



Great Swamp Baptist Church

March 12, 2023

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Call to Worship

Hymn #531 "Redeemed"

Invocation

Keith Gamo

Praise & Worship

Richard Waitt

*"Holy is the Lord"
"10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"*

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Worship by Giving

Offertory Special "*Call on Jesus*" by Mended.

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invitation

Benediction Prayer

Sunday Mornings
Following The Song Service:



Nursery
Help Needed



Helpers:
Emily Johnson



DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Today:

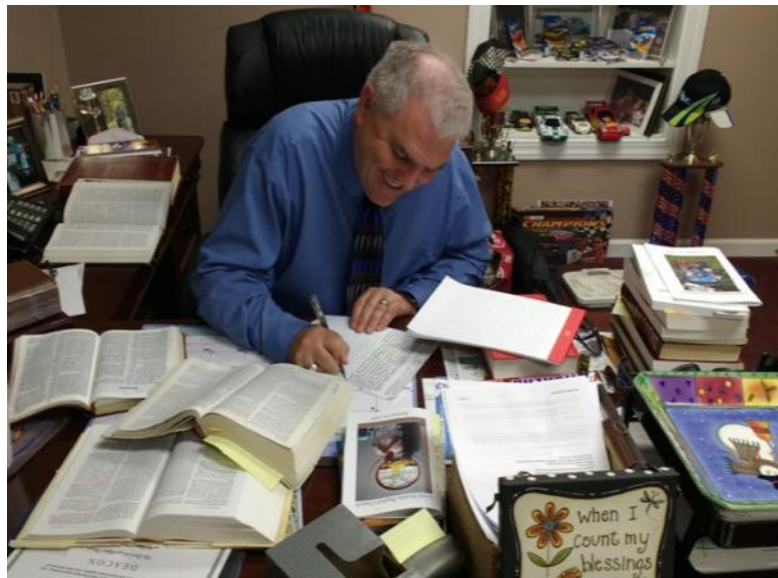
Keith Gamo: 843-986-8525

Next Week:

Freddie Malphrus: 843-726-3905



*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



Familiarity Fans the Flames of Witnessing **(John 3:16-21)**

Introduction:

There is no doubt whatsoever that John 3:16 is the most familiar verse in all of God's Word. So because it is so familiar it has often lost its sense of wonder, amazement, and its incredible truth.

With this message I want us to recapture the incredible teaching of these verses and be inspired by them to be faithful witnesses for our Lord and Savior. I want us to see how the familiar can fan the flames of witnessing.

I. First, these familiar verses fan the flames of witnessing because they reveal the love of God (vs 16)

Now, of course, the verse we are using for this first point is verse 16. For as we all know this verse begins with the love of God and is all about the love of God. As a matter of fact, if it weren't for the love of God this verse would not only not be familiar but it wouldn't be at all. So we have it exclusively because of His love.

Now the verse reveals many wonderful and incredible truths about the love of God which we will point out in this first point.

A. First, we see the depth of God's love.

The depth of His love is revealed in a small two letter word that is big in meaning and truth. That two letter word is the word, "so." "For God so loved the world..." It doesn't say that He somewhat loves the world; or that He partially loved the world; or that He just loved the world. No. It clearly says He so loved the world. There is no match or comparison to His love for us. So if you are not receiving love for anyone in this world just know that the only one who matters, God Almighty, He so loves you.

B. Second, we see the object of His love.

"For God so loved the world..." Of course the object of God's love is the world. However, we need to make sure that we understand that it's not nature and the environment that is being referred to that are the objects of His love. Rather it's the people who inhabit the world that are the object of His love, and we are the objects of His love because we alone have been created in His image. So we should be driven to share the gospel message to this lost and dying world because it is the object of God's love.

C. Third, we see the gift of God's love.

"For God so loved that world that He gave His one and only son..." So the gift of God's love to this world is His one and only son. The verse emphasizes that the son He gave was His one and only. The Bible teaches very clearly that all who become believers in Christ Jesus our Lord become the sons and daughters of God. But none of us will ever be the Son of God in the sense that Jesus is. He is the one and only unique son who is co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit in the blessed Trinity. He's always been in this position and He always will remain in that position. Thus when God gave His son, He gave His son who has dwelt in all of eternity with Him, and whom He loves with a love that has no comparison. Jesus is that one and only son. Oh, what an amazing God we have. No gift greater has ever been given to the world or ever will.

D. Fourth, we see the invitation of His love.

“For God so love the world that He gave His one and only son that whoever believes in Him...” In His love God is offering an invitation to each one of us to believe in Jesus His Son for our eternal salvation. This is such an amazing thought that God would freely invite each one of us to enter into a personal relationship with Him through His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. This really makes witnessing an incredible experience because of the offer and invitation that we get to share with sinners that our Lord extends to them

E. Fifth, we will the promise of His love.

“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.” In His love God promises that all who place faith in His son will escape eternal condemnation in hell, and instead have an eternal relationship with our Lord both here and now and when we leave here forever in heaven.

So clearly the love of God drives us to share this amazing truth of His love with our world.

II. Second, these familiar verses fan the flames of witnessing because they reveal the purpose of God (vs 17, 18)

Many people have opinions about God’s purpose in our world. However, the marvelous news is that we don't have to wonder whose opinion is right because God Himself right here tells us exactly what His purpose for our world is.

And what He tells us is that His purpose for our world is that through Christ His Son whom He has sent into the world has come to save us and not condemn us. So God’s purpose is a saving purpose. He is in the saving business.

Many folks believe that God created the world then just pulled back away from I to leave it on its own and having nothing more to do with it. However, others are of the opinion that God’s purpose for our world is to merely condemn it and judge it.

Thank God that neither of these views are right. God didn't create us to leave us on our own nor did He create us only for the purpose to judge us and condemn us. No. Thank our God that His one main purpose for us is that we be saved and not condemned. And praise His name to fulfill that purpose He literally in the person of His one and only son Jesus Christ entered into our world took on human flesh, walked in our midst, and ultimately went to Calvary cross to save us.

So since it's God's purpose to save the world and not condemn it then we've got a joyous message to share with our world. So get sharing!

III. Third, these familiar verses fan the flames of witnessing because they reveal the judgement of God (vs 16-21)

In my previous point I pointed out that clearly God's purpose for us is to save us. And not only is it His purpose but it is His absolute promise that all who trust Christ will not perish and will not be condemned, but will indeed be saved. The Apostle Paul reminds us of this great and gracious truth when he said, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1)

So you may ask if God's purpose is to save us then why is there judgement? God's purpose for us is to save us but that salvation can only come about by the one way in which God has made it available to us. Of course, that one way is through belief in Jesus Christ God's Son.

So the whoever that believes in Jesus are saved because they have chosen the one way God has established as the only means of salvation. However the whoever that choose not to believe can't be saved because they have rejected God's only means of salvation and because there is no other way they therefore stand condemned before God already. And to remain in that unbelief will ultimately mean that

But let us remember that God desires not to condemn but rather to save us. Whenever we find God condemning and bringing judgement is the part it always followed a long period first in which God warned the people and called for repentance and gave them a chance and opportunity to do the right thing.

Of course a great example of this was during the time in which Noah built the ark. It took him many many years to build this ark. A lot of Biblical scholars say anywhere between 60 to 100 years. And the Apostle Peter tells us that Noah was a preacher of righteousness. So for many years Noah had to have preached to the people of the coming judgement but they failed to listen. But God gave them plenty of time to respond and when they refused to listen He had no choice but to bring about the judgement that He said He would.

So it is now that God is giving plenty of time for people to repent, believe and be saved, but one day that door of opportunity will close and then judgement will take place. The Apostle Peter says it like this, "The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare." (2 Peter 3:9-10). So we need to take advantage of God's great patience and share the gospel while time is available before it becomes too late to do so.

Conclusion:

To not get out and share the gospel message is to ignore God's love, purpose, and judgement. Let that not be us. These such motivations are too strong to be nonchalant about it.

Jesus Loves You,
Ralph Lee

SFCA Drama Department Presents.....

NIGHT AT THE
WAX MUSEUM

THE MUSICAL

Friday, March 24th @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 25th @ 7:00 p.m.

SFCA Gymnasium
9009 Tarboro Road
Ridgeland, SC 29936

Ticket Prices:

Student - \$8.00

Senior - \$8.00

Adults - \$12.00

Concession stand will be open.



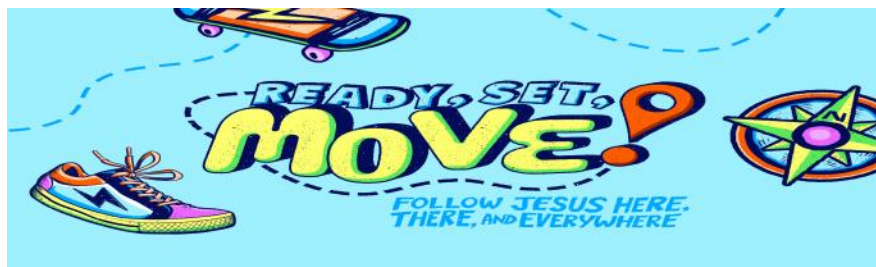
VBS 2023

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Our VBS 2023 will run Sunday June 18th through Wednesday
June 21st from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
The meal will be from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

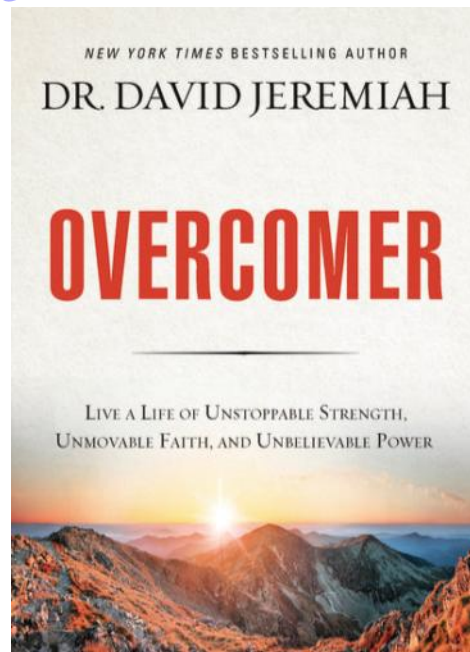
Please mark your calendars and sign up on the back wall to help out where you can. A list of supplies needed will be produced shortly and we also accept monetary donations to help with supplies and food costs.

Any questions, comments, suggestions, etc. please call Nicole Mariocourt at 843-726-2211, Saylor Olivas at 843-812-8879, or Jennifer Meador at 843-726-3631



Visionaries Sunday School Class

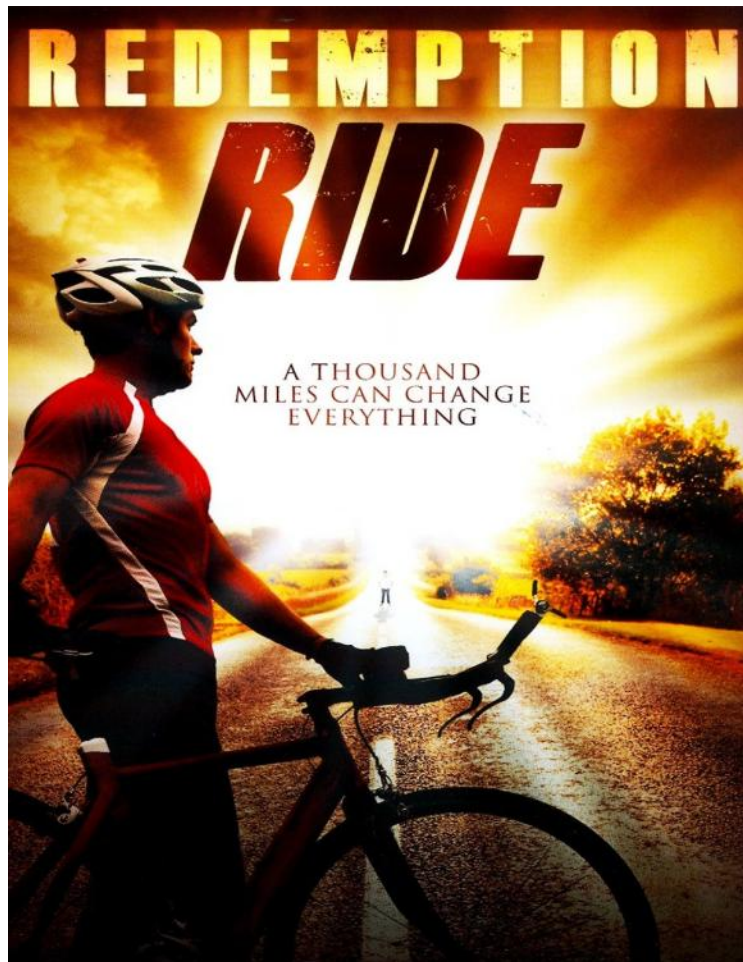
**Let's
overcome our
difficulties
together with
God!**



**Sundays at
9:15 a.m.
Building #3
School office
building**

Come join us for a new Bible study called “Overcomer” by David Jeremiah. This is an amazing Bible study from a trusted pastor. We all face difficulties today such as anxiety, fear, temptation, confusion, etc. and we have to choose how we respond to those. This study will help teach you to how to overcome them all. We will meet Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in building 3 (school office building).
Hope to see you there!

*If you have children, April Malphrus will be teaching the children’s Sunday school class.



MOVIE NIGHT!!!

**Sunday, March 20th
Concessions at 6:00 p.m.
Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.**

**Please bring finger foods to share!
Tea and Popcorn provided.**

Come Enjoy A Great Wholesome Family Movie!

Men's Quarterly Multi-Church Fellowship

Thursday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Kingdom Touch Ministries

For more info contact

Wilbur Daley 843-305-0110



2023 SRBA WMU SPRING MEETING

Saturday, April 1, 2023

10:00 am - 12:00 pm (Lunch will follow)

Okatee Baptist Church

OUR MISSIONARY GUEST SPEAKER

"Allie" - from West Africa



Operation Christmas Child

For the month of March we will continue collecting hygiene items for boys and girls. The more you can donate, the more boxes we can fill, hence the more children receive boxes. So let's all bring in some hygiene items!

March:

Wash Cloths	Toothbrushes
Comb/Brushes (Boys & Girls)	
Pony tail holders	Head bands
Hair Barrettes	





<i>Sunday</i>	<i>12th</i>	<i>Libby Pendrak</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>13th</i>	<i>Irwin Malphrus</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>13th</i>	<i>Alice Way</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>14th</i>	<i>Jeremiah Dennen</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>16th</i>	<i>Kaylee Standard</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>17th</i>	<i>Chyleen Mock</i>



**Annie Armstrong
Offering
Starting now
through Easter.**





Business Meeting
Wednesday, April 12th
at 7:00 p.m.



Deacons' Meeting
Monday, March 13th
at 6:00 p.m.



Grandmothers' Group
Monday, April 3rd
at 11:30 a.m.

All grandmothers welcome!





**Beginning at 6:00 p.m.
Service to follow at 7:00 p.m.**

**Team Timmy will be cooking!
Come out and have dinner
and fellowship with us!**

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



**Sunday Morning
Breakfast**

Begins at 8:00 a.m.
Ends at 9:00 a.m.
\$5.00 each or \$15.00
for a family of 4
or more

Sunday School Classes

@ 9:15am

CAMO CLASS - Room 406 - Bobby Smith
.....

GLEANERS CLASS - Room 401 - Darlene Bollack
.....

VISIONARIES CLASS - Building 3, Old Social Hall
Leader - Greg Mariocourt/Diane Thames
.....

SOJOURNERS CLASS - Room 417 - Mack Pope
.....

YOUTH - Youth Annex Leader - Amanda Hodges
.....

BLUE ANGELS - 1ST & 2ND GRADES - Room 415 -
April Malphrus

Wednesday Night Services

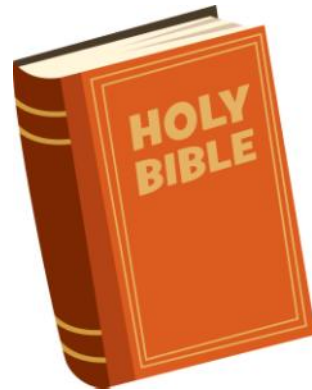
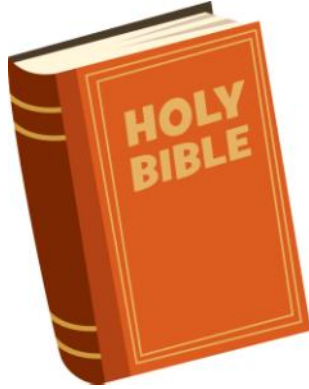
@ 7:00 pm

WORSHIP SERVICE *Multi-Purpose Building*
Leader-Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.
.....

YOUTH GROUP *Youth Annex*
Leader-Michelle Waitt
.....

R.A.'S (Royal Ambassadors) *Room 417*
Leader-Pat Mason
.....

G.A.'S (GIRLS IN ACTION) *Room 415*
Leader-Diane Thames



Okatee Baptist Church is collecting Bibles, old Sunday School materials, and other used Christian literature to send to Love Packages, a non-denominational, not-for-profit ministry that equips pastors, missionaries, evangelists, and teachers all over the world with free bibles and Christian literature. Everything they send is donated by individuals, ministries, and publishers in the U.S.

If you have old religious materials that you no longer use please consider donating them to this ministry. Items may be dropped off at Okatee Baptist Church or Savannah River Baptist Association. For more information contact Pastor Woody Oliver at 864-554-7335 or email okateepastor1@gmail.com. **You can also drop them off with Jennifer in the church office and she will get the materials where they need to go.

To learn more about Love Packages and to see a list of materials needed visit their website <https://lovepackages.org/>.



MEN'S WILD GAME DINNER

4135 Ashly Park and Parkside Homes, 2000 Highway 17, Varnville, SC 29384

DOOR PRIZES

Friday, March 24, 2023

7:00pm

MENU:

Lowcountry

Boll

**Shrimp
Corn
Sausage
Potatoes
Onions**

Dessert



Guest Speaker:

David Ellis

(aka: YAWT YAWT)

For more information contact:

Varnville First Baptist: 803-943-3089

or check out our website

menswildgamebanquet.com



*Free
Admission*

Tickets may be picked up at the following locations:



Hampton, SC

**Ace Hardware
Freeman Agency
Walsh Supply**



Palmetto State Bank - ALL Locations

Hampton, Estill, Allendale, Fairfax, Beaufort, Bluffton

Class of
2023
PRESENTS



2023
KICKBALL
TOURNAMENT

April 1st

Donation/Gatefee of \$5.00 per person
Sign your team up and win!
We will have concessions!
Rain or Shine

Deadline to sign up March 28th.

To register or for more information contact
April Smith (843) 816-5459 or
timnapril10@aol.com

JRYB Baseball Fields

(beside the DMV in Ridgeland)

GSBC Prayer Page

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

Leadership

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

Hospitals

Jane Garbade—MUSC

Surgery/Recovery

Nursing Centers

*Elaine Degler - RNC
Bobby Mohn - Indigo Pines HHI
Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe
Dot Nettles - NHC
Karen Malphrus - Encompass (Room 114)*

Please Continue To Remember

Homebound

<i>Shirley Malphrus</i>	<i>Tom Hinely</i>
<i>Rose Boyles</i>	<i>Ann Blocker</i>
<i>Judy Smith</i>	<i>Doby Cleland</i>
<i>Vera Floyd</i>	<i>Lucille & Ron Degler</i>
<i>Barbara Mills</i>	<i>Red & Helen Malphrus</i>
<i>Alice & Gary Way</i>	<i>Thomas & Erma Cooler</i>
<i>Kenny Smith</i>	<i>Marie Malphrus</i>
<i>Diane Hannah</i>	

Church Needs

*Sunday School
SFCA-Donna Carter
Child Development
Ministries*

Unspoken

Cancer/Treatments

*Regina Bouye
Kaiaya Alston
Pat Headley
Leigh Laycock*

Ministries

*Outreach Ministry
In reach Ministry*

Bereavement

*Family of John Shipley
Family of Gene Malphrus
Family of Anthony Cooler*

Other Health Needs

*Pinky Rushing
Sara Davis
Bob Cramer
Mary Kay Cade
Ellen Nettles
Jennifer Pitts Key
Chris Blanchard
Doug & Melanie Hamm
Rose Sheehan
Steve Bailey
Kayla Malphrus
Stephanie Crowe
Dorthie Armstrong
Lewis Hughes
Rose David
Barry DeMay
Tristan Simmons
Marie Coleman
James Williamson
Marie Cole
Glenn Scott*

Pray For Our Military

*Sgt. Jared Blanton-Deployed
Matthew Mills-US Marines
Jericho Malphrus-Sp. Agent/Air Force
Washington, D.C.
Michael Sottile - Ret.
Tristan Blanton-San Diego/SWCC
Andrea C. Daring-Charleston, SC*

Church Staff

Pastor: Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr*jehu27@gmail.com*

Music Director: Richard Waitt*waittfamily83@gmail.com*

Sunday School Director: Mike Davis

Pianist: Michelle Waitt *waittfamily83@gmail.com*

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Meador*greatswampbaptist@hargray.com*
843-726-3631

School Administrator: Donna Carter*dcarter@hargray.com*

Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$3,567.00	\$ 5,012.49	-\$1,395.49
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$50.00		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Office Supplies</i>	\$70.00	*****	\$470.34
<i>Sunday Morning Breakfast</i>	\$95.00	*****	\$990.47
<i>Wednesday Night Supper</i>	\$190.00	*****	\$447.68
<i>GSBC Senior Adult Trip 2023</i>	\$125.00	*****	\$628.94
<i>Gleaners SS Class</i>	\$45.00	*****	\$810.06
<i>Church Repairs</i>	\$500.00	*****	\$523.42
<i>Kitchen Supplies</i>	\$50.00	*****	\$477.45
<i>Annie Armstrong Offering</i>	\$20.00	*****	\$20.00



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
Website: greatswampbaptistchurch.com
Church Office: (843) 726-3631