

Great Swamp Baptist Church
August 27, 2023

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee

Call to Worship

Invocation

Mack Pope

Praise & Worship

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer
Worship by Giving
Offertory Special

Pastor Ralph Lee

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:*



Ready - Set - Run
(2 Samuel 18:19-31)

Introduction:

For a couple of months now we've been looking at messages to challenge and encourage us all to get involved in ministry within the life of our church. As the result of this, many of you have volunteered to serve on committees and ministries throughout the up coming new church year.

Now our objective is to get these committees and ministries together to select coordinators, to organize, and finally to carry out those ministries.

Whenever I was on our high school's track team and as well as our cross-country team we would spend weeks of preparation leading up to our actual meets. However, once it was time to actually head to a track or cross-country meet it was then time to run the race. It was time to hear those three famous words, "Ready - set - run!" It's time for Great Swamp Baptist Church to get ready - set - run.

Now to challenge us to do this we will examine these set of verses which tell the story of a battle that takes place between King David's army and his own son Absalom's army. This battle would settle the issue of who was going to be king over Israel. Would it be David or his son Absalom?

Now David had planned to go and fight with his army but his generals talked him out of it. They did so because David would be the enemies main target. Thus King David remained hidden in a city not too far away from the battle field.

Now once the battle was over and David's army had been successful, Joab, the commander of David's army, sent two runners back to King David to tell the good news of their victory over their enemy. It is these two runners that I want to talk about in my message today. For when the battle was over for these two men it was 'ready - set - run' and run they did. So let us be challenged by these two runners to get ready - set - run.

I. First, let's notice the purpose for the runners (vs 19-21)

Of course it's very plain what the purpose of the runners was. They were sent with one goal in mind. That goal was to share the good news of the victory that King David's men had gained over the king's enemies. The enemy was defeated, the battle won, and King David remained on the throne.

Now the truth is that not all of the news was pleasant for the king because his son was killed in the battle. But if King David's army had lost the nation would have been far worse off under his son's reign. Once David mourned over the lost, he understood the real positive value of the good news.

Well, let me use our title, "Ready - Set - Run." We, too, have the same purpose to share the good news that these runners had. Only the news we have is far greater than the news they had.

We have a story to tell to the nations as the old hymn says. It's a message of great victory. The greatest victory ever won. Our enemies of sin, Satan, death, and hell have been defeated at the hand of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On the cross and in the resurrection there is eternal life to be gained and eternal death to be avoided.

So let us be ready, and let us get set, and finally let us get to running. We've gained the victory, the battle's won, the enemies defeated.

II. Second, let's notice the passion of the runners (vs 19-23)

Now these verses tell us that there were two runners who carried the message to the king. But both of these men carried the message to the king for different reasons. However in spite of the fact that their reasons for running were different they were both passionate about doing the job.

The Cushite ran because of his commanding officer Joab gave him the responsibility of taking the message to the king. Then his passion to run came from his desire to be obedient to his commander. We, too, have a commander and He has called us to get ready - set - run. As we began our new year, let us decide now that out of obedience to Jesus we are going to start serving Him in the ministries you've signed up for with passion.

Now the other runner, Ahimaaz, ran but it wasn't because he was commanded to do so. No, he ran because he wanted to do so. He was so eager to do so that he pleaded to have that privilege. As a matter of fact, it was as though the commander finally let him run because he was tired of hearing him beg to do so.

So like Ahimaaz, we should want to passionately serve our Lord because we are hungry to do so. We can't wait to do so because He's so worthy of our commitment, and because we have the greatest news of all time to share.

Whichever of these two motivations move you to serve our Lord through the various ministries here at Great Swamp Baptist Church, I am grateful.

The Apostle Paul had a similar situation where peoples' motivations for serving Jesus varied. Paul was grateful whatever the motivation that the Gospel was being preached.

"Now I want you to know brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have become encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice." (Phil. 1:12-18).

So once again let me thank you for your passion to serve our Lord by means of obedience, and/or by means of gratitude for the privilege to serve.

III. Third, let's notice the perseverance of the runners (vs 19-31).

Both men started the race and both men finished the race. From the ready - set - run till the checkered flag neither men even considered for a moment of quitting.

You can count on it that in the midst of the run these two men experienced exhaustion, difficulty breathing, dry mouth and throat, possible leg cramps, but they carried on.

No one ever said that running for Jesus was going to be simple and easy. Like the two runners we've been considering, at times it's going to be difficult. However, at the end of the run, with the tasks completed, it will be worth it all.

The writer of Hebrews put forth a challenge to persevere. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Considered Him who endured much opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and loose heart." (Hebrews 12:1-3).

So those who are genuinely saved will, though it may be difficult, persevere to the end, keep on running. It will pay off.

IV. Fourth, let's notice the prize of the runner (vs 22-32).

Well, the truth is that neither runner received any financial reward, nor did they receive a trophy that they could take home and place on a shelf. They didn't even get a certificate to frame and hang on a wall.

However in spite of those facts they gained some significant prizes that made the run worth it. First of all, just the joy of accomplishing the task and finishing the race alone brought satisfaction. Second, however, their task came with it amazing news, and the joy of sharing that news was indeed an exciting and exhilarating experience. But the main prize these runners got to experience was the privilege of being in the presence of their king. So it is with us. Our prize is the joy of finishing the race, sharing the good news, and ultimately having the privilege of living in the presence of our eternal king Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Conclusion:

Let me conclude with the words of the Apostle Paul, "For I am already being poured out like a drunk offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing." (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

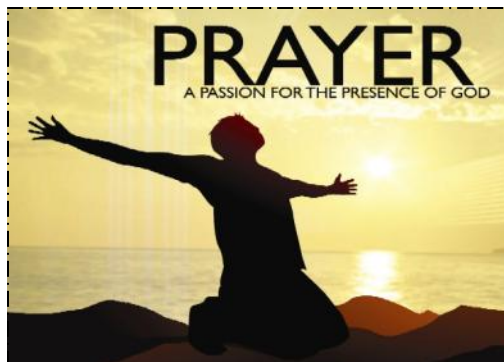
Get Ready - Get Set - RUN!!

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee, Jr.



A gift of \$200.00 has been given to the cemetery maintenance fund by Kim Malphrus Realty in memory of Kenny Hay.



Prayer Group
Tuesday Mornings
@ 9:00 a.m.
All Are Welcome



<i>Monday</i>	<i>28th</i>	<i>Kate Carter</i>
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Grandmothers' Group

Monday, September 4th at 11:30 a.m.
We will be meeting at the youth house
each month to help with Operation
Christmas Child.

Please bring a dish or
a dessert to share.

Hope to see everyone there!

All grandmothers welcome!





Business Meeting
Wednesday, September 13th
at 7:00 p.m.



Deacons' Meeting
Monday, September 11th
at 6:00 p.m.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

SRBA Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 22, 2023

at 5:00 pm

Ridgeland Baptist Church

1st Annual SRBA Ladies Banquet

When: Saturday, September 16th from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm

Where: Carolina Ballroom - Pickney Hall at Sun City

Guest Speaker: Beth Greer

**NOTE: The deadline for tickets is
September 1st.**

IMPORTANT

**A special meeting will be held
to vote on leadership roles on
Wednesday, August 30th.**



**Movie: To Be Determined
Sunday, September 17th
Concessions at 6:00 p.m.
Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.**



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

MEN'S MINISTRY

'AS IRON SHARPENS IRON SO ONE MAN
SHARPENS ANOTHER' PROVERBS 27:17

The men's ministry is looking at starting back up the monthly meetings for fellowship, devotion, and meal. Please sign up if you are willing to commit to being a part of this ministry. Sign up will be on the back wall info board.



GREETERS MINISTRY

September:

9/3 - Courtney & Jeff
9/10 - Kim & Richard
9/17 - Juliette & Mike W
9/24 - Latrelle & Mike D

October:

10/1 - Courtney & Jeff
10/8 - Kim & Richard
10/15 - Juliette & Mike W
10/22 - Latrelle & Mike D
10/29 - Courtney & Jeff

Introducing Great Swamp Baptist
Church's new and improved Wednesday
night children's program:



Beginning: Wednesday,
September 6th
7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Ages K-3 through 6th Grade

We will have worship, activities,
and crafts!

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!!



Operation Christmas Child

We are still collecting school supplies for Operation Christmas Child for the month of August. We are starting with school supplies. There are three way to donate: 1) take an angel off the tree with an item on it; 2) donate something from the list below; or 3) a monetary donation.

August:

Pencils	Pencil Sharpeners
Glue Sticks	Crayons—24 count
Scissors	Notebook Paper
Construction Paper	Ink Pens
Colored Pencils—12 count	
Spiral Notebooks—70 sheets/1 subject	

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

No donation is too small!



Creation Seminar

Guest Speaker: Steve Levinson
Coming September 10th!

Sunday School Hour (9:30 a.m.)

Creation2Communion Seminar

A gospel illusion presentation! Steve transforms into “Dr. LivingStone,” complete with a lab coat and wig! Several illusions are performed to demonstrate the gospel message. Please invite all ages – it’s not just for kids!

Worship Hour (10:30 a.m.)

Foundations Under Fire Seminar

This PowerPoint message reveals how evolution undermines the gospel message and how it has affected our culture. The church is encouraged to wake up and get serious about the issues.

Sunday Evening (6:00 p.m.)

Fossils, the Flood, Noah’s Ark, and Dinosaurs

This jammed-packed message answers many questions from the Bible and demonstrates that people are “evolutionized.” A young earth is clearly shown from the Bible! Steve also brings his fossil collection.

You do NOT want to miss any of these seminars. They will be fantastic! Bring your family, bring your friends, bring everyone you can!!!

A love offering will be taken up after each seminar.





Wednesday Night Supper

Starting back September 6th!! Wahoo!
More information to follow.

If you're interested in cooking, please let
Timmy or Jennifer know. and Sunday
morning breakfast September 10th.
No meals deliveries.



Sunday Morning Breakfast

Coming back Sunday,
September 10th. More
info to follow. If you're
interested in helping
with breakfast, let us
know!!

Deacon Election List

Lloyd Freeman
Johnny Westbury



Deacon list will be presented today, Sunday August 27th. Voting by secret ballot will take place on Sunday morning, September 3rd following Morning Worship Service.

GSBC Prayer Page

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

Leadership

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

Hospitals

Karen Malphrus - ICU

Surgery/Recovery

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
Lloyd Freeman
Revel Crosby - 4 years old
(Leukemia)
Morgan Warren*

*Ministries
Outreach Ministry
In reach Ministry*

Bereavement

Other Health Needs

*Mary Kay Cade
Debbie Hale
Gene Price
Julia Rushing
Pinky Rushing
Amy Hannah
Judy Smith
Kathy Breland
Mr. Williamson - heart attack
Venny Robinston (Allene's
sister)
Karen Malphrus - Fall
Mike Wall
Grace Hetrick
Arthur Pierson
Jerry Koons
Dwight Malphrus*

Expected Mothers:

Chelsea Lake - Due 10/16

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>

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
Schuyler Johnson - Basic Training Marines*

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*



The church office will be
 closed on Monday,
 September 4th in recognition
 of Labor Day.

Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$2,908.00	\$ 5,012.49	\$-2,104.49
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$270.00</i>		
Designated Funds		*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Adult Senior Trip 2023</i>	<i>\$117.00</i>	*****	<i>\$9,001.94</i>
<i>Cemetery Maintenance</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>	*****	<i>\$1,232.39</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
Website: greatswampbaptistchurch.com
Church Office: (843) 726-3631