

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 8

August 2019

Words from Wesley....

'Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?'

Luke 9:23-25

The past two months I have shared ten common symptoms of dying churches from Thom Rainers, "Autopsy of a Deceased Church." I challenged you to prayerfully read and look at your church to see what God may reveal to you. You may have thought, well, we do have some of the symptoms, but not all of them. God may have revealed to you that you were experiencing all of them and your church is dying. Rainer says there are basically four responses to the symptoms. He also says that though the numbers are not precise, he does believe the following reflects the actual conditions of churches in American.

- 10% are healthy
- 40% experience symptoms of sickness
- 40% are very sick
- 10% are dying

In the final two chapters, Rainer gives 12 ways to keep your church alive! He makes it clear that,

"There are no magical, easy-fix solutions. The twelve responses I offer over three chapters are not a recipe to create or repair the perfect church."

Experiencing Symptoms of Sickness...

1. *"Pray that God will open the eyes of the leadership and members for opportunities to reach into the community where the church is located."*
2. *"Take an honest audit of how church members spend their time being involved."*
3. *"Take an audit of how the church spends its money."*
4. *"Make specific plans to minister and to evangelize your community."*

Thoughts from our Staff.....

Church is very sick...

1. *"The church must admit and confess its dire need."*
2. *"The church must pray for wisdom and strength to do whatever is necessary."*
3. *"The church must be willing to change radically."*
4. *"That change must lead to action and outward focus."*

Church is dying... "What you are doing is allowing your church to die so that another may live."

1. *"Sell the property and give the funds to another church, perhaps a new church that has begun to grow will soon begin."*
2. *"Give the building to another church."*
3. *"If your church is in a transitional neighborhood, turn of the leadership and property to those who actually reside in the neighborhood."*
4. *"Merge with another church, but let the other church have the ownership and leadership of your church."*

Again, we would love to help your church through any of the above responses. Keep in mind the people of your community are in need of the Gospel. God wants to use His church to reveal himself to them. DO NOT BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP!! Read Rainer's book! It's a great resource. I'd love to recommend other resources as well!

'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.' Ephesians 3:20-21

††††††††††††

"Used by God to reveal the Mystery of Life and the grace of God." Ephesians 2:2-6.

We have come back from Indiana full of spiritual strength. The passage that I quoted says: "You have heard of the administration of the grace of God that was given to me by you who by the revelation was declared to me a mystery, as I wrote it briefly before, reading which you can understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ, a mystery that in other generations was not made known to the children of men, as it is now revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs and members of the same body, and co-participants of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel." This passage Paul wrote to the church of Ephesus because they were persisting in the fulfillment of the Law and they had an attitude that at that time was already considered old in terms of Judaic superiority. And, Paul with all authority tells them that both Jews and Gentiles participated equally in receiving the grace of God through our Lord Jesus Christ. There are thousands of men and women who are eager to participate in the Gospel of Christ, in those parts of Indiana is a very large number of people who come from Central America, there are Mexicans, Guatemalans, Hondurans, Salvadorans and many people from Cuba and South America. All of them need Christ, just as here they need places to congregate, to worship and praise Christ. I remembered while there Romans 10. This passage asks us how they will know Christ if there is no one to preach to them, there is no one to teach them, there is no one who speaks to them about the mystery of life and the grace of God in the person of Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my Christ who continues to use our lives. We found people who are still following the current of this world, and that phrase is linked with the kingdom of Satan. Many of these people are out of the lifestyle offered by JESUS CHRIST, and the enemy has them really blinded. Our presence was a great blessing, even to the young church that is there. We were able to bring many couples to reconciliation. We were able to counsel people who made a decision for Christ. We are grateful for all the special moments where the Holy Spirit made His presence known and removed the veil of ignorance that these people have. There are still many who are living in the desires of the flesh. In other words, they are full of vices, evils, deceptions, and lifestyles that

Thoughts from our Staff.....

are evil. Many people are completely separated from Christ, full of worries and selfishness. Instead of looking and searching for God, they are involved in crimes and sins. Many people need redemption. This week was really challenging, but there were many victories in the name of Christ. A new work is being initiated, and we believe that we can continue to encourage, support, and direct them to have the triumph of Christ in their lives. Thank you Cleveland County churches that continue to pray and believe in missionary work. Thanks for the economic support received. Thank you because we continue to have life in Christ.
Respectfully, Rev Jose A. Espinal.

Education and Network Opportunities

Pastors:

Pastors and Youth Pastors
Fellowships, THIS MONTH!!!

Pastors Prayer Time, Wednesday, August 21,
10:00am

Youth Ministers Prayer Time, Tuesday,
August 20, Noon

Ministers Conference

Monday, August 5

Dr. Sandy Marks, "Pastors Rhythm"
Prayer Time 11:00am, Lunch 11:30am,
Program 12:00pm.

September Ministers Conference will be
Monday, Sept. 9. Dr. Wayne Stacy will be with
us.

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



Enlistment Team Meeting, Tuesday,
August 20, 11:45am

Leadership and Business Affairs,
Tuesday, August 27, 11:45am

Save The Date:

Area Deacon Trainings

Shelby, Lattimore, Polkville- Monday,
September 16, 2019, at Eastside Baptist,
Shelby 6:30pm (RSVP by Sept. 9)
Kings Mountain, Waco, Grover- Monday,
September 23, 2019 at Second Baptist
Church, KM. (RSVP by Sept. 9)

Meeting
Reminder!

Church Staff & Family Picnic:

August 3rd, from
6:00-8:00 pm,
Shelby City Park at the Pool.

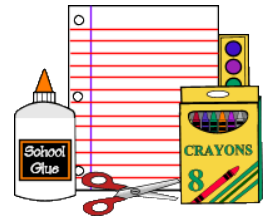


Mark
Your Calendar!

Missions Opportunities

Community, according to the Webster dictionary, is a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common. We all know the importance of community within our church and among fellow Christians. But often we forget about the importance of the immediate community outside our church doors. This week take a moment and step outside your church doors and look to see what is around you. When I do this at my church I see an elementary school straight in front of us, several doctors' offices beside us, an apartment complex behind us, and a nursing home down the street. Now ask yourself, what is the church doing to share God's love with those who live there, work there, or go to school there. If you have trouble answering that question, I challenge you to pray about what you can do and talk to church staff and leaders in the church about what ministry you can do in your community. God has placed your church where it is not by accident but because he wants you to serve those right outside your door.

As we plan for the start of the **upcoming school year**, I urge you to think about ways you can support a school near you. I am excited about the partnerships many of our churches that already have with local schools. We are encouraging our churches to reach out to the school closest to them about the opportunity to host a prayer walk on Sunday August 25th. Some schools may have a staff person that will be able to meet you and let you in the building. If that is not possible, make a plan to walk around the outside of the school praying for the students, teachers, and staff that will enter those doors the next day. If you would like a prayer guide to help you as you pray, please contact me or go to our website or Facebook page. We would also like to encourage you to attend the Back to School Prayer service at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on Sunday August 25th at 5:00 or the service in Kings Mountain at East Gold Wesleyan Church at 6:00.



Instead of us collecting and distributing school supplies from our churches we are asking churches to collect school supplies and donate them to the school closest to them. Our hopes are that this will establish relationships between churches and schools. If I can help you get in contact with your local school, please let me know. We have sent information to area principals so that they are aware that someone may contact them. Our plans are to have a prayer walk at every school in the county. Some schools may have more than one church participating.

SHARE WITH US YOUR VBS STORIES!!!!



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



Baptists on Mission will be holding Basic Construction Skills Training at our Mission Camps in October. These one-day events offer training in how to install laminate flooring, hang and finish drywall, build wheelchair ramps, replace roofing, and simple framing of a building.

Churches are invited to learn new skills that they can use in their neighborhood and on mission trips.

CONSTRUCTION SKILLS TRAINING

Shelby Mission Camp - October 26

Sign in: 8:30 am

Training: 9 am - 3 pm

Cost is only \$10 for the day or \$21 for those who choose to stay overnight.

Register at: <https://baptistsonmission.org/training/construction-training>

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.

Indiana Mission Trip
 We had an amazing mission trip to Indiana. 28 people from 5 churches served alongside several churches and mission organizations. I am grateful to all the team members who worked so hard in the heat and humidity to encourage the churches and the people we met.

Friday Feed the Hungry Lunch Program

We still have several dates available for groups to help this year. Groups who sign up to volunteer and serve are asked to bring sandwiches, chips, and cookies for 75 people. You are also invited to come and help serve. If you are interested in signing up please contact Katie.



Soon we will begin to plan for our 2019 Greatest Treat Festival which will be held on October 27th. We would love more churches to be involved in this community outreach. This year we hope to add hayrides and a drama, if you are interested in joining us please contact Katie. Our first meeting will be held on September 10th at 6:30 pm at the Association Office.

Fair Ministry

Soon we will be sending out more information about our Fair Ministry. We appreciate those who have already expressed interest in helping. I am excited for the additional ways we are going to be able to serve during the Cleveland County Fair.



Region 8 Baptist On Mission Rally, August 12, 2019 at Elizabeth Baptist in Shelby.
 Register <https://baptistsonmission.org/bom/region-rallies/region-8-nc-missions-rally-2019---shelby/4395>

Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type:	Jun 2019
Food	26
Medicine	1
Power	48
Clothes	9
Other	1
Counseling	42
Total Assisted Units:	127

**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 August

Macedonia:

Michael Horne, 11 years

Pleasant Hill:

Andrew Corley, 3 years

Westview:

Rick Bowling, 10 years



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.....

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 Full Job Description at 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

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.

Pray for these couples on their special day in August:

Union - Michael and Edith Shumate - 1st

Zion - Matt and Melanie Storie - 1st

New Camp Creek – Richard and Peggy Stroup – 5th

Poplar Spring - Andy and Kim Oliver - 8th

FB Shelby - Tony and Janet Tench - 11th

Beaver Dam – Tom and Joanna - 12th

Boiling Springs - Keith and Renee McKinney - 12th

Pleasant City - Bryan and Tina Glisson- 22nd

Happy Anniversary

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.



Christian Paperback Books for Jail Ministry

If you have Christian paperback books that you would like to donate to the Detention Center Library, please drop these off at the Association Office by August 15. If you have questions, please call Elaine Ashely 704-418-0786.

Church Needs.....

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 Camp Creek:

We are seeking a **Piano Player** for our Sunday Morning Worship service. For more information please contact Richard Stroup, 704-472-2047 or Deb Camp, 704-739-5769.

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 og-bcsearchcomm@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

Pleasant Ridge:

Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Shelby NC is seeking a Student Minister (Middle School/High School and College) who will demonstrate a strong commitment to Jesus Christ while developing and implementing a ministry for the youth and college students of our church and community. Our church family is interested in candidates who offer strong leadership and organizational skills. We are seeking the right person who possesses the ability to motivate youth, parents and college students through effective communication, planning, and implementation of ministry ideas. Experience in ministering to Middle School/High School and College students is preferred. This person should have a heart for understanding the special needs of youth/college students and a desire to include these special groups in the overall ministry of the church. This is a full-time position and a background check (provided by the church) will be required. Please send all résumés to Dr. J. Eric Davis (Dr.JED@Carolina.rr.com) or Student Minister Search Team, Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, 198 Pleasant Ridge Church Road, Shelby, NC 28152. Résumé must be received before September 1, 2019.

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. 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

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**

Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association, Inc.
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Shelby, NC 28150

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

THE BEACON

STAFF, PHONE EXTENSIONS & EMAIL

Associational Missionary:
Wesley Smith, 704-751-1028—
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

- 1**— Grover & KM Minister's Fellowship, Carolina Crossing 8:30 am,
KM Youth Minister's Fellowship, Love's Fish Box 1:00 pm
- 2** — Hungry program with Calvary Volunteers 12:30 pm
- 3**- Pastors and Church Staff Picnic, Shelby City Park, 6:00 pm
- 5**— Pastor's Cohort 2, GCCBA 10:00 am
Pastor's Prayer Time, GCCBA 11:00 am
Minister's Conference, GCCBA 11:30 am
- 6**— Tuesday Morning Bible Study, GCCBA, 10:00 am
- 8**—Lattimore Minister's Fellowship at Bulldog Quick Snack, 8:30 am
Shelby Youth Ministers Fellowship at Jammin J's, 12:00pm
- 9**—Hungry program with Union Volunteers 12:30 pm
- 13**- Tuesday Morning Bible Study, GCCBA, 10:00 am
- 15** — Polkville and Waco Minister's Fellowship at Hwy 18 North Café, 11:30 am
- 16**—Hungry program with Heidi Vassey Volunteers, 12:30 pm
- 20**— Tuesday Morning Bible Study, GCCBA, 10:00 am
Enlistment Team Meeting, GCCBA 11:45 am
Youth Minister's Prayer Time, GCCBA 12:00 pm
- 21** — Pastors Prayer Time, GCCBA, 10 am
- 23**— Hungry program *Volunteers Needed*, 12:30 pm
- 27** — Tuesday Morning Bible Study, GCCBA, 10:00 am
Leadership/Business Affairs Team Meeting, GCCBA, 11:45 am
- 30** — Hungry program with Heidi Vassey Volunteers, 12:30 pm

