

A photograph of a globe on a desk, with a white banner overlaid in the center containing the text 'FOCUS ON WMMU'. The globe is positioned in the foreground, and the background shows a desk with various items like pens and papers. The banner is semi-transparent, allowing the globe's colors to be visible through it. The text is in a blue, serif font.

FOCUS ON WMMU

*Great Swamp Baptist Church*  
*February 11, 2024*

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

**Announcements**

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

**Call to Worship**

**Invocation**

*Fred Stanley*

**Praise & Worship**

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer  
Worship by Giving  
Offertory Special

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

**Message**

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

**Invitation**

**Benediction Prayer**

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*Sunday Mornings*  
*Following The Song Service:*



Nursery



Teacher:  
Olivia Stanley

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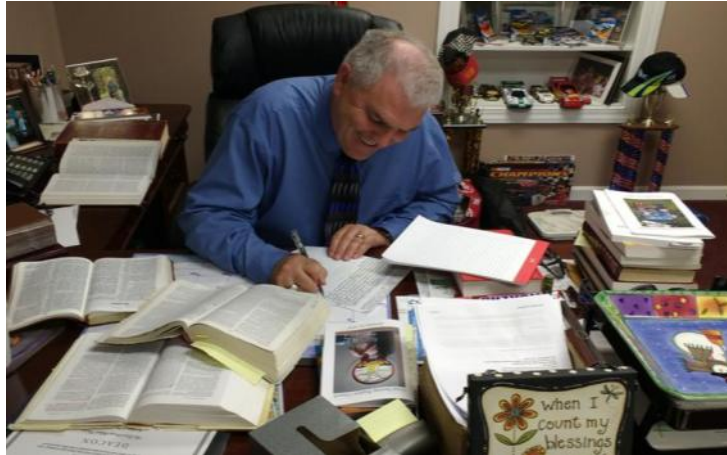
DEACON OF THE WEEK:

*Fred Stanley*



Phone: 843-726-1963

*From  
Pastor  
Ralph's  
Desk:*



### **Rebuilding Walls and Restoring Lives, Part 3**

(John 9:1-11)

#### **Introduction:**

This is our third message in our rebuilding walls and restoring lives series, which originated from our Wednesday night studies in the Book of Nehemiah. Nehemiah was sent back by God to Jerusalem for the purpose of challenging the Jews that had returned a number of years earlier to rebuild the broken down walls of the city. This inspired me to equate Nehemiah's mission as the same mission we, too, need to be on. Only what we are focusing our rebuilding and restoration mission on is not actually walls but rather our lives that have experienced brokenness and a sense of defeat and destruction.

In our first message we examined the reasons why the walls of Jerusalem were destroyed and broken down. We discovered that it was their own sin and rebellion against God. We discovered that that's the same reason why our lives have experienced brokenness. But we also discovered that once God brought judgement this opened the door for redemption. So it is with us that God brought judgement upon His own glorious Son because He took our sins upon Himself on our behalf. Now that judgement has come the opportunity of redemption has come through faith in Christ.

In our second message we examined how the rebuilding and restoring of broken lives can indeed take place. It can take place because restoration and rebuilding is the work of God. As we discovered in the Book of Jeremiah God made a promise to Israel that He would restore Israel. He also had plans in detail to fulfill His promise. Finally because He's God He had the power to fulfill His promise and carry out His plans. Well, it's also true for us today that because of God's promises, plans, and power, redemption, restoration, and the rebuilding of our broken lives is possible.

In today's message I want us to consider when is the right time for the rebuilding and restoration of our broken lives? God made Israel stay in exile for 70 years before He allowed them to return. But what about now? Is God placing a time limit upon us before we can come to Him for restoration and redemption?

Well, the answer is there is no time restraint today. Now is the time for our redemption, restoration, and the rebuilding of our lives. We will look at our present set of verses that clearly reveal that time is of the essence and now is that time.

**I. First, let's notice that the time for restoring and rebuilding our broken lives is based upon the problems of humanity in the world (vs1-3)**

On this occasion Jesus and His disciples came upon an adult man who was blind and had been ever since he was born. For the disciple all this man meant to them was a theological question, and that question was, was this man blind because of some sin he committed while he was in his mother's womb, or was he blind because of some sin his parents committed?

Well, Jesus ended their theological debate by saying that neither the man himself or his parents committed any specific sin that caused this man's blindness. Rather his blindness was allowed to demonstrate the power of God to give sight to a blind man, and to bring light where there was nothing but darkness.

Now Jesus wasn't denying that this man or his parents were sinners that point is obvious whether the man was blind or not blind, for we all are born sinners.

Rather Jesus is saying to His disciples that at this moment what we need to realize is that this man has an immediate need that requires our attention.

He also is saying that not only does this man have an immediate concern that needs to be attended to, but also that this presents an immediate opportunity to display the awesome power and grace of our blessed Lord to heal this man of his blindness taking him out of the darkness and bringing him into the light. Something that Jesus was capable of doing at that very moment.

Of course what we must realize is that this man's blindness symbolizes the spiritual darkness of all of humanity. We all are born spiritually blind. Therefore we all require the attention of the one who is, was, and will ever be the light of the world. Because He is the light of the world past, present, and future, then man's present need can be dealt with in the now at this moment. Thus because man's problem is in the now, and Jesus has the solution in the now, then now is the appropriate time to deal with restoring and rebuilding broken lives.

**II. Second, let's notice that the time for restoring and rebuilding our broken lives is based upon the presence of Jesus in the world (vs 3-5)**

The good news for this blind man was that Jesus was present in the world during the time in which he lived in the world. Therefore, he was able to receive the joy of sight because Jesus was there to give it to him.

However Jesus told His disciples that the time for Him and they to do the work that the Father had sent Him and them to do was limited. For Jesus knew that He was soon destined to die on the cross for our sins. Therefore since His time to leave the world was fast coming it was urgent that He and they get the work done, as the saying goes, in the now, at the very moment, in our present moment.

Now Jesus didn't mean to imply that once His physical presence was gone that He no longer would be able to impact the world with His presence. For through His believers in the world now, and through His blessed Holy Spirit, and through His Holy Word He is still very present in the world. Meaning that at this very moment the broken lives that are in the world can and must get their lives restored and put back together in the present because Jesus is still in our midst through His church.

However time is limited for us all. For we all must die and we don't know when that will come. Plus time is limited because the day is coming when our God is going to wrap all things up and when He does no one else will be able to find redemption, restoration, and the rebuilding of their lives. So don't wait a minute longer, your opportunity is now.

**III. Third, let's notice that the time for restoring and rebuilding our broken lives is based upon the purpose for which Jesus came into the world (vs 3-5)**

So Jesus tells us right here what His purpose was which He came into the world to do. He came to do the work which His Father sent Him to do. So the question is what was it that His Father sent Him to do?

So Jesus answers the question by telling us that, "While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (vs 5). So the Father sent Jesus to be the light of the world. The reason why was because the world was living in spiritual darkness and required that someone would come and bring them out of that darkness into the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who went to Calvary's cross, and paid for our redemption by bearing our sins in His body, and receiving the punishment of those sins on our behalf, He paid the price that was required. He then three days later arose up and out of the grave to prove that He had indeed completed the work the Father sent Him to do. Therefore redemption, reconciliation, restoration, and the rebuilding of our broken lives is available at this very present moment because the work is done. Jesus cried those three words on the cross when He had accomplished His purpose "It is finished" (John 19:30). He had finished the Father's work He was sent to do. So there's nothing else to wait for. Today is the day of salvation.

**IV. Fourth, let's notice that the time for restoring and rebuilding our Broken lives is based upon the power of Christ in our world (vs 6, 7)**

In this point I am merely pointing out the fact that this man born blind and had been blind all of his life had no human possibility of getting his sight back. But Jesus is not just a mere man like all the rest of us. Rather He is uniquely both God and man. For this reason He could make a little mud put it on the man's eyes, and tell him to go to the pool of Siloam and wash the mud off and his sight would be restored. That's exactly what took place and the man got his sight back.

Now it wasn't the mud that gave him his sight back, and it wasn't the washing in the pool either that he got his sight back. Rather in obedience to Jesus to do as He said the Lord by His power restored the man's sight.

So let us now come to our Lord for the restoration of our lives. He has the power at this moment to make us whole and to rebuild our broken lives. He proved it by healing this blind man and He proved it by resurrecting Himself out of the grave.

**Conclusion:**

I will conclude with the words of the Apostle Paul. "As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For He says, 'In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.' I tell you, now is the time for God's favor, now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor 6:1,2).

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee

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The church office will be closed,  
Monday, February 19th due to  
observation of the federal holiday,  
Presidents' Day.

# ANNOUNCEMENT

The Dinner Show Theatre on March 30th is full. We will meet at the church on March 30th at 8:00 a.m. Transportation information to follow soon.

**\*\*The full payment is due Sunday, February 25th\*\***

If payment is not received by this date, your name will be removed from the list.

### **Ticket Prices:**

**0-18 = \$22.95**

**19-54 = \$42.95**

**55+ = \$40.95**







## Operation Christmas Child



It's that time again -- time to start our year 'round collection! We've had two months off for the holidays, but now onward to the rest of this year. 600 boxes are anticipated to be packed this year, possibly more if more donations come in. The OCC account is \$0 but good thing we have items left over from last year to get us started! You can donate the items each month from the list or give a monetary donation if you don't want to shop. Let us do the shopping for you!

Here is the list for the month of February:

Washcloths                      Stuffed Animals  
Toothbrushes                  Barbies  
Tennis Balls  
Combs/Brushes - both boys and girls

Thank you for your donations.  
-Dorthie

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## **SHELLEM CLINE CONCERT!**

February 25, 2024

Shellem Cline will be hosting our entire morning service on February 25th. A love offering will be taken up at the end of the service. Please plan to attend this wonderful concert!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SFCA Winter Break

Friday, February 16th through the 19th

## SFCA Basketball Tournament

Thursday, February 15th & Friday, February 16th

## Shellem Cline Concert

Sunday, February 25th

## SFCA Blood Drive

Monday, March, 4th

Sign up online now to get a spot!!

They book up fast!



**Sunday, February 11th:**

Rodney & April  
Malphrus



<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>14th</i>	<i>Allene Malphrus</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>16th</i>	<i>Alex Sineath</i>

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**MOVIE NIGHT!!**



Showing: The Girl who Believes in Miracles  
 Sunday, February 18th  
 Concessions at 6:00 p.m.  
 Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.



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

# Sunday School Classes

**@ 9:15am**

**CAMO CLASS - Room 406 - Bobby Smith**

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**GLEANERS CLASS - Room 401 - Darlene Bollack**

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**VISIONARIES CLASS - Building 3, Old Social Hall**

*Leader - Greg Mariocourt*

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**SOJOURNERS CLASS - Room 417 - Mack Pope**

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**YOUTH - Youth Annex Leader - Amanda Hodges**

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**BLUE ANGELS - 1ST & 2ND GRADES - Room 417 -**

**Nicole Mauriocourt**

**RAINBOW KIDS - 3RD GRADE AND OLDER - Room 415 -**

**Kelly Scherger**

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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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**SWAMP KIDS** *Nursery Hall*

*Leader - Kim Malphrus*

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## Wednesday Night Supper

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

**Team Timmy will be cooking Wednesday, February  
14th.**

**Menu: Meatloaf, potatoes & gravy, green beans, rolls**

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

No meal deliveries.

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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

*Family of Dwaine Malphrus*  
*Family of Joanna Bell Silvia*

## Unspoken

## Hospitals

*Allen Tindal, Junior*

## Cancer/Treatments

*Revel Crosby - 4 years old*  
*(Leukemia)*  
*Morgan Warren*  
*Ken Lawler*  
*Tex Lowther*

## Surgery/Recovery

## Nursing Centers

*Bobby Mohn - Ridgeland Nursing Home*  
*Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe*  
*Tommy & Erma Cooler - Ridgeland Nursing Home*  
*David Sauls - Morrell Nursing Center*  
*Doby Cleland - Life Care Center of HHI*

## Other Health Needs

*Mary Kay Cade*  
*Julia Rushing*  
*Pinky Rushing*  
*Amy Hannah*  
*Kathy Breland*  
*Grace Hetrick*  
*Arlette Jones*  
*Jennifer Wall*  
*Arthur Pearson*  
*Pete Williamson*  
*Mike Davis*  
*Maxie Mason*  
*Lester Daring*  
*Dwight Malphrus*  
*Latrelle Steedly*  
*Sarah Sanders*  
*Rodney Malphrus, Jr.*  
*Mark Mingledorff*  
*Bill Carter*  
*Donna Carter*

## Please Continue To Remember

### Homebound

*Shirley Malphrus*      *Tom Hinely*  
*Rose Boyles*      *Ann Blocker*  
*Judy Smith*      *Red & Helen Malphrus*  
*Vera Floyd*      *Marie Malphrus*  
*Barbara Mills*      *Diane Hannah*  
*Kenny Smith*      *Ann Long*

### Pray For Our Military

*Sgt. Jared Blanton - Deployed*  
*Matthew Mills-US Marines -*  
*Okinawa, Japan*  
*Jericho Malphrus - Sp. Agent/Air Force -*  
*Washington, D.C.*  
*Michael Sottile - Ret.*  
*Tristan Blanton - Louisiana*  
*Andrea C. Daring - Charleston, SC*

## Church Staff

Pastor: **Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.** ..... *jehu27@gmail.com*

Music Director: **Richard Waitt** .....

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 + / -
	<b>\$4,051.00</b>	<b>\$4,923.33</b>	<b>\$-872.33</b>
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>		
<b>Designated Funds</b>			<b>Acct. Balances</b>
<i>Gleaner's SS Class</i>	<b>\$46.00</b>	*****	<b>\$1,287.06</b>
<i>SMB</i>	<b>\$125.00</b>	*****	<b>\$1,038.52</b>
<i>WNS</i>	<b>\$105.00</b>	*****	<b>\$-240.44</b>
<i>Kitchen Supplies</i>	<b>\$44.00</b>	*****	<b>\$509.02</b>
<i>Operation Christmas Child</i>	<b>\$15.00</b>	*****	<b>\$15.00</b>



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