

A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, with a bright sun low on the horizon creating a lens flare and casting a warm glow. Below the sky, there are rolling mountains in shades of blue and purple. In the foreground, a hillside is covered with numerous small, vibrant purple flowers.

*Psalm 34:8*

Taste and see that the  
Lord is good; blessed is the  
one who takes refuge in  
him.

*Great Swamp Baptist Church*  
*May 26, 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

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

Worship by Giving

Offertory Special

**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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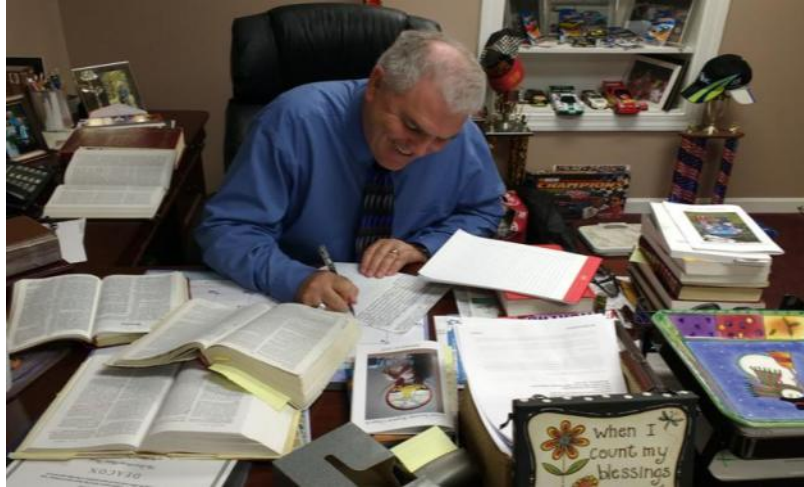
DEACON OF THE WEEK:

*Fred Stanley*



Phone: 843-726-1963

*From  
Pastor  
Ralph's  
Desk:*



## **He's Coming**

(James 5:7-9; II Peter 3:8-18)

### **Introduction:**

Since Easter we've been looking at the things Jesus has done and is doing since He's resurrection. There are several things we've already examined. We've examined His forty day period in which He hung around on earth revealing Himself several times to His disciple so they could be fully convinced of His resurrection. The next thing that we took a look at was His ascension. Following His ascension we've been looking at what He's presently doing in heaven to which He has returned. What we've noted that He's doing is interceding on our behalf before the Father. We've also looked at the fact that He's reigning and in our last message that He's preparing a place for us.

Now for today's message and possibly we will also examine it next week, we're going to look at the fact that one of the things Jesus is doing is preparing to return back to earth, He's coming.

There are ample scriptures that assure us of this truth and Jesus Himself spoke of it many times. When He told His disciples that He was going to heaven to prepare a place for them He also told them that He would return to get them to take them back to be with Him (John 14:1-6). Also when the disciples asked Jesus about end-time events Jesus gave a long discourse to them of His second coming (Matt 24, 25). Also when Jesus was ascending and His disciples were watching the angelic beings said to them, "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11). So let's take a look at the fact that He's getting ready to come again.

**I. First, let's notice that the place where Jesus presently stands let us know that He's getting ready to come (James 5:7-9)**

So the question is then where is Jesus presently standing? Well, James gives us that answer in these verses that we are using for this point. In the first verse James tells us that the Lord's coming (vs 7). In the second verse he repeats that same statement with a little more information, "The Lord's coming is near" (vs 8). In the last verse James lets us know where Jesus is standing as He's preparing to come, "the Judge is standing at the door" (vs 9).

The believers that James was writing to were going through a period of trials, testings, and persecutions. Therefore he was giving to them, with these verses, some encouraging words. Those encouraging words were to hang in there, and be patient, but with patience that is full of anticipation, that their blessed Redeemer is standing at the door ready at the right moment to bust those doors wide open and come and get them to bring them to be with Him. Amen.

So if someone says to me, yes, we know that He's coming but it's not something that He's presently doing, well, my answer is, yes, it's something that He's presently doing by standing at the door ready and waiting for the right moment to come. He's poised and ready so in my book it's something He is doing.

Therefore He tells them to be patient, and don't grumble because the Lord who is standing at the door is ready to come, is in the right place to come from, and is coming soon.

**II. Second, let's notice that the positions that He presently holds lets us know that He's getting ready to come (James 5:7-9)**

James in these verses not only tells us where Jesus is presently standing but he also tells us what His position is while He's standing. "The Judge is standing at the door" (vs 9).

When Jesus came the first time He came not as a Judge but rather to be judged on our behalf. He came as the suffering Messiah who had to deal with our sin problem by living the life we couldn't and then be subject to dying on the old rugged cross in our place taking our hell for us so that we could be reconciled to God and have everlasting love.

Now however He not standing at the door ready to come once again as a suffering servant to bring us redemption. He only needed to do that once and never again because the Father accepted His sacrifice as totally and completely satisfactory for everlasting, eternal salvation.

However, He is coming again, and this time He's coming as Judge. He's coming as Judge because much of the world has not believed in Him. As a matter of fact they not only choose to reject Him, but also to do harm to those who do.

The world is also turning their backs not only upon the Christians but also God's earthly chosen people, the Jews. Therefore He is standing as Judge at the door to not only bust through and deliver His people, but to also bring judgement upon the wicked of the world. So because the world deserves judgement for its rejection and persecution, Jesus stands ready to bring forth judgement the world deserves.

But we must remember that we too will face judgment. It will be the judgment of the believers, not of the lost. So we need to live each and every day as though the judge were coming today.

**III. Third, let's notice that the patience that Jesus is displaying lets us know that He's getting ready to come again (2 Peter 3:89).**

Now I realize that my title for this point may seem to be a little confusing for how does his patience display He's coming? Well, let me share one of the verses in our set of verse and give the answer. "The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (vs 9).

So what this verse shows us is that what's holding Jesus back, still standing at the door, is for the lost to have every opportunity to come to repentance and salvation. However once He knows that last person that's going to be saved is saved then He will come again so that He can fulfill His promise to come, and get us so that we can be with Him. So His patience is an indication of His coming because it says He's just waiting for all to be saved that will be saved and then He will step in. Amen.

**IV. Fourth, let's notice that the promise that Jesus made lets us know that He's coming again (2 Peter 3:10)**

The point here simply is there will indeed come a day when the last person to be saved will be saved. At this point there will be no more patience. The Judge of all the earth will come and save His people out of this world and destroy the wicked and the world as it is to make it what He means for it to be.

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare." (vs 10). Jesus is going to keep His promise. You can bank on it.

**Conclusion:**

While Jesus is standing at the door as Judge He also stands at our heart's door knocking to come in. "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." (Rev 3:20). If you have not trusted Christ, hear His voice and let Him come in so that you can be ready when He steps through the door of heaven to come and get us.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee

**Senior Adult Trip**  
**Fantasy of Lights at Callaway Gardens**

December 12th and 13th (Thurs & Fri)

We will depart the church on December the 12th, Thursday, at 7:00 am via coach bus and we will arrive at the Callaway Resort and Gardens hopefully around 2:00 pm.

Price is \$315.00 per person (includes lodge accommodations, motor coach, Fantasy of Lights tour, holiday dinner buffet Thursday afternoon, breakfast buffet Friday morning, and Gardens admission)

Space is limited to 15 rooms (30 people with double occupancy)

Anyone interested needs to sign up as soon as possible. Sign up sheet is on the back wall.



Deposit of \$100.00  
due no later than  
September 1st.



<i>Saturday</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>Jonathan Malphrus</i>
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The church office will be closed,  
Monday, May 27th due to  
observation of the federal holiday,  
Memorial Day.

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## **MOVIE NIGHT!!**

Showing: TBD

Sunday, June 23rd

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!**





No more Wednesday  
night supper or  
Sunday morning  
breakfast during  
summer break.  
Thank you!!

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	<p><b><u>Monday, May 27th:</u></b> Ron &amp; Marie Malphrus</p>
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# 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 Ernestine Steedly*  
*Family of Finn Cannon*  
*Family of Tex Lowther*

## Unspoken

## Other Health Needs

*Mary Kay Cade*  
*Julia Rushing*  
*Pinky Rushing*  
*Amy Hannah*  
*Kathy Breland*  
*Grace Hetrick*  
*Arthur Pearson*  
*Pete Williamson*  
*Rodney Malphrus, Jr.*  
*Mark Mingledorff*  
*Mike Wall*  
*Sage Lanier (2 week old*  
*baby with seizures)*  
*Chyleen Mock (eye surgery*  
*again June 6th)*  
*Buzz Bonds*  
*Dean Daley*

## Hospitals

## Surgery/Recovery

*Gary Breland - stomach surgery*  
*and kidney stones*  
*Ann Long - Hip surgery*

## Cancer/Treatments

*Revel Crosby - 4 years old*  
*(Leukemia)*  
*Ken Lawler*  
*Barry DeMay*  
*Rachel Vaughn*

## 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 - Resorts at Beaufort (D wing)*

## Please Continue To Remember

### Homebound

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

### Pray For Our Military

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

# Church Staff

Pastor: **Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr** ..... [jehu27@gmail.com](mailto:jehu27@gmail.com)

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

Sunday School Director: **Mike Davis** .....

Pianist: **Michelle Waitt** ..... [waittfamily83@gmail.com](mailto:waittfamily83@gmail.com)

Administrative Assistant: **Jennifer Meador** ..... [greatswampbc@gmail.com](mailto:greatswampbc@gmail.com)  
843-726-3631

School Administrator: **Donna Carter** ..... [dcarter@sfcaweb.org](mailto:dcarter@sfcaweb.org)

# Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$2,518.00	\$4,923.33	\$-2,405.33
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$50.00		
<b>Designated Funds</b>			<b>Acct. Balances</b>
<i>SMB</i>	\$85.00	*****	\$1,001.31
<i>VBS</i>	\$55.00	*****	\$2,319.18



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