



*Great Swamp Baptist Church*

*December 18, 2022*

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

Sunday Morning Worship

*10:30 AM*

## **Announcements**

## **Call to Worship**

Hymn #94 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

## **Invocation**

*Bjo Mills*

## **Selections of Praise & Worship**

Hymn #105 “Child in the Manger”

Hymn #100 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

Worship by Giving

Offertory Special by Mended

## **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:*



## **Christmas Crumbles Concerns**

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

### **Introduction:**

Fear is introduced three times in the Christmas story. However about as quickly as it was introduced, it was also relieved and removed.

We, too, enter into the Christmas season with fear of all kind. Especially now with all the uncertainty of our times and of our world do we often fear and tremble.

However, like the first Christmas, if we will focus on the true Christmas story our fear can be relieved and removed. We will see this by examining both the fear of that first Christmas but also how that first Christmas relieved their fears. My message title is Christmas Crumbles Concerns.

### **I. First, as we consider that Christmas crumbles concerns we need to examine what their concerns were.**

Of course what we will discover is that the concerns of the personalities of the first Christmas season. Human progress has not removed our fears and concerns. So let's see what they were and how they are so much like ours.

### **A. Let's notice that the first concerns they had was from being confounded.**

Now what I'm referring to here for each of the three personalities we are examining was the clear, loud, and sudden appearance of the angels who came to deliver them the message that God wanted each one of them to receive. More times than we can count we've all been scared out of our wits by some simple unexpected event that caught us off guard. So you can imagine how fearful and confounded they were and we would be if we had been in their shoes.

So maybe like the first Christmas personalities we are coming into this Christmas season with fear and concern because of some sudden event or news that came into our lives and it has absolutely confounded us and thrown our lives into a tailspin.

The sudden news of the stock market crash October 29, 1929 devastated the lives of our entire nation and for many the news was so devastating that they took their own lives. The roaring 20s were gone and the start of a long depression was started.

Just three years ago this coming March in a fairly sudden manner we were basically told we had to shut down and just stay home. This sudden news changed everything for us as far as how we carried on our lives and we've never gotten back to the way we did things pre-Covid. For many of us this caused great fear and concern which still affects us today.

Well, let me go ahead and make a statement which later in this message I will elaborate on. It's simply the theme of my message Christmas can relieve and remove our concerns that have been brought on by sudden things that have confounded us.

**B. Let's notice that the second concern they had would have been their condition.**

All of these characters we are referring to in the first Christmas were Jews. Therefore, one of the things they would have been taught as they were brought up was that God is absolute perfection and holiness. Of course this is absolutely true. They also were taught that because God was perfect and holy that if they ever saw Him they would be consumed because of their sinfulness. So I am sure that for a moment when the angel appeared in their presence that because of their sinful condition they thought that they might be consumed or at least that something bad was going to happen to them.

This Christmas season you may be dealing with some kind of condition that has created fear and concern for you. These conditions might be physical, mental, emotional, relational, and/or spiritual. However the good news of that first Christmas brought relief to the fear that they faced from the condition that they were dealing with and it will do the same for us.

**C. Let's notice that the third concern they had would have been their circumstances.**

Boy, with that first Christmas the circumstances of both Mary and Joseph changed drastically. All their personal plans are basically thrown out the window as we would typically say. For example how is Mary going to explain to Joseph about her pregnancy? How is this pregnancy going to affect their marriage which is soon to take place? And these are just a few of the questions that she and Joseph are going to have to face or had to face. These new circumstances were life changing for them as they would have been for us.

This Christmas season for many of us our circumstance have changed and now we have many new questions we are having to ask like how we are going to deal with the new circumstances in our lives and often these new circumstances are quit scary and fearful.

The good news however is that no matter what our circumstances may be, Christmas was given to relieve and remove our fears and in our second point we will see how that first Christmas given us relief from our fear and concern.

**II. Second, as we consider that Christmas crumbles concerns we need to examine how it crumbled their concerns.**

As we pointed out earlier that just about as fast as fear was introduced into that first Christmas it was also quickly removed by the message of the angels, and actual events that took place.

**A. First their concerns crumbled that first Christmas because of the grace given to them.**

One of the concerns mentioned in our first point was the concern of their sinful condition. But the angle told Mary that she was highly favored with God. The word favor here is related to the word grace. So what the angel was telling Mary was that God in His great grace had chosen her for this task. So it was the grace of our God that made it possible for her to carry Jesus in her womb, not the fact that she was better than everyone else.

As well the shepherds who were the first group of people to receive the news that the Christ child was born were considered By many in their day to be the lowest of the low and looked down upon in a very degrading manner. Their condition was considered to be unworthy and undesirable.

Yet the very ones that so many people despised and looked down upon God in His grace invited them first to hear the good news that a Savior had been born and He was Christ the Lord. And they first got to get a look at the face of the very child who would grow up and become the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world.

Whatever condition you find yourself in God in His grace has sent His Son into the world to save us from our sins. So don't let your conditions keep you in fear, go to Jesus for He's come to you in spite of your condition in order that He might change your condition to one that makes you acceptable to God and will ultimately alter your condition to one of perfection. Amen. So hang in there because of Christmas, it's going to get better.

**B. Second, their concerns crumbled that first Christmas because of the guidance given them.**

Another one of the concerns that arose that first Christmas which we examined in their first point was the concern over their changing circumstances. As we recognized Mary and Joseph's circumstances drastically changed and with a whole new set of problems that they had never faced before and would have been unassured of how to deal with them. For example Mary wondered how she was going to get pregnant without having been with a man. Well, God had the answer for Mary. She didn't have to be afraid or worried about it because God had it all planned out and part of that plan is that the Holy Spirit would in a way unbeknownst to us place the Son of God in her womb so that she could conceive and give birth to Jesus the Holy Son of God.

So God gave Joseph and Mary continual guidance to deal with all the issues that arose with their new circumstances. And so it is with us when circumstances change in our lives, because of Christmas we know that as God guided Mary and Joseph through all of their new and difficult circumstances guiding them all the way He's doing the same for His people today. So don't become alarmed by changing circumstances in our lives because they didn't catch God off guard. He already knew they were coming and allowed them to show that He can guide us through them.

**C. Third, their concerns crumbled that first Christmas because of the Glorious one given.**

The other concern mentioned in the previous point was the concern of sudden things that take place in our lives which confound us. As with Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds the sudden appearance of the angel stirred up fear in a quick moment which changed everything in their life in that quick moment.

However immediately the angels removed their fear by giving them the awesome news that they don't need to be afraid because the reason they were there either was to tell them that the Savior was coming or as in the case of the shepherds had come, and that He had come to save them and us from our sins. And that this baby who came to do this was Immanuel God with us.

So because God came to save us from our sins and He was with us and in our midst to make it happen we don't have to fear when sudden things happen to us that we weren't expecting, because whatever it will be God will be right there with us. With all who surrender their lives to Him He will be there not only when sudden things frightened them but also when their circumstances change for a long period He will be there then as well. As a matter of fact, He will never leave you nor forsake you.

**Conclusion:**

So this Christmas season let us rejoice like never before because the message of that first Christmas still rings loud and clear today that Christmas for the Child of God and all who will trust Him, will crush their concerns.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee





<i>Monday</i>	<i>19th</i>	<i>Diane Thames</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>19th</i>	<i>Rhonda Standard</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>Tammy Lee</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>Krey Lee Lowther</i>



<i>Monday</i>	<i>19th</i>	<i>Bill &amp; Donna Carter</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>19th</i>	<i>Mike &amp; Vicky Mingledorff</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>20th</i>	<i>Wallace &amp; Allene Malphrus</i>



## 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.



# 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\*\*

## Finance Committee Info

The 2023 budget is in the foyer for info. The budget was presented at the regular business meeting on December 14, 2022 and discussed. The budget will be voted on without discussion on Sunday after service December 25, 2022.

Please note that beginning of the new budget year 2023 that before any monies can be spent from regular or designated funds a request form must be received from the church office secretary or finance committee, filled out, and returned for approval. No exceptions!!!

Respectfully,  
Finance Committee

 <p><b>Deacons</b> Called To Serve</p>	<p><b><u>Deacons' Meeting</u></b> Monday, January 9th</p>
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	<p><b><u>Business Meeting</u></b> Wednesday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m.</p>
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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

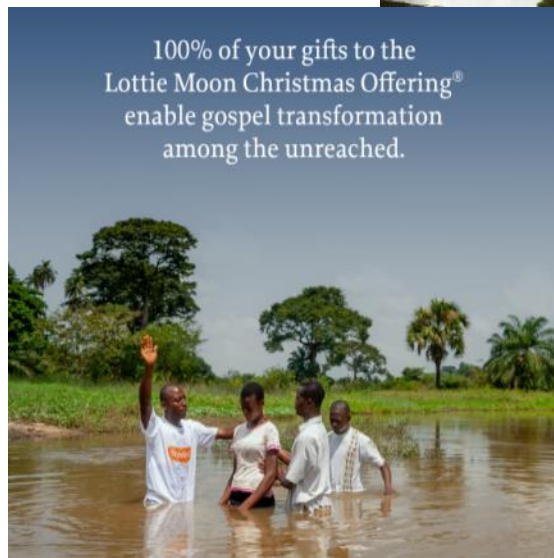
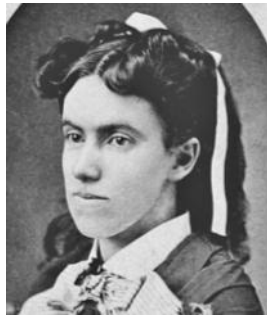
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Goal for 2022: \$3,000



## 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*





**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 & 12/28\*\*\*  
\*\*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  
Melonia Williams—Savannah  
Memorial*

## 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>Stan Stones</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 + / -
	<b>\$4,728.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,982.47</b>	<b>-\$254.47</b>
<b>Online Offerings</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Office Supply</i>	<i>\$180.00</i>	*****	<i>\$593.56</i>
<i>Wreaths Across America</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>	*****	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Wednesday Night Supper</i>	<i>\$154.00</i>	*****	<i>\$299.00</i>
<i>Lottie Moon</i>	<i>\$190.00</i>	*****	<i>\$214.00</i>



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