

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

**Galatians 5:14**



DailyVerses.net

*Great Swamp Baptist Church*  
*September 8, 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**



*greeters*

**Greeters for Today:**  
Kim & Richard

**Next Sunday 9/15:**  
Mike Wall & Juliette

**DEACON OF THE WEEK:**

*Mack Pope*



*Phone: 843-540-6636*



## **We Are God's Handiwork**

Eph 2:1-10

### **Introduction:**

This last Sunday was Labor Day weekend. So my message centered around the theme of labor and work. We noticed to begin with that as far as we can tell the very first public celebration of the American worker took place September 5, 1882 when New York City put on a parade in honor of the American laborer. As a matter of fact, this parade actually preceded the federal recognition of Labor Day.

The federal recognition of a day honoring the hard working efforts of the American work force took place when President Grover Cleveland on June 28, 1894 signed a law recognizing the first Monday of September as a Labor Day celebration. Since that time the entire country has celebrated the first Monday of September as Labor Day.

However long before America was ever a nation and long before there was an official day set aside to honor the efforts of laborers and workers the word of God had already recognized and honored the labor and work of the greatest worker of all time and His name is God.

Our present set of verses that we are looking at for this message we are specifically told that "...we are God's handiwork..." (vs 10). The Bible leaves us no doubt whatsoever that we are God's greatest work of His labor. So in this message we will notice how we are God's handiwork.

## **I. First, we are God's handiwork because He creates us (vs 10)**

Now it is absolutely obvious that before God could or can do any other work in our lives He first had to and has to create us. And that's exactly what the first chapter of the Bible is all about. That God first and foremost is our creator. It also clearly teaches that we are His greatest handiwork because He created human beings alone in His image (Gen 1:26, 27).

However the first chapter in the Bible is definitely not the last chapter of the Bible revealing the fact that we and everything else is God's handiwork. God knew that a day would come when sinful humanity would raise up a generation of scientists in the world that would go out of their way to present our world and universe as a place created by mere chance or random processes absent of a personal creator. Thus God made sure that His word from the very beginning to the very end is filled with references of His creation's power most particular of His creating us. In the Old Testament alone God is mentioned as creator in some form or fashion around 2,600 times.

"This is what the Lord says -- the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker: Concerning things to come, do you question me about my children, or give me orders about the work of my hands? It is I who made the earth and created mankind on it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts." (Is 45:11-12).

"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care." (Ps:1-7).

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." (Ps 100:1-5).

So let us rejoice that we are not mere accidents but rather the handiwork of our great and awesome God who placed His image in each one of us.

## **II. Second, we are God's handiwork because He converts us (vs 10)**

So in our first point we took notice that we are God's handiwork because He created us. However tragically once Adam and Eve sinned against our holy God there was a part of our original creation that died. That part was our spiritual life. That's the part of our being that allows us the privilege to walk intimately with God.

However as our first three verses clearly reveal our spiritual life has been destroyed by the sins that we have all committed. "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath." (vs 1-3).

Now everyone knows that whatever is dead is incapable of doing anything. But blessed be the name of our gracious, merciful, and loving God that by His almighty power He can bring back life to our dead spirits so that we can have that intimate personal relationship with Him.

He does this through His grace toward us. A word which means unmerited favor. In other words God has given us His favor to allow us to know Him, without meriting it, through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we noted already because our spiritual lives are dead we can't resurrect them. However Jesus Christ can because He overcame death through His own resurrection. And God is willing to resurrect our dead spirits freely when we are willing to put our absolute trust in Jesus Christ our Lord who died to forgive us and resurrected to give us life spiritually and eternally. This is the conversion that I'm referencing to and no one not even ourselves can save us, redeem us, convert us, and give back life to our spirits but Jesus Christ. Without Him you remain spiritually dead forever. Jesus is the only, absolutely, only way, and God is willing to freely allow us to believe in Him for our conversion. Won't you let God do His handiwork of conversion in your life today?

### **III. Third, we are God's Handiwork because He calls us (vs 10)**

In life we often, as the old saying goes, get the cart before the horse. Well, what we are referring to in this particular point is the fact that many preachers, churches, denominations, religions, organizations indeed get the cart before the horse. They first place the calling I'm referring to which is the calling to good works, ahead of the previous point of conversion.

In other words these folks take away from the handiwork of God by placing some of His handiwork into our own hands. They do this by claiming that we do good works in order that we might obtain or keep our conversion or salvation.

However before God mentions the good works that He called us to do He first gave us nine verses describing how He saved us purely by His grace and His grace alone. Our works, our accomplishments, and our pride had not one thing to do with our conversions or salvations. The only boasting we can do is boasting in our Lord Jesus Christ. To Him be all the glory.

So God has saved us not by good works but so that we can do good works. So even the good works are God's handiwork for He planned the ones He wants us to do and He created us and converted making it possible for us to do them. To God be all the glory.

**Conclusion:**

All of us are God's handiwork through creation but not all of us are His handiwork of conversion and calling. However God make all of His handwork available to any and all who are willing to place their trust in His grace through His glorious Son the Lord Jesus Christ. So let God finish His handiwork in you today by crying out to the Lord Jesus in faith trusting in Him alone.

Jesus Loves You,  
Ralph Lee

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The Week of Prayer for the Janie Chapman  
State Missions offering is 9/8 through  
9/15. The theme is:

***We Are Better Together.***  
***Acts 2:42-47***

***Please help us reach our church goal of  
\$800 by coloring our Palmetto tree.***



# Operation Christmas Child



## SEPTEMBER NEEDS

Listed below, with amounts, what is still needed to start packing boxes later this month. Monetary donations can be made.

Thank you for your donations.

Any questions please ask Dorthie.

Pencils - 863  
Glue Sticks - 456  
Girl Combs/Brushes - 203  
Baby dolls - 46  
(You can get them at Dollar Tree)

Crayons - 70  
Scissors - 184  
Pencil Sharpeners - 162  
Tooth Brushes - 161  
Boys (age 2-4) Socks - 22  
Girls (age 2-4) Socks - 80

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Welcome aboard to our newly appointed deacons Chuck Scoggins, Calvin Bryan, and Mack Pope!! They will be graciously serving the church until 2027.





## Wednesday Night Supper

Meals served from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
every Wednesday night.  
\$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family  
of four or more.  
No Meal Deliveries.

## 9/11 MENU: HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, TATERTOTS and/or BAKED BEANS

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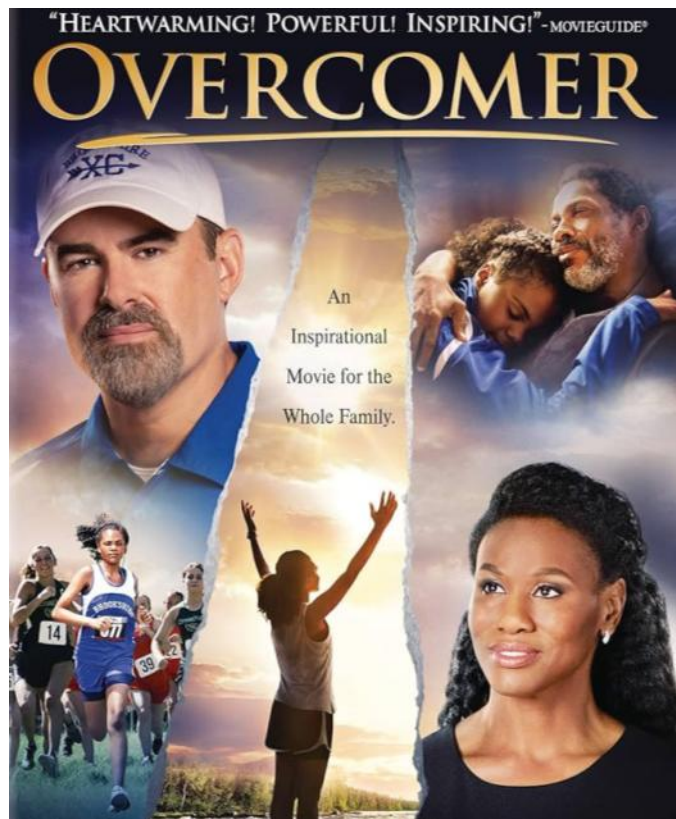


## Sunday Morning Breakfast

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE THE  
NEW TIME\*\*\***

Breakfast will be served  
from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

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



## **MOVIE NIGHT!!**

Showing: Overcomer  
Sunday, September 15th  
Concessions at 6:00 p.m.  
Movie starts at 6:45 p.m.



**\*\*PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN MOVIE TIME\*\***



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



Come watch an amazing  
movie with us!

# Celebration of Life for Winnie Altman

Saturday, September 21st at 4:00 p.m.

Located in the GSBC Main Sanctuary/Multi-Purpose Building

Come celebrate the wonderful life of Winnie Altman and share the love for Winnie with her family and friends.

The church is asking that church members provide a side dish and/or dessert for the celebration of life. Please have your food to the church no later than 3:30 p.m. on the 21st.

***\*PLEASE NOTE\**** Kairos Ministry will be having a meeting in the MPB that morning, but you can drop off your dish in the church office on Jennifer's desk or through the back door of the kitchen. Please just put it to the side if you take it to the kitchen. Kairos will be made aware that people will be coming to drop off food. Any questions, please call Jennifer.

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**5th Sunday Sing**  
Church "Open Mic Night"  
Sunday, Sept 29th  
7:00 pm MPB Building  
Hosted by Lloyd Freeman

Come and sing some of your favorite hymns! Open to everyone of any age or singing level!

Sign up sheet is on the back wall for those interested in singing or you can just show up :)



**W O M E N**

**O N**

**M I S S I O**

*(formerly Grandmothers' Group)*

**SPECIAL GUEST: DAVID MEARS**

**When: September 9th at 11:30 a.m.**

**Where: The Multi-Purpose Building**

**Bring: A Covered Dish and/or Dessert**





<i>Thursday</i>	<i>12th</i>	<i>Shirley Malphrus</i>
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<b><u>Thursday, September 12th:</u></b> Patrick & Kim Malphrus
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**Sunday, September 29th**  
**AM Service**

# GSBC Prayer Page

## Church Leadership

*Sunday School*  
*SFCA-Donna Carter*  
*Child Development*  
*Ministries*  
*Ralph Lee, Jr. - Pastor*  
*Deacons*

## Leadership

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

## Bereavement

*Family of Noah Smith*  
*Family of Winnie Altman*  
*Family of Chris Sloss*

## Unspoken

## Hospitals

*Kadence Abney (little girl -*  
*collapsed lung)*

## Surgery/Recovery

*Vera Floyd - Encompass*  
*Mary Kay Cade - Encompass*

## Cancer/Treatments

*Revel Crosby - 4 years old*  
*(Leukemia)*  
*Ken Lawler*  
*Rachel Vaughn*  
*Ella Gourlay - 10 years old*  
*(Leukemia)*

## Other Health Needs

*Mary Kay Cade*  
*Julia Rushing*  
*Pinky Rushing*  
*Amy Hannah*  
*Kathy Breland*  
*Grace Hetrick*  
*Arthur Pearson*  
*Sage Lanier (2 week old*  
*baby with seizures)*  
*Earl Dean Pope*  
*Joseph Walters, III*

## Nursing Centers

*Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe*  
*Tommy & Erma Cooler - Ridgeland Nursing Home*  
*David Sauls - Florence Place Assisted Living*  
*Doby Cleland - Life Care Center of HHI*

## 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*  
*Shirley Malphrus*

### Pray For Our Military

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

## Church Staff

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

*Sunday School Director: Mike Davis* .....

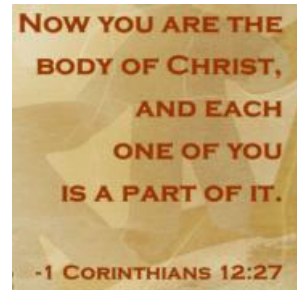
*Pianist: Michelle Waitt* ..... *scarolina1961@gmail.com*

*Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Meador* ..... *greatswampbc@gmail.com*  
*843-726-3631*

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



**New Members:**  
*Dawson &  
 Emma Cline  
 & Sophia Mills*



## Stewardship

Tithes	This Week 6/30	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$4,127.00	\$4,923.33	\$-796.33
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$350.00		
<b>Designated Funds</b>			<b>Acct. Balances</b>
Gleaner Sunday School Class	\$42.00	*****	\$
Dot Lee Scholarship	\$50.00	*****	\$
Operation Christmas Child	\$50.00	*****	\$



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