

Great Swamp
Christmas
FAMILY GATHERING

Great Swamp Baptist Church *December 10, 2023*

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee

Call to Worship

Invocation

Mack Pope

Praise & Worship

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer
Worship by Giving
Offertory Special

Pastor Ralph Lee

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee

Invitation

Benediction Prayer

Sunday Mornings
Following The Song Service:



Nursery



Teacher:
Olivia Stanley

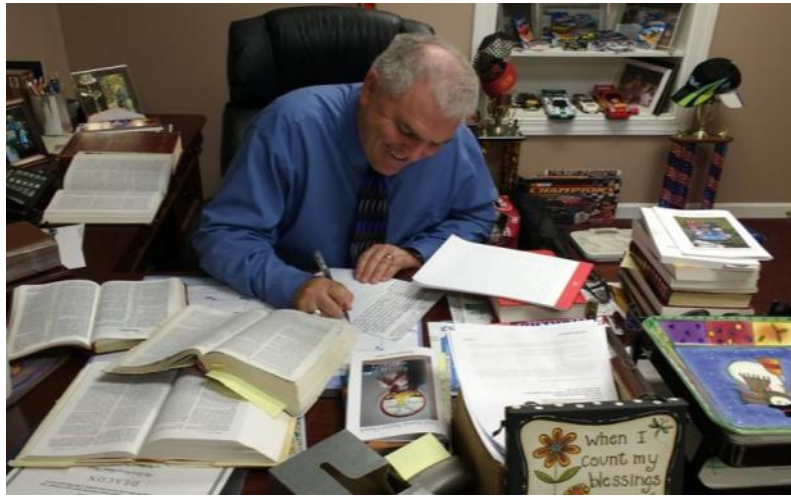
DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Mack Pope



Phone: 843-540-6636

*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



The Requirement of the Virgin Birth

Introduction:

In John's Gospel in the first chapter we are told that "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God." (John 1:1). Then a few verses later we are told that, "the word became flesh and made His dwelling among us..." (John 1:14).

Then in Matthew's Gospel in the Christmas story, the angel tells Joseph to take Mary as his wife because the child in her was of the Holy Spirit and the child would be called "Immanuel" which means "God with us" (Matt 1:23).

So the question is how? How could God become one of us? How can the very one who created us become one of us? How can the Creator become a part of the created and yet still be the Creator?

The Apostle Paul speaking of those who had suppressed the knowledge of God, had become futile in their thinking which resulted in them making God no more than a created thing. "They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator -- who is forever praised. Amen." (Rom 1:25). The point being we must never simply place God as merely a created thing even though He takes human flesh because He still remains God.

However somehow, somehow the everlasting eternal Son of God took human flesh and dwelt among us and yet remained God. Once again, how? Well, there was only one way for that to be possible and that way was by means of the virgin birth. This would allow and did allow for Him to incorporate flesh without the means of a human father, which would have made Him only another human being apart from Deity just like the rest of us.

The virgin birth allowed God through the person of the Holy Spirit, in a way beyond our understanding to place the Son of God in the womb of Mary so He could take upon Himself human flesh but still be God. Thus the virgin birth was absolutely required. And for those who belittle it, they need to understand that it's an established fact of God's Holy Word as it's mentioned at least five to six times. Therefore, we will examine what I'm calling the requirement of the virgin birth.

I. First, the virgin birth was required to accomplish the incarnation.

Now the introduction covered much of this point, but let me reiterate that without the virgin birth you can't have the incarnation. Both Matthew and Luke in their presentation of the events of the first Christmas remind us quite clearly that Joseph is not the actual father of Jesus. Rather they clearly reveal that it was the Holy Spirit of God that placed Jesus in the womb of Mary. This was the only way for Jesus to be both God and man.

Both Matthew and Luke, as well as John, give all kind of names and titles to Jesus at His birth that are only attributed to God. They said that He would be called Messiah, Son of the Most High, Son of God, Lord, Savior, and God.

But let us also point out the fact that in both Matthew and Luke's account of the coming of Christ into the world that Mary and Joseph were to name the child Jesus. In our next point we will look a little more about the name of Jesus. But for this point suffice it to say that Jesus name was a common name of the time. It's the same word in Hebrew as Joshua. Thus we see that the child in the manger that first Christmas was both fully God and fully man and only the virgin birth made it possible.

So let us give praise that God made a way so that He could step into our world and take human flesh but still remain God. Oh, what a thought that God was and is with us.

II. Second, the virgin birth was required to accomplish our salvation.

In our first point we mentioned that the name of Jesus was a common name of the time, but no one else other than Jesus born through the virgin birth actually was able to fulfill the meaning of the name Jesus. The name of Jesus means God saves. As a matter of fact in Matthew's presentation of the Christmas story the angel told Joseph that the child would be named Jesus and he proceeded to tell him why. "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." (Matt 1:20-21).

So Jesus came into the world to save sinners and that's why His birth had to be a virgin birth. For if Joseph had been His actual father then He would have been in the same boat as the rest of us. Meaning He would have been born a sinner in need of a savior like the rest of us.

However the virgin birth allowed Him to be born with human flesh not tainted by sin. The Book of Hebrews reminds us that sin had no sway over Jesus whatsoever. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are -- yet He did not sin." (Hebrews 4:15).

III. Third, the virgin birth was required to accomplish the eternal coronation.

The coronation is of course when you crown someone into royalty. Well, as part of the Christmas story the angel told Mary, "you will be with child and give birth to a son and you are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever: His kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:31-33).

Mary's son would be the eternal King over the throne of David forever and ever. Well, that's because He was also the Son of the Most High, the Son of God, and the virgin birth made it possible for Him to be both, and this made it possible for Him to reign on David's throne forever.

Oh, let us not grow weary and fretful with what's going on in our world, because the child we celebrate this Christmas was born from a virgin so that He could have flesh but be God thus allowing Him to ascend to the throne of David as our eternal King never to be defeated ever. He's got it. Amen.

IV. Fourth, the virgin birth was required to accomplish the early predictions.

Now what I mean by early predictions are the prophecies of the virgin birth that are found in the Old Testament. The virgin birth was required to fulfill those prophecies.

The first of those prophecies that I want to mention is the very one used in the Christmas story. In Matthew's account after the angel tells Joseph to take Mary to be his wife because her child came by means of the Holy Spirit. He then tells us that this is all the fulfillment of a prophecy found in Isaiah. "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel which means God with us." (Is 7:14, Matt 1:23).

This prophecy took place around 700 years before Christ came into the world. King Ahaz, a wicked king over Judah, has two enemies that want to conquer him and the nation of Judah. So he turned to another nation to get help instead of God.

However God sends Isaiah to him to tell him that God would protect the nation against his enemies. He also tells him that he could ask for a sign that this would happen. But he refused so God gave him a sign anyway. This sign is about two sons born. One son would be born and before it had the chance to choose between wrong and right, those enemies after the king, and the nation of Judah would be defeated. That child was one of Isaiah's sons and it happened exactly as he prophesied.

However the other child would be born of a virgin and He will be Immanuel, God with us. Because this child is Immanuel, Israel will ultimately be saved completely as well as all who trust in Him.

The second prophecy is actually much older than Isaiah's prophecy. As a matter of fact this prophecy was given to the first two human beings created, Adam and Eve. Right after Adam and Eve sinned God pronounces the consequences of their sin. One of those consequences was spoken directly to the serpent which Satan used to disguise himself. So actually God was speaking directly to Satan himself and this is what He said, "So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." (Gen 3:14-15).

Here God is telling Satan that a day is coming in which the seed of a woman would ultimately defeat him with a blow to the head, and then he would only be able to strike the heel of the seed of the woman.

Jesus, by the means of the virgin birth, is that seed of the woman, and He though receives some strikes from Satan, has ultimately won the victory because He will bring the ultimate death blow to Satan crushing him in the head.

Let us rejoice that since almost the beginning of time God already had the virgin birth in mind in order to bring about our redemption.

As the Apostle Paul said, "But when the set time had fully come, God sent His Son born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship." (Gal 4:4-5).

Conclusion:

It's vital that we believe and forever preach and proclaim the virgin birth of Christ into our world. For John in his letter said this, "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many fake prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledge that Jesus came in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world." (I John 1:1-3).

Without the virgin birth Jesus Christ could not have come in the flesh, to preach otherwise would be to promote the spirit of the antichrist. So this Christmas let's tell everyone that Jesus came into the world born of the virgin Mary to bring us all redemption!

Jesus Loves You,
Ralph Lee, Jr.



Greeters for Today:

Juliette & Mike W.

December:

12/17 - Latrelle & Mike D

12/24 - Courtney & Jeff

12/31 - Kim & Richard



Christmas Card Delivery

\$0.25 per card delivered
 The SwampKids will deliver
 in-house Christmas cards this year.
 Mailbox for cards is in the foyer.
 Proceeds go to Lottie
 Moon Christmas offering.



**4 Vital Screenings
for \$149**

- Carotid Artery Ultrasound
- Peripheral Arterial Disease
- Atrial Fibrillation
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

To register for your appointment and receive
the special discount, please call

866-964-1386

LIFE LINE SCREENING
The Power of Prevention

Did you know 80% of strokes are preventable according to the American Heart Association? Don't you want to know how high your risk is? Well, you can!! This is a priceless piece of mine! On December 21st LifeLine Screening will be here at our church. For \$149 you get four different health screenings. But you must call and make an appointment BEFORE the 21st! There are a limited number of spots and they do fill up. Call today and get that piece of mind right before Christmas!

AGENDA

Business Meeting

Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Deacons' Meeting

Monday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting

Every Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Grandmothers' Group

Monday, January 8th at 11:30 a.m.

All ladies welcome!

Swamp Kids

Every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m.

Men's Ministry Meeting

Thursday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Candlelight Service & Lord's Supper

Sunday, December 24th during worship service

No Breakfast and **No Sunday School**



<i>Monday</i>	<i>11th</i>	<i>Charlee Carter</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>12th</i>	<i>Nadine Smoak</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>13th</i>	<i>Corinna Malphrus</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>15th</i>	<i>Henry Bradley</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>15th</i>	<i>Gregory Mariocourt</i>



TOY DRIVE

Step of Faith is having their annual toy drive! Step of Faith students who donate a toy worth \$15.00 or more will get **ONE NUT CARD** (*limit of 3 nut cards*). Please help us bless those in foster care with a good Christmas. If you have toys to donate, please bring them to the church office or the school office. The deadline to bring in toys is December 13th.



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 - Greg Mariocourt

SOJOURNERS CLASS - Room 417 - Mack Pope

YOUTH - Youth Annex Leader - Amanda Hodges

BLUE ANGELS - 1ST & 2ND GRADES - Room 417 -

Nicole Mauriocourt

RAINBOW KIDS - 3RD GRADE AND OLDER - Room 415 -

Kelly Scherger

Wednesday Night Services

@ 7:00 pm

WORSHIP SERVICE *Multi-Purpose Building*

Leader-Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

YOUTH GROUP *Youth Annex*

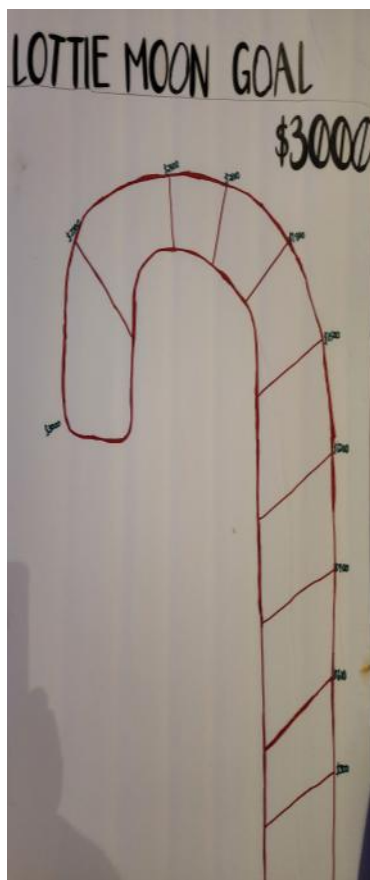
Leader-Michelle Waitt

SWAMP KIDS *Nursery Hall*

Leader - Kim Malphrus



Goal: \$3,000.00



Ok, Church family, let's meet our goal! Let's color our candy cane for Lottie Moon. For every \$300, a section will be colored. This candy cane be displayed at church starting Wednesday night. This includes our youth and SwampKids. Thank you for giving. I know we can meet our goal!!

--Kim Malphrus



Wednesday Night Supper

Meals served from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
every Wednesday night.

Team Timmy is cooking for Wednesday, Dec. 13th.

Menu: Meatloaf, potatoes and gravy, and green beans

\$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family of four or more.

No meal deliveries.



Sunday Morning Breakfast

Breakfast will be served
from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00
a.m.

\$5.00 per person or
\$15.00 per family of
four or more.

GSBC Prayer Page

Church Leadership

Sunday School
SFCA-Donna Carter
Child Development
Ministries
Ralph Lee, Jr. - Pastor
Richard Waitt- Music Director
Deacons
Church Finances

Leadership

President / Vice President of
the United States of America

Bereavement

Unspoken

Hospitals

Surgery/Recovery

Ann Blocker - Sprenger
Healthcare in Bluffton
Erma Cooler - Sprenger
Healthcare in Okatie

Cancer/Treatments

Revel Crosby - 4 years old
(Leukemia)
Morgan Warren
Ken Lawler

Other Health Needs

Mary Kay Cade
Debbie Hale
Julia Rushing
Pinky Rushing
Amy Hannah
Kathy Breland
Grace Hetrick
Arthur Pierson
Clark Daring
Arlette Jones
Jennifer Wall

Nursing Centers

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>Red & Helen Malphrus</i>
<i>Barbara Mills</i>	<i>Thomas & Erma Cooler</i>
<i>Kenny Smith</i>	<i>Marie Malphrus</i>
<i>Diane Hannah</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
Schuyler Johnson - Basic Training Marines

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@sfcaweb.org*

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to Carol Davis and all those who came along beside her to help decorate the church with the beautiful Christmas decorations.

Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	<i>\$3,759.00</i>	<i>\$ 5,012.49</i>	<i>\$-1,253.51</i>
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>		
Designated Funds		*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Lottie Moon</i>	<i>\$286.00</i>	*****	<i>\$311.00</i>
<i>Sunday Morning Breakfast</i>	<i>\$99.00</i>	*****	<i>\$751.97</i>
<i>Wednesday Night Supper</i>	<i>\$167.00</i>	*****	<i>\$235.37</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
Website: greatswampbaptistchurch.com
Church Office: (843) 726-3631