our records and Phone/Address book &  
Annual Calendar w/ Birthdays & Anniversaries.  
Pick up a Member info sheet today and place in offering  
plate or turn into church office.*

*Thank You*





*Menu to be announced.*

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

*NO Meal Deliveries at this time.*

# GSBC Prayer Page

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

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

## Hospitals

## Surgery / Recovery

*Skylar Saygen  
Ann Blocker  
Michelle Rooks  
Marie Cole*

## Nursing Centers

*Elaine Degler-RNC  
Doris Blackmon-Morningside  
Wilma Jean McGill-RNC  
Bobby Mohn-Indigo Pines HHI  
Byron Vaigneur-Assist.*

## Church Needs

*Sunday School  
SFCA-Donna Carter  
Child Development  
Ministries*

## Unspoken

*Jessica Cleland  
Steve Crosby  
Heather Betz*

## Cancer / Treatments

*Lynn Daugherty  
Sidney  
Douglas Denegel  
Becky Goretzka  
Gail Sims  
Gloria Davis  
Gary Malphrus  
Skip Brooks  
Cynthia Box  
Regina Bouye  
Mack Pope  
Kaiaya Alston  
Evelyn Olsen*

## Called to Ministry

*Ministries  
Outreach Ministry  
In reach Ministry  
Abide Wednesday Services*

## Bereavement

*Family of*

## Other Health Needs

*Cookie Daley  
Jane Gorman  
Jerry Cooler  
Bobby Tootle  
Randy Smoak  
Brenda Farve  
Andrew Miller  
Lloyd Way  
Jason Smoak  
Celeste Lucas  
Pinky Rushing  
Chip Sutler  
Diane Hannah  
Loony Jones (Jeffrey Stanley's  
Grandfather)  
David Sauls  
Tracey Lake  
Pat Kemple*

## Expecting / Births

## Please Continue To Remember

*Shirley Malphrus  
Rose Boyles  
Judy Smith  
Jeffrey Stanley  
Redden Tuten  
Vera Floyd*

*Dot Nettles  
Tom Hinely  
Grace Boyles  
Patricia Malphrus  
Scott Boyles  
Ann Blocker*

*Gary Way  
Frankie Malphrus  
Betty Robertson  
Kenneth & Doby Cleland*

## Pray For Our Military

*Sgt. Jared Blanton-Deployed  
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*



## Church Staff

*Pastor: Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr*.....*jehu27@gmail.com*

*Music Director: Richard Waitt*.....*waittfamily83@gmail.com*

*Sunday School Director: Mike Davis*.....

*ABIDE Contemporary Service: Wilbur Daley*.....

*Pianist: Michelle Waitt*..... *waittfamily83@gmail.com*

*Administrative Assistant: Sybil Reynolds*.....*greatswampbc@gmail.com*

*School Administrator: Donna Carter*.....*dcarter@hargray.com*

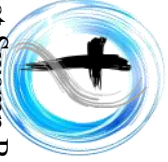
*Landscaper: Wallace Malphrus*.....*Josie6@embarqmail.com*



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>13th</i>	<i>Corinna Malphrus</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>15th</i>	<i>Henry Bradley</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>19th</i>	<i>Diane Thames</i>
		<i>Rhonda Standard</i>



<i>Saturday</i>	<i>19th</i>	<i>Bill &amp; Donna Carter</i>
		<i>Mike &amp; Vicky Mingledorff</i>



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

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