



*Give thanks to the  
LORD, for he is  
good; his love  
endures forever.*

1 CHRONICLES 16:34

***Great Swamp Baptist Church***

***January 15, 2023***

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

Sunday Morning Worship

*10:30 AM*

## **Announcements**

## **Call to Worship**

Hymn #335 “Standing on the Promises”

## **Invocation**

*Bjo Mills*

## **Selections of Praise & Worship**

“Way Maker”

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer  
Worship by Giving  
Offertory Special by Mended.

*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:

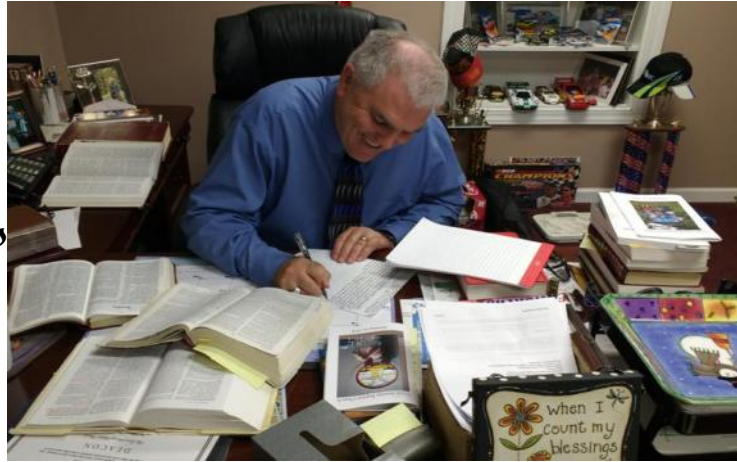
**Bjo Mills: 843-726-4344**

Next Week:

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



*From  
Pastor  
Ralph's  
Desk:*



## **A Worthy Watchman** **(Eph 3:1-21)**

### **Introduction:**

Ezekiel was a prophet to a people much like who we are facing today. For the Lord told Ezekiel that the people, the nation of Israel, whom he's a prophet to were hardened, obstinate, and rebellious. Across our nation people have indeed become hardened, obstinate, and rebellious. God has not only become someone that you choose to ignore but rather now He's someone that you choose to flat out rebel against.

Therefore because the people had become hardened, obstinate, and rebellious did God tell Ezekiel to ignore them, or altogether give up on them?

Well, of course, the answer to those questions was absolutely no. Rather, God told Ezekiel, "Son of man, go now to the home of Israel and speak my words to them." (verse 4). God tells him that he must become a watchman to the nation.

Now in those days most towns and cities built walls around their towns or cities. The walls were built to protect the people inside from any approaching enemies or danger. The watchman was the person designed to walk around a top of the city wall where He could keep an eye out for any impending danger to the town or city. If he became aware of any imminent danger then he was to sound the horn and warn the people.

So it was that God called Ezekiel to be a watchman that he might warn the people of incoming danger. Danger that was life threatening. And so it is that God has also called us to be watchman in our day to warn our people of incoming danger that is detrimental to a person's walk with God.

Our set of verses reveal what it means to be what I'm calling a worthy watchman. So let's take a close look that it might help to inspire us to be worthy watchman.

**I. First, let's take notice of how Ezekiel got the role of a worthy watchman (vs 4,17)**

Well, of course this is a very straightforward answer, and it was plainly stated, "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. . . ." (vs 17). Well, we certainly know who the "I" is in the verse. It was, of course, God. For He's the one who is speaking to Ezekiel. Also in verse four God told Ezekiel to go to the house of Israel and speak His words to them. So plainly put Ezekiel is in the role because God called him to it.

Well, like Ezekiel we too must do the work of a watchman because God has called us to do so. We have been divinely appointed by God to warn the people whether they want to hear it or not. All of the Gospels end with a command from God to be His witness to this dying world. So we can't use any excuse to get out of witnessing and warning the people of our nation, and our world because God has called us to this ongoing ministry.

**II. Second, let's notice what Ezekiel's responsibilities were as a worthy watchman (vs 1-4; 17)**

From these verse we discover that the watchman was given two responsibilities. The first responsibility that God gave the watchman was to receive His word. "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak..." (vs 17).

In the opening verses of the chapter God gave Ezekiel a certain scroll to eat and he did just as God told him to. When he did, he discovered that it was sweet like honey in his mouth. By eating the scroll he was receiving God's word.

So if we too are going to be worthy watchmen like Ezekiel we must receive God's word. And also like Ezekiel we don't have to sit around trying to figure out what it is that God wants us to hear. For God's already given it to us. Ezekiel's word came in a scroll. Eventually that scroll became a part of God's Holy Word written in the pages of the Bible. So all we've got to do to hear the words that God speaks is to open up the pages of the Bible and begin reading.

Now the reason why it's absolutely essential to receive God's word is so that when we speak to the people God sends us to we will be able to speak the truth to them.

The second responsibility that God gives the watchman is to not only receive His word but secondly to proclaim His word. "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the home of Israel; so hear the words I speak and give them warning from me." (vs 17)

Once again as we go back to the opening verses after Ezekiel ate the scroll containing God's word God then said to him, "...Son of man, go now to the house of Israel and speak my words to them." (vs 4

God didn't tell him to go and speak his opinions, or his ideas, or his desires, or what society is saying. No, God said go and speak my words to them. What the world needs to hear is God's word.

It's no different for us thousands of years later. We too are called to proclaim the message of God's word to this lost and dying world. As the Apostle Paul said to the young preacher Timothy, "Until I come devote yourself to the public reading of scripture, to preaching and to teaching." (I Tim 4:13) Let us devote ourselves to the same thing.

### **III. Third, let's notice what was Ezekiel's revelation that he proclaimed as a worthy watchman. (vs 18-21)**

In other words what was the specific message that God gave to Ezekiel for him to reveal and preach to the people? Well, when you read these specific verses it becomes very clear that the message God has called Ezekiel to proclaim was a warning to the nation that their sins which they were continuously carrying out was going to lead to their downfall. Actually more specifically it was going to lead them to their death. But his message also offered the means of not dying but living and being saved. And that was by heeding the warning and turning from their sins and doing the right thing.

Now Ezekiel didn't have the entire Bible but we do. Our message too is both a warning, but also a means of accomplishing the message of the warning. In other words, like Ezekiel's message we have to warn people that God is not pleased with our sinfulness, and that it separates us from God, and will eternally separate from God if we don't experience the salvation that God alone provides.

Of course we all know that the Bible is clear that the only means of salvation is by our repentance and faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ our Lord who went to Calvary cross to take our place and pay the price for our sinfulness. Only in Him can our sins be forgiven and our lives saved from death, hell, and the grave.

What message are you proclaiming only the message of the cross from God's Holy Word will do?

**IV. Fourth, let's notice how Ezekiel was so robust in his work as a worthy watchman. (v 7-9)**

In these verses God flat out and told Ezekiel that he would fulfill this role as a worthy watchman not only because He called him to do it but also because He would give him the strength and the means to get it done.

“But I will make you as unyielding and hardened as they are. I will make your forehead like the hardest stone, harder than flint. Do not be afraid of them or terrified by them though they are a rebellious house (vs 8,9).” So God was saying to Ezekiel no matter how tough they get to deal with God would make him even tougher to be able to deal with them.

So it is that God has promised that as we are out fulfilling the work of a worthy watchman that He will be right there with us empowering us through the blessed person of the Holy Spirit. So let us not cower down but rather let us boldly take God's word to the people.

**V. Fifth, let's notice what were Ezekiel's rewards as a worthy watchman.**

There were two rewards that Ezekiel experienced as he fulfilled his role as a worthy watchman. The first reward was the fact that he did what God had asked him to do. As a matter of fact God said you speak whether they listen to you or don't listen to you (vs 11). So God was saying you do what I'm telling you to do regardless of how the people respond.

So it is today as the people of God we have a responsibility to do what God asked us to do regardless of what the results may be simply because it's what God asked you to do. And like Ezekiel we will have the joy of knowing we did what God asked us to do and knowing that He will acknowledge that some day when we receive our rewards.

The second reward was knowing that doing the work of a worthy watchman just might lead someone to go down the right path, turn from their wicked ways, and believe. Thus, they would be saved.

So let us faithfully do the work of a worthy watchman and we will make it possible for some to believe and be saved, and this will be a great reward.

**Conclusion:**

So the question is like Ezekiel would we be accused of being a worthy watchman, or would they say that we never had time to be concerned about the dangers facing the people around us? Lord help us to be worthy watchmen.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee



Please note the church office will be closed Monday, January 16th in observance of the Martin Luther King federal holiday.





# Movie Night!

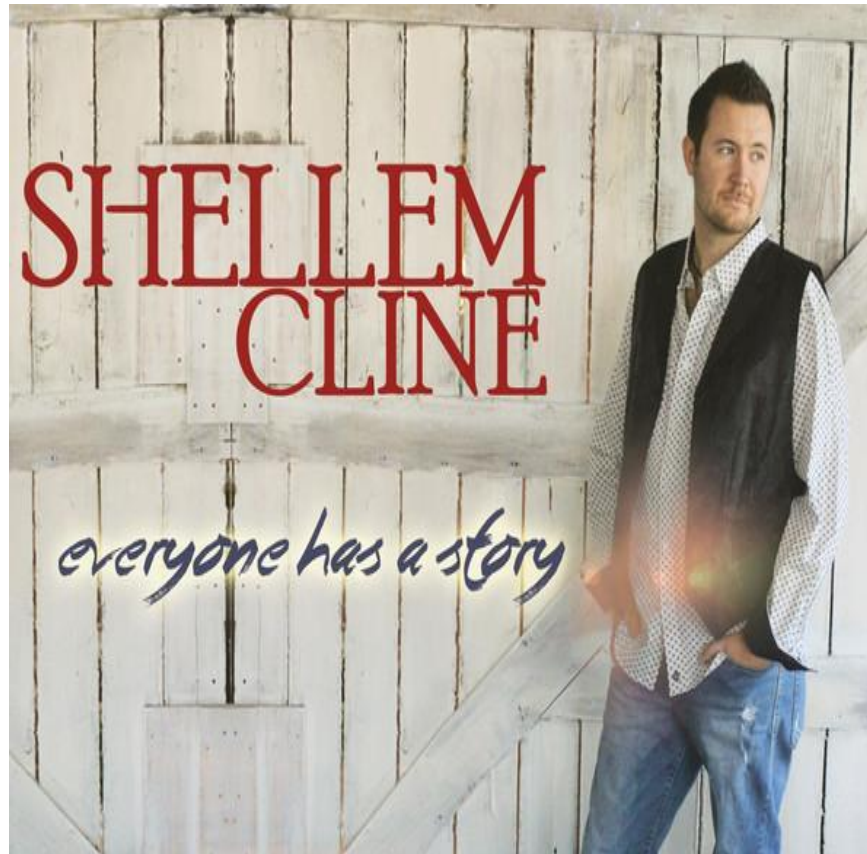
Sunday Night, January 29th

Concessions at 6:00 p.m.

Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.

Popcorn and Tea Provided

Please Bring Finger Foods to Share!



**Shellem Cline Concert**

January 22, 2023

During morning church  
service at 10:30 a.m.

A love offering will be taken at  
the end of the service.

## 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.**  
.....

**YOUTH GROUP** *Youth Annex*  
**Leader-Michelle Waitt**  
.....

**R.A.'S (Royal Ambassadors)** *Room 417*  
**Leader-Pat Mason**  
.....

**G.A.'S (GIRLS IN ACTION)** *Room 415*  
**Leader-Carol Davis/Diane Thames**

# Community Prayer



# Gathering

Prayer



Saturday, January 21  
10:00 am 'til 12:00 pm  
Okatee Baptist Church  
"Meet Me at the Cross"

Prayer Leaders/Testimonials by:  
Pastor Woody Oliver, Okatee Baptist  
Pastor Warren Jones, Shell Point Baptist  
Cassandra Deans, Executive Director, Ra-  
diance Women's System  
Beth Bonds, SRBA WMU Director

Coffee, Hot Chocolate, and Water will be  
provided.

In case of bad weather, event will be moved  
inside to the worship sanctuary.



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>15th</i>	<i>Ann Nettles</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>20th</i>	<i>Evelyn Bradley</i>



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★  
★ **Grandmothers' Group** ★  
★ Monday, February 6th ★  
★ at 11:30 a.m. ★  
★ *All grandmothers* ★  
★ *welcome!* ★  
★  
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**Men's Quarterly**  
**Multi-Church Fellowship**

Thursday, January 19th at 7:00 p.m.  
Beaver Dam Baptist Church

Meal served at 7:00 and speaker to follow  
For more information, please contact  
Wilbur Daley at 843-305-0110



**Men Helping Men Be Men.**



It's that time of year again! Time to take all of your spare change and fill up baby bottles to support the Radiance Women's Center!



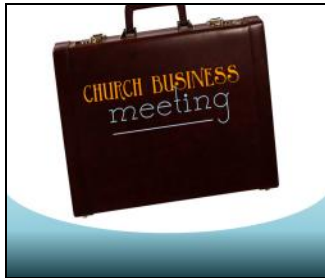
Please sign up on the back wall, take a baby bottle or two, fill it up with money (coins or bills or even checks), and bring it back.

**Due Date: February 15th**



Note: Cassandra Deans from Radiance will be coming to speak to the church on January 29th about the baby bottle drive.

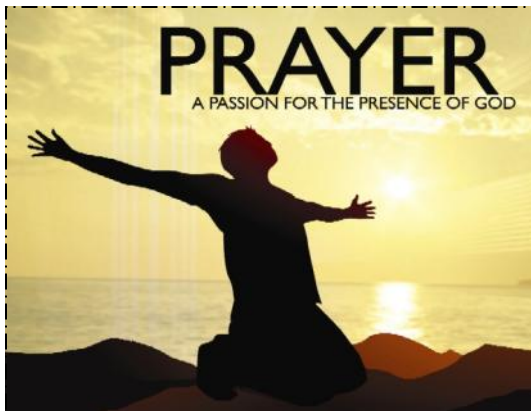




**Business Meeting**  
Wednesday, February 8th  
at 7:00 p.m.



**Deacons' Meeting**  
Monday, February 13th  
at 6:00 p.m.



Prayer Group  
Tuesday  
Mornings @  
9:00am





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

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

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

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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*

## **Church Needs**

*Sunday School  
SFCA-Donna Carter  
Child Development  
Ministries*

*Ministries  
Outreach Ministry  
In reach Ministry*

## **Bereavement**

## **Unspoken**

## **Hospitals**

*Jane Garbade—MUSC*

## **Surgery/Recovery**

## **Cancer/Treatments**

*Regina Bouye  
Kaiaya Alston  
Pat Headley  
Leigh Laycock*

## **Other Health Needs**

*Pinky Rushing  
Sara Davis  
Bob Cramer  
Mary Kay Cade  
Ellen Nettles  
Jennifer Pitts Key  
Chris Blanchard  
Keith Gamo  
Doug & Melanie Hamm  
Rose Sheehan  
Steve Bailey  
Mel Toland  
Kayla Malphrus  
Nadine Smoak*

## **Nursing Centers**

*Elaine Degler - RNC  
Bobby Mohn - Indigo Pines HHI  
Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe  
Dot Nettles - 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>Marie Malphrus</i>
<i>Diane Hannah</i>	<i>Margaret Nelson</i>

### **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

# Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$4,623.00	\$ 5,012.49	-\$240.29
<b>Online Offerings</b>	<b>\$149.20</b>		
<b>Designated Funds</b>	<b>This Week</b>	*****	<b>Acct. Balances</b>
<i>Office Supplies</i>	\$194.20	*****	\$616.50
<i>Lottie Moon</i>	\$225.00	*****	\$1,758.00
<i>Sunday Morning Breakfast</i>	\$95.00	*****	\$271.76
<i>Wednesday Night Supper</i>	\$165.00	*****	-\$67.48
<i>Kitchen Supplies</i>	\$150.00	*****	\$267.45
<i>Dot Lee Scholarship</i>	\$100.00	*****	\$1,149.70



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