

*Great Swamp Baptist Church*  
*January 28, 2024*

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

**Announcements**

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

**Call to Worship**

**Invocation**

*Lloyd Freeman*

**Praise & Worship**

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer  
Worship by Giving  
Offertory Special

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

**Message**

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

**Invitation**

**Benediction Prayer**

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*Sunday Mornings*  
*Following The Song Service:*



Nursery



Teacher:  
Olivia Stanley

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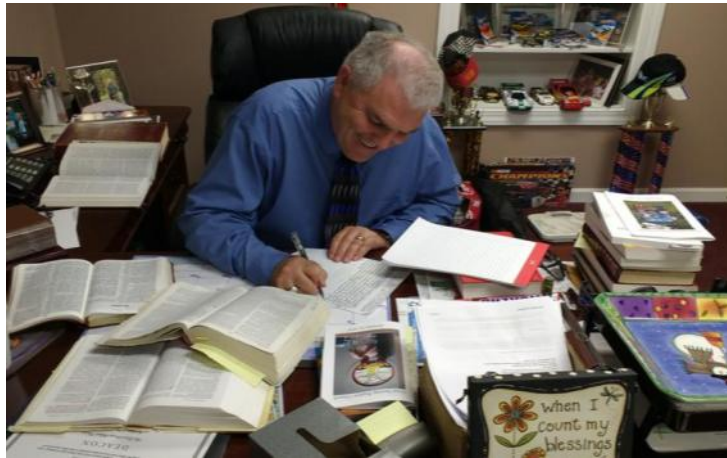
DEACON OF THE WEEK:

*Lloyd Freeman*



Phone: 803-943-6312

*From  
Pastor  
Ralph's  
Desk:*



## **Dealing with Abortion**

### **Introduction:**

January 22, 1973 the Supreme Court of our country decriminalized abortion in the case of Roe versus Wade. Thus, this opened the door for the legalization of abortion across our country and sadly to say that this has resulted in over 60 million babies being aborted. It also has become a very lucrative business with abortion providers raking in the dough, and as well as pharmaceutical companies cashing in on the abortion business.

Now thanks be to our God that our Supreme Court on June 24, 2022 reversed the outcome of the Roe versus Wade decision. This put the matter back in the hands of each individual state to determine what to do with the matter of abortion. It has resulted in some states fully legalizing it and other states criminalizing it.

Also since the initial decision of the Supreme Court in 1973 there has arisen a strong force of people throughout our country who have fought hard to overturn the abortion industry and save the lives of our unborn children. This of course is the pro-life anti-abortion group of people.

Now the question I want us to consider in this message is how are Christians supposed to deal with the matter of abortion? As mentioned above, you've got those who adamantly support abortion and those who adamantly stand against it. So once again where do we as Christians stand on the matter? How do we deal with it?

### **I. First, Christians deal with the matter of abortion by having the right conviction.**

For years the Republican party has had the strong conviction that abortion is wrong and therefore the party should take a strong pro-life anti-abortion position.

However this year there has come a pretty big push by some in the party that we need to compromise and not take such a strong pro-life anti-abortion conviction.

Well, we are asking the question not what conviction do Republicans and Democrats have on the matter of abortion but rather what conviction must Christians take on the issue? And to answer that question we will turn to the one place that is our authority for all matters of life, the word of God.

Now let me go ahead and without any reservation declare that God's holy word leaves us no doubt what our conviction must be with the issue of abortion. And that conviction is that life begins at conception and therefore we must be pro-life and anti-abortion.

I will share some of the many portions of God's word that supports that life begins at conception and that what's in the womb is nothing short of a human being and therefore deserves our support and our protection.

"For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you." (Ps 139:13-18). Through this beautiful description that David gives of God's development of him in the womb he classifies himself through whole process as a human being. For he used several personal pronouns such as "I" and "me" to describe who he was in his mother's womb.

Jeremiah the prophet opens up his book describing how he became a prophet and that begins before he's even conceived, but also when he's in his mother's womb, and this is what he said, "The word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.'" (Jer. 1:4-5). So in these two verses Jeremiah says that God recognized him as a person even before he was conceived, but also as a person while he was in the womb. As a matter of fact while he was in the womb, God set him aside to be a prophet. Only a person can be a prophet.

Earlier in this point we looked at David's beautiful description of how God create him as a human being in his mother's womb. Now however we are going to look at a different angle that David mentions about his development in his mother's womb. In the verse we are about to look at, David reveals that from the time of his conception he's been a sinner and only a person is a sinner. "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me." (Ps 51:5). So at conception he was a sinner, therefore at conception he was a person.

Also from the Christmas story in both Matthew's and Luke's Gospel, we are told that Mary conceived and carried about with her a child and more specifically a son. She was carrying in her womb a person (Matt 1:18; Luke 1:29-31). Of course that person was both God and man, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The final set of verses I want us to look at is a well known set of verses because it includes that section often referred to as the retaliatory set of verses, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and a life for a life, and et cetera. What a lot of people don't realize is that these verses are primarily referring to is what a judge must make someone pay if any injury or death comes from someone injuring a pregnant woman or the child she is carrying. Then punishment is matted out based upon the injury or death that take place. So that if the child dies then it's life for life and so on. It's a clear admission by God that what's in the womb is a human being worthy of protection.

"If people are fighting and hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise." (Ex 21:22-25).

So God's word shows us that the right conviction we must have is that life is sacred from the moment of conception.

I think two questions easily settles the answer for me. The first one I often ask persons when I'm explaining our conviction about abortion is 'were you conceived?' and the second one I ask is 'if you hadn't been conceived, would you be here?' For me these two questions easily point out that God created conception as the moment when our life begins.

## **II. Second, Christians deal with the matter of abortion by making the right call**

In our first point we asked and answered what's the right conviction that Christians should have in the matter of abortion. With this point we will ask and answer what's the right call that Christians should make when it comes to abortion and the right call is to help mothers to chose life. We are called to chose, support, and protect life from the womb to the tomb.

The reason why we are called to chose to promote life is because that's exactly what Jesus is all about. The word of God is clear that when He came, He came to give us life, life that's both abundant and eternal. (John 10:10, 27-29).

As a matter of fact in Luke's Gospel we are left without any doubt as to who our God is. "He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to Him all are alive." (Luke 20:38). Our God is the God of the living.

So like our Lord we must do all that we can to promote life. We must state our convictions but than put our convictions into action by helping mothers' struggling with keeping their children. We must continue to support our childrens' homes. We must giver to ministries that help educate and as well as give provisions for mothers to help them choose life. Most of all we must preach the saving gospel message because when a young woman and man come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord they will find the strength and desire to choose life. So let us answer the call to choose, promote, and support life.

### **III. Third, Christians deal with the matter of abortion by showing real compassion**

This point deals primarily with how do we treat those who have already had an abortion? Do we treat them as though they are the worst of sinners and are not worthy of our attention? Do we ostracize them and have nothing to with them? Well, we all know that Christians are called to show compassion because God has shown compassion to them, and that compassion doesn't draw a line and say to those who have had an abortion that you are beyond God's compassion as well as ours.

The Apostle Paul felt as though no one was more of a sinner than he was because of how he had treated the Christians before he was saved. Yet he overwhelming experienced the amazing grace and mercy of our God. "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has given me strength, that He considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners -- of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Tim 1:12-17).

So essentially Paul is saying that if God could save a sinner like me He can do the same for anyone else no matter what, even if they've had an abortion.

The truth is we are all the chief of sinners and unworthy of God's compassion. But praise His Holy Name that He is gracious, merciful, and forgiving.

#### **Conclusion:**

May our Lord help us to have the right conviction, make the right call, and show real compassion when dealing with the matter of abortion.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee

# VBS DATES ARE SET!!

Our VBS will begin June 9th and end June 12th. The time will be from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. We need to get a move on to get ready for it as June will be here before you know it. We will need as many volunteers as we can get, so please sign up on the back wall to help out if you are able to.

Any questions, please contact Nicole Mauriourt at 843-726-2211.

The theme this year is Breaker Rock Beach!!!!

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**This is the last SUNDAY To Give!!!  
We are SO CLOSE! Please give to  
help us meet this goal!!**

**Goal: \$3,000.00**

**To Date: \$2,849.00**



# AGENDA

**Business Meeting**

Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 p.m.

**Deacons' Meeting**

Monday, February 12th 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.

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**Greeters for Today:**

Kim & Richard

**Next Sunday 2/4:**

Juliette & Mike Wall

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **SFCA Spirit Week**

Monday, January 29th through February 2nd

## **SFCA Homecoming**

Friday, February 2nd during the basketball game

## **SFCA Winter Break**

Friday, February 16th through the 19th

## **SFCA Basketball Tournament**

Thursday, February 15th & Friday, February 16th

## **Shellem Cline Concert**

Sunday, February 25th

## **SFCA Blood Drive**

Monday, March, 4th

Sign up online now to get a spot!!

They book up fast!



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>28th</i>	<i>Ben Mills</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>29th</i>	<i>Rodney Malphrus, Jr.</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>29th</i>	<i>Keith Gamo</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>31st</i>	<i>Sawyer Smoak</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>Rinley Dennen</i>



## **MOVIE NIGHT!!**

**Showing: To Be Determined**



**Sunday, February 18th  
Concessions at 6:00 p.m.  
Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.**



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



**Come watch an amazing movie with us!**



GRANDMOTHERS  
GROUP

VALENTINE LUNCHEON

February 5th at 11:30 a.m.

Bring your Valentine cards  
for our ladies and for  
shut-ins.

Please bring a covered dish  
OR dessert to share.

For more information Call  
Debbie at 843-368-5436.



## Wednesday Night Supper

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

**Team Timmy will be cooking Wednesday, January 31st.**

**MENU: Hamburgers, hot dogs, tater-tots, baked beans,  
dessert, tea**

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

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## 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 Lewis Hughes*  
*Family of Blue Harvey*  
*Family of Betty L. Miles*

## Unspoken

## Hospitals

*Allen Tindal, Junior*  
*Judy Holmes - MUSC*

## Surgery/Recovery

*Debbie Hale*  
*Chyleen Mock*

## Cancer/Treatments

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

## Nursing Centers

*Bobby Mohn - Ridgeland Nursing Home*  
*Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe*  
*Tommy & Erma Cooler - Ridgeland Nursing Home*  
*David Sauls - Morrell Nursing Center*  
*Doby Cleland - Life Care Center of HHI*

## 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*  
*Arthur Pearson*  
*Pete Williamson*  
*Mike Davis*  
*Maxie Mason*  
*Lester Daring*  
*Dwight Malphrus*  
*Latrell Steedly*  
*Sarah Sanders*  
*Rodney Malphrus, Jr.*  
*Mark Mingledorff*  
*Bill Carter*  
*Donna Carter*

## Please Continue To Remember

### Homebound

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

### Pray For Our Military

*Sgt. Jared Blanton - Deployed*  
*Matthew Mills-US Marines -*  
*Okinawa, Japan*  
*Jericho Malphrus - Sp. Agent/Air Force -*  
*Washington, D.C.*  
*Michael Sottile - Ret.*  
*Tristan Blanton - Louisiana*  
*Andrea C. Daring - Charleston, SC*

## Church Staff

*Pastor: Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr*.....*jehu27@gmail.com*

*Music Director: Richard Waitt*.....

*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>\$1,658.00</i>	<i>\$4,923.33</i>	<i>\$-3,265.33</i>
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>		
<b>Designated Funds</b>			<b>Acct. Balances</b>
<i>Lottie Moon</i>	<i>\$70.00</i>	*****	<i>\$2,849.00</i>
<i>SMB</i>	<i>\$90.00</i>	*****	<i>\$854.12</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