

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  
 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 City  
 Pleasant Grove  
 Pleasant Hill  
 Pleasant Ridge  
 Polkville  
 Poplar Springs  
 Ross Grove  
 Sandy Plains  
 Shelby First  
 Sunrise  
 Temple  
 Trinity  
 Union  
 Victory  
 Waco  
 Wallace Grove  
 Washington Missionary  
 Westover  
 Westview  
 Westwood Heights  
 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 61, Issue 7

July 2019

*'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.' Acts 2:42*

Last month. I shared five of the ten common symptoms of the fourteen churches from Thom Rainer's, "Autopsy of a Deceased Church." Here are the final five:

6. Pastoral Tenure Decreases- "For the majority of the churches, pastors came and went at a pace of every two to three years, especially in the two decades leading to the deaths of the churches." The church would call a pastor in hopes of changing the decline. They would make a few changes, church members would not like them, then the pastor would leave. Sometimes on their own, other times they were fired. It became cyclic.

7. The Church Rarely Prayed Together- During the interviews of the leaders from the deceased churches, it was revealed that the churches were not having meaningful prayer times. There were times of prayer, but they had become routine or ritualistic. "Not coincidentally, prayer and the health of the church went hand in hand. When the church is engaged in meaningful prayer, it becomes both the cause and the result of greater church health." The church stopped praying with passion as it once did.

8. The Church Had No Clear Purpose- "The churches were purposeless. They were engaged in an activity called, "This is the way we've always done it. None of the members asked what they should be doing; the were too busy doing what they've always done." **"A church without a gospel-centered purpose is no longer a church at all."**

9. The Church Obsessed Over the Facilities- "Church fights have erupted over stained glass windows, pews, draperies, paint color, carpet color, and on and on and one. Dying churches, more often than not, experience severe battles over facility obsession before their demise."

10. Slow Erosion- "It is rare for a long term church member to see erosion in his or her church. Growth may come rapidly, but decline is usually slow, imperceptibly slow. This slow erosion is the worst type of decline for churches, because the members have no sense of urgency to change."

I purposefully shared number ten last. Many don't see it. Decline in the church happens slowly, over decades. Rainer says,

# Thoughts from our Staff.....

"Often the decline is the physical facilities, but it's much more than that. The decline is in vibrant ministries that once existed. The decline is in the prayer lives of the members who remain. The decline is in the outward focus of the church. The decline is in the connection with the community. The decline is in the hopes and dreams of those who remain. Decline is everywhere in the church, but many don't see it."

As you read these, I challenge you to take last month's list and look at them all as you prayerfully ask God to reveal to you if you are experiencing any of these symptoms. There is hope!! Next month, I'll share Rainer's response to the symptoms. Remember the book has a subtitle, "...12 ways to keep yours alive." Share and discuss with church leaders. We would love to have a conversation with you to help your church become healthy, revive or die well. If you haven't read the book, those will make more sense next month.

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21*

Wesley

## **BAPTISMS, BAPTISMS, BAPTISMS. Luke 3:21-22 - The Baptism of Jesus.**

Today, we also, as in those days, are instructing the new believers to come down to the waters of baptism. Before Christ, there was a man named John the Baptist who was calling the people to repentance, and they were submerged for the forgiveness of their sins. But, our Lord Jesus Christ was not baptized to forgive His sins because He was spotless. Rather, as a servant of God, He was baptized as He began His ministry, as He began to share His message of the Good News, and as He began the relationship that the people would initiate through His person. His baptism came to manifest the absolute presence of God in His life. God's Word says that heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him, and a voice came from heaven that said: "You are My beloved Son, in you I am pleased." The Church must be concerned about the coming of new believers, and also should not neglect the opportunity offered to prepare new believers and have the experience of baptism. For many years, we have been sharing the Gospel, and every year God gives us the opportunity to baptize. His word says it is the Holy Spirit who adds to His church those who should be saved. This Sunday, June 16, 2019, we will be baptizing four more brothers. We have instructed them, and we will continue to disciple them so that they too can one day reproduce and do the same. Receive the Gospel, and bring the Gospel to every creature. All this is possible because we have an organization called GCCBA that is concerned about the expansion of the kingdom of God in Cleveland County. These achievements are also the crown of the churches of this county that provide resources that are being well used. We also want to say that as an association we have been intentionally training leaders, and we are beginning to see the fruits of men and women who are prepared to present the defense of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this community. We bless their pastors, we bless their churches, and we thank all efforts that result in new believers, new members, and newly baptized people. We hope that this summer we can also continue working with children and young people who go on vacation and can offer special summer activities, such as VBS and church camps that offer activities that have to do with the childhood of Jesus Christ, with His ministerial life, His sacrifice, His resurrection, and His ascension. We are sure He will open a lot of doors during this time of recreation and vacation. We remind you that summer is the also a time to baptize, baptize, and baptize.

Blessings. Respectfully. Rev Jose A. Espinal.

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 missions in Nicaragua. To schedule his group to cook a meal, please contact Katie Harris.



# Education and Network Opportunities

**Pastors:** NO MINISTERS CONFERENCE, PRAYER TIME OR FELLOWSHIPS IN JULY.

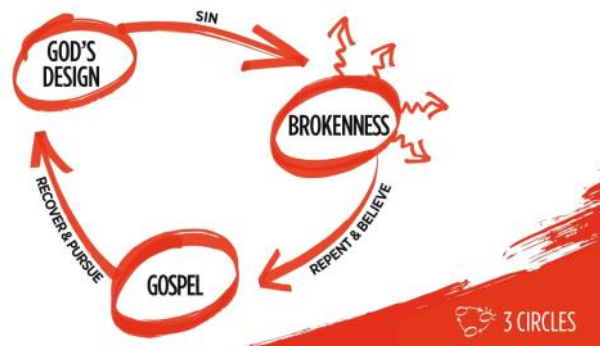
**Summer Bible Study**, Tuesdays, 10:00am July 30 -September 3. "Patterned," led by Jim and Wanda Kilby. Contact Nicole to get a book!



**Church Staff & Family Picnic:** August 3rd, from 6:00-8:00 pm, Shelby City Park at the Pool. If you are interesting in playing 9 holes of golf at the City Park in the afternoon please let us know that also. Please make reservations by July 19th!

**Greatest Treat Festival:** October 27th, 2019

July is a big vacation month! Share Jesus while on vacation!



## 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 CDs, DVDs, & Blu-Ray. , 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](#) or for Churches in Upper Cleveland County, [New Bethel Baptist Church in Lawndale is now a collection site for "Harvest Seeds."](#) Please contact [Tony Fogleman at 704-538-0223](#) or you can bring them by the GCCBA Office.

**Please do not send: RA, GA, Acteens, & Mission Friends material; No Mission Mosaics, Mature Living, Guide Posts, & Angels on Earth magazines; No cassette or VHS tapes.**

# Missions Opportunities

Summer is HERE!!!! We're excited to hear about the churches who are joining together to do VBS for their community this summer! VBS is a GREAT ministry and outreach to the community. Here are some Lifeway Statistics on VBS Nationally.

- 25% of baptisms reported by the SBC comes from VBS
- 10% of people enrolled in VBS are unchurched
- 72,925 people accept Jesus as Lord as Savior
- 2,666 people commit their lives to church-related vocations through VBS
- 56,386 people enroll in Sunday School/Small Group Bible Study as a result of attending VBS
- Report your numbers! Help us keep track of VBS effectiveness, community outreach, etc.

We're praying for VBS in your church and community. Pray for each other! Share resources! Work together!

SHARE WITH US YOUR VBS STORIES!!!!



**July 7-11—Trinity**—In the Wild, 6:00 pm –8:30 pm

**July 12-14—Pleasant Hill Baptist**- 6-8 Friday, 9-1 Saturday, 9-1 Sunday. Rolling River Rampage

**July 14-18—Allen Memorial**—In the Wild, Sun., July 14th, 5:00-7:30 pm, Mon.-Wed., July 15th-17th , 5:45-8:30 pm. Thurs., July 18th, Family Night, 5:45 pm, Meal served nightly, Ages 3 thru 6th grade

**July 21-25**

**Calvary Baptist Church**—Into the Wild, 6pm-8pm

**Carpenters Grove**—6pm each night with a fellowship meal

**Lily Memorial**—5:45 until 8:30 We will begin with a meal each night. The theme is "In the Wild."

**July 28-31—Eastside, Shelby** - July 28-9:30-12:00 PM, July 28-July 31-6:00-8:30 PM

Our theme is: The Incredible Race, meal provided daily

**July 28-Aug 1**

**Crestview**—6:00-8:30 PM Nightly, supper is included for students and workers. We will be using the Lifeway Theme "In The Wild".

**Elizabeth**—Saturday, July 27 kick-off 1:00, Sunday-Thursday July 28- August 1, 5:30-8:00 dinner served each night, Family Night- Thursday, August 1.

**July 29-Aug 1—Zion Baptist Church**

**July 29-Aug. 2—David Baptist Church** - VBS Commencement on Sunday August 4 at 11 AM, 6 til 830. Theme is Amazing Race Around the World.

**August 4th - 8th—Waco Baptist Church** - Community Bible School with Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. The theme is Farm Fresh Faith



## **Indiana Mission Trip**

Please be in prayer for our Indiana Mission Team that will be serving alongside churches in Southeastern Indiana July 6th-12th.

# Missions Opportunities



*"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." - John 13:35 (HCSB)*  
**The goal for this year's offering is \$2.1 million.**

## **Block Party Trailer**

The schedule for the trailer fills up fast for the Spring and Summer so please remember to call soon to reserve your date. The cost of the trailer is \$100 and includes all supplies needed to use the popcorn, snow cone, and cotton candy machine. We love to hear stories about how Block Parties have helped you reach out to the families in your community.



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

We have opening for groups to volunteer for our Friday feed the hungry lunch program on Friday July 5th and Friday August 23rd. If your group is interested in helping on these dates please contact Katie



## **Church & School Partnership**

We are currently in the process of working on ways to help our churches partner with local schools. We all know that when we partner with each other we have a greater impact on the community. We know that many of our schools and churches already have partnerships but there are many other schools that are looking for the love and support a church can give. As we have talked with principals at the local schools we have heard of needs like Lunch Buddies, snacks for teacher meetings, clothing needs, hygiene items, testing proctors, etc. Our dream is that this summer we will be able to help our churches partner with their local school so that this fall we will have in place a church that will hold a beginning of the year prayer walk at their school. If your church is interested in partnering with a local school please let Katie know.

## **Fair Ministry**

We are in the process of planning some new and exciting ministries to the fair workers at the Cleveland County Fair. Several churches have already expressed interest in helping with this ministry. We will be preparing food boxes, serving lunch during setup day, providing trips to Walmart and our clothing room, and continuing with our Fair Breakfast. If you are interested in helping please contact Katie.



## **Compassion Ministry Report**

Assistance Type:	<b>Apr 2019</b>
Food	24
Medicine	3
Power	53
Clothes	7
Dental	1
Other	5
<u>Counseling</u>	<u>44</u>
Total Assisted Units:	137

## **2019 GCCBA FOOD PANTRY NEEDED ITEMS: \*\* DIAPERS ALWAYS NEEDED \*\***

Spaghetti sauce  
 spaghetti noodles  
 peanut butter  
 cereal  
 macaroni and cheese  
 Canned Meat  
 Toiletries: toilet paper, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, clothes detergent



The pantry always needs everything, but the items listed are what we go through the fastest!

# GCCBA Bulletin Board

## *Pastors Anniversaries for July*

Allen Memorial:  
Robbie Moore, 3 years  
Bethel:  
Tim Sims, 15 years  
Double Springs:  
Bill Fryar, 10 years  
Fallston:  
David Blanton, 11 years  
Immanuel:  
Ted Easter, 18 years  
Kings Mountain:  
Tim Whitesides, 5 years  
Mount Sinai:  
Tim Trexler, 19 years  
New Camp Creek:  
Richard Stroup, 18 years  
New Jerusalem:  
Zavier Terrill, 38 years  
Ross Grove:  
Marcus McGill, 3 years



### **GCCBA Website**

Please visit [gccba.org](http://gccba.org) to stay up to date with GCCBA events and important announcements.

## **Church Needs.....**

### **Bethany:**

Bethany is seeking an inspired person **to lead a contemporary worship style**, to develop and organize the praise time and individuals. Contact Pastor Rich 704-300-1730

### **Bethlehem:**

Bethlehem Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time Director of Children and Youth Ministries** to enhance its children and youth ministry programs by overseeing and providing Christ-centered activities that encourage spiritual growth and group involvement. The Director of Children and Youth Ministries will engage children, youth, and their families in order to help them grow and participate in the life and ministry of the church. Send resume's to [bbckmnc@aol.com](mailto:bbckmnc@aol.com) Full Job Description at [gccba.org](http://gccba.org)

### **Buffalo:**

Buffalo Baptist Church in Shelby, North Carolina is seeking a **full time pastor** called by God to serve our church and community. We are a Southern Baptist congregation believing that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and are seeking a dedicated, energetic and caring pastor sharing our belief. The pastor will need to lead 3 services each week, (Sunday morning, Sunday night and Wednesday night). Our pastor should be a man of the highest Godly character with God guided leadership and vision. He should have a minimum of 5 years ministry experience with a seminary degree. Please submit resumes including details of spiritual journey and calling by God to be a pastor, to: Pastor Search Committee, Buffalo Baptist Church, 108 Buffalo Church Road, Shelby, N.C. 28150 or via email to [Bflopastorseach@gmail.com](mailto:Bflopastorseach@gmail.com)

### **Elizabeth:**

Elizabeth Baptist is currently seeking an **Administrative Ministry Assistant**. This is a full-time position with benefits. The successful candidate will perform standard administrative duties and must have experience creating, editing, and producing publications. Proficiency with Microsoft Publisher, Word, and Excel is required. Experience with church management software is a plus. Must be highly organized and able to manage multi-task assignments. If interested, please send cover letter and resume to [ministryassistant@elizabethchurch.org](mailto:ministryassistant@elizabethchurch.org).

**Interim Minister of Music:** Elizabeth Baptist Church, 301 North Post Road Shelby, NC 28152. Responsibilities include working with pastor and staff in worship planning, providing information for weekly bulletin, leading music at both services on Sunday mornings (8:30 traditional, 11:00 Blended), choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings, and work with the praise team and vocal ensemble. Responsibilities could include handbell and teenage choirs and giving oversight to children's choirs. Participation in weddings, funerals, and other church events may be requested if available. Please send letter of interest and resume to [interimmusic@elizabethchurch.org](mailto:interimmusic@elizabethchurch.org)

### **Pray for these couples on their special day in July:**

KM - Tim & Andrea Whitesides - 18<sup>th</sup>  
KM 1st - Bro Chip and Martha Sloan—31<sup>st</sup>



### **Pray for churches who are seeking a pastor.**

Buffalo ~ Lattimore ~ FBC Shelby ~ New  
Bethel ~ Oak Grove ~ Zoar



### **Pray for the following churches in the interim.**

Polkville ~ Temple

# Church Needs.....

Elizabeth Baptist Church in Shelby, NC is receiving resumes for the position of **Minister of Music**. This position is responsible for giving leadership and oversight for a fully comprehensive music ministry. For more information about Elizabeth Baptist Church, please go to the church's website at <https://elizabethchurch.org>. This position will be a part of the ministerial team of the church. Persons interested should email a cover letter and current resume to [musicminister@elizabethchurch.org](mailto:musicminister@elizabethchurch.org). Resumes will be received through May 31st, 2019.

## **Lattimore:**

Lattimore Baptist Church is seeking a **Pastor** who is a sincere spiritual leader. Our Pastor will work with our Minister of Music, Youth Leader, & Children's Leader to help our church members and community grow in our relationship with Christ. He will be a genuine, loving, people person as well as a strong preacher, teacher, & encourager; and have a desire to lead the church family toward growth. We prefer someone with a Masters Degree and at least 5 years experience. We are excited to see what God has in store for our church. The church is located in Lattimore, NC (6 miles west of Shelby, NC). A parsonage is available if needed. Please send Resumes and DVDs to: Lattimore Baptist Church, Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 188, Lattimore, NC 28089.

## **New Bethel:**

New Bethel Baptist Church in Lawndale, North Carolina is seeking a **full time pastor** who God is calling to serve our church and community. We are a conservative, mission minded, Southern Baptist Church family with strong ties to the community. Our church has traditional Sunday School and worship services. The pastor will lead 3 services each week (Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday evening), while working alongside a minister of music and a minister of youth and children to create the growth of the kingdom. Our pastor will be a man of the highest Godly character with God guided leadership and vision. He should believe the Bible is the true and inerrant word of God. After prayerful consideration, please submit resumes including details of your salvation experience and calling by God to be a pastor to; Pastor Search Committee, New Bethel Baptist Church, Post Office box 5 Lawndale, NC 28090. Resumes are currently being accepted.

## **New Prospect:**

We are prayerfully seeking a **organist**. The organist would be responsible for playing the organ Sunday morning worship and choir practice on Wednesday evening after Bible Study. We welcome you to be a part of our church family. Please send resumes to the church: 1960 New Prospect Church Rd., Shelby, NC 28150

## **Oak Grove:**

Oak Grove Baptist Church believes that God is calling one man to be the **pastor** for us, and we are focused on finding His will to locate this person. We have seen God at work within our church and believe that God's choice will bring Him honor and glory here at OGBC. While we are not putting restrictions on God's choice for us, we believe that His choice will have some theological training, believe the Bible to be the infallible and inerrant Word of God, and

will provide messages and teachings reflecting this. We believe that God's choice will also be a kind and loving person who can share that love while providing biblical based preaching and teaching. He will work with a Minister of Music (part-time), a Minister of Youth/Children (part-time), and lay people on a full time basis to strengthen our commitment to God, His teachings and to our community, nation and world. Oak Grove Baptist Church is aligned with the Baptist State Convention of NC, and the Southern Baptist Convention. Applicants should apply by email at [ogbcsearchcomm@gmail.com](mailto:ogbcsearchcomm@gmail.com) or mail to Krista Smith, Chairperson Pastor Search Committee, Oak Grove Baptist Church, 1022 Oak Grove Road, Kings Mountain, 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](mailto: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:**

First Baptist Church, Shelby, NC, is seeking a **Lead Pastor** to guide our church into its next stage of worship and ministry. Those interested in applying should send a letter of interest and resume to [firstbaptistchurchshelby@gmail.com](mailto:firstbaptistchurchshelby@gmail.com). FBC Shelby supports the mission agencies of the Cleveland County (NC) Baptist Association, the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Southern Baptist Convention. Full Job Description at [gccba.org](http://gccba.org)

## **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 28152

**If any of these positions have been filled please  
let me know at [nicole@gccba.org](mailto:nicole@gccba.org)**

Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association, Inc.  
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# THE BEACON

## ***STAFF, PHONE EXTENSIONS & EMAIL***

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wesley@gccba.org

Missions & Ministry Team Leader:  
Katie Harris, 704-751-1069—katie@gccba.org

Hispanic Missionary:  
Jose Espinal, 704-751-1088—  
jose.espinal231@gmail.com

Office Administrator:  
Nicole Mosley, 704-751-1087—  
nicole@gccba.org



- 4**— GCCBA OFFICE CLOSED
- 5**- Hungry program, at First Baptist Shelby, *Volunteers Needed* , 12:30
- 6-12** - Indiana Mission Trip
- 12**— Hungry program at First Baptist Shelby with Deep Impact Volunteers, 12:30
- 19**—Hungry program at First Baptist Shelby, with Union Volunteers, 12:30
- 26**— Hungry program at First Baptist Shelby, with Dover Volunteers, 12:30
- 30**— Summer Bible Study, 10:00 am