



*Great Swamp Baptist Church*  
*February 4, 2024*

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

**Announcements**

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

**Call to Worship**

**Invocation**

*Bjo Mills*

**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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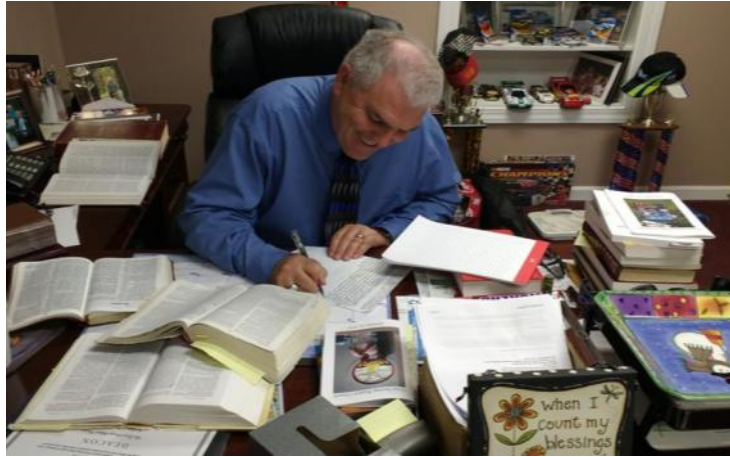
DEACON OF THE WEEK:

*Bjo Mills*



Phone: 843-271-2840

*From  
Pastor  
Ralph's  
Desk:*



## **Rebuilding Walls and Restoring Lives**

### **Introduction:**

Two Sundays ago we looked at a message that dealt with the work and ministry that God gave Nehemiah to do. This work and mission was to leave the capital city of the Persian empire where he lived, and served the king of Persia as a cup-bearer, and to travel over 800 miles to the city of Jerusalem, the home of his ancestors, to get the citizens there to rebuild the walls of the city.

The walls of the city had been broken down, and the gates burned down some 140 years before by the Babylonians. Also we saw that the reason why the walls were destroyed was not because of the size of their enemies, but rather because of their rebellion and sin against God. Therefore God Himself sent the Babylonian Army against His own people and caused them to be defeated, overwhelmed, their city destroyed, many lives killed, and all the rest taken into captivity.

So it's true of our lives as well, that the brokenness of our lives, and the walls that sustained us have come crumbling down, because we, too, have chosen to turn our backs upon God and ignore Him.

However, this judgment of God upon His people which allowed His people to be punished also opened the door for redemption, restoration, and rebuilding. For judgment satisfies justice thus making room for redemption and restoration to take place.

With this message I want us to see how redemption, restoration, and the rebuilding of our brokenness can actually happen by looking at how it took place for Israel once God brought judgment upon them. For they indeed returned, were restored, and rebuilt the temple and walls of the city.

## **I. First, the ability to be restored and rebuild is based upon the promise of God (vs 10)**

God told the Israelites that had been taken into captivity to go ahead and settle down where they had been transplanted to. Because they were going to be held in captivity for a period of 70 years.

However though 70 years is a long time it wasn't meant to indicate they were going to be there permanently. As a matter of fact God had already made a promise to the nation even before He took them into captivity that He would one day in 70 years from the time the captivity took place would allow them the privilege to return to their home land. "This is what the Lord says: 'When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place'" (vs 10).

So after 70 years the Jews were indeed allowed the opportunity at first to return to their home land for the purpose of rebuilding the temple of the Lord. Years later a second group was allowed, under Nehemiah, to return to rebuild the city wall.

Now none of this would have happened apart from God's promise that it would happen. For never in the history of humanity has a people been taken into captivity and later returned to their ancestral land to become a nation again except for the Jewish people. And for them it has happened not just once but three times. Only God could cause that to happen. So when God makes a promise you can count on it that He's going to carry it through.

We, too, can experience restoration for our lives and rebuild the walls of support and protection because of the promises that God has made to us. He promised to send a redeemer who would forgive us and restore us to God. He promised that He would never leave us or forsake us. He made a promise to see us through to completion. Because God has kept these promises, and will keep these promises, we are assured that restoration, redemption, reconciliation, and rebuilding of our lives will happen and can happen.

## **II. Second, the ability to be restored and to rebuild is based upon the plans of God. (vs 11)**

God's promise to restore Israel to their homeland was not a promise made out in left field without any thought to it whatsoever. When God gave the promise to Israel He already had in mind a plan of how He was going to fulfill that promise. For wherever we make a promise to someone, or they make a promise to us it's generally just a broad promise that often is never carried through because there's no thought to the promise and no plans made to accomplish the promise. But God's promises are deeply thought out and carefully planned. Praise be to our God that His plans are specifically directed at us. It is we that are on His mind.

“For I know the plans has for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plan to give you hope and a future.’” (vs 11)

There are many other places in the word of God where we read of God’s plans for us. “Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare. (Ps 40:5).

“How precious to me are your thoughts God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand — when I awake, I am still with you.” (Ps 139:17-18).

Now that we’ve noted that God has stated over and over in His Holy Word that He has amazing plans for us, I want us to take a look at what those plans include. “For I know the plans I have for you; declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Now the health and wealth preachers love these verses, and they use them to proclaim that God want you to be rich and always be healthy and never get sick. It’s true that when we get to heaven we will be rich and we won’t get sick. But we are not in heaven now but because we belong to Christ we have a future hope called heaven, which we are assured of in His word.

However God also wants to prosper us here and now but not primarily in the ways preached by the health and wealth preachers, in the next set of verses Jeremiah shows us how God prospers us in this life “Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.” (Jer 29:12-14).

So according to these verses God prospers us in this life by allowing us the opportunity to know Him, and walk with Him in an intimate manner. Also He prospers us by bringing us together creating a community of people united together who love and care for one another.

### **III. Third, the ability to be restored and to rebuild is based upon the power of God (vs 14).**

Now the power of God is not specifically mentioned but is clearly implied in this verse. For to bring back His people from where they’ve been scattered all over the known world of the time and as well as in our time to make them a nation again in their home land is nothing short of a miracle. Only the power of God could cause this to happen. For never in the history of humanity has a nation of people been captured and taken into captivity and scattered all over the known world, and later be brought back from their land to their ancestral land to become a nation again except for Israel, and with them it’s happened three times. All because God’s power enabled it to take place.

Praise be to our God that He always has the sovereign power to fulfill His promises and plans that He has made to us and for us. Which in the end always points back to Him getting Him all the glory for it.

**Conclusion:**

So as we can see the work of restoration and rebuilding of our lives is the work of God, and because it is, we can be assured that through His promises, plans, and power our broken lives can be put back together again and again. So let us put our reliance upon our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and no one else.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee

## WMU FOCUS SUNDAY!

Sunday, Feb 11th is WMU Focus Sunday. The Theme this year is "Hope In Christ". We will honor the Grandmother's group and the SwampKids. Parents of SwampKids, please bring your child for our 10:30 am services. For any questions, please contact Kim Malphrus at 843-540-0365.

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**Saturday, February**  
**10th:**  
Tom & Connie Benton



# ANNOUNCEMENT

The Gleaner's Class will be attending the dinner show theater at Narrowway Productions, Fort Mill, SC on March 30th.

We will be attending the Fourth Cross presentation and will be sitting center stage.

There are only 30 spots available for the group. First come first serve only, so don't wait and sign up on the back wall now! We will meet at the church on March 30th at 8:00 a.m. Transportation info to follow.

**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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**Total Offering =  
\$3,207.00!!  
WE DID IT! Thank  
you to everyone who  
helped donate to this  
great cause!!**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**WMU Focus Sunday**

Sunday, February 11th

**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!

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**Greeters for Today:**

Juliette & Mike Wall

**Next Sunday 2/11:**

Latrelle & Mike Davis



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>Emma Scott</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>6th</i>	<i>Jason Smoak</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>9th</i>	<i>Bonnie Pope</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>9th</i>	<i>Marie Malphrus</i>



## **MOVIE NIGHT!!**

**Showing: To Be Determined**



**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.**



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



GRANDMOTHERS  
GROUP

VALENTINE LUNCHEON

February 5th at 11:30 a.m.

Bring your Valentine cards  
for our ladies and for  
shut-ins.

Please bring a covered dish  
OR dessert to share.

For more information Call  
Debbie at 843-368-5436.



## Wednesday Night Supper

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

**Team Keith will be cooking Wednesday, February 7th.**

\$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 Irwin Malphrus*  
*Family of Karen Malphrus*  
*Family of Anne Kleckley*  
*Family of Judy Holmes*

## Unspoken

## 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*

## Hospitals

*Allen Tindal, Junior*

## Cancer/Treatments

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

## Surgery/Recovery

*Debbie Hale*  
*Chyleen Mock*

## 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*

## 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>\$4,447.00</b>	<b>\$4,923.33</b>	<b>\$-476.33</b>
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>		
<b>Designated Funds</b>			<b>Acct. Balances</b>
<i>Lottie Moon</i>	<i>\$358.00</i>	*****	<i>\$3,207.00</i>
<i>SMB</i>	<i>\$81.00</i>	*****	<i>\$935.12</i>
<i>WNS</i>	<i>\$140.00</i>	*****	<i>\$108.61</i>
<i>Dot Lee Scholarship</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>	*****	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Cemetery Fund</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>	*****	<i>\$1,407.55</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