

Do  what time
it is??
BINGO!

IT'S VBS TIME!

You don't
want to be



and miss out on
the time of your

LIFE!

This year's theme will
be more fun than a



So play your



right and don't
get into



COME JOIN US!

BEFORE IT'S



**GAME
OVER**

**Great Swamp VBS
Starting TONIGHT!
June 18th - 21st
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Great Swamp Baptist Church

June 18, 2023

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Preludes

Vincent Malphrus

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee

Call to Worship

Invocation

Mack Pope

Father's Day Recognition

Praise & Worship

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer
Worship by Giving
Offertory Special

Pastor Ralph Lee

Randy Smoak

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee

Invitation

Benediction Prayer

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:*



A Call to Return to the Lord **(2 Chronicles 30:1-14)**

Introduction:

A couple of Wednesday nights ago I preached a message that I believe is urgently needed to be shared all across our land. The message was concerning King Hezekiah's call for the nation of Judah and Israel to return to the Lord. His call and challenge was not for the heathen nations that surround Judah and Israel but rather just Judah and Israel.

Now why was King Hezekiah exclusively calling out for Judah and Israel to return to the Lord? Weren't they already God's chosen people? Well, they were God's chosen people and as His chosen people they were responsible to believe in Him and trust and serve Him. However, they had long since stopped believing, trusting, and serving God. As a matter of fact, you really couldn't tell the difference between them and the heathen nations that surrounded them. So it's no wonder that King Hezekiah was focusing upon his own people to return to the Lord because they desperately needed to.

Well, as it was in the day of King Hezekiah so it is in our present days. It has become difficult in many places to tell the difference between churches, denominations, and the world. Even many who stand behind the sacred desk to proclaim God's word have compromised His word to the point of having no convictions that differ from our sinful culture.

Therefore, it's time that we say to the churches and denominations of our land that we must return to the Lord. Just as King Hezekiah did with the nations Judah and Israel.

Now King Hezekiah called for all of both nations to come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover which had not been done publically in a long time. But King Hezekiah's intention is not for them to come together merely to go through the motions of the Passover but rather use it as a time to genuinely return to the Lord. So let's examine this call to return to the Lord and let it inspire us all to do the same.

I. First, this call to return to the Lord came from the king's desire (vs 1-5).

In these verses we are told that the king's officials and all who were assembled in Jerusalem all agreed that celebrating the Passover and returning to the Lord was indeed what they needed to do. However, what motivated the king's officials and the assembled groups of people in Jerusalem was the king himself. It was first in his heart and mind that this is what they should do and this influenced the others to follow suit.

We can learn an important lesson here and that is that under the Lord's direction we can influence others to want to return to the Lord by His own work in our hearts and minds as we seek Him ourselves.

Also, we need to be reminded here that like King Hezekiah there was another king, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, King Jesus who also desires that all people return unto Him. As the Apostle Peter said, "The Lord is not slow in keeping His promises, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

The Apostle Paul gives us a similar statement concerning the Lord's desire for all to return to Him. "This is good and pleases God our Savior who wants all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:3, 4).

So let the desire of King Jesus motivate us to return to Him and encourage others to do the same.

II. Second, this call to return to the Lord came with the king's invitation (vs 4-6).

The king put his desire into action. He desired for the nation to return to the Lord therefore he invited them to do so. And he was all inclusive in his invitation because he sent his messengers from Dan to Beersheba. These were the two furthest points north to south in the two nations he was reaching out to. Thus, he was covering the entire country.

Well, once again let's remind ourselves that there was another king, the King of Kings, King Jesus who also put His desire for all to repent and to return to Him in to actions by also inviting all to come to Him. As a matter of fact 'come' was and is a favorite word of our Lord. "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest..." (Matt 11:28). "The spirit and the bride say, 'come!' And let him who hears say, 'come!' Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life." (Rev 22:17).

"Declare what is to be, present it - let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the Lord? And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. Turn to me and be saved all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other." (Is 45:21, 22).

It's also important to remember that as King Hezekiah used messengers to send out the invitations so King Jesus also sends out messengers to deliver His invitations to come, and we are His messengers that He's chosen to use. So church, let's put the invitations out there.

III. Third, this call to return to the Lord came with the king's message (vs 6-9).

The king's invitation to come was not just a point blank invitation of y'all come. Rather the invitation had a very specific message attached to the invitation. Which has often been neglected in our modern times when we invite people to come to the Lord.

This message was a call to genuine repentance, to turn from their wicked ways and turn to the Lord with faith and commitment. And then and only then will they experience the love, grace, mercy, compassion, and face of God.

The invitation also was a warning that to fail to genuinely repent and return to the Lord would mean more of the judgment of God upon them than what they had already experienced which was a great deal.

When we sing the great old invitational hymns, "Just as I am," Oh, Lamb of God, I come, I come, we are not calling you to come and we will take you the way you are. That's what our culture wants us to do and not demand that repentance and change be a part of the invitation. The hymn is telling us to come just as we are so that Jesus can change us to be the people He wants us to be.

God's love is not about accepting us as sinners but rather to change us from sinners to saints. From a people headed to a devil's hell to a people on the way to our Savior's heaven, so let's make sure that we are getting the message right when we send out the invitations.

IV. Fourth, this call to return to the Lord came with mixed reactions (vs 10-12)

Now of course the point here is that sadly not everyone responded to the invitations to return to the Lord. As a matter of fact it appears that the biggest portion of the northern nation of Israel rejected the invitations. They even treated it with disdain by scorning and ridiculing it.

However, praise God some did respond and humbled themselves in a positive manner accepting the terms of the invitations and came to celebrate the passover and return to the Lord.

God has not called us to spread the message of returning to the Lord only as long as people are positively responding. Rather our job is to put the invitations out regardless of the response, and trust the outcome to the Lord. But the good news is that as we remain faithful sharing the invitation along the way some will respond positively.

V. Fifth, this call to return to the Lord came with success (vs 12, 13).

In the previous point we discussed the mixed reactions. There were both a negative and positive reactions. It was in the southern kingdom of Judah that we find the best positive response to the invitation to come and return to the Lord. But both the positive response from those in the northern kingdom as well as those in the southern kingdom we are told took place because the hand of God was at work bringing it all to fruition.

God was and is the moving force that empowered and empowers the invitations that moves some people to respond. And we are told that with His hand God lead the people who positively responded to have a unity of mind to follow His word. And this is what our prayer must be today that God will give us a unity of mind to follow His word not the word of the culture.

Conclusion:

First, let us ourselves as the people of God make sure that we return to our Lord and then encourage others to do the same.

Jesus Loves You,
Ralph Lee

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 & Fred Stanley

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

*****During Summer-Jennifer Wall*****

MOVIE NIGHT!!!

Lifemark

Sunday, June 25th

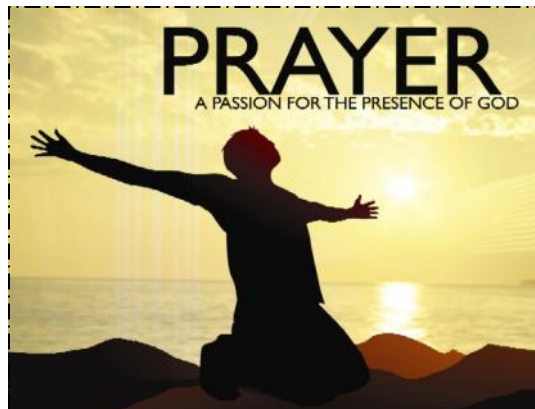
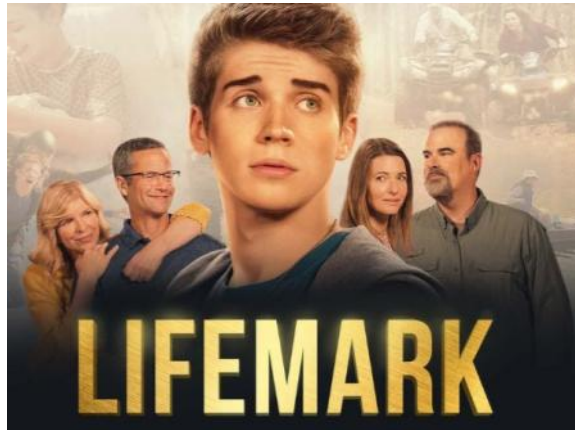
Concessions at 6:00 p.m.

Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.

Please bring finger foods to share!

Tea and Popcorn provided.

Come Enjoy A Great Wholesome Family Movie!



**Prayer Group
Tuesday
Mornings @
9:00am**



Operation Christmas Child

New items being collected for June! 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!

June:

Socks

Wash Cloths

Stuffed Animals

Barbies

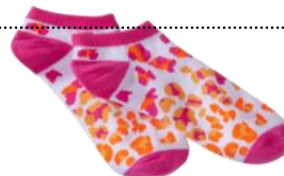
Matchbox Cars

Toothbrushes

Ziploc bags (quart size)

Combs/Hair brushes (boys/girls)

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





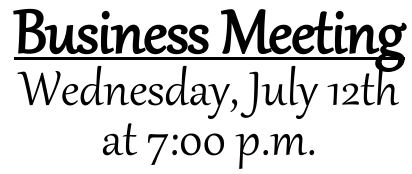
<i>Monday</i>	<i>19th</i>	<i>Gerald Boyles</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>19th</i>	<i>Gail Malphrus</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>Betty Robertson</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>Angel Cole</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>Amanda Hodges</i>



A gift of \$100.00 has been given to the cemetery maintenance fund by Will. and Patricia Harley in loving memory of Dorothy Nettles and in honor of Ronnie Nettles for his dedication to his mother.



A gift of \$100.00 has been given to the cemetery maintenance fund in loving memory of Dorothy Nettles by James and Linda Hare.



Deacons' Meeting

Monday, July 10th
at 6:00 p.m.



Grandmothers' Group

Monday, July 3rd
at 11:30 a.m.

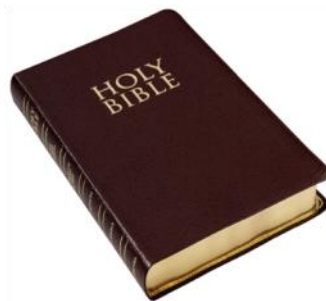
Chicken and drinks will be provided. Fourth of July theme!

All grandmothers welcome!

Old Religious Church Literature Wanted!

A barrel has been placed in the vestibule for old church religious material, such as Bibles, Christian magazines, books, devotionals, hymnals, old Sunday School materials, and other used Christian Literature. We are helping Okatee Baptist Church collect these items in order to send out Love Packages to 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. We will be collecting these items until the end of 2023.

So please bring any and all materials to the church and put them in the labeled barrel in the vestibule or leave them in the church office for Jennifer.



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

Nursing Centers

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

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>Kenny Smith</i>	<i>Thomas & Erma Cooler</i>
<i>Diane Hannah</i>	<i>Marie Malphrus</i>

Church Needs

Sunday School
SFCA-Donna Carter
Child Development
Ministries

Unspoken

Cancer/Treatments

Pat Headley
Leigh Laycock
Joyce Garbade
Tex Lowther
Amy Campini
Evelyn Bishop

Ministries

Outreach Ministry
In reach Ministry

Bereavement

Family of Brayden Tindal
Family of Dot Smart

Other Health Needs

Mary Kay Cade
Barry DeMay
Marie Coleman
James Williamson
Glenn Scott
Rhonda Stones
Debbie Hale
Gene Price
Mark Simpson
Julia Rushing
Pinky Rushing
Keith Gamo
Kistler Malphrus
Connie Benton
Lewis Hughes
Wanda Davis
Mike Davis
Amy Hannah
*Mark Simpson - kidney and
liver transplant*
Lloyd Freeman
Judy Smith
Kathy Breland

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, Jrjehu27@gmail.com

Music Director: Richard Waittwaittfamily83@gmail.com

Sunday School Director: Mike Davis

Pianist: Michelle Waitt waittfamily83@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Meadorgreatswampbaptist@hargray.com
843-726-3631

School Administrator: Donna Carterdcarter@hargray.com



The church office will be closed in recognition of the federal holiday Juneteenth.

Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$2,805.00	\$ 5,012.49	\$-2,207.49
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$50.00		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Cemetery Fund</i>	\$200.00	*****	\$847.39
<i>VBS</i>	\$330.00	*****	\$2,309.48
<i>Adult Senior Trip 2023</i>	\$50.00	*****	\$4,059.94



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