



Great Swamp  
Baptist Church

December 20, 2020

# Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

**Prelude**

**The Welcome**

Announcements

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr*

Hymn # 95     “Go Tell It On The Mountain”

**Call To Worship**

**Invocation**

*Wilbur Daley*

**Selections of Praise and Worship**

*“Adore”*

**We Pray for Special Needs**

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Special

*Mended*

*“O Holy Night”*

**Lighting of the Candles**

Hymn # 61     “Silent Night, Holy Night”

**Ordinance of the Lord’s Supper**

**Message**

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

**Invitation**

**Benediction**

**Wreaths Across America  
Ceremonial Service**

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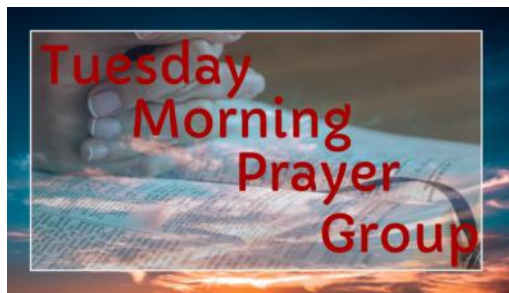
## Nursery Workers

Today: Vanessa Smoak  
*Helpers Needed; See Vanessa*



## Children's Church

Today: Olivia Stanley



Tuesday Mornings @ 9:00am



## DEACON OF THE WEEK :

*Today:*

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

*Next Week:*

**Mack Pope: 843-540-6636**





## Christmas Cancels Fear

*(Luke 1:26-38; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 2:8-20)*

*Intro: When was our world first gripped with fear? Well, that answer is found with our first two human beings that God created. Adam and Eve had been warned by God not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. However, they did exactly what God had warned them not to do. The first terrible result of that first sin was that our of fear. They hid from God when He came to communicate with them. So, fear has been with us since near the beginning. It is important to understand this because we are acting like we've never experienced fear until this year. The year 2020.*

*However, though fear has been with us since near the beginning, there are times in which fear grips us more times when the level of fear is greater than at other times. Certainly, we can all agree that though 2020 is not the first year for us to ever experience fear it is indeed a year in which the fear level is higher than it has been for quite some time.*

*Well history has many of those years in which the fear level was high like 2020 and when Christ entered into the world on that first Christmas morning for many in the world at that time fear was at an all time high level for them. For at that time the nation of Rome controlled the known world and nations were basically enslaved to them. People had to be very careful what they said or did in order not to come under the wrath of Rome.*

*Praise God, however, that in the midst of that deep, dark fearful world, a Savior was born and He was Christ the Lord. His entrance into the world had as part of His reason for coming was to remove our fears, yes, Christmas cancels fear. Today, I want us to examine the Christmas story and take notice of the fears that Christmas came to cancel and apply it's message to the fears of 2020.*

### **I. First, let us notice that Christmas cancelled fears of acceptance. (Luke 1:26-38).**

*Over the years many have assumed that Mary became frightened because the angel Gabriel appeared to her. However, it wasn't his appearance that frightened her but rather it was what the angel said that frightened her. He said to her, "Greetings you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." (vs. 28). So, someone would might say why would this greeting bother or frighten Mary or anyone else?*

*Now to answer that question you have to consider a number of things. You have to consider her age, her family, where she lived and her religious upbringing. She was a teenager and her family doesn't seem to have been of any importance as far as status goes, and she lived in Nazareth which was for the most part considered by most a place to avoid. As far as her religious training goes, she would have been taught that in order to be right with God she would have to keep all the commandments of God which, of course, no one could of their own ability do.*

*So, when you put all those considerations together, you can see why Mary was frightened by his words. For Mary couldn't see how a teenage girl from a family of little importance living in a village that most sought to avoid and having been taught to be right with God, you had to keep all the commandments which was impossible. These things told her that there is no way she could have favor with God.*

*Well, the angel Gabriel eased her fear by reminding her once again that she had found favor with God. However, what we need to understand is that she found favor with God not because she deserved His favor which she believed she couldn't anyway. Rather, she found favor with God because of who God is. God is gracious, merciful and sovereign. She was chosen, accepted and favored by God because our God is God and because He is gracious, she found favor.*

*Oh, dear sinners, don't look at your sins, failures or what you consider inadequacies to determine if God would ever accept you. Remove your worries and fears by realizing that God is more than ready to forgive us and accept us into His family by His grace and mercy. As a matter of fact, Christ came the first Christmas to show the world they couldn't come to Him so He came to us. So, like Mary may we accept God's gracious acceptance of us by responding as she did, "I am the Lord's servant, Mary answered. May it be to me as you have said. Then the angel left her." (vs. 38). Will you let go of your fear of whether God will accept you or not and trust His offer of grace, mercy, forgiveness and eternal life?*

**II. Second, let us notice that Christmas cancelled fear of the unknown. (Matt. 1:18-25).** *Joseph was clearly in the dark. There was so much that he didn't understand and that lack of understanding had created a great deal of fear within him. It was the unknown to him that had taken place with Mary. It was unknown to him who was the father of her child. It was unknown to him what would become of the whole situation. All of this unknown just gave no certainty about what he should do. A battle was raging with him about what direction to take. He was leaning toward quietly divorcing her but he had not come to a settled decision because when the angel came to him in his dream, he was still trying to make a decision.*

*However, praise God, all the fear that he faced from all the unknowns was quickly erased by the message of the angel revealed to him in his dream. This message uncovered all the unknowns and opened Joseph's eyes to the truth. As the result of the unknowns being made known made it possible and without any hesitation for Joseph to make the right decision to take Mary as his wife. For the child she carried was not the result of an affair but rather the work of Almighty God. This knowledge cleared everything up for Joseph, and relieved his fear.*

*So, it is today, the fear of the unknown is real and devastating for those who are experiencing it. They don't seem to be able to move forward with their lives because of the uncertainty that comes with the unknown. Well, praise the Lord the Coming of Christ into the world has cleared up the unknown for us. For the angel has revealed to us whom the child was that Mary was carrying. This child came through the means of the Holy Spirit of God. His name was and is Jesus for He will save His people from their sins, for the name Jesus means Jehovah Saves. He also will be called Immanuel which means God with us. Therefore we no longer need to be afraid of the unknown. God knows all the unknowns and God has revealed to us the most important unknown. With the knowledge of this child we can face every unknown that comes our way. For the knowledge of Christ is knowledge that will see us through eternity. You can say I don't know about tomorrow but I know the One who holds the future and I am in His hands. Are you in His hands? Like Joseph let us take hold of the unknown made known and do as he did. "When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife." (vs. 24).*

### **III. Third, let us notice that Christmas cancelled the fear of death. (Luke 2:8-20).**

*The shepherds in the Christmas story were caught completely unaware of what was about to take place in the fields where they were taking care of their sheep. But when it did happen, it was so sudden and so overwhelming that they literally were terrified at a level that would have immediately instilled in their minds that their days had been numbered and this was going to be their last one.*

*Now this fear that gripped them that night was based upon a few things. First, the suddenness of the whole event would have scared the whit out of any of us as it did for them. They literally were shaking in their boots because it was so totally unexpected.*

*Second, the shepherds would have been terrified not only because of the suddenness of the whole thing but also the fact that it took place in a place where you just wouldn't have expected that kind of thing to take place. Basically, out in the middle of nowhere there was nothing but a few men and their sheep.*

*Third, the shepherds were terrified because they had come to realize that they were in the presence not only of the angel but of the Lord Himself for it tells us that, "The glory of the Lord shone around them." Then it said right after, "and they were terrified." (vs. 9). So they were suddenly aware that they shepherds who were so despised by so many were now the presences of Holy God. This probably made them more than the other reason already stated feel like they were goners. For Jesus believes that if sinful man came into the presence of Holy God they would be consumed by His Holiness. No wonder their fear was at the highest level.*

*Now, obviously the story lets us know that it wasn't their last day. Actually what we discover that they found just the opposite of death. For on this night they found life. The fear of death had been removed because of the news that the angel brought to the shepherds. Indeed death is bad news. The Bible calls it an enemy. However, the angel came to bring good news. It was news that a Savior had been born and that a Savior had been born and that Savior is Christ the Lord. The very thing that feared them on this night is the very thing that Christ came to save them from. He came to save them from their sins the very thing that brought death into the world and to each and all who will be born into this world. "For the wages of sin is death..." (Rom. 6:23). Also, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23). So, if the wages of sin is death and all have sinned then all are going to die.*

*However, praise God, I didn't write above all of one of the Bible verses I just mentioned. So, let me give the whole thing. "for the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 6:23). The shepherds found out that*

Night that the gift of this newborn child, Christ the Lord, was the gift of eternal life. By the end of that night the great fear of the shepherds had turned into great rejoicing.

*Do you want your fear to turn into great rejoicing? Then receive the message of the angel from that first Christmas night that a Savior who Christ the Lord has come for all the people to save them from their sins, death, hell and the grave.*

*The tragedy of 2020 is that our medical field and our politicians are treating like this is the only year that people have been dying. However, someone forgot to tell all the people buried in all the cemeteries around the world that they were suppose to have waited until 2020. How ludicrous. God warned Adam and Eve that the day they ate from the tree He told them not to, that they would surely die and they have ever since then. I've personally been burying people since the late 70's. Statistically, there are no more people dying this year than in the previous years. Unless Jesus comes first to rapture us out, we all will die physically from something. But like the shepherds, we need not fear death because Christ the Lord came to save us from it. The baby in the manger went to the cross, from the cross to the grave from the grave He arose victoriously. Like the shepherds let us quickly run to Jesus where there is life ever lasting to be found.*

*Jesus Loves You*

*Ralph Lee, Jr.*

## **Announcements**

Wednesday, December 23rd

**Night of Christmas Carols**

Message by: Pastor Ralph

R.A.'s

G.A.'S

No Youth

NO Supper

NO ABIDE



Wednesday, December 30th

**Night of Praise**

Message by" Pastor Ralph

R.A.'s

G.A.'s

Youth

NO Supper

NO ABIDE

*Happy New Year  
2021*



## Calendar of Events

### TODAY

**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*

**NO ABIDE**

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

*Offices Closed for holidays*

**Sunday, December 27th:**

*NO Breakfast*

## Memorial

*A gift of \$50.00 has been given to the General Fund  
In Memory of Margaret H. Vaigneur By Katherine Keiffer.*

*A gift of has been given to the General Fund  
In Memory of Margaret H. Vaigneur & in Honor of Byron C. Vaigneur  
By Alice & Gary Way.*

*A gift of \$100.00 has been given to the General Fund  
In Memory of Wallace Roberts By Travis, Emma & Natalie.*

*A gift of \$ 26.00 was given to Lottie Moon Offering  
By The Grandmother's Group.*



**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**

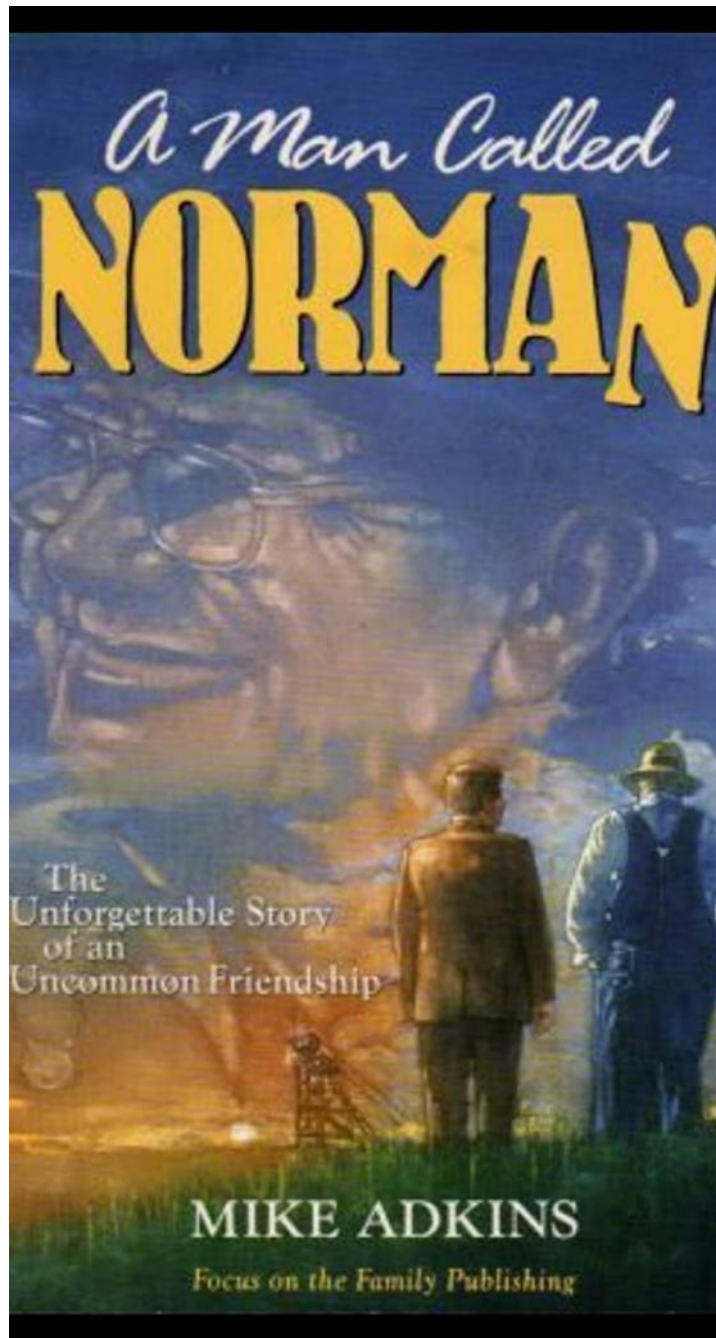
**YOUTH**—*Youth Annex*

**Leader-Faye Lowther**

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**Save the Date**

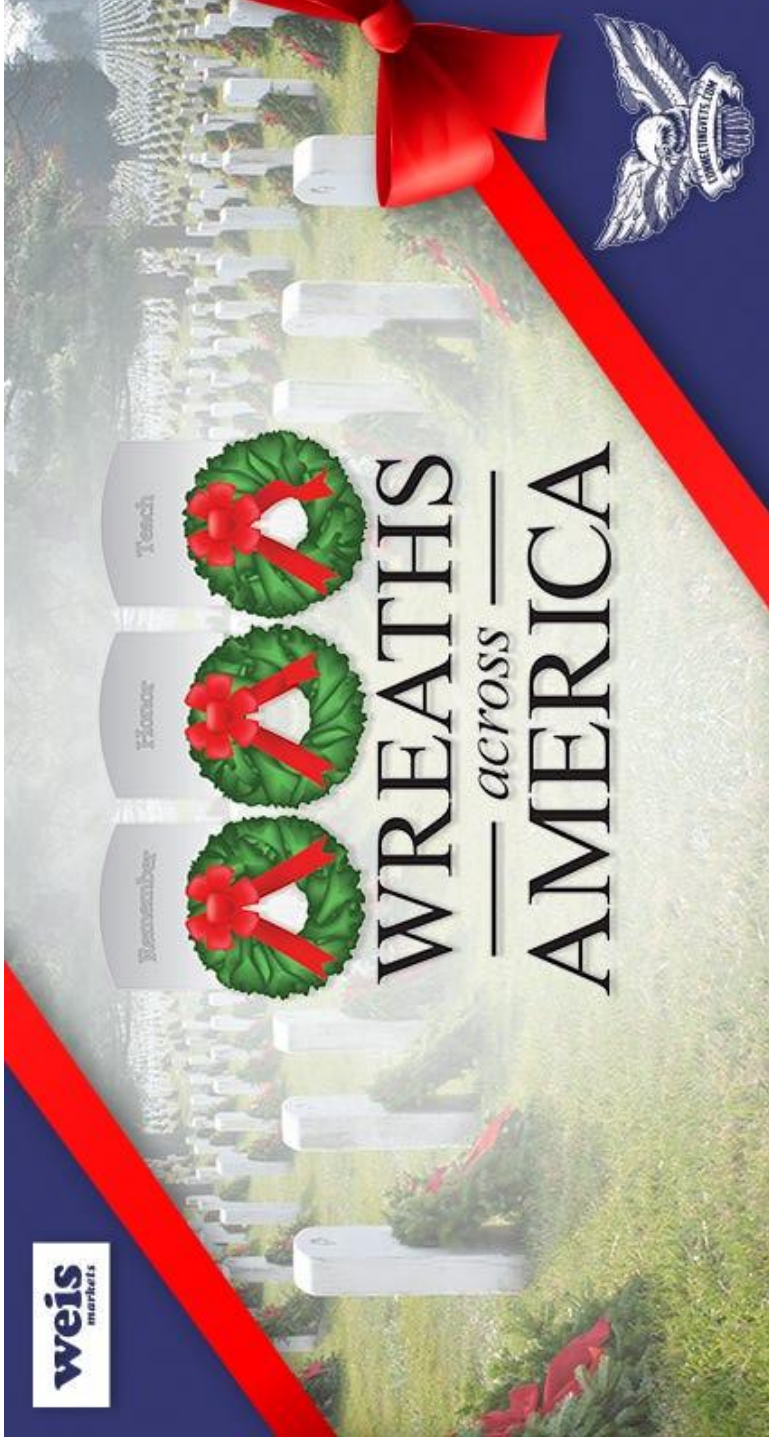
*December 20th*



*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 + / -
	\$ 5,553.00	\$ 4,982.47	+ \$ 887.33
<b>Online Offerings</b>	\$ 316.80		
<b>Designated Funds</b>	<b>This Week</b>	*****	<b>Acct. Balances</b>
Office Supply	\$ 4,259.66	*****	\$ 6,979.85
SFCA Donation	\$ 40.00	*****	\$ 40.00
George Pepper Scholarship Fund	\$5.00	*****	\$ 719.83
Lottie Moon Offering	\$ 601.00	*****	\$ 963.00
Kitchen Supplies	\$ 68.00	*****	\$ 95.22
Wednesday Night Supper	\$ 137.00	*****	\$ 457.02
Operation Christmas Child	\$50.00	*****	\$ 132.22
Church Repairs	\$ 67.77	*****	\$ 675.84
SFCA Security	\$ 123.89	*****	\$ 0.00
SFCA Trash Pick Up	\$ 240.00	*****	\$ 0.00
SFCA Electric	\$ 2,141.07	*****	\$ 3.00
SFCA Janitorial Supplies	\$ 500.00	*****	\$ 137.45

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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

## Expecting / Births

*Heather Reid, Feb.*

*Ministries  
Outreach Ministry  
In reach Ministry  
Abide Wednesday Services*

## Bereavement

*Family of  
Rufus Lamb  
C.E. Malphrus*

## 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  
Annette Mole  
Jerry E. Cooler*

## 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>Tuesday</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>Tammy Lee</i>
		<i>Krey Lee Lowther</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>26th</i>	<i>Ron Degler</i>



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>20th</i>	<i>Wallace &amp; Allene Malphrus</i>
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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