

*Great Swamp Baptist Church*

*May 7, 2023*

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

**Announcements**

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

**Call to Worship**

**Invocation**

*Bjo Mills*

**Praise & Worship**

*Richard Waitt*

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer  
Worship by Giving  
Offertory Special by Mended

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

**Message**

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

**Invitation**

**Benediction Prayer**

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*Sunday Mornings*  
*Following The Song Service:*



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

**Children's**  
**CHURCH**

**Helpers:**  
**Emily Johnson**



**DEACON OF THE WEEK:**

Today:

**Bjo Mills: 843-726-4344**

Next Week:

**Fred Stanley: 843-726-1963**



*From  
Pastor  
Ralph's  
Desk:*



## **An End Time Plea** **(I Peter 3:7-11)**

### **Introduction:**

The believers, during the time in which the Apostle Peter was conducting his ministry were under heavy persecution. This heavy persecution led Peter to conclude that Jesus must soon be returning. And Peter wasn't the only Apostle who expressed the same sentiment that what the Christians were experiencing with heavy persecution must mean that our Lord would soon return. The Apostle Paul wrote I and II Thessalonians at a time in which those believers in Thessalonica were being greatly persecuted and it's in these books that Paul gives us so much information on the second coming of Christ to encourage the believers that these activities could happen in their lifetime.

So because Peter believing that Christ may soon be returning encouraged the believers to conduct their lives and their churches with the expectation that Jesus would soon return. He put out what I'm calling end-time pleas for the believers to follow. We will focus on the ones he makes in the verses we are examining.

Now I felt led to look at these end-time pleas because we are certainly closer to Christ's return than Peter and Paul were, and secondly because our church really needs to step up to the plate and seriously do the pleas found in these verses.

### **I. The first end-time plea Peter makes is the plea to pray.**

Peter tells us that with our praying we are to be clear minded and self controlled. Now the point that Peter seems to be making is that in light of the fact that the end of all things is near, and that their suffering seems to indicate that, they need not fall apart, but rather instead in a very assuring, calm, and clear manner they were to take it all to God in prayer believing that He will hear their prayers and answer them to His glory and our good.

The point is that end-time things seem very frightening to us but our faith in God as sovereignly in control should lead us to know that we can pray to Him and know that He will work all things out to our benefit and His glory.

### **II. The second end-time plea Peter makes is the plea to love.**

Now Peter puts a very strong emphasis on this point. Of course the love that he's referring to is the love that Christians are to show to one another. As the little chorus we use to sing said, "yes, they will know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love." And, of course, that's scriptural as well (John 13:35).

Now Peter emphasizes this point first by saying these two words, "Above all..." meaning that love for one another must absolutely be a priority.

Second, Peter emphasizes this point when he says that we are to "love each other deeply..." The word deeply here is a word referring to the straining of your muscles. So in our love for one another we are to be willing to strain our muscles when showing love to one another. Meaning that love for one another goes beyond words and is rather displayed by actions.

It also means that your love for one another cannot be shaken by the sins that we each have committed against one another and against our God, because we are willing to forgive one another just as God in Christ Jesus has forgiven us. Thus, our focus is not on the faults that we see in each other, but that rather we have been saved and forgiven by the grace of God and that in His strength we can work together to accomplish the will of God.

The world is out to get us so we don't have time to fight one another because the world, sin, and Satan are already fighting ferociously against us. So let us love each other deeply and show the world we are Christians by our love.

**III. The third end-time plea Peter makes is the plea to show hospitality.**

Really this point connects very much with the previous point. Hospitality is clearly another way that we are to show love for one another.

It means that we are not only willing to open up our hearts toward one another, but our homes as well and that we are always making each other feel welcome into our lives at all times no matter where we encounter each other.

It also means that we go out of our way to make sure that we are looking out for the needs of one another. The early church demonstrated this point so well because we are told that they sold things and with the money they got they used it to benefit those in their churches that were in need.

This also means that they didn't allow their differences to keep them from associating with one another. So let us be a church that is considered to be loving and hospitable.

**IV. The fourth end-time plea that Peter makes is the plea to serve.**

Now honestly this is the point that I wanted to emphasize the most in this message. The reason being is that I see it as what needs to be emphasized in our church. We need our people to step up to the plate and start doing the works of ministries that we have at our church. It's harder than ever to get people to serve, but if we listen to the word of God as presented in our present set of verses and as found in many others chapters in God's word we have no other option but to serve. And our present set of verses tells us why we must serve and how this service is done.

First, Peter tells us that we must do service because we've been given gifts and talents to be able to serve. These gifts and talents of course come from God. He equips us so that we can carry out His work here in this world till He comes back.

Second, he tells us that His gifts have been given to us for the purpose of benefiting others. They have not been given to us to bring praise, glory, and prosperity to ourselves but rather to help others.

The third thing that Peter tells us is that the gifts are varied, so that we all don't have the same gifts, talents, and skills. But if everyone will willingly use the gifts given to them, then everyone in the church through each others' gifts will receive the balance needed for the church to progress and mature.

Finally, peter says that when we use our gifts we are to do so with all the strength that God gives us and all the eagerness of the benefits they will bring to the church and the glory and honor of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Conclusion:**

So the end is much nearer than when Peter wrote these set of verses. So if he thought it was imminent then how much more should we and thus be driven to fulfill these pleas with all the urgency we can muscle in the strength of our Lord.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee



*A gift of \$50.00 has been given to the Operation Christmas Child fund in memory of Gary Way by Kelly and Mary Jane Richardson.*



*A gift of \$200.00 has been given to the cemetery maintenance fund in memory of ivy Gene Malphrus by Susan Malphrus.*



*A gift of \$100.00 has been given to the Operation Christmas Child fund in memory of Gary Way by Yvonne Smith..*





Please note the upcoming end  
of school year events!

**May 17th** - Baccalaureate in the Sanctuary  
at 7:00 p.m.

**May 18th** - SFCA Sports Banquet in the  
Multi-Purpose Building at 6:00 p.m.

**May 19th** - K5 Graduation in the SFCA  
Gym at 7:00 p.m.

**May 20th** - Senior Graduation in the SFCA  
Gym at 4:00 p.m.





## Operation Christmas Child

New items being collected for May! See the list below and please help out if you can. 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!

### May:

Stuffed Animals

Barbies

Matchbox Cars

Any Assorted Toys

Yo-yos

Puzzles

Balls

Jump Ropes

Remember: NO liquids, glass, or military items. You can also give a monetary donation instead of buying the items. No donation is too small!





Wednesday	10th	Amy O'Connor
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<b>Sunday, May 7th:</b> Gentry & Diane Thames
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# Muffins for Mom Program



**May 12th**  
**Beginning at 8:15 a.m.**  
**Located in the Multi-Purpose Building**



Come grab a muffin and watch SFCA students perform in honor of Mother's Day. All moms and grandmas are welcome!





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!

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE: This will be the last Wednesday night supper until start up in September\*\***

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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.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE:  
This last Sunday morning breakfast will be Sunday, May 21st until start up in September\*\***

## 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-Wallace Malphrus & Fred Stanley**  
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**G.A.'S (GIRLS IN ACTION)** *Room 415*  
**Leader-Diane Thames**



## VBS 2023

Donations are greatly needed for the meals for VBS. We have begun advertising around the town about our VBS and hope to have many children attend. They will have supper each night of VBS. As everyone knows food prices have gone up, therefore, we desperately need monetary donations for the food so we can feed each and every child. If you can give something, anything, it would be greatly appreciated it.

**We are feeding these children's' minds, hearts, and bellies and need help doing it!!**

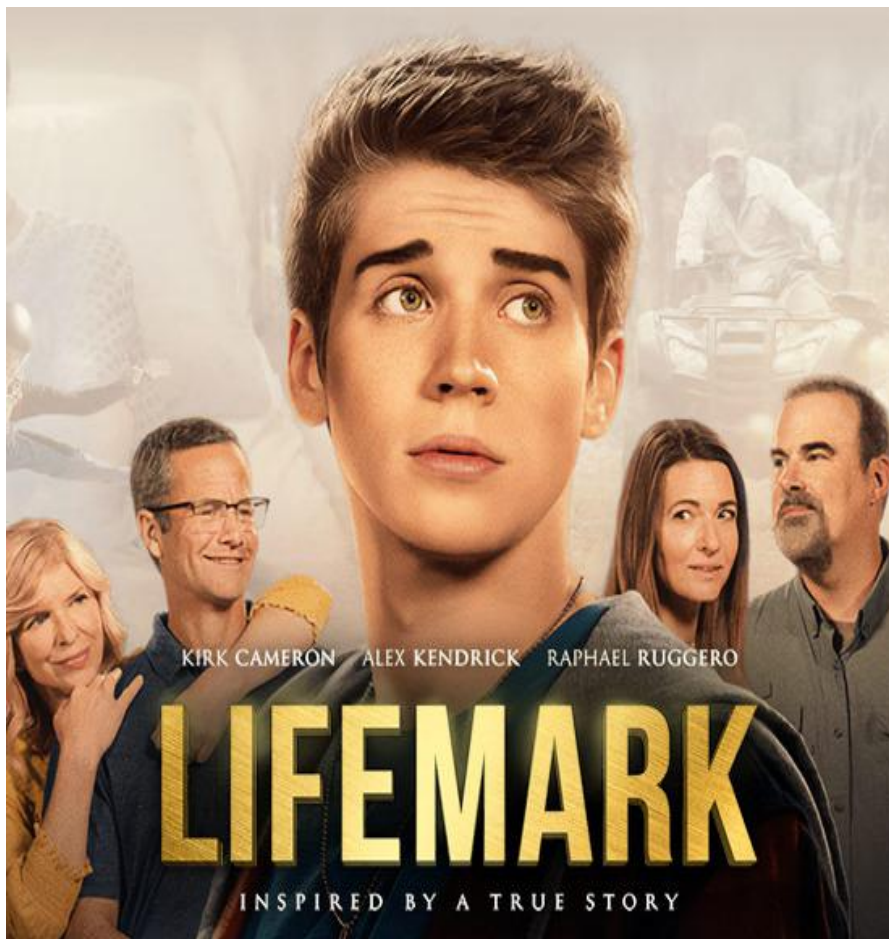
We are still taking donations for tissue rolls and river rocks! Please bring some in if you can. The rocks need to be 2 inches to 5 or 6 inches in length. Any questions, please ask.

More information to come regarding things needed for crafts and games. So keep a look out!!

If you would like to help with VBS but did not sign up, please call Nicole Mariocourt at 843-726-2211, Saylor Olivas at 843-812-8879, or Jennifer Meador at 843-726-3631. We would love to have more help for VBS. It is coming up very quickly!!







## **MOVIE NIGHT!!!**

**Movie of the night is Lifemark, which is based on an incredible true story—you don't want to miss this one!!**

**Sunday, May 21st  
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!**



# Annual Baccalaureate Class of 2023

The church will be having its annual baccalaureate service on Wednesday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m. We need food for the event. If you are able, please bring a shareable finger food (for example: chicken nuggets, mini sandwiches, fruit trays, veggie trays, chips and dip, lemon bars, brownies, peanut butter balls, chewies, etc.)

Please see the sign up sheet on the back wall and sign up accordingly! Food will need to be at the church **no later than 7:00 p.m.** Thank you!!



## Graduation Recognition Service

**Sunday, May 21st**

**During regular service**

If you want to recognize a graduate, please fill out the insert provided in this bulletin and return it to the church office. If you do not have an insert or will not be here in the coming Sundays to fill one out, please contact Jennifer at 843-726-3631 and give her the information regarding the graduate to be recognized.

# GSBC Prayer Page

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

## **Leadership**

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

## **Hospitals**

## **Surgery/Recovery**

*Tex Lowther  
Keith Gamo  
Pinky Rushing - Beaufort  
Memorial - Back Surgery*

## **Nursing Centers**

*Elaine Degler - RNC  
Bobby Mohn - Indigo Pines HHI  
Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe*

## **Church Needs**

*Sunday School  
SFCA-Donna Carter  
Child Development  
Ministries*

## **Unspoken**

## **Cancer/Treatments**

*Pat Headley  
Leigh Laycock  
Joyce Garbade  
Gene Price  
Ann Blocker  
Tex Lowther*

*Ministries  
Outreach Ministry  
In reach Ministry*

## **Bereavement**

*Family of Dot Nettles  
Family of CJ Bain*

## **Other Health Needs**

*Mary Kay Cade  
Barry DeMay  
Tristan Simmons  
Marie Coleman  
James Williamson  
Glenn Scott  
Rhonda Stones  
Debbie Hale  
Virginia Byles*

## **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 &amp; Ron Degler</i>
<i>Barbara Mills</i>	<i>Red &amp; Helen Malphrus</i>
<i>Kenny Smith</i>	<i>Thomas &amp; Erma Cooler</i>
<i>Diane Hannah</i>	<i>Marie Malphrus</i>
	<i>Dot Smart</i>

### **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 + / -
	<b>\$4,927.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,012.49</b>	<b>-\$85.49</b>
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>		
<b>Designated Funds</b>	<b>This Week</b>	*****	<b>Acct. Balances</b>
<i>Office Supplies</i>	<i>\$120.00</i>	*****	<i>\$610.26</i>
<i>Adult Senior Trip 2023</i>	<i>\$475.00</i>	*****	<i>\$3,150.94</i>
<i>Gleaner's SS Class</i>	<i>\$81.00</i>	*****	<i>\$937.06</i>
<i>Annie Armstrong</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>	*****	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>Sunday Morning Breakfast</i>	<i>\$125.00</i>	*****	<i>\$1,226.48</i>
<i>Wednesday Night Supper</i>	<i>\$160.00</i>	*****	<i>\$6.78</i>
<i>VBS</i>	<i>\$82.00</i>	*****	<i>\$1,586.11</i>
<i>Operation Christmas Child</i>	<i>\$150.00</i>	*****	<i>\$708.86</i>
<i>Cemetery Maintenance</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>	*****	<i>\$600.00</i>





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