

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
 Grover First
 Hope Community
 Immanuel
 Joy Christian
 Kings Mountain
 Kings Mtn. First
 Kings Mtn. Second
 Lattimore
 Lawndale
 Lily Memorial
 Living Hope
 Macedonia
 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

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Words from Wesley...

We started in April with a series on Change. To see that series of articles on Thom Rainer's book, "Who Moved My Pulpit: Leading Change in the Church;" visit our website and look under Media, then click Newsletter. Many are saying, "I'm tired of change or talking about change." Change is very difficult. Change is necessary.

If there is no change in the organization, then it leads to a slow death. You saw that mentioned in Rainer's book. Robert Quinn, in his book, "Deep Change," says, "Slow death begins when someone, confronting the dilemma of having to make deep organizational change or accepting the status quo, rejects the option for the deep change. This decision results in the gradual (and occasionally not so gradual) disintegration of an organization, business or industry."

Some may have seen the articles released recently showing a major decline in the Southern Baptist Convention. You can find articles by both the Washington Post and Christianity Today.

"The Southern Baptist Convention said it had 14.5 million members in 2019, down about 287,655 from the previous year. Membership dropped 2 percent, the largest single-year drop in more than 100 years, according to a survey from LifeWay Christian Resources, the denomination's publishing and research arm."

"The decline reflects a larger trend of Americans leaving Christianity at a rapid pace. According to the Pew Research Center, 65 percent of Americans describe themselves as Christians, down 12 percentage points during the past decade."

Southern Baptist baptisms fell by more than 4 percent, a key metric in measuring new members of the faith. Average weekly worship service and Sunday school or small-group attendance each dropped by less than 1 percent. Giving was down, and total church receipts fell 1.44 percent to \$11.6 billion." Washington Post

There has been a lot of talk recently about the church being essential or not. The above statistics show us that the church is becoming less essential in the lives of Americans. We must ask ourselves why that is. Ironically enough, there was a book written about ten years ago called, "Essential Church." Thom Rainer and his son, Sam Rainer wrote it

Assistance Office:
704-481-9119

Counseling Center:
704-472-1437

Thoughts from our Staff.....

together. In the introduction, they say this. "Young adults are likely to stay in the church if they see the church as essential to their lives." I would add, this is for anyone, not just young adults. Thom and Sam give four essential church focuses in four critical areas.

1. Simply- Get the structure right.
2. Deepen- Get the content right.
3. Expect- Get the attitude right.
4. Multiply- Get the action right.

"Becoming an essential church is not the easiest of paths. Some churches may have to slaughter a sacred cow. Others may need to refocus their entire mission. Others may tweak certain ministries."

Change is not easy, but it is necessary. How is your church taking advantage of the current situation to make necessary changes moving forward with a Kingdom Mission? We'd love to help you! A great start would be praying and seeking the Lord! Ask God what David did.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24



Look, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19

Change is hard and these last few months we have been through changes we could have never seen coming. I would have never believed in February that in just a month dining rooms in restaurants would close, schools would become online only, and that churches would be unable to meet in person. Though I have been worried about my children, my church, and the community around me I have also been looking forward to how the Lord is going to use this experience to change us all. The Lord says He is doing something new and He will make a way in the wilderness and bring rivers to the desert. Let's all be looking for this way so that we can come out of this season ready to love and serve others like we never have before.

Serving together,
Katie Harris



Check out our Facebook Page for groups to connect to!
Get connected with others in similar areas of ministry!
Share ideas, ask questions, pray for one another and
MORE!

Youth Ministry
Music & Worship
Sunday School & Small Groups
Deacon Ministry

Children's Ministry
Men's Ministry
Women's Ministry
Senior Adult

Also check out groups for area churches! Share, work and grow together!



*No in person fellowships or meetings in July.

Pastor's Weekly Zoom- Monday's 9am



Contact Wesley for details

Pastors Prayer Time 3rd Wednesday of each month on Zoom Call.

Friday Feed the Hungry Lunch Program

Our Friday lunch has transitioned to a bag lunch for now, but we are still serving the people who come to eat. The schools have been doing a great job feeding students since March, but now that school is ending these programs will change. Because of this we feel like we will be serving more people. **We are still in need for groups to bring sandwiches on July 10th, 24th, and 31st and August 14th & 28th.** If your group would like to prepare sandwiches, please let me know. If you are unable to have volunteers come you can still sign up to bring the food!



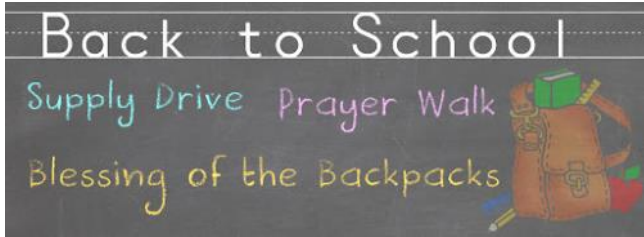
Fair Ministry

Last year we added additional opportunities to our Fair Ministry. Those were well received so we plan to do them again. We will provide lunch for the workers on set up day, give out food bags, host a prayer breakfast, and provide toiletries bags. Please watch for more information on how you can be involved.



School & Church Partnerships

Though we do not know how school schedules will be next year, we still plan to do prayer walks and school supply donations in August. Instead of bringing school supplies to our office we are asking that you collect supplies for the school in your community. This month, we plan to make sure each school in the county will have a partner church that will sponsor the prayer walk and collect school supplies. If you already have a partnership with a local school, remember to start talking with the principal now about how you can serve them this summer and as school starts back in the Fall.



VBS Information from our website <http://gccba.org/vacation-bible-school/>



Reminder of Meetings in August.

Enlistment Team Meeting,
August 8 at 11:45am

Leadership and Business Affairs Teams- August 25 at 11:45am

New **available positions** have been added to our website:

- **Boiling Springs Baptist Church** seeks part-time minister to youth grades 6-12.
- **Flint Hill Baptist Church** is seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant to work 40 hours,
- **New Hope Baptist Church** is receiving resumes for a full-time Youth and Children's Pastor.



Go to our website for the full listings: <http://gccba.org/available-positions/>

Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type: **May 2020**

Food	13
Medicine	2
Power	5
Other	1
Counseling	32
Total Assisted Units:	53

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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

Please visit our website, www.gccba.org and other social media sites for information, training, and mission opportunities. Join one of our Facebook groups for your area!



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