

Great Swamp Baptist Church
January 7, 2024

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee

Call to Worship

Invocation

Fred Stanley

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

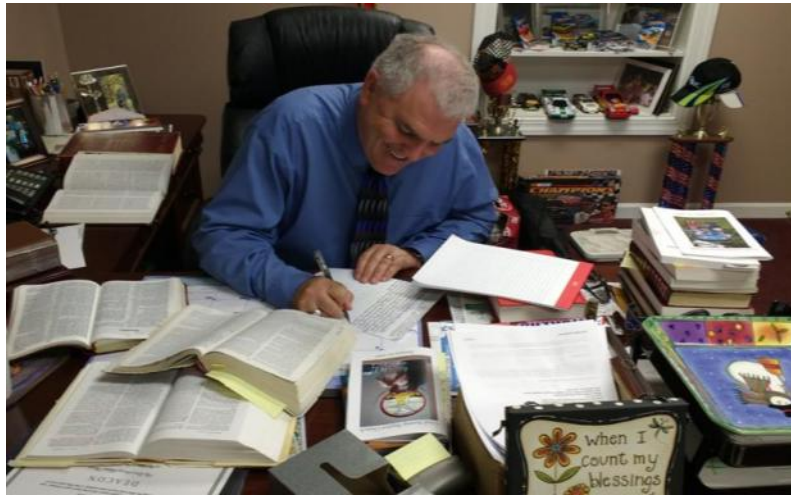
DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Fred Stanley



Phone: 843-726-1963

*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



Getting Ready for a New Start (Joshua 3:1-4:9)

Introduction:

In the particular text that I've chosen for this message the children of Israel are about to start a whole new journey for their lives and their nation. For forty years they've been wandering around in the desert. Before that for 400 years they were enslaved in Egypt. But now all of their past will be behind them as they get ready to enter into the promise land that God has promised to give to them.

However before they begin this new journey there are some things that they need to know and there are certain things they need to do. So for this message it is these things that they needed to know and to do to get ready to begin this new adventure in their lives that I want to focus on. For as we begin a new year the certain things that they needed to know and to do are also exactly the things that we, too, need to know and to do to help us live out the new year for God's glory and honor. My message is simply called getting ready for a new start.

I. First, let's notice that when we are getting ready for a new start there are certain things we need to know.

Whenever you have the right knowledge about the new start you are getting ready to experience, you can better approach that new start with far greater preparedness and confidence. So let's take a look at the things that Israel needed to know before they entered into their new adventure into the promise land.

The first thing that Israel needed to know before they launched off to the promise land and what we need to know before we start our new year is who is in charge? And to answer that question we will quote exactly what Joshua said to the nation before they marched off.

"After three days the officer went throughout the camp, giving order to the people: 'When you see the Ark of Covenant of the Lord your God, and the priest, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before...' (3:2-4)

The Ark of Covenant of the Lord was always representative of God's presence in the nation. So by saying to the nation they weren't suppose to move until the ark did, but they were to move when the ark did move was Joshua's way of saying that God is in charge.

So as we began our new year, let's be reminded that it is God who is in charge and it's He that we must exclusively choose to follow.

The second thing that Israel need to know before they crossed over into the promise land was the need to be respectful and reverent. Joshua told the people that they must indeed only move once the ark of the covenant was moved. However Joshua also told the nation to stay back roughly 3,000 feet from the Ark when it began to move and they began to follow.

Now the purpose for this was to show respect and reverence for the Holiness of our God, and the sinfulness of our lives in the presence of our Holy God. However it also shows that our God is extremely gracious that He even walks in our midst.

We too as we launch out into the new year need to do so with the highest respect and reverence for our Holy but gracious God for who He is and what He's done. This will help us to make our new year one that honors our God.

The third thing that Israel needed to know before they began their new journey into the promise land was that their source of power came from God. Before Israel could march into the promise land they had to cross the flooded Jordan River. It was flooded from the melting snow and ice from Mount Herman. Therefore it would be virtually impossible to get across what most scholars believe to be nearly two to three million people.

However Joshua assured them that they not only would get across the river but that they would do so on dry ground. How could that be possible when it's a river and a flooded one at that? Well, Joshua had an answer for this impossible situation.

Here's the answer that was given. "See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. . .and as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the Lord -- the Lord of all the earth -- set foot in the Jordan, it's water flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap." (3:11, 13).

So by His mighty power God stopped the flow of the river, dried up the ground on the bottom and everyone without a hitch got across. Thus they were able to go into this radical new start with the knowledge that their strength comes not from themselves but from God Almighty. This also holds true for us. We can enter the new year with confidence because we know that our strength and power comes from God.

The fourth thing that Israel needed to know was that God desired to do amazing things in their midst. That's exactly what Joshua said to them. "Joshua told the people, 'consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.'" (3:5).

We too can face our new year with excitement because we know that our Great God wants to do amazing things in us, with us, and through us.

The fifth thing that Israel needed to know before entering the promise land was that God had a task for them to do once they got there. God didn't call them to the promise land for a life of permanent easy and relaxation. Rather when they got there they were to begin driving out all the evil pagan nation that existed in the land.

So it is with us today that as we launch out into the new year we do so with the knowledge that God has not called us to sit back and coast. Rather He has called us to a task and that task is to carry out His work in our world today.

The sixth thing that Israel needed to know before starting their new journey into the promise land was the great and comforting news that God was with them. "And the Lord said to Joshua, "today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. ⁸ Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: 'When you reach the edge of the Jordan's waters, go and stand in the river.' Joshua said to the Israelites, 'come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. This is how you will know that the living God is among you...." (3:7-10).

Then Joshua told them that God would stop the flow of the river and they would cross over. So they could cross with confidence because our God was with them and in the midst of them.

We, too, enter the new year as Christians with an absolute knowledge that our Lord is in our midst and that He had promised to never leave or forsake us.

II. Second, let's notice that when we are getting ready for a new start there are certain things we need to do.

The first thing that Joshua told the people that they must do before entering into the promise land was to consecrate themselves. "Joshua told the people, 'consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.'" (3:5) God was about to do a great work in their midst and because of it they were to surrender themselves to Him.

So they consecrated themselves to God Himself, His word, His leadership, His power, and His purpose and task

As we head into the new year we, too, are to do so with complete consecration to our Blessed Lord, His word, His leadership, His power, and His purpose and tasks.

The second thing that Israel needed to do was to trust in and completely rely upon the fact that God would use His power to see them through. If they didn't trust God, they could have never been able to move forward to the land God had promised them for it required them to have to trust Him to cross the flooded Jordan River. They had to believe that God would do just what He said He would and that was to stop the flow of the river.

We, too, if we are going to march forward into our new year must trust in God keeping His promises to us and using His power to do so.

The third thing tht Israel needed to do when they began this new journey was to do their part. It's true that they needed to know that God was in charge and that they didn't move until first He moved. However once He moved, well, they had to do their part and that was to move and follow our God.

So it is with us that while we start the new year knowing that our Lord is in charge, and that it's His power we are to rely upon we also know that it is us that God wants to use to do His work. Her calls upon us to move with Him to do His bidding as He works in us and through us.

Last of all before moving into the promise land they were to prepare to commemorate the miracle of crossing the Jordan River once on the other side. They did so by choosing 12 men, one from each tribe of Israel. These men were to each pick up a stone from the middle of the river and with those 12 stones create a monument to remind them of what amazing thing God did bringing them across the river. It was to be a teaching tool for years to come.

We, too, need to go into the new year ready to tell all the great things our God has and will do in our lives in the coming new year.

Conclusion:

So with the knowledge we've been given and the things we've been told to do may we face our new year with great anticipation that God will do great things.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee

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**

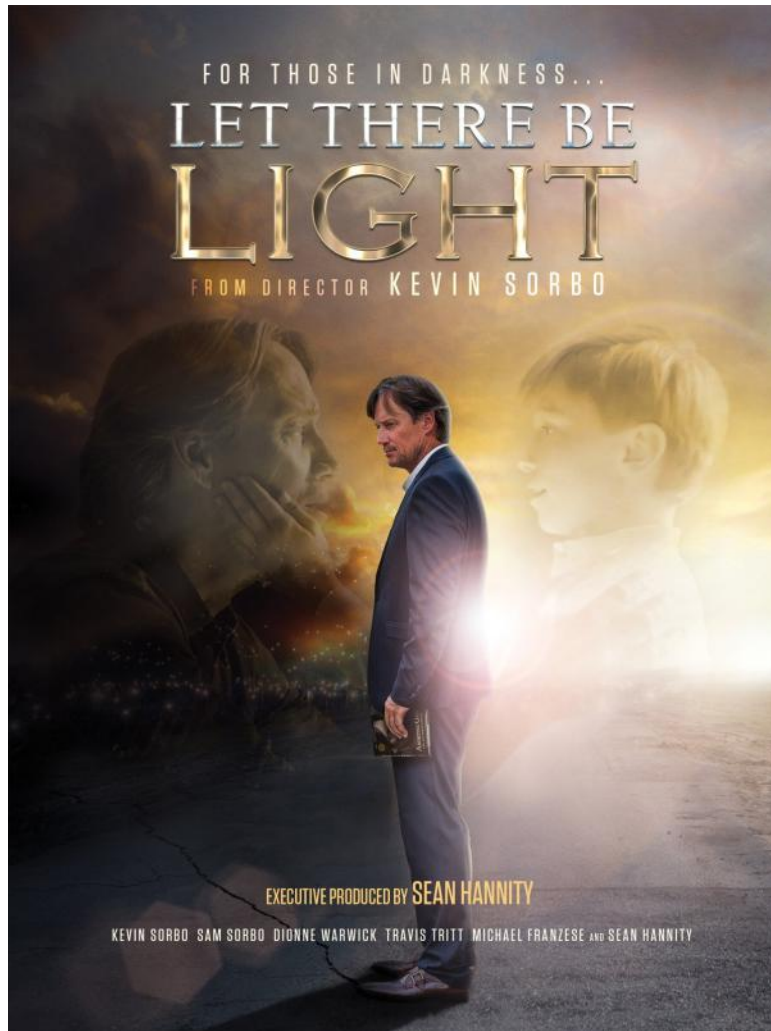
Wednesday Night Services

@ 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**



MOVIE NIGHT!!

Showing: Let There Be Light

Sunday, January 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 watch an amazing movie with us!

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.



Goal: \$3,000.00

To Date: \$2,400



<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Sadie O'Connor</i>
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We will have a meeting to vote on the 2024 budget immediately following the service.





Wednesday Night Supper

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

Team Keith will be cooking Wednesday, January 10th.

\$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 Louise Leonard
Family of Eloise Mixon

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
Lewis Hughes
Arthur Pearson
Pete Williamson

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 *Red & Helen Malphrus*
Vera Floyd *Thomas Cooler*
Barbara Mills *Marie Malphrus*
Kenny Smith
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

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>\$3,588.00</i>	<i>\$ 5,012.49</i>	<i>\$-1,424.49</i>
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$220.00</i>		
Designated Funds			Acct. Balances
<i>Lottie Moon</i>	<i>\$316.00</i>	*****	<i>\$2,425.00</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