



Great Swamp Baptist Church
March 24, 2024

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

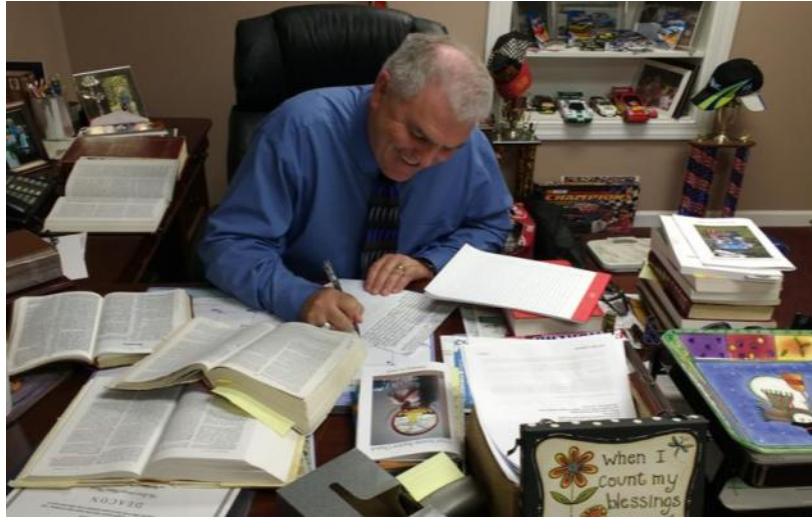
DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Mack Pope



Phone: 843-540-6636

*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



Why Baptism

Introduction:

Our early Baptist ancestors paid dearly for practicing Baptism the way in which Baptists practice in our churches today. This goes back to the time when the Roman Catholic Church was the predominate religion across most of Europe. As a matter of fact, most European governments recognized the Catholic Church as the only true religion. Thus, the government and the Catholic Church at that time persecuted any religious body or sect outside of the Catholic Church. Thus the early Baptist ancestors were certainly a Christian sect that came out of the Catholic faith to begin practicing their beliefs that differed from the Catholic beliefs and, therefore, caused them to fall under the persecution of the government and the Catholic Church.

One of the different beliefs that our early Baptist ancestors had that differed from the Catholic faith was the issue of baptism. The Catholic Church taught that you baptized infants and therefore baptism was a matter of sprinkling or pouring the water on the child, not immersing them. The Baptists believed that baptism was and is not for infants, but rather for those who first are able to make a conscious decision to accept Christ. Then and only do you baptize them through means of total and complete immersion under the water.

So one of the ways in which they were persecuted was that government authorizes along with Catholic officials would show up at a baptismal service and would often hold the person being baptized under the water until they would drown.

Thanks be to our God that for the moment that we've gotten past this kind of persecution and are allowed to baptize in the manner which we believe the Bible teaches us to. So what I want us to look at in this message is simply what I'm calling, Why Baptism? Why were our early ancestors willing to give their lives carrying out their churches ordinance and why would it be important to us today?

I. The first reason why baptism should be important to us is because Jesus Christ, our Lord, was baptized. (John 3:1-17).

When Jesus went to John to be baptized, John at first greatly resisted doing so. He resisted because his baptism was based upon people first repenting and renouncing their sinful ways, and baptism was a demonstration of their repentance and commitment to God. But John knew that Jesus had no need of repentance because He was sinless.

However, Jesus was insistent that John was to baptize Him, and John finally agreed based upon the reason why Jesus claimed he was to baptize Him. So let's consider why Jesus insisted on being baptized by John.

First, I believe that Jesus insisted on being baptized by John to verify John's ministry and message. John's came to prepare people for the coming Messiah by preaching to them the message of repentance. So by being baptized by John, though without the need of repentance, He was saying to everyone that John's message of repentance is of utmost priority for everyone. As a matter of fact, Jesus preached repentance Himself. "From that time on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near.'" (Matt 4:17).

Second, Jesus insisted that John baptize Him as He specifically said, "...to fulfill all righteousness." (vs 15). I believe that Jesus, by being baptized, was demonstrating how He was going to make all persons who would trust in Him to be made right in the sight of our Holy God. John's baptism, as we've already shown, was about repenting of your sins and getting right with God. So Jesus came specifically to deal with mankind's sin problem. When He went to Calvary's cross and He dealt with our sins by taking the punishment that we deserve for our sins and then transferring His righteousness to us. "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." (II Cor. 5:21).

The third reason that I believe why Jesus was baptized by John was to demonstrate His death, burial, and resurrection. Baptists practice baptisms by immersion first because the Greek word for baptism means to immerse or to dip under. In most cases in the Bible when someone was baptized they were taken down into the water. We find here mentioned in our present set of verses that Jesus came up out of the water which clearly indicates that He went down into the water in order to be immersed in the water.

Thus, we practice immersion so that we can demonstrate by symbolism that the way we are saved is through the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Paul tells us that, "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father we too may live a new life." (Rom 6:4). "Having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were raised with Him through your faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead." (Col 2:12).

Someone may ask how does baptism by immersion demonstrate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Well, standing there at first symbolizes Jesus' death, then dipping the person under the water symbolizes Jesus' burial, and bringing the person back up out of the water symbolizes His resurrection.

The fourth reason I believe that Jesus chose to get baptized by John was a very simple reason, and that was to merely give us an example to follow.

II. The second reason why baptism should be important to us is because God's word commands us to do so. (Matt 28:16-20)

Now this point doesn't require really any explanation because it's simply a command in which we are instructed to baptize those who become disciples or followers of Jesus Christ. "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'" (vs 18,19).

When we consider this command it's really important that we understand the authority behind the command. Jesus said that He had **all authority** given to Him. Then He said that because He had been given all authority we were to make disciples and baptize them. That certainly throws light on the seriousness of the command.

III. The third reason why baptism should be important to us is because it was the practice of the early church (Acts 2:36-41; 8:34-38; 10:44-48).

The early church took the command of Jesus discussed in the last point very seriously. From the very first day of the life of the church recorded in Acts 2:36-41 the Apostle Peter, after he and all the other followers of Christ on the day of Pentecost had received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, and as the result became the church belonging to Jesus Christ, preached a message to a very large group of people that had gathered around the disciple, about the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

We are then told that the people who heard the message were deeply convicted of their sins and wanted to know what they must do in order to get right with God. So let's look at Peter's answer to their question. "Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off -- for all whom the Lord our God will call.'"

Peter told them to repent first and then get baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, and they would then have the forgiveness of sins. Now some would think listening to Peter's response, and some actually teach, that in order to be saved you must repent and you must be baptized and then and only then will you be saved.

However that's not what Peter was saying. He was saying that they indeed must repent as part of gaining salvation, but also he was saying you must place a 100% trust in Jesus for your salvation. For the baptism he mentioned to them was to be done in the name of Jesus, which means that their baptism was to represent all that Jesus had done to save them and which they believed in, and also which symbolized the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus by which they are saved.

Thus Peter is not teaching that baptism is required for salvation but rather that baptism is done in the name of the one whom you trust for forgiveness of your sins.

Peter straightens this out for us in a couple of verses later when he said, "With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, 'save yourselves from this corrupt generation. **Those who accepted his message were baptized**, and about 3,000 were added to their number that day.'" (vs 40, 41). The point being the ones baptized were only the ones who had first accepted the message of salvation. The scripture is very clear on this point that salvation is exclusively by repent and faith in Jesus Christ alone. Then comes baptism after the message had been accepted. The importance of baptism is that it demonstrates the salvation that Jesus provides. So though it doesn't add to our salvation, it's clearly important to do because of who it represents, Jesus, our Risen Lord.

The other scriptural references that I put with this point all show the same pattern as what we just discussed took place on the day of Pentecost when the church came into existence, which is acceptance of the message, then baptism because they have already been saved by believing. Over and over the Bible is clear from John 3:15, 16 to I Corinthians 15:1-4 and many more only faith in Jesus saves. But we clearly want to give honor to the salvation Christ gives us by getting baptized to demonstrate that salvation.

Conclusion:

A simple conclusion -- Have you accepted the message and have you been baptized?

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee



Narrowway Dinner & Show

Saturday, March 30th

Easter "Son Up" Service

Sunday, March 31st at 8:00 a.m. at the crosses

Regular Easter service in MPB at 10:00 a.m. like normal

NOTE: Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m.

Lord's Supper

Sunday, March 31st during normal worship service

Great Swamp Cookout

April 27th 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**The First Day of School for
SFCA '24-'25 School Year is
Monday, August 12th!!!**



Spring Break

Monday, April 1st through
Friday, April 5th

“Down by the Creek” Musical

SFCA 1st thru 6th Graders

Friday, April 12th at 12:00 p.m.

Achievement Testing

Monday, April 22nd
Dismiss M-F at 12:00 pm

Muffins for Mom Program

Friday, May 10th
At 8:15 a.m. in MPB

Junior and Senior Prom

Saturday, May 11th
At TBD and Place TBD

Baccalaureate

Wednesday, May 15th
At 7:00 p.m. in Old Sanctuary

Sports Banquet

Thursday, May 16th
At 6:00 p.m. in MPB

Kindergarten (K5)

Graduation

Friday, May 17th
At 7:00 p.m. in Gym

SFCA High School

Graduation

Saturday, May 18th
At 4:00 p.m. in Gym

Sixth Grade “Moving Up”

May 23rd at TBD

SFCA Awards Day

Friday, May 24th at 8:15 a.m.

***Dismiss afterwards for
Summer Break***



<i>Monday</i>	<i>25th</i>	<i>Judy Smith</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>25th</i>	<i>Sam Mock</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>25th</i>	<i>Myra Malphrus</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>26th</i>	<i>Judy Roberts</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>29th</i>	<i>Barbara Mills</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>29th</i>	<i>Darlene Bollack</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>30th</i>	<i>Donald Miglione</i>



Greeters for Today:
Kim & Richard

Next Sunday 3/31:
Juliette & Mike W.

AGENDA

Business Meeting

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

Deacons' Meeting

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

Prayer Meeting

Every Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Grandmothers' Group

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

****Meet in the parsonage, please!!****

All ladies welcome!

Swamp Kids

Every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m.

VBS Supplies Needed!!

We need sand, preferably beach sand or play sand. If you go to the beach, please fill a bag and bring it in!



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

Great Swamp Baptist Church
Sunday School Social

We're Having a
COOKOUT

Invite your friends and neighbors so
we can grow our Sunday School



Saturday, April 27th
11:00 am to 3:00 pm
At the church



Church will provide the
hot dogs and hamburgers, fries, tea
and water.

Church members please bring a
side and/or a dessert to share!



Bounce House and
Games for Kids!!





SwampKids is in need of the following items on Wednesday nights:

- 1) small bottles of water
- 2) *snacks such as fruit, fruit cups, fruit snacks, pretzels, Goldfish, cookies, crackers, etc*
- 3) paper products, such as plates, small cups, small zip lock bags, napkins, paper towels, straws, wet wipes
- 4) *monetary donations to purchase craft supplies*

We appreciate your support and prayers. If you would like us to minister to anyone through cards, prayer, etc, please let Kim Malphrus know.



**ANNIE
ARMSTRONG**
EASTER OFFERING®

The Week of Prayer for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is March 3-10. The theme this year is "Make Jesus Known." Our church goal this year is \$1,200. For every \$100 given, we will color an Easter egg in the basket. See the back wall information board.

Grandmothers Group Spring Luncheon

Monday April 8th at 11:30 a.m.
Located in the Youth House

Please bring a covered dish or a
dessert to share.

All ladies are welcome, even if
you aren't a grandmother. Bring
a friend and be ready to have a
good time with good people!
Hope to see you there!

Any questions, please call
Jennifer at 843-726-3631 or
Debbie at 843-368-5436





Operation Christmas Child



It's that time again -- time to start our year 'round collection! We've had two months off for the holidays, but now onward to the rest of this year. 600 boxes are anticipated to be packed this year, possibly more if more donations come in. The OCC account is \$0 but good thing we have items left over from last year to get us started! You can donate the items each month from the list or give a monetary donation if you don't want to shop. Let us do the shopping for you!

Here is the list for the month of March:

Washcloths Stuffed Animals
Toothbrushes Barbies Tennis Balls
Combs/Brushes - both boys and girls

Thank you for your donations.
-Dorthie

MOVIE NIGHT!!

Showing: TBD

Sunday, April 21st

Concessions at 6:00 p.m.

Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.



Please bring finger foods for your family and more to share with all!

Tea and Popcorn provided.

Come watch an amazing movie with us!



Wednesday Night Supper

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

Team Timmy will be cooking Wednesday, March 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

Unspoken

Hospitals

Surgery/Recovery

Shirley Malphrus

Cancer/Treatments

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

Other Health Needs

Mary Kay Cade
Julia Rushing
Pinky Rushing
Amy Hannah
Kathy Breland
Grace Hetrick
Arthur Pearson
Pete Williamson
Latrelle Steedly
Rodney Malphrus, Jr.
Mark Mingleorff
Bill Carter
Chad Duncan

Nursing Centers

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

Please Continue To Remember

Homebound

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

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>\$4,471.00</i>	<i>\$4,923.33</i>	<i>\$-444.33</i>
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>		
Designated Funds			Acct. Balances
<i>SMB</i>	<i>\$80.00</i>	*****	<i>\$943.03</i>
<i>WNS</i>	<i>\$125.00</i>	*****	<i>\$13.99</i>
<i>Annie Armstrong</i>	<i>\$432.00</i>	*****	<i>\$637.00</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