



Great Swamp Baptist Church

March 19, 2017

Great Swamp Baptist Church

March 19, 2017
Sunday Morning Worship
11:00 AM

Prelude *Music by the Lore Family*

Call To Worship *Sadie O'Connor*
"If We're Honest"

The Welcome
Announcements *Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

Invocation *Wilbur Daley*

Selections of Praise & Worship
"Lord, I Lift Your Name On High"
Hymn # 531 *"Redeemed"*

We Pray for Special Needs
Pastoral & Offertory Prayer *Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*
Offertory
Special Music *Proclaimers*
"He Touched Me"

Message *Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

Invitation

Benediction



Today:
 Mike Mingledorff
 Krey Lowther

Next Week:
 Cassandra Bradley
 Krey Lowther

Nursery Workers



Today:
 Vicky Roberts
 Emma Grace

Next Week:
 Diane Thames
 Chesmey



Toll Committee

For March
 Latrelle Steedly & Dorthie Armstrong

DEACON OF THE WEEK :

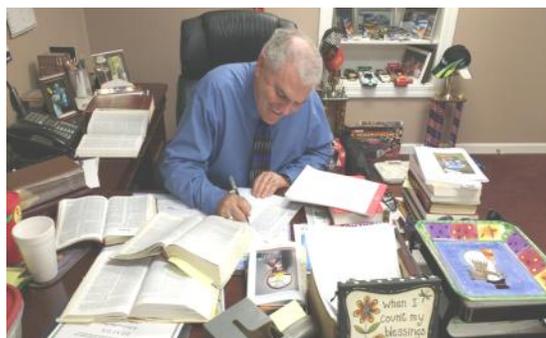


Today:
 Wilbur Daley
 843-305-0110

Next Week:
 Bjo Mills
 843-271-2840



**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
For Loving Christ**

(John 31:15-25)

Intro: it was by a warm fire on a cool Jerusalem evening that Peter denied our Lord three times before the rooster crowed. Now in our present set of Bible verses, we find Peter once again gathered around a warm fire. However, on this occasion, Peter is given the opportunity to undo the cold heart of denial and turn it into a hot heart of love for his Lord and Savior.

On this occasion, as in the first three becomes the important number. Tragically, on the first occasion, he denied the Lord 3 times but on this occasion he gets three times to express his love for Jesus and be restored. Of course, the good news is that that is exactly what happens. From the point forward, Peter is clearly seen as one who loves the Lord.

Now it is important to realize that Peter was not the only follower of Jesus Christ who was and is expected to love unequivocally. As a matter of fact, Jesus is calling on all of us who are His followers to love Him unequivocally as well. The Lord is saying to all of us, "Do you love me more than these?: as we study in our present series, the Driving Force of Love, we discover in our present text a great example of how love should drive us to love Christ above all.

I. First, let us notice that our love for Christ will face defiance.

In other words, our love for Christ will be challenged and tested as Peter's was the night that he denied our Lord. All of us will face many moments in our lives in which we will be challenged as to whether or not we love Christ. You see it doesn't surprise the world too much when an atheist denies the Lord. Nor does it surprise then when the agnostic denies the Lord, or when a hardened criminal denies Him.

However, when someone who calls him or herself a dedicated follower of Christ as Peter did and they deny the Lord, well that becomes a whole different story. That does much more harm for the cause of Christ because it will create much more doubt than when it comes from someone who's not a follower of Christ at all. Therefore, since we do not want to hurt the cause of Christ in the world, we must always be asking ourselves when challenges arise to our love for Christ, are we meeting the challenge in such a way that the world says, well, he or she still loves Jesus.

II. Second, let us notice that our love for Christ can be re-done.

Though Peter had miserably failed in loyalty to Christ, the Savior on this occasion, because of His mercy and grace, was giving Peter a chance and opportunity to reinvigorate his love for Him. When the Lord had prophesied to the disciples that they would all fall away when He was to be arrested, Peter vehemently rejected this prophesy. The Lord assured Peter that he would not only deny once but three times. But then the Lord told Peter that Satan wanted to sift him like he were wheat. However, the Lord told him that He prayed for him that his faith would hold up. So, now through His amazing grace, God is allowing Peter the opportunity to reveal that his faith is real and that his love for Christ is real. Let us all praise our Lord that He is praying before the Father on our behalf 24 hours a day. His prayer for us is that our faith will grow and our love will be real. All of this is possible because of His love for us. So, let us take each new day as a new opportunity that Jesus Christ gives us to renew our love and loyalty to Him.

III. Third, let us notice that our love for Christ should have a desire.

When Jesus first asked Peter if he loved Him, He did not simply stop the question at do you love me. Rather, He added these words at the end of the question, "more than these." So, the question is who are "these"? The answer according to Biblical scholars may be one of at least two ideas. The first one is that the "these" refer to the fish and boats and nets that were used to catch all the fish they just caught. Now Peter's old business was the fishing business. So, what they are saying is that Jesus is asking him, will you love me more than the life that you were living before he met Jesus. Or will he love Christ more than worldly things is another way to put it.

Now, the second idea is that "these" refers to the other disciples who were present.

Now, my point of view is that it is referring to all of the above. Jesus is saying that our love for him is to exceed our love for anything else in this world or anyone else in this world. Our desire should always be that we will always love Jesus more, period. Do people think that we love Jesus more than anything or anyone? That is a powerful question.

IV. Fourth, let us notice our love for Christ always has a duty.

So, what Jesus is saying to Peter is that our love for Him will never be passive. Our love for Him will always be love that springs into action. For Peter that action was to feed and call for the sheep. Of course, we understand what Jesus meant by His sheep. That is the people that belong to Him. The sheep represents the family of God and Peter's love for Christ would be demonstrated by his feeding and caring for God's people.

Now, let's bring this point to us today. If we are going to love Christ, then we must be willing to put that love into action in the way that Jesus leads us to do so. He may not call us all to carry out the same duty but He has a duty for all of us to perform. Of course, those duties will always affect the lives of others. They minister to God's people and they will reach out to share the love of Christ to those that are perishing. So, if you claim to love Christ but you're not impacting the lives of others for Christ, then, you are not really loving the way He calls for you to do so. Jesus is saying to us today, "do you love me, then do the ministry I ask you to do, and then you will demonstrate your love for me.

It is important that we remember that Peter did exactly what Jesus told him to do. He became a firehouse for Jesus. He preached the first sermon that the church preached once Jesus ascended back to Heaven. Of course, that was his great Pentecost message and nearly 3,000 souls were saved on that day. This was the beginning of many more great sermons and services Peter carried out in order to fulfill his responsibility of love to Jesus. Are you fulfilling your love for Christ?

V. Fifth, let us notice that our love for Christ is to be for the duration.

There are two things that Jesus said to Peter that illustrate this point. First, Jesus tells Peter that there is going to come a very unpleasant time in his life when he will be taken where he doesn't want to go and forced to die in a very unpleasant way.

Second, Peter asked Jesus what He was going to do with the Apostle John and Jesus said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."

With these two statements that Jesus said to Peter, what He was saying to Peter is that your love for me should never ever run out no matter what your future may hold, good or bad. Also, it must hold out regardless of what God may do for others.

So, real love for Christ doesn't say that I will love Jesus only when things are going good for me and real love for Christ won't complain when it is going good for others but not me. Real love for Christ will endure to the end because His love for us is without end.

*Jesus Love You
Ralph Lee, Jr.*



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.

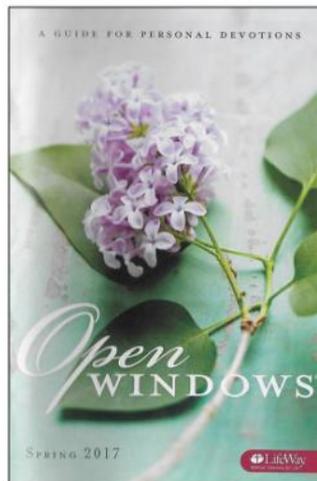
COMING TO GREAT SWAMP

March 26th @ 7:00 pm

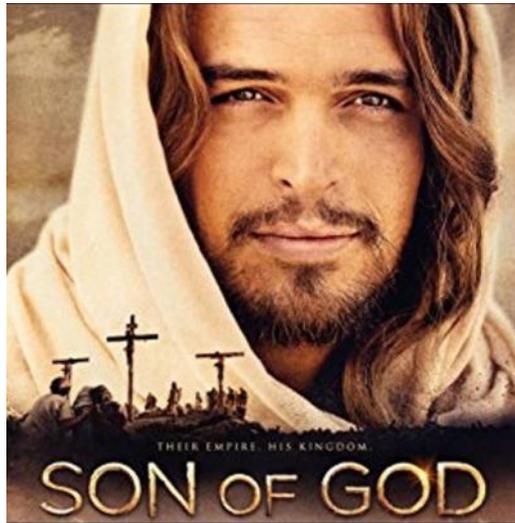


The Lore Family

Now available for your daily walk with God



PICK UP ONE TODAY!



Family, Fun,
Finger Food,
Fellowship,
Flick, and
Fundraiser

SUNDAY NIGHT

APRIL 2ND @ 6PM

The **GSBC**
Easter Cantata Choir
PRESENTS

"Jesus, Only Jesus"

SUNDAY MORNING @ 11AM

APRIL 9th



March 19th
March 20th
March 21st
March 22nd
March 23rd

Ann Nimmer
Thelma Ashing
Sherri Fryman
Jane Himes
Wayne Cooler
LeAnna Maldonado
Jeff Shiansky
Judy Smith
Sam Mock

March 24th
March 25th



March 19th

Leon & Kathy Langford

A gift of \$1,000.00 was given to the SFCA Gymnasium in Memory of Leland S. and Willard Price McCormack, Orland J. and Hannah Lee Malphrus and Ellree Keiffer by G. Dwaine & Becky M. Malphrus.

A gift of \$50.00 was given to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering by the Grandmother's Group.

Wednesday Night SUPPER

Menu

BBQ Sandwiches

Tater tots

Baked Beans

Slaw

Dessert

Tea & Coffee

Youth Cooking Team

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



GSBC Prayer Pages March 19, 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 Risener
Paul Horry, Sr*

Hospitals
*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)
Colleen Bible (3/7)
David Amason (3/10)
Kim Bonds (3/13)*

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)
Triston Gogol (3/10)
Connie Benton (3/16)*

*Zoe Fluery (2/23)
Ron Davis (2/23)
Ronnie Malphrus (2/17)
Betty Robertson (2/21)
Ellen Langford (2/26)
Bertie Woods (2/26)
Jesse Hinojosa (3/7)
Lisa Harper (3/9)
Joyce Sutler (3/14)
Debbie Hale (3/14)*

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.

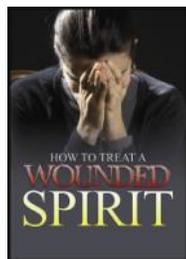
Thank You

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*



Prayer opens up our lives to God for repentance and healing. Wounded spirits, for whatever reason cannot be healed until we deal with God. What he says about any given situation, we must first satisfy God's requirements. Prayer is an agent God has provided for this task.

E.L. Ambrose

Today's Prayer Team

Group III

*Timmy Sauls-Leader
Mary Daley*

**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

Today, 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. Please bring enough money for the movie and lunch.



***The Quilting Club is meeting in the
Old Parsonage***

Thursday, March 23rd @ 10:00am

Watchman Prayer Group
Saturday, March 25th @ 8:00 am



Save The Date

Saturday, May 13th @ 11:00am
Bridal Shower
For
Taylor Burnett
(Bride-Elect of Michael Daley)

VBS Meeting

Today, following Morning Worship Services.

VBS Craft List

Elmer's Glue
Regular Popsicle Sticks
Tongue Depressor Popsicle Sticks
Small seashells (no larger than thumb)
Magnet Strips
Black Nylon Cord
Permanent Markers
Blue Paper Plates
White Paper Plates
Sidewalk Chalk
Salt

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

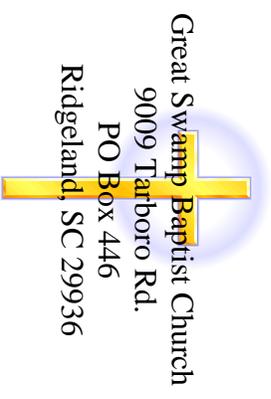
Calendar of Events

For
 March 19th through March 25th

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 | \$2,915.00 | \$ 4,943.56 | -\$2,028.56 |
| Designated Funds | This Week | ***** | Acct. Balances |
| SMB | \$88.00 | ***** | \$468.44 |
| WNS | \$142.00 | ***** | \$300.42 |
| Annie Armstrong Offering | \$182.00 | ***** | \$459.02 |
| SFCA Gymnasium | \$1,000.00 | ***** | \$1,205.00 |
| Dot Lee Scholarship | \$50.00 | ***** | \$410.00 |
| Youth Bake Sale | \$400.00 | ***** | \$2,013.03 |
| OCC | \$2.00 | ***** | \$915.57 |



Great Swamp Baptist Church
9009 Tarboro Rd.
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Ridgeland, SC 29936