

Great Swamp  
Christmas  
FAMILY GATHERING

*Great Swamp Baptist Church*

*December 11, 2022*

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

**Invocation**

*Bjo Mills*

**Selections of Praise & Worship**

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer  
Worship by Giving  
Offertory Special

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

**Message**

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

**Invitation**

**Benediction Prayer**

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*Sunday Mornings*  
*Following The Song Service:*



**Nursery**  
**\*Help Needed\***



**Helpers:**  
**Mason Losgar**  
**Emily Johnson**



**DEACON OF THE WEEK:**

Today:

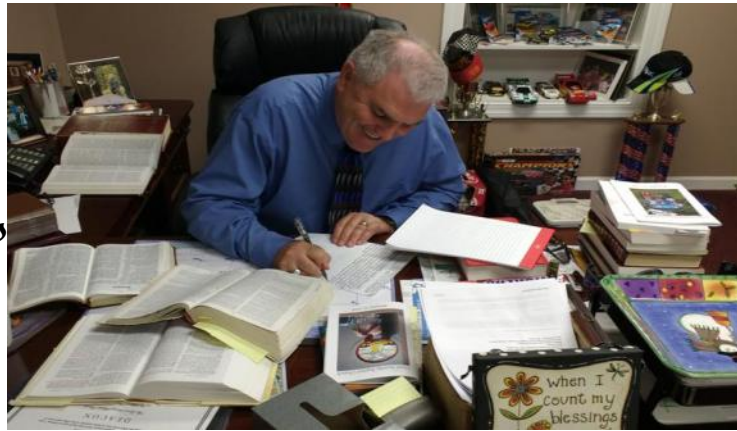
**Bjo Mills: 843-726-4344**

Next Week:

**Fred Stanley: 843-726-1963**



*From  
Pastor  
Ralph's  
Desk:*



## **When God Looked**

*(Psalm 14:1-7)*

### **Introduction:**

A number of years ago Tammy, Sophia, and I went to Chicago and while there we visited the Sears Tower building. We rode the elevator up 103 floors to the sky deck observation room. At that point you are nearly 1,400 feet above the ground. Sticking out of the room is a small little section you can enter that has a glass bottom floor. At that point there is nothing between you and the city sidewalk nearly 1,400 feet below. Now from that little platform you can see people and vehicles on the streets of Chicago, but you can't tell one specific thing about any of them. You can't make out the color of their skin or whether they are male or female or if they are tall or short and the list goes on and on.

However, according to our present set of verses when God looks down from His vantage point He misses nothing. He can tell you every specific thing there is about every individual below and in this set of verses He does just that. And what we will discover is that what He saw when He looked down ultimately led to Christmas. So let's take a look at what God saw when He looked down.

### **I. First, when God looked down He saw specific revelations**

#### **(verses 1-3).**

The first revelation that God sees and reveals is the complete and total depravity of the entire human race. "All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt. . ." (verse 3).

Now the second revelation that God sees and reveals is not only the depravity of mankind but also the deeds of the human race. And the news on this point is not good either. For the fact that humanity is depraved and corrupted then it follows that their deeds are not going to be very good either. Well, that's exactly what our Lord sees and confirms. “. . .there is no one who does good, not even one” (verse 3).

In our first verse, God declares that anyone who says from his heart that there is no God is a fool. It's important that we realize that because God said that these atheists were speaking from their heart and not their head that they are atheist because they choose to be not because the evidence says so. They are atheist by rebellion, not reasoning. They choose to be atheists because they love their sinful and corrupt lives that they are living. So choosing not to believe in their mind takes away any accountability on their part to God for their sinful lifestyle.

However in verse two, God points out the fact atheists or not when He looked down He saw that we all were corrupt and doing no good.

Now this is not the only place in the Bible where God looked down upon the human race and revealed what He found. In the Book of Genesis in the days of Noah God looked down and here is what He saw. “Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, ‘I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.’” (Genesis 6:11-13). This was roughly 1,500 years before King David. So from Noah's time to King David's time nothing had changed with the human condition. Both times God saw the same thing.

Well, maybe given enough time mankind would get better. At least that's what the theory of evolution would suggest if you believe it. So let's move forward in time just over a 1,000 years from King David's time here on earth and see if when God looked down He saw it any different or better. This would be during the time the Apostle Paul lived on the earth. So let's find out what he says about it.

“What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and the Gentiles alike are all under sin. As it is written there is no one righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, there is no one who does good, not even one. Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. The poison of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know. There is no fear of God before their eyes.” (Romans 3:9-18).

So what Paul has to say about it is that what God saw when He looked down in Genesis at the time of the flood, and what He saw when He looked down during the reign of King David was exactly the same thing He saw over a 1,000 years later during his time on the earth. So it is today when God looks down upon humanity He continues to see that same thing, that all of humanity is depraved in their human nature. Indeed, “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23).

However, praise be to our God that the story doesn't end here. As we move to our next point we will take note of the fact that when God looks down He looks through a prism that will cause Him to see beyond what we actually are to what we can become by His grace.

## **II. Second, when God looked down He saw a specific means of rescue (verse 7).**

There is no doubt according to God's Holy Word that our Lord desires all men to be saved. “This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (1 Tim 2:4) However, because of man's total depravity He was and is incapable of saving Himself. However when God looked down and saw our depravity He was also looking through the prism of grace, mercy, love, and compassion. This resulted in Him being able to see the means that He would use in order to rescue us from our depravity and reconcile us unto Himself.

Verse seven contains the means that He saw that He would use to rescue us. “Oh, that salvation, for Israel would come out of Zion! . . .” So our salvation must come out of Zion. Zion primarily refers to Jerusalem which is called the city of our Lord. It was called the City of our Lord because God chose it as the nation's capital and where His temple would dwell. So the point is that our salvation must come from God Himself. He must come to our rescue if we are to be saved and that's exactly what Christmas is all about. It was all about the Christmas Child who was called Immanuel, God with us.

As we've noted several times in this message, man wasn't seeking God so God came seeking us. As Jesus Himself said, “For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost.” (Luke 19:10). Now to do this He had to leave His home in heaven and become one of us in order to get our attention, draw us unto Himself and ultimately die for us. It required Him to take upon human flesh to do all that, and praise His name He did!

The writer of Hebrews explains it beautifully, “Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death that is the devil and see those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not the angels He helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason He had to be made like His brothers in every way, in order that He might become a merciful and high priest in service to God, and that He might make atonement for the sum of the people. Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted” (Hebrews 2:14-18).

Praise be to our God for becoming one of us so He could save us!

**Conclusion:**

In order for me to have developed a relationship with those people I was seeing up in the Sears Tower 1,400 feet below me I would have to get on the closest elevator, go down 103 floors to the lobby, walk out to the sidewalk where I would be able to see the people face to face, and have the opportunity to meet them and get to know them. Well, that’s exactly what Jesus did. He came down to where we are in order to reach us.

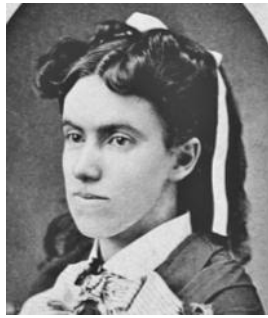
A great example is the Christmas bird story that Paul Harvey used to tell. I’m not going to write the whole story. However, in a nutshell it was about a man who didn’t believe in the incarnation of our blessed Lord into the world that first Christmas. One Christmas Eve while the rest of his family was at church for a Christmas Eve service he heard the sound of something hitting one of their windows. After investigating, he found out that it was a small flock of birds trying to get in his house because they were freezing out in the harsh cold winter storm going on outside. So he decided to open the door to their barn to allow them to have a place to get out of the weather, but no matter what he did and he tried he couldn’t get them to go in. Then he had a thought, if only I could become one of them I could tell them to go into the barn where they would be safe from the weather. Well, just at that moment the church bell rang and all at once he realized that that’s exactly what Jesus did and at that moment he cried out to the Lord for forgiveness and salvation.

For you and me He came. Oh, what a great Savior we have! He is looking at you and saying, ‘come to me because I’ve already come to you.’

Jesus Loves You,  
Ralph



Goal for 2022: \$3,000



100% of your gifts to the  
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®  
enable gospel transformation  
among the unreached.







<i>Monday</i>	<i>12th</i>	<i>Nadine Smoak</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>13th</i>	<i>Corinna Malphrus</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>15th</i>	<i>Henry Bradley</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>15th</i>	<i>Gregory Mariocourt</i>



	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Business Meeting</u></b>          Wednesday , December 14th          at 7:00 p.m.</p>
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## Christmas Card

### Delivery

\$0.25 per card delivered

The Youth and GAs will delivery in-house  
Christmas cards this year.

Mailbox for cards is in the foyer.

Proceeds go to Lottie Moon Christmas offering.



**Deacons' Meeting**  
Monday, December 12th  
at 6:00 p.m.

## Candlelight Service



### Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 21st

Starts at 7:00 p.m.



### Christmas Morning Service

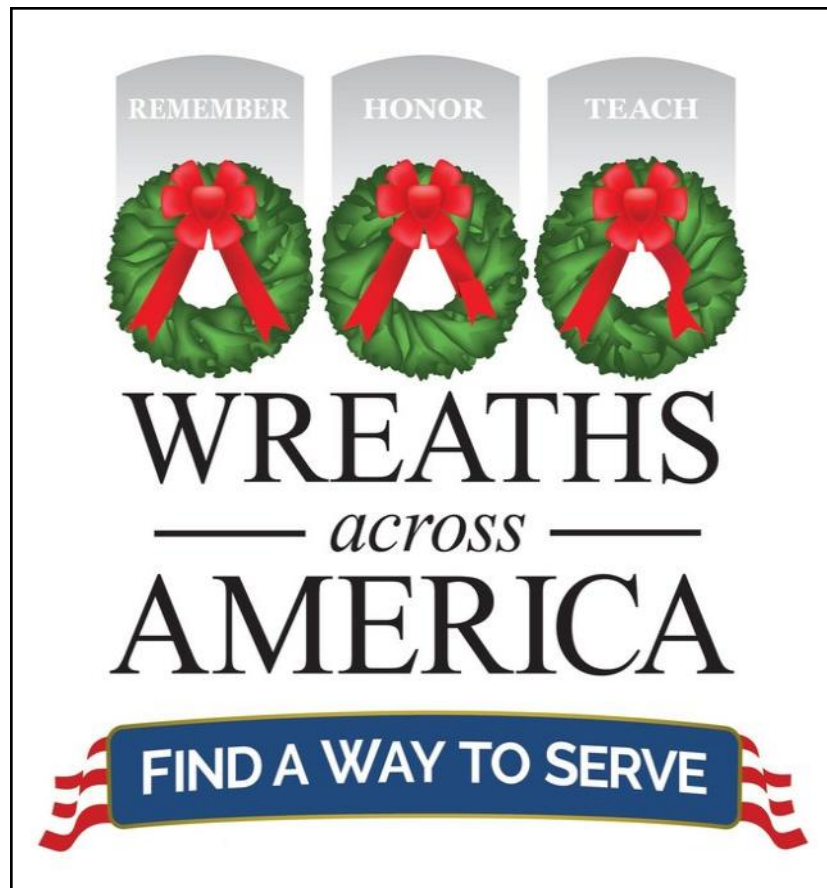
We will have a regular service Christmas morning.

Come join us

as we worship the Lord on this  
glorious Christmas morning!

Hallelujah Jesus is born!!!!

**\*\*Worship service ONLY\*\***



## **Wreaths Across America**

Order a wreath for your loved ones.

Cost: \$15.00 each

Cut-off Date:

Wednesday, December 14th

The list is on the bulletin board on the back wall.

Quiver Full Foster Closet  
presents our annual



# TOY CHRISTMAS DRIVE

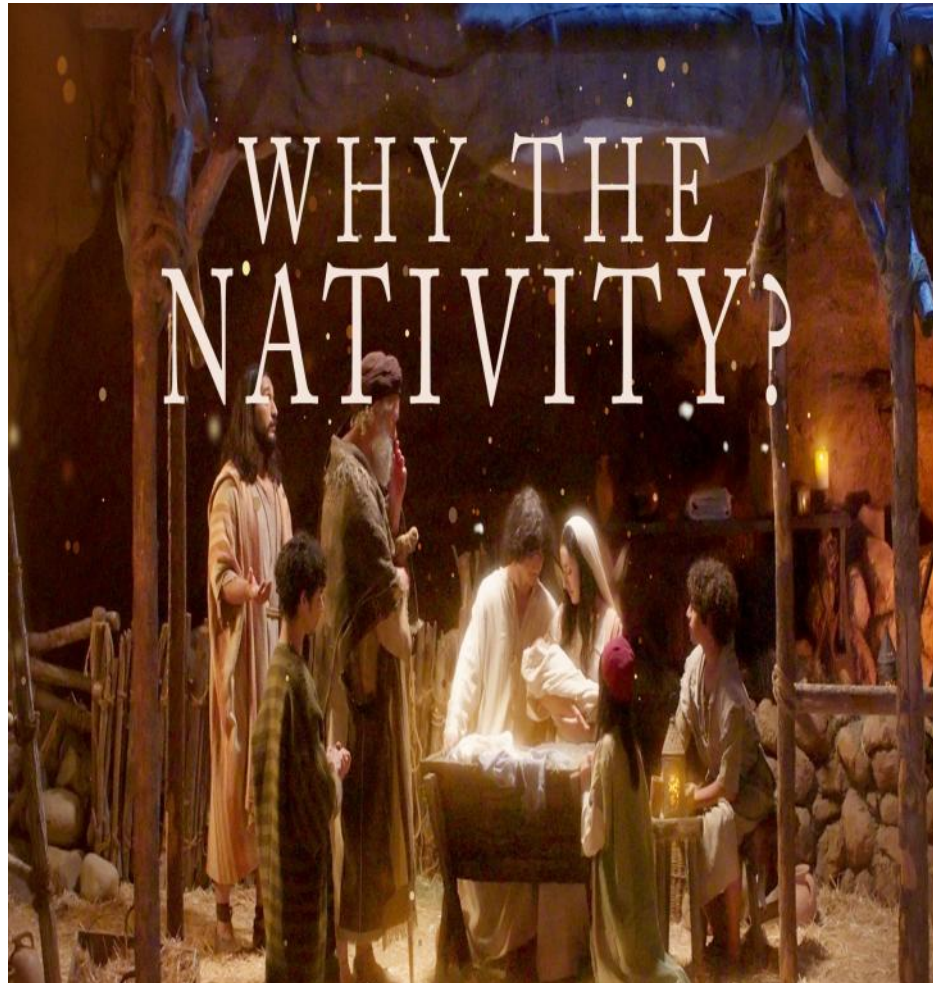
DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL

**DECEMBER 21, 2022**

We are accepting new, unwrapped toys & gift cards to bless children ages birth to 18. Help us spread love & excitement among local children in need this Christmas season!

QUIVER FULL FOSTER CLOSET ON FACEBOOK

Made with [iStockphoto.com](https://www.canva.com)



**Why the Nativity Movie**

Sunday, December 18th

6:00 Snacks

6:30 Movie begins

Come see an amazing movie!!

## Sunday School Classes

**@ 9:15am**

**CAMO CLASS - Room 406 - Bobby Smith**  
.....

**GLEANERS CLASS - Room 401 - Darlene Bollack**  
.....

**VISIONARIES CLASS - Building 3, Old Social Hall**  
*Leader - Diane Thames/Greg Mariocourt*  
.....

**SOJOURNERS CLASS - Room 417 - Mack Pope**  
.....

**YOUTH - Youth Annex Leader - Amanda Hodges**  
.....

**BLUE ANGELS - 1ST & 2ND GRADES - Room 415 -**  
**April Malphrus**

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## Wednesday Night Services

**@ 7:00 pm**

**WORSHIP SERVICE** *Multi-Purpose Building*  
*Leader-Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*  
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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-Carol Davis/Diane Thames*



**Grandmothers Group**  
**Chinese Christmas Party**



**Monday, December 12th**  
**At 11:00 a.m.**  
**Great Swamp Baptist Church**  
**In the Church**  
**Multi-Purpose Building**

**Please bring a \$5 to \$10 gift**  
**to participate**

**Bring a covered dish, soup,**  
**or a dessert.**

**Plan on having**  
**a wonderful time!!!**

**RSVP: Debbie 843-368-5436**  
**Or Jennifer 843-726-3631**







**Beginning at 6:00 p.m.  
Service to follow at 7:00 p.m.**

**Team Keith will be cooking!  
Come out and have dinner  
and fellowship with us!**

**\*\*\*No Supper Wednesday 12/21\*\*\*  
\*\*\*No Breakfast Sunday 12/25\*\*\***

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**Sunday Morning  
Breakfast**

**Begins at 8:00 a.m.  
\$5.00 each or \$15.00  
for a family of 4  
or more**

# GSBC Prayer Page

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

## **Leadership**

*President / Vice President of the  
United States of America*

## **Hospitals**

*Shannon Pinner—Greenville  
Stan Stones—Memorial  
James Nicholson—Piedmont*

## **Surgery / Recovery**

## **Nursing Centers**

*Elaine Degler - RNC  
Bobby Mohn - Indigo Pines HHI  
Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe  
Dot Nettles - NHC  
Dot Smart - NHC*

## **Please Continue To Remember**

### **Homebound**

<i>Shirley Malphrus</i>	<i>Tom Hinely</i>
<i>Rose Boyles</i>	<i>Ann Blocker</i>
<i>Judy Smith</i>	<i>Doby Cleland</i>
<i>Vera Floyd</i>	<i>Lucille &amp; Ron Degler</i>
<i>Barbara Mills</i>	<i>Red &amp; Helen Malphrus</i>
<i>Alice &amp; Gary Way</i>	<i>Thomas &amp; Erma Cooler</i>
<i>Kenny Smith</i>	
<i>Diane Hannah</i>	

## **Church Needs**

*Sunday School  
SFCA-Donna Carter  
Child Development  
Ministries*

## **Unspoken**

*Leigh Laycock*

## **Cancer / Treatments**

*Skip Brooks  
Regina Bouye  
Kaiaya Alston  
Lloyd Freeman  
Lisa Chandler  
Pat Headley*

## *Ministries*

*Outreach Ministry  
In reach Ministry*

## **Bereavement**

## **Other Health Needs**

*Tracey Lake  
Pinky Rushing  
Sara Davis  
Bob Cramer  
Marie Malphrus  
Mary Kay Cade  
Ellen Nettles  
Donna Roberts  
Jennifer Pitts Key  
Tim Roberts  
Chris Blanchard  
Jane Himes' Nephew  
Keith Gamo  
Doug & Melanie Hamm  
Randy Smoak  
Dean Daley  
Laurie Norman  
Rex Norman  
Rose Sheehan  
Steve Bailey  
Mark Mingledorff  
Kenny Hay*

## **Pray For Our Military**

*Sgt. Jared Blanton-Deployed  
Matthew Mills-US Marines  
Jericho Malphrus-Sp. Agent / Air Force  
Washington, D.C.  
Michael Sottile - Ret.  
Tristan Blanton-San Diego/ SWCC  
Andrea C. Daring-Charleston, SC*

## Church Staff

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

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

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

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

Administrative Assistant: **Jennifer Meador** .....greatswampbaptist@hargray.com  
843-726-3631

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

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

Finance Director: **Timmy Sauls** .....greatswampbaptist@hargray.com

## Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$5,352.00	\$ 4,982.47	+\$369.53
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$0.00		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Sunday Morning Breakfast</i>	\$101.00	*****	\$452.19
<i>Kitchen Supplies</i>	\$25.00	*****	\$42.45
<i>Operation Christmas Child</i>	\$105.00	*****	\$770.17
<i>Wreaths Across America</i>	\$105.00	*****	\$300.00
<i>Wednesday Night Supper</i>	\$160.00	*****	\$145.80
<i>Gleaner's Sunday School</i>	\$51.00	*****	\$850.06
<i>Lottie Moon</i>	\$24.00	*****	\$24.00



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

*Sunday School*.....9:15AM  
*Morning Worship*.....10:30AM  
*Wednesday Night Service*.....7:00PM

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