

Thoughts from our Staff.....

Words from Wesley....

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ' Matthew 6:33

I am very excited about our annual meeting this month. It is wonderful to get together for worship and fellowship. We will be focusing on seeking first the kingdom of God! Monday night we will have Chuck Campbell with us. He's the Strategy Coordinator with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina for the Unifour Area. He will be bringing our Monday evening message. Tuesday night we will have testimonies from three areas of ministry in our association. It will be a great time! Make plans to join us!

I've had several comments about the series of articles I did on Thom Rainer's, "Autopsy of a Deceased Church." Here's a reminder of the numbers he gives regarding the symptoms of churches.

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

Keep in mind there are currently eighty three churches in our association. That means that an estimated

- 8.3 are healthy
- 33.2 are experiencing symptoms of sickness
- 33.2 are very sick
- 8.3 are dying

If you haven't already, go back and read what Rainer recommends for churches in each symptom area. Read his book! I did list those in the August Beacon, but read his comments on each one in his book. Another great resource that I have quoted before is "Reclaiming Glory," by Mark Clifton.

"What about a dying church brings glory to God?" - John Mark Clifton

You may read those and ask, how do I know if my church is dying? In episode 529 of Rainer's Podcast on Leadership, he gives **Seven Symptoms of a Dying Church**. You will need to listen to the podcast to get the discussion on each of these, but you may also figure out some from reading the list. Please keep in mind these are symptoms. A church may not experience all of these.

1. Continuous battles (When a church is in "fight mode, it is inwardly focused and likely not reaching people for Christ.)
2. Numerical declines of three or more years
3. Rooms as idols (Ownership of rooms for ministry or Sunday School. Room is big enough for 35 but they only have 4 and they will not move.)
4. Memorials and plaques (Certain things off limits because it was a gift)
5. Prolonged meetings (Meetings just for meetings, filling up time)
6. Deflection of blame (blame the pastor, blame the deacons, blame culture, blame anyone and everyone but accepting responsibility)
7. Methodological stability (comfortability, not wanting change)

I want to add that if you are one of the eight churches that are healthy, what are you doing to be in a position to help replant or revitalize a dying church? Are you developing leaders that can and are willing to step into replant and revitalize? I believe it's going to be churches that replant and revitalize dying churches. Pray for each other! We're in this together! If you are one of the eight that are dying, there is hope! You can live again, it will just look different. To the sixty-six, sick churches, do you know you are sick? Admit it, confess, seek the Lord for wisdom. Be willing to make changes. Ask for help.

'And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ' Matthew 16:18

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PAUL INTERCEDES FOR ONESIMUS.

In Central America, mainly in Nicaragua, this month is called the month of the Homeland, in which the men who fought for the independence of each nation in Central America. When studying this time period, courage, morality, and perseverance to see a free homeland, are all themes. Many large countries sought freedom from slavery. This was here in our lands, as well. Slavery is as old as the history of men. In Philemon, we find the story of a man named Paul who brings two servants to the feet of Jesus Christ. Paul also met a man named Onesimus, who was a slave of Philemon who had escaped him. Paul took him to the feet of Christ and instructed him to return to Philemon. Paul tells his brother Philemon to receive Onesimus, not as a slave, but rather as free, and that he will repay any damages. The letter is of vital importance because each and every one of us were slaves, we lived tied, we lived in ruins. But thanks be to God because one day Christ came and freed us from all those bonds, and today we are free to serve, to worship, and to serve by taking the seed of the Gospel to others who are still chained. Now Philemon is going to receive the one who was his slave, but now he is a free man by the power of the Word. Now the relationship between them will be different. Now Onesimus owes nothing to Philemon. Christ has settled the account of the two. He has done the same for us today. Today we have been released by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ. Respectfully. BLESSINGS. Jose Espinal.

Education and Network Opportunities

Pastors:

Ministers Conference

Monday, October 7

Special Guest Dr. William M. Downs, President
of Gardner Webb University

Time 11:00am, Lunch 11:30am,

Program 12:00pm

Pastors Retreat- "Iron Sharpening Iron"

October 30, 2019-November 1, 2019

Cost: \$75 (Includes Room and five meals)

Travel, travel meals, and recreation not
included

Take a few days rest this fall. We will
worship and share together.

Rest, Recreate, Renew!

Sign up with nicole@gccba.org

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Tuesdays, Sept. 24-Oct.29. 10:00 AM

Unbroken: Path to Redemption, Based on the movie.

Led by Pastor Buddy Morehead and his wife Meredith

Order a book through the Nicole

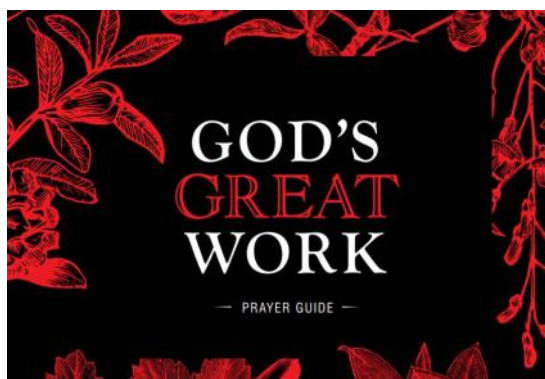
Fall Bi-Annual Meetings

Monday, October 28 at Mt. Sinai Baptist

Tuesday, October 29— at Crestview Grover

Each night 6:00 PM, join us as we eat,

fellowship, and worship together!



Pray for 30 Days is an annual prayer focus observed October 1-30. Devotional prayer guides and other resources at <https://ncbaptist.org/prayer-pray-for-30-days/>

Missions Opportunities

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>

Jail Ministry

It is time for orientation for current jail ministry volunteers and new volunteer enrollment for the 2020-2022 Jail Ministry Volunteer programs. Below is the schedule of dates and locations for orientation for the month of November. Please make arrangements to attend one of the sessions that works best for your schedule. Each session will begin at 7:00pm and should last approximately one (1) hour. At this time you will receive volunteer packets and rule books. Thank you so much for your time and participation in this ministry.

November 4: First Baptist Kings Mountain

November 11: Fallston Baptist

November 18: Elizabeth Baptist Church

November 21: Poplar Springs Baptist Church

November 25: Palmer Grove

You must attend one of these sessions to be a part of the jail ministry for the next two years.



Please make a note that the Association office will now be closed every Friday.

We will be open

Monday-Thursday 8:00-5:00 pm

You can reach us by email or voicemail at any time.

October 21—GCCBA Office
Closed for a Workday for the
biannual meeting



**October is Pastor
Appreciation Month**



Missions Opportunities

Week of Prayer for Associations- October 20-26



Friday Feed the Hungry Lunch Program

We still have a few dates open for churches to volunteer to help with our lunch program each Friday. We have a different group come to help by bringing sandwiches, chips, and cookies to use along with the hot food we serve. We also love for pastors or church members to share a devotion before the meal. The following dates are left in 2018:
 October 18th, November 15th, November 22nd, November 29th. If you can help with these dates please contact Katie Harris.



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.



Greatest Treat Festival- Sunday October 27th from 4-6 pm at the Shelby City Park Please join us for our largest outreach ministry of the year. We would love for your church to set up ministry tables to help share with everyone about the greatest treat, Jesus.

Christmas Toy Store- We will be providing toys for children ages 2-12
 Applications taken November 5th & 6th
 Toy Store open: December 17th & 18th
 Volunteers are needed to help with the Toy Store. If you are interested in helping please contact Katie.

Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type:	August 2019
Food	29
Medicine	7
Power	77
Clothes	10
Other	4
Counseling	45
Total Assisted Units:	172

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 October

Casar:

Doug Pruett, 8 years

Lawndale:

Jim Kilby, 16 years

Peoples:

John Houze, 29 years

Plains View:

Ernest Speagle, 8 years

Union:

Michael Shumate, 26 years

Victory:

Dennis Wells, 26 years

Westwood Heights:

David Costner, 13 years



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 Richard 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 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

Crestview:

Crestview Baptist Church in Shelby is searching for a **musical accompanist** (piano) to serve in a permanent part-time position. This will involve Wednesday nights and Sundays, plus planning/practice time. Send resume to: Crestview Baptist Church, 1090 Old Boiling Springs Road, Shelby, North Carolina 28152

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.

Pray for these couples on their special day in September:

Carpenter's Grove - Jason and Krista Allen - 14th
Temple - Scott and Linda Carpenter - 14th



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.

Calvary ~ Polkville ~ Temple

Pick your Annual Church Profile Packet!!

GCCBA Website

Please visit gccba.org to stay up to date with GCCBA events and important announcements.

Church Needs.....

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 ogbcsearchcomm@gmail.com or mail to Krista Smith, Chairperson Pastor Search Committee, Oak Grove Baptist Church, 1022 Oak Grove Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Oak Grove Baptist Church is seeking an individual for the position of **Organist/Accompanist**. This is a 4 – 6 hour per week, part-time, salaried position. Position includes playing music for Sunday morning & evening services, choir practices and special planned events (cantata, revival, etc.) The qualified candidate should have a proficiency in playing the organ, have a knowledge of organ range of skills, the ability to sight read accompaniments. You should be self-motivated, have strong interpersonal skills, work well with other and be flexible with changes in work hours during the Christmas and Easter seasons. If want additional details, please email them to ogbcsearchcomm@gmail.com Please submit your resume, reference, and video/audio sample of you playing (if possible) to: Oak Grove Baptist Church Attn: Music Committee 1022 Oak Grove Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 or email to ogbcsearchcomm@gmail.com

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 firstbaptist-churchshelby@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

Westview:

Westview Baptist Church is seeking a **Part Time Minister of Outreach and Assimilation**. The new position is designed for the person God calls and has gifted to reach others with the gospel. The position will require 25 -30 hours per week and would involve assisting the Pastor and Staff in weaving the church together in a seamless process in the community. This position will require organizational and administrative skills while implementing new ministries and enhancing existing ones through creative outreach, technology and media, while maintaining a missionary mind-set. Please submit a written resume by mail to Westview Baptist Church, 500 Melody Lane, Shelby, NC 28150 on or before October 10, 2019, or by email to millie@wbcshelby.org.

Westview Baptist Church is seeking a **Church Secretary/Administrator** position which involves both secretarial and financial skills. The Secretary/Administrator will fulfill the day-to-day affairs of the church; perform general church office duties, provide administrative assistance to the church staff and chairpersons of each committee as it relates to the established procedures, operations, and ministries of the church. The Secretary/Administrator will also maintain accurate financial records of church contributions and expenditures. Skills required: knowledge of office computers and software (Microsoft Office Suite), desktop publishing, computer/accounting program. To apply, please send resume to: Personnel Committee, Westview Baptist Church, 500 Melody Lane, Shelby NC 28152 or email to: millie@wbcshelby.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.
1175 Wyke Road
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—

October

- 1-** Tuesday Morning Bible Study, GCCBA, 10:00 am
- 3** – Grover & KM Minister’s Fellowship, Carolina Crossing 8:30 am,
KM Youth Minister’s Fellowship, Love’s Fish Box 1:00 pm
- 4** – Hungry program with Oak Grove volunteers at Shelby First, 12:30 pm
- 7** – Pastor’s Cohort 2, GCCBA 10:00 am
Pastor’s Prayer Time, GCCBA 11:00 am
Minister’s Conference, GCCBA 11:30 am
- 8** - Tuesday Morning Bible Study, GCCBA, 10:00 am
- 10** – Lattimore Minister’s Fellowship at Bulldog Quick Snack, 8:30 am
- 11** — Hungry program with Beaver Dam volunteers at Shelby First, 12:30
- 15** – Tuesday Morning Bible Study, GCCBA, 10:00 am
Leadership/Business Affairs Team Meeting, GCCBA, 11:45 am
Youth Minister’s Prayer Time, GCCBA 12:00 pm
- 16**— Pastors Prayer Time, GCCBA, 10 am
- 17** – Polkville and Waco Minister’s Fellowship at Hwy 18 North Café,
11:30 am
- 18**—Hungry program at Shelby First, 12:30 pm
- 21**—GCCBA Office Closed for a Workday
- 22**—Tuesday Morning Bible Study, GCCBA, 10:00 am
- 25**—Hungry program with Dover volunteers at Shelby First, 12:30 pm
- 27** – Greatest Treat Festival at Shelby City Park, 4-6– pm
- 28-** Fall BiAnnual Meeting at Mt Sinai Baptist Church, 6:00 pm
- 29**— Tuesday Morning Bible Study, GCCBA, 10:00 am
Fall BiAnnual Meeting at Crestview Baptist Church, 6:00 pm