

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
 Hope Community
 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
 Sunrise
 Temple
 Trinity
 Union
 Victory
 Waco
 Wallace Grove
 Washington Missionary
 Westover
 Westview
 Westwood Heights
 White Harvest
 Zion
 Zion Hill
 Zoar

Office: 704-482-3472

Website: gccba.org



Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association

Uniting congregations in effective missions and ministries

THE BEACON



Volume 60, Issue 1

January 2018

*Merry
Christmas
and Happy
New Year!*

Wesley Smith
Katie Harris
Nicole Masley
Jeff Smith

May the warmth and
joy
of the Christmas
Season
remain with you
throughout
the coming year.

"When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them"
Luke 2:17-18

I have shared that Scripture in a prior issue. The shepherds were compelled to share what they had been told about Jesus. Their encounter with Jesus changed their lives forever. They had seen the Messiah! Luke tells us that "all who heard it were amazed." Shepherds are not known for their communication skills, however when they told others the story of them seeing Jesus, everyone was amazed. Something happened in them. Not only did they have a story to tell, but I believe others knew they were telling the truth because of how they were sharing it.

Another Christmas has come and gone. Have we encountered Jesus? Are we excited about telling others about him? Over eighty thousand people in Cleveland County need to hear, see and know Jesus. How are we going to reach them?

Luke tells us when the shepherds returned they were glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard. The primary purpose of the church is to glorify God. I pray that we as churches are focusing on glorifying God! ("Flickering Lamps: Christ and His Church" pg. 8) See also, Romans 11:36 and Ephesians 3:20-21.

Praying and Serving With You!
Wesley

"The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told."
Luke 2:20

Thoughts from our Staff.....

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as Director of Church and Community Ministries in GCCBA for the past 28 years. Once again, I express my deepest gratitude to the volunteers and staff who have so faithfully served, too, to make the CCM a ministry that has touched so many lives in meaningful ways and brought help and hope in their time of crisis. I know you will continue to encourage and help the volunteers and staff in the future as they continue to serve those in need in the county.

My family and I were most grateful for the drop-in reception given for us and I thank you particularly for your prayers, well-wishes for the future, and encouraging cards and comments shared with us in that special time together.

As we have just celebrated Advent, Christmas, and we have the hope of a New Year ahead, a refrain continues to come to my mind to remind us to make room in our hearts for Christ to richly indwell us and serve Him every day:

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
For Thy holy nativity:
Oh, come to my heart, Lord Jesus!
There is room in my heart for Thee;
Oh, come to my heart, Lord Jesus, come,
There is room in my heart for Thee.

Charles Reed



One thing I love most about the Christmas season is the giving spirit of people. At Christmas time you see and hear of people helping provide food and toys for families in need, and people give more to ministries and missions so that God's love can be shared around the world. People seem more willing to give a smile or nod to those they see in the mall, in restaurants, or around town. All around you hear people exchanging Merry Christmas and God bless you and your family. As I think about this, I am reminded of the verses in James 1:22-25 where God commands us to be doers of the Word and not just hearers. God wants us to have this same giving and loving spirit year round, not just at Christmas time. Our life should portray His by our actions and words. As the new year starts, I pray that each of us will make a special effort to be doers of the Word by showing Christ to all those around us each and every day.

Katie



The Spirit of the Lord Comes with the Spirit of Christmas

Isaiah 40:3-5: "A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken. '"

We have completed the year 2017, and it has passed on fast. The year 2018 is at the door already. And like with all work the end brings a time to sit, think, and meditate on the past--the risks taken, the failures, but also the achievements and victories that Christ the Lord gave us. We were instruments of the Lord in His hands. His melodies were executed in us. We could fulfill the role of His plans in our lives. We could take to the unbeliever the Word of God. We could work as Bible teachers and mentor younger believers in the faith. We could travel in the power of Christ and give testimony of all the wealth of knowledge delivered by the Master of

Thoughts from our Staff.....

our lives. We could economically invest in the Kingdom, and also give to others by feeding, clothing, building His Kingdom, educating people to help fill their pantries and cellars, and giving thanks because now it is Christmas, a special time of celebration where Christ receives all honor and glory. The Lord is the center of all worship. It is not bad that there are lights, decorated trees, colors, gifts to the deprived, food for those in need because all of this gives us a way to point to Jesus Christ which is the primary motivation in our lives. The Lord is who deserves honor and praise. He is our Redeemer, our Savior. Thank You, Lord, because we have met, and we are prepared to be your servants in the fields of the work of you again in this new year. Thank You because just as John the Baptist was a voice also crying in the wilderness, we are continually preparing that path, a path that leads to the Kingdom of God. We are grateful also to be singers of the power of Christ, who helps twisted lives and straightens paths. Thank You for the power of the Word and accessibility of the Gospel of the Lord and for changing hearts. Thank You because today, even in the current century, Your glory is manifested and You are magnified with songs of victory, with celestial hymns, with trumpets, drums, flutes and tambourines. Christ the Lord is born. To him is the glory forever and ever amen. I wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2018 to all the congregations of our association.

Rev. José. A. Espinal, Hispanic Language Missionary

Jose and Maria Espinal are available to come cook a meal for your church family and share about GCCBA mission work in Nicaragua. The proceeds from the meal go to help support our dental clinic in Jinotega, Nicaragua. To schedule his group to cook a meal, please contact Katie Harris.



Education and Network Opportunities

Tuesday Bible Study

Winter Bible Study begins Tuesday, January 9 at 10:00 AM led by Dr. Jim McConnell from the Gardner-Webb School of Divinity. He will be leading the five week study on 1st Peter. The class will meet 9, 16, 23, 30, & Feb. 6th from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. You do not have to preregister and there is no cost for the classes. Just bring your Bible, a pen and a notebook.



January Ministers Conference:

January 8, 2018- 11:30am Lunch/
Fellowship/Prayer- 12:00pm
Dr. Wayne Stacy, Liberty University.
"Pastoral Vision Statement: (1) The Church's Identity; (2) The Church's Mission, (3) The Role of the Pastor in light of that. Join us for this time of learning! All pastors and staff are encouraged to attend.

Round Table Discussions will give ministry leaders the ability to discuss and talk about their ministries. What's working, what's not working? How we can improve, and work together, and also talk about how the ministry helps your church accomplish its mission and vision.

All Meetings will be held at the GCCBA OFFICE

Singles, Adult and Senior Adult Ministry—Tuesday, January 9, 2018, 6:30pm

Compassion Ministry (Crisis Assistance i.e., Food Pantry, Clothing, Benevolence, etc.) Tuesday, January 16, 2018, 6:30pm

Music Ministry - Thursday, January 25, 2018, 6:30pm

Youth and Children's Ministry - Monday, February 12, 6:30pm

Men's and Women's Ministry - (WMU & Brotherhood included) Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 6:30pm

Retired Ministers - Monday, March 19, 2018 at 10:00 AM

Sunday School Directors/Small Groups Coordinators - Monday, April 30, 6:30pm

Missions Opportunities



Christmas Toy Store

I appreciate everyone who gave to our 2017 Christmas Toy Store. Because of your gracious help, we were able to provide toys for over 250 children in Cleveland County. I want to say a special thank you to the many volunteers who came and assisted during the Toy Store. This is a large ministry that would not be possible without help from our wonderful volunteers.

We will be having a **Mission Trip Interest** meeting on February 1st at 6:30. During this meeting we discuss dates for our summer trips. In you are interested in more information please make plans to attend this important meeting.

Friday Feed the Hungry Lunch Program

We are currently looking for churches to help at our Friday Feed the Hungry lunch each Friday in 2018. Groups that come will be asked to provide chips, cookies, and sandwiches for 75 people. Groups will help serve lunch to the needy in Cleveland County. If you would like to help please contact Katie Harris.



Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type:	Octo 2017	Nov 2017
Food	21	30
Medicine	4	2
Rent	1	1
Power	54	25
Clothes	12	17
Dental	1	0
Other Medical	2	0
Hotel	0	0
Other	2	0
Counseling	40	39
Total Assisted Units:	137	114



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR "OPERATION INASMUCH 2018," APRIL 28TH! GET YOUR CHURCH COORDINATORS NOW, AND LET US KNOW WHO THEY ARE AND HOW TO CONTACT THEM.



The Day of Giving for Children's Homes of Cleveland County is February 4, 2018. Our agency is very close to beginning construction on the new facility that will include transitional housing for youth aging out of the foster care system. Yet, there are still many needs and there are many ways that churches and missions groups can be helpful. Last year at the Day of Giving some of the ideas to raise money were a soup lunch, a Pickleball Tournament, a love offering, a fund raising festival among others. This year the options are even greater. Would your church like to have a "Kitchen shower" or a "bathroom shower" to supply one of the apartments? Would you like to stock a kitchen with all the gadgets one needs to cook? Or would you like to schedule a date in the fall and stock the cabinets with food? Perhaps bath towels and shower curtains are what you would like to donate. We need all of these items for the apartments!

If you would like bulletin inserts for that day please let us know and we can supply information about our agency and the Right of Passage campaign, just call 704-484-2558 and ask for Margie. If you want more information about our project go to YouTube and search for **CHCC Right of Passage**. Our sincere thanks to all of you that took part in last year's Day of Giving.

Missions Opportunities

DUKE ENERGY FOUNDATION

Share the Warmth was established in 1985 to assist Carolina's residents in need with winter heating bills and is funded by our customers, employees and the Duke Energy Foundation. Contributions are matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$500,000.

The Share the Warmth program provides financial assistance with heating bills during the winter season for individuals and families in need within the service territories in the Carolinas.

Funding for Share the Warmth comes from our customers, employees and the Duke Energy Foundation. Each winter, Duke Energy customers are sent bill inserts along with self-addressed postage-paid envelopes about the program. The Duke Energy Foundation will then match up to \$500,000 in customer contributions during the heating season.

Paperless Billing customer donations

Our Paperless Billing customers can easily make a donation online when scheduling their monthly Duke Energy payment. Customers will need to complete the section titled "Customer Contribution" if they would like to make a donation to Share the Warmth.

Additional information

Contributions may be tax deductible. Consult a tax advisor before claiming a contribution.

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 Share the Warmth by mailing your contributions in 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

May you and your family have warm celebrations while together at Christmas and let's reach out to families who are having a difficult this year and need a little extra help at this time with higher utility bills!

Here are suggested items needed. (GCCBA churches by geographical areas) We can always use canned meat products, soups, peanut butter, crackers, canned vegetables (we have plenty corn and green beans right now), and nonperishable fruit!

2018 GCCBA FOOD GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

**** DIAPERS ALWAYS NEEDED ****

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

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

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

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

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

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



GCCBA Bulletin Board

Pastors Anniversaries January

Carpenter's Grove:
Jason Allen, 3 years
Gethsemane Hispanic:
Jose Espinal, 9 years
New Covenant:
Brandon McElahney, 2 years
Polkville:
Rick Hamrick, 11 years
Sunrise:
Dennis Harmon, 16 years
Trinity:
Mike Frazier, 5 years



Pray for our Pastor less Churches

Allen Memorial ~ Crestview ~
Lattimore ~ Lily Memorial ~ Pleasant Grove ~
Temple ~ Zoar



*December 22-January 1
January 15*

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.

Crestview:

Needed: **Youth & Children Minister**, Part-time. To lead a comprehensive and balanced Youth and Children's Ministry with the goal of leading them and their families to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to grow in their faith through discipleship and training. Please send resume to Crestview Baptist, 1090 Old Boiling Springs Rd., Shelby 28152

Eastside, Shelby:

Eastside Baptist Church, Shelby N.C. is prayerfully seeking a **full time Church Office Administrator** (Church Secretary). The Office Administrator is accountable to the Pastor and provides administrative support to the Pastor, other church staff and to the congregation. Extensive Quickbooks experience and accounting procedures are required. Applicant must have a commitment to and love for Jesus Christ. Send a Letter of Interest and resume to Attn: Personnel Committee 1165 Wyke Road, Shelby, N.C. 28150 or officebc@carolina.rr.com

Eastside Baptist Church of Shelby, NC, is seeking a **full-time Associate Pastor/Youth Minister**. Preferred qualifications are experience in student ministry, seminary education and ordination. Please send cover letter and resume to officeebc@carolina.rr.com or to Attn Personnel Committee, Eastside Baptist Church 1165 Wyke Rd. Shelby NC 28150.



Tuesday Bible Studies

Spring Bible Study- March 6-April 10
Led by Wesley Smith. Class begins at 10am
Summer Bible Study- July/August Leader and Dates TBA. Class begins at 10am
Fall Bible Study- September/October Leader and Dates TBA. Class begins at 10am

Deacon Trainings

Spring Deacon Training- Monday, March 12, 6:30pm Location: TBA
Fall Deacon Training- Monday, September 10, 6:30pm
Location: TBA

Church Leadership Training

Sunday School Leadership Training- September 17, 2018, 6:30pm Location TBA

Church Financial Trainings

NC Baptist Financial Services Seminar- Monday, January 29, 2018, 7:00 PM at Eastside Baptist KM. Sponsored by the NC Baptist Foundation, GCCBA and Greater Gaston County Baptist Association.
Church Financial Seminar- Monday, March 5, 2018, 6:30pm with Davis Blount NC Baptist State Convention. Location: GCCBA Office

Hispanic Church Training (Led by Pastor Jose Espinal)

Monday's 6:00 PM- 8:30 PM at the GCCBA Office

January/February/March

Starts: January 1, 2018

Ends: March 26, 2018

September/October/November

Starts: September 3

Ends: November 26

May/June/July

Starts: May 7

Ends: July 30

Church Needs.....

Flint Hill:

Flint Hill Baptist Church is seeking a **part-time Pianist** to play for worship services, choir rehearsals, and other occasions in support of the music ministry of the church. Anyone interested in this position may send a resume to: Flint Hill Baptist Church Attention: Personnel Committee 2207 Flint Hill Church Road, Shelby, NC 28152
If you wish to send electronically, please email to janethrn@carolina.rr.com.
Resumes will be accepted through January 31, 2018.

Goode's Grove:

Goode's Grove Baptist Church is seeking a **part time Minister to youth**. For details and job description please contact Pastor Robby Hensley at 828-429-9419. Send resume to Goode's Grove Baptist Church PO Box 67 Mooresboro NC 28114

Lattimore:

Lattimore Baptist Church has an open position that they would like to share: Part-Time Children's Minister
You can contact the church 704.434.2450 between 9-11 am or Mike Greene 704-473-6640

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.

New Prospect:

We are prayerfully seeking a part-time worship leader to help lead an engaging time of worship for our congregation. We would like to have a service including both contemporary songs and hymns. The ideal person should have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and be willing to share their testimony. The candidate would be responsible for choosing music and leading the choir and congregation in worship on Sunday, special events and choir practice on Wednesday evenings. We desire this person to be a part of our faith family. Please send resumes to the church: 1960 New Prospect Church Rd., Shelby 28150

Oak Grove:

Oak Grove Baptist is looking for a part time youth director. Please send resumes to Oak Grove Baptist Church 1022 Oak Grove Rd., Kings Mtn., NC 28086.

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

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.

Shelby First: Custodial/Maintenance

First Baptist Church of Shelby is seeking an individual with custodial and light maintenance experience who will deliver high quality cleaning services efficiently and effectively. The right individual will be willing to take direction, hardworking, dependable, trustworthy, and have the ability to work flexible hours. Must have valid NC Driver's License, pass criminal background check & drug screening. Full-time or part-time will be considered. We are a smoke free facility. Good salary and benefits. To apply send your resume to business@fbcselby.org or fax to 704-482-1137, Attn: Business Manager.

Waco:

Needed: **Part-time youth & children's leader**. Call the church 70-4435-9311 to leave a message or call Everette Grigg at 704-435-2937. Send resume to Waco Baptist Church PO Box 297, Waco, NC 28169

Zoar:

Zoar Baptist Church, Shelby, NC is currently seeking a **full-time pastor** who God is calling to serve our church and community. We are a conservative, Southern Baptist, family, community and mission oriented church that was established in 1837. We have traditional Sunday School and worship services with average attendance of 90 - 100. The pastor will lead three services each week (Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening). He will work alongside a minister of music, and minister of children and minister of youth. Our pastor will be a man of the highest Godly character with God guided leadership and vision. He will be Biblically balanced and have a minimum of five years pastoral experience with a seminary degree from an accredited seminary. After prayerful consideration, please submit résumés including details of your salvation experience and calling by God to be a pastor, to: Pastor Search Committee, Zoar Baptist Church, 1740 S. Lafayette Street, Shelby, NC 28152. Résumés should be received by December 30, 2017.

**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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
SHELBY, NC 28150
PERMIT NO. 40
Return Service Requested

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

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

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

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

- 1**— GCCBA Office Closed
- 3**- GCCBA Staff Meeting 3:00pm
- 4**— Grover & KM Minister's Fellowship, Carolina Crossing 8:30 am, KM Youth Minister's Fellowship, Love's Fish Box 1:00 pm
- 5**- Hungry program with Dover Volunteers, 12:30 pm
- 6**— Bi-vocational Ministers Breakfast 8:00 am at Golden Corral
- 8**— Minster's Conference 11:30 am, GCCBA
- 9**— Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 10:00 am, GCCBA, Singles, Adult and Senior Adult Ministry—6:30pm, GCCBA
- 10**- GCCBA Staff Meeting 3:00pm
- 11**— Lattimore Minister's Fellowship at Bulldog Quick Snack, 8:30 am Shelby Youth Ministers Fellowship at Jammin J's, noon,
- 12**— Hungry program, 12:30 pm
- 15**— GCCBA OFFICE CLOSED
- 16**—Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 10:00 am, GCCBA, Compassion Ministry Round Table 6:30, GCCBA
- 17**- GCCBA Staff Meeting 3:00pm
- 18**—Polkville and Waco Minister's Fellowship at Hwy 18 North Café, 11:30 am
- 19**— Hungry program, 12:30 pm
- 23**— Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 10:00 am, GCCBA
- 24**- GCCBA Staff Meeting 3:00pm
- 25**- Music Ministry Round Table, 6:30 pm, GCCBA
- 26** -Hungry program, 12:30 pm
- 29**—NC Baptist Foundation Seminar, 7:00 pm, Eastside, Kings Mtn.
- 30**—Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 10:00 am, GCCBA Leadership/Business Affairs Team Meeting, 11:45 am, GCCBA
- 31**—GCCBA Staff Meeting 3:00pm

