



*Great Swamp Baptist Church*

*November 24, 2024*

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

*Sunday Morning Worship*

*10:30 AM*

**Announcements**

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

**Call to Worship**

**Invocation**

*Calvin Bryan*

**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 Workers**

**For Today:**  
Barbara & Nicole M.

**Next Sunday 12/1:**  
Chyleen & Pat B,



**Teacher:**  
Olivia Stanley



**Greeters for Today:**  
Courtney

**Next Sunday 12/1:**  
Kim & Richard

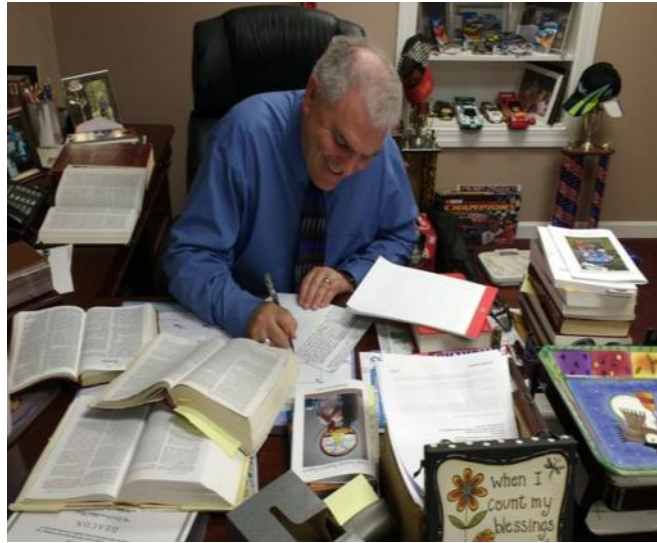
**DEACON OF THE WEEK:**

*Calvin Bryan*



Phone: 843-226-0238

*From  
the  
Pastor's  
desk:*



## **The Requirement for Entering the Kingdom of God** *John 3:1-20, 36*

### **Introduction:**

While in the Florida Keys last week I spent much of my time snorkeling. For God's creation under the water can be quite spectacular especially in the beautiful bluish green water of the Florida Keys. The sea creatures in these waters often have beautiful bright colors and sometimes very unique shapes.

To be able to step into the world of these amazing sea creatures you have to have the right equipment to do so. For me it was simply a mask and a snorkel. To be able to go deeper and spend more time with them I would have to have scuba diving equipment.

However no matter how much proper equipment I have to spend more time observing the sea creatures I still have to eventually come up out of the water. For God did not create me or any human being with the ability to live under the water and be able to interact with the fish and other sea creatures in the way they do with each other.

Now the same is true of the sea creatures when it comes to entering into our world. They are not properly equipped to live on the land like human beings are. That's why every fish a person catches, if they do not quickly throw the fish back in the water, the fish will die. To live and reign freely either under the water or above the land you have to be born in one or the other environment to live there. In other words birth under the water is required to live under the water and birth on the land is required to be able to live on the land.

So the question is what does all the above discussion have to do with the text I've chosen for this message? Well, the answer to that question has to do with the statement that Jesus made to Nicodemus, a religious leader who came seeking for some answers from Jesus. Jesus without hesitation told Nicodemus, "...very truly I tell you no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again" (vs 3). So to enter the kingdom of God you have to be born into it. Just as a fish has to be born in the water to live there and a human has to be born on the land to live there. So birth is the one requirement to get into the kingdom of God, and Jesus in this discussion with Nicodemus explains what being born again is, and how you experience it

**I. First, let's consider why Jesus was the right person to explain being born again (vs 9-13, 31-35)**

Jesus takes time in His discussions with Nicodemus to explain why He is the right person to be discussing the need to be born again to get into the kingdom of God. For you see if Jesus is not qualified to be discussing the issue of the new birth then there's no need to consider what He has to say about the subject.

However Jesus points out to Nicodemus that more than anyone, as a matter of fact He points out that He is the only one qualified to discuss the subject of the new birth. So here is the reason why according to Jesus Himself, "I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven -- the Son of Man." So Jesus was telling Nicodemus that He was qualified to explain and demand the new birth because He, the Son of Man, came from Heaven and therefore knew all about being born again because He heard it from His Father, from the very throne room of heaven.

The last set of verses in the chapter go right to the point that I am making. Speaking of Jesus these verses say undoubtedly that He only can speak of the new birth. "The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit." (vs 31-35).

Therefore, because Jesus as the eternal Son of God comes from above, from heaven and has heard and seen God the Father, and speaks only what God the spirit has revealed to Him that's directly from heaven, then what Jesus has to say about being born again has to be exactly right and exactly the truth. Therefore it behooves us to pay close attention to what Jesus has to say about the matter. For He alone knows exactly what being born is again means.

## **II. Second, let's consider what exactly Jesus said being born again was (vs 3-8)**

Now in the first place Jesus reveals that there are two births. "Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to the spirit." (vs 6) The two births aren't the same, but both births are required to know and experience being born again. Being born of the flesh is a reference to being born physically. So you can't be born again, or spiritually born, until you are born physically. But being born physically doesn't guarantee you will be born again or as this verse calls it spiritual birth.

What Jesus is telling us is that to be a part of this world what's required is physical birth. However to enter the kingdom of God you must have a spiritual birth, be born again. And the reason why is because when we are born physically of the flesh, we are born with a sin nature because of the original sin of Adam and Eve.

Therefore because we have sin in our lives we can't be a part of the kingdom of God. Sin, evil, rebellion and imperfection can't be allowed into God's kingdom because His kingdom is one of holiness, righteousness, and perfection. Besides Paul reminds us that our spirits are dead because of sin. "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient." (Eph 2:1-2)

The second thing that Jesus tells us from His discussion with Nicodemus about the spiritual birth is that it can only happen by the means of the Holy Spirit of God, "...but the Spirit gives birth to the spirit." (vs 6). Only the spirit of God can awaken our dead spirits and birth us into God's kingdom. So the question is how does that spirit of God awaken our spirits and birth us again into God's kingdom? That's what we will examine in the next point.

## **III. Third, let's consider how Jesus says that we are born again (vs 13-21, 36)**

Well, in order for us to be born again by the means of the spirit of God our sin problem must be dealt with because that's the very thing that keeps us out of God's kingdom. Jesus reveals to us in these verses how our problem has been dealt with "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son." (3:14-18)

So what Jesus is revealing is that He came into the world to deal with our sin problem by going to the cross taking our punishment and condemnation on our behalf. And everyone who is willing to believe in Him, trusting Him as the only way of forgiveness of our sins, because He took our place at the cross will be forgiven, and granted eternal life thus being born again into God's kingdom.

The holy spirit of God is the one who awakens our heart and mind to see and understand that Jesus alone is the way of salvation and He also empowers us to be able to believe for that salvation. So the question is have you been born again by totally trusting and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and what He did for us at Calvary and in His resurrection?

Conclusion:

In the Disney animated movie called the Little Mermaid the main character Ariel is a mermaid who is the daughter of King Triton. She falls in love with a human being who, of course, lives on the land. To make a long story short, the only way she could marry the human being which was a prince, was to become human and her king daddy had the means to give her the ability and eventually he did. In the same way the spirit of God can transform your life so that it is born again through believing in Christ making it possible for you to be a part of God's kingdom.

Jesus Loves You

Ralph Lee

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**IMPORTANT**

*Please read*



**NOTE: Since we will only be open Monday and Tuesday next week, please have your information for the bulletin in BEFORE noon Tuesday as the bulletins will be printed Tuesday afternoon. Jennifer will be out of town for Thanksgiving and won't be able to come in and print them after Tuesday. Thanks! Happy Thanksgiving!!**



GREAT SWAMP  
Christmas  
FAMILY  
GATHERING  
MAKING MEMORIES TOGETHER

Our annual Christmas Family Gathering  
will be Sunday, December 8th.

Everyone is asked to bring a side dish  
and a dessert. The church will provide  
the ham and baked chicken. This will  
be during the worship hour.







# Women on MISSION

*(formerly Grandmothers' Group)*

We are having a Chinese Christmas party!!!! Come join us, have a great time, eat some great food, and be around some great people!

**\*\*Plan to bring a \$5 to \$10 gift to participate in the game.\*\***

**When:** December 9th at 11:30 a.m.

**Where:** Youth House

**Bring:** A Covered Dish and/or Dessert. The church will provide the meat and water/tea.



<i>Monday</i>	<i>25th</i>	<i>Kelly Chapman</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>26th</i>	<i>Krey Lowther</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>26th</i>	<i>Carol Davis</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>30th</i>	<i>Chuck Scoggins</i>

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The SwampKids will be packing 21 backpacks this year for the local foster kids. We have the backpacks. All we need are the items. So for the month of November, we'll be collecting these items listed. There will be a box in the MPB for your donations or you can give money for the purchase of these items. Our packing party will be Wednesday, Dec 11th at 7pm.

**List of Items Needed:**

- knit caps, gloves, warm socks, warm scarves
- Vienna sausages, spaghetti
- toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, brushes, soaps or body wash, shampoo, washcloths, deodorant, markers
- fleece blankets, stuffed animals, dolls, hair accessories
- cars, crayons, coloring books, puzzles, fidget spinners, bubble pop toys
- make-up, jewelry, thermos, flash lights with batteries, colored pencils, craft sets, balls with pump, Uno cards



## Wednesday Night Supper

Meals served from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
\$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family of four or more.  
No Meal Deliveries.

**\*\*NOTE: NO Wednesday night supper on  
Wednesday, November 27th.**

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## Sunday Morning Breakfast

Breakfast will be served  
from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  
\$5.00 per person or \$15.00  
per family of four or more.

**Sunday School Classes**

*Starting at 9:15 am*

**CAMO CLASS:** (Rm 406) -- *Leader: Bobby Smith*

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**GLEANERS CLASS:** (Rm401) -- *Leader: Darlene Bollack*

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**VISIONARIES CLASS:** *Old Social Hall, Bldg #3 -- Leader: Greg Mariocourt*

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**SOJOURNERS CLASS:** *Room 417 -- Leader: Mack Pope*

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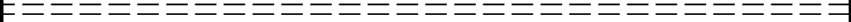
**YOUTH:** *Youth Annex*

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**BLUE ANGELS - 1ST & 2ND GRADES:**  
*Room 417 -- Leader: Nicole Mauriocourt*

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**RAINBOW KIDS - 3RD GRADE AND OLDER -- Room 415**

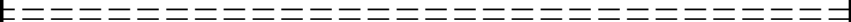


**Tuesday Morning Prayer Meeting**

*Breakfast begins at 9:00 am*

*Followed by the Prayer Meeting*

*Located in the Multi-Purpose Building*



**Wednesday Night Services**

*@ 7:00 pm*

**WORSHIP SERVICE** *Multi-Purpose Building*

*Leader - Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

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**YOUTH GROUP** *Youth Annex*

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**SWAMP KIDS** *Nursery Hall*

*Leader – Kim Malphrus*

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**Operation Christmas**  
**Child**  
**November Child Needs**



This next three weeks will be taking donations for shipping of the shoeboxes. The cost for each box is \$10. Whatever is collected, I will scan the labels in order to follow the shoeboxes. Thank you for your donations. Any questions please ask. -- Dorthie

Calling all shoeboxes!! Monday November 25th is the LAST day for collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. If you have not turned your box in yet, please do so Monday, November 25th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

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**MOVIE NIGHT!!**



Showing: TBD  
 Sunday, December 15th  
 Concessions at 6:00 p.m.  
 Movie starts at 6:45 p.m.

Please bring finger foods for your family and more to share with all!  
 Tea and Popcorn provided by the church.



Come watch an amazing movie with us!



# GSBC Prayer Page

## Church Leadership

*Sunday School  
SFCA-Donna Carter  
Child Development  
Ministries  
Ralph Lee, Jr. - Pastor  
Deacons*

## Leadership

*President / Vice President of  
the United States of America*

## Bereavement

## Unspoken

## Hospitals

## Other Health Needs

*Julia Rushing  
Pinky Rushing  
Amy Hannah  
Arthur Pearson  
Earl Dean Pope*

## Surgery/Recovery

## Cancer/Treatments

*Revel Crosby - 4 years old  
(Leukemia)  
Ken Lawler  
Rachel Vaughn  
Ella Gourlay - 10 years old  
(Leukemia)*

*Shannon Morgan (MS)  
Kadence Abney (little girl -  
collapsed lung)  
Juliette's Granddaughter  
Jeff Bladen (liver)*

## Nursing Centers

*Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe  
Tommy & Erma Cooler - Ridgeland Nursing Home  
David Sauls - Florence Place Assisted Living  
Doby Cleland - Life Care Center of HHI*

## 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  
Shirley Malphrus*

### Pray For Our Military

*Sgt. Jared Blanton - Deployed  
Matthew Mills - US Marines -  
Okinawa, Japan  
Jericho Malphrus - Sp. Agent/Air Force -  
Pinehurst, NC.  
Andrea C. Daring - Charleston, SC  
Schuyler Johnson - Basic Training Marines*

## Church Staff

*Pastor: Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*.....*jehu27@gmail.com*  
*Sunday School Director: Mike Davis*.....*greatswampbc@gmail.com*  
*Pianist: Michelle Waitt*.....*scarolina1961@gmail.com*  
*Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Meador*.....*greatswampbc@gmail.com*  
*843-726-3631*  
*School Administrator: Donna Carter*.....*dcarter@sfcaweb.org*



The church office will be closed  
 Wednesday, November 27th through  
 Friday, November 29th for the  
 Thanksgiving holidays. We will  
 reopen Monday, December 2nd.

## Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$3,937.00	\$4,923.33	\$-936.33
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$195.35		
<b>Designated Funds</b>			<b>Acct. Balances</b>
OCC	\$293.00		\$2,117.12
Wreaths Across America	\$1,418.00		\$1,418.00





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