

*Great Swamp Baptist Church*

*January 19, 2025*

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

## Sunday Morning Worship

*10:30 AM*

**Announcements**

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

**Call to Worship**

**Invocation**

*Chuck Scoggins*

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:**  
Tammy & Audrey

**Next Sunday 01/26:**  
Sophia & Melissa I.



**Teacher:**  
Olivia Stanley



**Greeters for Today:**  
Courtney & Betty

**Next Sunday 01/26:**  
Kim & Richard

**DEACON OF THE WEEK:**

*Chuck Scoggins*

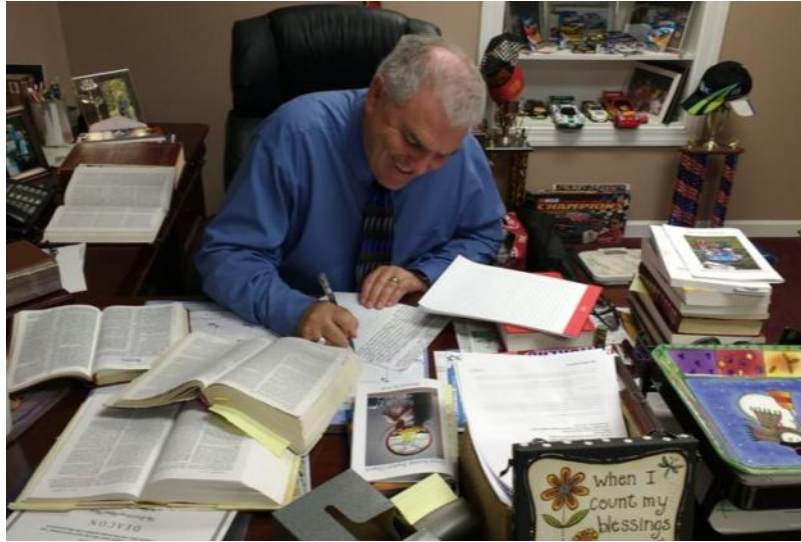


**Phone: 843-816-0483**

**NEXT WEEK'S  
DEACON:**  
*Calvin Bryan*



*From  
the  
Pastor's  
desk:*



## **The Handiwork of God** *Ephesians 2:8-10*

### **Introduction:**

As we contemplate what God wants us to do this new year then we need to come to grips with what God is teaching us in these verses that I've chosen for this message. Especially is that true with verse ten which focuses on the handiwork of God. So let's see exactly what God's handiwork is so that we can be prepared to face this new year in the manner that God wants us to.

### **I. First, as we seek to understand God's handiwork, let's notice the persons who are God's handiwork (vs 10)**

Anytime you begin a sentence with the word "for" as our verse does you are generally doing so to make a very clear and strong emphasis. Well, that's exactly what is taking place in this verse, and what he is emphasizing is that "we" are God's handiwork.

Now just who was the "we" that the Apostle Paul was referring to? Well, Paul had written this letter of Ephesians to the church and believers that were in Ephesus. So the point is very clear that believers in Christ -- Christians are all the "we" of God's handiwork.

So let's ask the question why are Christian's God's handiwork? Well, let's answer that question first by understanding what the Greek word for handiwork is in English. When translated it is the word from which we get the English word poem.

Now a poem doesn't create itself. Rather it takes a poet to give us the poem. The point being that God is the poet and we are His poem. Another way to express it is that He is the master artist and we are His creative masterpiece. Thus clearly pointing out that the only reason why Christians are Christians is because God did all the necessary work to turn us into creative beings both physically and spiritually.

In the first chapter of the bible God creates everything. On each day of creation God would speak into existence what He created on that day. However on day six which was His last day of creating God first created the land animals which again He created by speaking them into existence.

Then however on day six God also chose to create His greatest work of creation human beings. They were the only thing that He chose to create in His image. We were His greatest masterpiece of His creation and to do this masterpiece He didn't just speak us into existence as He did everything else. Rather He became more personally involved. For we are told that God reached down with his hands and scooped up the dust of the earth and formed our bodies. Then with His mouth He breathed into us the breath of life and we became living souls.

However because mankind chose to sin against God then horrible consequences resulted one of such was spiritual death which is separation from God. Thus requiring that we needed a new creation that would restore and reconcile us unto our holy God. And because we are spiritually dead we are incapable of bringing about that new creation.

However praise be to God that through His glorious Son the Lord Jesus Christ He did all the work required to bring about this new creation in our lives. Once again He's the master artist who did the whole work from beginning to end to make his new piece of art that is well pleasing in His sight. And He did so in a more personal way than when He first created us in the beginning. As the verse goes on to say that God created us in Christ Jesus.

Now what this means is that the way that God created us anew is by the life, death, burial, and resurrection of His glorious Son Jesus Christ. In Christ Jesus our God literally stepped into our world and became one of us and lived the perfect life for us that we couldn't and died in our place for us and then came up out of the grave to prove that He was the Son of God and that His death, on the cross was totally sufficient to save us and make us a new creation. God did it all to Him belongs to glory.

**II. Second, as we seek to understand God's handiwork, let's notice the purpose of God's handiwork (vs 10)**

Well the message of this verse is quite clear about why God has made us in His handiwork. It is so that we can do good works. "Created in Christ Jesus to do good works..."

Now it's important that we once again remind ourselves of the first point of the message and of the two other verses chosen for this message. The point being is that the works by which we are saved are not our works but God's works. We are his handiworks not ours. The two other verses make it quite clear. "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith and this is not from yourselves it is the gift of God - not by works so that no one can boast." (vs 8,9).

Therefore the good works that we are created to do are not for salvation but Rather are the results of our salvation. We are saved by God's work so that we can do good works for His glory and honor. |

In the book of Philippians Paul once again gives us this principle "Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." (Phil 2:12, 13) We work out what God works in us to accomplish His good purpose.

So if you have been saved then what we should be able to see happening in your life is that it is producing good works that God is working in you.

**III. Third, as we seek to understand God's handiwork let's notice the preparation involved in God's handiwork (vs 10)**

What this verse talks about is that the good works that God in Christ Jesus has created us to do were prepared by Him for us to do in the past. In other words in the eternal past when God through His foreknowledge chose us. He also chose for us what it is that He wanted us to do for His glory and honor. He chose what our spiritual gifts, talents, and works would be. Yes, it's sometimes hard to decipher what those things are. But we can never say as a Christian that there is nothing in particular that God has called or chosen for me to do. He absolutely has specific ministries or work that He wants us each to do. And some of those good works are ones that we all are called to do. They are the commands laid down by God for us all as Christians to do. We are all called to love one another and to care for one another and the list goes on.

However may we all be praying to God that He will help us to carry out those specific good works that He's planned in advance for us each to do. And really all that's required is that we always are willing and as loose as we are willing then it will come to us.

**IV. Fourth, as we seek to understand God's handiwork, let's notice the plan of God's handiwork (vs 10)**

Well this point will only take a few lines to reveal the plan of God's handiwork. It's the last phrase of the of the verse, "...which God prepared in advance for us to do." It's simply this that we are to do those good works. We are not to sit around and just merely discuss them but rather to do them. Are you doing them?

**Conclusion:**

I simply want to conclude by asking us can people tell that we are God's handiwork, His masterpiece because they can see His good works coming out of us?

Jesus Loves You,  
Ralph Lee



<i>Friday</i>	<i>24th</i>	<i>Bernice Malphrus</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>24th</i>	<i>Helen Malphrus</i>

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New Youth Program Coming Soon! We are in the process of getting everything set up and together, so I can't spill all the beans, but what I can tell you is that it's going to be AWESOME!! We are revamping our youth program (for the 7th through 12th graders) and it is going to be bigger and better than ever before! God has given us SEVEN new youth leaders. Yes, you read that right, SEVEN! They are Chuck & Terra Scoggins, Bart & Lisa Chandler, Mike & Melissa Ingram, and Bjo Mills. Wow! That is just incredible. God is so good, which is how we KNOW He has something incredible in store for our new youth program and the youth who attend. That's all I can say for now, but keep your eyes peeled for more information. It'll be coming very soon and you don't want to miss it!! Please pray and spread the word and tell all the 7th to 12th graders that you know about the new youth program coming soon to Great Swamp Baptist Church and invite them all!! They won't want to miss it!!



# Now Hiring

## Apply Today

### OPEN POSITION: Church Secretary

If you are interested in working as the church secretary, please send your resume to [greatswampbc@gmail.com](mailto:greatswampbc@gmail.com), give it to a deacon, or drop it off in the church office.

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### **IMPORTANT**

*Please read*

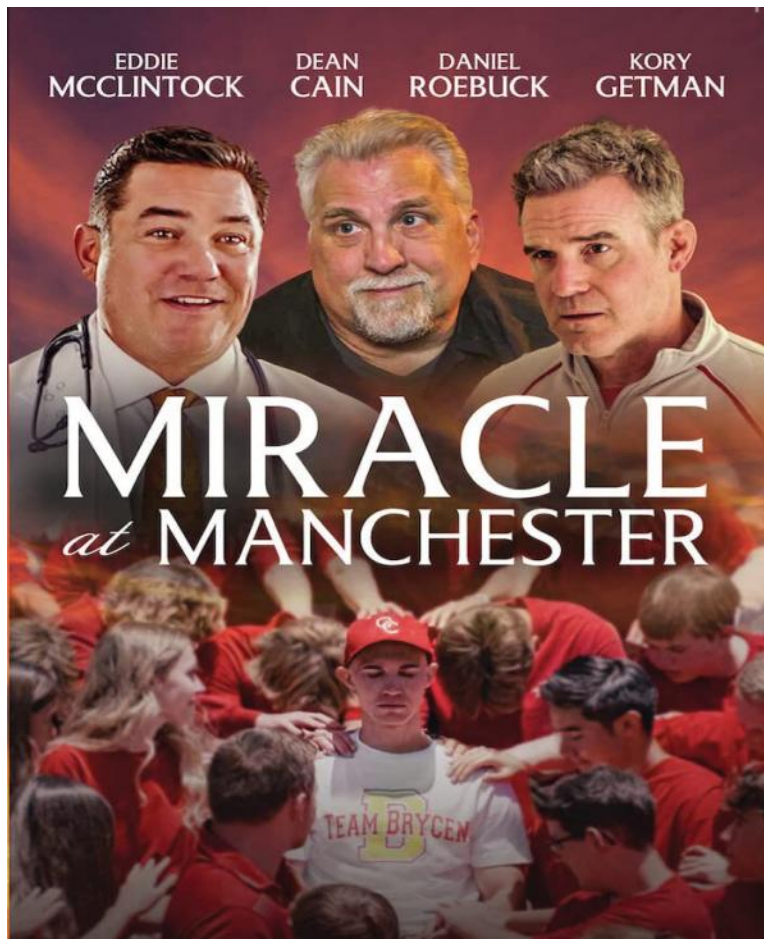


If you would like a printed copy of your 2024 Church Contributions (Tithes) for your tax purposes, please write your name on the list on the back wall. Otherwise, it will not be printed unless specifically requested. Feel free to contact Timmy Sauls if you have any questions.

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WMU Focus Sunday coming soon!  
It will be Sunday, February 16th. The theme for this year is "What Joy!" The scripture for this theme is I Thessalonians 2:8. This is a fantastic ministry and mission group, so get excited to see what this year's theme will bring!!



## **MOVIE NIGHT!!**



Showing: **Miracle at Manchester**

Sunday, January 19th

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!**





*(formerly Grandmothers Group)*

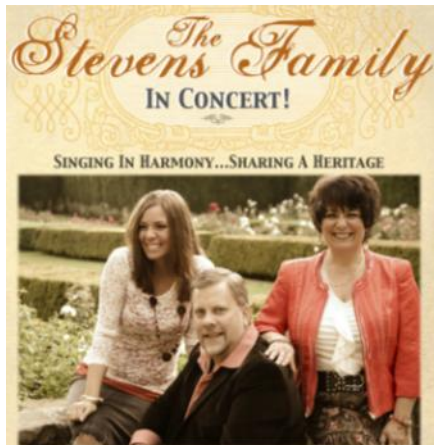
The next meeting will be held Monday, February 3rd at 11:30 a.m. in the multi-purpose building. Come hungry and ready to have some fun (and maybe even learn a thing or two!)

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## **SRBA Executive Board Meeting**

Monday, January 27th at 11:30 a.m.  
Meet in the SRBA Building  
Lunch will be served!

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Sunday, February 2nd  
at 6:00 p.m.

In the Multi-Purpose Bldg  
*Note: A love offering will be taken up at the end of the concert for the Stevens Family.*



## 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.

**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**

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**Tuesday Morning Prayer Meeting**

*Breakfast begins at 9:00 am  
Followed by the Prayer Meeting  
Located in the Multi-Purpose Building*

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**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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# 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

*Ralph Lee  
Julia Rushing  
Pinky Rushing  
Amy Hannah  
Arthur Pearson  
Earl Dean Pope  
Jeff Bladen (liver)  
Rachel Mixon  
Maria Coles' Brother  
Donna Smith (Debbie Hale's  
Sister)*

## Surgery/Recovery

## Cancer/Treatments

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

## 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  
Barbara Mills  
Kenny Smith  
Shirley Malphrus*

*Tom Hinely  
Ann Blocker  
Red & Helen Malphrus  
Diane Hannah  
Ann Long  
Donald 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  
 Administrative Assistant: **Jennifer Meador**.....greatswampbc@gmail.com  
 843-726-3631  
 School Administrator: **Donna Carter**.....dcarter@sfcaweb.org



The church office will be closed Monday, January 20th in observance of Martin Luther King, Junior Day.

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**We will continue the Lottie Moon campaign until the end of January. We are \$1,785.00 short from reaching our goal of \$3,000.00. Please continue to give so we can reach our goal!!**

## Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$4,760.00	\$5,172.63	\$-412.63
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$50.00		
Designated Funds			Acct. Balances
Lottie Moon	\$52.00		\$1,215.00



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