**Allen Memorial Beaver Dam Bethany Bethany Hispanic Bethel Bethlehem Boiling Springs Buffalo Calvary Camps Creek Carpenter's Grove** Casar **Christ Covenant Christian Freedom Christopher Road** Community Crestview **CC Cowboy** David **Double Shoals Double Springs Dover** Eastside (KM) Eastside (Shelby) **Elizabeth Emmanuel Faith Fallston** Flint Hill **Gethsemane Goodes Grove Grover First Immanuel** Joy Christian **Kings Mountain** Kings Mtn. First Kings Mtn. Second Lattimore Lawndale **Lilv Memorial Living Hope** Macedonia Midview Mt. Sinai **Mulls Memorial New Bethel New Camp Creek New Covenant New Hope New Jerusalem New Prospect** Norman's Grove **Northside** Oak Grove **Oak View Pathway Patterson Grove Patterson Springs Peach Street Peoples Plains View Pleasant Grove** Pleasant Hill Pleasant Ridge **Polkville Poplar Springs Putnam** Ross Grove **Sandy Plains Shelby First Sunrise Temple** Trinity Union Victory Waco **Wallace Grove Washington Missionary** Westover Westview **Westwood Heights** White Harvest **Zion Zion Hill** Zoar



# THE BEACON

Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association, Inc. Shelby, NC Uniting congregations in effective missions and ministries

Volume 59, Issue 2

Website: gccba.org

February 2017

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:"

Ecclesiastes 3:1

I noticed the other week that my tulips were trying to come up in our flower bed at home. I hated to see that because I knew that winter was not finished. This was even before the snow. The seasons amaze me. The animals, vegetation and all of life is seasonal. It's the way we are created. The writer of Ecclesiastes makes mention of this.

I mentioned last month that it's difficult for us to think about planting and harvesting in the winter, and yet the writer of Ecclesiastes mentions that we have eternity set in our heart. Do you believe that he means we are only concerned about our own eternity? I do not. I believe the closer we walk with God, and the deeper our relationship with Jesus, the more we are concerned about the eternity of others. The planting and harvesting of the gospel!

I am praying for God to burden my heart, the heart of pastors and church members for those who are uncertain about their eternity. People are searching for peace, comfort, and joy. They just don't know where to look. We know as followers of Jesus that He is the only one who can bring true peace, comfort, joy and salvation! May we have a burden to lead people to a relationship with Jesus.

Wesley

"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."

Ecclesiastes 3:11

**+++++++++++** 

"Who do you think you are kidding?" is a question often asked by someone who feels they are being deceived in some way or another. Whether it is the politician who fails to live up to campaign promises or the person trying to talk you into buying an old broken-down car, it is wise to realize that deception permeates much of life. And how tragic it is when we see this age-old problem, which originated in the garden of Eden when Satan deceived Eve, surface even in the lives of Christians. There is nothing quite as sad and destructive as when a professing Christian leader 'pulls the wool over' unsuspecting, trusting church members. But wait. There is something even sadder and more destructive than these kinds of deception. What is it? James and John both mention it in their letters. It is self-deception...fooling ourselves into believing something that is not true! James says to watch for the *self-deception* of thinking it is sufficient if we simply *believe* the Bible, whether or not we put it into practice. (James 1:22). He also mentions that we are self-deceived when we 'think we are religious but fail to bridle our tongue.' (vs. 26). And John warns us to be on guard against the self-deception of thinking we have no sin to confess. (Jn. 1:8).

Some people who fall victim to deceivers may develop an attitude of distrust toward all people. This is unhealthy, of course. But it is wise to be on guard and distrustful of that Adamic nature that indwells each of us. It is always up to no good! Let's place our trust in the Only One who is trustworthy. Life will go much better!

Dr. Alice Cullinan

# Thoughts from our staff.....

## THE START OF A NEW YEAR IN THE CLEVELAND COUNTY

Listen! The sower went out to sow." Mark 4:3

Cleveland County and its farmers longed for rain, as the planting season approached and fields were completely dry. We had some rain, and plants were born. But even the usually green fields of the county had become very yellow and were dry because of the scarcity of water, excessive heat and winds. And in the fall, trees did not shed their leaves when they usually do, and the expected color of the leaves was drab and uneven. Many prayed for much-needed water for plants as well as for animals. Even the neighboring lakes were affected by the drought and their levels fell to all-time lows. But God has control of all these evets, so many believers asked God to send more of His blessed rain. Nothing seemed to happen. But then, in God's time, the heavens turned grey, temperatures fell, and then came the ice and the snow. Streets, yards, and roof tops turned white. The storm caused many to be shut in their homes, enjoying hot chocolate and rest. But being shut in the house also caused some to feel depressed, while others enjoyed playing in the snow with family members and neighbors. For those who did venture out, some wound up skidding off the road; some fell and broke bones. Others did not have enough food or warmth in their homes.

Jesus spoke of the parable of a sower, reminding us that God is at work in making things grow....both spiritual and physical growth. His will is always to bring about a harvest. Some who were snowed in their homes were free enough from their daily obligations to be able to hear a special word from the Lord. And because they could not attend church, for many, they became more thankful for their church family.

The year 2017 is filled with plans to do missions, planting new churches, and training others to preach. All of us need to be ready to serve God, to be faithful givers, to fulfill our responsibilities as pastors, teachers or other leaders. And we need to support the association with our gifts and prayers so that churches together can help people we could never help alone. And when people are fed and clothed and helped with their electric or medical bills, it provides an open door for us to share with them about God, who wants to bless them more than they could ever imagine. And as we plant seeds in their lives, there will be a harvest of thirty, to sixty or even a hundred.

Blessings, Jose Espinal

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

I hope that this Christmas season was wonderful for you and your family. My son Grant was baptized on Christmas Eve so it was a special time of remembrance of what Christmas and life is truly about. It has been amazing to see him walk this journey, to listen to his thoughts and ideas, and being able to answer his questions with the guidance of the Lord. I am excited to continue to watch him grow in his love for the Lord and his eagerness to go on mission. He is excited for the day he is old enough to go on a mission trip to Nicaragua. This new year I pray that you also find that excitement about going "on mission" for Christ. Whether its local, state, or international missions you are passionate about, we have opportunities for you to join us in ministry. Please look throughout this newsletter for ways you can be involved.

Katie

*<b>†* 

"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing."

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

# **Education and Network Opportunities**

# Minister's Conference/Learning Community

Monday, February 6, 2017 10:00 am

Dr. Wayne Stacy is our guest speaker. The title to his session is: "More Than A Mantra:
Living The Lord's Prayer"
Fellowship starts at 10am, prayer 10:30am, program at 11:00am.

Workshop for Pastors, Treasurers, Financial Secretaries, and Budget/Finance Committee Members

Thursday, February 2, 6:30 PM, Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association Office, 1175 Wyke Road, Shelby



Led by Janice Hager, Consultant for the NC Baptist State Convention Are you confused about love offerings?

Confounded by IRS regulations regarding contribution statements?

Conflicted about employee versus contractor status for church staff?

Concerned about having the right financial policies to protect the church?

This workshop is for you!

For more information, contact Janice Hager at 704-451-0861, or jhager1010@gmail.com, or the Associational Office at 704-482-3472

**Deacon Training Event**: Monday, March 20, 6:30-8:30PM at Poplar Springs Baptist. Topic: "Following God's Leadership" led by Dr. Alice Cullinan and Rev. Keith Dixon. The conference will cover topics like: "How to understand God's leadership and how to follow where He leads," and "When we should let go and let Him handle something, when it is our responsibility to do it?" "What does God promise us about His leadership?"

Since we will be serving dinner, please preregister by calling the associational office at 704-482-3472 or register on our website at gccba.org.

The association has purchased copies of <u>Nuts and Bolts of Deacon Ministry</u>, the book written by Alice and Keith based on many of the training events held at the association. Those who register for the training conference by **February 28** will be able to purchase the book for \$15. The regular price is \$24.95, so take advantage of this opportunity to get this helpful resource. Pastors who register for the conference will receive a free copy. When you preregister, let us know you want a book so we can be sure to bring enough copies. **DEADLINE for registration for the meal is Monday, March 13 at 5:00PM.** 

# **Uniquely Bi-vocational Pastors**

Tuesday, February 21, 2017 6:00 pm

Also, mark your calendars to change our March meeting. It will be Tuesday, March 28!

**Tuesday Bible Classes** resume in February." Being a Faithful Servant" is the topic for the morning Bible classes that will be each Tuesday for 5 weeks: Feb. 7, 14, 21, 18, Mar. 7 from 10:30 – noon. You do not have to preregister and there is no cost for the classes. Just bring your Bible, a pen and a notebook. The classes will be taught by Dr. Alice Cullinan.





# Leadership Training event:

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

Thursday, Feb. 23, 6:30-8:00 PM, at the associational office, 1175 Wyke Rd, Shelby

"Enlisting, Training and Encouraging Volunteers"

Leader: Missy Smith, Minister to Preschoolers and Children, First Baptist, Shelby

No preregistration necessary. We hope you will be a part of this very informative conference. It is something all churches struggle with at times.

## **Associational Senior Adult Rally**

Spread the Word

Thursday, March 30, 8:45-12:30
Boiling Springs Baptist
Theme: Faith and Fun

Guest speaker: John Carter, WBTV News Anchor (You will need to

preregister since we will be serving lunch. Call the associational office at 704-482-3472 or register on our webpage at gccba.org)

# **Education and Network Opportunities**

The **Associational Bible Drill** will be on Sunday,
March 26th at Polkville
Baptist Church at 3:00 pm!



The **Associational RA Race Car Derby** will be on Friday March 3rd at Mt. Sinai Baptist Church. The weigh in will start at 6:15 with the race beginning by 6:45. Please come join us for fun and fellowship.



## 17th Annual Senior Adult Music Day

Rehearsal and Lunch: Thursday, March 16th at Flint Hill Baptist Church 9 AM until 1 PM Presentation: Sunday, March 19th at Elizabeth Baptist Church 6:00 PM Featuring Guest Clinician, Marty Parks, from Mississippi

We will be doing the sequel to last year! "Well Seasoned Praise #3" by Marty Parks From "Word Publishing" REGISTRATION FOR SR. ADULT MUSIC DAY 2017 DEADLINE- WED. MARCH 8TH to the Associational Office The cost per person is \$8 (this includes everything on Thursday)

# **Missions Opportunities**

The **Share the Warmth** Round Up program offers customer a way to help low-income individuals and families pay their monthly energy bills. Since 1985, the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association has been the exclusive distributor for Share the Warmth in Cleveland County. You can also have a very important part in this endeavor by mailing your contributions to the Duke Energy Foundation and having them matched dollar-for -dollar by the foundation. **MAKE CHECKS** 

# PAYABLE TO SHARE THE WARMTH

**FUND** and mail them to the following address: Share the Warmth Fund, The Duke Energy Foundation, P O Box 35469, Charlotte, NC 28254-3429

### **POTATO PROJECT DINNER**

A great thing that comes from all ages of people working together in the Cleveland County Potato Project are the friendships formed while serving the Lord in the potato fields. Since the first harvest of potatoes a celebration dinner has been held to allow friends to reunite and share potato project memories and stories. This year has been no exception and the annual dinner has been announced by Doug Sharp, one of the co-founders of the project.

The dinner will be at the Shelby Mission Camp on Thursday, January 26, 2017, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The cost will be \$8.00 per person and spouses, friends, and those seeking more information about the project are welcome. To make your reservation call (704) 472-5128 or (704) 480-1608.

## 2016 FOOD GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

## \*\* DIAPERS ALWAYS NEEDED \*\*

WACO: macaroni & cheese, canned salmon or tuna, soup, stew, flour, powdered milk, paper towels

**KINGS MOUNTAIN:** rice, canned vegetables and meats, peanut butter, crackers, macaroni & cheese, powdered milk, spaghetti & canned meat sauce, sugar, flour, shampoo

**GROVER:** canned spaghetti & meatballs, ravioli, oatmeal, rice, dried beans, flour, powdered milk, paper napkins, clothing detergent

**POLKVILLE:** canned meats, stew, tuna, cereal, peanut butter, saltine crackers, soup, dried beans, Kleenex, clothing detergent

**LATTIMORE:** canned spaghetti sauce and noodles, grits, oatmeal, cereal, rice, dried beans, dish detergent

**SHELBY:** peanut butter, saltine crackers, soup, canned fruits & juice, sugar, flour, bath soap, toilet tissue



Here are suggested items needed. (GCCBA churches by geographical areas) We can always use canned meat products, soups, peanut butter, crackers, canned vegetables, and nonperishable fruit!

# **Missions Opportunities**



We will have an informational meeting for our Nicaragua Mission Trip on ISSIONS January 31st at 6:30. If you would like more information about this trip, please make plans to attend. If you are unable

to come but are interested, please contact Katie or Wesley.

We are making plans for our summer **mission** trip to New Albany Indiana. Last year we started a wonderful partnership with NAMB church planters, the local association, and several churches in and around the New Albany area. The trip this year will be July 8th-14th. Be on the lookout for more information to follow.





## Friday Feed the Hungry Lunch **Program**

We are in need of groups to sign up to help at our Friday Feed the Hungry lunch program that takes place every Friday at First Baptist. Groups that come help by providing sandwiches, chips, and cookies for 75 people. Groups are also welcome to bring hot food to serve. These groups come to the lunch and help serve. If you are interested in helping, please contact Katie.



Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina, Incorporated

## Day of Giving, February 5, 2017

Children's Homes of Cleveland County, is a provider of services to children and families in crisis due to abuse and neglect. The agency is in the Right of Passage Campaign to raise money to build a new facility that will increase the size of the Out-Patient Mental Health services, enhance the Supervised Visitation Program, move the administrative offices from rented space saving money for other programs, and developing Independent Transitional apartments for youth aging out of the foster care system. We need YOUR help!

We ask you to join fellow congregations in celebrating February 5, 2017 as a day of giving to the Right of Passage campaign. This is a wonderful opportunity to involve youth and children through a bike-athon, bake sale, car wash, sports tournaments, or coin drive. Other ideas include love offerings, special funds contributions or dinners. No matter how you are called to respond, we will be blessed by the activity that best fits your congregation.

"And the king shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me". Matthew 25:40

Please call Nancy Scism (704-300-5800) to indicate your willingness to participate in this important event. Call Margie Christopher (704-484-2558) or email (mcchcc@charlotte.twcbc.com) with guestions or a request for a speaker at one of your services or additional brochures. We will have a bulletin insert available for the February 5th service if you would like to have that; just let us know by mid January. We need your support to help these young people who are struggling.

# GCCBA Bulletin Board

# Pastors Anniversaries for March

Camps Creek:

Buddy Morehead, 5 years

Dover:

Ervin Price, 10 years

Goodes Grove:

Robert Hensley, 6 years

New Hope:

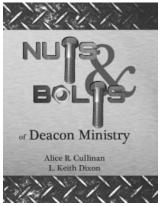
Russ Bradley, 11 years

Pathway:

James Hamrick, 39 years

Westover:

Kevin Whittington, 4 years



\$24.95

# DEACON TRAINING BOOK

# **NOW AVAILABLE**

Keith and Alice have worked for over 3 years compiling, writing and adding other helpful information from 10 years of deacon training

events and their own personal ministry experience. They have started a non-profit ministry called Lamplighters Ministries, through which they will make these books and other resources available to churches and church leaders. Please prayerfully consider purchasing books for your pastor and deacons as well as yourself. (The material is helpful for anyone wanting to grow in their walk with Jesus.)

Donations to Lamplighters Ministries are tax -deductible and will be used to provide books and other materials to churches who cannot afford to purchase them. Bi-vocational pastors, and churches with less than 100 members, will be given 2 free copies of the Deacon Ministry book as monies are available. (Visit lamplightersministries.org for more information about this ministry and resources. Prayers are appreciated.) Pastors who attend the Deacon Training event March 20 will receive a free copy. Deacons who attend will have the opportunity to purchase the book for only \$15. (regularly \$24.95) Preregistration is necessary by Feb. 28.

## Pray for our Pastor less Churches

Beaver Dam ~ Christopher Road ~ Crestview ~ Grover First ~ Lily Memorial ~ Temple ~ Zoar



We are in need of volunteers to work in our food pantry and clothing



**room.** If you would be willing to spend a couple of hours a week stocking food and making food bags or sorting clothing and helping clients, please contact Katie or Charles. There is also a form located on our website.

We also have **volunteer openings for our Crisis Assistance desk**; answering

the phone, greeting clients and doing intake forms. This is a big ministry of the GCCBA. In order for us to best serve our community we need more great volunteers! Please consider serving with us!

# 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.

#### Beaver Dam:

Beaver Dam Baptist Church, Shelby, NC is currently seeking a full-time Senior Pastor. We are a conservative, Southern Baptist, family and community oriented church that was established in 1850. We are a thriving church with an average Sunday School attendance of 150. The Senior pastor will lead three services each week (Sunday morning Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening). He will work alongside an associate pastor, minister of music, and minister of children and youth. Senior Pastor should have a minimum of five years pastoral experience with a seminary degree from an accredited seminary. After prayerful consideration, please submit résumés to: Pastor Search Committee, Beaver Dam Baptist Church, 123 Beaver Dam Church Road, Shelby, NC 28152.

# Church Needs.....

#### **Available Positions in our Churches:**

Beaver Dam Baptist Church is seeking a part-time pianist/accompanist. Our services feature a blend of traditional and contemporary music as well as a variety of instrumental and vocal ensembles. To submit a resume or obtain further information please send inquiries tomichelle@bdbcshelby.com.

## First Baptist Shelby:

First Baptist is prayerfully seeking an Church Administrative Assistant. We are looking for an individual with a variety of administrative gifts, professional demeanor and a heart for ministry. A full job description is on the GCCBA website. Qualified candidates can send cover letter and resume to business@fbcshelby.org

#### Lattimore:

Lattimore Baptist Church is seeking a part-time Church Secretary to provide support for the pastor, music director, children's director, youth director, church clerk, deacons and other committee chairpersons. Applicants should have administrative skills, the ability to manage multiple tasks and meet deadlines, a proficiency in Church Power Plus and the Microsoft Office Suite, including Word and Excel. Applications will be accepted through November 15. Interested individuals may mail or e-mail a cover letter, resume, and references to: Lattimore Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Court Greene, PO Box 188, Lattimore, NC 28089 courtgreene@yahoo.com

#### **Mulls Memorial:**

Mulls Memorial is praying for a part time pianist. This position will require Sunday morning service and choir practice. They can send a letter of interest with salary requirements to MMBC Attn: worship committee-3299 Fallston road, Shelby NC 28150.

Mulls memorial has a PT opening for music director focusing on traditional Baptist hymns but not limited to only traditional hymns. This position would only require attendance at morning worship and choir practice. Please send letter of interest and salary requirements to MMBC attn: worship committee 3299 Fallston Rd Shelby NC 28150.

## Oak Grove:

Oak Grove Baptist is currently seeking a pianist and organist. If anyone shows an interest in either position, please have them contact: mjimison@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 looking for a part-time secretary (18 hours/week) to support the pastor and other staff members. A proficiency in Excel, Word and Media Shout is a bonus. If interested, they can send a resume to Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 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

#### 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: <a href="mailto:employment@polkvillebaptist.com">employment@polkvillebaptist.com</a>; or by USPS to: Search Committee, Polkville Baptist Church, Post Office Box 245, Polkville, NC 28136.

## **Poplar Springs:**

Poplar Springs Baptist Church is seeking an experienced part time organist. Responsibilities include playing all regularly scheduled Sunday Services, practice with choir on Wednesday night, playing for any specially scheduled church activities, funerals and weddings as needed. Resumes may be mailed to Personnel Committee, Poplar Springs Baptist Church, 1106 Poplar Springs Church Road, Shelby, NC 28152.

#### Ross Grove:

Ross Grove is looking for a part time Minister of Music. The interested parties would need to send a resume to 1225 Fallston Rd Shelby NC 28150 Attn: Personnel Committee or email them to Rossgrovebaptistchurch@gmail.com The church phone number is 704-482-6051.

## Sandy Plains:

Sandy Plains is seeking a Music Director for Wednesday night and Sunday Morning. Please contact Suzanne Gibbs 704-434-6578 for further details.

If any of these positions have been filled please let me know at <a href="mailto:nicole@gccba.org">nicole@gccba.org</a>

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

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.

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# THE BEACON

# STAFF, PHONE EXTENSIONS & EMAIL

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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

- 2— Grover Breakfast Carolina Crossing 8:30 am Kings Mountain Youth Ministers Fellowship Love's Fish Box 1:00 pm, Church Financial Meeting GCCBA 6:30 PM
- **3** Friday Hungry Program at Shelby First, 12:30 pm
- 6- Ministers Conference, GCCBA, 10:00 am
- **7** Dr. Cullinan Bible Study Class GCCBA 10:30 am GCCBA Staff Meeting 3:30 pm
- 9 Lattimore Breakfast at Bulldog Quick Snack 8:30 am Shelby Youth Ministers Lunch at Jammin J's at noon
- **10** Friday Hungry Program at Shelby First, 12:30 pm
- **14**—Dr. Cullinan Bible Study Class GCCBA 10:30 am GCCBA Staff Meeting 3:30 pm
- 16—Belwood Lunch at Hwy 18 North Café 11:30 am
- 17 Friday Hungry Program at Shelby First, 12:30 pm
- 21 Dr. Cullinan Bible Study Class GCCBA 10:30 am GCCBA Staff Meeting 3:30 pm, Uniquely Bi-vocational Pastor 6:00 pm
- **23** Thrive, GCCBA, 9:30 am, Enlisting Volunteers Training, GCCBA, 6:30
- 24- Friday Hungry Program at Shelby First, 12:30
- 27 10:00 am Pastor Coffee Fellowship
- 28 Dr. Cullinan Bible Study Class GCCBA 10:30 am GCCBA Staff Meeting 3:30 pm

