

JESUS SAITH UNTO HIM,

*I am the way,  
the truth,  
and the life:*

NO MAN COMETH  
UNTO THE FATHER,  
BUT BY ME.

JOHN 14:6

*Great Swamp Baptist Church  
April 28, 2024*

# *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

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

Worship by Giving

Offertory Special

**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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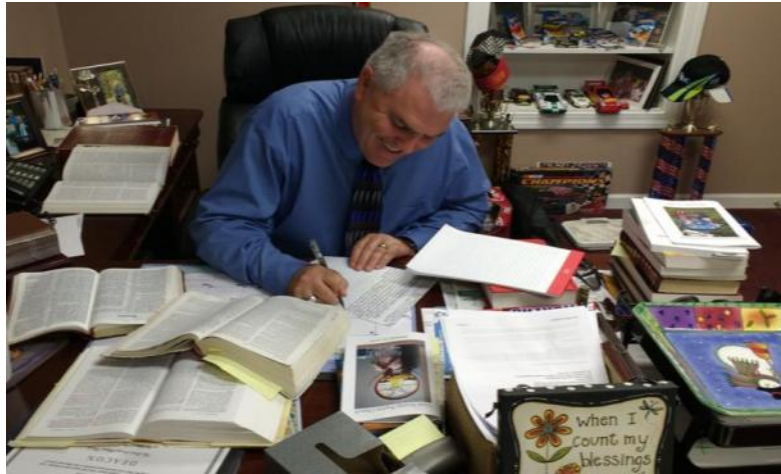
DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Mack Pope



Phone: 843-540-6636

*From  
Pastor  
Ralph's  
Desk:*



### **Jesus Intercessory Ministry**

#### **Introduction:**

Over nearly fifty years of preaching I have preached over basically every aspect of Jesus' life and ministry. However in the fifty years I've never preached a series straight through on Jesus' life from His resurrection to what He's doing since He's gone to heaven, so I've decided that that's what we are going to do.

Now we've already looked at His resurrection. Then we looked at the 40 day period in His life in which He continuously revealed Himself alive to His disciples before He ascended back to heaven. Following that we looked at the ascension of Jesus itself. So where does that lead us next in His life and ministry?

Well, to answer the question we obviously know that when He ascended it was to return back to heaven from which He came. So the question is what is He doing in heaven since He returned? Well, praise God that His Holy word reveals that answer to us. As a matter of fact, God's word reveals that there are a number of things that Jesus is presently doing in heaven since He ascended back.

In this message we will look at Jesus' intercessory ministry that He carries on in heaven even as we write this message. We will be looking at the scripture verses from various places in the New Testament. So let's take a look at the great ministry Jesus is presently carrying out on our behalf in glory.

**I. First, let's notice that Jesus' intercessory ministry began before His ascension (John 17:6-12, 20, 21)**

It's certainly important that we understand that Jesus didn't start His intercessory ministry only after He ascended back to heaven. The gospel writers reveal several occasions in which Jesus interceded on the behalf of His followers.

However the clearest example of Jesus' intercessory ministry while in their midst is found in John's gospel where Jesus prays one of His last prayers shortly before He's arrested. I will share a portion of that prayer.

"I have revealed to you those whom you gave me out of the world. They were young; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those that you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them I protected them and kept them safe by that name that you gave me. None has been lost except the ones doomed to destruction so that the scripture would be fulfilled

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you sent me." (John 17:6-12, 20, 21).

So if Jesus understood that it was vital to pray for and intercede on the behalf of His disciples while He walked in our midst, how much more do we need to do the same for one another following His example?

Praise be to our blessed Lord Jesus Christ that He carried this ministry on to heaven. And may we carry on with it until we are carried onto glory.

**II. Second, let's notice that Jesus' intercessory ministry was central to the cross (2 Cor 5:20, 21; I Tim 2:1-6)**

Before mankind could even present their concern to God and before they could ever intercede on the behalf of others they would first need to be reconciled to Him. For our sins have separated us from our Holy God.

Thus at the cross of Calvary Jesus dealt with our sin problem by bearing our punishment for us and in our place. He experienced God's wrath against our sins that He was carrying for us. This satisfied our Holy Heavenly Father making it possible for us to be reconciled to Him through, and only through, the one who paid the price for us, our Lord Jesus Christ. And there are two sets of verses that we will look at that will reveal this truth to us.

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God make Him who had no sin to be the sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Cor 5:20,21).

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayer, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Savior who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed at the proper time." (I Tim 2:1-6).

Thus because Jesus went to Calvary we can be reconciled to God, thus allowing us the privilege to be able to intercede for one another.

**III. Third, let's notice that Jesus' intercessory ministry is now carried on in heaven (Rom 8:34; Heb 7:23-25; Heb 9:23-25; I John 2:1,2).**

Though all along we've been discussing Jesus' intercessory ministry, so far what we've looked at is all from His earthy ministry. But clearly we are well aware that Jesus continues to carry this ministry on in heave because of what these following Bible verses tells us.

"Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died - more than that, who was raised to life - is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us." (Rom 8:34).

"Now there have been many of those priest , since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood. Therefore He is able to save completely, those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them. (Heb 7:23-25).

"It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; He entered heaven itself, not to appear for us in God's presence." (Heb 9:23-25).

"My dear children, I write this so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father - Jesus Christ, the Righteous one. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and now only for ours but also for the sin of the whole world." (I John 2:1, 2).

So no doubt whatsoever that Jesus is presently blessing us, helping us, loving us, and caring for us by interceding in the very throne room of heaven before our Heavenly Father on our behalf. And He is not there to try and convince the Father to help us. The Father loves us and is the one who sent His Son to save us and to reconcile us to Him.

Rather Jesus in the presence of the Father as one who has personal experience of living in our midst and sharing our humanity, and understanding our hardships, and difficulties, He's able to relate them to our Heavenly Father with great mercy and compassion.

Also because He's the eternal Priest, He's able to forever more intercede on our behalf. Oh, praise His Holy Name!

**IV. Fourth, let's notice that Jesus' intercessory ministry is exclusively His ministry (I Time 2:1-6; Heb 7:18-25; Rom 8:34).**

In all of the previous set of verses in the pervious points mentioned we are left with only one conclusion which is that no one but Jesus is carrying out the intercessory ministry of heaven. In other words, there are no other verses found in God's word that tells you to pray to anyone else other than through and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, not to Mary, or any of the other saints already gone to heaven. For Jesus alone is our eternal, everlasting, high Priest. Thank you Lord Jesus that you are forever there to intercede to the Father on our behalf.

**Conclusion:**

I want to conclude with a closing set of verses that remind us that because of who Jesus is and what He's done we can confidently go to Him with our own prayers and intercession.

"Therefore since we have a great High Priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are -- yet He did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Heb 4:14-16).

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee

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**Greeters for Today:**  
Juliette & Mike Wall

**Next Sunday 5/5:**  
Larelle & Mike D





<i>Sunday</i>	<i>28th</i>	<i>April Malphrus</i>
<b><i>MAY:</i></b>		
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>Connie Benton</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>Dorthie Armstrong</i>

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	<p><b><u>Friday, May 3rd:</u></b> Calvin &amp; Pat Bryan</p>
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**Annie Armstrong Offering**

We are only \$144 short of our \$1,200 goal. I know we can do it!! This is the LAST SUNDAY to give a love offering for Annie Armstrong.

**Let's hit that \$1,200 goal!!!**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Saturday - May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**COME JOIN US!!**

**Savannah River Baptist Association WMU/WOM**  
**Spring 2024 Meeting**  
**Okatee Baptist Church**  
**Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00 am til 12:00 noon**  
**Lunch will follow - 12:00 noon til 1:00 pm.**

**This will be our Annual Training and Board Recruitment Meeting, with Special Guests from our State WMU Board (Jess Archer and Cindy Skelton), as well as several other speakers from around our area.**

**We will have special missions presentations by Ms. Sheila Roemling with *Fresh Start, Healing Hearts* (our local human trafficking assistance organization), and our SRBA WMU Associate Director Vicki Farrow, representing the Dru Graves Ministry.**

**Since we have not had an “official” food pantry item collection event this year, those churches that have not had the opportunity to support our local church food pantries are encouraged to bring items to be sorted and distributed to these churches. If you are interested in starting a pantry at your own church, this is the time to discuss this with us and work towards forming your own pantry that we as an association can help support.**

***\*\* Lunch will be catered for this event. \*\****

***Please RSVP to Cindy Rhodes at (843) 247-6364 OR by email [cindyrhodes@savannahriverbaptist.org](mailto:cindyrhodes@savannahriverbaptist.org)***

**Thanks and we look forward to seeing you there!!**

***Beth Bonds, Director, SRBA WMU***  
***(832) 334-2563 email: [bethie59@protonmail.com](mailto:bethie59@protonmail.com)***

# 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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# 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.



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## **MOVIE NIGHT!!**

Showing: TBD

Sunday, May 19th

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.**

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



## Wednesday Night Supper

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

**Team Keith will be cooking Wednesday, May 1st**  
\$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family of four or more.

**IMPORTANT  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**\*LAST SUPPER - Wed. May 24th\***

**\*LAST BREAKFAST - Sun. May 19th\***

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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

## Surgery/Recovery

*Saylor Olivas*  
*Mike Wall*  
*Mack Pope*

## 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*  
*Rodney Malphrus, Jr.*  
*Mark Mingledorff*  
*Bill Carter*  
*Mike Wall*

## 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

# Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$2,665.00	\$4,923.33	\$-2,258.33
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$495.20		
<b>Designated Funds</b>			<b>Acct. Balances</b>
<i>SMB</i>	\$84.00	*****	\$882.78
<i>WNS</i>	\$175.00	*****	\$544.40
<i>Annie Armstrong</i>	\$62.00	*****	\$1,056.00



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