

Allen Memorial
 Battleground
 Beaver Dam
 Bethany
 Bethany Hispanic
 Bethel
 Bethlehem
 Boiling Springs
 Buffalo
 Calvary
 Camps Creek
 Carpenter's Grove
 Casar
 Christ Covenant
 Christian Freedom
 Christopher Road
 City of God
 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

Volume 63, Issue 3

March 2021

Thoughts from Leland . . .

In the book, *The Baptist Association*, Dr. Ray Gentry writes: "An Association is made up of churches who hold to a common faith. The local association is composed of churches who are motivated to work together because of their common mission, setting, and values, all built on a culture of trust and cooperation. Like members of a family, the churches of an association do not all look, function or express themselves in the same way, but a healthy association will reflect a culture of high trust and cooperation as these churches work together to expand the kingdom of God."

Our family of churches that make up the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association certainly reflects what Gentry has written. We are blessed as our churches "work together to expand the kingdom of God." Our purpose as the Association is "to unite congregations in missions and ministry". Our family of churches definitely "reflect a culture of high trust and cooperation" in so many ways:

- Praying for one another
- Serving on teams of the Association
- Giving resources to help those in need
- Participating in missions' events and projects
- Volunteering in ministry events and projects
- Supporting the Association financially

Speaking of supporting the Association financially, here is how you blessed us in a "Covid/Pandemic" year through ongoing, faithful support. Our churches gave \$7,135 more in 2020 than 2019. This is remarkable considering all the challenges and changes churches had to face in 2020. Thank you for all you do to serve in and support the Association.

Dr. Paul Chitwood, President of the International Mission Board, wrote in **The Baptist Association**: "As biblically faithful Baptist churches become more isolated in American culture, I believe the need for those churches to have strong local partnerships will grow rather than diminish. Thus, the greatest days of association work can be in front of us. But that will prove to be true only to the extent that the work of the association is mission work."

Please continue to pray for our Associational Missionary Search Team as they go about the work of prayerfully and diligently seeking the next Associational Missionary who will lead this great Association into the great days ahead of us. You will find their names and a day to pray for each one of them in this newsletter.

writing continued on next page

Thoughts from our Staff.....

Also please pray for the churches identified here in the newsletter each month. We are identifying a different listing of our churches each month throughout the year.

I believe the Association reflects what the Apostle Paul wrote to *"All God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi: I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel..." (Philippians 1:1,3-5. NIV)*

It is a joy to serve in partnership with you to expand the kingdom of God!
Leland Kerr

When will things go back to normal? When will my kids go back to school full time, when will I not have to wear a mask, when can our church choir sing again? We all have these questions and the truth is, no one knows. It could be soon because the vaccine is available, but it could be a year before everyone is vaccinated. And it could be that some things are never going back to what we considered normal. Churches will never be the same because we have learned how to more effectively minister to our community. We have learned how to more efficiently hold services. And we have learned that we can change and that change can be good. God says in Isaiah 43:19, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." The changes that are happening in our church shouldn't be scary and we shouldn't be wishing for the way it was because God is doing a new thing and He is making a way. Rejoice in this time of change and be excited for the new thing God is doing.

Serving together,
Katie

Man is Guilty

Romans 1:26: "For this reason God gave them up to shameful passions; because even their women changed the natural use for the one that is against nature."

We are living through times of disaster in the world. We have watched corruptions in society, mainly because of the invasion of poverty. Misery was the environment and ignorance was its companion. Most of the villages saw attestations of diseases, infections, plagues, and all kinds of vices. The children were sold into slavery to the highest bidder. There was a giant market for all kinds of businesses, in which the wealthy took advantage. Imperial Rome had taken possession of almost half of Europe. Large taxes were paid which were divided between the great military and the emperor in Rome. Corruption was great among the upper class. But, the corruption led to the ruin, as corruption ultimately does. Paul said that God gave them to their shameful passions. The people turned away from the true God and bowed to the gods of others. They made offerings and sacrifices. They came to the degradation overall. The Word of God says that they fell so much that they degenerated to committing immoral acts that are too disgusting to mention. They were filled with injustice. They became perverse, greedy, full of envy, murder, strife, and many deceptions. They hated God, and they did not take Him into account when they made their choices. The people of Rome knew of the judgment of God. They knew that those who practiced all these things are worthy of death, but they chose to act this way, regardless. God's Word says that men should be worthy, faithful, and transparent. They can raise their voice and shout to the four winds the wickedness of men. Soon, we will see face to face the CREATOR. Each one of us will give an account for being silent, for accepting, for giving up, for not telling the divine truth. As easily as Rome fell, so will any government in the world that does not follow the instruction of God. Respectfully, Pastor Jose A. Espinal. Servant by the grace and mercy of God. Romans 1:26-32. Blessings.

Jose Espinal

Education and Network Opportunities

Ministers Conference

Monday, March 1, 2021
Prayer Time 11:00am, Lunch 11:30am,
Program 12:00pm
Chuck Campbell, Strategy Coordinator,
Strategic Focus Team, Unifour
Pray Together, Go Together

KM/Grover Pastors Fellowship will meet at
the Carolina Crossings Restaurant on
Thursday, March 4, at 8:30am.

Lattimore Pastors Fellowship will meet at
the Bulldog Quik Snak, Thursday, March 11, at
8:30am.

**PRAY
TOGETHER.
GO
TOGETHER.**

Praying for the Least Reached and Unreached in North Carolina

Make plans to join us for our Pray Together Go Together Prayer Effort on Saturday March 6th. On this day churches across our Association will plan a prayer walk in the lost pockets around their church. Please register to receive prayer prompts and prayer guides. Cleveland County is in the Unifour group.

Visit <https://ncbaptist.org/prayandgo/>

As we go, let's watch for divine appointments. George Mueller once said, "God not only orders our steps, He orders our stops." Pray for the lost, when possible pray with the lost, and always be ready to share the reason for the hope we have in Christ Jesus.

Please pray for Association churches and pastors for March:

Buffalo Dustin Mace
Calvary Harold Beam (int)
Camps Creek Clay Hastings and Jeremy McSwain (int)
Carpenter's Grove Pastor Search Team
Casar Doug Pruitt
Christ Covenant, Shelby Steve Putnam
Christian Freedom Ron Carroll
Christopher Road Mike Tucker

United
in
Prayer

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)

Missions Opportunities



Why is the Food Roundup so vital?

You provide meals and snacks to boys and girls in Baptist Children's Homes' care who often come to us from traumatic situations of abuse and neglect. Many children have gone without eating regularly. Your participation keeps our shelves stocked and children's bellies -- and hearts -- full.

How does my church make an impact?

When children see cars and trucks full of food and necessities pull into our statewide locations, they see God's love in action. Being a part of the Food Roundup is not only about collecting food -- it's about shining the light of Jesus into the darkness boys and girls, many who are unchurched, have endured.

Summer Missionary

Once again we are excited to be able to have a Summer Missionary join us for 10 weeks. They will be working with our churches doing mission projects, helping with VBS, and assisting in our office. We are accepting applications for this position until April 8th. If you are interested in working with us this summer please send your resume to katie@gccba.org or nicole@gccba.org

RA Race Car Derby

Neither GCCBA nor the Baptist State Convention will be hosting the annual RA Race Car Derby.



SHARING HOPE...CHANGING LIVES
Baptist Children's Homes
of NORTH CAROLINA

April 2021
bchfoodroundup.org

Have all food & gift cards dropped off at the GCCBA Office by April 16th!
Check out their website to get a list of the needs they have.



Wanted

- Bibles (all kinds in any condition); Christian Literature (Sunday School, church training, tracts, devotionals, magazines from Christian publishers, sheet music, etc.);
- Christian Books of all kinds (hymns, Bible Study, concordances, Bible dictionaries and regular dictionaries, commentaries, children and adult Christian books and paperbacks, etc.);
- Christian CDs, DVDs, & Blu-Ray, etc.
- Spanish: Bibles, Sunday School literature, and Devotional books.

Literature can be new or used. All material is sorted, boxed and sent to another Ministry, where it is sent to our brothers and sisters in poor Third World Countries. If you or your church would like to join "Harvest Seeds Ministry", please contact Pat Hamrick from Mt. Sinai Baptist Church 704-487-7518 or for Churches in Upper Cleveland County, New Bethel Baptist Church in Lawndale is now a collection site for "Harvest Seeds." Please contact Tony Fogleman at 704-538-0223 or you can bring them by the GCCBA Office.

Please do not send: RA, GA, Acteens, & Mission Friends material; No Mission Mosaics, Mature Living, Guide Posts, & Angels on Earth magazines; No cassette or VHS tapes.

Missions Opportunities

GCCBA Mission Opportunity: Sharing Hope, Feeding People

Last year, a couple of our churches made Meals of Hope prepackaged food bags that were given out to local food pantries. On May 7th & 8th, we are going to host the same mission project for the entire association. Our goal is to make 100,000 food bags in 3 hours, but in order to do this we will need a lot of volunteers. Churches who are involved may have some of the food to use in their own food ministry. If your church is interested in being involved please contact Katie Harris.



Friday Lunch Program

We are thankful for the churches who participate in this ministry to help feed the hungry in Cleveland County. We have several summer and fall dates available for churches to bring food. If you or a group at your church are interested in helping please contact Katie Harris at 704-482-3472 or katie@gccba.org or sign up online by scanning the QR Code.



North Carolina Operation Inasmuch- (NCOIAM) is a one-day missions blitz in your community. Imagine your whole church active in missions to your community on April 24 or May 8, 2021



Week of Prayer March 7-14, 2021

Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type: **January 2021**

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Food | 20 |
| Medicine | 1 |
| Power | 14 |
| Clothes | 7 |
| Dental | 1 |
| Counseling | 37 |
| Total Assisted Units: | 80 |

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 March

Dover:

Ervin Price, 14 years

New Hope:

Russ Bradley, 15 years

Pathway:

James Hamrick, 43 years

Westover:

Kevin Whittington, 8 years



Sunday,
March
14th!

Pray for churches who are seeking a pastor.

Allen Memorial ~ Boiling Springs ~
Calvary ~ Camps Creek ~ Carpenter's
Grove ~ Lattimore ~ Lawndale ~ Mulls
Memorial ~ Normans Grove ~ Plains
View ~ Pleasant Hill ~ Temple ~ Zoar



We have several books from Lamplighters Ministries for sale at GCCBA:
Nuts and Bolts of Deacon Ministry (English and Spanish)
"Is That You, God?"
Six Keys to Unlock the Power of Prayer
Slaying Dragons
Prayer: Puzzling Questions Answered
Joy in God's Presence
Come by and purchase a great resource!

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.

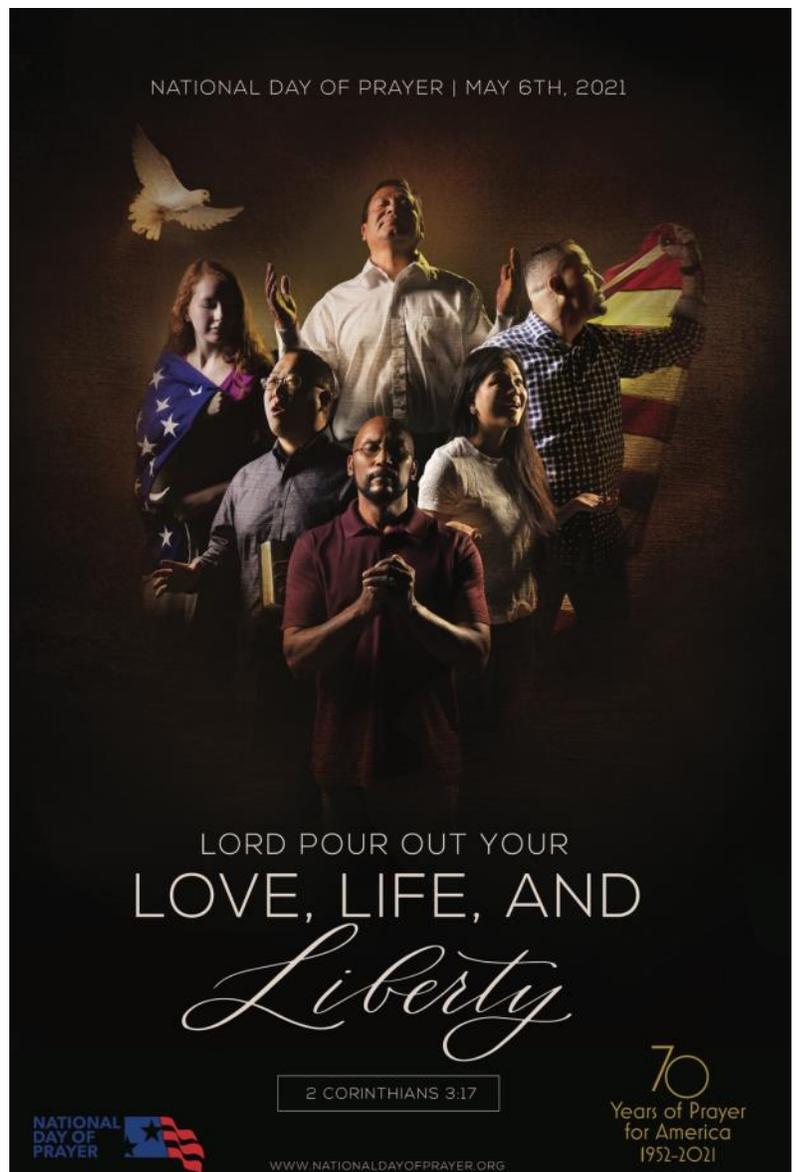


GCCBA Website

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

Would your church like to know more about the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association?

We would love to share our story! Some churches have invited us to come and be a part of their worship time and share what God is doing in our association. Our staff would come and share a time allowed in Sunday Morning or Sunday Evening worship service. Contact us today to set up a time!



Church Needs.....

Buffalo Baptist:

Buffalo Baptist Church of Shelby seeks an **Associate Pastor of Youth and Children** to join its pastoral staff. The ideal candidate will have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, will strive to meet the pastoral qualifications for pastors found in the New Testament, and will possess a clear calling to minister to youth and children. The candidate will have 3-5 years of ministry experience and must possess a Bachelor's degree in a relevant field. Possession of a Master's degree or working toward a Master's degree from an accredited Southern Baptist seminary is preferred. Starting pay is \$35k-\$45k depending on education, experience, and qualifications. Buffalo Baptist is a conservative Baptist church affiliated with the BSCNC and SBC. We wholeheartedly affirm BFM2000. For a complete job description and more information about our church, visit buffalobaptist-churchofshelby.com. Send resumes to BuffaloBCsearchcommittee@gmail.com by January 30, 2021.

Calvary:

Calvary Baptist Church, Shelby NC, is seeking someone to lead our music on Sunday mornings. This would entail weekly leading the congregation in 4-5 traditional hymns during the worship hour. This might be a great opportunity for a retired individual who has experience in leading worship or someone who just loves music and would enjoy the opportunity. Responsibilities may be expanded at a later date, depending on the leadership of the Lord. If interested, please email cathy@visitcalvaryonline.com.

Lattimore:

Lattimore Baptist Church is seeking a **part time organist**. This position includes playing during Sunday morning worship services and coordinating special music with the pianist. This person should have the ability to work well with others. This person also needs to be willing to play at weddings and funerals when requested and fill in for the pianist when she is absent. Lattimore Baptist Church services use the Baptist Hymnal and are traditional in style of worship. If interested, please email resume to: lbcsecretary2016@gmail.com Full job description on our website

Lattimore Baptist Church is seeking candidates for the **position of Children's Ministry Leader**. The ideal candidate for this role will have a deep and growing relationship with Jesus and a calling to work with children. We seek an effective leader who possesses the skills to develop, organize, and supervise all aspects of the Children's Ministry for the purpose of making and growing children into disciples for Jesus Christ. The position of Children's Ministry Leader is a part time position with a focus on children Pre-K – 5th grade. Interested candidates should submit a resume, personal statement regarding interest and qualifications for the position, and contact information for three references.

Email: lbcchildrensprog@gmail.com, Subject line: Children's Ministry Leader Position or Mail to: Lattimore Baptist Church, Attn: Children's Ministry Search Committee, PO Box 188, Lattimore, NC 28089

Lily Memorial:

Lily Memorial Baptist Church is in need of a **pianist/choir accompanist**. Music is traditional. Responsibilities would include Sunday morning service at 11:00, Sunday afternoon choir practice at 4:30, Sunday evening service at 6:00 and Wednesday night prayer meeting at 6:00. Resumes may be mailed to Lily Memorial Baptist Church, 406 Whitener St. Shelby, NC 28152.

Oak Grove:

Oak Grove Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a **permanent part-time pianist** that can read music and play traditional hymns and contemporary music. Responsibilities include Sunday morning & evening Worship Serve and choir practice. If interested, and more information, please mail resume to: Oak Grove Baptist Church 1022 Oak Grove Rd. Kings Mountain, NC 28086 Attn: Josh Hamrick. You may email to ogbc1022@gmail.com.

Patterson Grove:

Kings Mountain, NC Patterson Grove Baptist church seeking a **part-time Youth Minister**. This person should have the ability to teach the Bible, encourage spiritual growth, and help the youth with the challenges of life that teens and pre-teens face in today's world. The position requires this individual to be a born again Christian who believes the Bible is the infallible work of God. Someone who will love our youth, who will help

them to love others, and help them to truly believe that they are loved by God. If you are that person, please send your resume by email to office@pgbakm.org and mark to the attention of the personnel committee or by mail to Patterson Grove Baptist Church, 301 Oak Grove Road, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086 to the attention of the Personnel Committee.

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 (located 2 1/2 miles from Gardner-Webb University) is seeking a **part-time Church Organist** who will serve in consultation with the Minister of Worship and Discipleship as well as the worship planning team in a way that reflects our church's mission, values and theology. This person would provide musical

accompaniment for all worship services and would provide support for all scheduled adult choir rehearsals. Two weeks of paid vacations each year are included in the salary package. If you are interested in receiving a more comprehensive Job Description or you would like to offer a resumé, please contact the church office at 704-434-6431 or contact us by e-mail at Dr.JEDavis@gmail.com.

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.

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

Zoar Baptist Church is seeking a **part time administrative assistant**. The Administrative Assistant is directly responsible to the pastor for organizing the tasks and functions of the church office. In addition to general office duties, the administrative assistant will be responsible for assisting all staff and church leadership in the tasks of ministry. Knowledge of Microsoft Word, Microsoft Publisher and general bookkeeping skills are desired. Please submit resumes by mail to: Attention: Personnel Committee Zoar Baptist Church, 1740 S. Lafayette St., Shelby, NC 28152

Zoar Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a **permanent, part-time worship leader**. We are a loving, mission and community minded church. Applicants should be willing to lead both traditional choir and praise team in a blended style worship. Please email or mail resumes to: wlscozar@gmail.com or Worship Leader Search Committee 1740 South Lafayette Street Shelby, NC 28152

If any of these positions have been filled, please let me know at nicole@gcoba.org

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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:
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leland@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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