

GREAT SWAMP  
Christmas  
FAMILY

The graphic features the words "GREAT SWAMP" in a black, rounded, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, "Christmas" is written in a large, black, cursive script. The word "FAMILY" is rendered in large, red, block letters with a white and red geometric pattern. The letter 'A' is replaced by a Santa hat, and the letter 'I' is replaced by a green Christmas tree with yellow lights and a gold star. Small black snowflakes and four-pointed stars are scattered around the text.

GATHERING  
MAKING MEMORIES TOGETHER

The word "GATHERING" is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font. Below it, "MAKING MEMORIES TOGETHER" is written in a black, rounded, sans-serif font, following a slight upward curve. Small black snowflakes and four-pointed stars are scattered around the text.

*Great Swamp Baptist Church*

*December 8, 2024*

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

## **CHRISTMAS SPECIAL**

### **DEACON'S PRAYER**

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### **PRAISE TEAM: MEDLEY**

*"O Come All Ye Faithful "*

*"Hark the Herald"*

*"Joy to the World"*

*"Away in a Manager"*

*"We Three Kings"*

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### **OFFERING**

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Ayden Ingram -- *"Noel"*

Olivia May & Kids --

*"Come and See What's Happening in the Barn"*

Terra Scoggins

Saylor Olivas -- *"Silent Night"*

Sadie Brannon

Sophia Sineath & Kids

Sophia Sineath & Bjo Mills

Everyone -- *"Mary Did You Know"*

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*Sunday Mornings*  
*Following The Song Service:*



**Nursery Workers**

**For Today:**  
Tammy & Kim M.

**Next Sunday 12/15:**  
Audrey & Sophia S.



**Teacher:**  
Olivia Stanley



**Greeters for Today:**  
Juliette & Mike Wall

**Next Sunday 12/15:**  
Mike Davis

**DEACON OF THE WEEK:**

*Lloyd Freeman*



Phone: 803-816-0483

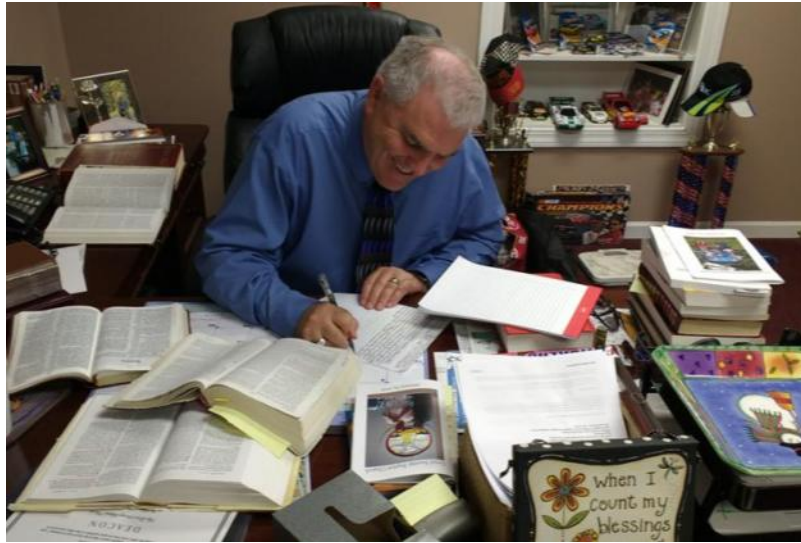
**NEXT WEEK'S**

**DEACON:**

*Chuck Scoggins*



*From  
the  
Pastor's  
desk:*



## **Jesus View of Children**

*Mark 10:13-16*

### **Introduction:**

In the writing of Antiquity we generally don't find much written about children, but when we do it often reveals a negative view of them.

However one Book of Antiquity, the Bible, the word of God gives us a positive picture of children. A good example is found in the book of Psalms. "Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from Him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court." (Ps. 127:3-5).

So the Psalmist is telling us that children are a blessing from the Lord. Well, this positive view of children is also found in the New Testament. Especially is this the case with Jesus' view of children, and that's the message that I want us to examine for this sermon since we have done a baby dedication this past Sunday. So let's look at Jesus' view of children.

### **I. First, let's notice Jesus' view of children from His passion that He expresses for them (vs 13,14)**

Generally when we think of the word passion being expressed toward someone we see visions of joy and excitement being displayed. However, on this occasion Jesus expressed His passion for the children with indignation. The indignation was not directed toward the children but rather toward His own disciples. For they were rebuking the parents seeking to have their children to be blessed by Jesus. In other words they were being a hindrance for these children getting to see Jesus, and this angered Him.

The disciples were being indignant toward the parents, and Jesus was indignant toward the disciples. Jesus was sympathetic toward the desire of those parents and guardians because He sees children as a blessing from the Lord and is worthy of His love and attention. So the question that needs to be asked of us all as a church, as parents, and as an individual, do we see children as a blessing, or as a problem, as a heritage or as nuisance?

The tragedy is that our world has some very awful views of our children. They often see them as pawns to be used in the world of human trafficking, or property to be pushed around and abused or as an object not even worth being considered a human being. All of these points of views just mentioned cause our blessed Lord to be indignant toward those who choose to treat children in these ways. May we choose instead to follow the steps of our Lord doing all that we can to implore our children to come to Jesus.

## **II. Second, let's notice Jesus' view of children from His purpose that He desires for them (vs 13, 14)**

Now it's quite obvious what's Jesus' desires for the children and it is that they be brought to Him. And what is the purpose for bringing the children to Jesus? So that through their trust in Him, with the same kind of trust that they express in someone like their parents, they would become a part of the kingdom of God. Thus, before they could enter the kingdom of God they must first come to Jesus, and that's exactly what our blessed Lord wants them to do.

We, too, must grasp this desire and purpose that Jesus has for our children and do everything possible not to hinder them from coming to Jesus but rather do everything possible to bring them to Jesus. There are many ways that we can hinder children from coming to Jesus, but there also are many ways that we can help them come to Jesus.

So let us consider a few ways that we can help our children come to Jesus. First, the best way we can help them come to Jesus is to come to Him ourselves. Our own personal example will encourage them to consider the fact that if coming to Jesus was important to us then it should be for them.

Another way we can help the children come to Jesus is by reading and sharing God's word with them. One day Jesus was speaking to the religious authorities in Jerusalem and He said to them, "You study the scripture diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." (John 5:39, 40). So Jesus was saying that God's word points people to Jesus.

A third way we can help children come to Jesus is by taking them to church where they can receive re-enforcement with the spiritual training that you as a parent are doing with them at home. At church they will see, hear, and experience worship of the very one that we are encouraging them to believe in. And this worship will be done by other families and individuals which will further give them more examples of others following Jesus.

Finally without elaborating if we want to encourage them to trust in Jesus then we must love them as Christ has loved us. For love is a most powerful motivating tool.

These are a few of the ways we can help to challenge our children to go to Jesus. When you leave any of those out you begin to hinder your children's journey to Jesus. So let's pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us to do the right thing to guide our children to Jesus so that they can be a part of God's kingdom.

### **III. Third, let's notice Jesus' view of children from His participation with them (vs 1, 6)**

Now the participation I'm referring to is that fact that He became very personal with them. He did this first of all by receiving them and taking time with them. He also took time to touch them in a Godly manner thus letting these children understand how important they are to Him. Finally the verse says that he blessed them. To bless someone is to give them some kind of favorable word or message. Thus Jesus gave these children some personal favorable message to each one of them. Most likely a message of hope and promise of His care and love for them.

So if we are going to be like Jesus toward our children then we need to give them our time, our touch, and our encouraging words. They need to know that we understand that they are loved by Jesus.

### **IV. Fourth, let's notice Jesus' view of children from the picture that He presents of them (vs 14, 15)**

The point I am making here is that Jesus uses the example of the child like faith of the little children as the only means and way that anyone can enter into the kingdom of God.

In Matthews Gospel we get a further explanation of this example using children as the means of coming into the kingdom of God. "He called a little child to Him, and placed the child among them. And He said: 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.'" (Matt 18:2-5).

You see a little child is completely aware of his or her dependence upon their parents or guardians to get along in life. They are fully aware of the fact that they are fully dependant upon their parents for food to eat, clothes to wear, a shelter to live in and so on. So it is that if we are going to enter into the kingdom of God like a little child we must humbly come to Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior and trust in Him fully with the reliance that a little child has in their parents taking care of them. We must fully declare our reliance upon the Lord Jesus Christ as our only means of entering God's kingdom, and this trust in Him is an everlasting trust.

So have you come to Christ with this childlike faith in Christ, trusting fully and completely in Him and all that He did in his life, death, burial and resurrection to save us? If not, I pray that today you will.

**V. Fifth, let's notice Jesus' view of children from His praying over them (Matt 19:13)**

Now this point is found in Matthew's gospel presentation of the same event that we are looking at in Mark's gospel. What the verse tells us that's not in Mark's gospel is that the parents brought the children to not only be blessed by Jesus but that He would also pray for them.

Now to be honest with you we aren't told if Jesus actually prayed with them. However when He blessed them as part of the blessing He may have prayed with them and over them. But there is no doubt from all the emphasis on prayer from the Lord Jesus Christ, and all the Bible, that Jesus prayed for the children and so should we.

As in our last point to enter the kingdom of God we must humble ourselves and with childlike faith trust Christ. So to raise our children we too must have the childlike faith to cry out to God for help to raise our children in the manner He so wants us to. Are you praying for your children and are you praying with your children?

**Conclusion:**

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world, red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world. Do you?

Jesus Loves You  
Ralph Lee



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





# 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>Sunday</i>	<i>8<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Ben Meador</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>11<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Charlee Carter</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>12<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Nadine Smoak</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>13<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Corinna Malphrus</i>

**I apologize for inadvertently leaving out two birthdays last week:**

**Jennifer Wall (12/5) and Jacob Wall (12/6).**

**I hope y'all had great birthdays!!!**

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**Monday, December 9th at 6:00 p.m.**

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A huge THANK YOU to Carol Davis and her Christmas decorating team for the stunning Christmas decorations. Our church looks beautiful. Thank you for your time, dedication, and amazing skills!!



## 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.

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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.

# Christmas Card Delivery



\$0.50 per card delivered  
The SwampKids will deliver  
in-house Christmas cards this year.

Mailbox for cards is in the foyer.

Proceeds go to Lottie  
Moon Christmas offering.



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Help is needed on Wednesday  
nights for SwampKids. We could use  
an extra person in crafts, back-up for  
Missions and a floater. Please contact  
Kim Malphrus at 843-540-0365.





# LOTTIE MOON

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING



**CHURCH GOAL:  
\$3,000**

**Lottie Moon:**  
a life of radical obedience

Lottie Moon was appointed a missionary to China July 7, 1873. She was a bold woman of action and radical obedience who shared Christ with her beloved Chinese to the end. Lottie died Dec. 24, 1912, leaving a legacy that lives on. Her influence led to the establishment of the Woman's Missionary Union and inspired other missions pioneers to join her on the field. Her passionate letter-writing led to the offering that bears her name today — Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® for International Missions.\*

# 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

*Family of Charley Green*

## Unspoken

## Hospitals

## Other Health Needs

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

## Surgery/Recovery

*Mike Mingledorff (motorcycle  
accident)*

## 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)  
Vera Miles (rotator cuff)  
Eddie Malphrus (pneumonia)  
Rachel Mixon  
Lily Smith (migraines)*

## 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*

## Stewardship

<b>Tithes</b>	<b>This Week</b>	<b>Weekly Budget</b>	<b>Surplus/Deficit</b> + / -
	<b>\$4,071.00</b>	<b>\$4,923.33</b>	<b>-\$852.33</b>
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<b>\$50.00</b>		
<b>Designated Funds</b>			<b>Acct. Balances</b>
Gleaners SS Class	<b>\$35.00</b>		<b>\$1,293.06</b>
Lottie Moon	<b>\$189.00</b>		<b>\$191.00</b>



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