

“But those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength; they  
will fly up on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not be tired;  
they will walk and not be weary.”

**ISAIAH 40:31**



*Great Swamp Baptist Church*

*March 5, 2023*

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

**Announcements**

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

**Call to Worship**

*“The Love of God”*

**Invocation**

*Mack Pope*

**Praise & Worship**

*Richard Waitt*

*“God So Loved”*

*“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”*

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

Worship by Giving

Offertory Special *“Word of God Speak”* by Mended

**Message**

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

**Invitation**

**Benediction Prayer**

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*Sunday Mornings*  
*Following The Song Service:*



**Nursery**  
**\*Help Needed\***



Helpers:  
Emily Johnson



**DEACON OF THE WEEK:**

Today:

**Mack Pope: 843-540-6636**

Next Week:

**Keith Gamo: 843-986-8525**



*From  
Pastor  
Ralph's  
Desk:*



## **The Ministry of Reconciliation** **(2 Cor 5:18-21)**

### **Introduction:**

The Word of God leaves us no doubt whatsoever that the worst consequence of our sins is complete and total separation from God. Here are a few of the verses that reveal this truth. “For the wages of sin is death...” (Romans 6:23). “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.” ( Eph 2:1). “Once you were alienated from God, and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.” (Col 1:21)

The Bible is also quite clear that apart from intervention on our behalf we would remain in a place of eternal separation from God, which of course is what hell is. “Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone’s name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” (Rev 20:14, 15). It’s the place of eternal condemnation.

To further demonstrate how serious this consequence of our sin is is to point out the fact that we ourselves personally are incapable of bringing about our own individual reconciliation to God. Because the verses we mentioned above reveal the fact that because of our sins we are dead spiritually to God already. So because we are already dead spiritually before our holy God, we are ruled out of fixing this matter.

However, praise be to our God where as we are incapable of fixing this matter by our own human efforts God has given to us the ministry of reconciliation. This ministry reveals how mankind can be reconciled back to our amazing holy God. So let's examine this ministry of reconciliation and get excited about it and motivated by it.

**I. First, let's notice that the ministry of reconciliation is a divine ministry.**

These verses that we are looking at begins with this phrase, "All this is from God..." (vs 18). Now that phrase has to do with the verse before it and what follows it. In the verse that came before it, Paul reveals the fact that in Christ God makes us a new creation. Thus He gives to us new life. With this new creation and new life, He has removed our spiritual death, and reconciled us unto Himself.

Thus, we don't have to throw in the towel and give up on reconciliation taking place. For though reconciliation is something we can't achieve, our God from whom we are separated can achieve. And He not only can but has achieved it for us.

These verse therefore are telling us that reconciliation is 100% the work of God. It's what He desired. It's what He wanted. And it's what He alone made possible. As a matter of fact, the whole blessed Trinity was and is in the work of reconciliation. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit works in cooperation to bring about mankind's privilege of being reconciled to God. He's the one who desires, calls out, appeals, pleads for, and brings about our reconciliation.

The world works in just the opposite manner. From the world's perspective, the one who offends must in some manner make up to the offended one. But with God it was the offended who made it possible for the offender to get right with Him.

Listen to how Pastor Allen Redpath, who is now with the Lord, describes this thought: “I would stand in awe and worship, in reverent amazement. Here is God the omnipotent, pleading Almighty God our fortress, our deliverer, our strength, to whom the nations are but drops in the bucket, who has all power in heaven and earth, committed to Him—pleading! Surely this plea for the love of another, this begins for an enemy would put away his enmity, is the part of the one who is the inferior, the one who has offended, the offender rather than the offended. It is the place of the rebel — not the king, to plead. But here in Deity is the person of God in Jesus Christ breaking through all the patterns of human relationships and human precedents; here God omnipotent in heaven bending down to this little planet in which there is total rebellion against His rule, and saying to the rebel race who lie helpless at His feet, ‘I beg you to be reconciled to God.’”

So therefore let us not lose hope of never gaining reconciliation with God. Rather let us embrace the reconciliation God has made possible.

## **II. Second, the ministry of reconciliation is a declared ministry.**

Though reconciliation is 100% the work of God, He has chosen His people as the means or vehicle by which He declares the message of reconciliation to this lost and dying world. For these verses are very clear on this point. For they tell us that God, “...gave us the ministry of reconciliation” (vs 18). “And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation” (vs 19). “We are therefore Christ ambassadors” (vs 20).

God’s choice for us to be His means of declaring His message does not give us the authority or power to declare just any message we choose to. For we are very clearly His ambassador which means we exclusively represent Him and no one else. Thus, our message must be exactly the message that He gives to us.

A Bible scholar from the past named Hodge describes adequately the role of an ambassador of heaven. “An ambassador is at once a messenger and a representative. He does not speak in his own name. He does not act on his own authority. What he communicates is not his own opinions or demands but simply what he has been told or commanded to say. But at the same time he speaks with authority, in this case the authority of Christ Himself.”

So if we want the lost to know about the saving message of reconciliation then we’ve got to tell them. For we alone are His representatives in this world.

### **III. Third, the ministry of reconciliation is a decisive ministry.**

Now what I’m referring to on this point is that we are given one message to declare and it’s decisive. In other words it’s the only message that can reconcile a person unto God. No other message will do.

So what is this decisive message? Well, we stated in the first point that the ministry of reconciliation was and is a divine ministry. We pointed out that God is the one who desires for the lost to be reconciled to Him, and God is the one who appealing for the lost to be reconciled to Him. We also made the point that He’s the one who made it possible for mankind to be reconciled to Him.

So in the last verse that we are looking at it shows how God made reconciliation possible. Our sins separate us from God so it is our sins that must be dealt with if we are going to be reconciled. Thus God took His pure, sinless, and holy Son and laid on Him the sin of us all. He then took the punishment of those sins for us. In exchange for those who choose to believe in Him their sins are removed while Jesus righteousness is bestowed upon them. So that when the Father looks at us positionally He sees the righteousness of His Son in us and not our sins.

A very familiar prophesy in the Book of Isaiah gives us a very powerful picture of this verse we are looking at in this point. “Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Is 53:4-6).

So we have a very decisive message but what an amazing one it is. There’s not another one out there to compare to it. And there’s not another one that can reconcile you unto God but this one. Because God is the one who made it happen.

**Conclusion:**

Sometimes ambassadors are required to share a message with the nation they are sent to that will do anything but draw the countries closer together. Sometimes their message can cause a riff, or even a war. But thanks be unto our God that the message we share as ambassadors is the message that if heeded will totally and completely reconcile those to whom we are sent unto our God.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee



SFCA Drama Department Presents.....

NIGHT AT THE  
**WAX** MUSEUM  

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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.



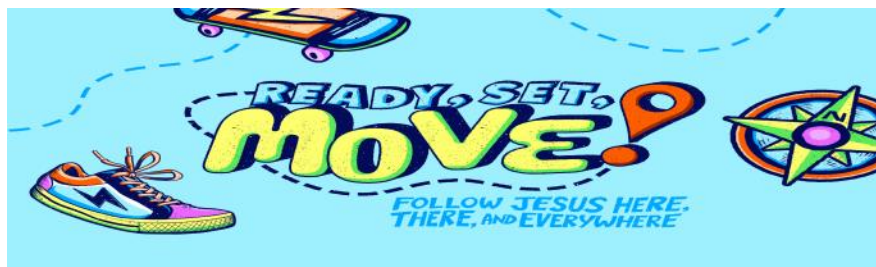
# VBS 2023

**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.

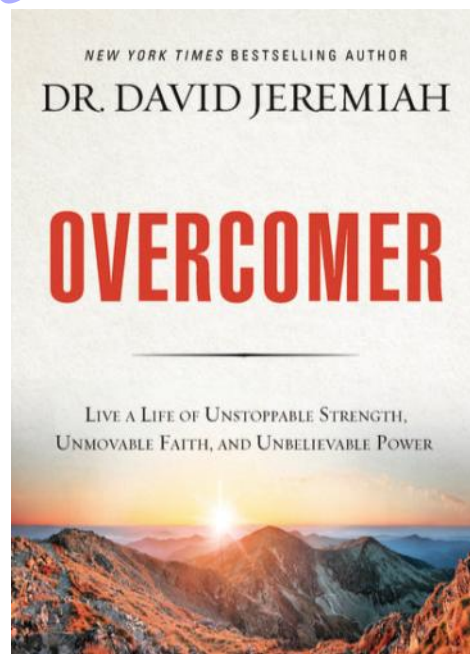
Please mark your calendars and sign up on the back wall to help out where you can. A list of supplies needed will be produced shortly and we also accept monetary donations to help with supplies and food costs.

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.

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



**COMING SOON. . . .  
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.  
More Information to come.**

**Stay tuned.**



## **Congratulations to Step of Faith's Varsity and JV Basketball Teams!**

Our varsity basketball team placed 1st and became the SCACS 2A Conference Champions! They went on to place 3rd in the state! Our JV team also played a great season and won 1st place in the SCACS JV tournament!  
Congratulations to all!!!

## **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**



Step of Faith's senior class is hosting a parent's night out!! So parents, take advantage of this and treat yourselves to a date night!!

Saturday, March 11th  
4:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Cost is \$50 per child (a \$10 discount if you bring a second child).

Your child **MUST** be a student at Step of Faith to attend. Any questions, call April Smith at 843-816-5459.

Grandmother's Group  
**Paparazzi Party**

Guest: "Dianne Hemmings \$5.00 Bling"

Come join us on March 6, 2023  
at 11:30 a.m. until ??

Please bring a dish or dessert for  
everyone to enjoy! Fried chicken and  
drinks provided.

Ladies of ALL ages are welcome!!

*Blessed*  
*by God*  
*Spoiled*  
*by*   
  
paparazzi

Also, bring some  
extra \$\$ to purchase  
Mrs. Dianne's items!!!

For more info:

Debbie Hale

843-368-5436

~ or ~

Jennifer

843-726-3631



## 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**

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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*  
*Leader-Michelle Waitt*  
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**R.A.'S (Royal Ambassadors)** *Room 417*  
*Leader-Pat Mason*  
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**G.A.'S (GIRLS IN ACTION)** *Room 415*  
*Leader-Diane Thames*



## Operation Christmas Child

Time to start gearing up for another year of Operation Christmas Child! We will start this year off 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!

### February:

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





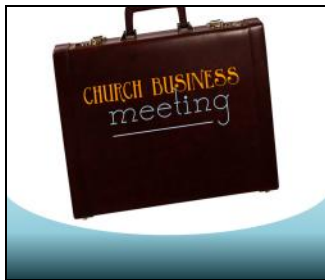
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>7th</i>	<i>Latrelle Steedly</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>8th</i>	<i>Pat Malphrus</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>11th</i>	<i>Debra Daley</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>11th</i>	<i>Wallace Malphrus</i>



**Tuesday, March 7th:**  
**Ben & Cheryl Mills**  
 ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

**Friday, March 10th:**  
**Jason & Vanessa Smoak**  
 ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

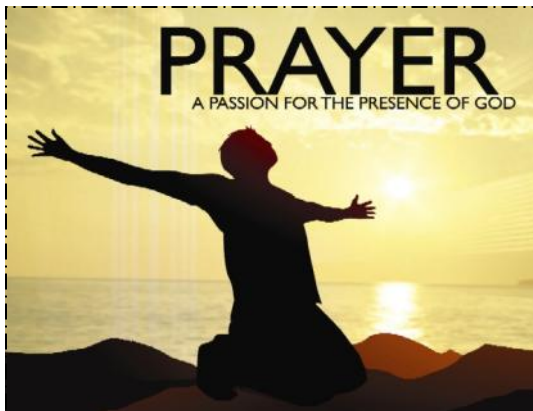
**Saturday, March 11th:**  
**Davey & Barbara McGill**



**Business Meeting**  
Wednesday, March 8th  
at 7:00 p.m.



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



Prayer Group  
Tuesday  
Mornings @  
9:00am



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

**Team Keith 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**

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**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

# GSBC Prayer Page

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

## Leadership

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

## Church Needs

*Sunday School  
SFCA-Donna Carter  
Child Development  
Ministries*

*Ministries  
Outreach Ministry  
In reach Ministry*

## Bereavement

*Margaret Nelson Family*

## Unspoken

## Hospitals

*Jane Garbade—MUSC  
Marie Cole—Savannah  
Memorial*

## Surgery/Recovery

## Cancer/Treatments

*Regina Bouye  
Kaiaya Alston  
Pat Headley  
Leigh Laycock*

## 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  
Mr. James Williamson*

## Nursing Centers

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

## Please Continue To Remember

### Homebound

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

### 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 + / -
	\$3,613.00	\$ 5,012.49	-\$1,349.49
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$50.00		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Office Supplies</i>	\$140.00	*****	\$762.09
<i>Sunday Morning Breakfast</i>	\$111.00	*****	\$895.47
<i>Wednesday Night Supper</i>	\$140.00	*****	\$345.52
<i>GSBC Senior Adult Trip 2023</i>	\$560.00	*****	\$809.22



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