



*Great Swamp Baptist Church*

*October 15, 2023*

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

*Sunday Morning Worship*

*10:30 AM*

**Announcements**

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

**Call to Worship**

#386 *“The Family of God”*

**Invocation**

*Lloyd Freeman*

**SFCA 25th Year Celebration**

Hymn #334 *“Blessed Assurance,  
Jesus is Mine”*

**Praise & Worship**

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

Worship by Giving

Offertory Special

*Randy Smoak*

**Message**

*Pastor Bobby Thompson*

**Invitation**

**Benediction Prayer**

*Sunday Mornings*  
*Following The Song Service:*



Nursery



Teacher:  
Olivia Stanley

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DEACON OF THE WEEK:

*Lloyd Freeman*



Phone: 803-943-6312

*From  
Pastor  
Ralph's  
Desk:*



## **When God Uses His Hand** **(Ezra 7:6-28; 8:21, 22, 31)**

### **Introduction:**

The Book of Ezra is all about captive Israel returning to Jerusalem for the purpose of rebuilding the Jewish temple which many years before had been completely destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

So a group captive Jews returned and over a period of 21 years they completed the rebuilding of the temple. During this time they began using the temple grounds even before finishing it to carry out worship there. Obviously, once they completed the work they continued using the building to worship God.

However there was concern that those who returned to rebuild the temple may have been lacking in their knowledge and understanding of God's word, laws, and commands. SO nearly 60 years after the completion of the temple Ezra the priest along with other priest and Levites arrived on the scene in order to give proper guidance in the understanding of God's word.

But what I want us to focus on with this message is the fact that these two chapters that we are examining point out the fact that Ezra's return to Jerusalem and all that he was able to accomplish among the people in Jerusalem, and the surrounding area can be attributed to the fact that the hand of the Lord was working things out for Ezra. So we will look at what I'm calling, When God Uses His Hand. Praise God that His hand is available for us as well.

**I. First, let's notice that when God uses His Hand its to fulfill His purpose (vs 6-10)**

In these verse that I'm using for this point clearly reveals just what Ezra returned to Jerusalem to do. He came for the purpose of bringing God's word to the nation. "For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel." (vs 10.).

Now it was because he came to give God's word to the people of Israel that God's hand was working on his behalf. As one of these verses clearly reveal. "This Ezra came up from Babylon. He was a teacher well versed in the law of Moses, which the Lord, the God of Israel, had given. The king had granted him everything he asked, for the hand of he Lord his God was on him." (vs 7).

In the New Testament we find a similar assurance that God's hand and His presence will be with us to help us, and empower us, to carry out His purpose of taking His word to the people, When Jesus said the following words, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matt 28:18-20).

Now it's true that our Lord Jesus Christ is always with us. But these last verses I wrote indicate that the place where we will most be aware of His helping presence is when we are taking His message to the people. Thus, fulfilling His purpose.

**II. Second, let's notice that when God uses His hand it's to benefit His people (vs 10, 25-27)**

God has always been in the people business. Even after Adam and Eve sinned He drove them out of the garden, but He didn't give up on them. Also even after the whole earth had become so wicked that the only option for the earth was judgment with a worldwide flood, He still saved Noah and his family and started it over again. Also God shows His love for His people when He brought them up out of captivity and restored them to their home land.

With our text God shows that He's in the people business by sending Ezra to Jerusalem and the surrounding area so that he could help the people of the area by receiving the message of God.

God has called us to love Him first, but also He secondly tells us to love one another. We are called to build up and benefit the lives of God's people. Selfishness plays no room in the life of a child of God. God's hand will greatly be with us as we seek to love, build up and benefit the lives of God's people.

**III. Third, let's notice that when God uses His hand it's to reveal His power (vs 6, 11-24)**

Now the point I want to make here is that Ezra was able to leave Babylon, and take a good size group along with him and safely arrive to Jerusalem, and do the work he went to do, not inspite of King Artaxerxes, the king of Persia, which now ruled over Babylon. Rather it was because of King Artaxerxes.

Now you may ask how was it possible that a pagan king not only granted Ezra the right to go, but also financially backed the trip up? Well, the answer was that the hand of God was with Ezra. So it was Almighty God that laid on the heart of this pagan king to send and support Ezra on this trip.

God's power and authority always trumps all worldly leaders of every kind plus all the demonic forces of hell. He has all power and authority.

Once again, we remind ourselves that had it not been for the hand of God none of this book would have taken place. With His power and authority He brought it to fruition. And so it will be God's hand will be with us to do His work so that He can reveal His power to us and to others.

**IV. Fourth, let's notice that when God uses His hand it's to answer our prayer (8:21-23)**

In these particular verses, Ezra reveals that when all the people got together to leave Babylon and head on the journey to Jerusalem the first thing they did was to pour their hearts out to God in prayer for a safe journey.

Now we are told that he didn't ask the king for soldiers to go on the trip to protect them, because he had told the king that God would protect them because they were asking Him to. Which He did indeed do. Thus because they sought God and trusted Him, His hand was upon them to protect them in response to their prayer.

So if we want to know of the intervening hand of God in our midst we've got to spend time seeking and trusting Him.

**V. Fifth, let's notice that when God uses His hand it's both to provide provision and protection.**

Now I basically covered this point in the previous four points, but I added it just to remind us that as we are seeking to do the work of God, by spreading and sharing His word then, like Ezra, we can count on God's hand to protect us along the way. We can also count on His hand giving us the provisions necessary to get the work done.  
Conclusion:

As I've mentioned before, God has very clearly assured us from His word that He will never leave us nor forsake us. However, you will never be more aware of His presence and of His hand reaching out to help us than when we are seeking to carry-out His work and His will.

Jesus Loves You.

Ralph Lee



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>15<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Chandler Thames</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>15<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Julie Mingledorff</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>16<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Bill Carter</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>17<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Diane Malphrus</i>

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**Thank you to our students and their families  
for participating in today's spotlight.**

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Alexus Williams      | Zoe Allen        |
| Makenzie Simmons     | Daxton Scoggins  |
| Joshua Germershausen | Noelle Scoggins  |
| Lily Smith           | Sawyer Smoak     |
| Jonah Vaigneur       | Nathaniel Sawyer |
| Ella Gray            | Charlee Carter   |
| Noah Gray            | Max Herlong      |
| Ali Garzillo         | Ayden Ingram     |
| Kaylynn Blatchley    | Reed Ingram      |
| Jacob Wall           | Alice Leonard    |
| Henley Pankuch       |                  |

**Special Thanks to Mrs. Alisha Herlong  
and Mrs. Rhonda Stones!!!**



# AGENDA

**Business Meeting**

Wednesday, November 8th at 7:00 p.m.

**Deacons' Meeting**

Monday, November 13th at 6:00 p.m.

**Prayer Meeting**

Every Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m.

**Grandmothers' Group**

Monday, November 6th at 11:30 a.m.

Meet at the youth house to help with Operation Christmas Child. Please bring a soup or a sandwiches to share. Hope to see everyone there!  
All ladies welcome!

**Swamp Kids**

Every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m.

**Men's Ministry Meeting**

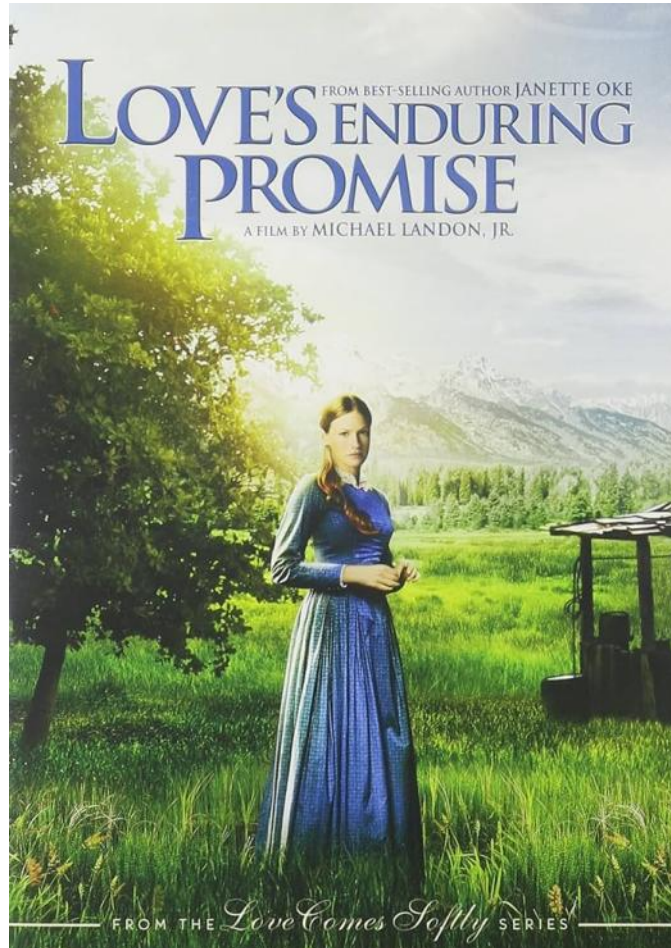
Thursday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m.

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## Special Announcement

Baby Drake Garbade Carter arrived Wednesday, October 11th. He weighted 9 pounds, 2 ounce and was 20.5 inches long. Pray for the family, that they will adjust quickly to the demands of a newborn, pray Chelsea will heal quickly from her c-section, and pray for that handsome baby!





**Movie: Love's Enduring Promise**

**Sunday, October 22nd**

**Concessions at 6:00 p.m.**

**Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.**



**Please bring finger foods to share!**

**Tea and Popcorn provided.**

**Come watch an amazing movie with us!**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Gillisonville Baptist Fall Festival**

Sunday, October 14th  
Ridgeland Baptist Church  
Dinner at 5:00 p.m.

## **SRBA Annual Meeting**

Sunday, October 22nd  
Ridgeland Baptist Church  
Dinner at 5:00; Meeting at 6:00  
Please contact Cindy (no later than 10/17) to reserve your spot

## **Harvest Fest**

October 28th from 5:00-8:00 p.m.  
Sign up sheets are on the back wall. Please sign up!

## **Lord's Supper**

Sunday, October 29th during the service.

## **Red Cross Blood Drive**

Tuesday, October 31st  
Beginning at 12:00 p.m. in the MPB.  
Sign up online or walk-in.

## **SFCA Drama Team Presents:**

### **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer**

Friday, November 3rd & Saturday, November 4th  
Doors open at 6:00 pm & play begins at 7:00 pm  
Located in the SFCA Gym  
See Jennifer or Rhonda Stones for more info and/or tickets.

## **SFCA God & Country Program**

Friday, November 10th at 8:30 am  
In the Multi-Purpose Building



## Operation Christmas Child

These are the items being collected for October. Please remember you can make a donation and we will do the shopping for you and/or you can take an angel off the tree and purchase the item written on the back of it.

### October:

Matchbox cars  
Stuffed animals  
Jump ropes  
Barbies  
Yo-yos  
Puzzles  
Assorted toys for 5-14 yr olds

**Drop Off Week - 11/13-11/18**  
**Last Day to Drop Off is 11/20 -->**  
**Being delivered to Red Dam**



Wednesday Night Supper

Meals served from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
every Wednesday night.

Wednesday, Oct. 18th:

***NO WEDNESDAY  
NIGHT SUPPER DUE  
TO SENIORS TRIP***



\$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per

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Sunday Morning  
Breakfast

Breakfast will be served  
from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00  
a.m.

\$5.00 per person or  
\$15.00 per family of  
four or more.

# GSBC Prayer Page

## Church Leadership

*Sunday School*  
*SFCA-Donna Carter*  
*Child Development*  
*Ministries*  
*Ralph Lee, Jr. - Pastor*  
*Richard Waitt- Music Director*  
*Deacons*  
*Church Finances*

## Leadership

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

## Bereavement

## Unspoken

## Hospitals

*Marie Malphrus - Beaufort*  
*Memorial*  
*Mary Cooper - Beaufort*  
*Memorial*

## Surgery/Recovery

*Judy Smith*  
*Karen Malphrus*  
*David Raines - Sprenger Rehab*  
*Marie Cole*

## Nursing Centers

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

## Cancer/Treatments

*Revel Crosby - 4 years old*  
*(Leukemia)*  
*Morgan Warren*  
*Ken Lawler*  
*Sandra Youden-Corrivean*

## Other Health Needs

*Mary Kay Cade*  
*Debbie Hale*  
*Gene Price*  
*Julia Rushing*  
*Pinky Rushing*  
*Amy Hannah*  
*Judy Smith*  
*Kathy Breland*  
*Mr. Williamson - heart attack*  
*Mike Wall*  
*Grace Hetrick*  
*Arthur Pierson*  
*Dwight Malphrus*  
*Clark Daring*  
*Arlette Jones*  
*Max Cole*  
*Nicole Cole*

## 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>

### 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@sfcaweb.org*

## Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	<i>\$3,699.00</i>	<i>\$ 5,012.49</i>	<i>\$-1,313.49</i>
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>		
<b>Designated Funds</b>		*****	<b>Acct. Balances</b>
<i>Senior Trip</i>	<i>\$945.00</i>	*****	<i>\$6,101.94</i>
<i>Sunday Morning Breakfast</i>	<i>\$90.00</i>	*****	<i>\$1,056.83</i>
<i>Operation Christmas Child</i>	<i>\$105.00</i>	*****	<i>\$1,661.72</i>
<i>Wednesday Night Supper</i>	<i>\$235.00</i>	*****	<i>\$253.39</i>
<i>Kitchen Supplies</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>	*****	<i>\$1,259.85</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