

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

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Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association

Uniting congregations in effective missions and ministries

THE BEACON

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*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!*

*"I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."
Philippians 1:3-5*

Partners are important. No, they're essential! We're thankful for your partnership in many different ways. Your prayers and financial contributions are important! Thank you for your 2020 contributions

Thoughts from Leland . . .

The late, great baseball catcher for the New York Yankees, Yogi Berra, said, "It's Déjà vu all over again!" That's how I felt when I walked back into the Associational Office to serve as the Interim Associational Missionary for the GCCBA after 19 years. I had the privilege of serving from 1992-2002 as the, then, Director of Missions of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association. Much has happened over these years in our Association – leadership and staff changes, new churches, new and expanded ministries and missions' opportunities, and much more. Our Purpose remains our defining statement of what we are about: "The purpose of the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association, Inc., is to unite congregations in effective missions and ministries." I am grateful for this opportunity to be serving in this great Association again. I look forward to working with you to accomplish our Purpose.

Since I left our Association as the Director of Missions in 2002, I served as Pastor of Eastside Baptist Church (beside the Associational Office) from 2002-2006 and 2008-2013, the Wilmington Baptist Association, as Director of Missions from 2006-2008, and the Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center Division of Faith Health Ministries, as Baptist Healthcare Liaison from 2013 until my retirement on June 30, 2020. I am grateful for this opportunity to return to our Association and serve as the Interim Associational Missionary.

Thoughts from our Staff.....

How grateful we are for the on-going work/ministry of our Associational Staff, our Business Affairs, Leadership and Enlistment Teams, and our Associational Officers. 2020 was a challenging year as we all had to learn how to navigate the abrupt changes brought about by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Thank you, Rev. Dale Byrd, Pastor of Eastside Baptist Church, for your leadership as our Associational Moderator during this past year. Please pray for Dr. Tim Hendrick, Pastor of Patterson Grove Baptist Church, our Moderator for 2021, as he provides leadership during this time of transition.

Yogi Berra is also credited with saying, "The future ain't what it used to be!" Pardon the poor grammar, but how true this statement really is. As our churches look ahead to a hopeful, future post-pandemic, the future new normal will look much different from the old normal prior to March of 2020. How we "do" church and "be" the church has changed in significant ways. Dr. Thom Rainer states...*"[this past year] has forced most churches to make more than a decade's worth of changes...we are at a point where it would serve us well to pause, survey our current landscape and think through what the road looks like for us. While vision and mission are likely to serve us well in this season."* May we all be reminded of the promise in Jeremiah 29:11, *"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* (NIV)

Joyfully serving with you,
Leland Kerr

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. ~ Romans 2:12

The end of a year is always a time to reflect. You reflect on the good, the bad, the sad, and the happy things that happened that year. There will be many things for us to reflect on about the year 2020. When I look back at this year, I will see canceled plans, Zoom meetings galore, changes in my church, in my children's school, in my job, and in the world around me. I will also see the loss of wonderful friends that impacted my Christian life in so many ways. The world will tell us that 2020 was a bust, it was a year we want to forget, and a year from which we want to get far away. And while so many of us experienced loss this year we also know that God's will is acceptable and perfect. We may not understand it. We will rest in the fact that He knew 2020 was going to be a year like no other and that through it all He was teaching and molding us into what He wants us to be. So, as we prepare to say goodbye to 2020 let's take time to stop, renew our minds and look for the will of God. His will is good even when it turns out like 2020 did.

Katie

Please Pray for the Associational Missionary Search Team

The Associational Missionary Search Team held its first meeting by Zoom on Tuesday, December 15. The Team chose Dr. Tim Hendrick as Chairman, Alex Carroll as Vice-Chairman, and Beth McDaniel as Secretary. Will you join others in our Association and pray daily for each of these team members?

Sunday – Dr. Tim Hendrick, Pastor of Patterson Grove Baptist Church, Kings, Mountain

Alex Carroll, Youth and Children's Minister, Waco Baptist Church, Waco

Monday – Beth McDaniel, member of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Kings Mountain

Tuesday – Rev. Will Davis, Pastor of Polkville Baptist Church, Polkville

Wednesday – Joey Hamrick, member of Flint Hill Baptist Church, Shelby

Thursday – Josh Hamrick, Minister of Music, Oak Grove Baptist Church, Kings Mountain

Friday – Rev. Michael Moore, Pastor, City of God Church, Shelby

Saturday – Rev. Missy Smith, Children and Family Pastor, First Baptist Church, Shelby

We are grateful these Team Members are willing to serve on the Search Team.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)



**Office will be closed during
Christmas and New Years**

We will reopen Monday, January 4, 2021!

KM/Grover Pastors Fellowship will meet at the Carolina Crossings Restaurant on Thursday, January 7, at 8:30am.
Lattimore Pastors Fellowship will meet at the Bulldog Quik Snak, Thursday, January 14, at 8:30am.

Ministers Conference

Monday, January 4, 2020

We will have Scott Ball with The Malphurs Group in January to share with us some strategy and visioning.

Make plans to attend!

Prayer Time 11:00am, Lunch 11:30am,
Program 12:00pm



Friday Lunch Program

We are currently working on the 2021 schedule for the Friday Feed the Hungry Lunch Program. If your church is interested in providing sandwiches, chips, and cookies for 75 people please contact Katie Harris to schedule a date.

Christmas Toy Store

I want to thank all those who volunteered to help and donated to the Christmas Toy Store. I was very resistant to the idea of changing it to a drive thru event but when it became apparent that it would have to be that way many of you stepped in with ideas and donations to help make it run smoothly, yet still be impactful for those who came. I was worried that doing a drive thru we would lose the personal contact that we have with the families we help. But as I walked from the front of the building where they were checking people in, to back of the building where the counselors were, to the side of the building where they were loading toys in cars, I was able to hear encouraging words being shared, see smiles on faces, and witness many mentions of Jesus' love. I am happy to report that we helped 388 children through this ministry and even in the middle of a pandemic we were able to still make a meaningful connection with those that came.

Leadership and Business Affairs Teams Meeting

Jan. 26, 2020 at noon on zoom



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type: **November 2020**

Food	13
Power	24
Clothes	5
Other Medical	1
Hotel	1
Other	2
Counseling	42
Total Assisted Units:	88

Block Party Trailer

Our new trailer is finished and ready for churches to use. The calendar for the Spring and Summer fills up quickly so as you are making those 2021 plans please remember to call and put your name on the schedule. If you have not had a chance to see the new trailer stop the office, and we would love to show it to you.

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THE BEACON

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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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