

*Great Swamp Baptist Church
April 14, 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

Pastor Ralph Lee

Worship by Giving

Offertory Special

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee

Invitation

Benediction Prayer

Sunday Mornings
Following The Song Service:



Nursery



Teacher:
Olivia Stanley

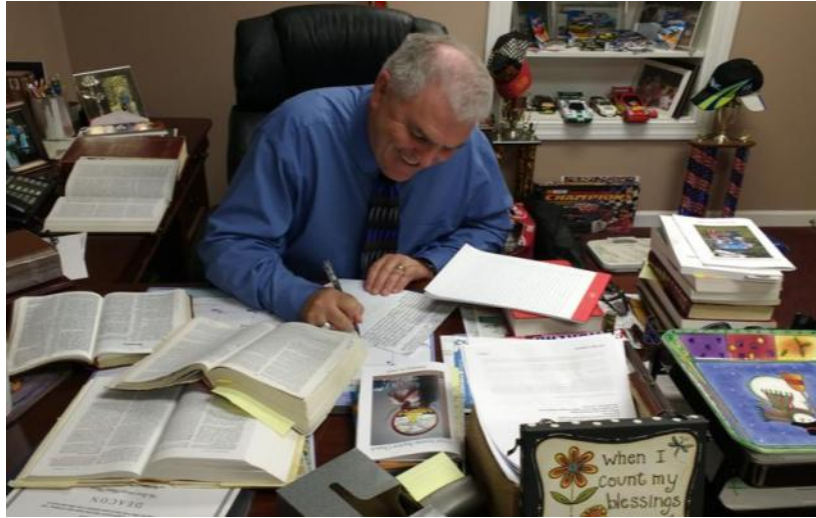
DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Bjo Mills



Phone: 843-271-2840

*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



Hanging Around for 40 Days **Acts 1:1-11**

Introduction:

The number 40 is a very special number in the Bible. It's mentioned more than 150 times in the Bible. Let me mention just a few of the many that we are somewhat familiar with. First we are all familiar with the fact that it rained for 40 days and nights after Noah and his family entered the ark. Also, we are familiar with the fact that the children of Israel marched through the wilderness for 40 years.

Now there are a few that are less known like the fact that the Israelite spies searched the promise land for a period of 40 days, and Jonah preached to Nineveh for 40 days. But let's move to the New Testament and discover that Jesus early in His ministry fasted for 40 days and nights during that time was also tempted for those 40 days and nights.

However the above experience of Jesus was not the only time that the number 40 played a roll in Jesus's life. In our present set of verses that we are using for this message the number 40 once again plays a key roll in Jesus's earthly ministry. Following His resurrection Jesus revealed Himself to His disciples alive for 40 days before He ascended back to His Father. So I want us in this message to focus on why Jesus hung around for 40 days before ascending to heaven.

I. First, let's notice that Jesus hung around for 40 days for His disciples (vs 3)

In verse three we are told that, "After His suffering, he presented Himself to them..."

Well, of course the them He was referring to was His disciples. For a period of 40 days Jesus continued to reveal Himself to His disciples specifically and I believe that He did so because His disciple had just gone through a very traumatizing experience. For three years they have basically given up just about everything to follow Jesus. They had come to believe that He was indeed their Messiah. They had witnessed His many mighty miracles and they had even witnessed His transfiguration in which His deity shined through His humanity.

However their very faith and foundation seem to come crushing down on them when the very one they were trusting in had been arrested, sentenced to be crucified, and was indeed crucified. On top of that they themselves had denied the Lord Himself through this time, and was carrying a load of guilt on them. Plus those who arrested Jesus were also looking out for them.

Then on top of all of this they've been told that Jesus has resurrected from the grave and they just don't know what to believe and they are full of confusion.

So I'm convinced that Jesus desired to take enough time to help His disciples navigate through all of their confusing doubts, and fears and to assure them that He was there for them and always would be. Those days help them to understand the deep personal love that He had for them. Also that time He took for them through His Spirit He takes for us today.

II. Second, let's notice that Jesus hung around for 40 days to give His disciples many convincing proof that He was alive (vs 3; I Cor 15:3-8).

Now that's a direct quote from the verse, but the question is what were those convincing proofs that He was referring to? Well, the first and foremost convincing proof was that He allowed Himself to be seen over and over. The apostle Paul gives us the clearest picture of those who actually saw the resurrected Jesus during those 40 days.

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.” (I Cor. 15:3-8).

There were also some other convincing proofs that He had arisen and was alive. One of those was how He could enter a room without coming through the door. Even with the door locked shut He still enters the room and showed Himself alive. (John 20:19).

Another convincing proof was when He showed to doubting Thomas and the other disciples in the room His crucifixion wounds. (Luke 24:29).

One more convincing proof I will mention was when Jesus showed up at a fishing trip the disciples had gone on during those 40 days. They had fished all night and caught nothing. When Jesus appeared the next morning He hollered at them to put their nets down on the right side of the boat and when they did they caught so many fish they couldn't hardly haul the nets in. When this happened they knew that a miracle hadn't taken place and that therefore the person who told them to put their nets down had to be none other than the risen Lord Jesus Christ and of course it was. (John 21:6, 7).

So let our faith never waiver because we have all these convincing proofs that we serve a risen Savior.

III. Third, let's notice that Jesus hung around for 40 days to teach His disciples more about the kingdom of God (vs 3-6)

Jesus is about to ascend back to the Father at which point His disciples would no longer visibly see Him. So He wanted to remind them that though He would physically be removed from their presence He still would be ruling and reigning through their lives through the presence of the Holy Spirit of God which He is about to pour out upon their lives. Thus His absence does not do away with the Kingdom of God in the world.

He also teaches them that there would come a day when the King over the Kingdom of God, which is of course is Himself, would physically return to the earth and bring His Kingdom down to the earth in a visible clear manner and reign victoriously over the affairs of the world during His millennial reign. But He does remind them that that time frame is in the hand of the Father.

So because Jesus took time to address the matter of the Kingdom it help to prepare His disciples to know that God's kingdom carries on.

IV. Fourth, let's notice that Jesus hung around for 40 days to encourage His disciples to wait for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit (vs 6-8)

With all of the ample proof that Jesus had given to His disciples over the 40 day period the disciples were obviously greatly encouraged, uplifted, and confident that they could carry on the work that Jesus had given them to do.

However Jesus wanted them to understand that the work that He had called them to do would take more than their renewed confidence which the undeniable proofs of His resurrection had given them. Rather it would take the strength, power, and wisdom of His Holy Spirit to enable them to carry out His mission.

V. Fifth, let's notice that Jesus hung around for 40 days to emphasize to His disciples their priority (vs 7-8)

Jesus didn't come to earth to live, die, and resurrect from the grave just so He would give us an assurance of a home in heaven which He indeed does.

Rather Jesus came into the world to make disciples that would follow Him, and His intention for His disciples is that they will carry His intention of making more disciples.

We are called to do this by being His witnesses in the world. Had Jesus not risen from the dead then there would be no need to be His witnesses, but He indeed and in fact as we've discovered came up out of the grave. Therefore we must wholeheartedly give over selves to Jesus's mission of making disciples in he world. It is our priority and Jesus hung around long enough to emphasize that message to us.

Conclusion:

If Jesus had only revealed Himself to His disciples for a day or two then there probably would have been still enough skepticism to have extinguished the fact of His resurrection.

However He didn't just show Himself alive a day or two or even a week or two but rather a full 40 days. The reason for the 40 days was to convince the disciples beyond all doubt that He was alive, and because 40 was a sacred number to them it was enough to erase all doubt.

Therefore with all doubts erased, what will you do with Jesus? He's alive.

Jesus Loves You,
Ralph Lee



Operation Christmas Child



These are the items being collected for April or you can give a monetary donation and we will do the shopping for you.

Here is the list for the month of April:



Ponytail Bands
Stuffed Animals
Toothbrushes



Ziploc Bags - Gallon & Quart
Socks - Boys & Girls



Yo-yos, jump ropes, or any other toy
Hair Barrettes, Scrunchies, & Headbands



Any questions, please ask Dorthie.
Thank you.





<i>Sunday</i>	<i>14th</i>	<i>Mike Davis</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>15th</i>	<i>Erma Cooler</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>15th</i>	<i>Emma Meador</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>19th</i>	<i>Lisa Cartin Chandler</i>



Monday, April 15th:
 Max and Nicole Cole



We're Having a
COOKOUT

Saturday, April 27th
11:00 am to 3:00 pm

We are looking for volunteers to help with the kitchen, clean up, and games. There is a sign up sheet on the back wall. Please take a moment and sign up. Thank you for your help!



Achievement Testing

Monday, April 22nd
Dismiss M-F at 12:00 pm

Muffins for Mom Program

Friday, May 10th
At 8:15 a.m. in MPB

Junior and Senior Prom

Saturday, May 11th
At TBD and Place TBD

Baccalaureate

Wednesday, May 15th
At 7:00 p.m. in Old Sanctuary

Sports Banquet

Thursday, May 16th
At 6:00 p.m. in MPB

Kindergarten (K5)

Graduation

Friday, May 17th
At 7:00 p.m. in Gym

**SFCA High School
Graduation**

Saturday, May 18th
At 4:00 p.m. in Gym

Sixth Grade "Moving Up"

May 23rd at TBD

SFCA Awards Day

Friday, May 24th at 8:15 a.m.
***Dismiss afterwards for
Summer Break***



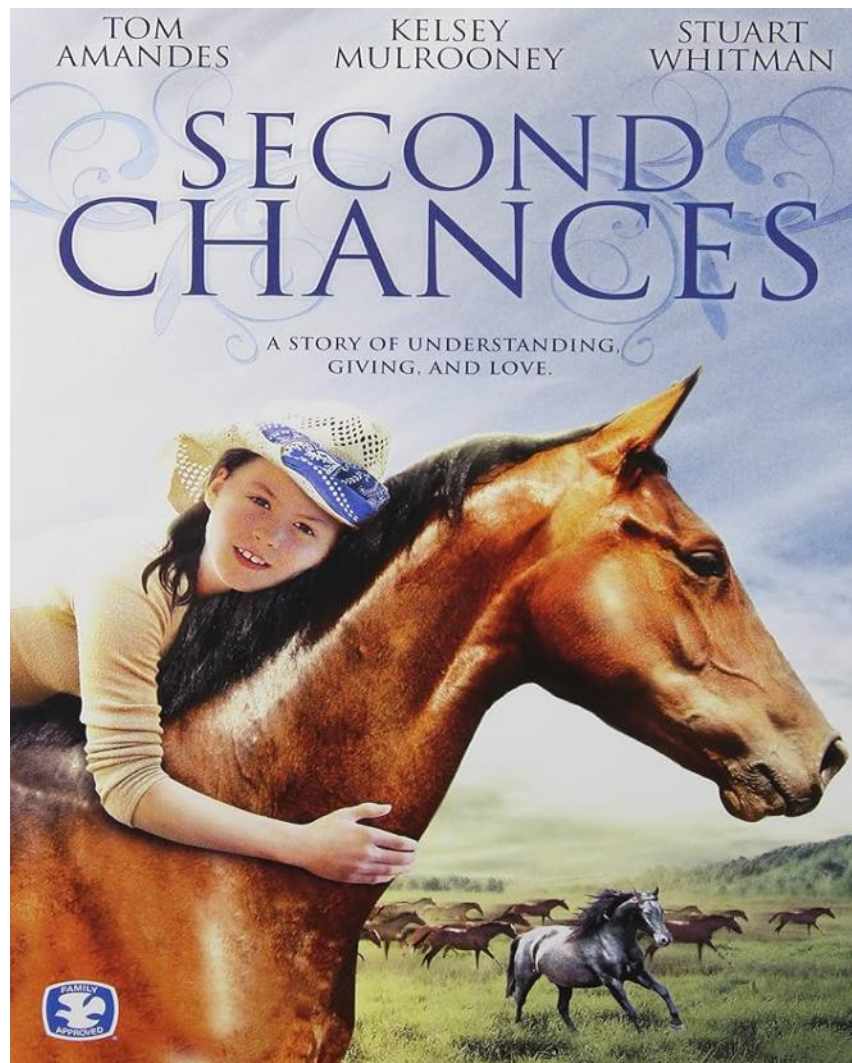
greeters

Greeters for Today:

Courtney & Jeff

Next Sunday 4/21:

Kim & Richard



MOVIE NIGHT!!



Showing: Second Chances
Sunday, April 21st
Concessions at 6:00 p.m.
Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.



**Please bring finger foods for your family
and more to share with all!
Tea and Popcorn provided.**



Wednesday Night Supper

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

Team Keith will be cooking Wednesday, April 17th.

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

No meal deliveries.



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

Surgery/Recovery

Cancer/Treatments

Revel Crosby - 4 years old
(Leukemia)
Ken Lawler

Other Health Needs

Mary Kay Cade
Julia Rushing
Pinky Rushing
Amy Hannah
Kathy Breland
Grace Hetrick
Arthur Pearson
Pete Williamson
Latrelle Steedly
Rodney Malphrus, Jr.
Mark Mingledorff
Bill Carter
Chad Duncan

Nursing Centers

Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe
Tommy & Erma Cooler - Ridgeland Nursing Home
David Sauls - Morrell Nursing Center
Doby Cleland - Life Care Center of HHI
Shirley Malphrus - Resorts at Beaufort (D wing)

Please Continue To Remember

Homebound

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

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**.....greatswampbc@gmail.com
843-726-3631

School Administrator: **Donna Carter**.....dcarter@sfcaweb.org

Donations for Stephen Roberts Funeral Expenses:

Anonymous - \$998.00
 Patricia Malphrus - \$350.00
 Mack & Bonnie Pope - \$50.00
 Patrick & Kim Malphrus - \$60.00
 Calvin & Pat Bryan - \$500.00

Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$3,385.00	\$4,923.33	\$-1,538.33
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$50.00		
Designated Funds			Acct. Balances
<i>SMB</i>	\$85.00	*****	\$883.75
<i>WNS</i>	\$137.00	*****	\$365.69
<i>Annie Armstrong</i>	\$75.00	*****	\$994.00
<i>Swamp Kids</i>	\$29.00	*****	\$29.00
<i>Gleaners</i>	\$63.00	*****	\$1,325.06



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