

Thoughts from our staff....

had not understood the need for a personal relationship with Jesus. I had missed that truth, too, until a few months prior to the incident I am sharing with you. As I sat there being blessed by the organ music and praying for my family, the music stopped and the organist looked over at me and asked, "Would you like for me to play some more?" I replied that I would love it, and so she did...for about 30 more minutes. Just a little thing, some would say, but it was a major blessing to me. I wonder if she ever thought about that 'little act of kindness,' but I have...and even after over 55 years!

We never know how a small act of kindness can be a blessing to someone. Let's ask the Lord to help us be alert to His Spirit's promptings to be the encourager someone needs today...and every day!

Dr. Alice Cullinan



I am currently reading *Marriage in Light of Eternity* by Francis Chan. At the beginning of the book he talks about how marriage problems and all other problems can be solved by what he calls *staring at God*. One particular quote really spoke to me, Chan says, "If I could read a manuscript of your prayers over the past month, what would I see as the one thing you repeatedly asked for? We should all answer that. Our prayers reveal a lot about us. Our request shows us what we treasure, and our tone reveals our opinion of Him." This paragraph made me stop and evaluate what I am praying for and the tone in which I ask it. If you stopped and looked back at your prayers, would you find that you spent time staring at God and looking for his answers to your questions or would you find that you spent more time on what you wanted God to give you? I would like to challenge you today to seek God's face during your prayer time by being quiet and focusing on who he is and allowing him to give you what you need and not asking for what you want. We are told in scripture that God knows what we need and that it is even better that what we could ever imagine. I know that in my marriage, ministry, and everything I do I want people to be able to look at me and see that I spend time staring at God because of the way I carry out God's plans for me.

Please remember that our staff is available to come to your church to help lead trainings, Bible studies, or help with special ministries. We are here to assist you in any way you need it. If we do not have the resources or expertise, we will find someone who does. Thank you for your continued support of the association as we work together to serve God and reach out to the people in Cleveland County and beyond.

Serving together,

Katie



PRAYING IN SEARCH OF A LEADER

EPHESIANS 1:16 "I DO NOT CEASE TO GIVE THANKS FOR YOU, REMEMBERING YOU IN MY PRAYERS"

I thank Jesus because for more than one year in this office the search team prayed and sought God's will for a person with spiritual qualities who could continue the journey that other men began. I have been fortunate to have experienced times of ministry with our brother Wesley Smith who for several years traveled on mission trips with us. It was then that I had time to pray with him as well as focusing on the work we were doing, bringing the Gospel to all of the world. I was assured during my prayer times that the Lord already knew who it was He wanted to serve in this position at the association, and I felt great peace as the Lord worked in the process. Today we can give thanks. Today we can say that we love Him because we know that His ways are always best; He is always faithful. We trust Him and walk with Him and watch what He plans for us to do in His service.

I want to take this opportunity to thank God for the life of our new Associational Missionary. I pray that God will give blessings in abundance to him and his family. All of us should be willing to continue the work started by others and to serve along side Wesley, sharing our strength and our gifts in ministry with him. I hope you will make the effort to tell him that you are praying for him and his new ministry role. And if we ourselves walk in prayer in everything we undertake, we will be more than winners. It is important for us to trust Christ with all of our plans and activities, be they large or small. So I say 'welcome to this place where Christ before your birth had it arranged for you to serve him in this new role.' Blessings in the powerful name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Respectfully,

Rev. José A. Espinal. Hispanic Language Missionary.

Thoughts from our staff.....

As I pondered these days together, I began to think of all of the churches in this great association. Each one is important in the place where God has planted you. You may be small or large, but the mission that we have from on high is still the same. It is the "go therefore" and win the lost, make disciples, and teach them. We find excellent examples of that in the New Testament. The early disciples went about preaching and teaching Jesus. It is still the same today. The challenge has not changed. It will be the same until the Lord takes us home to be with Him.

The Associational Staff has been most supportive of my ministry with you. Without them I would not have been able to accomplish anything on my own. They are super and you are blessed to have them here to serve with you.

I want to give thanks to the Associational Missionary Search Team. They served as true servants of the Lord. As the Lord led them during the meetings, and during their alone time, they fully depended on Him for guidance in the task that was before them. They were truly led of the Lord and God rewarded their faithfulness.

God has truly blessed the association in sending one of his choice servants to be the next Associational Missionary. Rev. Wesley Smith brings youth, vitality, vision, and a servant's heart to this position. The Association is going to do great things under his leadership. Please lift him up in prayer each day that God would use him in a special way.

Finally, thank you for the opportunity and privilege to walk with you during these months. Getting to know you and the work your congregations are doing has been a real blessing. I have grown spiritually during these days as I have seen what God is up to in Cleveland County and beyond. You will be in my prayers in the days ahead, and I would ask that you remember me and Gayle. May our Heavenly Father continue to bless you.

Tony

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Education and Network Opportunities

Minister's Conference/Learning Community

Monday, April 4, 2016

10:00 Fellowship

10:30 Program

Associational Missions

Then & Now

Tony Fulbright

"Tapping In To God's Strength" is the topic for our April Bible studies on Tuesday mornings from April 4-May 2 at the associational office. We meet from 10:30-noon. You do not have to pre-register and there is no cost. Just come with an open heart, a pen and a notebook. (Some come at 10:00 to enjoy fellowship with each other.) Hope to see you there! (Dr. Alice Cullinan is the teacher.)

Associational Senior Adult Rally: Faith and Fun

Boiling Springs Baptist Church

Thursday, April 14, 2016

8:45-12:30

Free lunch. Please reserve a spot by April 7th by calling the associational office

Music, door prizes, booths of local agencies serving seniors, free blood pressure checks, tour of the new Health Sciences Building at GWU (the old Crawley hospital building). Featured speaker is Kathryn Hamrick, author of The Farmer's Wife, a collection of columns she wrote for the Shelby Star.



WMU SALAD SUPPER

The annual WMU Salad Supper will be May 12th at 6:30 pm at First Baptist Church Shelby. Our guest speaker will be Bonnie Doughtie, former missionary to S. Africa. We will be taking up an offer for the church in Nicaragua. Please join us and bring your favorite salad to share with others.



Missions Opportunities

Nicaragua Mission Trip

July 29th- August 6th Trip cost:\$1550

We still have several open spots for this mission trip. If you are interested please contact Katie Harris as soon as possible. On this trip we will be ministering through VBS, food ministry, and other evangelism opportunities. This mission opportunity has been one of the biggest blessings in my life and I would encourage you to spend time praying about being involved.



Indiana Mission Trip

July 9th-16th

We will have an interest meeting for those who want to know more about this mission trip on April 4th at 6:30 at the associational office. For more information please contact Katie Harris.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 2016

The 65th annual National Day of Prayer, May 5, 2016, will have profound significance for our country. It is an unprecedented opportunity to see the Lord's healing and renewing power made manifest as we call on citizens to humbly come before His throne.



Our theme for 2016 is *Wake Up America*, emphasizing the need for individuals, corporately and individually, to return to the God in reverence for His Holy Name. To further highlight our theme, we've chosen Isaiah 58:1a as our Scripture for this year: "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet."

For promotional materials for your church or community check the National Day of Prayer website at www.nationaldayofprayer.org.



CLEVELAND COUNTY April 30th or May 7th, 2016 **Operation INASMUCH 2016**
Operation Inasmuch is fast approaching and if your church wants to join with other Cleveland County churches in this day of community missions and outreach you must respond now.

Please contact me to see how your church can be involved.

David Brown, Cleveland County OIAM Coordinator

919-422-9990 OR dbrown@ncbaptist.org

Shelby Mission Camp News

We have many churches from other parts of the country that are scheduled to be at the Shelby Missions Camp for their spring and summer missions trips. While many are doing construction projects, several of the mission teams want to do vacation bible school, senior adult ministry, yard work and other service projects. If your church needs help with a bible school or other area of ministry, please give us a call to see if one of our visiting churches can help.

Also we have a need for 15 passenger vans especially during the week of July 18-23 when we have 190 youth scheduled to be working in the county. Many come in busses and we need smaller vans so we can split teams up and go to different job sites. If your church can help us with this transportation problem, please let us know.

Missions Opportunities

BCHNC FOOD ROUNDUP 2016

It is once again time for rounding up food for the NC Baptist Children's Homes and the deadline to **get your donations in by Noon April 29, 2016!** Be the hands and feet of Christ by helping collect \$350,000 in food, supplies, and gift cards. Your efforts provide over 700,000 meals and snacks to children. For more information go to www.bchfamily.org/foodroundup or call [1-800-476-3669](tel:1-800-476-3669).

Gift cards are used for buying perishables and items not received and gift cards from the following places are appreciated: Wal-Mart, Sams Clubs, Food Lion, Lowes, Ingles, and Piggly Wiggly. If you donate food items or supplies they can use all sizes but some locations prefer #10 family size cans and please check for expired food dates. **YOUR FOOD AND SUPPLY DONATIONS WILL NEED TO BE PACKED IN SMALL STURDY BOXES**

AND BROUGHT TO GCCBA, INC.
BY NOON ON FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016.

Most needed item in bold

- ___ Paper Products (paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, napkins)
- ___ Household cleaning products (i.e. bleach, Comet, Lysol spray and wipes, Clorox spray and wipes, Windex, Pinesol, Pledge, Tilex, etc.)
- ___ Fruit Juice (Apple, Orange, Grape, Cranberry)
- ___ Laundry Detergent
- ___ Bottled Water
- ___ Dry Cereal
- ___ Spaghetti Sauce
- ___ Pasta (Spaghetti, Lasagna, Macaroni)
- ___ Canned Tomatoes (diced, sauce, paste)
- ___ Pancake Mix and Syrup
- ___ Soups (All types & condensed)
- ___ Sugar (Granulated & Brown)
- ___ Flour
- ___ Splenda
- ___ Popcorn, Kettle Corn
- ___ Apple Sauce
- ___ Fruit Pie Filling (Cherry, Peach)
- ___ Beverage Mixes (Tea, Tang, Kool-Aid, Lemonade, Cider Mix - All Sugar Free)
- ___ Vegetable Oil, Shortening, Olive Oil, Pam Cooking Spray, Bakers Choice
- ___ Canned Fruits

- ___ Canned Sweet Potatoes, Canned Yams
- ___ Canned Meats (pink salmon, tuna, roast beef, chicken - packed in water)
- ___ Stuffing Mix
- ___ Gravy Mixes
- ___ Hamburger Helper (all types)
- ___ Pickles (Sweet & Dill)
- ___ Refried Beans
- ___ Hot Chocolate Mix
- ___ Snack Foods with & without sugar (Fruit Rollups, Fruit Cups, Beef Jerky, Cheese Nips, Pretzels, etc.)
- ___ Health Snack Foods (Dried Fruit, Nuts, Raisins, Cranraisins, Trail Mix)
- ___ Individual Cookie Packs
- ___ Jello
- ___ PopTarts
- ___ Rice
- ___ Instant Potatoes (scaloped, au gratin, mashed, julienne)
- ___ Muffin Mixes
- ___ Bisquick Mix
- ___ Kidney Beans
- ___ Baked Beans
- ___ Pickle Relish
- ___ Cranberry Sauce
- ___ Mac & Cheese
- ___ Corn Meal
- ___ Jiffy Mixes, Corn Muffin Mix
- ___ Potatoes
- ___ Hush Puppy Mix



- ___ Peanut Butter
 - ___ Jelly, Jams, Preserves (Strawberry is their favorite)
 - ___ Pizza & Pizza Dough Mix
 - ___ Saltine Crackers, Ritz Crackers, Graham Crackers
 - ___ Sauces (A-1, Steak, BBQ, Texas Pete, Cheese, Worcestershire, Soy, Teriyaki Sauce, Sweet and Sour)
 - ___ Spices and Seasonings (including Salt & Pepper)
 - ___ Dishwashing detergents
 - ___ Laundry pre-treating products (i.e. Shout, Spray and Wash)
 - ___ Brooms, Mops, Scrub Brushes, Dust Pans
 - ___ Foil and Plastic Wrap
 - ___ SOS Pads
 - ___ Fabric Softener (Dryer Sheets)
 - ___ Sanitary Pads & Tampons
 - ___ Hand Lotion
 - ___ Shampoo
 - ___ Body Wash
 - ___ Soap
 - ___ Hand Sanitizer
 - ___ Evaporated Milk
 - ___ Dehydrated Food (powdered milk & eggs, dehydrated meals)
 - ___ Flavorings (Vanilla, etc.)
 - ___ French Fried Onions
 - ___ Honey
 - ___ Ketchup
 - ___ Mustard
 - ___ Oatmeal
 - ___ Parmesan Cheese
 - ___ Puddings, Pudding Cups
 - ___ Salsa
 - ___ Vinegar
 - ___ Paper Products (Cups, Plates, Bowls, Plastic Ware)
 - ___ Copy/Printer Paper
 - ___ Trash Bags (large & small)
 - ___ Zip-Loc bags (Sandwich, Snack, Quart & Gallon Sizes)
 - ___ Band Aids
 - ___ Rubbing Alcohol/Peroxide
 - ___ Razors
 - ___ Shaving Cream/Shaving Gel
 - ___ Dental Floss
 - ___ Hair brushes
 - ___ Deodorant
 - ___ Conditioner
 - ___ Tooth Paste
 - ___ Tooth Brushes
 - ___ Diapers (all sizes)
 - ___ Baby Wipes
 - ___ Bug Repellent
 - ___ Wasp/Hornet Spray
 - ___ Sunblock 30+
 - ___ Batteries (AA, AAA and D)
 - ___ Disposable Gloves (Latex & Non-Latex)
- OTHER NEEDED ITEMS:**
- ___ Brownie & Cookie Mix
 - ___ Canned Vegetables
 - ___ Hot Dog Chili
 - ___ Coffee (Regular & Decaf)
 - ___ Coffee Creamer
 - ___ Sweetened Condensed Milk

GCCBA Bulletin Board

Pastors Anniversaries for April

Community :

Scott Caldwell, 1 year

Flint Hill:

Shane Kirby, 6 years

Poplar Springs:

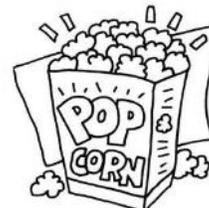
Andy Oliver, 5 years

Zion Hill:

Roger Fuller, 24 years



Please remember that our **Block Party Trailer** schedule fills up very fast in the Spring and Summer so call and reserve it ASAP. The cost to use the trailer is \$100 and that includes all supplies needed to run the machines. If your church is unable to pay the reservation fee please do not hesitate to call us and we will work with you. This is a wonderful ministry tool that we want to make available to all of our churches.



ELECTION Prayer Guide

It is imperative that we pray faithfully for the upcoming elections, yet our hope and trust is not in the results of elections!

That may sound like a strange introduction to an election prayer guide. But the reality is that the spiritual and moral issues facing this nation will not be resolved in the White House, Congress, or the Supreme Court. What the United States desperately needs is another Great Awakening!

The Church must experience a revival that awakens her to the life-changing power of Jesus Christ in her midst. Such a spiritual awakening within the people of God has the power to bring about true cultural transformation in this nation.

So why pray for the elections? There are a number of compelling reasons:

- ★ The Bible commands us to pray for those who are in leadership (1 Timothy 2:1-4). This includes those who are vying to become leaders.
- ★ Godly leaders can help slow the erosion of religious liberties in our land. This can provide an increased window of opportunity for the Church to pray and evangelize.
- ★ According to Scripture, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). The selection of leaders who understand and lead according to God's righteous standards can bring great blessing to a nation.
- ★ Scripture also says in Proverbs 11:14, "For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisors make victory sure." The determination of who leads our nation will also determine who advises that leader and how we are guided.

WE NEED TO PRAY NOW



We currently have several open dates for our **Friday Feed the Hungry lunch program**. We love for youth and children groups to come and help us serve during the summer time. This is a great way to teach youth and children about the importance of serving others. Please call our office to sign up for a date.

Take the 2016 SBC Church Compensation Survey.

GuideStone.org/CompensationSurvey

20 years of delivering value to churches like *yours*.

- ✳ Help fellow SBC churches establish competitive compensation packages for ministers and church staff.
- ✳ Access complimentary online customized reports for your church.
- ✳ Be among the first to view survey results.

Complete the online survey by May 31.

All responses are completely confidential. We appreciate your input!

Your help is needed to ensure we can continue to provide this beneficial resource to thousands of Southern Baptist churches like yours.

Church Needs.....

Available Positions in our Churches:

Allen Memorial:

We are seeking a Pianist/Music Director part-time employment for Sunday morning, Sunday evening, choir practice, and Wednesday evening services Contact Kenny at 704-739-1262 or email Kenny at ambcgrover@aol.com for more info.

Camps Creek:

CCBC in Mooresboro, NC is seeking a part time pianist to play for worship on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, and Wednesday evenings. This person will also accompany the choir on occasion during practice on Wednesdays at 8:00 PM. The annual salary is \$3,836 and includes two weeks paid vacation. Anyone interested can send an email inquiry to Pastor Buddy Morehead at pastorbuddy47@yahoo.com.

Eastside, Kings Mountain:

Eastside Baptist Church, Kings Mountain is seeking an experienced part-time pianist. Resumes can be mailed to Eastside Baptist Church, 308 York Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086. For more information call 704-739-8055 or 704-616-6132.

Eastside, Shelby:

Eastside Baptist Church, Shelby, NC (Southern Baptist/1963 Faith & Message) seeks full-time Minister of Music and Education. Responsible for all music programs as well as training and education. Job description/requirements: www.eastsidebaptistshelby.org. Send Letter of interest and resume Attention: Personal Committee, 1165 Wyke Rd. Shelby, NC 28150 or officeebc@carolina.rr.com

Lattimore:

Lattimore Baptist Church is seeking a Youth and Children's Ministers. Please contact courtgreene@yahoo.com or Mike Greene at 704-473-6640 for any questions and with resumes.

Oak Grove:

Oak Grove Baptist is currently seeking a pianist and organist. If anyone shows an interest in either position, please have them contact : mjmison@carolina.rr.com, or phone 704-685-1735. They could also call the church office at 704-739-4833

Pleasant Grove:

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church is searching for a part-time Youth and Children's Minister, working 20 hours a week with the youth and children. If interested, please send resume to: Personnel Committee, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 3932 Pleasant Grove Church Road, Shelby, NC 28150.

Pleasant Hill:

Pleasant Hill Baptist is in need of a pianist/choir accompanist for Sunday morning worship and Wednesday night choir rehearsal. Music is traditional/blended style. Contact Amanda Lowery alowery52@gmail.com

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church is seeking a pastor to oversee the life and direction of the church body. The pastor will be a gifted teacher who enables persons to learn and develop spiritual truths, an effective communicator of well developed sermons, a compassionate and discerning counselor, a visionary and planner for the future of the church and a staff developer. The church recognizes the extent of these responsibilities and is committed to supporting the Pastor in the work of the church for the glory of our God. The church is affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Southern Baptist Convention, NC Baptist State Convention and the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association. Weekly services are held on Sunday Mornings and Wednesday Evenings. Interested candidates should submit a resume to phbc1851@att.net or Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Attention: Pastor Search Committee, 2338 Pleasant Hill Church Road, Grover, NC 28073.

Polkville:

Part-time Worship Minister

Polkville Baptist Church is seeking a part-time Worship Minister with a heart to follow God's will, being gifted in communicating and coordinating worship experiences, along with the pastor and musicians. Send résumé by email to: employment@polkvillebaptist.com; or by USPS to: Search Committee, Polkville Baptist Church, Post Office Box 245, Polkville, NC 28136.

Ross Grove:

Organist needed for Sunday morning worship services Please send letter of interest to: Ross Grove Baptist Church Attn: Personnel Committee 1225 Fallston Road Shelby, NC 28150

Pray for our Pastor less Churches

Allen Memorial ~ Beaver Dam ~ Pleasant Hill ~ Ross Grove ~ Sandy Plains ~ Temple

If any of these positions have been filled please let me know at nicole@gccba.org

Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association, Inc.
1175 Wyke Road
Shelby, NC 28150
Assistance Office Phone Number: 704-481-9119
Office Phone Number: 704-482-3472
Counseling Center Number: 704-472-1437
Website: www.gccba.org

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If you are not going to read the printed version of the newsletter, please call and have your name removed from the mailing list. We can add you to the email list, if you so desire.

THE BEACON

STAFF, PHONE EXTENSIONS & EMAIL

Associational Missionary:
Wesley Smith, 104—wesley@gccba.org

Ministry Team Leader:
Charles Reed, 106—charles@gccba.org

Missions Team Leader:
Katie Harris, 109—Katie@gccba.org

Christian Ed Leader:
Alice Cullinan, 107—alice@gccba.org

Hispanic Missionary:
Jose Espinal, 100—jose.espinal231@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:
Nicole Mosley, 101—nicole@gccba.org



- 4—**Ministers Conference 10:00 am GCCBA
- 5—** Dr. Cullinan Bible class 10:30 am
Leadership & Business Affairs Team 11:45 am
GCCBA Staff Meeting 3:30pm
- 7—** Grover Breakfast 8:30am Carolina Crossing
- 10—** Senior Music Presentation 6:00 pm at Elizabeth
- 12—** Dr. Cullinan Bible class 10:30 am
GCCBA Staff Meeting 3:30pm
- 14—** Senior Adult Rally 8:45 am at Boiling Springs
- 19—** Dr. Cullinan Bible class 10:30 am
GCCBA Staff Meeting 3:30pm
- 21—** Belwood Lunch 11:30 am Hwy 18 North Café
- 25—** Biannual Meeting 6:00 pm at Eastside, Kings Mtn.
- 26—** Dr. Cullinan Bible class 10:30 am
GCCBA Staff Meeting 3:30pm
- 28—** Thrive/Revive 9:30 am GCCBA
- 30—** Operation In As Much