

Allen Memorial
 Arise
 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
 Lily 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
 Shelby Second
 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 58, Issue 1

Website: gccba.org

January 2016



The written word in the Gospel of Luke describing the birth of the Lord Jesus is still as fresh each time we read it as it was the day it was written. Each time I read this passage the Lord gives me new insight about how miraculous this birth really was. When we realize that God in heaven sent his only son into the world for me and you, we begin to understand how truly remarkable God's love is for us. The only way to the Father is through the Son. Luke 2:17 is a mandate for us to reach out to others as the Father has reached out to us. Each time we approach the Christmas season I would encourage you to take a few moments and read again the old, but ever new story from Luke's gospel, chapter 2.

May the blessings of the Lord be with you and your family this Christmas and the New Year.

Merry Christmas,
Tony



In just one week I had a conversation with two mothers who described their children's emotional reactions to certain situations. They noticed that their children were exhibiting compassion or lack of it even at a young age. Immediately I thought about a passage in Ephesians 4 that gives valuable insight into the human heart. Paul shares the differences between the feelings and behavior of a believer and non-believer. Of course, young children are not old enough to make spiritual commitments, so the behavior we see exhibited in them is a snapshot of the human heart. But when we reach the 'age of accountability' and invite Jesus to be our Lord and Savior, we then have a spiritual nature that helps negate the downward pull of the old, human nature with all of its traits. Although some people exhibit some admirable natural abilities such as kindness and compassion, the old nature in us all is basically selfish and mean! Note how Paul addresses the problem: 'Unbelievers are 'alienated from the life of God because of the willful ignorance and spiritual blindness that is within them, because of the hardness and insensitivity of their heart.' (Eph 4:18). He admonishes believers, however, to 'be kind and helpful to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding), forgiving one another just as God in Christ forgave you.' (Eph 4:32) Hard-hearted vs tenderhearted. We see this played out each day in the young and the not so young. Compassionate or indifferent; kind or mean; self-giving or self-centered. And we see it during the Christmas holidays! Let's spend time in the Lord's presence each day, asking Him to keep the old nature under control in order that He can live His life out through us. May His blessings be on you and yours this Christmas season and throughout the New Year!

Dr. Alice Cullinan

Thoughts from our staff....

It's the most wonderful time of the year... to me these are not just song lyrics but truly how I feel about the Christmas season. The parties, church programs, lights, decorations, and spending time with family all make for an exciting time in each of our lives. I love to read Christian novels, especially those written by Karen Kingsbury. In her novel, *Take Four*, one of the families has a large house and is always hosting parties and having friends and family over. The daughter asked her Mom if she ever got tired of having people over and she said "When we bought this house, your father and I promised God we'd use it, that we'd fill it with people and feed everyone who came in, and put reminders of His word on the walls." What a great reminder this was for me that we are to use everything God has given us to bless others and honor Him. Spend time thinking this Christmas season about how you can use your home for the Lord. Can you host a Christmas party for your church, invite an un-churched neighbor for dinner, or invite the widow down the street over for dessert? God has blessed us all with the homes we live in; let's use them to honor and glorify Him all throughout the coming year.

Serving Together,
Katie Harris

††††††††††

It is Christmas

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:14

Twenty-eight years ago, I came to the United States from the city of Managua where the temperature is very hot to a very cold Florida. I brought along some shirts that are called "guayaberas" in Nicaragua that are made of very thin fabric. Some brothers and sisters of the Gethsemane Church of Miami took me to a store and bought me a sweater and a jacket. That year was the saddest Christmas because my wife and three kids had remained in Nicaragua. Everything in America dazzled me with all of the lights. Then came the time that I celebrated Christmas with a part of my family, my wife, my sister-in-law and my son José Jr. I was so overwhelmed with joy that I could not keep the tears from my eyes. But we still had mixed emotions because of the great distances between us and the families surrounding us. I realized how much wealth there is in America; I realized their traditions, and I felt that God had actually brought us to the land that flows with milk and honey. I had to press on with my life and try to help my other loved ones who were still in Managua. I am writing this here at my desk in the association and reflect on how many blessings God has poured out upon my life and on the lives of my children and of my wife. I also cherish the time that I have devoted to the Lord in his work and it seems so brief. It sometimes seems as if I have not done anything, but I have to continue until Jesus comes back. The only reason I have spent long hours and traveled great distances is because of the King who was born, because of Christ our Savior, because He gave his life to rescue us. Christmas time is a wonderful time in my family where with simplicity and humility of heart Latinos we know and have met eat in the facility available to us because of the association. Many American families also may have experienced the same things I did, lacking heat, lacking love, lacking food, dreaming of also having an angel to visit them and bless them with all the desires of their heart. I talk with them about the Royal night of Christmas, a blessing from heaven for them. Christmas is a time for lots of love, a time of much suffering for many, and a time of preparation time, but also it is a time of disappointments. What does Christmas mean to you? Christ is the Christmas of my life, today and always I will continue celebrating Christmas. A King is born to us. Christ the Lord.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Rev. José A. Espinal. Hispanic Language Missionary.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR in 2016

From the Reed household to yours we wish you a blessed and joyous Christmas celebration and wishing you God's best in the new year ahead! I close with the last verse of **AWAY IN A MANAGER** as a prayer for Christmas and New Year's:

*Be near me Lord Jesus ; I ask Thee to stay, close by me forever, and love me I pray-
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care; and fit us for heaven to live with Thee
there.*

His Peace and Grace- Charles Reed

Education and Network Opportunities



Bible Reading Program

Daily Bible Reading Plan

It is not too late to be a part of our new Bible Reading Plan in the gospels, Acts and Romans. Call the associational office (704-482-3472) to get a copy or go to our website at <http://www.gccba.org>.

Bible Study at Westwood Heights Baptist Church

Dr. Cullinan will be teaching a Bible study on January 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 6:00 PM on "Claiming God's Promises" at Westwood Heights Baptist, 650 Dellinger Rd, Shelby. There is no pre-registration or cost involved...just come and learn how to claim the rich promises God has given us in His Word!

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesday Bible studies will resume on February 2 at 10:30 A.M. at the associational office, top floor. Dr. Cullinan will be leading us in a study on "The Fear of God." There is no cost or pre-registration. Bring your Bible and a pen and join us! Most of us have heard the phrase 'The Fear of God,' but may have little understanding of what it means or why it is so significant.

Minister's Conference/Learning Community

Monday, January 4, 2016

10:00 Fellowship

10:30 Program

Rev. Rick Astle

Subject: "The Pastor's Prayer Life"

Missions Opportunities



We have been so blessed by the donations of toys and money given to us for our annual **Christmas Toy Store**. This year we are helping around 500 children with toys. This long-standing ministry has developed into a great way to minister to our community. It is because of the wonderful volunteers and donations from our churches that we are able to help so many families.

I am now working on the schedule for the 2016 **Friday Feed the Hungry Lunch** Program. If you are interested in signing up to help one Friday please contact me. We try to reserve the summer dates for youth and children's groups. This is a great way to teach young people about serving others.



I will be sending out information very soon about the associational **Summer Mission trips** for 2016. It is hard to believe that it's time to start planning mission trips again. I am so thankful for the commitment our churches have to sharing God's love to those all around the world.



Please remember that the schedule for our **Block Party Trailer** fills up very fast in the summer so if you want to use it for VBS or other summer events, please call soon.



Who could your church impact in One Day?
April 30 or May 7, 2016

Operation InAsMuch 2016

OIAM Training/Roundtable

January 9th, 2016 – 9am til 2pm

Contact David Brown to register

919-422-9990

dbrown@ncbaptist.org

Missions Opportunities

CLEVELAND COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES

LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) provides a one-time annual vendor payment to help eligible families pay their primary heating expense.

To qualify, a household must meet the income guideline, resources valued at no more than \$2,250, contain at least one US Citizen or eligible alien and be a fully vulnerable household. A fully vulnerable household is a household with a heating source which is billed SEPARARATELY for the heat expense.

1 person household = \$1276 2 person household = \$1726

3 person household = \$2177 4 person household = \$2628

To be potentially eligible to receive LIEAP benefits during December 1st thru December 31st, the household must fall into one of the two target groups as defined by the State:

At least one person in the home must be 60 or older **OR**

At least one person in the home must be a Disabled Adult (18+) receiving SSI, SSA Disability or 100 % VA Disability **AND** receiving some type of service paid through the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS).

Any household can potentially receive benefits from January 4th through March 31st or until funds are exhausted.

Applications are taken Monday thru Friday 8-5 on a first come, first serve basis and as long as funds are available until March 31st. Special Provisions are available if an applicant lives in a rural location and has no means of transportation or is unable to come in or send someone due to disability or incapacitation.

Please call 704-487-0661 Ext #394; leave name and phone number and someone will contact the household in regard to a mail out application.

CLEVELAND COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES

CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) serves individuals and families who are experiencing a heating (or cooling-in summer) related crisis. Households must be experiencing a heating or cooling crisis and sufficient, timely and appropriate assistance is not available from any other source. The household must have a disconnect notice for their primary heating (or cooling) service or already be out and the health or well-being of a household member would be in danger if the crisis was not alleviated. This program begins July and runs thru June (State Fiscal Year) unless funds are exhausted before then. Households must meet the income guideline, contain at least one US Citizen or eligible alien, and a crisis situation must exist. This is a weather based program so the forecast is viewed daily. Funds for the program can only be used when the weather is severe. The maximum allowed benefit amount per State fiscal year is \$600. We can only approve what will alleviate the household's immediate crisis.

1 person household = \$1471 2 person household = \$1991

3 person household = \$2511 4 person household = \$3031

Applications are taken Monday thru Friday on a first come, first serve basis. Scheduling appointments or mailing out applications, are not appropriate for this program due to the federal requirement to alleviate a crisis within 18 to 48 hours of application. We provide a daily update regarding both the LIEAP and CRISIS program at 704-487-0661 Ext. 394.

EMPTY STOCKING FUND

The Shelby Star has selected GCCBA, Inc. once again to partner with them in the Empty Stocking Fund where readers can send gifts to the Star and then we are given the funds to distribute to people in need as we see fit. This year there is a challenging goal of \$40,000 to raise to help families in need with toys and emergency bills they cannot afford to pay in their time of crisis. All contributions this year come to the association and should you make a contribution to them we say thank you as we will administer your gift to people in need in Cleveland County.



Missions Opportunities

SHARE THE WARMTH 2015-2016

The Share the Warmth (STW) program provides financial assistance for heating bills during the winter season for low income families within the Duke Energy service territory in the Carolinas. Since the program's establishment in 1985, Duke has provided over \$33 million in heating bill assistance.

Funding for Share the Warmth comes from Duke Energy customers, employees and the Duke Energy Foundation. In November, Duke Energy customers receive a bill insert about the STW program. The Duke Energy Foundation will match up to \$500,000 in contributions during the heating season.

Over 80 agencies within the Duke Energy service territory in the Carolinas assist in the distribution of the funds and the distributor in Cleveland County, NC, is the Greater Cleveland Baptist Association, Inc. located in Shelby. Contributions may be tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to SHARE THE WARMTH FUND and mailed to:

Share the Warmth Fund
The Duke Energy Foundation
P.O. Box 35469
Charlotte, N.C. 28254-3429

Thank you for caring for your neighbors who are having a difficult time during these cold winter months.

Prayer requests

Please be in prayer for the search committee of our association who are seeking to know God's will about who will come to serve as the next associational missionary. And please pray for the staff as we are in the process of planning next year's work, mission trips, conferences, Bible studies, etc. We want to hear from God as we plan.



FOOD GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

Thanks to so many churches and organizations who donated food to our food pantry ministry in the last quarter of 2015. Church groups had food drives, civic organizations made food donations and so did many families and individuals who dropped off food donations to feed hungry people in our county. We use this as an opportunity to show the Love of Christ and His Care for as we give them food, so thank you for helping us sustain this vital ministry.

A special thanks to the RAs at Beaver Dam Church who had a food drive in November and delivered over 2000 cans of food to the associational food pantry!

2015 FOOD GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

**** DIAPERS ALWAYS NEEDED ****

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

GCCBA Bulletin Board

Block Party Trailer:

The GCCBA Block Party Trailer is available to our churches to use at VBS, Block Parties, Family Fun Days, etc. The trailer includes a snow cone machine, popcorn machine, and cotton candy machine. The cost of the trailer is \$100 and that includes all supplies needed for the machines. In order to make our trailer more user friendly we now have pre mixed snow cone syrup and cotton candy supplies so you no longer have to purchase sugar. The only thing you have to provide is the ice for the snow cones. We are also looking into purchasing games to put in the trailer. If you would like to reserve the trailer or have questions contact Katie at katie@gccba.org or 704-482-3472.

Please remember to visit our website at www.gccba.org and Facebook page at www.facebook.com/gccbashelby to learn about area Church Events and other associational announcements.



Apple Devices



Android Devices

Thank you

We would like to Thank all who were involved in the Thanksgiving Meal at the Shelby Mission Camp. Through baking desserts, slicing turkeys, cooking, serving, clean-up, delivery of meals or financial support, your contribution was greatly appreciated. Due to our great volunteers, we were able to provide meals for 560 people.

David and Janet Brown

I will be glad to post your church event on our website calendar and I will also put it on our Facebook page! Just send me the information to my email nicole@gccba.org



Our APP and Website

There are many helpful resources on our app and our website. Please check these out and help us get the word out to others. We have Bible study materials and links to Bible study and training videos that will be helpful to you. Website address: <http://www.gccba.org> You can get our app by going to the website and scanning the code, or you can go to the play store or appstore on your phone and typing in "Greater Cleveland county ba"

Wanted

-Bibles (all kinds in any condition); Christian Literature (Sunday School, church training, tracts, devotionals, magazines from Christian publishers, sheet music, etc.);
-Christian Books of all kinds (hymns, Bible Study, concordances, Bible dictionaries and regular dictionaries, commentaries, children and adult Christian books and paperbacks, etc.);
- Christian tapes; cassettes; videos; CD's; DVD's, etc. Spanish: Bibles, Sunday School literature, and Devotional books. Literature can be new or used. All material is sorted, boxed and sent to another Ministry, where it is sent to our brothers and sisters in poor Third World Countries. If you or your church would like to join "Harvest Seeds Ministry", please contact [Pat Hamrick from Mt. Sinai Baptist Church 704-487-7518](mailto:Pat.Hamrick@mtsinai.org) or for Churches in Upper Cleveland County, [New Bethel Baptist Church in Lawndale is now a collection site for "Harvest Seeds."](mailto:NewBethelBaptist@lawndale.org) Please contact Tony Fogleman at 704-538-0223 or you can bring them by the GCCBA Office.

Please do not send: RA, GA, Acteens, and Mission Friends material; and Angels on Earth magazines

Church Needs.....

Available Positions in our Churches:

Double Springs:

Double Springs Baptist Church is seeking God's leadership as we search for just the right individual to serve as part-time Minister of Music / Worship Leader. Please send resume to: dsbc@carolina.rr.com or 1130 Double Springs Church Road, Shelby, NC 28150 attn: Personnel Committee.

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

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 pbbc1851@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:

Ross Grove is in need of a part-time Custodian, 12hours per week, prefer to have person work 2 days-6 hours per day. Please send letter of interest or resume to: Ross Grove Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 1225 Fallston Road, Shelby, NC 28150.

Pray for our Pastor less Churches

Pleasant Hill~ Ross Grove ~
Sandy Plains~ Temple



Pastors Anniversaries for January

Carpenter's Grove:

Jason Allen, 1 year

Gethsemane Hispanic:

Jose Espinal, 7 years

Grover First:

John Barnhardt, 10 years

New Covenant:

Brandon McElahney, 1 year

Polkville:

Rick Hamrick, 9 years

Sunrise:

Dennis Harmon, 14 years

Trinity:

Mike Frazier, 3 years

Zoar:

Rob Helton, 6 years



Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association, Inc.
1175 Wyke Road
Shelby, NC 28150
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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:
Tony Fulbright, 104—tony@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



- 1**— GCCBA OFFICE CLOSED
- 4**— Ministers Conference 10:00 am GCCBA
- 5**— GCCBA Staff Meeting 3:30pm
- 7**— Grover Breakfast 8:30am Carolina Crossing
- 12**— GCCBA Staff Meeting 3:30pm
- 18**— GCCBA OFFICE CLOSED
- 19**— GCCBA Staff Meeting 3:30pm
- 21**— Belwood Lunch 11:30 am Hwy 18 North Cafe
- 26**— GCCBA Staff Meeting 3:30pm
- 28**— Thrive/Revive 9:30 am GCCBA