



Great Swamp Baptist Church

March 12, 2017

Great Swamp Baptist Church

March 12, 2017
Sunday Morning Worship
11:00 AM

Call To Worship

Hymn # 429 "All That Thrills My Soul"

The Welcome

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invocation

Duane Armstrong

Selections of Praise & Worship

"Happy Day"

"Shout to the Lord"

We Pray for Special Needs

Pastoral & Offertory Prayer

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Offertory Special

GSBC Praise Band

"Oceans"

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invitation

Benediction



Today:

Betty Robertson
Krey Lowther

Next Week:

Mike Mingledorff
Krey Lowther

Nursery Workers



Today:

Debra Daley

Cathryn

Next Week:

Vicky Roberts

Emma Grace



Toll Committee

For March

Latrelle Steedly & Dorthie Armstrong

DEACON OF THE WEEK :



Today:

Duane Armstrong
843-726-6795

Next Week:

Wilbur Daley
843-305-0110



IF YOUR DEACONS

CAN MINISTER TO YOU IN ANY WAY,

CALL THE CHURCH @ 726-3631



From Pastor Ralph's Desk:
**The Driving Force of Love
Fulfills God's Two Great Commandments**

(Matthew 22: 34-40)

Intro: If I were to ask each individual in our congregation why God saves us, I am sure that many different answers would be given and I am also sure that probably most of, if not all, would be correct. Some would say that He saves us because He loves us. Some would say that He saves us because we are sinners and can not save ourselves. Some would say that He saves us to reconcile us to Himself. Others would say that He saves us to give us eternal life and an eternal home in Heaven. And I would say to all of these answers that they are absolutely 100% correct.

However, I also want us to understand that God saves us not only to fix our eternal future with Him, but also to make a difference in our world in the here and now. And the way that He wants to do that is by leading us to fulfill His two great commandments. So, what I am saying is that God also saves us to demonstrate to the world His two great commandments.

Now, to tie this together with my series, I began preaching a couple of weeks ago, I want us to understand and see that in order to fulfill God's two commandments, it will take the driving force of His love. The driving force of love alone is the means by which we carry out His two great commands in the world today.

I. First, I want us to notice the declaration of these two great commands.

Jesus was asked by the religious leaders of the day who were trying to trip Him up, hoping He would make a mistake so they could accuse Him and have Him arrested or crucified. What was the greatest commandment? Well, Jesus declared to them that the greatest commandment was to love God with all your heart, soul and mind. He then said that the second was to love your neighbor as yourself.

Now, these commandments that Jesus declared were not new commandments. They had been a part of the life of the nation of Israel for nearly 1500 years. What Jesus did was to summarize the Ten Commandments into two commandments.

Now, what is important for us to remember is that, though they were not new, the fact that Jesus was declaring them the greatest commandments of all just reminds us how important these old, old commandments are. He is reminding us that love is the greatest thing that He wants us to do while we live out our lives in this world.

II. Second, I want us to notice the depth's of these two great commands.

First of all, Jesus shows us the depths of these two great commandments when He includes the totality of our being in the fulfillment of the first one. What I mean by totality of our being is wrapped up in the three areas that Jesus mentioned of our lives. He mentioned our heart, our soul, and our mind. Those three areas represent the totality of a person. So, what Jesus was saying was that there was to be absolutely no area of our being that is not in love with God. Or simply put, every ounce of our being should love God.

Second, Jesus shows us the depth of these two great commands when He declares that you are to love your neighbor as yourself. This is deep because Jesus is including an assumption in this particular command. The assumption is that you already love yourself because you do what is necessary to take care of yourself and to give yourself as much pleasure as you possibly can. So, I believe that what Jesus is saying is that whatever you would do for yourself out of love, you should be willing to do to your neighbor.

Third, Jesus shows us the depths of these two great commands when He declares that these two commands fulfill all the Law and the Prophets. So, what Jesus is saying is that when you are carrying out these two command, then you are essentially carrying out the total direction of the Word of God as found in the Law and Prophets and these two together represent the whole of the Old Testament. Also, because Jesus is declaring it more in what is part of the New Testament, it becomes therefore, the direction of the New Testament as well. Meaning that if we want to follow the totality of the Word of God, then we need to follow and do these two great commands.

III. Third, I want us to notice the definition of these two great commands.

Now the definition that I am referring to is the definition of the word love itself. In the context that we are reading, it is a reference to the Greek word Agape. This is the word that describes God's love. Therefore, it is the highest and truest form of love that there is. Pastor John MacArthur describes God's love this way, 'genuine love of the Lord is intelligent, feeling, willing and serving. It involves thought, sensitivity, intent and even action where that is possible and appropriate.' So, what this means is that God's love is a total commitment of Himself to us in every way. What God is commanding us to do is to love Him and our neighbor with the highest form of love, God's love. This means therefore, that we must love God and our neighbors with the love that we receive from God.

IV. Fourth, I want us to notice the duty of these two great commands.

The duty simply is to put the definition into action, and the one who perfectly demonstrated the duty of these two great commands was Jesus Himself. In John 13:34-35, Jesus says to them when He said, "A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." So, Jesus says you don't just love one another as your yourselves but now you love one another as I have loved you. So, the duty is to love as Jesus did, and all one needs to do to know how Jesus loved us is to read the gospels and you will see the many ways Jesus loved His followers even to the point of dying on the cross for them. So, we must ask ourselves, are we loving as Jesus did? If we do, we will indeed fulfill these two great commandments.

Conclusion: by now as you read my message, you may have come to the conclusion that you might as well not even begin trying to carry out the greatest commandment given to us by God. For there is no way that we can love as Jesus did and does. However, there is good news and the good news is that God has made it possible for us to love Him and our neighbors as He commanded us to do. The answer is found in Romans 5:5. "And hope does not disappoint us because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us." You see

according to this verse, we can love the way God asked us to because He has given us Himself in the person of the Holy Spirit and with Him comes God's love to abide in our hearts so that we can share it with others. Therefore, let our prayer be, Oh Holy Spirit, continue to pour out God's love through us. Amen.

*Jesus Love You
Ralph Lee, Jr.*



1. *If you would like to make a donation to the youth camp fund or sponsor a youth for their remaining balance of youth camp, please contact Michelle Waitt at 843-597-1322. OR, just put your donation in an envelope marked "Youth Camp Scholarship" and make a note if you are designating the donation for a specific youth member.*
2. *Bake Sale immediately following the morning service today!! Please stop by our table and make a purchase of some sweet treats!! Donations will also be accepted! Thank you!*
3. *MANDATORY meeting of all parents and youth going to camp next Wednesday, March 15 at 6:30 PM. It is VERY important that at least one parent attend this meeting. We have some important items to discuss regarding camp. You can join us for supper in the multi-purpose building and then come to the youth house for the meeting. Call Michelle @ 843-597-1322 with any questions.*

COMING TO GREAT SWAMP

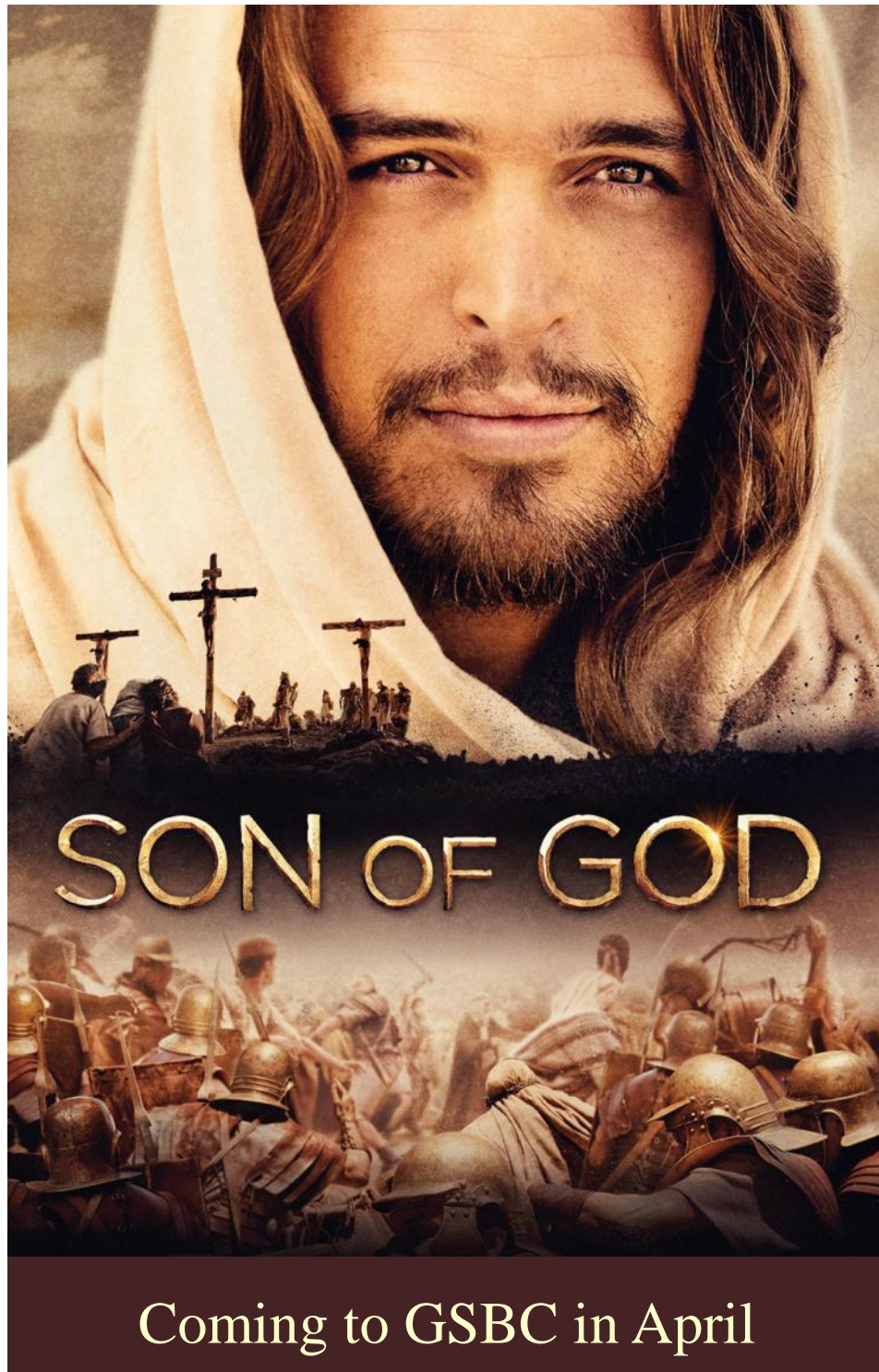
March 26th @ 7:00 pm



The Lore Family



*If anyone would like to participate in our upcoming
Easter Cantata, we will be having a choir practice on
Wednesday, March 8th following Prayer Meeting.*



Coming to GSBC in April

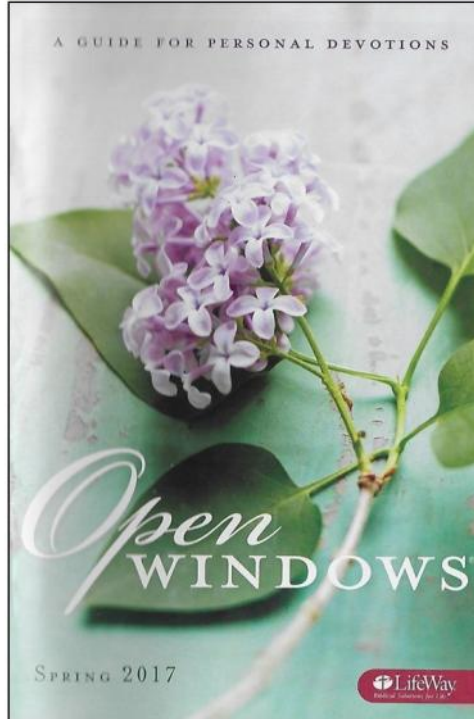


March 12th
March 13th

March 14th
March 15th
March 16th
March 17th

Libby Pendrak
Irwin Malphrus
Alice Way
Jeremiah Dennen
Wallace Roberts
Don Van Curen
KayCee Goethe
Chyleen Mock

Now available for your daily walk with God



**PICK UP ONE
TODAY!**

Wednesday
Night SUPPER

Menu

Baked Chicken

Mashed Potatoes / Gravy

Green Beans

Dessert

Tea & Coffee



Dorthie Armstrong Cooking Team

\$5.00 each or \$15.00 for a family of 4 or more



GSBC Prayer Pages March 12, 2017

*Ralph Lee, Jr. - Pastor
Richard Waitt- Music Director
Deacons
Child Dev. Ministries*

Church Needs
*Sunday School
Small Groups
SFCA-Donna Carter*

*Ministries
Outreach Ministry
Nominating Committee*

Leadership
*President Donald Trump
United States of America*

Unspoken
*Chet Egerdahl & Family
Lloyd Freeman*

Bereavement
*Family Of
Marcy Long
Erma Risner*

Hospitals
*Paul Horry, Sr.-BMH
Ervin Floyd-CCH
Maxie Mason-BMH*

Surgery / Recovery
*Brandy Freeman (2/8)
Mike Hodge (3/9)
Gail Malphrus (2/16)
Kim Malphrus (2/23)
Robin Holmes (2/23)
Duane Armstrong (2/28)
Faye Hair Jones (3/2)
Bess Parnell (3/6)
Colleen Bible (3/7)
David Amason (3/10)*

Expecting / Births
Victoria Keiffer

Nursing Centers
*Elaine Degler-RNC
Wofford Malphrus-Effingham
County Rehab. Center
Harriot Lawson-RNC*

Cancer / Treatments
*Barry Jones (2/16)
Mitzi Cramer (3/9)
Erma Steedly (3/2)
Bess Parnell (3/2)
Becky Floyd (3/9)
Susan Smith (2/21)
Mary Daley (2/28)
Mary Claire Naulder (3/7)*

Called to Ministry

Chris Carter & Family

Other Health Needs

*Jimmie Cleland (3/9)
Harold Stanley (2/23)
Truett Vaigneur (3/9)
Wayne Nettles (2/21)
Kenneth Cleland (2/26)
Audrey Key (3/2)
Dean Goen (3/3)
Alice & Gary Way (3/3)
Chelsea Cooler (3/9)*

*Zoe Fluery (2/23)
Ron Davis (2/23)
Ronnie Malphrus (2/17)
Betty Robertson (2/21)
Ellen Langford (2/26)
Bertie Woods (2/26)
Huskey Family (2/26)
Jesse Hinojosa (3/7)
Lisa Harper (3/9)*

Pray For Our Military



Bobby Emerson- Fort Hood-Army

Jared Blanton-Home

Matthew Mills-Va-US Marines

If you have someone who needs listing, call either the church office a@726-3631 or E.L. Ambrose @ 726-5479.

Thank You

Please Continue To Remember

*Ricky Cleland
Mike Hodge
Shirley Malphrus
Rose Boyles
Lula Floyd
Mary Cope
Judy Smith
Jeffrey Stanley
Joyce Sutler*

*Dot Nettles
Betty Nettles
Tom Hinely
Olivia Stanley
Lois Bootle
Lane Malphrus
Grace Boyles
Patricia Malphrus
Scott Boyles
Brian Freeman*

*Myrtle Rowell Smith
Billie Langford
Gary Way
Christy Gagel
Vera Miles
Mary Daley
Leonard Steedly
Barbara Mills
Rodney Malphrus, Sr.
Lanell Smith*



Praying for Missions in North America is part of our responsibility and privilege. Giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is essential also. Pray and Give. Our Goal as a church is \$800.00

E.L. Ambrose

Today's Prayer Team

Group II

*Barbara Mills-Leader
Betty Robertson*

**Watchman Prayer Service
Saturdays @ 8:00am**

Prayer Note

*For emergencies
a prayer chain
is available for needs.*

*You may access
by calling the
church @ 726-3631*

Or

E.L. Ambrose @ 726-5479

Announcements



S.O.F.F.E

Postponed until Sunday, March 19th

The S.O.F.F.E group will be going to see the movie, The Shack, at the Bluffton Cinemark immediately after the morning service on March 19. Please bring enough money for the movie and lunch.

Deacon's Meeting

Monday, March 13th



*The Quilting Club is meeting in the
Old Parsonage*

Thursday, March 16th @ 10:00am



Watchman Prayer Group

Saturday, March 18th @ 8:00 am



**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
North American
Missions**

March 5-12, 2017 | Goal: \$ 800.00



**ANNIE
ARMSTRONG**
EASTER OFFERING™

Great Swamp Baptist Church
 9009 Tarboro Road, Ridgeland, SC
 Office - 726-3631 Fax - 726-3294
 Email: greatswampbc@gmail.com
 Website: greatswampbaptistchurch.com

Church Staff

Pastor: **Rev. Ralph Lee, Jr.**jehu27@gmail.com
 Music Director: **Richard Waitt**waittfamily@embarqmail.com
 Sunday School Director: **Wallace Malphrus**Josie6@embarqmail.com
 Pianist: **Michelle Waitt**waittfamily@embarqmail.com
 Administrative Assistant: **Sybil Reynolds**greatswampbc@gmail.com
 School Administrator: **Donna Carter**dcarter@hargray.com
 Custodian: **Ann Malphrus**ramalphrus@hargray.com
 Landscaper: **Wallace Malphrus**Josie6@embarqmail.com

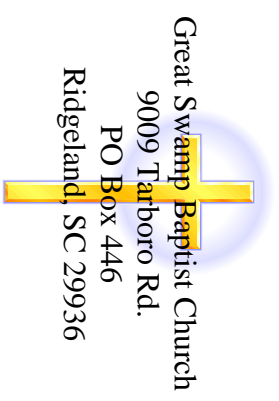
Calendar of Events

For
 March 12th through March 18th

Sunday Morning Breakfast (September thru May Only)..... 8:30AM
 Sunday School..... 9:45AM
 Morning Worship..... 11:00AM
 Evening Worship..... 6:00PM
 Wednesday Night Supper (September thru May Only)..... 6:00PM
 Wednesday Night Service..... 7:00PM
 Saturday Watchman Prayer..... 8:00AM

Stewardship

Budget Offerings	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
Tithes & Offerings	\$4,267.92	\$ 4,943.56	-\$675.64
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
SMB	\$59.00	*****	\$476.38
WNS	\$186.00	*****	\$901.72
Annie Armstrong Offering	\$100.00	*****	\$277.02
George Pepper Scholarship Fund	\$100.00	*****	\$388.03
SFCA Electric	\$2,173.62	*****	\$0
SFCA Janitorial Supplies	\$500.00	*****	\$565.79
SFCA Security	\$51.90	*****	\$0.00
SFCA Trash Pick Up	\$125.00	*****	\$0.00
SFCA Repairs (Grayco)	\$118.59	*****	\$522.89
SFCA Office Supply	\$13.80	*****	\$84.97



Great Swamp Baptist Church
9009 Tarboro Rd.

PO Box 446

Ridgeland, SC 29936