

Great Swamp Baptist Church
December 24, 2023

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee

Call to Worship

Invocation

Lloyd Freeman

Candlelight Worship

Lord's Supper

Praise & Worship

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer

Pastor Ralph Lee

Worship by Giving

Offertory Special

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee

Invitation

Benediction Prayer

Sunday Mornings
Following The Song Service:



Nursery



Teacher:
Olivia Stanley

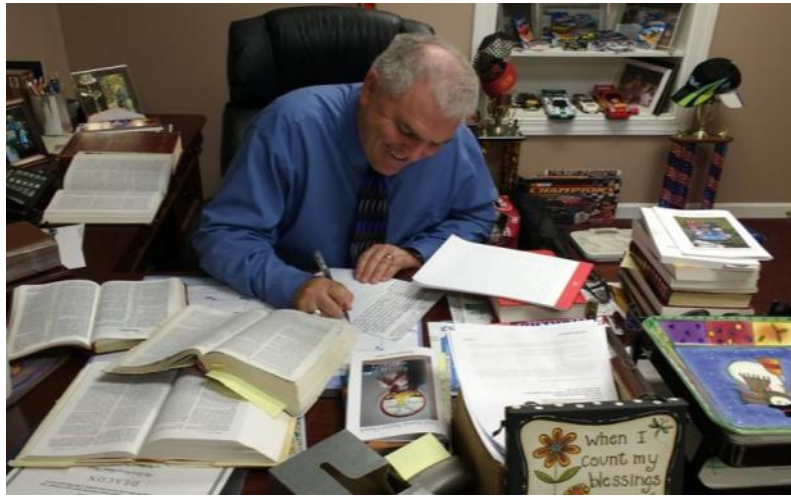
DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Lloyd Freeman



Phone: 843-943-6312

*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



Mary's Forever (Luke 1:26-38)

Introduction:

Twice in the 12 verses chosen for this message Mary is told that she is highly favoured. So for this message I want us to examine this favour that Mary received because what we will discover is that her favour also because our favour. This favour makes Christmas such an amazing time of the year because it reminds us that God's favour has resided over us for a long long time.

I. First, Mary's favour came in the form of an appearance (vs 26-29)

The appearance of course was that the angel Gabriel who came to share the announcement with Mary that she had been chosen to bring Christ into the world.

As we can see Mary was completely caught off guard by this appearance. Like the majority of Jews of her day, she certainly believe that the Messiah was coming in her life time. However she certainly couldn't believe that in anyway she would be a part of the plan to make it happen. So once again the appearance of the angel Gabriel was such an unbelievable experience for her to be having.

Now the question is, why she was surprised by this appearance? Well, I'm sure that as we discussed last week one reason is because it was such a sudden appearance which brought about a disruption of life as she knew it. But there are

some very obvious other reason for her surprise that this was happening to her. For there was not any reason that she could possibly see why she would be chosen. She was just an ordinary young Jewish girl of no special renown. She was living in a town that was looked down upon by most. Also she was not even yet fully married so how could she be favoured to receive this appearance and this news?

Well, the only reason for this appearance and the favour that came with it was purely and only by God's amazing grace. Mary didn't have this favour because she was more special than all the other young virgin girls of her day. So Mary's favour rest purely upon who God is not who she was.

So it is with us as well. Those of us who have been favoured and chosen by God has only been because our God is a gracious God. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will -- to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves." (Eph 1:3-6).

II. Second, Mary's favour came in the form of an announcement (vs 29-33)

Of course the announcement was the news that she will become pregnant and give birth to a son whom she will give the name Jesus. Now in most cases there is no happier news for a young lady than to hear that she is pregnant. So Mary is favoured because she will conceive and be with child and give birth to a son and call Him Jesus.

However this son of Mary was more than just her son. For the angel told Mary that her son also would be the Son of the Most High, the Son of God, and that He would reign on the throne of David and His Kingdom would never end. Thus because He's the Son of God this child though a special favour to Mary, He's also a favour to us all.

"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11). So this announcement favours us all.

III. Third, Mary's favour came in the form of an answer (vs 34-32)

Well, an answer obviously implies that a question has been asked and anybody who knows the Christmas story knows that the question Mary asked the angel Gabriel was how could she become pregnant since she was a virgin?

Well, the answer to that question once again reveals that Mary was highly favoured as well as all the rest of us. The answer was that in a way unbeknownst to us the Holy Spirit of God through His power miraculously placed the Son of God within the womb of Mary so that He could take upon Himself human flesh.

Well, like Mary it's the work of the Holy Spirit of God that has, by His power, conceived us into the family of God giving us a new birth which could not have happened apart from His work in us. The perfect picture of this is found in the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus in which Jesus told Nicodemus that He needed to be born again, which could only happen by the work of the Holy Spirit of God.

"Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." (John 3:5-8) Oh, the favour that God has shown us that His Spirit works in us to save us and lead us.

IV. Fourth, Mary's favour came in the form of her acceptance (v. 38)

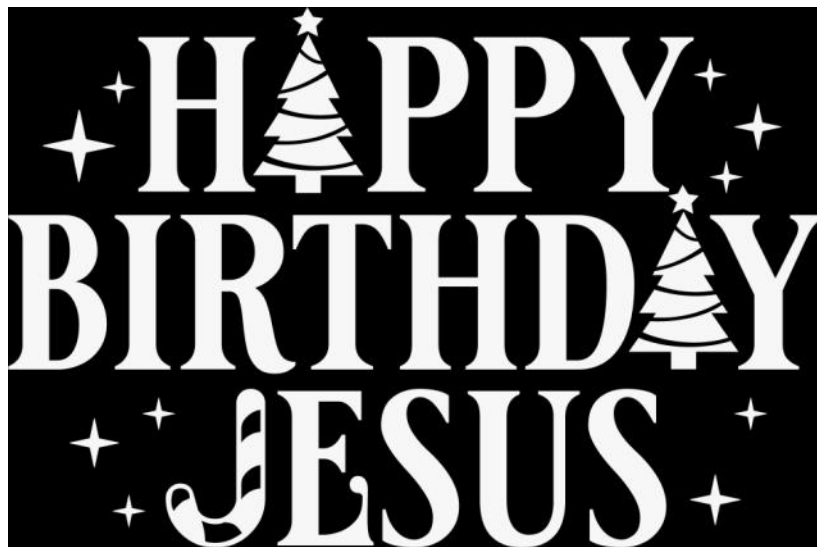
In this verse Mary's favour is that our gracious God has brought He to the place of acceptance of what God has said that He's going to do in her life. This happened by the means of the appearance of the angel Gabriel, and by the means of the announcement He made, and answer he gave, she was fully really to yield to His will and purpose for her life.

We too have been highly favoured that God has done what needs to be done to convince us of our acceptance of what He wants to do in our lives. For He has given us His word with the announcement of His coming in it. He has also given us messengers to preach and share that great announcement given to Mary to us, and has poured His Spirit to awaken us to the message. Praise be to our God for His great and gracious favour.

Conclusion:


When the angel finished giving the shepherds the good news of the birth of the Savior the heavens resounded with an angelic choir that was praising God and this is what they were saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rest." (Luke 2:13-14). Today that favour can rest on you if you will be willing to yield your life to Him in repentance and faith.

Jesus Loves You,
Ralph Lee, Jr.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to my caring church family and Pastor for the calls, visits, and food during my recent eye surgeries. I would especially like to thank you for the prayers that you offered up for me. They were felt and meant so much to me. God is good!
With Love, Chyleen.



ROCK
SOLID MEN

BE ON YOUR GUARD.
STAND FIRM
IN THE FAITH. BE MEN
OF COURAGE. BE STRONG.
DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE.
-1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14 NIV

The Savannah River Baptist Association Men's Ministry is hosting a one-day conference on February 10th at Red Dam Baptist Church. The subject of the conference is a study entitled: Rock Solid Men. This study is presented by the Man in the Mirror organization and will include breakfast and lunch. The program will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude at 3:30 p.m.

Through this study, based on 1 Cor 16:13-14, small groups will continue to meet for 6 weeks to become stronger men in Christ. Ideally, we will have 4 or 5 men from participating churches who will meet following the conference.

Please reply to Tom Kelly at tpk1536@aol.com with the number and names of the participants from your church by January 26th of 2024. The suggested donation for the materials and meals is \$20 per participant.

AGENDA

Business Meeting

Wednesday, January 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Deacons' Meeting

Monday, January 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting

Every Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Grandmothers' Group

Monday, February 5th at 11:30 a.m.
All ladies welcome!

Swamp Kids

Every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 31st - New Years Eve

Normal Service, Normal Sunday School

No Breakfast



<i>Thursday</i>	<i>28th</i>	<i>Sophia Sineath</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>30th</i>	<i>Lloyd Freeman</i>



greeters

Greeters for Today:
Courtney & Jeff

December:
12/31 - Kim & Richard



The church office will be closed,
Monday, January 1st due to New
Years.

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*

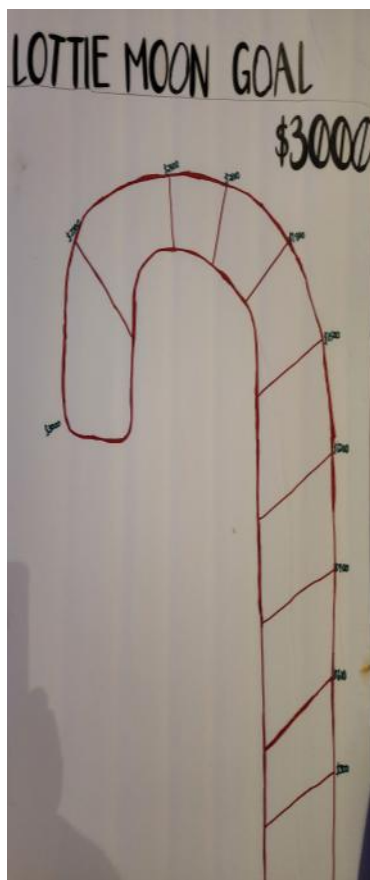
Leader-Michelle Waitt

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.

NO SUPPER -- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

\$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

Family of John Jarrell

Unspoken

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

Hospitals

Allen Tindal, Junior

Cancer/Treatments

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

Surgery/Recovery

Debbie Hale
Chyleen Mock
David Sauls

Nursing Centers

Bobby Mohn - Ridgeland Nursing Home
Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe
Erma Cooler - Ridgeland Nursing Home

Please Continue To Remember

Homebound

Shirley Malphrus *Tom Hinely*
Rose Boyles *Ann Blocker*
Judy Smith *Doby Cleland*
Vera Floyd *Red & Helen Malphrus*
Barbara Mills *Thomas Cooler*
Kenny Smith *Marie Malphrus*
Diane Hannah

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-Louisiana
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*

Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	<i>\$2,915.00</i>	<i>\$ 5,012.49</i>	<i>\$-2,097.49</i>
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>		
Designated Funds			Acct. Balances
<i>Lottie Moon</i>	<i>\$55.00</i>	*****	<i>\$1,094.00</i>
<i>Wednesday Night Supper</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>	*****	<i>\$273.43</i>
<i>Sunday Morning Breakfast</i>	<i>\$88.00</i>	*****	<i>\$839.97</i>
<i>Dot Lee Scholarship</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>	*****	<i>\$300.00</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
Website: greatswampbaptistchurch.com
Church Office: (843) 726-3631