

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 6

June 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM LELAND . . .

Thoughts from Leland...

On behalf of the Associational Missionary Search Team, I want to thank those of you who took the time to complete the Associational Effectiveness Assessment/Associational Missionary Survey. This information will assist our Search Team in their work to seek the next Associational Missionary. Please remember to pray often for the Search Team as they work diligently on this important task.

Thank you Katie and Nicole for your hard work in arranging, enlisting volunteers and coordinating the Meals of Hope ministry event on May 7-8. Thank you to the 342 volunteers who packaged the 99,598 meals. Thank you to David and Janet Brown, Directors of the Shelby Missions Camp, for providing the space to put together the meals. Because of all of these efforts, we can meet the hunger needs of these in Cleveland County much more quickly and effectively.

I join our staff in welcoming Sarah Spencer to GCCBA as our Summer Worker. Sarah is a student at Anderson University in SC and grew up in the New Hope Baptist Church in Earl. Sarah's mother, Susan, was our Associational Summer worker the first two summers I was here as your Director of Missions in the early 1990's. What a joy it is to see how God is continuing to use this family who has been active in New Hope and part of our ministry for many years. Be sure to call on Sarah to assist you in your church.

It's almost Vacation Bible School (VBS) time! When I was a child, my favorite week of the year, actually two weeks then, was Vacation Bible School weeks. As a church staff member/Pastor, my favorite week of the year was Vacation Bible School. I hope your church is planning to have VBS this summer, even if it has to be adapted because of ongoing pandemic, social-distancing, regathering concerns. Some of our churches last year found creative ways to conduct VBS in a safe and responsible way. If you need some creative ideas, call us and we can put you in touch with those who used very creative, timely methods for their VBS.

Did you know, according to VBS statistics from Lifeway Resources:

- 25 percent of baptisms come from VBS
- Every person trained in VBS results in 1.1 salvation decisions
- 10 percent of people enrolled in VBS are unchurched
- 2.7 million people enroll in VBS each year
- Nearly 73,000 people in VBS each year accept Jesus as Lord and Savior

*writing continued on next page*

# Thoughts from our Staff.....

Over 2,600 people commit their lives to church-related vocations through VBS

Over 56,000 people enroll in Sunday School/Small Group Bible Studies as a result of attending VBS

Melita Thomas, writer/consultant for VBS at Lifeway Resources has written:

"VBS is more than just a week of fun. For many churches, it is the SINGLE MOST EVANGELISTIC OUTREACH EVENT OF THE YEAR. VBS opens the doors of your church to the community and reaches children and their families like nothing else. It connects the people of your church to your neighbors, and it deepens your connection to the kids and families who attend your church regularly. It's all about sharing the gospel and allowing the Holy Spirit to do His work. This is why we do VBS. This is what makes the long days and the late night worthwhile. VBS is worth the time, the effort, and the investment. It's worth it when relationships are developed, conversations about Jesus are had, seeds are planted, and hearts transformed for eternity!"

Joyfully serving with you!

Leland Kerr

## Salvation

*"Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock; you who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth! Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength, and come and save us! Restore us, O God; cause your face to shine, and we shall be saved!" Psalm 80:1-3*

The world is full of shocking things. We are seeing earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, fires, water scarcity, extreme violence, protests that become an opportunity for theft, looting, destruction of infrastructure, crime, beatings, use of weapons, excessive force, total uncontrollability, state-of-the-art technologies, identity theft, massive controls, hoarding, extortion, and abuse, as well as increased drugs, prostitution, homosexuality, abandonment, misery, hunger, ambition to money, job shortages, overwork, silent theft of technology, manufacturing poor quality products, and human trafficking. The earth and its generation is reaching the limit, and the people do not want to turn to God and worship Him as He deserves. What should we do in the face of such foolishness and uncontrollability. We must all return to the foundation, that is the Word of God. Here the Psalmist is saying: "Save us!" Only in Jesus is salvation and the only One who can hear us if we come in repentance. We must humble ourselves. Only He could stop the herd and separate the sheep from the goats. Only He has the power to victoriously bring us shining light. Lord, You are the only One who can understand us and deliver us from all that evil that has come to us directly. We have been instruments of wickedness, and only in Christ is there hope of life and hope of salvation. Just as the Psalmist says, we also cry out for a personal revival. We ask in humility that God save and protect us. We are in despair for so much evil that surrounds us. Come, Heavenly Father, and give us salvation. Come and restore our lives, teach us to walk again in righteousness. Come Lord Jesus and make Your face shine on our lives, on our families, and on our leaders. Cover us with Your power. Amen.

Rev. Jose A. Espinal. (Pastor) Spanish-speaking missionary in Greater Cleveland County

**HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
Day!**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021**

# Education and Network Opportunities

## Pastors:

**Ministers Conference**  
Monday, May 3, 2021  
Prayer Time 11:00am,  
Lunch 11:30am,  
12:00pm— Details to be announced

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

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

**Please pray for Association churches and pastors for June:**

**Hope Community** Skip Allen  
**Immanuel** Ted Easter  
**Joy Christian** DeNorris Byers  
**Kings Mountain** Tim Whitesides  
**Kings Mtn. First** Chip Sloan  
**Kings Mtn. Second** Dennis Pruitt  
**Lattimore** Buddy Moorehead (Interim)



What about VBS? VBS is one of the biggest outreach events of the year! Is your church making plans for VBS to be a little different? How are you recruiting and training leaders during this crisis? Just some things to consider. Contact us if you'd like to talk about that.



## **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

## ***Meals of Hope:***

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you is all I know to say to those of you who helped make meals during our Meals of Hope. We had over 300 volunteers from 35 churches and 7 community organizations come to help. We packed 99,598 meals and were able to distribute them to over 25 food ministries in Cleveland County. It was wonderful to see many Christians working together in order to provide for the hungry in Cleveland County. I want to personally thank the Dover Foundation for providing the funds to bring this ministry to Cleveland County.

## ***Local Mission Opportunities***

Wanted to remind you of a wonderful opportunity we have right here in our own home town. The NC Baptist Men's Shelby Mission Camp has many projects that need to be completed. If you have a team or groups looking to serve, please contact David Brown at the Mission Camp. You can talk with him about helping on a certain number of projects, and he is also set up for your church to stay at the camp. There are many needs right here in our county and this summer is a wonderful time for us to serve.

Call Janet or David Brown to sign up to help.

Janet Brown 919-337-2342

[jbrown@ncbaptist.org](mailto:jbrown@ncbaptist.org)

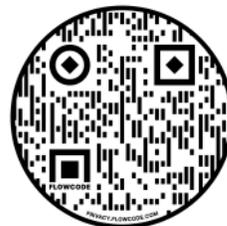
David Brown 919-422-9990

[dbrown@ncbaptist.org](mailto:dbrown@ncbaptist.org)

Office 704-487-5599

## ***Friday Lunch Program***

We still have several dates available for groups to sign up to provide food for the Friday Feed the Hungry Lunch Program. If your church is interested in bringing 75 bag lunches you can sign up online by scanning the QR Code or contact Katie Harris at 704-482-3472 or [katie@gccba.org](mailto:katie@gccba.org)



**Friday Lunch Sign up**

## ***School & Church Partnerships***

As school starts back in August we plan to host prayer walks at each school in the county. We will be partnering churches with local schools to send people to pray and collect school supplies. Next 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.



# Missions Opportunities

## Mission:Dignity SUNDAY



*“These extra resources enable us to have food on our table. Otherwise, we would have to choose between food and medications. We’re very grateful to all the donors and to our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

*– Ynes and Eva Aleman, 25 years in ministry*



We are on a **MISSION** to provide **DIGNITY** to retirement-aged Southern Baptist ministers, workers and their widows.

Through Mission:Dignity®, our Southern Baptist family ensures that these faithful servants don't have to choose between paying bills, eating meals or accessing medications.

Mission:Dignity Sunday is  
**June 27, 2021!**

Text **MDORDER** to **41444** to order materials  
or **MDSUNDAY** to **41444** to give today.

Learn more at **MDSunday.org**.

### Summer Mission Opportunity

Sarah Spencer, our summer missionary, is looking to host backyard Bible clubs in area parks and neighborhoods. She would like to partner with local churches to help minister to the communities around them. If you are interested in working with Sarah on this ministry please contact Katie.

Welcome

### Fair Ministry

A decision has not been made as to whether the Cleveland County Fair will be open this year but if it does we will be ready to minister. The food boxes and lunch provided were well received so we plan to do them again and hopefully provide other things. Please watch for more information on how you can be involved.



### Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type: **April 2021**

Food	0
Medicine	2
Power	7
Clothes	0
Other	2
Counseling	36
Total Assisted Units:	52

### 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 June***

Bethlehem:  
Steve Taylor, 12 years  
Faith:  
JR Robbins, 25 years  
Pleasant Ridge:  
Eric Davis, 14 years  
Waco:  
Harold Fite, 19 years  
Zion:  
Matt Storie, 7 years



## ***Pray for churches who are seeking a pastor.***

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

The 2020 Annual Book of Reports are ready to be picked up! Come by the office and get one for your church

## **Block Party Trailer**



The schedule for the trailer fills up fast for the Spring and Summer so please remember to call soon to reserve your date. The cost of the trailer is \$100 and includes all supplies needed to use the popcorn, snow cone, and cotton candy machine. We love to hear stories about how Block Parties have helped you reach out to the families in your community.

## **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!

Go to our website to see listings from outside the association:

<http://gccba.org/available-positions/>.



## ***GCCBA Website***

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

**If any of these positions have been filled, please let me know at [nicole@gccba.org](mailto:nicole@gccba.org)**

## ***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 [buffalobaptistchurchofshelby.com](http://buffalobaptistchurchofshelby.com). Send resumes to [BuffaloBCsearchcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:BuffaloBCsearchcommittee@gmail.com)

# Church Needs.....

## **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@pgbckm.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 ½ 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 .

## **Part-Time Worship Leader:**

Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Shelby NC, is seeking an energetic worship leader who will demonstrate a strong commitment to Jesus Christ while developing and implementing a music ministry for our church family. Pleasant Ridge is only interested in candidates who offer strong leadership and organizational skills. We are seeking the right person who possesses the ability to blend traditional and contemporary music styles into our Sunday Morning Celebration Worship Service. In addition, this person would be coordinating our entire Music Ministry. We are seeking someone who has educational and experiential qualifications. This is a part-time position and a background check (provided by the church) will be required. In addition to video recordings of your musical ability (leading musical groups, conducting congregational singing, playing an instrument or singing), please send résumés, and inquiries to the Music Ministry Search Team c/o Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, 198 Pleasant Ridge Church Road, Shelby, NC 28152 or to Dr.JEDavis1@gmail.com by April 25, 2021 .

## **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.

## **Ross Grove:**

Ross Grove Baptist Church is seeking an **instrumentalist – (piano and/or organ)**. This position is a part-time, salaried position and includes providing instrumental solo and accompaniment for Sunday morning worship services, accompaniment for the choir when it resumes, and providing music for special services, weddings and funerals as needed. The person would work with the pastor and minister of music to enhance the worship services through music. Resumes are being accepted through May 21 at rossgrovebaptistchurch@gmail.com. For additional information you may call the church office at 704-482-6051 on Tuesdays or Thursdays or email the church office. You may mail resumes to Ross Grove Baptist Church at 1225 Fallston Road, Shelby, NC 28150.

## **Zoar:**

Zoar Baptist Church, Shelby, NC, is seeking a **full-time Pastor**, servant-leader, and a gifted teacher with a vision for growth and outreach to our community and grow disciples while staying true to our conservative roots and statement of beliefs (BFM 1963). Developing prayer warriors, leading blended worship for all ages, missions and Bible study are all important. Applicants should have an accredited seminary degree and prayerfully consider the opportunity to apply. Please mail your resumé and at least two sermon CD/DVD/online link to: 1740 S. Lafayette Street, 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

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# THE BEACON

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Office Administrator:  
Nicole Mosley  
nicole@gccba.org

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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