

# 2023 class of

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

<sup>12</sup>“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:12-14



*Great Swamp Baptist Church*

*May 21, 2023*

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

Sunday Morning Worship

*10:30 AM*

**Announcements**

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

**Call to Worship**

**Invocation**

*Keith Gamo*

**Praise & Worship**

*Richard Waitt*

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\***

**Children's**  
**CHURCH**

**Helpers:**  
**Emily Johnson**



**DEACON OF THE WEEK:**

Today:

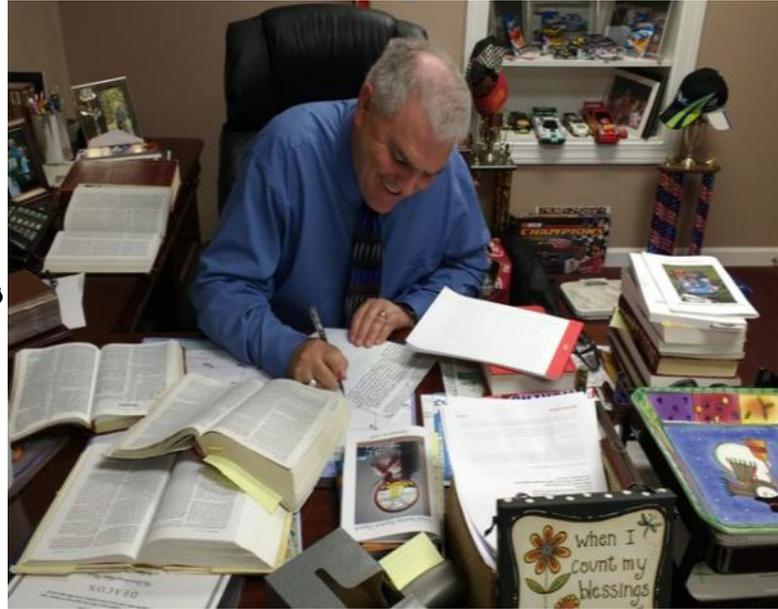
**Keith Gamo: 843-986-8525**

Next Week:

**Freddie Malphrus: 843-726-3905**



*From  
Pastor  
Ralph's  
Desk:*



**Hannah's Times Required Hannah's Choice**  
**(I Samuel 1:10-28; 2:1-10; and Joshua 24:19-27)**

**Introduction:**

The account of Hannah is a well known Biblical event that is often used for mother's day sermons. However, I believe that what's often missing with these sermons is the context of the times in which Hannah lived. I believe wholeheartedly that more than ever as we investigate the events surrounding Hannah that we really need to take into consideration the times in which she lived because they are so much like the times that we are living in today.

The real focus of the message however is the fact that Hannah made the right choice for her son Samuel both because of her times and regardless of her times. So with this message we are going to take a journey into the past which reminds us of the present to find solutions for the now.

**I. First, Hannah's times required Hannah's choice because of the dedication the nation had made (Joshua 24:19-27)**

So the times in which Hannah lived was during the period in which the Judges ruled. This period of 200 to 300 years was sandwiched between the time Israel conquered and settled in the promise land with the end of Joshua's leadership over the nation and the beginning of the rule of the Kings.

Just before Joshua dies and the judges begin ruling, Joshua makes a challenge of the people to dedicate themselves and their nation to God's control over their lives. And in this chapter in the Book of Joshua that we are using for this point the people and the nation chose to do that very thing. "But the people said to Joshua, 'No! We will serve the Lord.'" (vs 21). "And the people said to Joshua, 'We will serve our God and obey Him.'" (vs 24).

So Hannah knew that the period of the Judges which she lived in had begun with the nation having dedicated themselves to the Lord. Therefore no matter what actually took place during her times she knew that her responsibility was to keep the commitment the nation had made at the time that the period of the Judges got underway. So the only choice that Hannah could make was to dedicate her son to the Lord because that's the covenant that her nation got started under.

Sadly many of us have forgotten how our parents and grandparents dedicated us to the Lord, how they took us to church, prayed with us, and read scripture to us. It's time for many of us to recapture that commitment they made for us and return to the Lord.

**II. Second, Hannah's times required Hannah's choice because of the direction that the nation had taken (Judges 17:6; 21:25; 14:1-3)**

Even though the nation had dedicated themselves to the Lord as they were getting ready to move into the period of the judges they soon tragically moved into a total different direction. There are a couple of verses in the Book of Judges that describes the direction that the nation chose to take. Both of these verses are in two different chapters but say the exact same thing. So what this tells us is that what these two verses say reveal that the direction the nations chose to take they continued in that direction throughout the whole period of the Judges. Thus, Hannah's times are reflected in these two verses and here is what they say: "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit." (Judges 17:6; 21:25).

So what these two verses tell us is that during the time of the Judges basically everyone was doing what was right in their own eyes but not in God's eyes. In modern times we might say it like this, 'if it feels good then do it.' Or we might say, 'if it makes you happy, then it's all right.' Again, we might say, 'well, everyone else is doing it, why shouldn't I?' In both cases past and present, God's will and purpose is completely ignored.

Hannah was apparently one of the few of her times who understood that the direction the nation had taken was completely wrong and for the sake of her newborn son she had to take whatever measures necessary to make sure that he grew up doing what was right in the eyes of God, not in his own eyes.

So we must as parents and grandparents and Christian adults as well do all that we can in a world where everyone is doing what is right in their own eyes, and not what's right in God's eyes, to help our children in every way possible to grow up doing what is right in God's eyes. We must all be Hannah's in our present times.

**III. Third, Hannah's times required Hannah's choice because of her duty to God. (I Sam 1:9, 10, 24-27; 2:1-11)**

When I preached this message to the church I called this point the demand of God instead of her duty to God but both go hand in hand.

First of all, the choice that she made to dedicate her son completely to God was her duty to make because God had answered her prayer and blessed her with a son. When she had finished weaning her son Samuel she took him to Eli, the high priest, to allow him to raise Samuel and she explained to Eli why with these words, "As surely as you live, my Lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child, and the Lord granted me what I have asked of Him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." And he worshipped the Lord there." (I Sam 1:26, 27)

So it is with us, our children are gifts to us from the Lord and He's blessed our lives in so many ways that we could never count them. Thus we have a duty and responsibility to raise our children in a way that is pleasing and honoring to our Lord.

Second, Hannah realized that it was her duty to give her son over to the Lord not only because of the answer God gave her to her prayer, but also because of her own accountability to the Lord.

When you read this powerful prayer that Hannah prayed in chapter two, you become keenly aware of the fact that Hannah had an amazing understanding of just who God is. This prayer is filled with theology. It reveals God as holy and as the only one who is God; that He's sovereignly in control of all things; that He's the creator and sustainer of all things, and many other things.

And so because God is who He is therefore according to Hannah all of us must give an account to Him. And those who oppose Him will be brought down but those who trust Him will be saved. "He will guard the feet of His saints, but the wicked will be silenced in darkness..." (I Sam 2:9).

So because of who God is and it is to Him we are all accountable Hannah made the choice to do what was right in God's eyes and gave her son over to the Lord. And so we too must do the same with our children because we too will be held accountable to Almighty God.

**Conclusion:**

When we stand before the Lord, He's not going to ask us did we choose to do with our children what as right in our own eyes, but rather did we do with them what was right in His eyes?

Jesus Loves You,

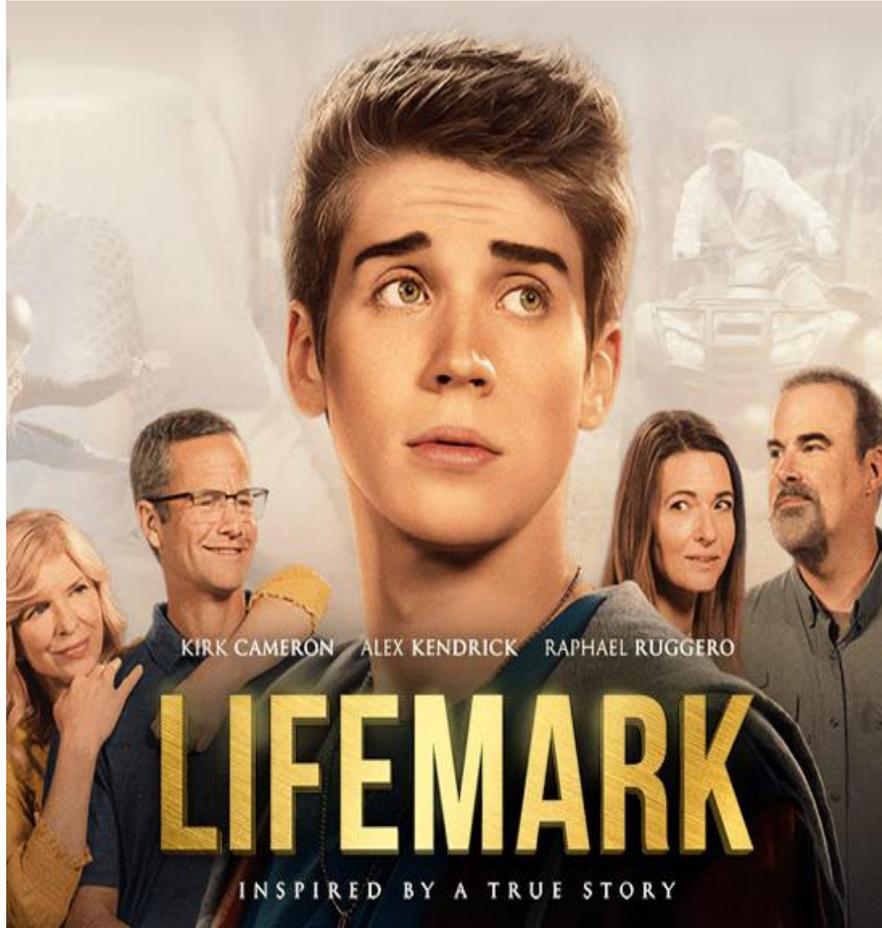
Ralph Lee



*A gift of \$100.00 has been given  
to the cemetery maintenance fund in  
memory of Dot Nettles by Mr. and Mrs.  
Sewell.*



*A gift of \$25.00 has been given  
to the cemetery maintenance fund in  
memory of Dot Nettles by Mr. and Mrs.  
Roundtree.*



## **MOVIE NIGHT!!!**

**Movie of the night is Lifemark, which is based on an incredible true story—you don't want to miss this one!!**

**TONIGHT! May 21st  
Concessions at 6:00 p.m.  
Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.**

**Please bring finger foods to share!  
Tea and Popcorn provided.**

**Come Enjoy A Great Wholesome Family Movie!**

# Graduate Recognition



*JC Goethe*  
*Graduating from*  
*Legacy Christian*  
*Academy*

*Schuyler*  
*Johnson*  
*Graduating from*  
*Lux Et Veritas*  
*Christian Academy*





*Nadine  
Smoak*

*Graduating K-5 at  
Step of Faith  
Christian Academy*

*Alice  
Leonard*

*Graduating K-5 at  
Step of Faith  
Christian Academy*





*Caris  
Malphrus  
Graduating from  
Legacy Christian  
Academy*

*Marissa  
Lynch  
Graduating from  
Wilkes-Washington  
Comprehensive  
High School*





*Angel Cole*  
*Graduating from*  
*Step of Faith*  
*Christian Academy*

*Trevor*  
*Smith*  
*Graduating from*  
*Step of Faith*  
*Christian Academy*





## Operation Christmas Child

New items being collected for May! See the list below and please help out if you can. The more you can donate, the more boxes we can fill, hence the more children receive boxes. So let's all bring in some hygiene items!

### May:

Stuffed Animals

Barbies

Matchbox Cars

Any Assorted Toys

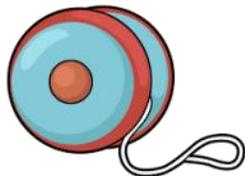
Yo-yos

Puzzles

Balls

Jump Ropes

Remember: NO liquids, glass, or military items. You can also give a monetary donation instead of buying the items. No donation is too small!





|                 |             |                     |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|
| <i>Sunday</i>   | <i>21st</i> | <i>Jed Carter</i>   |
| <i>Monday</i>   | <i>22nd</i> | <i>Max Cole</i>     |
| <i>Thursday</i> | <i>25th</i> | <i>Kim Malphrus</i> |



**Tuesday, May 23rd:**

Randy & Sybil  
Reynolds

~ and ~

**Saturday, May 27th:**

Ron & Marie  
Malphrus



**Business Meeting**  
Wednesday, June 14th  
at 7:00 p.m.



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



\*\*\*\*\*  
**Grandmothers' Group**  
Monday, June 5th  
at 11:30 a.m.  
*All grandmothers welcome!*  
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# VBS 2023

**Four more weeks until VBS!!!**

We still need monetary donations or gift cards to purchase food. As you know we will be providing dinner for all the children each night of VBS. We also need people to continue to donate river rocks and toilet paper rolls.

If you have not signed up to help with VBS and you have felt called to do so, please contact Nicole at 843-726-2211, Saylor at 843-812-8879, or Jennifer Meador at 843-726-3631. We would love to have more help for VBS.

Four weeks is going to fly by and it'll be here before we know it!



**Sunday morning breakfast and  
Wednesday night dinner will  
resume in September!!**

# 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**

## **Hospitals**

## **Unspoken**

## **Other Health Needs**

*Mary Kay Cade  
Barry DeMay  
Tristan Simmons  
Marie Coleman  
James Williamson  
Glenn Scott  
Rhonda Stones  
Debbie Hale  
Virginia Byles  
Gene Price  
Mark Simpson  
Julia Rushing  
Pinky Rushing  
Keith Gamo  
Kistler Malphrus*

## **Surgery/Recovery**

*Tex Lowther*

## **Cancer/Treatments**

*Pat Headley  
Leigh Laycock  
Joyce Garbade  
Ann Blocker  
Tex Lowther*

## **Nursing Centers**

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

## **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>Kenny Smith</i>      | <i>Thomas &amp; Erma Cooler</i> |
| <i>Diane Hannah</i>     | <i>Marie Malphrus</i>           |
|                         | <i>Dot Smart</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<br>+ / - |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
|                                 | <b>\$4,384.00</b> | <b>\$ 5,012.49</b> | <b>-\$628.49</b>         |
| <i>Online Offerings</i>         | <i>\$50.00</i>    |                    |                          |
|                                 |                   |                    |                          |
| <b>Designated Funds</b>         | <b>This Week</b>  | *****              | <b>Acct. Balances</b>    |
| <i>Office Supplies</i>          | <i>\$50.00</i>    | *****              | <i>\$421.70</i>          |
| <i>Adult Senior Trip 2023</i>   | <i>\$225.00</i>   | *****              | <i>\$3,684.94</i>        |
| <i>Sunday Morning Breakfast</i> | <i>\$95.00</i>    | *****              | <i>\$1,393.76</i>        |
| <i>Wednesday Night Supper</i>   | <i>\$290.00</i>   | *****              | <i>-\$490.37</i>         |
| VBS                             | <i>\$270.00</i>   | *****              | <i>\$1,871.11</i>        |
| <i>Cemetery Maintenance</i>     | <i>\$125.00</i>   | *****              | <i>\$626.39</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