

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  
 Mullis 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

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Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association

*Uniting congregations in effective missions and ministries*

# THE BEACON

Volume 62, Issue 9

September 2020

Words from Wesley...

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

It has been exciting to see so many of you continue to find ways to minister in your communities. I know that it has been difficult for pastors and church leaders to make decisions with multiple convictions and opinions, but I pray that this has been a learning and growing season for you and your church. Many of you have found new ways to minister, structure and make decisions. We started the summer finishing up with change in the church. Change continues.

The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds of seasons. He shares a list of seasons, and in verse three, he says, "...a time to tear down and a time to build." In verse two, he mentions the seasons of birth and death, planting and uprooting. I believe this season for the church is a season of rebuilding, birthing and planting.

A great podcast for any church leader to listen to would be, Thom Rainer's podcast episode #627, "Understanding Church Disruption." Here are the points that he makes in the podcast about disruptions:

- Disruption, properly understood, can be a good thing.
- Many churches are declining and dying because they have not been disrupted.
- An older example of disruption: multi-site.
- A current example of disruption: churches partnering with businesses for revenue. (listen to this closely).
- Disruption is ultimately a change in leadership and has to be treated as such.

I believe the bigger issue is that many churches see the current situation as an interruption, not a disruption. Those who see this season as an interruption will be disappointed and discouraged. Carrie Nieuwhof, in his blog, "5 Predictions About the Future While Everything's Still Unknown," says this:

*"It's pretty clear by now that the shuttering of business, churches and restrictions on movement and gatherings will be measured in months rather than weeks. It's also becoming far more likely that when things do re-open, it won't be an overnight return to wide-open gatherings and travel. To make things more challenging, the return to travel and gatherings the way they were might be measured in years, not months. Perhaps it will never be quite the same again."*

*writing continued on next page*

# Thoughts from our Staff.....

Here are his five predictions for the next season of the church. How will your church adjust?

1. Digital Church is here to stay.
2. Virtual and Flexible Staff Teams will be normal.
3. Churches will shift their focus from Sunday to Everyday.
4. Leaders will start to rethink multisite.
5. The sermon will be reborn.

The church has a wonderful opportunity to start over. I pray that we will not waste this season and just "go back to normal." Take some time to pray and evaluate your ministries. What was effective? What wasn't effective? Is there something new that God is doing that we need to join him in? We're here to help!



The world renown French Teacher Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr once said, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." As I observe the things going on in our world today, I see how things can change and stay the same all at the same time. The world as we know it is rapidly changing: kids are going back to school with masks, we can no longer visit our sick loved ones, stores are closed, many churches are still meeting online or are only meeting outside, lots of people are working from home, etc. But, one thing that hasn't changed is people's need for love, compassion, and to know that people care about them. As you are looking at what your church's ministry in the fall is going to look like, remember your primary purpose. It's not to have flashy events with the most candy or the best music. It's not even about having the largest crowd or serving hot dogs to the most people. It's about sharing love and sharing Jesus. People are the reason your church ministers, and personal relationships are the way we lead people to Christ. If you would like more ideas about how your church can still do a fall community outreach event, head over to the blog page on our website. I will be writing posts there. Do you have ideas you want to share? Email them to me (katie@gccba.org).

## Pastors:

### Ministers Conference

Monday, September 14,  
11:30am (In person, RSVP for box lunch) or 12:00pm online.

This month will be a Pastor's Dialog. One of our pastors will be leading the discussion. Contact the office for online gathering information. Mark your calendar for Monday, October 5, Dr. Wayne Stacy will be joining us virtually.

**KM/Grover Pastors Fellowship** will meet at the Carolina Crossings Restaurant on Thursday, September 3, at 8:30am.

**Lattimore Pastors Fellowship** will meet at the Bulldog Quik Snak, Thursday, September 10, at 8:30am.

**Upper Cleveland/Waco Pastors Fellowship** will wait until October to meet.

### August 27- E3 Ministry Training

10:00am-11:00am (Virtual or In Person, up to 10 people) Join Dr. Sandy Marks and Wesley as we discuss and share how to best help the church in the interim using three components: Engage, Evaluate and Explore. Call the office, email Wesley or register online at <http://gccba.org/e3-ministry-training/> If you'd like to get a recording to watch later, please go ahead and register.



A new **available position** has been added to our website: Eastside Baptist Church, is in search of a Church Secretary/ Financial Secretary. Please submit resumes through September 15th by emailing them to [office@eastsidebaptistshelby.org](mailto:office@eastsidebaptistshelby.org) Go to our website to see all listings: <http://gccba.org/available-positions/>.

### Friday Lunch Program

We are still providing bag lunches for the Feed the Hungry Ministry held at First Baptist in Shelby. If your church is interested in providing the bag lunches one Friday, please contact Katie. You are welcome to drop the bags off or volunteers are welcome to stay and help hand them out. We still have open August **28th**, **September 4th**, **October 2nd**, **23rd & 30th**.



### Prayer Walk

FOR OUR SCHOOLS

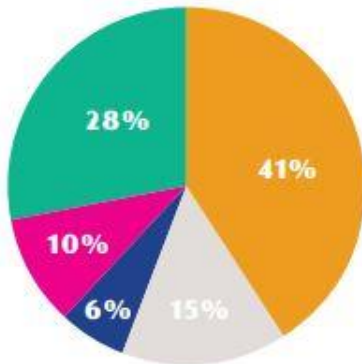


### School Prayer Opportunity

I am grateful for the churches that agreed to help sponsor schools with prayer walks, prayer cards, providing supplies, etc. There are so many ways that we as the church can support our community and ministering to the schools is a great way.

**ARE YOU**  
*compelled by love?*

### YOUR GIFTS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA MISSIONS OFFERING HELP:



- Spread the gospel.
- Relieve suffering.
- Plant new churches.
- Mobilize people in missions.
- Minister during disasters.
- Treat the sick.

Baptists on Mission	\$ 856,720
Church Planting	\$ 596,000
Mission Camps	\$ 313,080
Associational Projects	\$ 210,000
Mobilization Ministry Projects	\$ 124,200

### NCMISSIONSOFFERING.ORG

### WHY IS THE FOOD ROUNDUP SO VITAL?

The Food Roundup in April had to be postponed because of COVID-19. As a result, our pantry shelves in our children's cottages are becoming bare.

### HOW WILL MY EFFORTS HELP THE CHILDREN?

You will ensure our shelves are restocked so boys and girls, many who were never fed regularly before coming to Baptist Children's Homes, have plenty to eat. As you fill their plates, your love fills their hearts.



### Greatest Treat Festival

We are currently waiting to see what Reopening Phase NC will be in this fall before we decide if we will be able to have our annual festival. Please continue to pray that we are able hold this wonderful ministry event. If possible, it will be October 25th from 4-6 pm.



Information about Deacon Training and our Fall Bi-Annual Meeting will be out soon. We will post on our website, Social Media pages, and will email to deacons and Digital Beacon list.



September 7  
for Labor  
Day

### Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type: **July 2020**

Food	25
Power	4
Clothes	4
Counseling	43
Total Assisted Units:	76

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# THE BEACON

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Please visit our website, [www.gccba.org](http://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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